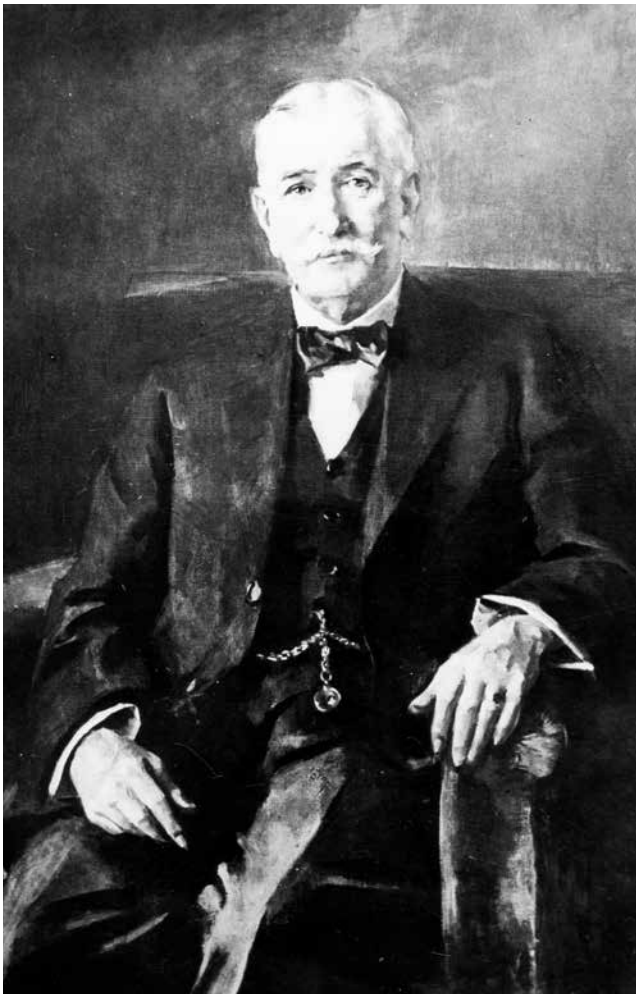
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD Newsletter
Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997
JULY / 2016 ISSUE 62

MORTON PLANT - THE MAN



Everyone knows Clearwater's hospital is called Morton Plant Hospital. Many also know when, it was built 100 years ago, it was named for a man - Morton Plant, who we assume either built it or donated the money to build it, but who really was he?

Morton Freeman Plant was born Aug 18, 1852, in Groton, Connecticut to Henry and Ellen Plant. His father was already wealthy from his railway and steamer lines. Morton was Henry's second son. The first child lived only 17 months.

His mother had consumption (now known as tuberculosis) from the time Morton was born. During the winter, they would move south to Jacksonville, Florida and other southern cities for her heath. In 1862, coincidentally during the Civil War, Plant's mother died. He was only ten years old.

During his childhood, Plant's father was very busy expanding his Southern Express Railroad company throughout the south. Because his father traveled all the time, Plant was basically raised by relatives. He got his first boat, a catboat, at 13 and his obsession with boats only grew over time. At 16, he was employed part-time by his father working for the Southern Express Company. Later in life he would become its Chairman of the Board. He graduated from the Russell Military School, in New Haven where his love of sailing intensified.

His father married Miss Margaret Loughman, a New Yorker of Irish descent. Plant and his new step-mother did not see eye-to-eye and since he was 21, Plant didn't feel a need for a new mother and kept his distance.

By 1884, Plant was involved in all aspects of his father's railroad operations serving as Vice President of The Plant System. He remained Vice President until 1902, when three years after his father's death, the Plant System was consolidated with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

At 35, Plant married Nellie Capron on June 23, 1887. They had one son, Henry Bradley Plant, Jr., in 1895.

The Plant Company, owner of Clearwater's Belleview Hotel, began its construction in 1895. It was built entirely of Florida pine and painted with a grayish paint sealer which led to the nickname "The Grey Gables." The hotel opened January 15, 1897. Plant recommended and oversaw the addition of recreational amenities, including a 6-hole golf course and bicycle racing track.

Two years later, at the age of 80, Plant's father died at his home in New York. He had recently drawn up a new will, leaving almost everything to his grandson, Henry Jr., but wife Margaret had the will nullified and regained most of his fortune. Plant received a small portion; grandson Henry Jr. received nothing. Plant's portion included $73 million and the ownership of several hotels, including the Griswold in New London and the Belleview in Clearwater.

After his father's death, Plant became the sole owner of the Plant Steamship Lines and continued to be Vice President if almost all of his father's railroad operations. Plant also owned the Shore Line Electric Railway, one of the largest single trolley systems in the United States.

Plant was never a full-time Clearwater resident. He spent most of his time in New York and in New London, Connecticut. He was a major player in the development of New London, helping to build roads, churches, office buildings, hotels, and their trolley line.

In Groton, Connecticut, Plant owned a large farm called The Branford House. It was a $3 million spread. Wife Nellie designed the house and grounds while she studied architecture at the Sorbonne. Today, the mansion, owned by the University of Connecticut, is considered to be one of the most beautiful homes in the U.S.

continued inside

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Or Current Resident

CREDITS

This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33785. We are not associated with the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, or any Indian Rocks Real Estate office.

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL 595-2517
Mon - Fri, 7:30am to 4pm
1507 Bay Palm Blvd
www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com

CITY MANAGER - 595-2517
MAYOR/CITY COMMISSION 517-0204
MAYOR - R.B. Johnson
COMMISSIONERS —
Cookie Kennedy • Terry Wollin Vice Mayor • Phil Hanna • Ed Hoofnagle
City Manager, Gregg Mims
Building Dept: Dan Weigner 517-0404
Planning & Zoning: 517-0404
Public Services: Dean Scharmen 595-6889
Mon - Fri, 7am to 3:30pm
IRB LIBRARY 596-1822
Mon-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 10-1pm
IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM 593-3861
Wed - Sat, 10am to 2pm
IRB HOMEOWNER ASSOC. 692-7867
Joe McCall, President - IRBHome.com
IRB BOAT CLUB
Bob Griffin IRBboatclub.com 517-1997
BEACH ART CENTER 596-4331
1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Mon-Fri 8:45am to 4pm
POST OFFICE 596-2894
204 4th Ave. Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30; Sat 9a-12p
IRB ROTARY, Bruce Sobut, 403-4060
Meets at Jimmy Guana's every Wed. 7:15AM
ACTION 2000 Eric Meyer 744-0123
Meets 2nd Mon each month Beach Art Ctr
BEACH FOOD PANTRY 517-2534
1615 First St. M-W-F 10 am-12 pm
THRIFT CENTER OF IRB 596-8868
Tue & Sat, 10am to 2pm, Thu 5 to 8pm
LITTLE LEAGUE 574-339-9248
IRB WELCOME CENTER 595-4575

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Clearwater Beach 447-7600
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PHONE (BUSINESS) 800-483-5000
WATER 464-4000
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SEWER 595-6889
TRASH / PICK UP 595-6889

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SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177
IRB FIRE STATION 595-1117

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377
Karen Seel 464-3278

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Republican, District 66
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Governor Rick Scott
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274
www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:
David Jolly 727-392-4100
9210 113th St, Seminole, Fl 33772
www.house.gov/jolley

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY:

Grouper Week	1-3
Sunset Run At Sand Key Park	1
Independence Day	4
Fire Works Clearwater Harbor	4
IRB Boat Club Three Rooker	9-10
MLB All Star Game	12
Homeowners Happy Hour	14
Sunset Run at Sand Key Park	15
Rays Concert Series Bret Michaels	16
Pitch for Pink, Bright House Field	22
Family Fun Nights Beach Pool	22
Home Show Tropicana	22-24
Tampa Bay Rowdies Home	23
Parents Day	24
Rays Concert Series Hunter Hayes	30

AUGUST:

Little League Registration	
Area Coast Guard Appreciation Month	
Sales Tax Holiday	5-7
Trim Notices Mailed	8
IRB Community Clean Up Week	8-10
City Commission Meeting	9
Public School Begins	10
Buc's First Pre-Season Game	11
Homeowners Happy Hour	11
IRB Boat Club to Marina Cantina	13
Backwater's 16th Anniversary Party	16
Largo's Indoor Garage Sale	20
Primary Elections	30

SEPTEMBER

Gekofest Gulfport	3
Labor Day	5
Schools Close	5
Homeowners Happy Hour	8
IRB Public Safety Day	10
Boat Club Island Party	10
Grandparents Day	11
Patriots Day 9-11	11
Bucs First Real Game	11
City Commission Meeting	13
IRB Boat Club Meeting	15
Seminole Chemical Collection	17
Autumn Begins	22
Blast Friday Coachman Park	23
Offshore Power Boat Race	25

MORTON PLANT, continued

Plant had a large philanthropic spirit. One favorite charitable activity involved sending bright young people to college. He helped found The Connecticut College for Women, now part of The University of Connecticut in New London, by buying land for $25,000 and building two dormitories, at the cost of $60,000. He named them Plant and Blackstone Halls, after his mother and father. He gave the school a $100,000 endowment, the beginning of a $250,000 legacy with the college. He was also the College's first chairman of the board, when it opened in 1915.

Plant was also an enthusiastic sportsman including yachting, baseball, and golf. He owned the schooner "Ingomar", and won 21 out of 25 races in Europe in one season. He also owned the "Elena", which likewise won many races. His steamship yachts included "Venetia", "Vanadis" and the "Iolanda," on which in 1909-10, Plant and friends, voyaged around the world. He published a book about the trip called The Cruise of the Iolanda.

Plant owned a large stake in the Philadelphia National League baseball club and was the sole owner of the New London Eastern League club. He was also fond of hunting and competitive shooting. In addition, he was a member of several sports-oriented clubs, including the Manhattan Club, Automobile Club, Ardsley Club, and the Racquet and Tennis Club.

In 1912, Plant's son Henry, was involved in a serious car accident which crushed his leg and hip. That accident demonstrated to Plant the need for a local hospital, leading Plant to become involved in raising funds for a hospital which would eventually bear his name. The Morton Plant Hospital opened January 1st, 2016 aided by his $100,000 endowment.

Shortly after his son's accident, his wife Nellie died on August 7, 1913. They were married for 26 years.

By the early 1900s, cars started to be seen in the area. As Plant mingled with most of the prominent families in New York and Connecticut, he and his friends were the first to own them. Clearwater had very bad streets. Plant offered to pay a third of the cost of paving South Ft Harrison Avenue from Turner St to Belleview Boulevard with bricks.

Eventually, Plant paved from South Ft Harrison to his hotel. There had been congestion where Belleview Boulevard meets Indian Rocks Road when the train deposited hotel visitors there every day around 5pm.

A year after his wife's death, Plant married Mae C. Manwaring in 1914 in Groton, Connecticut. Previously married, she had a son Phillip, who Plant adopted. Phillip was ten years older than son Henry. Mae wanted to live in New York and Plant already owned a mansion encompassing the entire block of Fifth Avenue.

Mae had fun with her new husband's wealth. She suggested a swimming pool be built on the Belleview's property. Italian tile setters laid over one million ceramic tiles to line the 75x60 foot pool, which was completed 1919.

The Plants lived in their mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue until 1917. They then built another house in upper Manhattan, which is where they were living when Plant died of pneumonia on November 4, 1918, just five years after he and Mae were married. Plant was 66. His son Henry Plant Jr. lived primarily in Connecticut and on his 140-foot yacht, the Mascot in Miami. He was in poor health most of his life and died at the age of 42.

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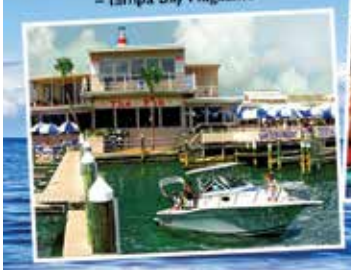

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Did You Know

HOW MANY WILL IT HOLD? Largo's McGough Park has a new floating turtle platform in the pond near the entrance. The turtles seem to really enjoy sunning themselves there and the rangers have been keeping track of how many turtles can fit on the platform at one time. So far the record is 24. Next time you stop by the park, give it a count and see if there is a new record.

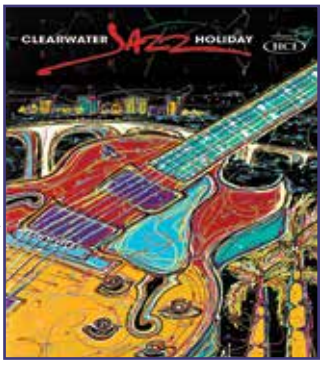
SECOND TIME AROUNDERS Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Then this is the group for you! The St Petersburg Second Time Arounders Marching Band is looking for a few new members. They have been pleasing audiences for over 34 years. Besides local area parades, they perform in distant cities. Last year they went to the Stampede in Canada, this year it is Seattle. Call 421-2344 to get involved.

REDUCED BUS RATES FOR KIDS The Youth Summer Haul Pass is on sale now. Youth ages 18 and under can ride PSTA buses all summer long for just $35. Pass is valid from May 15 to August 31, 2016. For more information visit www.psta.net/haulpass.php.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS REVISTED In the last issue's recycling article about what NOT to recycle, we were told by the County if you are discarding a fire extinguisher, empty it and throw it in the regular trash. The City's Public Waste Department asks that please don't do that. Call Public Works and they will personally pick it up. "To be honest, this is not a big problem, and we get very few of them thrown in our trash cans," says city employee Calvin Warren.

RIO BOUND Brad Kendall, 34, is a crew member on the #1 ranked Paralympic Sonar crew which won the 2016 Para World Championships in Medemblik Netherlands in late May. Shown here left to right- bowman Hugh Freund (Maine), Trimmer and Tactician (Clearwater native) Brad Kendell, and Skipper Rick Doerr (New Jersey) Kendall began sailing at the Clearwater Yacht Club when he was 6 years old, but move on to other watersports as he got older. In 2003, when he was 22, Kendall, his father and a friend were flying home in a small plane when it crashed. Only Brad survived, but eventually lost both his legs above the knees. The life-changing, tragic accident ultimately brought Kendall back to sailing. With this win, they will now go to Rio to represent the United States in the Paralympic games in September.

and More...



POSTER REVEALED The Clearwater Jazz Holiday, presented by HCI Group, Inc. will be October 13 through 16, 2016! This year's artwork, which creates the overall theme for the event, was unveiled last month. The 2016 Clearwater Jazz Holiday Artist is Florida native Allison Hardin. Born in 1984, her earliest childhood memories involve fishing, snorkeling and lobstering with her family. Painting mostly Florida marine life, Hardin recently switched gears to do a series based on one of her other passions, music. She currently lives in St. Petersburg, working as a manager in a family owned business.

PICKLEBALL The City recently added pickleball court lines to both the tennis courts in Kolb Park. Pickelball is a low impact game similar to tennis or paddleball played with a solid paddle and a plastic perforated ball. The paddle sport was created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. To get a key to the tennis courts, call City Hall. To get a pickelball paddle, try going to Play It Again, Sports.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY AUGUST 5-7 Tallahassee again approved the sales tax holiday, but with some changes. First, it is shorter, only three days, and computers and their accessories are no longer included. There also is a cap on clothing purchases, per store of $60. This holiday affects 270,000 Florida merchants and millions of families. While it is tailored for families with school-aged children, everyone can shop tax free, those days.

DOCK LIGHTS Do you have fishing lights on your dock? If so, the City is asking you to check them to make sure they don't shine into your neighbors' windows. If they do, there are special outside light shields that can be installed to focus the light's circumference and shine it straight down. They are sold at the Big Box stores. Call Jack, City Code Enforcer, if you want more information. Your neighbors will thank you.

WATER NEEDED From start to finish, the making of one quarter pound hamburger patty requires 460 gallons of water or the equivalent of two months of your showers. The number can vary depending on the production system; grazing uses less than industrial feeding. It takes a lot of water to grow grain and roughage to feed a cow. Water is also needed for them to drink. Per pound of product, beef products have a larger water footprint than any other animal product. Overall, the meat and dairy industry use one third of the earth's fresh water.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN AUGUST Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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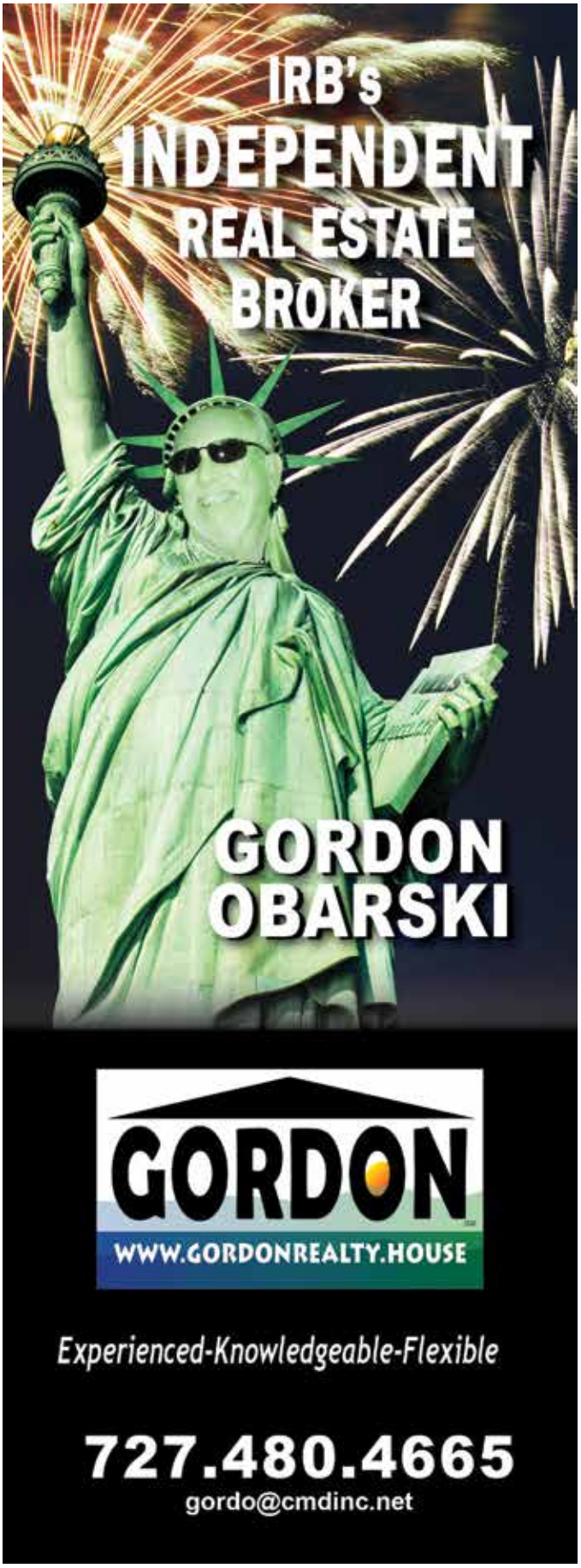

Real Estate News

FOURTH OF JULY

Real Estate's Defining Day

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker
Gordon Realty

Historically, by the Fourth of July, Indian Rocks Beach real estate transactions are about 55% of the number of sales we expect to see at the year end. If history repeats itself, this year will be on par with 2013 in terms of the number of units sold, but will likely fall short of the last two years' (2014 and 2015) transactions.

Can we call this a "correction"? Not really. But if we must, it could be labeled an "inventory-induced slowdown." Supply isn't coming anywhere close to demand, which you know firsthand if you are currently in the market to buy. Homes often spend less than a day on MLS. A 900 sq. ft., non-waterfront home in IRB was uploaded to MLS one evening at 6 p.m. and had an offer by 10:30 a.m. the next morning…with a back-up waiting in the wings. We can go out on a limb and hypothesize that IF there were more listings, the number of sales by 12/31 could be expected to equal last year's or even do a little better. But, as my dad used to say: "IF a bullfrog had wings…"

How are new listings created in Indian Rocks Beach?

One key segment of our real estate market that creates both new listings and sales is all but non-existent: move-ups. These are folks moving onto the water from a non-waterfront home or those who bought a smaller house but are claustrophobically at their wits end and in need of more space. Neither of these homeowners can get serious about selling because they simply can't find anywhere to move. And, folks who have lived here for more than a year or two would rather live in their car than leave IRB…and the cycle continues. An ever-growing number of our elderly residents aren't even giving moving a second thought. Their debt-free, single-story homes built in the 50s, and good neighbors watching out for them, have allowed them to stay in their homes longer. Many have spent their entire life in 33785 and, like the "move-ups," home in IRB is where their heart is. (Before age 55, the financial value of a home is more important; after 65 the emotional value takes over.) On the national scene, it's the millennials who are driving the housing market. Not here in IRB. Working professionals aren't sold on "doing the drive" to the office twice a day and can't get excited about a house half the size of what they can afford elsewhere.

Let's not ignore the positive side of a lack of listings: RISING SALE PRICES. The median sale price of a home/condo has gone from $350,000 in 2013 to $482,500 so far this year. That's a 38% increase in three years! And with the 22 sales currently "active with contract" (awaiting financing approval, inspections, etc.) or "pending" (approved and awaiting closing), we expect the trend to continue…although not on such a steep ramp.

For sellers, it's rockets' red glare! For buyers, it's more like a sparkler that fizzled. For real estate agents, it's not all bombs bursting in air…but it's not 2007 either. Oh say can you see what the second half of 2016 will bring to our real estate market!

Sources: My Florida Regional MLS

FERTILIZERS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

In the quest for the perfect lawn, people apply fertilizers and pesticides to their yards each year, priming their grasses for potentially serious ecological and human health consequences. The chemicals run off lawns into local springs, streams, and lakes every time it rains, eventually washing into the Gulf, causing more than half of our water pollution, while harming our waterways and the plants and animals in aquatic habitats.

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance prohibits residents from fertilizing lawns during the rainy season. From June 1 to Sept. 30, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants. Fertilizers are not plant food. They sometimes can be used to supplement sugars that plants make through photosynthesis.

If you decide to use a fertilizer, use it properly. It's easy:

- Make fertilizer selections based on need. Decide which nutrients will give you the result that you want for your lawn, and then buy only those.
- Use fertilizers sparingly to reduce nitrate levels. More is not necessarily better. Read and follow all instructions of the package.
- Do not fertilize when storm events are forecast. This will help reduce the level of nutrients washing into water systems during and after the storm.
- Select slow-release fertilizers. They are kinder to the environment and are usually more cost effective. Look for terms like "time-released," "slow-release" or "water insoluble nitrogen" on the fertilizer's package.
- Remember to fertilize only when needed. Do not apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of grass.

Do your part to preserve our water, coastlines and wildlife – the very things that help make our area bright and beautiful. For more information visit watermatters.org or befloridian.org

ONCE IN A LIFETIME BLOOM

A century plant in Belleair Beach finally blooming, after which it will die. Larry and Katie Leffler, at 110 Harbor Drive, planted it when they moved to Belleair Beach. A century plant, also called American Aloe is native to Mexico, Arizona and Texas and is cultivated as an ornamental plant. Despite the name American Aloe, it is not closely related to aloe. It has a diameter of 6-10 feet with gray or green, 3-5 foot leaves. This one is variegated, but not all are. Near the end of its life, the plant sends up a tall, branched stalk, with yellow blooms that can reach a height of 30 feet. The blooms resemble a candelabra and sit atop the vertical stalk. Although it is called a century plant, it typically lives only 20-30 years, flowering only once at the end of its life. When it dies, the plant produces a shoot from the base which continues to grow. "We planted this plant when we moved here 20 years ago," say Larry. "We would be sad to see it bloom, and completely die."

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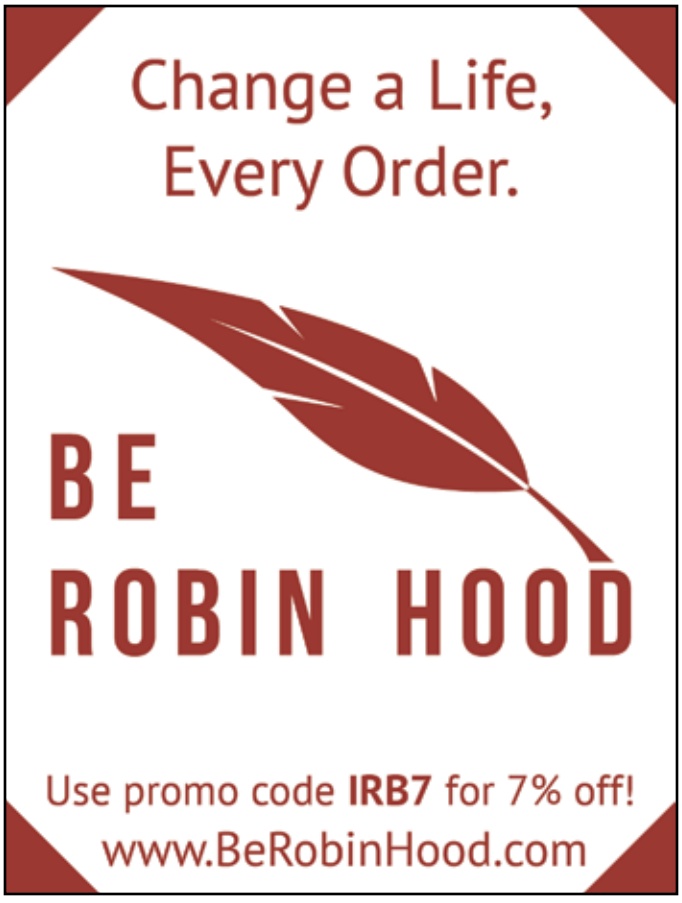

CHILDREN'S DREAM FUND CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Fransie Geringer

In 1981, a story went out over the AP wires that 8-year old Fransie Geringer of South Africa, who suffered from the aging disease progeria, dreamed of meeting his hero Pinocchio. The Sunshine City Jaycees of St. Petersburg responded by raising the money to bring Fransie and his family to Florida. After the visit, which included a trip to Disney World to see Pinocchio, excess funds from the trip were offered to Fransie's family. However, it was their wish that the funds be used to help other children. Some members of the Jaycees, including former Mayor Rick Baker, decided to form a non-profit organization, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund. Baker remembers, "All Children's Hospital (now part of John's Hopkins) was in St. Petersburg, so we were uniquely aware of the difficult times that many seriously ill children faced on a daily basis. The idea was to use the money left over from Fransie's effort, along with other money raised, to provide some of those children with a few great days. We got to help a child, and his or her family, experience some of the best moments of their lives."

In celebrating its 20th year of making dreams come true, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund changed its name to Children's Dream Fund to reflect the organization's growth and scope. The organization serves children living throughout West Central Florida. Referrals are received from area hospitals including Johns Hopkins All Children's, St. Joseph's Children's, Tampa General Hospital, and the Sabal Palms Children's Center.

The Children's Dream Fund has fulfilled the dreams of over 2,000 children ages 3-18 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. A child does not have to be terminally ill to qualify for a dream, nor is a dream the child's "last wish." The types of dreams vary greatly. They may involve meeting a celebrity, a trip, a gift such as a computer or playground, or the most-requested dream, a week at the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee. The Dream Fund makes memories for children that last a lifetime. To quote the mother of Savannah, 13, who has cancer and went on her dream to Hawaii, "We are forever thankful to the Dream Fund for giving Savannah and our family a chance to "breathe." She laughed, smiled and even cried tears of joy. We never thought we'd see her that happy ever again."

The Children's Dream Fund's office is in the Priatek Plaza in downtown St. Petersburg. A volunteer board of directors governs the organization and advocates for it in the community. It is an independent wish-granting organization, and not affiliated with a national group. The Dream Fund undertakes no telemarketing or phone solicitation. In 2015, over 84% of every dollar raised went directly to program expenses, and the Dream Fund is consistently awarded a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator. To learn more, go to www.childrensdreamfund.org.

The most recent dream recipient Marissa meets Taylor Swift.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH INTRACOASTAL AREAS TO BECOME NO WAKE MANATEE ZONES

Environmentalists have been concerned there may be an increase in the number of boat-related manatee deaths. In response, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee was formed in Pinellas County to analyze the impact of boating on manatees. After numerous meetings, the committee proposed a plan to close many areas to high-speed boat traffic during our area's manatee season.

Once the proposed plan was completed, meetings were held to explain it to the public and to invite public comment. The plan included 21 proposed zones where boaters would be required to operate at an idle speed from April 1 through October 31. Many, but not all areas are very shallow sea grass beds that are not suitable for boating. The plan was adopted by the FWC at the end of 2015.

So what does this mean to Indian Rocks Beach residents? First, the Intracoastal Waterway channel north of Walsingham Bridge will remain untouched as a full speed zone. However, the rest of the city outside the channel, with the exception of the two basins on either side of 20th Avenue will be no wake zones and closed to watersports seven months a year. Some of the closed areas have been very popular watersports areas and people may be surprised to see the new signs this fall.

Ironically, after the decision was made, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing the West Indian manatee from the endangered species list and instead reclassifying it as "threatened." Thisis due to significant improvements in its population and habitat conditions. The proposal has been in the works for two years. Research shows the manatee population is healthier than it has ever been and officials admit manatee sightings in Indian Rocks Beach's coves are very rare. Today, there are more than 6,300 manatees in Florida, a 500% increase in the species' population since they were added to the endangered list in 1972. Experts attribute it primarily to the improved water quality that has led to healthier seagrass beds where they feed. Given today's conditions, experts feel there is less than a 2 ½% chance the manatee population in Florida will fall below 4000 in the next 100 years.

"Manatee are one of the most charismatic and instantly recognizable species," said Michael Bean, principal deputy assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior. "While there is still work to be done, their numbers are climbing and the threats to the species' survival are being reduced."

Creating the new manatee zones has been a long and contentious process, with many people on both sides. Everyone loves manatees, and its great news to know their population is growing so rapidly, but people like their watersports too.

Look for new GO SLOW signs in and around Indian Rocks Beach and surrounding waterways to start popping up soon. For more information, visitPinellasCounty.org/StateManateePlan or MyFWC.com/WildlifeHabitats/Managed/manatee/Rulemaking.

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WARD'S SEAFOOD - OVER 60 YEARS OF SEAFOOD

Since 1955, Ward's Seafood Market has been supplying the area with locally caught fresh seafood. But few people remember Johnny and Millie Ward, the folks who started it.

Johnny Ward

Between 1950 and 1970, most people caught mullet. During certain times of the year, the mullet schooled by the thousands in all Pinellas waterways, especially around Clearwater Harbor and Sand Key. Fishermen used gill nets to round them up and pull them into their specially designed boats. The engines were in the middle of the boats so not to interfere with the nets in the back.

Johnny Ward grew up in Clearwater in a fishing family. His three brothers and later his son all were fishermen. Johnny would catch a boat-load of mullet and haul them off to a nearby fish market—to sell them to whomever had the best price.

In 1954, Johnny met Millie. He was a young guy in his 30s; Millie was in her 20s. She had recently relocated to Clearwater from Indiana. She liked his dark tanned look and he liked the way she smiled. Johnny loved to fish. Soon Millie loved to fish, too. They got married that same year. They decided to sell the fish Johnny caught and had left over. At first they simply sold the day's catch out of ice chests and buckets in front of their home.

In 1955, they built a house at the southwest corner of MLK South and Belleair Road. Soon after, they decided to open their own fish market. In 1956, Johnny added a 20'x20' building just to the north of their house. He called it Ward's Seafood Market. Johnny and Millie ran the small fish house seven days a week.

"We sold fish - both retail and wholesale," says Millie. "Johnny fished all day and brought the fish to the store. We got seafood from other area fishermen, too. I would help fillet, display and sell the fish, crabs, scallops and other seafood. Johnny used his truck to deliver seafood to area restaurants and bait shops. We even supplied grocery stores, including Publix, in the early days."

"We delivered fish and seafood to many restaurants that no longer exist today," Millie recalls. "I remember selling to Leon's, The Pelican, Fisherman's Wharf, The Garden Seat, The Palm Garden, Morrison's, and even the Safety Harbor Resort."

There were five additions to the initial building. They added more coolers and more retail display cases. They only had the one location. "We had all we could do," adds Millie. "Between fishing, delivering, and selling, we could not even think about expanding."

The Ward's had about ten employees. "Three were girls," Millie says. Millie paid the bills and the employees, plus billed the customers. "We owned a few trucks and they were kept busy every day."

They sold grouper, snapper, mackerel and of course mullet. "Mullet was very popular in those days, especially smoked mullet," Millie adds. Ward's also sold shrimp, crabs and lobster, flown in from Maine."

Millie Ward, today

Ward's also smoked a lot of fish. "Johnny was a great smoker," Millie adds. Word quickly spread that the Ward's had the "freshest fish in town" and their business just got bigger and bigger.

In 1975, after working for 20 years, the Ward's decided to sell the business to Wayne Widmark. He operated it for the next 15 years. In the meantime, "Johnny kept on fishing, because that is what he did," adds Millie. "I used to fish with him a lot. I loved fishing almost as much as he did." He kept his boat on a trailer at home and launched it at the Seminole Boat Ramp.

In 1990, Widmark sold Ward's to the current owners Rob and Michelle Cameron.

"We moved here from Upstate New York in 1985," says Rob. "I got a job as a cook and Michele was a nurse at Morton Plant Hospital."

Rob worked at the Indian Shores waterfront restaurant Greenstreets, as a cook and kitchen manager. "We used to get our fish delivered from Ward's," Rob recalls. "One day, the driver told me Ward's was hiring. I called Widmark. He hired me and after five years I found Ward's was in financial trouble and was getting ready to shut down. I felt the business still could be successful if run right, so Michele and I laid out our savings, borrowed some money - the rest is history.

Rob and Michele have owned the business for 26 years. They have grown it and now it includes a takeout kitchen and nationwide shipping, with about 5,000 customers per week, depending on the season.

"We still get most of our fish and products from local fishermen, just like Johnny and Millie used to do. I consider myself very privileged and thankful to have had the opportunity to know and learn from the Ward's and to carry on their legacy," says Rob.

Johnny died in 2007. Millie, now 84 says she misses the good ol' days" of going out on the water with Johnny and catching lots of fish.

Ward's Seafood Market is located at 1001 Belleair Road in Clearwater. Call them at 727-581-2640. Visit WardsSeafood.com.

Rob and Michelle Cameron

Business Briefs

SPLASH HARBOR Our beach now has its own version of Adventure Island—located in Indian Rocks Beach. The owners of the Holiday Inn Harborside built the Splash Harbor water park featuring two 42 foot tall water slides. Smugglers Run is a tube slide that spins you into a huge water bowl before you shoot into a plunge pool below. Pirates Plunge is a faster slide for bodies only. There is also a relaxing 600 foot Great White Lazy River with waterfalls and splashing water tunnels. Treasure Cove Splash Zone is an interactive children's play area with three slides, a splash fun area and a massive dumping bucket. The Blue Lagoon pool and the Iguana Falls feature a mushroom shaped splash area. The deck includes a sun area and shaded poolside cabanas.

The water park is available to customers of the Holiday Inn and Villas for a small fee. The general public can also use the park for a fee (around $25 per person) when the park is not at capacity from the hotel.

Splash Harbor is available for summer camps, birthday parties and special events. For information, visit SplashHarbourWaterPark.com or find them on FaceBook.

CREATIVE CONTRACTORS RECOGNIZED Creative Contractors, a prominent Clearwater construction company, was recognized during the 9th Annual Momentum Awards, hosted by the Clearwater Downtown Partnership, for Business and Sustainability. They have demonstrated stability and sustainability for over 40 years. Indian Rocks Beach resident Larry Gerwig, is a vice president with the company and has been with them for 30 of those years.

ANIMAL AMBULANCE Vet Care Express, Animal - Ambulance, new to Pinellas County is an Emergency or non-Emergency transport service for all pets. Vet Care Express is Veterinarian recommended and provides an affordable, reliable and caring solution for any pet transport need. They are fully licensed, insured and professionally equipped with oxygen, pet masks, a stretcher, gurney, and first aid supplies. They work closely with area emergency clinics and Veterinarians. Whether you have an emergency or just need to get your pet to the Vet, groomer or boarder, they are ready. Vet Care Express is open 24 hr. - 365 days/year. Call 727-900-7775.

NEW PHARMACY Bay Life Pharmacy & Compounding Belleair Bluffs brings the old pharmacy concept back to town but with a new twist. They offer expert personalized pharmacy services in a boutique shopping atmosphere! You can consult with your pharmacist, get your prescribed medications and select from a variety of holistic and natural remedies that work! Not only that, they compound, have a medical supply & Ostomy expert available and deliver - free! However, they hope you stop in and enjoy their store which also has many unique, beachy gift items from around the world for you to enjoy!

Business Briefs

TEN YEARS AND GOING STRONG Nekton Surf Shop opened 10 years ago. This picture, taken at their Grand Opening in July of 2006, shows Cory Lopez (left) with his father Pete, brother Matt, and mother Ann. Cory, a world champion surfer, grew up here and has a home in town. His father is a longtime resident and owns the building that houses Nekton and The Sandbar next door.

Over the years, hundreds of kids—both local and some not so local—have come to the store that Cory built.

Cory is still active in surfing and travels the world to find the perfect wave. Nekton Surf Shop is located at 1313 Gulf Blvd. Get more Information on NektonSurf.com.

SMITH & ASSOCIATES OFFERS NEW CLEARWATER CONDOS Brightwater Blue, with Dutch West-Indies architecture, is a new luxury waterfront condo community. To stand the test of time, the entire building, including floors and roofing systems, are solid concrete. The structure is additionally supported by steel framework and completed with state of the art mechanics.

Each unit comes standard with a car garage, boat slip, 10-foot ceilings, Kitchen Aid Stainless Steel Appliances, Custom Cabinetry, Silestone Quartz Countertops, Crown Molding, Large Waterside Balconies and 16 Foot Sliding Doors allowing magnificent Clearwater Beach views.

Smith & Associates Real Estate will begin taking deposits in early June at the on-site sales office and model center located at 170 Brightwater Dr., Clearwater Beach. For information or to schedule a tour, contact Sophia Vasilaros of Smith & Associates, 727-430-0141, email svasilaros@smithandassociates.com or visit BrightWaterBlue.com.

RADIANCE REOPENS AFTER REMODEL Radiance Medspa celebrated their 10th Anniversary with an expansion and redo of their offices and treatment rooms. Their grand reopening was a black dress affair with hors d-oeuvres, beverages and live entertainment all benefiting HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program) The expansion doubled the square footage of the existing facility and added a new community room to host educational programs as well as networking group events.

NINE GREAT YEARS Larry Garrison opened Island Surf Shop nine years ago this month. He sells or rents everything you need for a great beach day - surfboards, skim boards, sun glasses and clothing. He even hosts Summer Camps for the kids. He is happy to have been a part of Indian Rocks these last nine years.

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CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS CLOTHING AND SHOES

Schools out and are you cleaning out those closets? Where can you take the clothes and shoes? Clothes To Kids has a huge need for elementary school boys pants, shorts and shoes. Each year Clothes To Kids clothes more than 11,000 low-income and in crisis Pinellas county school children, PreK-4 to 12th grade. Clothes To Kids needs children's clothing especially boy clothes sizes 6-12 including uniform pants and school shoes!! We need to constantly fill our racks! We are asking the community to continue to donate gently used clothing, new clothing and shoes. Families that need clothing can make an appointment to shop at our St. Pete or Clearwater store. Call us today! 727-441-5050.

Donations may be dropped off from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday at either of our two stores, one in Clearwater at 1059 N. Hercules Avenue and one in St. Pete at 2168 34th Street South. Cash donations are also needed to purchase clothing in short supply, new underwear and socks. For more information or to schedule an appointment to shop, please call 441-5050 or visit our website at www.clothestokids.org.

BEACH PERMITS REQUIRED

If Tropical Storm Colin had been a hurricane, would you have had your Access Permit?

If you are new to the area, you may not know that during an major storm or hurricane evacuation, Indian Rocks Beach residents and businesses will need a permit to reenter the beach area. Under the program created by the Pinellas County Sheriff's office, residents and business owners must register at City Hall, 1507 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, to receive their FREE emergency permit. Two permits will be issued per household and businesses may request additional passes for employees.

After an evacuation, officers will man nine entry points along the Pinellas Beaches and will scan bar codes on the permits. People will only be allowed to return to their own beach neighborhoods. One of the entry points is the Indian Rocks Bridge. Another is the Belleair Causeway.

Residents should sign up now, before the next storm when things get busy. "This is one of those things we have to be ready for, but hope we never need," says Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. "We want to keep the beaches safe, but at the same time keep people out who do not belong there."

Please bring a current vehicle registration or driver's license when you register. If that registration does not show Indian Rocks Beach, then bring other proof of residency. Call the Sheriff's office 562-4242 or City Hall 595-2517, with any questions.

NOTE: If there is an evacuation, with no significant property damage, Access Permits will not be needed for reentry.

A SUMMER OF SAILING SETS A YOUNGSTER ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

by Anne McKay Garris

The Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key is offering a week of free sailing camp experience this summer. Each paid-up camper may bring a friend the first week, free of charge, to get a sample of the adventure of sailing. The camps, for ages 5 and up, last for 9 weeks and provide adventure on the water at a level of sailing appropriate to their age and interest. Camps begin June 6 and registration is underway by calling 727-517-7776.

The free week idea comes from Norman Olsen, a long time Center supporter and Board Member. "Youngsters are happier going into a new adventure with a friend," he says, "and it makes the camp more affordable for the friend. By the end of a week, both youngsters will feel more at home, having experienced the challenge and excitement of sailing and gotten to know the other campers. Hopefully, the friend will be able to sign up for the rest of the camp."

Mr. Olsen's experience with teaching youngsters to sail dates back to 1973 when he was on the board of the Clearwater Yacht Club. He established a youth sailing program, using 10 boats of the 420 class, a lightweight boat capable of holding 3 children and are used in high school and college competitive sailing. The program, titled Clearwater Olympic Yachting Committee Junior Sailing Program, eventually taught over 1,000 children to sail.

When he found the Yacht Club area too confined for expansion of the successful program, Mr. Olsen, who was now Commodore of the Clearwater Windjammers, helped persuade the Clearwater City Commissioners to provide land at the north end of Sand Key for a City sailing center. With that accomplished, he headed up a successful drive for funding for the design of the building.

"I believe, if you teach children how to sail they will learn to be confident, resourceful, independent and responsible individuals," Olsen says, telling, as an example, the story of young Jim Brady , who graduated from the program at the Clearwater Yacht Club and went on to become a Silver Medalist at the 1992 Olympics, as well as a vigorous supporter of U.S. youth sailing programs.

Over the ensuing years, Mr. Olsen has founded and developed two other award-winning U.S. junior sailing programs, teaching over 4,000 children and young adults how to sail in Lake Forest, IL, and Crystal Lake, MI. He has participated in the making of several nationally distributed films on youth sailing, most notably as Marine Director and advisor on a sailing feature film, called The Dove, which was produced by Gregory Peck with Paramount pictures.

Mr. Olsen's purpose has been to promote sailing as a healthy, lifelong sport that teaches young people skills needed to succeed in life. Over the years, he has received countless letters from parents testifying to their children's personality improvements resulting from what they learned at the tiller of a sailboat.

Since returning to live in Belleair, Norman Olsen has begun a quest for funds to buy additional Optimist Dinghies to expand the Youth Sailing Program at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key, because, as he believes, "Young people learning to sail, teach themselves how to listen to the wind or their inner voice to make good decisions."

Call 800-726-0865 to book your staycation today!

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www.splashharbourwaterpark.com
399 Second Street
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

PREPARING FOR A DISASTER TAKES A COMMUNITY

The American Red Cross prepares to respond to disasters year round with the hope that we never need to use that training. But each year, Floridians must deal with the realization we are the most hurricane-vulnerable.

The Tropical Meteorology Project from Colorado State University predicts that the "2016 Atlantic basin hurricane season will have approximately average activity." They predict a total of 13 named storms and six hurricanes. But it only takes one storm (or even a tropical storm) to destroy our paradise.

Hurricanes can cause hazards such flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Preparation is the best protection against these dangers.

Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. It's important to have flood protection associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact us. For information on flood insurance, visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

The Red Cross recommends all Florida residents update their family evacuation plan, emergency preparedness kit and get better prepared.

Download the free Red Cross Emergency app to your mobile device. Emergency is the one-download resource that puts vital information at your fingertips. This "all-inclusive" app combines more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts from natural to man-made, giving you real-time information to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Choose the alerts that are important to your location. Monitor activity across the country to know when incidents are about to occur in the locations of your family and friends. Activate "Family Safe" to notify loved ones that an alert has been issued in their area and check to see if they are safe. Access vital information on what to do before, during and after an emergency strikes. Download via Apple App Store or Google Play or text "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999. Disponible en español.

Make an emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should include a portable, sturdy, easy to carry, water resistant container and should have enough supplies for seven days. Check your kit and replace perishable stock every six months. Whether you purchase a kit or choose to build your own, your seven-day kit should include:

- Water - one gallon/person, per day.
- Food - non-perishable, easy items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, and canned fruit. Make sure to include a manual can opener.
- A battery or hand-crank radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- A first aid kit.
- Prescription and non-prescription medication items (seven-day supply). Include medical supplies like extra hearing aid batteries, syringes, etc.
- Copies of important documents, including birth certificates, insurance policies, a medication list and medical information, proof of address, deed/ lease to home and social security cards.
- Cell phone chargers.
- Multi-purpose tool.
- Sanitation and hygiene items.
- Extra cash. ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- A blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowls).
- Maps of the area.

Prepare a family evacuation plan that includes:

- Identifying two meeting places: one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Making advanced preparations for your pets. Be aware that pets may not be allowed in shelters. Contact hotels, motels, family members and animal shelters to see if they would allow pets in a disaster situation. Keep a list of "pet friendly" locations. If you evacuate, take your pets with you.
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. During or after a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance, if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact person's phone number and email address.
- Plan your evacuation route. Use local maps and identify alternate evacuation routes from home, work and/or school. Know where you are going and how to get there before you leave home.

Know what to do if a hurricane WATCH is issued.

- Listen to weather updates from your portable radio.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, hanging plants, bicycles, toys and garden tools; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Close all windows and doors. Cover windows with storm shutters or plywood.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture or move it to a higher floor to protect it from flooding.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Check your disaster supplies kit to make sure items have not expired.

Know what to do if a hurricane WARNING is issued.

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if told to do so. To locate the nearest Red Cross emergency shelter, check your hurricane app or visit redcross.org/shelter.
- If in a manufactured home, check tie downs and evacuate when told to.
- Unplug unnecessary appliances.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- If not advised to evacuate, stay inside, away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Use flashlights. Do NOT use open flames, candles and kerosene lamps.
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.

Get involved – find opportunities to support community preparedness and response.

- Call American Red Cross at 727-898-3111 to volunteer or visit redcross.org/central-florida and click "Volunteer" on the left side of the home page.
- Get trained in CPR and First Aid by calling 1-800-Red-Cross or visit redcross.org/take-a-class.
- Once you become a Red Cross volunteer, take free disaster training courses at your local Red Cross office at 818 Fourth St. North, St. Pete.
- Stay connected with your local Red Cross via www.facebook.com/redcrosscentralflorida and on Twitter @TampaRedCross.

Voted Indian Rocks' Favorite since 2008

"Best restaurant on the gulf"

The food was phenomenal! Started with blue crab guacamole, so good! Then Lobster bisque! Finally the grouper special! It was so good! Best meal we had all week going back one more time before we have to go

-Nicole D, Crown Point, Indiana
June 2016 on tripadvisor

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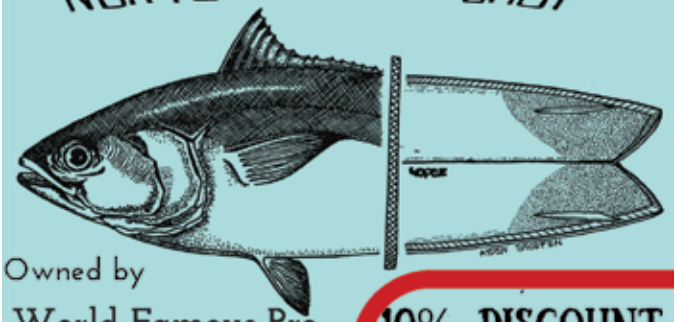

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*Free meal must be of equal or lesser value. Not available with any other offers of discounts

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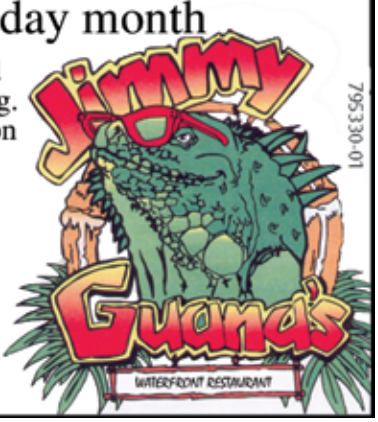

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RECYCLING BY THE NUMBERS 2015 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Indian Rocks Beach started offering their current curbside recycling program 5 years ago. Although all residents were given special blue recycling containers, not everyone uses them. It is estimated that 50 to 60% of our residents participate the curbside recycling program. This is a great accomplishment!

According to the 2015 records, it was a great year for recycled trash. The city (with the help of outside vendors) collected over 1,762 tons of yard waste and recyclables. But, that is 10% less than 2014.

Last year, the city collected and recycled 395 tons of cardboard; 488 tons of yard waste, 8 tons of appliances, 188 tons of construction debris, 3 tons of electronics, and 1 ton of clothing plus other items.

"The fact that the numbers are down over last year, does not mean fewer people are recycling," explains Calvin Warren, head of the City's Waste Management team. "Over the last 5 years, the plastic industry has changed the way they make plastic products. It is also true for other products too, such as aluminum, paper and glass. Many of the products that we collect today simply weigh less."

Newspaper tonnage is down also because fewer people subscribe to the Tampa Bay Times and other papers.

The state of the economy has a lot to do with how much is recycled, too. "When the economy is doing good, people buy homes and remodel—thus creating more construction debris," says Warren.

Warren was recently recognized by Keep Pinellas Beautiful at their annual Leaders in the Community Awards, held in June, with the *Outstanding Site Captain for the Great American Cleanup*. He coordinates the City's two beach cleanups each year, held at the County Park in Indian Rocks Beach.

Unfortunately in city, there are only about a dozen businesses in town that recycle. If space permits, a business can request a special dumpster for cardboard recycling. Other than that, the City does not offer recycling services to businesses. If they want to recycle, they required to contract with a private hauler—so most do not do it. Except for bars and restaurants, the average business simply does not produce enough cardboard and recyclable waste to make hiring a hauler financially feasible.

You can also recycle at Recycling Stations located around the City. The locations are: Kolb Park off of Bay Palm Blvd., Brown Park off of Bay Blvd & 2nd St., Historical Museum off of 4th Ave. and the Nature Preserve off of Gulf Blvd. These locations accept aluminum cans, newspapers, and plastic bottles.

Please do your part to help the environment. Remember to reuse and recycle to help reduce the amount of waste in our Pinellas landfill. And remember to recycle this newsletter, if you choose not to keep it.

MIDORI ORGANIC SALON JOINS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

63,180 lbs of hair clippings, 42,122 lbs of hair color, 109,512 lbs of foil and color tubes, and 206, 392lbs of wastepaper, salon bottles, and other paper and plastic items – that's the amount of waste being tossed out by hair salons across North America EVERY SINGLE DAY; that's a total of 421,206 lbs! As a newly Green Circle Certified Salon (GCS), Midori Organic Salon & Spa is proud to announce they are part of a comprehensive recycling and sustainability program to significantly reduce the industry's environmental impact.

From the sourcing of ingredients, to the disposal of packaging and products, the salon and beauty industry has long posed many challenges to the environment. With this in mind, Midori joined forces with GCS to work together to reduce their ecological footprint and to more sustainable. Through the GCS partnership, they will be redirecting what was garbage out of the water streams and landfills, to be re-purposed into innovative green solutions. Starting June 1, all hair clippings, extensions, excess color and developer, papers and plastics, foils, aerosol cans and color tubes from Midori will be collected by GCS - effectively cutting the salon's total waste by 85-95%, literally overnight!

As people continue to take increasing interest in the ethical and environmental impacts of their purchasing power, they wanted to give their customers a genuinely more responsible and greener choice while still looking and feeling beautiful.

Midori Organic Salon & Spa is located at 1033 W. Bay Drive in Largo. Call them at (727) 581 8791.

THE ANONA 2016 CLASS

This is Anona Elementary School's Graduating Class of 2016. There are 150 children in this year's class. While the school is in Largo, some of the kids live in Belleair Bluffs, some in Largo, and others live in Indian Rocks Beach. Good Luck!

Introducing SculpSure® Now At Radiance.

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Bar & Restaurant News

NEW OWNERS AT VENUS After three decades of operating The Venus Restaurant, Nick and Despina decided it was time to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and spend more time with their grandchildren. After searching for a family who would continue the tradition of their family, Nick and Despina sold the restaurant to Mark and Irene Norberg, in May.

The Norberg's are not new to the restaurant business. Mark has been a restaurateur his entire career and was VP of Operations for Darden's Seasons 52. Irene was raised in a family run Greek restaurant in Atlanta and has run several local restaurants with her husband.

The Norberg's are no strangers to Belleair Bluff's either. Irene's sister is Evelyn Michaelos (St. Michael's Eye Institute) and they have been visiting here for years and always made a point to dine at the Venus.

"I was looking for an opportunity to get back to the part of the business I love," says Mark. "I was tired of the corporate world and wanted a chance to be involved in the day-to-day operations of a local favorite."

"Nothing is going to change except the light bulbs if they burn out," says Mark. "We have the same name, staff and chef." Nick will stay involved in the business as the landlord and will remain a presence in the operations.

RUM SHACK AT HOLIDAY INN In addition to their new Splash Waterpark, the tiki bar near the pool has been remodeled and renamed. Instead of Rum Runners, It is now it is Cruzan Rum Shack. Stop in for a rum drink!

GROUPER WEEK This special promotion was created by Pinellas County's Visit Clearwater St Pete to promote this area as a grouper and seafood mecca. During the week of June 26 through July 3rd, area seafood restaurants have been asked to design seafood specials and events. Their web site has a list of special events and recipes at www.GrouperWeek.com.

Bar & Restaurant News

FIRST ANNIVERSARY Chez Colette Bistro's owners are celebrating their first anniversary. Last summer, Colette Pommel, and her son Nicholas, bought the French restaurant which opened as Le Bouchon in 2002, and changed the name to Chez Colette Bistro.

NEW RESTAURANT Groupers, a proposed restaurant in the corner of the strip center at 14th Avenue and Gulf Blvd. is moving forward. Recently, the City of Indian Rocks Beach approved a beer and wine liquor license for the location. It is to being opened by resident Adam McLean.

CLEARWATER'S CRABBY BILL CLOSED

The Crabby Bill's restaurant in Clearwater Beach, next to the round about, is closed, but it did not go out of business. The building is being rebuilt. The restaurant closed in May to prepare for demolition. The City owns the land and the building. Crabby Bill's however has a long term lease.

Over the years, the location was a gas station in the 1970s, followed by the Clearwater Beach Seafood Restaurant in the 1980s, Crazy Bill's in the 1990s and finally Crabby Bill's in July 2000.

The new, taller Crabby Bill's restaurant will have open-air patio seating on the first level and air conditioned dining on the second. The third level will be open air with beach views and sunsets. It is scheduled to reopen next March. The Crabby Bill's in Clearwater Beach is not affiliated with the Indian Rocks Beach location.

BACKWATER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY August 16, from 5-7pm, is the popular Backwaters on Sand Key annual Southern Boil. Held on the patio, it is celebrating their 16th Anniversary. For more information, visit BackWatersonSandKey.com.

NO GASTRO PUB Adian Bowles had plans to build The Gastro Pub tapas restaurant at 2701 Gulf Blvd. across the street from Stefano's. His liquor license request was denied because a number of residents were against the idea and it was too close to an existing liquor license. The property is back on the market.

BELLEAIR COFFEE Belleair residents and owners Chris Whalen and Cammie Griffin opened this new coffee shop in June in Belleair Bluff's Plaza Shopping Center. The Grand Opening included free food and coffee, of course.

"We specialize in coffee--all kinds of coffee," says Chris. "We get our coffee primarily from Intelligentsia, a leader in the industry." They also serve cappuccino, latte, espresso and a variety of teas. Drinks are served in biodegradable drinkware, plus they offer pastries baked on site.

RESIDENTS CAN HELP PREVENT SEWER OVERFLOWS DURING RAINS

Tampa Bay area residents are well aware that, along with sunshine and sunscreen, most summer afternoons feature a brief, but heavy rainstorm. Florida's rainy season runs from June through October and accounts for 70 percent of Florida's annual rainfall.

When the Bay area experiences record rainfall, storm water management systems can become overburdened. Extreme rain events can stress wastewater sewer systems resulting in sanitary sewer overflows due to the volume of excess water.

Storm water can penetrate the wastewater sewer system through leaky manhole covers, cracked or broken sewer pipes, and unauthorized connections between sewer pipes and storm water pipes. When a sewer system is over capacity, it can overflow into the environment.

An average household of four can produce as much as 400 gallons or more of wastewater per day. Residents can help avoid an overflow by following these tips to put less water in the sewer system, especially during heavy rains.

• Do not water the lawn if it is raining.

• Check underground wastewater pipes of homes built before 1985. Many homes built prior to 1985 were built with clay pipes or Orangeburg pipes, which are made only of paper and tar. Also, check your clean-outs to make sure the caps are on securely.

• Postpone doing loads of laundry and dishes during periods of heavy rainfall, if possible. Remember that all dish and laundry wastewater gets sent to wastewater treatment plants that may already be dealing with excess water.

• Add mulch to reduce evaporation. Mulching reduces water needed in a garden by as much as 50 percent. It also has the added benefit of preventing weed growth, deterring pests, stabilizing soil temperature and providing nutrients to the soil as it decomposes.

• Harvest rain to water flower beds, herb gardens and potted plants. Rain is free and beneficial for plants because it does not contain hard minerals.

• Choose native plants that are adapted to the area because they need less water.

• Check hose and sprinkler connections for leaks – a drop wasted each second can add up to a couple of gallons each day.

• On slopes, plant native species that will retain water and help reduce runoff.

• Irrigate your lawn with reclaimed water. To find out if reclaimed water is available in your neighborhood, contact your utility company.

• Most importantly, never let your children or grandchildren play in flood waters; it is simply unsanitary

Conserving water during a flood may sound counterintuitive, but it can make a huge difference when wastewater treatment facilities are at capacity. Water conservation protects an essential resource, and it can also protect our homes and our environment from sewer overflows. For more information on storm water safety, visit dep.state.fl.us.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, www.dep.state.fl.us

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THE VITALE BROTHERS HAVE BRUSH...WILL TRAVEL

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Murals have been popping up on the sides of area buildings everywhere. One of the people behind it is the gifted muralist Johnny Vitale.

Vitale says he has been a doodler as far back as he can remember. His mother says as a child, he used to scribble, even when he was in his highchair.

When he finished high school, Vitale did not know what he wanted to do, so he got a job as a waiter at The Hurricane Restaurant in Pass-A-Grille. He was the guy who drew on the chalkboards and made happy faces on the guest's receipt. He also did some t-shirts. Vitale admits he was a lousy waiter and the restaurant's owner Rick Faulkenstein agrees.

One day, Rick told Vitale he had good news and bad news. The bad news was he was being fired from his waiter job. The good news was they wanted him to paint some large murals on three of walls at the Hurricane and pay him to do it. It was Vitale first paid job as an artist.

When the Hurricane murals were done, Vitale and his brother Paul, went to work for a local billboard company painting large images on billboards. As luck would have it, the company went digital the following year and fired all their painters.

Vitale and his brother decided to start their own mural painting business. In the beginning, business was slow. Very slow.

Back in 2000, Vitale was driving past Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant on Park Street and had a vision of a Mexican lady dancing in a colorful dress on the side of the building. He sketched it on a napkin and left it with the manager. Two days later, the owner Vince Lopez called him and asked "How much?" They struck a deal and Carmelita's became the first customer of his new business.

Things took off after that, and since then, the Vitale Brothers, have done some big things, including: Murals inside of Tropicana Field, the back of The State Theater, Tampa's Poe Parking Garage next to The Glazer Museum, Tropical Scooters, Thai Pan Alley and P.J.'s Oyster Bar in Indian Rocks Beach. Great Bay Distributors had them paint murals inside their new building in St. Petersburg which turned out to be one of their largest projects to date.

Last fall, the Arts Alliance of Downtown St. Pete, sponsored a mural painting festival which included painting ten large buildings. The Vitale brothers painted or assisted in with three of them. To see their Downtown Mural work, visit www.ShineOnStPete.com.

"The Vitale Brothers are very talented artists," says John Collins, Director of the Downtown Arts Alliance. "People do not know how much they were the cornerstone of the Shine Mural Festival. They prepared the other artists, advised them, and helped the emerging artists. We were very fortunate to have them working with us and basically, they are just really nice guys."

"Those Vitale Brothers are a hoot to work with," says Bama Palmer, owner of P.J.'s Oyster Bar. "They are so creative—and fast. All I had to do was point at a wall, and they were on it the next day."

Loreal Hair Company, a division of Salon Centrix, discovered them and flies them all over the U.S. to paint their new stores. "Loreal has become our biggest clients, based on money," says Vitale.

They travel to many distant states including California, Iowa, New Jersey, Las Vegas, Georgia and Virginia. When they fly, they cannot take any paint on the airplane. When they get to their destination, they rent a car and head straight to Home Depot and Michaels. They normally carry their own brushes with them. "Have Brushes—Will Travel," Vitale chuckles.

Vitale, now 45, says his company has grown to four people including himself, brother Paul and two other artists. When he needs more help, he knows where to find it. "The art world is a tight knit group. When we need help ,we can usually get it with just a phone call," Vitale explains.

So the next time you see a large painting on the side of a wall, you might be looking at the work of the Vitale Brothers. See more of their work at VitaleBrothers.com. To get your own mural, call them at 727-520-0969.

CHASING SHADOWS, AMAZON'S #1 LAW ENFORCEMENT BOOK

Written by Daryl May, Previous Pinellas County Deputy Sheriff.

by Daryl May, Belleair Resident

Chasing Shadows is a memoir recounting my years as a Pinellas County deputy sheriff in the 1960s and my travels and travails later as a stand-up comedian, guitarist, singer and songwriter.

I suppose, we all have stories to tell. It's only a matter of how badly we want to tell them. Maya Angelou, essayist and activist, said, "It only takes three things to be a writer. First, you got to have something to say. Secondly, you got to have the ability to say it and, thirdly, you got to have the courage to say it all." And so, not long ago, I took up pen (actually, I turned on my laptop) and wrote *Chasing Shadows*, a mostly humorous book recently released on Amazon by DocUmeant Publishing, NYC, recounting how, over the years, life and law enforcement in Pinellas County have changed significantly, technically and theoretically.

A deputy sheriff in the 1960s was mostly on his own in hairy situations. On the midnight shift everything north of Clearwater to the Pasco County line was usually patrolled by one deputy. The only contact for help was the car radio, portable body radios with mikes attached to an officer's shoulder was technology not yet available. It seems like only yesterday, but fifty-five years ago the Mafia was fiercely entrenched in the Tampa Bay area, the Pinellas KKK was burning crosses on weekends, court systems were segregated and communities were significantly divided in regards to race.

There were memorable moments. Four days before his Dallas assassination, I guarded President John Kennedy in Tampa, smelled the Cuban cigar smoke on his jacket and, along with thousands of others, sensed his overwhelming aura. But on that day, I and other lawmen questioned what we considered unsound security measures for the most powerful man in the world. My first arrest as a very green deputy was a good ol' Largo boy by the last name of May. He was knee-walking, ankle-dragging drunk and found it incomprehensible that I could jail someone that shared his family name. Little Red Riding Hooker is an amusing arrest I made while working undercover as a vice cop. No pun intended. I once apprehended a desperado that had had a bottle of apricot brandy broken over his head. While cuffing the rowdy fellow, it was all I could do to keep from licking my fingers.

Then one fateful night, on a lonely stretch of US-19, I was forced to use my service revolver to survive. A life was lost. I left law enforcement not because of the incident but resolved there was more to life's journey than battling society's outlaws and chasing bandits … I would follow my dream.

For the next several years, I entertained at posh hotels around the country, did comedy at an Australian ski resort and performed on cruise ships. Stuttering Nashville artist Mel Tillis had a hit record with a funny song I wrote about the Gator Bar, a juke joint in down town Largo.

Chasing Shadows is available on Amazon and book signings at Brenda May's Salon, 1419 South Ft. Harrison, Clearwater, Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon during June. I am also available for book signings and speaking engagements. For information please call: 727/442-8451 or contact me on Facebook or at my website: darylmaycomedy.com.

SUNKEN GARDENS WELCOMES 20 NEW FLAMINGOS

George and Lucy have been empty-nesters in recent years at Sunken Gardens, a St. Petersburg historic botanical attraction. The two lonely flamingos were once part of 17 flamingos who made their home at the Gardens, which is one of Florida's original roadside attractions. The two have been anxiously awaiting some new feathered friends.

After more than three years of fundraising efforts by supportive citizens, Sunken Gardens welcomed a new flock of 20 young Chilean flamingos. St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman hosted an event at the Gardens, 1825 Fourth Street N., last month, to welcome the new long-legged wading birds.

"It has been quite the journey to get our new flamingos, and we couldn't have done it without the commitment and enthusiasm of the community," said Gardens Supervisor Bill O'Grady. He traveled to meet the birds prior to their journey to St. Petersburg and will monitor them closely the first few weeks in their new home.

Raising funds was only the first step in getting the precious pink birds to their new home in one of Florida's most beautiful botanical gardens. In late 2015, the city funded a new night time enclosure to house the anticipated birds, and then in 2016, it finally received a commitment from their breeder that he would allow them to purchase the birds. The city underwent a rigorous adoption process, which included several required letters of recommendation and documentation of adequate living conditions. The Gardens welcomed them to the community with a Flamingo Festival on May 1.

For more information on St. Pete's journey to restock the flock, contact Lauren Kleinfeld, Sunken Gardens Manager, at Lauren.Kleinfeld@stpete.org.

SHORT TERM RENTALS-ARE YOU COVERED?

by Phil Wrobel

The State of Florida passed a law allowing property owners to do short term, or daily, rentals- including Indian Rocks Beach! Chances are your present Homeowner's Insurance Policy will not cover you should anything happen while your home it is rented short term. Insurance companies will research and may deny coverage if they find the property was rented without proper coverage- even if owner occupied or vacant at the time of incident. To counter this some popular vacation rental companies do supply up to one million dollars in Liability and Home coverage if something should happen while there is a tenant staying at your property who booked through their site/service. This rental coverage does not apply while you are living there or renting it out short term through other means. Your Homeowner's policy may not either.

If you have a DP-3 or DP-1, which is a Rental Dwelling Policy, chances are there is a minimum term limit that is not short term, the same applies to HO6 Condo owners policies. There are specific policies that can be purchased that apply to these new short term rentals that also cover your home when vacant or owner occupied. If you are planning to rent out your property on a short term basis- please check your policy to ensure that you are covered.

If you have questions regarding policy review, or any insurance inquiries, please feel free to contact me by phone or stop by- our offices are located here on Indian Rocks Beach! We can help you to understand your policy and know that you have the best insurance for your needs. Insurance policies can be re-written midterm. Call (727) 596-9999 and ask for Phil Wrobel, Independent Agent with Florida Best Quote Insurance, the most referred, consumer driven agency for all your Insurance needs!

FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

Planning a vacation this summer? There's no better way to recharge than to get away, relax, enjoy the sights and spend time with family. But as we unwind, remember to never let your guard down when it comes to safety.

Keeping ourselves, our loved ones and our personal belongings safe must be our top priority, and doing so begins before we even leave home.

Secure your home. Lock your doors and windows. Lock up valuables, such as jewelry. Consider leaving some lights on. Tell a friend or neighbor that you will be out of town, and ask him/her to pick up your mail and newspapers, because a packed mailbox or a stack of newspapers at your front door signals would-be burglars that you are not there. Always leave a number where you may be contacted in case of an emergency.

If you would like someone to check on your home while you are away, contact your local law enforcement agency. If you live in the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, call us at 727-582-6200, and a deputy or Volunteer Patrol member will be glad to a conduct vacation home check.

On the road, keep cash, credit cards, identification, passports, itineraries, cell phones, cameras and other items of value with you at all times. Consider using traveler's checks and/or credit cards instead of cash whenever possible.

Never leave your luggage unattended. Keep it within visual range, even while you check in at the airport, a hotel, or a rental car station. If you can secure your valuables in a hotel room safe - do so. Once in your room, find the exit routes, and familiarize yourself with the evacuation procedures in case of an emergency.

Try to acquaint yourself with the place you are visiting ahead of time. Make a plan with your family about what to do if you get separated for any reason. Perhaps, agree on a place and time that you will regroup if you get split up.

As you get ready to explore, keep small children close. Remain aware of your surroundings. Practice the normal safety routines that you would if you were home. Don't get stuck in an unlit parking lot or a lonely dead-end street, and avoid risks that you would not normally take.

If you are traveling by car, stay on safe, well-traveled roads. Map your drive to avoid getting lost and ending up in dangerous situations. Be aware of construction areas: Adjust your speed, allow time for possible delays, and ensure your vehicle is adequately fueled.

Don't drive when you are tired. If possible, take turns driving with other family members to prevent fatigue. Prolonged driving can make you groggy and more prone to a traffic crash. Stop periodically for rest. Drive defensively. Make sure everyone is properly buckled up, which includes using the appropriate child safety restraints.

Park your vehicle in a safe location. Don't leave items in plain view when you leave your car. Instead, store your items in the trunk or somewhere out of sight. Lock your doors and close your windows to prevent a vehicle burglary. Burglars are generally looking for an easy target, locking your doors will prevent a crime of opportunity.

A little planning, along with a dose of good common sense and judgment can go a long way toward making your summer vacation fun, and above all, safe.

Have a great time being a being a tourist – not a target.

KAHWA COFFEE - COMING TO BELLEAIR BLUFFS

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

What does Kahwa mean? According to Raphael Perrier, owner of Kahwa Coffee in St. Petersburg, it means coffee and he knows, because that is his business.

Coffee got its known beginnings in Ethiopia in the Kaffa region of Africa. The Turkish name for coffee is Kahve, which evolved into Qahwa in Arabic. Today, the spelling differs from country to country, but kahwa is the original spelling for the word coffee throughout Africa. It evolved to café in France and caffe in Italy. The French use kahwa as slang for coffee. Raphael is from France, and the trademarked the word Kahwa for his company name.

When you talk to Raphael, you instantly know he is originally from France. His wife Sarah is from Canada but has lived much of her life in St. Petersburg. The two met and married in Philadelphia, where Raphael was a local Batista in cafe.

Ten years ago, after they were married, they moved to St. Petersburg and started a business, importing coffee beans. At first, they bought, blended and roasted their special brand of coffee and only sold it wholesale. Then in 2008, they opened their first store on the corner of 5th Avenue and 2nd Street N., in St. Petersburg. Today, they have a very large distribution network which sells their coffee wholesale locally and internationally. At the same time, they now manage nine coffee shops in the Tampa Bay area. They are in the process of opening their tenth store in Belleair Bluffs in June.

Employees, called Baristas, must undergo an intense training program at the store to make sure each cup of coffee they serve is "the best coffee you have ever had," says Raphael. They employ over 80 people, nine of which are at their St. Pete roastery, near 34th Street N. That is primarily where Raphael and Sarah are each day.

They own nine coffee and bakery stores in the Tampa Bay area. Four stores are in Tampa, four are in St. Pete, and one is in Sarasota. To celebrate their 10th anniversary, they are opening their 10th store which is still under construction in Belleair Bluffs in the Bonefish Shopping Center, just to the east of Bonefish.

The Perriers import beans from all over the world, especially Central and South America. To bring complex flavors to each cup of coffee, Kahwa specially blends different types of coffee beans. They only use 100% Arabica beans, but can be grown worldwide. Once the beans arrive in St. Petersburg, they are roasted at their St. Petersburg roastery. "We are extremely proud of our unique coffee blends," adds Sarah. "We make a wide variety of blends and know anyone can find one or more suited to his or her tastes."

Their types of coffee includes: Sirocco, Mistral, Boreas, Zonda, and Special Roasts. You can learn about each one on their web site, www.KahwaCoffee.com. The blends are available to purchase at many area grocery stores. Lately, you may also see the two on HSN promoting their coffees nationwide.

"Weekly, we roast and ship more than 5,000 pounds of coffee," says Raphael. "Not bad for only 9 people." They have over 600 wholesale customers, worldwide. Many customers are in Philadelphia, Miami, Orlando including Epcot, the Bahamas, and other major cities. They also sell directly to hundreds of area restaurants.

"We use their coffee in all our downtown area stores," says Steve Westphal, owner of Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House, The Hangar and other restaurants. "Kahwa is a great local brand and Raphael and Sarah are wonderful people."

Their stores offer more than just coffee. They serve a selection of French pastries, organic cookies, and muffins. Some stores offer a lunch menu with fresh salads, sandwiches, and have outdoor café seating. Of course, their stores also sell their coffee by the pound.

They are equally proud of their local community involvement. They live in the Allendale area where their two children attend nearby schools. They support many local non-profit organizations and participate in many local fundraising efforts.

For information or to find the locations of their stores, visit www.KahwaCoffee.com.

TJ'S ITALIAN CAFE - 26 YEARS OF GREAT FOOD!

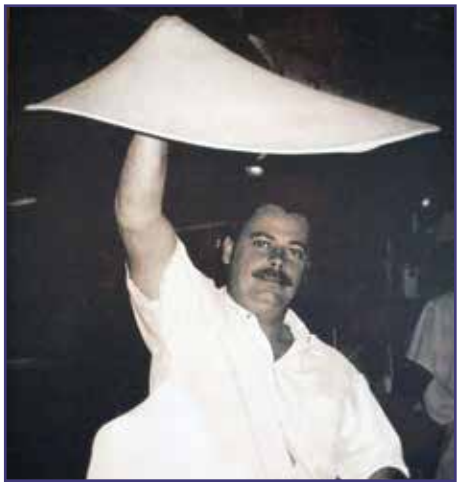
By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Who makes the best pizza in Indian Rocks Beach? Well, as always, that is a matter of opinion, but many locals think TJ's Italian Café serves the best pizza in town, and he has been doing it here for a quarter of a century.

Thomas John Smith, or TJ for short, grew up in an Italian New Jersey neighborhood. His mother Peggy liked to cook as did hundreds of people in his neighborhood.

"When you walked down any street, you would smell the aroma of delicious Italian food coming from every house," Smith remembers.

Smith's first job was as a restaurant cook when he was only 16. "I have worked in lots of Italian restaurants, always in the kitchen, and learned from some of the best" he says. "That is where I first got my feet wet, cooking."



Smith created his first restaurant in 1986 in Roebling, NJ, when he was just 21. He called it Roebling's Main Street Pizza and he ran it for five years. During those years, his family vacationed frequently in Clearwater and Indian Rocks Beach. He loved the look and uniqueness of Indian Rocks Beach.

"Twenty-six years ago, there were not many condos and the hotels were mostly ma & pa's," reflects Smith. "I remember when Gulf Blvd. was only 2 lanes, and then they added the sidewalks. The park across from Guppy's was a dirt lot. The city was full of cottages. I liked the small town look and feel here," he says. "Back then, there was a restaurant called La Sole del Mar. Frank and Marilyn Morris had owned it for about 20 years, it recently closed," he continues. "I leased the building and made IRB my home."

It was nothing more than a small sidewalk café, seating about 40 people, inside and out but it was on the beach. He named it TJ's Gourmet Pizza Café and sold pizzas, subs, Philly cheese-steak sandwiches, and hoagies. It became known for its White Pizza made with olive oil, garlic, and fresh mozzarella.

Smith soon bought the property including some cottages where his restaurant sits now. He built TJ's Mom's Ice Cream, a small ice cream store on the northwest corner that his mother operated.

Soon, Smith embarked on building the restaurant you see now. Having previously worked in construction, he did much of the work himself. In the beginning, the building was half the size it is today. He added a deck to the west and eventually enclosed it, before adding the larger deck he has today.

Fifteen years ago, he married his wife Kim, whom he calls Kimmy. Kimmy's grandfather and mother were chefs from Northern Italy so she knows a thing or two about Italian cooking, too.

"The difference between TJ and most other restaurateurs is he himself works in the restaurant, sometimes seven days a week, normally in the kitchen," Kimmy says. He has five to seven other cooks and chefs who work alongside him, but he oversees every plate and pizza that leaves the kitchen. Everything is made fresh from scratch--from the pizza dough and bread to the salad dressings and don't forget the 80 quarts of red sauce served each day!"

If you haven't been there lately, you may not realize what an extensive menu TJ's has. They serve traditional and gourmet pizzas, of course. Cheese pizza sells for as little as $6.95 (during lunch) while others may be $14.

Brick Oven Pizzas (regular and white pizza pie) range from $11 to $14. Toppings may be extra. Gourmet specialty pizzas range from $13 to $20.

TJ's also features an old-fashioned tomato pie, white veggie pie, spinach ranch pie, white cheese-steak, or shrimp & asparagus pies—in addition to a loaded version called 'The Works'.

If you aren't in the mood for pizza, there are many appetizers, soups, salads (big and small) Italian entrées, and of course pasta. If you prefer, they

offer sandwiches, stromboli, calzone, hoagies, and a good old-fashioned American burger.

Some of TJ's more popular dinner specials are Grouper Rolando, Grouper Volute, Lobster Cozze Fra Diavolo, Pork Osso Bucco, Beef Stroganoff and Stuffed Lobster Ravioli. Now that's Italian.

Smith says his customers are a 50/50 mix of locals and tourists. Over the last 26 years, he has seen many of the same faces return year after year. He is proud that his Italian customers seem to love his menu the most. TripAdvisor lists TJ's Italian Café as a five-star restaurant, receiving the Best Restaurant Award three years running, with many heartwarming comments.

TJ's Italian Café serves lunch and dinner daily and offers a superb wine list, hand-picked by Smith himself with some help from the locals. It is located at 1515 Gulf Blvd. Reservations are accepted by calling 596-1515. Your dogs are welcome on the deck. They do deliver to the immediate area after 5pm, seven days a week.

TJ, Kimmy and their ten-year-old daughter Ava live in Sand Key. Ava encourages you to stop in and try the spaghetti and juicy meatballs, with four-ounce meatballs and a red sauce that stems back from the golden days. It is her favorite!

Check them out on their web site: www.TJsItalianCafe.com.

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BILLY AND KATIE CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

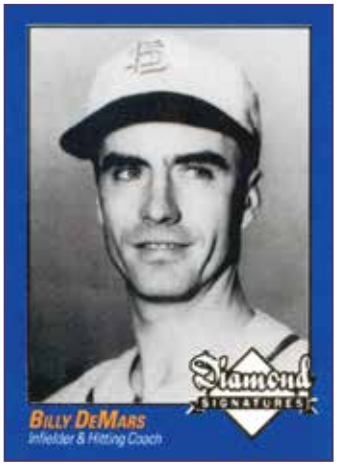
By Bob Griffin, Publisher

There is only one thing Billy DeMars loves more than baseball, that is his wife of 70 years, Katie. For Billy, that is no small statement, seeing as he has earned two World Series rings.

Billy and Katie, who have lived on Island Estates since 1990, were married in 1946. He was 21; she was two years older. On June 7th, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Billy grew up in Brooklyn, and like most kids in his neighborhood, he played baseball and stick-ball on the city streets. He also played for his high school's baseball team.

In 1943, right after he graduated from high school, Billy was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was 17. But there was a war, and after only two months of professional baseball, Billy joined the Navy. He was sent to Jacksonville's Naval Air Station where he worked as an aviation radioman. It was there that he met Katie, a machinist mate.



Billy and Katie began dating. Billy he bought a 1936 Ford for $150 that had a "rumble seat" in the back. When they double-dated, the other couple had to ride in the extra seat. "Dating back then was mostly riding around town, then going to an area restaurant. Eating Navy chow was hard to do seven days a week," Billy chuckles.

After the war, Billy went back to baseball, but he took Katie with him. They were married by a Justice of the Peace in Wadsworth, Ohio.

Billy played for the Philadelphia Athletics (1948), the Asheville Tourists, then the St. Louis Browns (1950-51) and finally the Toronto Maple Leafs (1952-1955).

In May 1958, Billy began an 11-year managerial career with the Baltimore Orioles farm system. While Billy was an average hitter in the pros, and never hit even one home run, he was recognized as a great hitting coach. "I used to tell my players, playing baseball and coaching is an everyday job," Billy added.

After leaving the Orioles, in 1969 he moved up to the Majors coaching the Philadelphia Phillies for 13 seasons. They won the East Division in 1976, 1977 and 1978. They won the World Series in 1980.

Billy left the Phillies in 1981 to coach for the Montreal Expos (1982-84) and then the Cincinnati Reds (1985-87) when they won the World Series.

While with the Reds, Billy became a good friend and key advisor to Pete Rose who was a "player-coach." He was Rose's coach when Rose broke Ty Cobb's record of 3052 hits. When Rose tied the record, he gave that ball to Billy. Later, when Rose broke the record during the same game, he gave Billy the bat he used to hit the ball. They were that close. Rose once said, "DeMars was the best hitting coach in all of the baseball".

"I was the third base coach when Pete broke Ty Cobb's record. It was a big deal. Everyone ran out on the field. I saw Pete cry. Pete was a really great guy!" Rose went on to set the all-time hits record of 4,256.

When Rose resigned from the Cincinnati Reds, so did Billy who returned to the Philadelphia Phillies as a roving minor league batting instructor during the 1990s.

Billy and Katie first bought a house in north Clearwater Beach when he coached for the Phillies during the 1980's. "When the Phillies were sold in 1981, everyone was fired. I went to Montreal, but we kept the house in Clearwater Beach, " Billy recalls. "In 1990, we bought a condo on Island Estates. "It is amazing how this little island has grown." Over the years, Billy and Katie have been involved in the Civic Association and Katie used to be in the Woman's Club.

"This is such a nice place to live," adds Billy. "You have your own Publix, gas station, local bar and Island Way Grill. We love all the restaurants in the area, especially those on the beach.

Our favorite restaurant has to be Bob Heilman's Beachcomber. "We knew Bob Heilman Sr. He was a really nice guy. His daughter, Nancy, used to be the greeter. I remember meeting Jim Campbell, who at the time was the General Manager of the Detroit Tigers, there once. I told him it was the best restaurant in Clearwater. Campbell said, 'No, it is the best restaurant in the United States'."

All together, Billy was in baseball 58 years. "I loved baseball too," says Katie. "I went to almost all the games."

At age, 90, Billy is number 57 on the list of oldest living MLB players. Eddie Carnett, at 99 is the oldest. He will be 100 on October 21st.

To celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary, Billy ordered a cake from Publix with a photo of their wedding day on top. He took the cake to their favorite restaurant, where family members from around the country had gathered to surprised Katie with a party. "That's better than any Championship ring," Billy exclaims.

DON'T LET OUR FUTURE DROWN

By Commissioner Karen Williams Seel

We are blessed to live in a gorgeous, one-of-a-kind county. Not only do we have a blue skied paradise most days of the year, we also have the tranquil and clear gulf waters to play in. These features offer residents an amazing county to live, work and play in, and also attract millions of tourists annually.

Unfortunately for small children near water, the situation can go bad very quickly. Did you know that the leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 4 is drowning? And to make matters worse, a child could drown in as little as 1 inch of water. Just knowing that a simple mistake could lead to a needless death is heartbreaking, but the tips below can assist in preparations to make sure all our young children have a safe and fun summer.

Water is so much more exciting when your little one can splash and swim and dunk his or her head. It's also a time when active supervision and basic childproofing is critical - no exceptions. The best part is it's a great way to connect with your child with no distractions.

Water safety tips for kids include:

• Keep toilet lids closed and use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning. Keep bathroom and laundry rooms doors closed.

• Never leave your child unattended around water. This may sound strict, but there is no room for compromise on this one. Babies can drown in as little as 1 inch of water.

• A swimming pool is a ton of fun for you and your kids. Make sure backyard pools have four-sided fencing that's at least 4 feet high with a self-closing, self-latching gate to prevent a child from wandering into the pool area unsupervised.

• Teach kids never to go near or in water without an adult present. Remember that things such as water wings, noodles and other items can create a false sense of security for children and should not be used in place of life jackets.

• Stay alert at public pools. Don't assume someone else is watching your child.

• New parents have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. It will give you tremendous peace of mind – and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better.

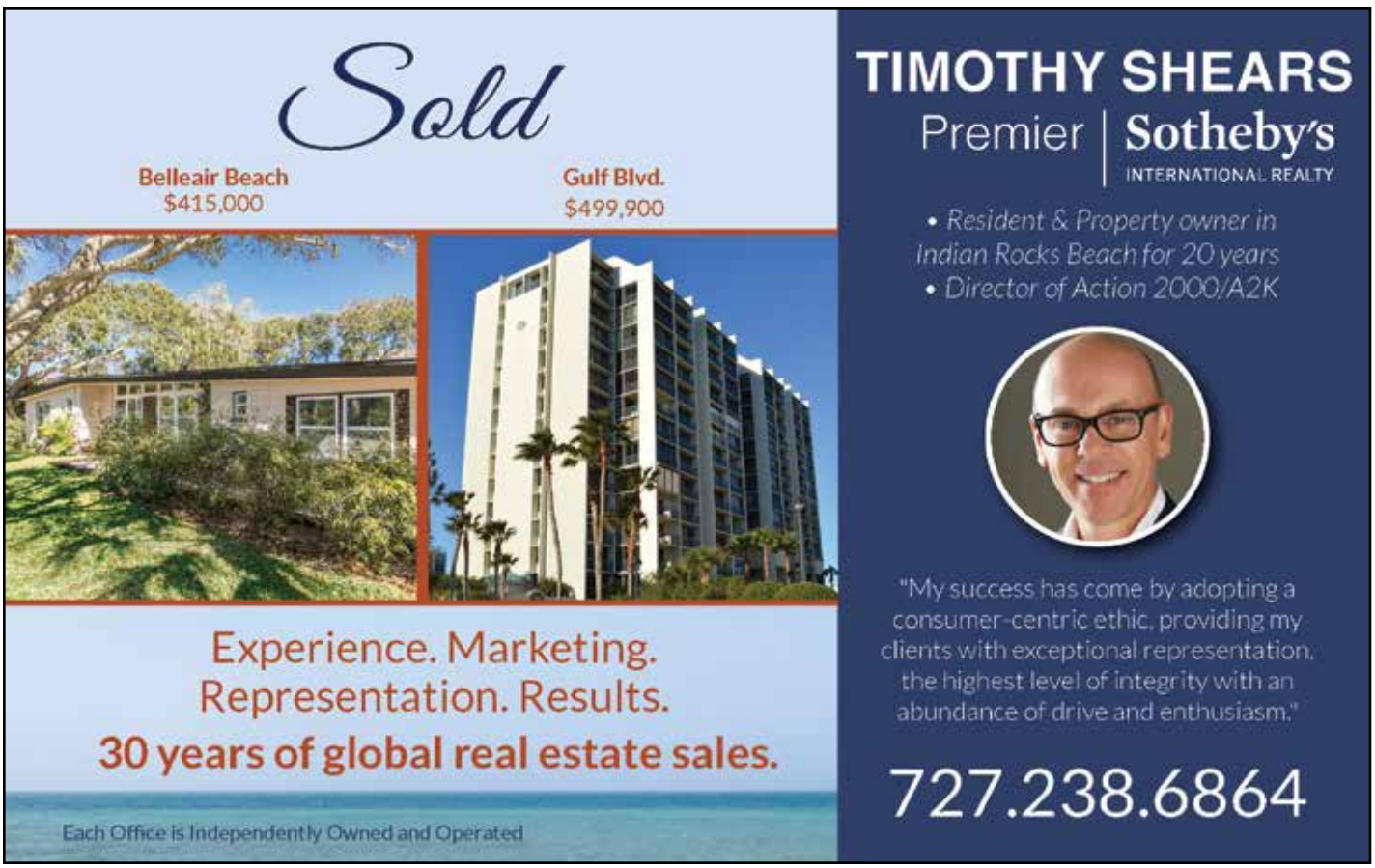
• Make sure your home pool or spa has a proper drain cover or shut-off function to prevent long hair, loose clothing or body parts from getting trapped.

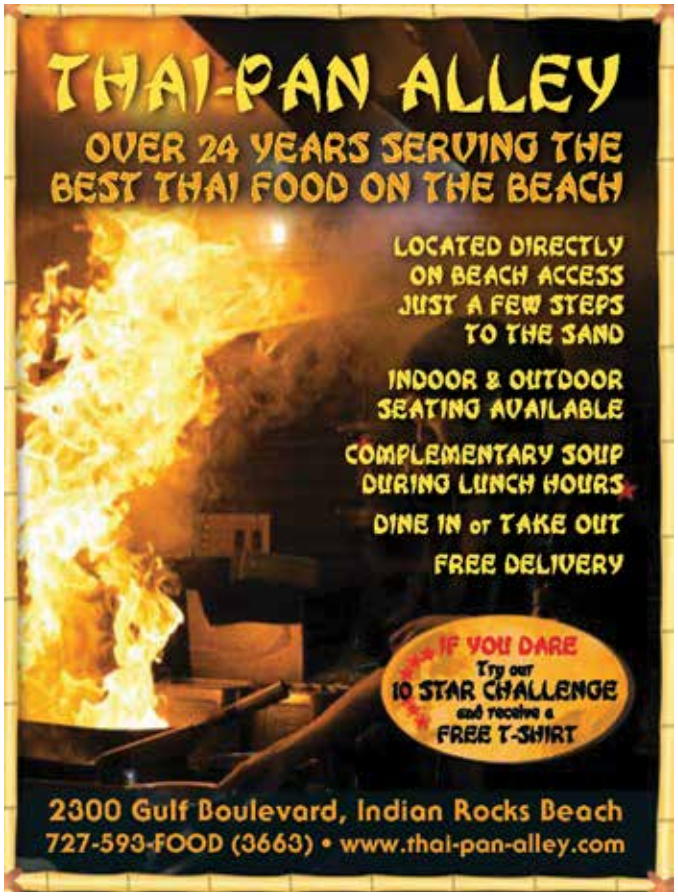
• Empty all tubs, buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use. Store them upside down and out of children's reach.

• Every child is different, so enroll your children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready. Teach children how to tread water and float.

• When using inflatable or portable pools, remember to empty them immediately after use. Store them upside down, out of children's reach. These pools pose a drowning risk.

Whether enjoying some fun in the sun on one of our gulf beaches or by your pool, or even just escaping the heat indoors, preparation and close attention are so important to keep kids safe. Let's work together to make sure no kids are lost this summer to a needless death. For more information, visit www.preventneedlessdeaths.com. Have a safe and happy summer, neighbors!

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Organizational News...

ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

submitted by Tim Shears

We are continuing with A2K Service Saturdays on a regular basis where any volunteer can join us and help maintain various popular locations in Indian Rocks Beach. On July 23rd we will maintain the "Key West" bus shelters and on September 17th we will clean and tidy up the 24th Ave beach access.

Mark your calendar for Oktoberfest, Oct 8th at Kolb Park and for vendor and sponsorship info see our website www.oktoberfestonthebeach.com

Action 2000 Indian Rocks Beach (A2K) seeks to transform the Gulf Boulevard Corridor and other selected adjacent commercial, tourist and residential areas into vital, thriving, ultra-attractive and highly-desirable areas within which to live, conduct business, shop, dine, recreate, vacation and simply enjoy the finer qualities of life. We meet at the Beach Arts Center on the second Monday of each month, everyone is welcome. www.irbaction2000.com or on facebook - Action2000IRB. Action 2000 - Where Action is the Attraction!

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

submited by Claire English

IRB ROTARY WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS As the Rotary fiscal year comes to an end June 30th, our club wishes to thank our outgoing officers and board members and welcome our new officers including President Bob Dittmar, President-Elect Fin Vargas, Secretary Paul Burns, Treasurer Cliff Koch, Sergeant-At-Arms Lou Gregor, Past President Claire English and Board Members: Bill Atkinson, Lori Alvarez, Marykay Csenge, Mike Davis, Lynn Johler and Chris Kline. If you have an interest in learning more about our small but mighty club and the fellowship and satisfaction that comes with serving the local and global communities, we invite you to visit us at our weekly meetings, held every Wednesday from 7:15 – 8:15 am at Jimmy Guanas in the Holiday Inn Harbourside. Please also visit our website at indian- rocks-rotary.org for more information.

BEACH ART CENTER

Kreative Kids Summer Camp has started at the Beach Art Center and will run through the end of July. Space is available for half and full days. Local residents as well as out-of-town visitors are welcome to enroll their children in week-long programs while the adults go enjoy the town!

New this summer, Beach Art Center is offering adult pottery classes on Saturdays and the popular Make-It-Take-It workshops on various evenings. Visit beachartcenter.org.

In other news, Danice Sarcone was appointed as Executive Director and has been working to expand programs for the enjoyment of the year-round community members. The Center will continue to offer the ongoing adult art programs which have been the mainstay for 38 years. Exciting new evening programs (for adults and for kids) will be offered beginning in September. Visit the website and follow Beach Art Center on FaceBook to see the new programs as they are announced, and to provide feedback about classes you would like to see!

IRB BOAT CLUB

In April, close to 50 members gathered at Salt Rock Grill for a Sunday Funday! The weather was perfect, the food amazing as always, the drinks and champagne were flowing and the company couldn't have been better. What a great way to kick off a summer of boating fun!

The 2nd Annual IRB Fish Fry in May was a great success. Held in Keegan-Claire Park (the one with the floating docks) more than 60 members gathered to enjoy an afternoon of great food, games and a raffle which includes some boat related raffle items. The fish fry was supplied by Crabby Bill's and raffle sponsors included: Crabby Bill's, Don's Salvage, Largo Intercoastal Marine, Sandbar and Focus Graphics. Below is a list of upcoming events:

July 9 & 10 Three Rooker

August 13: Marina Cantina, Clearwater Beach Marina

The IRB Boat Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside, IRB) monthly on the third Thursday, September through April. It is not just for Indian Rocks residents; anyone who has a boat and wants a reason to use it can join, for free. To get involved, call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or e-mail Bob@IRBboatclub.com. Visit www.IRBboatclub.com.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Historical Museum is looking forward to a complete "Retro Kitchen Redo" by the two Mikes - Mike Forrester of Professional Interiors/ Exteriors and Mike Abbott of Mike's Cabinets. The Museum will be closed to complete this project the first half of August. Donations are welcome.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are proud to announce that their own Brad Kendell, and his Sonar Crew, have been selected to represent the United States in the Paralympic games in September in RIO. Brad and his team have been training at the CYC and the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. They are holding a Meet-and-Greet fundraiser for Brad on Saturday, July 9th at 6pm. The suggested donation is $350 per family. Athletes have to pay their own way to the Olympics. Congratulations to Brad, Hugh and skipper Rick. Get more information at www.USSailing.org.

Summer Membership - They are offering their Summer Membership Program. Join from May 1 to September 30th with no initiation fee and dues of only $100 a month. There is no monthly minimum spending and you do not need a boat. Half of their members don't have a boat; most of social activities center around parties at their waterfront tiki bar or upstairs in the dining room. They are located at 830 Bayway Blvd., Clearwater Beach. E-mail Communications@CLWYC.org, visit www. Clwyc.org or call 447-6000 for information.

IRB PLAY GROUP

If you want to connect with other Indian Rocks Beach families this group is for you. The plan is to build a stronger family community on our beach with their weekly or monthly playgroup for children ages 0 - 4 years (older children are welcome, too.) They want to plan park play, group walks, local events, gatherings, and other get togethers. Your ideas are welcome, too. Contact Shelly Clark if you are interested in participating at 727-385-7970 or irbshellyclark@yahoo.com.

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FAILING TO PLAN ISN'T A GOOD PLAN

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

As the old adage goes, people don't plan to fail, they simply fail to plan. For some strange reason, this is especially true when it comes to our finances. When did you last update your written financial plan? Oops, you have never had one done?

Imagine trying to build a home without a set of architectural drawings. How would you feel about a doctor operating on you without having prepared a plan for the surgery or a lawyer going into a trial without a written plan to win the case? Every business owner or CEO knows the value of a business plan. Not having a plan is a plan, but not a very good one.

In short, perhaps you can get lucky and succeed without a plan, but you significantly increase the odds of success when you have a written plan, no matter what you are doing. A financial plan also instills confidence in your investments.

The plan does not necessarily have to be hundred pages long and weigh five pounds. Sometimes it can be written in a few pages. It needs to be tailored to your unique situation and should not be a cookie cutter plan where everyone basically gets the same advice. Often the plan is specific to a particular part of your financial life like retirement, estate planning, etc.

If an integrated plan is needed it will cover your net worth, cash flow, budgeting, risk tolerance analysis, investment review and analysis, asset allocation, retirement planning including Social Security, education funding for the children/grandchildren, estate planning, insurance (life, disability, property and casualty, personal liability, long term care, etc.), and asset protection.

In the "old" days, the plan needed to be updated every three to five years or whenever a major financial/personal event (new job, promotion, marriage/divorce, health issue, etc.) occurred. Today, however, though the use of software, it can be kept current on almost a daily basis letting you see how even small changes in income and/or net worth will affect the plan in a positive or negative way. Thus, keeping the plan current will not only keep you up to date, but it can also help in making a decision about different scenarios.

If you have never done a financial plan why wait? Please schedule a complimentary no obligation meeting with us to learn more about creating your personal financial plan.

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Organizational News

IRB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Laura Hall

Homeowners Happy Hours continue at the following restaurants: July 14th – JD's & August 11th – Guppy's

These FREE Happy Hours are from 6-7:30pm and are held on the second Thursday of each month. Visit IRBhome.com or visit our Facebook page for details

The Homeowners Association and the City of Indian Rocks Beach presented its 1st Annual Beach Fest on Saturday, April 30 with great success! This huge event held directly on the beach and attended by thousands, was sponsored by Century 21 Beggins, Discount Loans, Hendrick Roofing, Paramount Title, Crabby Bill's, Great Bay Distributors, Total Wine and The Beach Bee. The festivities included family friendly activities such as a 60ft water slide, beach volleyball tournaments, hula hoop contests, paddle boarding and much, much more. Thousands of beach lovers enjoyed great food and beverages from local vendors: Crabby Bill's, Guppy's, Pajano's, Red Lion, Chicago Jaqx, Pie Factory, Kooky Coconut and the IRB Food Pantry. Music was provided by The Beach Billies, Dead Frets, Oceanstone and Smooth Dee & the Hunks. In keeping with emphasis on our community's natural beach surroundings, there were several booths along the 18th Avenue Beach Access from Eco-friendly non-profit organizations who supplied educational information and demonstrations including a live raptor. All proceeds from this event will go towards Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association City and Civic projects.

Upcoming Community Events: Movies in the Park, House Tour and Home Awards

Civic Projects and Donations: Spring City Employee Luncheon, Flag Retirement Ceremony, IRB Library, Beach Art Center, Senior Softball, Youth Mission and Education Programs - Calvary Church.

FRIENDS OF IRB DOG PARK

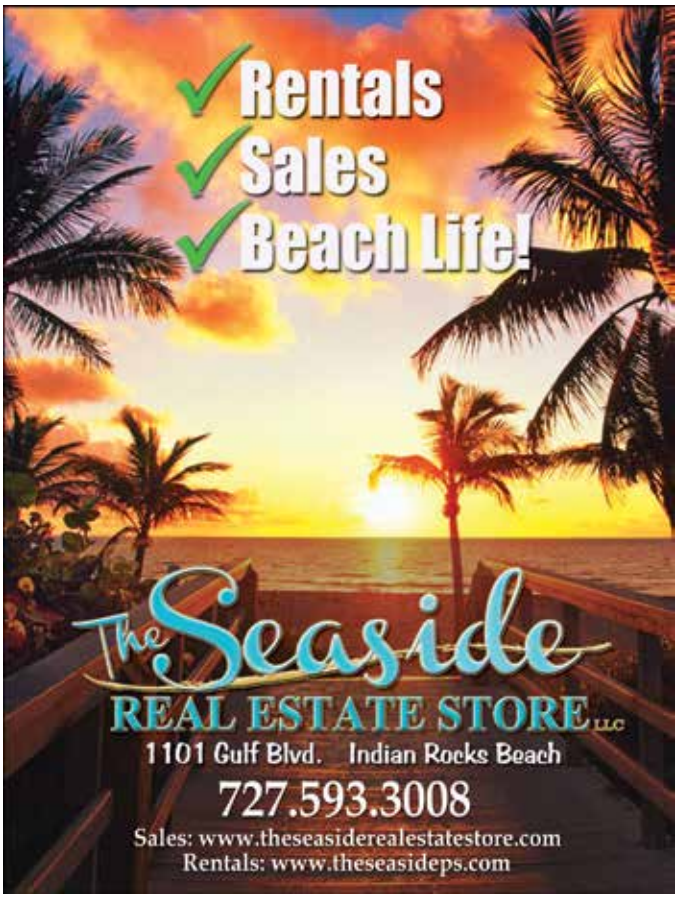
The IRB Dog Park reopened on June 22 with a brief presentation. The renovation and enlargement of the IRB Dog Park is the first major renovation of the park since its opening close to fifteen years ago. Some of the enhancements include enlargement of park, new seating areas, play features, dog wash area, repaired and new fencing, additional shaded area,10,000 +/- square feet of new sod and improved drainage.

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

They received 124 boxes of food from the May 15 postal food drive. That should last for approximately 3 months, meaning by the end of this month it will be about gone.

Beach Community Food Pantry, has over 40 volunteers who assist in distributing the donated and purchased food to the 800 registered patrons. They operate by the gracious donations from local civic organizations (Homeowners, IRB Rotary and Action 2000), our local citizens, Publix Grocers, Feeding America Tampa Bay, RCS Pinellas, Bulk Nation, Plumlee Realty, Humana Health Insurance, Crabby Bill's, Slyce Pizza, Frida's Bakery, Munchee's, Publix and Albertson's.

They welcome any and all food and cash donations to support their efforts to help those in need. Donations are accepted at the Pantry during hours of operation (Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to noon) or at the main desk of Calvary Episcopal Church.



ELLEN BIE, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH'S ROSIE THE RIVETER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Ellen in 2007

Rosie the Riveter was a cultural icon who represented the rise of the Women's Movement during WWII. The name was given to women who stepped into male jobs in factories, making munitions and war supplies, while the men were off in battle. Rosie the Riveter wasn't a real person; however, Ellen Bie, Indian Rocks Beach's version of Rosie, was.

Ellen grew up in Indian Rocks Beach in the '40s as the oldest of six kids living in The Boathouse, which previously housed Harry Ulmer's racing boats. The house is now a landmark at the start of the Narrows, on Gulf Blvd.

Her father was a Tampa realtor. Shortly after the real estate collapse in the late '30s, he moved his family into the Boathouse. It only had one big bedroom for the kids and slips underneath the house for three boats. Ellen was about 13 at the time.

Ellen attended Clearwater High School. At the beginning of World War II, she took business courses in St. Petersburg where she learned secretarial skills.

J. Howard Miller's 'We Can Do It!' Rosie the Riviter poster was commissioned by Westinghouse in February 1942. It was later a postage stamp issued in 1998.

One day, she saw an ad for a mechanic's course being offered at Albert Whitted Airport. Upon completed of the course, she was hired by the U.S. Army Air Corps at 19 and moved to MacDill Air Force Base. She worked there for two years, repairing large tankers and Martin B-26 bombers.

"We just did whatever they asked us to do," Ellen explained. "We made changes to the airplanes and its parts. One day, when changing a hose, it came loose, and covered me in grease," she remembers.

When the war was over, Ellen relocated to Tallahassee and attended Florida State College for Women (now FSU). After graduation, she went on to George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C, graduated and became a law clerk. It was there she met Bob Bone, who had just been discharged from the army.

Bob and Ellen married and joined the U.S. Diplomatic Service, living in the Netherlands, Indonesia, and Canada. He was a diplomat, she was a secretary for the U.S. Embassies. Their daughter, Rita, was born in Holland in 1949. Daughter Martha, was born in Indonesia in 1953.

Eventually, Bob became a college professor and taught at Cornell, Tulane and the Florida State University. Ellen worked as a secretary at each of the schools.

After their children were grown, Bob & Ellen divorced and Ellen moved back into the old Boathouse. She soon met Archie Dainwood who owned a grocery store at 23rd Avenue (now a vacant lot). They wed and moved to a house on South Harbor Drive, until Archie's death.

Ellen was an avid reader. She also loved ballroom dancing; teaming up with two local widows, they entered ballroom dancing competitions as "The Three Widows." She danced well into her 80s, often traveling to other states to compete.

Ellen Bie Dainwood, Indian Rocks' dancing version of Rosie the Riveter, passed away on May 18, 2016. She was 92. She epitomized Rosie the Riveter's independence, living by herself on 20th Avenue until her death.

On the water by the family's Boathouse; Ellen is in front. 1958

Ellen and sisters Rita and Marie on the bridge, 1943

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Alex Glenn
Duke Energy
State President, Florida

Hurricane season begins June 1, and experts are predicting a more active season than in recent years. It has been more than a decade since a hurricane has affected Florida, but we know it isn't a matter of "if" a hurricane will strike, but "when."

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Over the last four years, we've invested more than $640 million to maintain and strengthen our Florida system.

Being fully prepared is essential and we encourage our customers to take the time to plan ahead:

- Create (or update) an emergency supply kit to help you save valuable time later. Remember, your supply kit should be made up of everything you need for at least two weeks, especially medicines and other supplies that may be hard to find.
- Keep a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand.
- Ensure all first-aid supplies and medicines are readily available.
- Review your insurance policy and include an extra copy of it in your supply kit, along with extra copies of any other important paperwork.
- Make sure flashlights are readily available and working and that a supply of extra batteries is on hand.
- Have a portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio access to monitor official weather forecasts and other important information for your area.
- Have a plan to move yourself and your family – especially those with special needs – to an alternate location in case you have to evacuate or experience an extended power outage.
- If you have an emergency generator, learn how to use it safely and ensure it is in working order.

We're proud to be recognized as an industry leader in storm preparedness and restoration and we want to ensure you are ready for hurricane season as well.

On behalf of Duke Energy's nearly 4,000 Florida employees, we wish you a safe storm season.

Alex Glenn is state president, Florida at Duke Energy, the largest electric power company in the U.S., serving more than 1.7 million customers in Florida.

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