BELLEAIR AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD Newsletter
Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997
AUGUST / 2009 ISSUE 9

Belleair - Henry Plant's Vision

Henry Plant wanted a planned community next to his Hotel Belleview. This 1909 view of the area shows the Belleair Community Bicycle Racing track in the background and the Hotel Belleview, under construction, on the right. Henry Plant is shown in the inset photo. *Henry Plant Photo courtesy Henry Plant Historical Museum, Tampa.*

By Wayne Ayers, Author and Historian

Since its beginning as the vision of entrepreneur/developer Henry Plant in the late 1800s, the town of Belleair has had a closely intertwined relationship with its grand hotel neighbor.

Shortly after Plant built the Hotel Belleview in 1897 at a secluded spot on a bluff overlooking Clearwater Bay, he laid out his vision for a planned community called Belleair, which would surround the hotel property.

According to a 1900-1901 issue of the West Hillsborough Press, Plant looked the coast over carefully and selected his ground. "Here," he said, "I will build my west coast hotel, and here I will build my town."

At the turn of the century, Belleair could boast of a waterworks system and a volunteer fire company, as well as a post office, livery stables, and "one of the best photograph galleries on the coast." Residential lots were laid out with an eye to the artistic. Bicycle paths and drives meandering over delightful bluffs, with a row of "splendid cabbage palms" on each side are described in the Press report.

Belleair's prospects were tightly connected to the Hotel Belleview. Guests staying at the hotel were impressed with the area and wanted to become permanent residents.

The town of Belleair was incorporated in 1925, and soon grandiose plans were made for its development. A prominent city planner from Cambridge, Massachusetts, John Nolen, was engaged to lay out "wide boulevards and sweeping drives, spacious parks, home sites and a commercial center." The hotel's two 18-hole golf courses, designed by famous course designer Donald J. Ross, added to the community's allure.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression put an end to the dreams. "As the town of Belleair sank into economic doldrums it was virtually abandoned, and weeds and wildlife took over," according to historian Bettie Wilder Goodgame. The Belleview also experienced financial difficulties and went into receivership in 1939.

Following World War II, the town and the hotel began a spectacular climb back to prominence. The Belleair Estates subdivision was developed in a planned orderly fashion with rigid restrictions. The Pelican Golf Course provided excellent quail shooting in addition to a round of golf.

The progress continues today. Excellent recreational facilities have been developed, including a state-of-the-art recreation center completed in 2006. Residences range from palatial estates to condos and modest bungalows. Acres of parkland and the two championship golf courses provide a sylvan setting, and the town's crown jewel, the grand Belleview Biltmore, is soon to undergo a multi-million dollar restoration with new amenities added.

Henry Plant's planned community has fulfilled, and even surpassed, his vision.

Wayne Ayers' book, *"Florida's Grand Hotels from the Gilded Age"*, is available at area bookstores and selected gift shops.

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PUBLISHER
Bob & Becky Griffin

ART DIRECTION
Becky Griffin

SALES
727-517-1997

CONTACT INFO
P.O. BOX 1314
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785
517-1997 ~ 517-1998 FAX

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bob@griffindirectories.com

NEXT ISSUE NOVEMBER

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Call me for the next issue. For more information, or to read our other issues online, visit BeachNewsletters.com

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CITY NUMBERS

CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS
www.belleairbluffs.org
2747 Sunset Blvd City Hall: 584-2151
FIRE DEPT: 584-8392
SHERIFF: 582-6200
MAYOR - Chris Arbutine, Sr
COMMISSIONERS —
Hunt Brand - Vice Mayor • Suzy Sofer
Jack Nazario • Joseph A. Barkley, III

CITY OF BELLEAIR BEACH
www.cityofbelleairbeach.com
444 Causeway Blvd City Hall: 595-4646
FIRE DEPT: 595-1117
POLICE: 595-4646
MAYOR - Lynn Rives
COMMISSIONERS — Kathy Mortensen - Vice Mayor • Mitchell Krach • Stan Sofer Mary Schoonover • Richard Crowl • Rob Baldwin

TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORE
www.belleairshore.com
1200 Gulf Blvd, Belleair Shore 593-9296
FIRE DEPT: 595-1117
POLICE DEPT: 595-4646
MAYOR: John A. Robertson
COMMISSIONERS — John E. Hayes, Jr. Carl W. Hilton • Robert E. Schmidt, Jr. Ray Piscitelli

TOWN OF BELLEAIR
www.townofbelleair-fl.gov
901 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair 588-3769
FIRE DEPT: 588-8392
POLICE DEPT: 588-3769
MAYOR - Gary H. Katica
COMMISSIONERS — Stephen R. Fowler Deputy Mayor• Tom Shelly• Karla Rettstatt• Stephanie Oddo

CITY OF LARGO
www.Largo.com
201 Highland Ave, Largo Info: 587-6700
FIRE DEPT: 587-6714
POLICE: 586-7427
MAYOR - Patricia Gerard
COMMISSIONERS — Mary Gray Black Robert Murray • Rodney J. Woods Gigi Arntzen • Harriet K. Crozier Woody Brown

BELLEAIR FINE ARTS SOCIETY 934-4304
FRIENDS OF THE BILTMORE 581-5171
BELLEAIR SINGLE SENIORS 518-3728
CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

BELLEAIR AREA ROTARY CLUB
Meets at Belleair Country Club every Thur. for lunch; Ed Shaughnessy 461-7171

BELLEAIR BLUFFS ROTARY CLUB
Meets at Jorge's Seafood Grill Tues. 6:15PM
Pat France, President 581-0519

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Kim Bender, President 559-7881

TOWN OF BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOC.
Sandy Tuten, President 581-7314

BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMAN'S SOCIETY
Nettie Thomas. 585-5464

EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1
SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES 582-6200
SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177
PINELLAS COUNTY INFO 464-3000

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Gulf Beaches 360-6957
Clearwater Beach 447-7600
Largo. 584-2321

ELECTRICITY. 443-2641
PHONE (Residential) 800-483-4000
PHONE (Business) 800-483-5000
WATER 464-4000
CABLE (Bright House) 329-5020

COUNTY INFORMATION 464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES. 464-3377
Calvin Harris 464-3360
Karen Seel 464-3278

STATE:
Senator Dennis Jones 727-549-6411
Republican, District 13
8940 Seminole Blvd, Seminole 33772
Jones.Dennis.web@flsenate.gov
Representative Jim Frishe . 727-518-3902
Republican, District 54
125 Indian Rocks Rd, Belleair Bluffs
Jim.Frishe@MyFloridaHouse.gov
Governor Charlie Crist
Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com

FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:
Mel Martinez 202-224-3041
www.Martinez.Senate.gov
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274
www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:
Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950
9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772
www.house.gov/young

2009 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

AUGUST

Trim Notices Mailed	10
Belleair Bluff Business Assn Mixer	13
Public School Begins	25

SEPTEMBER:

Buc's First Game of the Season	6
Labor Day	7
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	10
Grandparents Day	13
Autumn Begins	22
IRB Poker Run	26
Yom Kippur	28

OCTOBER:

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	8
Columbus Day / Holiday	12
Stone Crab Season Begins	15
Clearwater Jazz (Coachman Park)	15-18
October Fest Indian Rocks Beach	17
Coastal CleanUp/Keep Pinellas Beautiful	17
Johns Pass Seafood Fest	23-25
Pumpkin Carving Contest	31
Halloween	31

NOVEMBER:

Property Tax Bills Mailed	1
Loggerhead Turtle Season Ends	1
Daylight Savings Time Ends	1
Taste of IRB	7
Garage Sale / Belleair Beach	7
Antique Alley Antique Show	8
Veteran's Day	11
Business Assn Mixer	12
Iron Man / Clearwater Beach	14
Thanksgiving	26
Heritage Village Trees & Traditions	27-30
Heritage Village Holiday Houses	27-30
Hurricane Season Ends	30

This was the plan for the Town of Belleair, known then as "Belleair Estates." It is very close to what we have today. Notice the Tampa and Gulf Coast Railroad ran along the right side. Today, this is the Pinellas Trail. The train station was at the east end of Osceola Road.

Did You Know...

ZOOM, ZOOM - TICKET, TICKET The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office wants you to know the new Belleair Bridge is not a race track. The speed limit on the bridge and the approach to the bridge is still 30 MPH. In 37 days over 200 citations were given to drivers on the bridge. Most were for speeds above 50 MPH. Most of the tickets were issued during the morning, on the Belleair Bluffs' side, to cars heading east.

RECYCLE YOUR PHONE BOOKS! Pinellas residents discard more than 2 million phone books each year. They end up in our landfills. Belleair residents with curbside collection can include phone books in their recycling or drop them off at one of over 40 Pinellas locations. Visit www.PinellasCounty.org/utilities or call 727-464-7500 to find a location near you. Businesses can reduce the number of books they receive by calling Verizon 800-888-8448 and Yellow Book 800-929-3556.

HALLOWEEN FUN OCTOBER 24 The City of Belleair Beach co-sponsors the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest held in the Indian Rocks City Hall. At 10am there is an annual Pumpkin Carving Contest for the kids. Then, at 7pm there is the Haunted House and Costume Contest. Call the IRB City Hall at 595-2517 for more information and to register.

JULY 4TH BBQ IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS This year, the City of Belleair Bluffs, combined with the Bluffs Business Association, hosted the annual holiday cook out. The day included entertainment, prizes, food and a pie judging contest. Thanks to all who helped and volunteered.

SOUTHWEST REC CENTER The Southwest Recreation Complex re-opened May 30th. It had been under construction for the past year The renovations included a new fitness room, aerobic room, dance room, program room, meeting room and pre-school room. The outside has been redesigned, too.

GEORGE MALLORY Long time Belleair resident, George Mallory died June 23 at the age of 88. Mr. Mallory owned Edgewater Companies and had served as president or chairman of numerous organizations including the Clearwater Salvation Army, YMCA, Clearwater Rotary Club, the Belleair Country Club, and the Pinellas Contractors and Builders Association. He was instrumental in acquiring the old Clearwater Community Hospital, which was developed into a Salvation Army Social Services facility. That building is named the Mallory-Powell Social Service Center. George served 40 years on the Board of the YMCA. He had 42 years of perfect attendance with the Clearwater Rotary.

and More...

OLD BRIDGE DEMO Pilings from of the old Belleair Beach Causeway Bridge were imploded July 15th. The underwater demolition was part of the removal of the old bridge. The blast created more of an explosion, complete with splashing and bridge-rattling noise, than originally expected. Photo by Wayne Cathel

PET HURRICANE INFO The closest shelter accepting pets is Oak Grove Middle School on Belcher Rd. You must pre-register by calling 582-2150. Space is very limited. Remember to take pet supplies, food and vaccination papers. Some motels accept pets. A complete list is available at VisitStPeteClearwater.com. The county has designated Largo's Walsingham Park (12615 102nd Avenue) for large animal evacuation. Horse owners will turn their horses loose inside the park so they don't have to risk it in their stables and barns.

BACK TO SCHOOL School starts again on Tuesday, August 25th. Only a few weeks of vacation left!

SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND HEADING TO THE BIG APPLE They have been selected to march in the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the kids, parents, staff and school," says Chip Wood, Seminole Band Director. Seminole is the first band from the Tampa Bay area to be in the parade. Now they have to raise their travel money.

CITY GARAGE SALE Belleair Beach's Annual city-wide garage sale is scheduled for November 7th from 8am-2pm. Please notify the city if you plan to have a sale.

BELLEAIR BRIDGE RUN You may have heard of a proposed 5K Run over the new Belleair Causeway Bridge being planned for the Fall. That special event has now been cancelled. The Belleair Beach City Council voted 4-3 not to allow the event in their city.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? There are six hurricane name lists. They rotate each year. This year's list was last used in 2003. Names are removed if a storm causes significant damage. The last time this list was used, Fabian struck Bermuda as a Category 3. It has been replaced by Fred. Here are the 2009 storm names.

Ana	Bill	Claudette	Danny
Erika	Fred	Grace	Henri
Ida	Joaquin	Kate	Larry
Mindy	Nicholas	Odette	Peter
Rose	Sam	Teresa	Victor
Wanda			

Some Things Are Meant To Go Together!

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117 6th St, Belleair Beach #5 000
413 Bamboo Ln, Harbor B fs 505
2295 M kenzie Ct, C rwater $ 4,000
17 Cypress e, Be air 50,000
41 e, dian ocks Beach - $680,000
9692 123r Way minole - $185,000
1200 Gulf vd #1801, Clearwater - $1,001,000
208 Ave, Indian Rocks Beach - $529,900
741 Mandalay Ave, Clearwater - $500,000
10544 Pontofino Cir, Trinity - $795,000
1 Seaside #203, Belleair -$565,000
2 Seaside #501, Belleair - $400,000
285 Bayside Dr, Clearwater - $1,600,000

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GRACIE'S BIG SPLASH

Gracie's Big Splash was started when the residents of our community and surrounding communities came together to help raise money to help our beautiful little girl Grace Purdy, almost 5 years old then, and our family after receiving the devastating diagnosis of a brain stem tumor. The tumor, a Pontine Glioma, was inoperable with no known cure and we were told that Gracie had only a few months to live. Gracie lived for almost 10 months after her diagnosis.

She was a special little girl, smart and funny. What Gracie wanted most was to be close to her family, and especially her Mom, she hardly ever complained.

The funds raised at The Splash took many financial burdens away during the time when we needed to take care of our little girl. We will never forget the kindness and generosity of our friends, family, neighbors, strangers and everyone who came together with open hearts to show our family that we were not alone.

The wonderful thing about The Splash is that although it was to help our family it was also so much more. The community came together and filled us with hope. I always wanted to surround Gracie with laughter and joy and Gracie's Big Splash was all that, everyone had a great time, especially the children! It was healing to find out that everyone wanted to do it again.

The Splash in great part is due to the children and teens that volunteer their time to make this event happen. Their involvement and enthusiasm is what has carried through to make Gracie's Big Splash II, which benefited The Elena Tresh Foundation last year.

This year our wish is to help other families like ours who are battling this awful disease. We are grateful to all who are willing to continue to support the memory of Gracie, who we miss terribly.

As part of the original Splash, the Town of Belleair and surrounding communities purchased Pink and Orange Bows to tie around trees and mail boxes to help raise money for this event. The bows in Gracie's favorite colors represent hope, love and caring for one another, and especially our children. It is the wish of our family and everyone involved with this event to help children and their families who are facing this enormous challenge in life and give them hope.

Marty & Llisiana Purdy

PINELLAS COUNTY UTILITY PROPOSES WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASES

The Pinellas County Utilities department is proposing changes to its wholesale and retail sewer and water rates, and retail reclaimed water rates. The commission approved resolutions that accept the preliminary rates, and allow for the advertising and scheduling of public hearings, which will be held Tuesday, Sept. 29. If these items are approved at that time, the new rates would become effective Oct. 1, to affect the 2010 fiscal year budget. The need for the rate increases includes reduced revenue, debt service requirements of outstanding bonds, increased cost of purchasing water and ongoing costs for renewal and replacement of the systems.

Wholesale sewer rates - A proposed 5 percent increase generating an estimated $330,110 for fiscal year 2010.
Retail sewer rates - A proposed 5 percent increase generating an estimated $2.158 million for fiscal year 2010.
Wholesale water - A proposed 8 percent increase generating an estimated $1.444 million for fiscal year 2010.
Retail water - A proposed 8 percent increase generating an estimated $4.732 million for fiscal year 2010.
Retail reclaimed water - A proposed 11 percent increase generating an estimated $136,000 for fiscal year 2010.

Where applicable, wholesale rate increases will affect the amount your individual city is charged for these services. If these increases are approved, your city may elect to pass it on to individual customers through rate increases. Retail customers will see an immediate increase in their bill.

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RETIREMENT PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE TAX PLANNING

by Elizabeth (Liza) Campa-Flanagan, CFP®, CIMA
Raymond James Financial Services, 727-585-1212

The neighborhoods of Belleair and Belleair Bluffs are beautiful retirement havens. Many either plan to retire or have already retired to this area, from Canada and from the Northern US, to enjoy the beaches and the wonderful weather. In fact, many of our residents are snowbirds from September/October until April/May. But, what many retirees and pre-retirees don't realize is that retirement planning isn't just about planning where to live in retirement. Planning for retirement starts with a focus on savings and investments with the bottom line on how much income will be needed for our retirement years. One consideration is that taxes can cost plenty even during retirement. Therefore, taxes need to have a role in strategic planning.

During our working years, we work to minimize the impact of taxes on income. During retirement, the same rules apply with some variations. The basic need is the same - to minimize taxes, which will increase cash flow needed to meet expenses while leaving enough in savings to grow for the future.

One often-unknown tax fact is the way that Social Security income is taxed. If the total of your adjusted gross income (AGI), nontaxable interest, and half your Social Security benefit is above a certain dollar amount based on your individual filing status, then as much as 85% of your Social Security retirement benefit may be subject to income taxes. Discuss this with a tax advisor prior to your retirement to know what to expect.

Strategies that may help minimize the income tax on Social Security include changing your tax filing status and/or reducing your AGI by changing the type of assets owned. For instance, interest earnings in a deferred annuity are not included in your AGI until they're withdrawn, whereas interest earnings on CDs and most bonds are included, even if the interest is reinvested.

Managing your income to reduce the tax impact on Social Security benefits may increase your cash flow and the enjoyment of your retirement years. Call if you would like to discuss this!

Please note, changes in tax laws may occur at any time and could have a substantial impact upon each person's situation. While we are familiar with the tax provisions of the issues presented herein, as Financial Advisors of RJFS we are not qualified to render advice on tax and legal matters.

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BELLEAIR FINE ARTS SOCIETY Contact Lois O'Donnell at 595-1349 or Joyce Muller at 595-6888 for more information.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB The Garden Club will be holding Summer Pot Luck Lunch Meetings on August 5th and September 2nd at 11:30am. Please bring a side dish for six and the recipe. There is no charge.

October 7: 1pm, Lunch, Tea and a Guest Speaker.
October 14th: 9:30am Coffee/Tea. Horticulture Program.

The BGC meets on the first and second Wednesday of each month at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., in the Town of Belleair. Membership is $50 a year. Call Barbara Chapman 581-8929 for information.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB meets at various area restaurants on the second Tuesday of each month, October - May. They plan two bus trips outside Pinellas a year. Membership is open to area residents at $15 per year. To join, call Alice Tucker at 584-1532.

BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOCIATION Call Sandy Tuten at 581-7314 or Sherrie Morton at 581-8313 if you have any questions.

YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY Belleair's Young Women's Society was founded in 1979. Their purpose is to promote friendship through social activities. Although they are primarily a social organization, the group is also involved in community service. One thing is apparent, they have fun. To join or get more information, call 461-9402

BELLEAIR BLUFF's ROTARY meets every Tuesday at 6:15pm, inside Jorge's Restaurant on Clearwater Largo Road. Call Cheryl Pacheco, President, at Wildwood Florists, 446-4610 to get involved.

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLEAIR had its annual installation of officers on June 28. Robert Bialas was installed as president and Vicki Morgan was elected president-elect for the following year. They meet informally every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. Anyone interested in having fun, meeting new friends and helping out with good works in the community is welcome to join. The third Thursday of every month is the general assembly and Board meeting. They have events throughout the year and proceeds benefit local charities. Call Kelly Carter, President, 734-9890 or Ed Shaughnessy 461-7171 to get involved.

BELLEAIR SINGLE SENIORS CLUB Meets at the Belleair City Hall, the first Friday of each month . This organization is open to singles, widows, widowers and divorced men and women ages 50 to 70, living in the greater Belleair area. They plan monthly social meetings, potluck get-togethers, dinners, movie nights and outings, such as Spring Training baseball games. Men are asked to bring a nonalcoholic beverage and women should bring an appetizer plate to share. Call 588-3769 x 210 for more information.

LARGO'S AUGUST EVENTS

For more information visit LargoEvents.com

1st & 2nd Train Weekend, 10am until 4pm, Largo Central Park, Ride the miniature trains of Largo Central Railroad on the first full weekend every. Free. 587-6775

1st through 29th Rocks at Largo Cultural Center, Largo Cultural Center, Tribute bands throughout the month. 587-6793

4th Little Pals Play & Picnic, 10 - 11:15am, Highland Recreation Complex, Enjoy the companionship of other parents and caregivers while our children play at the park and picnic with friends. Children should bring their lunch. 518-3016

8th & 22nd Southwest Summer Saturday Movie Night, 6 - 8pm, Southwest Complex , Come watch a movie with your friends or family on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each Summer month. 518-3125

8th and 15th Coed 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments, Southwest Recreation Complex, Fun and competitive one-day. Each team is guaranteed three games. 518-3125

14th Skateboarding Lessons, 7 - 10pm, Highland Skate Park, All skaters must have liability waiver on file; skaters under 18 years old must have parent sign their waiver form. Helmets are required. 518-3016

14th Sunset Sounds, at 7pm - 9pm, Ulmer Park, Free music series showcases the diversity of local and regional musicians on the second Friday of every month.

15th Rocks in Largo Central Park, 3 - 10pm, A new band will claim the stage at 3p, 5p, 7p, and 9p. Includes motorcycle show, vendors, and festival foods. Beer.

15th G2-GO Green Series, 9 - 11am, Southwest. "Green" themes help community members achieve an environmentally responsible lifestyle. 518-3125

21st Night Walks, at 8:30 pm, McGough Nature Park, Take a guided walk through the woods, seeking out owls, bats, raccoons, armadillos and other nocturnal creatures. Flashlights are optional. 518-3047

22nd Southwest Community Garage Sale, at 8am - 12:25 pm, Bring your things to our garage sale.. We do the advertising, setup, and clean up. What a deal! Space is limited so sign up early. 518-3096

22nd FLAIR, at 6 - 9pm, Ulmer Park, Local Artistic and Innovative Renderings, New paintings, photography and sculptures will be unveiled. New poetry, music and short movies will make their premiere.

22nd Bird Walks, 7:30am, McGough Nature Park, Join an experienced bird guide for a walk while learning to identify various bird species. Bring binoculars if you have them. 518-3047

27th Silver Screen Classics, 12pm, Largo Community Center, Viewing a classic movie on the 20ft. screen. Refreshments will be sold and information on the movie will be handed out. 518-3131

29th Teens in Motion: (T.I.M.), 7 - 9pm, Highland Recreation Complex, Dance party for teens and young adults with special needs. Participant release form required. $2.00 per participant. 518-3016

CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS

BELLEAIR BLUFFS

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED In May, the Town of Belleair discontinued the services of Belleair Bluffs' Fire Department, and accepted an offer from the City of Largo. This creates a major dilemma for the Belleair Bluffs City Commission. The City of Largo has offered to also provide Belleair Bluff's fire service. The Town of Belleair pay nearly half the operating revenue needed by the Bluff's Fire Department. Merging with Largo, would reduce next year's fire department operating cost from $747,000 to $244,000. Largo Fire Chief Michael Wallace promised "No one will lose their job, and no one will have a pay cut. In fact, most will get higher pay." Mayor Arbutine and Commissioner Brand appear to favor of merging the Bluffs' department with Largo. The increased costs could drive the millage rate up about 62%. This would cover the almost $500,000 shortfall, but it could increase another $400,000 if the County denies EMS funding.

ELECTION September 1st there will be a Referendum Election for Contracting For Primary Fire Services. The question will read - Shall the City of Belleair Bluffs contract with a third party for the provision of primary fire services within the City? Yes or No. Monday, August 3rd is the deadline to register to vote in the Referendum.

TOWN OF BELLEAIR

SIDE YARD PICKUP Residents will be receiving a survey in the next few weeks regarding side yard pick up for residents. The purpose of the survey is to gauge the level of citizens's interest in side yard pickup. The data will help identify the cost of the user based system. In the meantime, the town will continue to provide the service as is.

INCREASED SOLID WASTE RATES
Residents should have received a notice of a 10%, across the board, rate increase for the solid waste fees to offset rising costs over the last few years. This increase is unrelated to the side yard pick up issue and affects commercial, single family, and multi-family customers.

BELLEAIR BEACH

CITY HALL The new city hall/community center is now scheduled to be finished August 31st, weather permitting. Until then, the council will continue to meet in the garage of the Cedar Drive home next door. The building has a main hall of 56' x 41', which may be rented for functions. The City is still reviewing the details and rental rates. It will be available to both residents and non-residents.

NEW GARBAGE PICKUP SCHEDULE Beginning in August, residential garbage collection will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling will be picked up on Fridays.

"If you haven't had breakfast at Maggie Mae's, you just haven't had breakfast!"

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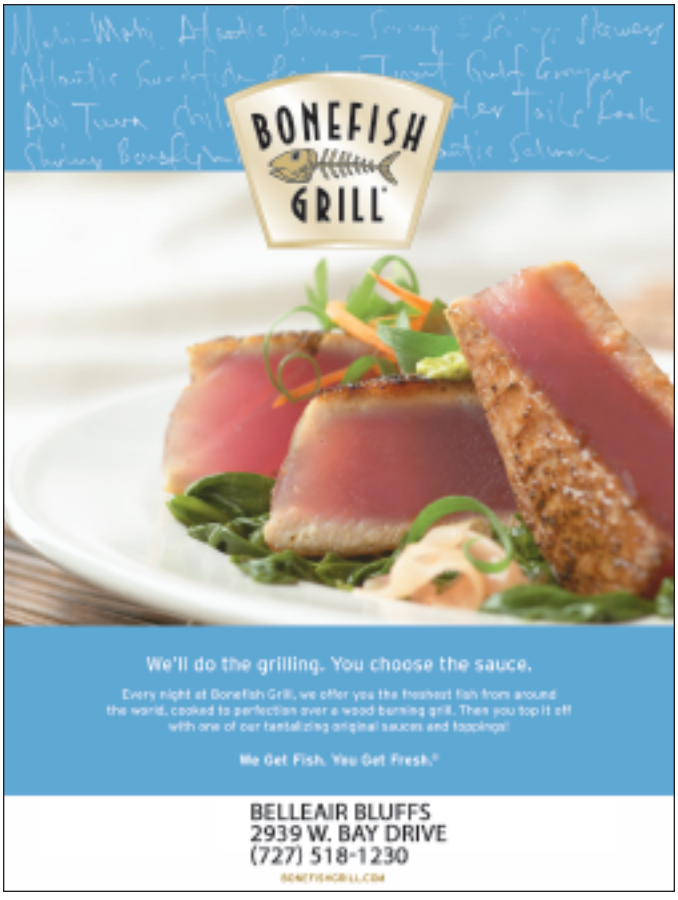

DISCOVERY THROUGH INTEGRATION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN SUCCESS AT SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL

Why just skim the surface of learning when, with planning, children can discover and retain a deeper knowledge from their studies? This is the idea behind integrated curriculum planning, an educational approach that prepares children for lifelong learning and provides them with the ability to make meaningful connections across a wide variety of subjects.

This approach is a cornerstone of learning at Saint Paul's, as teachers regularly collaborate, sharing fresh approaches to the curriculum and integrating a variety of disciplines to enhance student understanding. A recent example of curriculum integration involved the drama teacher meeting with the second grade faculty to discuss the children's themes of study. The discussion revealed a unit on camouflage, providing the collaborative idea to produce a play about rain forests. The lower school music and art teachers worked in cooperation with the drama teacher and second grade faculty to complement the play with music and artwork fitting for the rain forest. Children created a variety of appropriate wildlife found in each layer of the rainforest, accompanied by musical sounds reminiscent of the Tropics. Even the stage backdrop was inspired by one of Henri Rousseau's exotic landscapes. Each child in the second grade played a role in the production, and their discoveries led to a greater understanding of the relationships between camouflage and survival, as well as the importance of protecting our rain forests.

The concept of discovery through curricular integration is present in all grades and continues into middle school with advanced topics such as combining technology with

Saint Paul's students study science on the water in kayaks.

environmental sciences. This might include classes taught from kayaks on Allen's Creek along the school's property while capturing wildlife photos with digital cameras for inclusion in a student-made documentary. This fall a new, exciting addition to the Saint Paul's Early Childhood curriculum (Pre-Kindergarten 3 - First Grade) is a "Discovery Room," dedicated to inquiry, problem solving, and constructed learning. The program is inspired by the philosophy of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Head of School Dr. Angel Kytle summarizes. "Children's learning comes alive through play, discovery, and exploration. Dedicating a space in Early Childhood where children's curiosity is celebrated and where children have the freedom to question and construct their ideas with young peers is one way that we at Saint Paul's are focused on placing the child at the center of our program and our daily life."

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IT TIME FOR THE PINELLAS COUNTY BUDGET COUNTDOWN! This is the time of year when the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners enters the final stage of the year-long budget process. They want to hear from you! Visit the Citizen Guide to the Budget on www.pinellascounty.org to submit suggestions, sign up for budget news and log onto the budget website. Two public hearings to review the fiscal year 2010 budget are scheduled for Sept. 8 and Sept. 22, both at 6:30 p.m., in the fifth-floor assembly room of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court St., Clearwater. This has been a difficult economic time for the nation, and the county's final budget will reflect a reduction that affects many public services, while focusing on the continued delivery of quality, core services. The meetings will air live on PCC-TV seen on Bright House Channel 622, Verizon Channel 44 and Knology Channel 18. Pinellas County Information Line (727) 464-3000 www.pinellascounty.org/budget

TURTLES ARE HATCHING The first sea turtle hatchlings of 2009 happened nearby in Indian Rocks Beach. 181 baby sea turtles hatched from nests #1 and #2 on July 9th. As of press time, 114 nests have been found on Pinellas Beaches, up from only 77 nests last year. July 13th one was found on Belleair Beach. This is the time of year that we need to make sure no lights are facing the beach. Baby sea turtles are attracted to lights, and mistakenly think they are the moon. Report any sea turtle activity to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, 441-1790.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO BUY ON THE BEACH? According to today's listings, it costs an average of $4,274,000 to live on the beach in Belleair Shores. One house is listed for over $8 million. Below is a list compiled on July 15th, of the eight properties presently for sale, on the beach, in Belleair Shores.

1440 Gulf Blvd	$2,400,000
1300 Gulf Blvd	$2,700,000
60 Gulf Blvd	$3,450,000
980 Gulf Blvd	$3,500,000
320 Gulf Blvd	$3,749,000
120 Gulf Blvd	$3,800,000
520 Gulf Blvd	$5,700,000
220 Gulf Blvd	$8,900,000

Information supplied by Martha Thorn, Coldwell Banker.

MORTON PLANT MEASE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TARGETS FORMER NURSES Retired nurses, or nurses taking a break in their career, can utilize their nursing skills through a new volunteer program. Participants will provide assistance and support to hospital staff, patients and families. "This is an excellent opportunity for retired nurses, those who have changed careers, or who are considering returning to nursing, to maintain an active role in the field." said Margie Harris, director of volunteer resources. Participants in the program will have access to the hospital's continuing education program, free nursing license renewal, and basic life support certification. Two years of nursing experience is required to join the volunteer nurse program. An active RN or LPN license is not required however participants must have held a previous, unencumbered license. For more information, contact Clinical Coordinator Melanie Hynes at (727) 725-6247

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Business Briefs...

IT IS OPEN! The new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market in Largo is now open on Walsingham Road, just east of Indian Rocks Road, where Kash N Karry was. This is not a regular Wal-Mart. A Neighborhood Market . is mostly groceries with a pharmacy. Jim Nelson, the new manager, says shoppers will find the prices in his store to be approximately 30% lower than Publix. He says the store will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PRINCESS LEAVES In June, the Starlite Princess, formerly of St Pete Beach and owned by Belleair Beach resident Phil Henderson Jr., relocated to Daytona Beach. Her sistership, The Starlite Majesty, docked in Clearwater Marina, will alternate days between Clearwater and St Pete Beach. It will be in St Pete Beach Tuesdays and Fridays.

GROCERY GETTERS Don't have time to go shopping? Diane Hurd and Linda Labrador will do it for you, once, occasionally or on a regular basis. They offer a total shopping service geared to your personal needs. They will go to department stores, drug stores, dry cleaners, liquor stores, pet stores, you name it. Many of their customers are busy executives or older people, who no longer drive. They serve the entire Belleair and Largo area, and charge a flat fee for each service. Call them at 481-1869 or 430-0174.

SCOTT CLEANERS Hanna Illiad is the new owner of Scott's Cleaners at 755 Indian Rocks Road. Michael Bassous sold the cleaners in May. Gabe is the manager.

PALM BOOTS When Nicole Schnobrich, of Belleair Flooring, is not managing their store on West Bay, she is painting palm boots. That is the bottom part of the palm frond, that usually falls on the ground. She turns otherwise lawn trash into beautiful pieces of Florida art. A friend got her started and now she collects palm tree droppings all around town. The finished pieces cost around $50 each. Drop by their store at 2811 West Bay, next to Marlin Darlin Grill to see dozens on display.

BELLEAIR FOOD MART Correction - OOPS, in our last issue we said Victor Suhweil used to be in real estate. Actually, he is a broker and still very active in the real estate market.

and More ...

PAIGE'S CLUBHOUSE Paige Holloway has moved up the street to Plaza 400, at 404 Indian Rocks Road. Paige was part of Kaige's in Plaza 100. She specializes in women's casual clothing and accessories. 953-9800.

BELLEVIEW BILTMORE closed as planned May 31st with a final gala. Martin Smith, manager of the resort for the past 5 years, was let go by Latitude Management Real Estate Investors. His last day was in July. Two lawsuits have been delaying the construction. One was resolved, however, the lawsuit between the Biltmore and Sand Key residents is still ongoing. The owners plan to wait until it is resolved before moving forward with their building permits.

SWEET SIXTEEN In July, Jewel Antique Mall celebrated its 16th anniversary in Belleair Bluffs. Len and Jan Spencer operate the Antique Mall and LeJan's Antiques. An antique Festival is planned on November 8th in the Alley just off Indian Rocks Road.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION The BBA has mixers the second Thursday of every month: August 13: Incredible Edibles (Clearwater), September 10: Treasured Accessories (Largo), October 8: JK Flowers (Belleair Bluffs)

OUT OF BUSINESS:

Al's Pit Stop Convenience Store, 305 Indian Rocks Rd.
The Pink Palm Boutique, Next to Bonefish Grill

REAL ESTATE IN THE AREA

Information provided by Martha Thorn, Coldwell Banker, Belleair Bluffs. 727/ 432-9019 and represents sales activity in the second quarter of 2009. Shown are SOLD prices.

Belleair Non Waterfront Average	295,000
Highest Sale	553,000
Belleair Waterfront Average	1,950,000
Highest Sale	1,950,000
Belleair Shore Waterfront Average	2,300,000
Highest Sale	2,300,000
Belleair Beach Non-Waterfront Average	366,000
Highest Sale	349,000
Belleair Beach Waterfront Average	1,003,000
Highest Sale	2,550,000
Harbor Bluffs Non-Waterfront Average	365,000
Highest Sale	605,000
Harbor Bluffs Waterfront Average	1,281,000
Highest Sale	2,295,000
Harbor Hills Non Waterfront Average	273,000
Highest Sale	290,000
Harbor Hills Waterfront Average	348,000
Highest Sale	463,000
Belleair Bluffs Non Waterfront Average	158,000
Highest Sale	235,000
Belleair Bluffs Waterfront Average	2,250,000
Highest Sale	2,250,000

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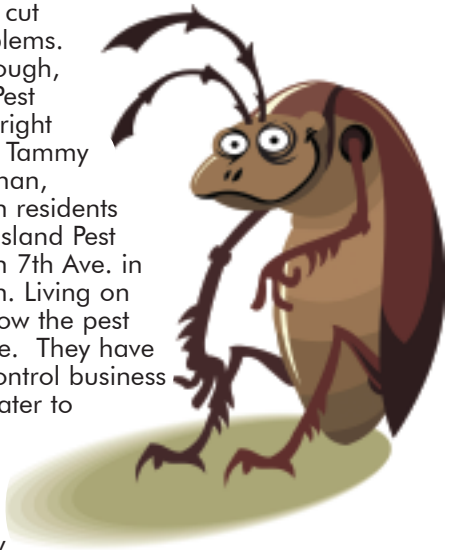
DID YOU KNOW BUGS HAVE A SEASON?

Bugs really do have a season. That season is now, from spring until fall. Right now, many people are having problems with palmetto bugs (cockroaches), ants, fleas, ticks, rodents, and more. Ants are the number 1 problem in the United States. A friendly reminder: Pest live in debris. They love unraked leaves, and trees or bushes that haven't been maintained. Keeping your yard neat will help cut down on pest problems. When that isn't enough, you have a local Pest Control Company right around the corner. Tammy and Dana McCutchan, Indian Rocks Beach residents are the owners of Island Pest Control, located on 7th Ave. in Indian Rocks Beach. Living on the beach, they know the pest challenges you face. They have been in the Pest Control business for 23 years and cater to their customers needs. When you have a pest problem, they respond in a timely manner. Don't be bugged, call Tammy at Island Pest Control today! (727) 596-7715.



FOOD VENDORS WANTED: Plans are underway for the *Third Annual Taste of IRB*, November 7. Last year over 2000 people enjoyed the food from 20 different restaurants, beer and wine, and live music. If you are interested in being a vendor, call Becky at 727.517.3131 or email info@irbhome.com

WE'RE #1, AGAIN!

May 9th, during the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the Pinellas Chapter of the National Association of Letter Carriers, West Coast Branch collected more food than any other region in the U.S, for a total of 1.7 million pounds. All the food collected in IRB and Belleair Beach was delivered to the Beaches Community Food Bank in the Calvary Episcopal Church.

The Belleair community rose to the occasion helping to donate over 6,300 pounds of food. Our local postal workers picked up food all day, and delivered seven truck loads, of all types of food, to the Food Pantry. Volunteers were on hand to unload and move the food inside the church.

Later, 33 adults and 9 children inspected, sorted and packed the food into other cartons, for use by patrons of the Food Pantry. The entire process took four days.

"I humbly thank the volunteers, the postal workers and everyone who donated food," says Harvey Brillat, BCFP manager."This is our mission, to help feed as many needy people as God sends us."

Restaurant News

STEPHANO'S OPENS IN INDIAN ROCKS BEACH A new Italian restaurant recently opened at 2699 Gulf Blvd, one block south of Belleair Beach. Stephano's Ristorante owned by Stefan and Evelyn Struzinski, opened July 20th. It is a small restaurant in the recently vacated Al & Stella's Restaurant, who moved to a larger space in Clearwater Beach. For information, call 595-4448.

KOOLEY'S DELI is a new deli in our area. They are located at 1495 Indian Rocks Road, one mile south of West Bay, next to Across the Pond / All State Insurance. They serve subs, gyros, Cuban sandwiches, hot dogs and Greek salads. Hours are 10am-3pm. Call 585-3354.

THE THIRD ANNUAL TASTE OF IRB showcasing some of the best area restaurants will be Nov. 7th. It is sponsored by the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Assoc. and the City of IRB Over 20 area restaurants and local vendors will be on hand for a great evening of food, music and fun. Last year's event was a huge success. Over 2000 people attended. It is FREE, just pay for your own food, beer and wine as you go.

NEW ICE CREAM PLACE Flamango's Ice Cream and More just opened in the Village Plaza at 1901 West Bay Drive. They serve ice cream, smoothies and other good stuff. Call them at 239-7004.

POKER RUN BAR CRAWL SEPT. 26th ON INDIAN ROCKS BEACH Never done one before? The goal is to visit at least 5 of the 10 participating bars and restaurants, where you will receive a playing card. Make your best poker hand at the big party at Crabby Bill's Loading Dock at 8pm. Last year over 250 people participated in this fun event. New this year, T-shirts for $10 each! For more information or to register online, visit www.IRBhome.com, or you can register the day of, from 12-2pm, in Kolb park, in front of Indian Rock City Hall at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd. Everyone is encouraged not to DRINK & DRIVE! Take the trolley or since everything is in IRB, walk the route. Cost - $5 in advance, $10 day of.

NEXT ISSUE IN NOVEMBER This newsletter is printed four times a year, and survives on advertisements. Please support the advertisers. Belleair area residents advertising, receive a discount. Read this issue, as well as other areas, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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- Are you concerned you may be taking too much risk in your portfolio?

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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF JIM COATS

Summer is upon us, temperatures are soaring and what a better way to keep children entertained and cool than an afternoon by the swimming pool. A dark side of a summer in the sun is that a sparkling swimming pool can also be a serious summer hazard. Unfortunately, when the temperature goes up, so does the number of accidental drowning involving children. The backyard pool is a magnet for children of all ages.

A moment of adult inattention can have tragic results. Parents, grandparents, babysitters and neighbors with pools need to realize that a swimming pool is an attraction to children. Of all law enforcement calls for service, a call to a home where a child has drowned is perhaps the most heartbreaking.

The loss of a child's life to drowning can be prevented with extra caution, common sense and inexpensive equipment. In fact, many residential communities, and municipalities require a barrier of some kind around in-ground and above ground pools. Where there are no pool enclosures required, homeowners have many other options to keep children and pools safe. In the home, child-proof locks on pool access doors are a must. An alarm system around the pool or pool access is another option. Remove toys from the pool so there is no temptation to a child to retrieve them. Swim times should be managed and monitored by adults at all times. Teaching a child to swim for sport, safety and survival is also a must. Everyone living in Florida, and especially those persons caring for children, should learn how to swim. Even then, a child can go under in a flash. Then, recovery and resuscitation training for adults is also important. Becoming CPR certified can prevent a serious poolside incident from becoming fatal.

Swimming lessons and CPR training are also offered by many groups in Pinellas County. Protect yourself, your loved ones and even your friends and neighbors by taking the time to prepare and plan in order to enjoy a safe summer pool season. Learn more about swimming pool safety, swimming lessons and CPR from the following providers:

- American Red Cross, www.redcross.org
- Tampa Bay Cares, www.211tampabay.org
- Tampa Bay Chapter, Or call 211
  813-348-4820 or 877-741-1444
- Pool Safety Council, www.poolsafetycouncil.org
- YMCA, www.ymca.net

GOING GREEN: GOOD - BETTER - BEST

by Mary Campbell, Pinellas County Extension Director, Urban Sustainability

We hear about so many green practices that will conserve resources, save money and reduce our environmental impacts. But, when trying to reduce our impacts, it is never an all or nothing proposition. Pick a practice that works for you. Small changes add up. When it gets easy, you might be ready for the next level. Here are some examples:

Plastic Grocery Bags Good – Recycle the plastic bags, Better – Reuse the plastic bags several times before you recycle, Best – Do not use plastic bags, have reusable bags handy for shopping

Plastic Water Bottles Good – Recycle the plastic bottles, Better – reuse the bottles and then recycle, Best – use a reusable container with filtered water and eliminate the whole cycle

Paper Use Good – always print on both sides of the paper, Better – use at least 30% recycled paper and print on both sides, Best – always recycle your 100% recycled paper that is printed on both sides

Energy Use Good – put your computer and other equipment into power save mode when not in use, Better – shut down computer, printer and other equipment when not in use, Best – shut down electronic equipment at the power strip to stop any energy use

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SUMMER FUN AT THE DIMMIT REC CENTER

So far, Dimmit Rec Center had a great summer. They have had record numbers, which says a lot for their great camp in this economy. It is a true, old-fashioned summer camp and the kids have a blast! Summer camp continues through August 17. It is open 9-12, for children ages 6-12.

Fall is just around the corner, and they have several programs that start in August/September, including basketball, dodge-ball, and also a flag football league. They also have Gulf Coast soccer. There is a session of archery in September that is very fun. Year around we have adult basketball, adult volleyball, yoga, pilates, various adult exercise and other programs to mention a few things.

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PREPARING YOUR BEACH HOME FOR HURRICANE SEASON

by Eric Meyer

New building codes have addressed many issues safeguarding homes against high winds and rain exposure during tropical storms and hurricanes. However, homes built prior to these codes, built without impact resistant doors, windows, garage doors, and additional roof and structural attachments could be vulnerable to serious damage or collapse.

There are many things you can do to safeguard your home and belongings:

- Trim all trees and shrubs, and check the drainage around your house. Be prepared to move all yard furniture, umbrellas etc. that can be blown and cause dangerous penetration to your home or others.
- Install an anchor system for larger outdoor items that you can not move or store indoors during a storm.
- Caulk all windows, doors, flashing and soffits. Regular painting of the exterior of your home will help seal your block or wood and help prevent water intrusion.
- Check your roofing and exterior decks to make sure they are not in need of repair. Waterproofing these areas now can save your home and prevent costly damages.
- Make sure you have temporary protection, such as hurricane panels ready to be installed if you do not have high impact resistant windows and doors.
- Replace your garage door with a high impact resistant one, or strengthen your existing garage door. This is a very large opening to a home that can be penetrated by high winds. Once this happens, it causes internal pressure to build upward to your roof and outward to your exterior walls, and can cause serious damage.
- Have your roof trusses inspected, and add extra reinforcement wherever possible.
- Install a backflow protection device in your sewer line.
- Install an electrical transfer switch to hook up your generator for emergency power.

For a free consultation, or to learn more about remodeling your home with hurricane resistant features, call me, I can help.

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A DAY AT THE BEACH

By Jim Frishe, Rep., District 54

Even in these economic times, the Florida Legislature recognizes the importance of our beaches to the welfare of our great state. This year, through Representative Frishe and Senator Jones efforts, Pinellas County will receive state assistance with beach re-nourishment of Sand Key, Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach.

Pinellas County has long been known for our beautiful, beaches. Our beaches serve as a first line of defense against storm surge, and help protect our coastal communities from storm damage. Because tourism is such a vital part of our local economy, it is imperative we maintain high standards for our beaches. We need to keep the tourists coming. In order to accomplish these goals, it was vital that we receive state assistance for the re-nourishment of our beaches.

Representative Frishe & Senator Jones worked long and hard in a difficult budget year to make certain the beach re-nourishment funds for our county remained in the budget. They were successful and because of that success, our beaches will be re-nourished, they will continue to help provide vital protection to our coastal communities, our families will continue to enjoy the beaches and the tourists will keep coming.

However, even more importantly to our citizens, they will have beaches where they and their children and grandchildren can enjoy a day at the beach in Pinellas County. They have the opportunity to continue a true Florida tradition and introduce their children and grandchildren to the tradition of a Day At The Beach.

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Selling Florida...One Dream at a Time, Tricia Priest

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