

# CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

Newsletter 20-25



including Sand Key and Island Estates



## Clearwater Gas Celebrates 90 Years



Delivery Truck 1940s

### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The phrase "strength in numbers" has been used in many different ways to portray different meanings. It can be used as an idiom to mean power or morale that is influenced by a larger group of people. However, in this case "strength in numbers" is the capacity to endure or sustain; and for the past 90 years, Clearwater Gas System (CGS) has done just that – despite experiencing a myriad of business climates.

CGS was first chartered in March 1923, and was known for providing manufactured gas to its customers made by using coal, coke and other products. During this era, trains delivered the materials to the present site at 400 North Myrtle. Original neighborhoods receiving gas service included Harbor Oaks, Belleair, and the North Greenwood area. The first several hundred customers primarily used gas for heating, cooking, and lighting their homes via a tin coin meter process. The meters worked like a parking meter – customers inserted coins, and the meter indicated how much gas was purchased (gas was supplied until more coins were needed). Today's advanced technology provides a totally different meter reading process with high-tech automation.

A December 30, 1956 St. Petersburg Times article revealed that CGS reported a sluggish and dismal fiscal year in 1956 that generated a net loss of \$7,083.50. It appears the loss resulted in the arrival of the Florida Gas Transmission natural gas pipeline which resulted in

switching from gas manufacturing to gas distribution.

Today, with a workforce of 77 dedicated employees, CGS gas delivery operates via an underground pipeline distribution system that delivers natural gas to 18,286 residential and commercial natural gas customers in Pinellas and Pasco counties; the remaining 1,998 customers receive propane gas via Clearwater Gas propane delivery trucks.

As a 90-year gas service provider, CGS has been an integral part of the City of Clearwater's vision and mission. As an enterprise fund, the city-owned Clearwater Gas System is self-supporting and reported an annual dividend of \$7,956,166 to the City of Clearwater's general fund during the 11/12 Fiscal Year.

Over the years, CGS has made continuous technological and industry improvements to remain a competitive force within the natural and propane gas industry. One of the latest and most profound achievements was the 2011 debut of Tampa Bay's first compressed natural gas fueling station. The new public station on Hercules Avenue in Clearwater, features four islands and eight gas pumps. A typical fill takes three to five minutes and costs \$2.09 per gasoline gallon equivalent. The tentative plan is to have 70 natural gas garbage trucks in service, saving approximately \$18,000 per truck, per year in fuel costs for the City of Clearwater. When economically beneficial, the City will convert light duty vehicles to use natural gas.

Clearwater Gas System is extremely proud of our rich 90-year history of providing gas service to the Suncoast area. CGS is the fourth largest municipal gas system in Florida and ranks 34th out of nearly 1,000 public gas systems in the United States

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OR Current Resident

Story and photo by Lisa Brown, Public Information Specialist  
City of Clearwater/Gas System

**CREDITS**



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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BeachNewsletters.com

We'd like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Tell us what you think at

[bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

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**CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

This is our 23rd Clearwater Beach Neighborhood Newsletter. We started this publication in December of 2009.

You will find articles and local information about the Beach area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire zip code of 33767 including Island Estates and Sand Key.

We want your input. How did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future issues and articles? We hope you enjoy this newsletter. We call it a "Neighborhood Newsletter" because it is about Clearwater Beach, your neighborhood. It is mailed to about 5,000 households and includes Island Estates and Sand Key. We publish this edition six times a year.



Call or email us, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997 [bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN DECEMBER!**

**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL 562-4250**  
112 S. Osceola Avenue  
[www.clearwater-fl.com](http://www.clearwater-fl.com)

**MAYOR OFFICE** ..... 562-4050

**MAYOR** - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1

**CITY COUNCIL** ..... 562-4042

Doreen Hock-DiPolito - Seat 2

Jay Polglaze - Seat 3 Bill Jonson - Seat 4

Paul F. Gibson (Vice-Mayor) - Seat 5

**CITY MANAGER** ..... 562-4040

William Horne

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER** . . . 562-4040

**BUILDING PERMITS** ..... 562-4558

**HUMAN RESOURCES** ..... 562-4870

**PLANNING & ZONING** ..... 562-4567

**PUBLIC SERVICES** ..... 562-4950

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** ..... 562-4600

**PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY** 462-6633

**CLEARWATER GAS** ..... 562-4980

**SOLID WASTE** ..... 562-4920

**PIER 60** ..... 462-6466

**MARINA** ..... 462-6954

**PARKS AND REC** ..... 562-4800

**PUBLIC LIBRARY** ..... 562-4970

**VISITOR INFO CENTER** ..... 442-3604

**EMERGENCIES** ..... 9-1-1

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY** . . . 562-4242

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** ..... 562-4334

**POLICE HOTLINE** ..... 562-4080

**NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON** . . 562-4554

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** . . . 447-7600

333 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach

**POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES** 449-8732

**SAND KEY PARK** ..... 588-4852

Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park

**MARINE AQUARIUM** ..... 441-1790

249 Windward Passage, Island Estates

**CLEARWATER SAILING CTR** . . 517-7776

1001 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key

**JOLLEY TROLLEY** ..... 445-1200

483 Mandalay Avenue, Suite 213

**CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB** . . . 447-6000

830 Bayway Blvd South

**CARLOUÉ HOMEOWNERS ASSN**

Kris Hampsey, President . . . . . 441-4188

**LITTLE LEAGUE**

John Murphy . . . . . 813-486-4430

**ROTARY**, Clearwater Beach meets every Thursday, 12:15pm at Shephard's lunch  
Nick Ekonomides, President 447-1075

**CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION**

Wendy Hutkin, President . . . . . 216-3274

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

Cathy Foley . . . . . 443-7032

**SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Meets first Wednesdays each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center  
Arlene Musselwhite, President 644-7524

**ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Mary Lau, President . . . 813-335-6770  
[www.MylslandEstates.org](http://www.MylslandEstates.org)

**ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB**

Mary Wadsworth, President . . 447-7182

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Anne Garris . . . . . 446-4410

**CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

David Allbritton, President . . 481-5102

**PINELLAS COUNTY INFO** . . . . 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** . . . . . 464-3000

Susan Latvala, CWB/Island Estates 464-3276

Karen Seel, Sand Key . . . . . 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Jack Latvala . . . . . 727-793-2797

Republican, District 20

26133 Hwy 19 N., Ste 201, Clearwater

Latvala.Jack.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Larry Ahern 727-545-6421

Republican, District 66

5511 Park Street N. St. Petersburg

larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov

Governor Rick Scott

Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**

Marco Rubio . . . . . 202-224-3041

[www.Rubio.Senate.gov](http://www.Rubio.Senate.gov)

Bill Nelson . . . . . 202-224-5274

[www.BillNelson.Senate.gov](http://www.BillNelson.Senate.gov)

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Rep Bill Young . . . . . 727-394-6950

9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

[www.house.gov/young](http://www.house.gov/young)

**CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS**

**OCTOBER:**

Stone Crab Festivals 24-27

Schools Closed 25

Komen 3 Day Walk 25-27

Blast Friday Downtown 25

Chalk Walk BeachWalk 25-27

Johns Pass Seafood Fest 26-27

Country Jubilee Heritage Village 26

Halloween Carnival, Rec Center 26

Boo Bash Brighthouse Field 31

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

**NOVEMBER:**

Property Tax Bills Mailed 1

Clearwater Historical Society Fish Fry 2

City Garage Sale Belleair Beach 2

Daylight Savings Time Ends 3

Election Aquarium Referendum 5

RibFest St Petersburg 8-10

Christmas Under the Oaks 10

Sundays In Belleair Concert 10

Tri Rock Triathlon 10

Veteran's Day 11

Manatee Protection Season Begins 15

America Recycles Day 15

Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic 15-17

Carlisle Classic Regatta 16-17

Farm Day at Heritage Village 16

Beaujolas Day for Wine Snobs 21

Mayor's Annual Prayer Breakfast 21

Festival of Trees (Long Center) 22-24

Concert Chapel by the Sea 24

Public Schools Close Thanksgiving 25-29

Hanukkah Begins 27

Thanksgiving 28

Turkey Trot Run 28

Heritage Village Trees&Traditions opens 30

Hurricane Season Ends 30

**DECEMBER:**

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast 3

Christmas Tree Lighting Downtown 6

Miracle Cleveland Street Downtown 6

Blast Friday 6



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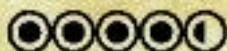
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# Did You Know...

## SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

The Second Time Arounders Marching Band will perform LIVE on television – during the National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington DC - April, 2014. Their performance will be filled with patriotism and Americana -



powerful music, an abundance of red, white, and blue, plus stunning visual effects. NOW is a GREAT time to join the Rounders if you've ever marched in a high school, college, or military marching band! The Rounders perform locally, nationally, and internationally. Their most recent performance was in the Conch Republic parade in Key West and most notable was the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2008. Ages 18-85, with 450 members, the Second Time Arounders Marching Band is the first all-ages band in the country! The Band proudly supports arts and music programs in local schools. For more information about the Band, the 2014 trip or how to join, visit [www.secondtimearounders.org](http://www.secondtimearounders.org).

**FIRST FLIGHT REENACTMENT** Tony Jannus piloted America's first commercial flight on January 1st 1914. It originated in downtown St Pete and flew to Tampa. January 1st 2014 at 10am, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The World's First Airline, there will be a reenactment. Three organizations - the Florida Aviation Historical Society, the St Petersburg Museum of History and the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society are involved. Kermit Weeks, founder and CEO of Fantasy of Flight, plans to fly his full-scale replica of the original Benoist Airboat Bi-Plane across Tampa Bay. See its construction progress at [www.Benoist2014.com](http://www.Benoist2014.com).

**DOLPHIN DOCUMENTARY** The Clearwater Marine Aquarium produced a documentary on the life and times of Winter, covering his life at the Clearwater Marine from his recovery, to the movie production. You can purchase the movie on DVD at the Aquarium, on Island Estates and at the Museum at Harbor Center."

**NEED ANOTHER COPY?** Pick up another copy of this newsletter at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli or the Island Estates UPS store.

**CHALK WALK** The Clearwater Beach Chamber is repeating last year's successful Chalk Walk, on October 25, 26 and 27th on Beach Walk from the Hyatt Regency to the south end of Beach Walk. Artists will create chalk artworks and designs on the sidewalk and promenades. Awards will be announced at 1pm, Sunday. They are still looking for more artists. If you are an artist or know someone who is, call 447-7600. Visit [BeachWalkChalkWalk.com](http://BeachWalkChalkWalk.com).



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**NEW MUSEUM** The Clearwater Historical Society signed a lease with the Pinellas County School Board for the closed South Ward Elementary school on South Ft Harrison to create a new, bigger museum. "We've been looking at that site for years," says David Allbritton, President. "It has history going back to the 1880s. It was the first school in Clearwater." Their current museum is the Plumb House, built in 1896, on S. Martin Luther King Jr Avenue. It will remain a satellite museum. A committee is being formed for fund raising. Anyone interested in helping can call David, 481-5102, Bill Wallace, 446-2676 or Mike Sanders, 434-1684.

**FARM CITY DAY** November 16, from 10 am – 2 pm, The Pinellas County Farm Bureau will sponsor a Farm City Day Celebration at Pinellas County's Heritage Village. This is the kickoff for Farm City Week, celebrated nationally and created to educate people about agriculture. Hands on activities include making butter and ice cream at the "dairy barn," milking goats, petting chickens and bunnies, and agriculturally themed arts and crafts. Free.

**TOYS FOR TOTS** Saturday, December 7th, local Post Office carriers, will collect toys for the Marine Corp's toy drive. Leave a new, unwrapped toy by your mailbox and your postal carrier will transport it to the Marine Corp. Don't forget the older kids. If you are not going to be home, drop them off the day before at any Post Office building.

**CAPITAL THEATER TO REOPEN** The first performance is scheduled for Dec 18, 2013 and they are working six and seven days a week to be ready. Many changes were required to make the 1921 facility meet current code and staff requirements.



They are now installing the outside New Orleans balcony and custom Artistic handrail - a first for Clearwater. Soon the exterior gingerbread trim will go up as the period decor and trim come together. Construction time is beyond tight but what a gem this new performing arts center will be for all! Do you have a great memory of a time spent at the Capital Theater? If you do, send it to us and we may include it in our December story on the Capital Theater.

**CLEARWATER AQUARIUM CLOSED** With the filming of the New Dolphin Movie at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the CMA closed to the public on October 17. However, they will reopen during the Thanksgiving Holidays (November 29-December 1) to accommodate all your out-of-town relatives. Then they will close again to continue making the movie, "Dolphin Tale 2".

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER** Read this, as well as other issues, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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## DR. LARA SAYS

Q & A with Cesar A. Lara, M.D., Voted Best Weight Loss Practitioner in Tampa Bay



Q: I'm in my late 40s. I diet, exercise and try to eat healthy. Why do I still have belly fat that just doesn't seem to go away?

A: You aren't alone! Despite a conscientious decision by many to adjust their nutrition and live a healthier lifestyle, they still have a constant complaint of challenging and persistent belly fat; which is commonly associated with a decrease in energy, a slow metabolism, a decrease in sexual desire and activity, difficulty sleeping, and nonspecific but noticeable memory problems. As we age, it is a natural process that our youthful hormonal levels decrease. Hormones control virtually all of the functions of the body including our reproductive, immune and metabolic systems.

As hormone levels decline, we begin to lose our energy, vitality, and health decreases. When our metabolic rate slows down we are not as efficient in burning calories; so even though we may be eating the same amount of food, we experience weight gain along with a decrease in lean body mass (muscle), and the accumulation of fat around the waist.

Through a multifaceted approach where declining hormones are optimized with Bioidentical hormone replacement, complemented with a balanced nutrition and exercise program; I see remarkable improvement in my patient's overall health, vitality, as well as a decrease in belly fat. Balanced nutrition and exercise are key but if you find yourself stuck, consider having a personalized and comprehensive evaluation of your hormonal health.

## TASTE OF IRB RETURNS

The 7th Annual Taste of IRB is Saturday, Nov. 2nd, from 4 to 10 p.m., in Chic-A-Si Park in Indian Rocks Beach. Now in its seventh year, this annual food event has become the kick-off to a busy holiday season.



The evening, sponsored by Century 21 Beggins, features tastes from 23 local restaurants offering their specialties while Espree deKor entertains the crowd with their popular music, sponsored by Window World. Second Street will be closed to allow more room. The Homeowners will be serving beer, sponsored by Crabby Bill's and wine sponsored by Florida's Best Quote Insurance. The popular raffle for a chance to win over \$600 in participating restaurant gift certificates returns.

Participating restaurants include: Guppy's on the Beach, Slyce Pizza Bar, Red Lion Pub, Pie Factory, IRB Sushi, The Pub, Le Bouchon Bistro, P.J.'s Oyster Bar, Pajano's Pizza, Stefano's Italian, Crabby Bill's, Island Fish, Sweet IRB, Café de Paris, P.J.'s Oyster Bar, Marlin Darlin, Kooky Coconut, Delectable Edibles, Aqua Prime, Brain Freeze Treats, Havana Harry's, Keegan's Seafood Grille, Sombra Coffee Roastery, Sandbar, Thai Pan Alley

Admission is FREE and everyone is invited! Last year over 4000 people attended. Bring lawn chairs or blankets, and spend the evening listening to great music while you sample the best fare the area has to offer, with your friends and neighbors. All Proceeds will go back to the community through the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association. Coolers and dogs are prohibited. Visit IRBHome.com.

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## Restaurant News...

### NEW CHEF AT COOTERS

Owner Carol Mears announced Cooters has hired new chef, Paul Daubert. Paul, a long time Pinellas County resident, began cooking at the age of 13 while working in his family's grocery store. He has worked in a variety of area restaurants including 18 years at the prestigious Carouel Yacht Club in north Clearwater Beach. "The quality of Cooter's products is a huge part of why I wanted to join this team," says Paul. The already popular menu will be complemented with the addition of several new dishes and appetizers including the new smoked grouper spread. Still in development is a decadent three-crab soup. Cooter's is celebrating their 20th year in Clearwater Beach.



**UNCORKED UNDONE** Don't be looking for the Uncorked Wine and Dine event next month. Last year it was held in mid-November behind the Hyatt Regency. We are told the event is being moved to February. However, downtown St Petersburg is hosting a similar food event, called **Arts and Taste St Pete** on November 15-17th. Get more information on that at [www.EatStPeteFestival.com](http://www.EatStPeteFestival.com).

### DETROIT CONEY ISLAND

A touch of Detroit is coming to our beach with a new diner still under construction on the north end of the beach that hopes to be open by Thanksgiving. Called Detroit Coney Island, it is owned by Dante, who is also opening several more around the county. In addition to famous Coney Island hot dogs, they will have many items rooted in Detroit including special pop, sandwiches, sausage, chilli, chilli cheese fries, fudge sundaes and more. They will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner at 600 Mandalay, north of the Hess Station.



**LA PLAGES IN SOUTH BEACH** This new restaurant on the south end of the beach is in the space previously occupied by Kelly's and Lobster Pot Bistro at 731 Bayway, near Cesare's at the Beach. Owner & manager Tony Cona says La Plage means "a beach with fine sand". They specialize in steaks and seafood with a European twist. They are open for dinner only. Call them at 216-6755.

**JOHN'S PASS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL** If you are looking for some great seafood with some Halloween fun, John's Pass Seafood Festival, October 26 and 27th in Madeira Beach has it. The two day festival features local restaurants and arts and crafts vendors. Parking can be a challenge so take the trolley and get off at Mile Marker #8. Get more information at [www.JohnsPassSeafoodFestival.com](http://www.JohnsPassSeafoodFestival.com).

**BEAUJOLAS DAY** If your love wine, November 14th is probably circled on your calendar. Just past midnight on the third Thursday of November, over a million cases of Beaujolais Nouveau begin their journey to restaurants and wine retail stores throughout the world



## More Restaurant News...

**HALLOWEEN TREATS** For the next few weeks, Panera Bread is offering short bread cookies with pumpkin colored icing in the shape of Jack-O-Lanterns. They cost \$2.39 each but are only 99¢ with a meal and drink. They only bake a limited number each day and they normally sell out. Get yours at the closest Panera Bread store, in Belleair Bluffs.



### TIMES FOOD CRITIC HONORED

Laura Reiley, food critic for the Tampa Bay Times, won first place in restaurant criticism from the Association of Food Journalism. The organization recognizes the finest work of food journalists around the country. Reiley was honored for a collection of three area restaurants reviews in 2012. Reiley has been the Times food critic since 2007, and won first place from the Florida Society of News Editors for her restaurant and food coverage earlier this year, too.

### STONE CRAB FESTIVALS

Stone Crabs season opened October 15th. That must mean it is time for the Stone Crab Festivals in Clearwater Beach. Both Cooter's and Frenchy's have planned their street festivals for the weekend of October 24-27. Cooter's will start on Thursday, and Frenchy's will start on Friday. This is Cooter's 20th year, and the 29th year for Frenchy's. There will be a live band on Baymont Street Saturday and Sunday.



**COLUMBIA GIVES BACK** The Columbia Restaurant Group recently donated 5% of September's lunch and dinner checks to The Lighthouse of Pinellas. Their "Community Harvest" took place at all the Columbia locations, but only meals at their Sand Key restaurant were donated to The Lighthouse. Each restaurant has a different charity. Over the past 15 years, the Columbia has donated over \$1.3 million to non-profit organizations in Florida. The Lighthouse of Pinellas provides support services for people of all ages with vision impairment and blindness.

**TASTE WINNERS** At the Annual Taste of Clearwater, this year held at Countryside Mall, five of the seven winners were from Clearwater Beach, including:

Best Appetizer: SHOR Restaurant in the Hyatt

Best Entrée: Lobster Pot Bistro

Best Theme: Caretta's at Sandpearl

Best Culinary Challenge: Island Way Grill

Best of Event: SHOR Restaurant in the Hyatt



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## Business Briefs...

### WALLGREENS

Clearwater Beach's new two story Walgreens is opening soon. The store manager is Manny Pantelis. The store, near the Round About, with merchandise on both levels, should open around November 8th. The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for November 19th.



The store at the south end of the beach will close.

**DOCKSIDE FUEL IS BACK** After a short break, Dockside Fuel has returned to Clearwater Beach for their second season. Their specially fitted boat will come to your dock and fill your boat's gas tank, from the water. They offer 90 Octane recreational fuel and 93 Octane; both are non-ethanol. They also pump out your waste tank at no extra charge during a fill up. You cannot beat the convenience and their prices are competitive. Check them out at [www.DocksideFuel.net](http://www.DocksideFuel.net) or call 855-427-2628.

### PRINT SHACK MOVES

Les Novak moved his Beach Print Shack, but only one block. The new location is 294 Windward Passage, next to Fifth Third Bank. The Print Shack is the beach's only Post Office, since the branch in the Marina closed. Les sells stamps, mails letters and packages plus handles UPS shipping. He also offers printing, copying, faxing, notary services, typesetting and laminating. Call him at 449-8732



### CLOSED OR OUT OF BUSINESS

**Gulfside Flowers**, 641 Manadaly Drive (North Beach), Sandy Phillips opened in 1991 and decided to close her small florist shop after 22 years.

**Del Sol Shop**, 464 Mandalay Drive (North Beach)

### NEW MURAL

St Pete's Hanh Kein was hired to paint a mural on one of the walls at Ryan's Yogurt Shop, in the Shoppes of Sand Key. He has been painting for over 30 years, but only started doing murals about a year. "You do what pays the bills," says Kein. Want a mural of your own? Call him at 768-3869.



## More Business Briefs...

### TURKEY OF A DEAL

Once again this year, with each new order, Budget Blinds will donate a turkey to the Salvation Army who will distribute it to a needy family during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. This is part of their Giving Back promotion created by owner Carolyn Tricoli. "Our goal is to donate 100 turkeys," says Carolyn. "We also have a goal to donating 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food." You can drop off food items at their show room at 600 Mandalay on the north end of the beach. For information, call 400-6870 .



**STATE BUILDING COMMISSION** Governor Rick Scott appointed Brian Langille, Manager of Gas Operations at Clearwater Gas, to the Florida Building Commission. He is one of nine new appointments to the 25-member, technical body responsible for the development, maintenance and interpretation of Florida Building Code. Members include architects, engineers, contractors, building owners, and insurance company and local government representatives. Brian has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Florida. He is on the Florida Gas Utility Board of Directors and is Secretary for the Florida Municipal Natural Gas Association.

**HOTEL EXPANSION** Uday Lele, owner of the Wyndam Hotel, has big plans for his existing hotel on the south end of the beach. He plans to tear it down and rebuild with 90 additional rooms. The new hotel will be higher, more modern and have a total of 202 rooms. The new name will be The Views. They are still finalizing plans.

**CHRISTMAS AT THE COTTAGES** Julie's Cottage at Provence, Periwinkles at the Cottage & Gabriela's Interior Design is hosting their 13th Annual Open House in time for holiday shopping! Thursday, November 7, 5-8pm; Friday, November 8 from 10-5pm & Saturday, November 9th from 10-4pm. They will have one-of-a-kind silk wreaths and centerpieces from traditional to vintage and more including Vera Bradley, Spartina and other unique gifts. Dinner and dessert will be available by Destination Grill & Desserts of Distinction on Thursday

**ADAMS MARK SITE** A new plan is being floated to develop the former hotel site on South Gulfview into another hotel. It is the same people that developed the Sandpearl, so you know it will be nice and big. The plan is for 220 rooms, a restaurant, spa and banquet space. They hope to start construction in a few months. This site is currently a parking lot operated by the City.

### DEVELOPMENT BEING PLANNED

411 Mandalay: Seeking a change of use from restaurant to retail possibly a Harley Davidson store.

348 Coronado: Seeking a change from restaurant to mixed use - office space and small dwelling.

625 South Gulfview: This is the Econo Lodge - They hope to build a new Hampton Inn on the parking lot to the west of them

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**Space is limited – RSVP today by going to  
[www.achievehers.org](http://www.achievehers.org)**



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## BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU TIME!

by Brian Frauzese, owner Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market

Just past midnight on the third Thursday of each November, over a million cases of Beaujolais Nouveau begin their journey to restaurants and wine retail stores throughout the world. This amazing marketing phenomenon began in France's Beaujolais Region, just north of Lyon in the 1950s. A few growers in the area, notably Georges Duboeuf, recognized the potential for marketing Beaujolais Nouveau (initially as a cash flow concept), and prompted a race to Paris transporting the first bottles of the new vintage. This attracted much media coverage and the race spread throughout Europe, North America and Asia. "Beaujolais Nouveau Day" is always the third Thursday in November, so the wines are air-freighted to ensure they reach the global retail markets for availability to purchase and consume that day. Today, Beaujolais Nouveau accounts for nearly half of the regions total wine production.



*A village and vineyard in France's Beaujolais region,*

Beaujolais [BOE-zjoh-lay] Nouveau is a light, simple, grapey, red wine produced from the Gamay grape that is meant to be consumed within the first 6 months of release, though in better vintages the wine will drink well for a year or so. It is different from most red wines as it does not go through a secondary (malolactic) fermentation. Because the only fermentation is whole cluster (or carbonic maceration), the wine does not take on the tannins or dark color of a wine made from pressed grapes. It is truly the "New" wine of the vintage.

Beaujolais Nouveau is a wine that you should drink slightly chilled and enjoy as a quaffing wine or with lighter cuisine. It is very popular on the Thanksgiving Day table, in part due to the release date, but also because it will pair well with turkey or even ham. This is not a wine for wine critics, so just enjoy it and don't over-analyze it! Most producers package the wine with colorful, artsy labels and sell it for around \$10 - \$12 per bottle. When you see the colorful marketing signs in the window of your neighborhood wine store beginning this November 21st, stop in and purchase a selection or two and join the hype!

Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market, in Belleair Bluffs, will be sampling the 2013 selections by Georges Duboeuf, Joseph Drouhin, and Bouchard Aine & Fils on Thursday November 21st and Friday November 22nd. Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market is located at The Plaza 100 Shopping Center at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, next to E & E Stakeout Grill. 727-584-5552 - [www.BellaVinoWineMarket.com](http://www.BellaVinoWineMarket.com)

## Welcome to Your NEW St. Michael's...

Come in and experience the very best in vision care at our newly opened center located at 1030 West Bay Drive, Largo. With diverse knowledge and experience, Dr. John Michaelos and his team are your complete eye care specialists offering solutions for family eye care, LASIK, cataracts, corneal transplants, glaucoma and more. Our comfortable waiting room is equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi, refreshments, magazines and high definition TVs for your pleasure. We offer free transportation for seniors, same day appointments and 24-hour emergency care.

Our brand new facility is also home to Halo Aesthetics where we pamper all of our clients with personalized attention. Our Nurse Practitioner, Christie Bock, is passionate about delivering beautiful results to those seeking the nonsurgical enhancements of Botox® Cosmetic, Juvederm®, Radiesse®, Belotero®, Photofacial, Hydrafacial™, Venus Freeze Skin Tightening and so much more.

We hope you will visit us soon, so call us at 727.585.2200 today.



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## RCS GIVING THANKS

by CJ Crooks, Director of Development Religious Community Services, Inc.

Sometimes it is difficult to find our gratitude in these trying times. Florida finished the first half of the year with the highest foreclosure rates in the country. Unemployment is over 7%. However at Religious Community Services, we are reminded of the many things for which to be thankful not only around the holidays but throughout the year. A community dedicated to supporting its neighbors, lifting up people who have stumbled and refusing to let a child go to bed hungry. Many families face difficult decisions and often there is embarrassment and stigma associated with asking for help. We are thankful that individuals feel comfortable reaching out to us for services.

Another reason to be thankful is our tremendous volunteer support. The hours of time and energy dedicated to providing hope and help to people in need is truly inspiring. These individuals work together to ensure a safety net is provided to anyone in need of food, shelter, safety or clothing. Through the financial crisis that has managed to impact so many, the generosity of our neighbors and friends, continues to sustain many of the services that are so greatly needed in our community.

We are especially thankful to be breaking ground on a new Outreach Building for The Haven of RCS. Witnessing a place being created for members of the community to overcome the violence they have experienced in their lives has been an emotional journey. We are thankful to provide 158 families facing homelessness with free, dignified shelter and case management so they could regain their stability at RCS Grace House. The ability to present participants with RCS Thrift Store vouchers to purchase any of life's necessities has continued to provide a hand up. RCS Food Bank has distributed nutrient dense food to over 60,000 people. When RCS asked the community to support more nutritionally balanced meals, you responded with fresh fruit and produce to supplement other donated foods. To date we have been able to distribute 156,000 pounds of fresh produce, the equivalent of \$277,000.

But most of all, we are thankful for you, the members of our community. Because you care, RCS is able to help families find hope in their most desperate situations. I do not think there is a greater gift one can give.

## BICYCLE COMMITTEE

The Clearwater Police Department is creating a committee to study the area and local streets to improve bicycle safety. There are many things to consider surrounding the issue of bicycle safety. If you would like to be on the committee, call Bob Shaw, at 562-4333.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

Last year, the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce created and hosted Light It Up Clearwater, a fireworks show on New Years Eve. They want to do it again, but they need your help. "A fireworks show as big as those in St Petersburg and Tampa cost a lot of money," says Darlene Kole, President of the Beaches Chamber. "In addition to businesses sponsoring, we are accepting donations from Clearwater Beach Associations, clubs and even individuals." If you can donate \$10-\$100, mail it to the chamber at PO Box 3573 Clearwater Beach, FL 33767. Or call 447-7600. Ask for Liz. See [www.LightItUpClearwater.com](http://www.LightItUpClearwater.com)



## En Garde Catering Gears Up for the Holidays!!!

Though the summer weather is still here, soon cooler temperatures will signal the start of the Holiday entertaining season. "Believe it or not, we already have orders for Thanksgiving and have even booked several holiday parties," says owner Robb Schoonmaker.

Though they have yet to relocate their retail store, the catering business continues to flourish. "We are very lucky to have a loyal client base contributes to our success," continues Schoonmaker. "We try to customize our menus and events to our clients specific needs and that seems to be working well. Though we have reduced our visibility in the community, referrals and new business keep coming in."

En Garde specializes in full service catering and event planning. Appetizers and entrees are always available for delivery or for a full service function. Among the selections are En Garde's signature grilled and chilled shrimp served with a bloody mary cocktail sauce and peppered tenderloin of beef served with a blue cheese horseradish sauce.

For more information or entertaining advice, feel free to visit their website [www.engardecatering.com](http://www.engardecatering.com) or contact them directly at [info@engardecatering.com](mailto:info@engardecatering.com) or 727-489-9297.

## FREE WALL CALENDAR

There are approximately 1,000 public gas systems serving more than five million customers in the United States. Public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by and accountable to the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.

For some, the role of the Gas System may be undervalued, but there are some very important benefits that public gas systems provide their community.

While many utilities are cutting back on customer service and sales activities, Clearwater Gas System maintains a leading role as a vibrant, community-based energy provider (since 1923). As a valuable contributor to the community, Clearwater Gas System is dedicated to continually improving and expanding services to meet customers energy needs. Clearwater Gas System provides economic development opportunities and green energy solutions and also offers the most reliable and economical energy resource that comes from here in America.

The public is invited to stop by the Sales Office at 711 Maple St. to receive a free 2014 wall calendar as a token of appreciation.

"This year marked Clearwater Gas System's 90th Anniversary and we are proud of our rich history as well as the opportunity to provide natural and propane gas service to homeowners and business owners in Pinellas and Pasco Counties," says Chuck Warrington, Managing Director.

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G. Joseph Fitzgerald Jr., DO, who also goes by Doc Fitz to his patients and friends, has been practicing Family Practice medicine in Largo/Belleair for almost 20 years and is Triple Board Certified. In addition to his Family Practice office, he is also on staff at Largo Medical Center, and is the director of Wright's Nursing Home & Oak Manor Nursing Home. He is the US patent holder for a ground breaking invention that will greatly impact the diagnosis of colon cancer. He spent seven years as the physician of the PGA tour. He is the official local physician for Warner Bros. films including Dolphin Tale, Magic Mike, & Spring Breakers. He volunteers with the Special Olympics and multiple local charity events. Doc Fitz and his medical practitioners treat all their patients like family and cannot wait to introduce everyone to pure Life Medispa, his new aesthetic and wellness facility.

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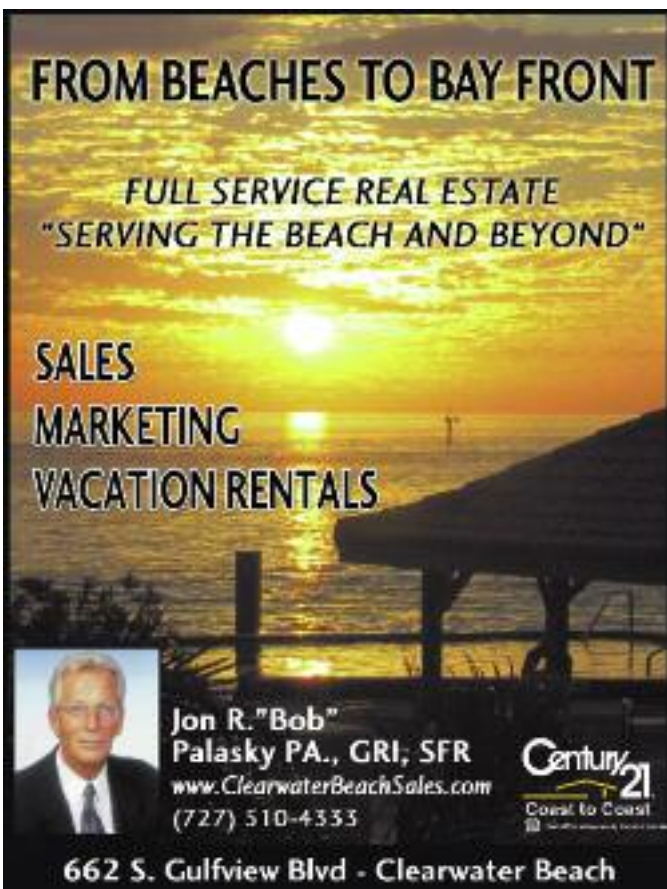
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## Organizational News...

### ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

On September 19, the IECA Welcome Committee headed by Dawn Ameal delivered about 40 "welcome" sandpails full of information about area attractions and businesses, discount coupons, restaurant menus and IECA memberships to new Island Estates residents. The Committee delivered over 100 pails in the past six months and plans to make deliveries every three months.

The IECA annual Town Hall Meeting in October included an address by the Mayor of Clearwater, presentations about the Dolphin Tale 2 movie sequel and the upcoming referendum on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Downtown Project, presentations about recent flood insurance program changes and other matters of interest to residents and owners of Island Estates.

The member's Winter Social is Tuesday, December 10, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Island Way Grill. Residents of Island Estates are welcome to join for 2014 at the social.

The holiday light contest judging is Saturday, December 14 (landside) and Sunday, December 15 (waterside).

Membership is \$50 per year per family. They meet on the second Monday of each month in the new Clearwater Marine Aquarium Classroom Building. Call President Mary Lau at 813-335-6770.

### CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

Bob Griffin, publisher of this newsletter, was their guest speaker and talked about the life of Ponce de Leon and his second voyage to Florida. Some of that information was published in the Clearwater Beach August Newsletter.

The Club is celebrating their 60th birthday in November; they were chartered November 2, 1953. They will celebrate at the Palm Pavilion that Saturday.

They meet Thursday's at 12:15 at Shepherd's on Gulfview Blvd. in Clearwater Beach. The first Wednesday of the month, they sponsor a Sunset Social on the second floor of Clearwater Beach Hyatt. For information, call 727-237-8037 or visit [clearwaterbeachrotary.org](http://clearwaterbeachrotary.org)

### ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

Their next meetings are November 19th and December 17th. The Woman's Club meets September - May, on the third Tuesday of each month at area restaurants. Members enjoy activities including luncheons, book group, bowling and bridge. The group encourages a spirit of goodwill and cooperation in all affairs pertaining to the welfare and betterment of the community.

### JULIE'S COTTAGE AT PROVENCE HELPING SOLDIERS

They are the Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers Org. who have been providing service since 1942. Nov. 7-9, they are collecting items to be shipped to our soldiers overseas including: iTunes gift card; AT&T 120 minute global phone cards; men's socks and sweat pants; throw size fleece blankets; zip lock bags; plastic spoons & forks; foot powder (Gold Bond - extra strength); Q-Tips; chapstick; Kleenex; Trident white gum; hot chocolate/ hot cider mix; granola bars; plastic Christmas ornaments; dried fruit snacks & Slim Jims. Donations of cash or check payable to "Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers" will be accepted. In appreciation of your gift, you will receive a special discount from Julie's and Periwinkles, 13128 Indian Rocks Road- Largo FL 727-518-8102

## SUNSET CINEMA AT PIER 60

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. All the regular pier activities, such as artisans, crafters, street performers and live music also take place. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages will be available on site.

### NOVEMBER

- 1- *Akeelah & the Bee* /PG
- 2- *Fools Gold* / PG-13
- 8- *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* (Restored) /PG
- 9- *After Earth*/ PG-13
- 15- *Adventures In Zambezia*/G
- 16- *Be Kind & Rewind*/PG-13
- 22- *Annie*/ PG
- 23- *Beaches*/ PG-13
- 29- *Despicable Me*/ PG



### DECEMBER

- 6- *Arthur Christmas*/ PG
- 7- *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*/PG-13
- 20- *Prancer*/ G
- 21- *The Guilt Trip*/ PG-13
- 13- *A Christmas Story*/ PG
- 14- *The Bourne Legacy*/PG-13
- 27- *Happy Feet*/ PG
- 28- *Grown Ups 2*/ PG-13

You can see the complete and changing schedule online at [www.SunsetsAtPier60.com](http://www.SunsetsAtPier60.com) or by calling 449-1036. This is partially sponsored by the City of Clearwater's Parks and Recreation Department.

## DOLPHIN MOVIE SEQUEL

Yes it is true. Another dolphin movie is being filmed in Clearwater Beach at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium on Island Estates. This one, called "Dolphin Tale 2" will feature their other dolphin, Hope, was just a baby dolphin, when she was saved and rehabilitated by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in 2010.

Filming of the new movie began this month with a planned release of September 19, 2014. Winter, who still resides at the Aquarium, played herself in the original film and returns in "Dolphin Tale 2" and Hope will play herself in the sequel.

The entire Dolphin Tale cast will reunite for the sequel, including Harry Connick Jr., Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson, Nathan Gamble and Cozi Zuehlsoff, among others. Charles Martin Smith (Dolphin Tale, Air Bud) has written the screenplay and will again direct.

Governor Rick Scott recently announced approval of up to \$5 million in support money to make this movie happen. Scott said in a press conference that 750,000 people have visited the Aquarium last year, and 400,000 of those were from out of state. He stated that Winter was one of the state's major tourist attractions. Senator Jack Latvala and Representative Ed Hooper helped push the bill through State Legislature.

During the filming of this movie, there will be a live feed of the production, during the filming, that you can access on a web site. Watch the actors and their progress as they produce the new movie. More will be revealed later.

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## SO MANY PUMPKINS, SO LITTLE TIME....

by Cheryl Pacheco, Carlson-Wildwood Florist, LLC

The pumpkin is the quintessential symbol of Autumn. Pumpkins are the stars of both Thanksgiving and Halloween, but how did this come about?

In 1584, French explorer Jacques Cartier saw pumpkins for the first time in the St. Lawrence region, while Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca noted pumpkins growing near Tampa even earlier, in 1528. Native Americans offered the Spaniards pumpkin seeds as part of a peace offering along the Spanish at the Rio Grande river. Pumpkins are uniquely American.

According to Wikipedia: Jack o' Lantern carving is thought to have come from Ireland, where turnips, mangelwurzels or beets were used. Turnip lanterns, sometimes with faces carved into them, were made on the Gaelic festival of Samhain. Samhain was a time when fairies and spirits were said to be active. The purpose of these lanterns may have been threefold, to light one's way while outside on Samhain night; to represent the spirits and otherworldly beings; and/or to protect oneself and one's home from them.

A staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is the customary 'Pumpkin Pie'. Pumpkin may have been one of the dishes in the first Thanksgiving dinner, not as a pie, but simply cooked and sweetened with honey or syrup. They were certainly a part of traditional meals long before the arrival of pilgrims. Pumpkin is an important symbol of the harvest festival and has been an American favorite for over 400 years.

Pumpkins are the perfect centerpiece for the entire season. Even fresh pumpkins will last for weeks as long as you don't damage the skin. About mid October I find the most beautiful, unusual, perfect pumpkin for the center of the table and then accent it with colored glass gems, candles, gourds and fresh flowers. As a florist, I love Autumn. I love the scents, the colors, the textures and the approach of our glorious Florida winter!

Beginning in September flower wholesalers switch to golds and burgundies, reds and bronzes. The chrysanthemums arrive, along with fall leaves, bittersweet, wheat and rushes. Celebrate the season! Recently it seems Thanksgiving is almost an afterthought, just a precursor to Christmas. Autumn traditions are so beautiful. It is a terrible waste not to be able to enjoy them, but to rush through to the Christmas season.



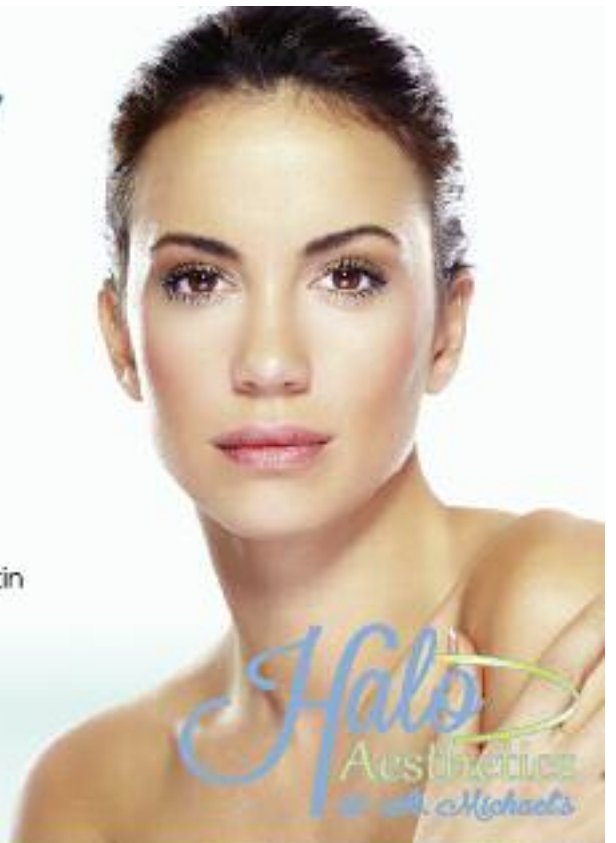
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## AT A CROSSROADS: EDUCATION

By State Senator Jack Latvala

There is little debate education standards play a fundamental role in making sure students receive high-quality academic experiences. Furthermore, standards are crucial to ensure our students can compete internationally and be successful.

Statistics show the U.S. ranks 17th out of 40 countries in overall educational performance. To combat our nation's falling competitiveness, bold education reformers teamed up to review current standards across the US and identify where improvements were needed. I hope this information will dispel rumors or myths about the standards.

Standards are "what" students should learn and are adopted at a state, not federal, level. The State Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in 2010 and those are being implemented in our schools.

The NGSSS, composed of material developed through the Common Core standards, was designed by teachers, parents, education experts, and school administrators; then reviewed by Florida educators, parents and independently evaluated by a state committee. Florida's Legislature does not adopt education standards, but provides their framework. The State Board of Education, chosen by the Governor and approved by the Senate, is responsible for adopting the standards.

The execution of state standards is done at a local level through curriculum and instruction. Individual school districts have the flexibility and responsibility to ensure materials and techniques are appropriate and effective. Families and citizens play an integral role in their communities by working with school districts and teachers to review materials.

Connected to standards and curriculum are assessments. On September 23, 2013, Governor Scott announced the

current Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment does not meet the needs of Florida's students or the expectations of state leaders. There are still unanswered questions raised by Legislators about the PARCC assessment's cost effectiveness, length of testing time, and prescriptive computer-based testing requirements.

The Governor's recent Executive Order makes it clear Florida is not blindly committed to using the current PARCC assessment. Governor Scott has ordered the Commissioner of Education to work on selecting a new assessment for English/Language Arts and Mathematics best measures our students' success in meeting Florida's academic standards.

You may share your comments on these standards by contacting me at [latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov), or by contacting Senator John Legg, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, at [legg.john.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:legg.john.web@flsenate.gov). The Commissioner of Education will also be soliciting public comments via website, e-mail, and public meetings.

The Legislature has always prioritized accountability through measuring student performance, and will continue to work with the Department of Education to find the most accurate and cost-effective assessments work best for Florida.

A major concern I hear from parents is the question of data and monitoring of students. Standards and curriculum do not involve monitoring or tracking. We recognize the importance of measuring student growth to allow educators to improve practices benefiting students. We continue to ensure student records are confidential and protected as Florida law states.

We all want Florida's children to succeed. Setting measurable standards based on a state's curriculum will help improve student performance. Education policy is best managed at the state level and implemented at the local level. If you have any questions, please contact my office (727) 793-2797.

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## More Organizational News

### BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They meet monthly on the second Tuesday. Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. To join, please call Barbara Chapman at 581-8929.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

They are helping to sponsor the Rec Center's annual Halloween Festival - Wednesday, October 30th at 6pm. There will be refreshments, a costume contest, arts and crafts, and several small carnival type games. Admission is free but the carnival games are 20¢ each. Call 462-6138.

There is a Membership Drive underway to attract people who share the goal of keeping the Rec Center, Library and Pool open for all the residents of Clearwater Beach. Dues are only \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Pick up an application at the Rec Center or Library, and become a part of the community.

The organization works to sustain our Beach Library and Recreation Facilities as a viable part of our community. They meet the third Monday of each month at 10am at the Beach Rec Center. New members are always welcome. You are welcome to join them and share your ideas on how to improve things. Call Anne Garris (President) at 446-4410 or Jewels Chandler at 729-4479 for more information.

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Formed in 1947, they celebrated their 66th anniversary in February. They meet 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 from October to May. Membership is \$50 per year. Guests are welcome. Call Barbara Chapman, 581-8929 or E-mail BChapman1234@Gmail.com, to RSVP.

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

Located at 405 Seminole Street, they meet on the second Friday, October through May at 9:30am.

The next regular meeting is November 8th at 10am. The guest speaker Nancy Kast is speaking on the art of growing gesneriads and tropical gardening.

Garden on Saturday, November 16th, 10am will have Cheryl Drew with a program on Solar Light and Making Beaded Hangers.

December 5th is their Fundraiser Fashion Show and Luncheon. The cost is \$15 at the Garden Club

December 13th is their Holiday Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club. The cost is \$25.

December 14th is their monthly meeting and Annual Holiday Luncheon. Bring a homemade side dish to share. Note change of date due to the Holiday

Dues are \$30 for one or \$35 for two from the same family. They have interesting speakers, hands-on events and field trips. New members are welcome! Reach President Cathy Foley at 443-7032.

### CLEARWATER ALL AMERICAN SERTOMA CLUB.

SERTOMA is an acronym for SERVICE TO MANKIND. They are dedicated to helping the less fortunate, specifically those with speech and hearing difficulties. Their main fundraiser is BINGO TIME, played twice a week at Alternate 19 at Curlew Road. They meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month for lunch. For information, call Sand Key resident Charles Fazio at 593-8322.

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## More Organizational News

### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Kids from Calvary's Episcopal Sailing Camp in Indian Rocks Beach participated in a sailing demonstration in front of an audience at the Clearwater Yacht Club in August. Calvary's Father Bob assisted Mayor George Cretokos in cooking a free lunch for the young sailors.

They throw one of the best Halloween parties on the beach on October 26th. It includes a Haunted House inside the clubhouse. There is a costume contest for the scariest, funniest and best overall. There is a delicious 3-course meal and live music. It is for adults and members only. Call 447-6000 for more information.

The Yacht Club is a great place to watch the end of Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade. It is Saturday, December 14th. They reach the Yacht Club about 8:30pm.

If this sounds like your kind of fun, the Club has a special membership promotion currently in effect, as well as a summer membership offering. Now is the time to join! Call or stop by 830 South Bayway Blvd.

### CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual Fall Fish Fry is Saturday, November 2 at their museum at the Plumb House in Ed Wright Park. The fun begins at 11:30am and goes until 1:30pm. Donations for the fish fry are \$12 adults, \$6 for kids. The Plumb House at 1380 South MKL Jr Avenue is currently the home of the museum. You don't have to be old to join the Historical Society and attend this event. Call David Albritton at 481-5102 for more information.

The Historical Society is pursuing a partnership with the Pinellas County School Board and the City of Clearwater for a museum to be located at the South Ward Elementary School site which is vacant. A committee headed by Dean Robinson has determined that the cost to convert the school site to a museum is more than they can afford. They are seeking a solution to make this happen.

The Clearwater Historical Society will be promoting fundraisers in the near future to help raise money for the move. Memberships are \$5 students, \$10 individuals, \$20 family, \$150 corporate. If anyone has an interest to be involved with CHS, please call President David Albritton at (727) 481-5102, Bill Wallace at (727) 446-2676 or Mike Sanders at (727) 434-1684.

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held October 8th with speakers presenting both sides of the proposed new Clearwater Marine Aquarium project. Next meetings are November 6 and December 4

They meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. You can reach current president Arlene Musselwhite at 644-7524. Their web site is [www.SKCA.org](http://www.SKCA.org).

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

Their Lighted Boat Parade is December 14th. It is not too late to enter your boat, and you do not have to be member to enter. Call Scott Sanders at 461-3949. The Island Estates Yacht Club Parade is one of the largest and most popular marine events in the Clearwater Area.

Call Scott Sanders at 461-3949, Laura Lee Bernard at 442-1978 or Sue Speck at 446-0682, for club info.

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## POLICING OUR WATERS

Who wouldn't want to a job that paid you to ride around in a boat all day? That is what these people do but, it really is work.

The Clearwater Police Department created their marine unit two years ago. It is assigned to District 1 (Clearwater Beach) and it is part of their Anti-Crime Division. The unit operates a 23-foot Contender Open Fisherman with a 250 HP engine. It is docked behind the Police Sub-Station on Bayway Drive, on the south end of the beach.

Two primary officers, Officer Shane Cason and Officer Christian Zarro, run the boat. They are overseen by Sargent Jeff DiVincent. Five or six other officers have been trained in water safety and also help patrol by boat.

The Boat Patrol is a part-time function of the Police Department, being used more in the summer months when boat traffic is heaviest and less in the fall and winter. They are out on busy weekends, especially big boating holidays, during special events such as boat races and holiday lighted boat parade, and whenever else they are needed. They are there to protect and serve and to stop you if you appear to be operating your boat in an unsafe manner.

Their presence is most obvious to boaters in Clearwater Pass. They enforce the go slow, minimum wake zone in front of Shephards. They inspect boats for fishing infractions. They frequently stop jet-skis being operated unsafely. They are called on derelict vessel issues, too.

"Most of us were chosen because we love boating," says Officer Cason. "Most of the guys working the Police Boat own boats, too. We frequently take calls from other boaters reporting unsafe operators. We also get calls reporting Manatee in the channels and Intracoastal."

The Police Boat recently worked during the Clearwater Superboat Races. "Our boat is small; we primarily escorted some race boats from the Seminole Boat Ramp to the Clearwater Pass. During the race, we monitored the area between the beach and the race course to keep small boats and swimmers out of the way."

They work very closely with the other area agencies including the Pinellas Sheriff's Marine Unit, the Coast Guard Sand Key and Fish and Wildlife. "If they need us, they call us and vice versa," says Officer Cason.

When they are not patrolling Clearwater's waters, they work the streets in Clearwater Beach, some in cars while others are plainclothes officers.

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## READY FOR "THE NEXT BIG THING?"

**Big Brother Big Sisters of Pinellas County Calls All COUPLES to Action!**

Did you know that 1 out of 5 African American boys in Pinellas County will graduate from High School this year? This is an alarming reality that haunts Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas every day, but you can help them make a difference... especially if you're a couple.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas launched The Next BIG Thing on October 1st; the very first Big Couples campaign in BBBS history! The campaign will run for 50 days with the goal of recruiting 50 new Big Couples to remove 50 boys from the agency's waiting list. There are currently over 200 children ready to be matched!

What's a Big Couple, you ask? As a Big Couple you and your long-term significant other become "Bigs" otherwise known as adult mentors, to a young boy waiting for someone to guide him down the path to success.

The three of you can do things together or spend time with your "Little" individually. Your presence has the power to enrich a child's life by exposing him to things he would otherwise never get to experience. From simple activities like playing catch in the park to eating a hot dog at a Tampa Bay Rays game, the possibilities are endless.

There are 744 hours in the average month; it only takes 4-8 hours to be a Big Couple. It's easy to get started:

1. Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters: Call 727.518.8860 or visit [www.bbbspc.org](http://www.bbbspc.org)
2. Pick a Program:
  - Community based: meeting with the child for four hours each month to spend quality time together in the community.
  - Sports Buddies: an extension of Community Based, this program stems from building an instant friendship from a common interest, sports.
  - School based: meeting with the child on school grounds for one hour per week; your visit will typically range from playing on the play ground to helping with academic work or simply talking about your day. You are not responsible for seeing the child when school is not in session.
3. Interview & Training session with one of our degreed Match Managers
4. Match; meet your new Little Brother!

What are you waiting for, Couples?! Call us today to be a part of The Next BIG Thing.

### ABOUT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"). The organization has been in existence for more than 100 years at a national level, and more than 45 years locally. (since 1967) Big Brothers Big Sisters provides a system of ongoing evaluation and support which is proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that "Littles" will perform better in school and avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and others.

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## 13TH ANNUAL "HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS"

*Sponsored by the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.*

This season's Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be open from November 29, 2013 through January 1, 2014 every evening, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Visitors will share the holiday spirit and enjoy the beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens (FBG) as it sparkles with the warmth of the season. Strolling through the shining Botanical Gardens has become a community tradition, and adds a festive touch to the winter months. A dedication to sustainability shines through with environmentally friendly LED lights – more than three quarters of a million twinkling lights in all -- while the Gardens glow and grow with tropical plants, roses, fruits, herbs, hibiscus, and bromeliads,

Volunteer FBG Foundation Board members work throughout the year to design and plan this winter wonderland. Planning begins in January as volunteers start the process of updating displays, taking inventory and contacting potential sponsors. The biggest challenge is creating a new design that creates the "wow" factor for our visitors.

In addition to laser lights, flora and fauna displays, and decorated trees, there will be several new displays. To add to the popular gingerbread boy and girl displays, there will be a 7' gingerbread house with over 600 LED lights. And what would the holidays be without a train? A four-piece animated train display with 1,250 LED lights will delight the child in all of us. Other new displays include a 30" tall white swan and a 5' tropical parrot. Entrances will also be lit by new 12' palm trees to help guide the way for our visitors.

Hundreds of community volunteers provide support to the event by welcoming guests at the entrances, creating schedules and providing entertainment. Specialized and skilled entertainers offer their time, providing a musical background to the beauty of the Garden. Entertainment includes jazz, ballet, blue grass, folk, choral and, of course, Santa.

Those wishing to volunteer for this year's event should call the Foundation office at 727-582-2117 or email [cscaffidi@pinellascounty.org](mailto:cscaffidi@pinellascounty.org).

Each evening food and beverages are available for sale. The cost of the purchasing new lights and displays, and installing the lights is underwritten by the FBG Foundation. To cover that cost and to allow the Foundation to continue to financially support the Gardens a minimum donation of \$2 per person is suggested from our guests over age 12. Sponsorship opportunities are also available to help defray the cost. Please call 727-582-2247 for more information.

The FBG Foundation hosts two other special events that occur during the December. The Gift and Plant Sale is on December 8 from 10:00am to 4:00pm and the Dog Parade is on December 29 at 1:00pm.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located in Largo, Florida. Parking is available at either 12520 Ulmerton Road or 12211 Walsingham Road.

Information: (727) 582-2100 or visit either: [www.facebook.com/FloridaBotanicalGardensFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/FloridaBotanicalGardensFoundation) or [www.flbg.org](http://www.flbg.org).

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## FESTIVAL OF TREES, TAMPA BAY "SANTA'S WORKSHOP"

### Celebrating UPARC's 50TH Anniversary

The UPARC Foundation is pleased to announce the annual Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay, which will be held in the gymnasiums at the Long Center on N. Belcher Road in Clearwater from November 22 to 24. The Festival is a three day family-oriented holiday extravaganza featuring more than 100 one-of-a-kind trees, wreaths, centerpieces and handcrafted ornaments, creatively decorated by local artists, businesses and community leaders, all of which will be for sale.

The Premier Night Gala, in honor UPARC's 50th Anniversary, is scheduled for the evening of November 22 and will kick off the festivities. Guests will enjoy both Live and Silent Auctions, libations, live entertainment and fine cuisine from area restaurants while searching for the perfect tree for their home, office or favorite charity. Tickets for Premiere Night are \$75, with a special Junior Ticket for attendees under 30 for \$50.

Throughout the three day event there will be special appearances from Santa. A variety of vendors will be situated throughout the "Winter Wonderland" of trees, selling handcrafted and specialty items perfect for holiday gift giving. Entertainment by local choral and dance groups has been scheduled to perform each day. Santa Saturday will feature food trucks, a craft area and milk and cookies.

General Admission to the Festival is \$5 per person and children 10 and under are free. Hours of operation are Friday, November 22 - 9am to 5pm, Saturday, November 23 - 9am to 8pm and Sunday, November 24, 11am to 5pm. Senior Day is Friday, November 22 with "Buy One Get One Free" General Admission tickets for everyone 65 years of age or older. Please contact the UPARC Foundation at (727) 797-8712 for further ticket information.

Proceeds from the Festival will help ensure that UPARC, an outstanding not-for-profit community organization with an international reputation for providing the highest quality services to people who have developmental disabilities, remains "A Spirit of Hope for the Developmentally Challenged". Since its incorporation in the 60s UPARC, Inc. has demonstrated a history of service, innovation and excellence in caring for those with developmental disabilities and has served hundreds of individuals and their families in the upper Pinellas County area, the largest member of the Florida Arc. Today UPARC provides almost 400 individuals with day programs from recreational and life skill classes to supported employment programs. 19 group homes offer environments where clients thrive among their peers or, for our higher functioning clients we offer a private, supported living apartment. The hallmark of UPARC is ensuring our clients live a full life of dignity and respect.

Tree Decorators and Volunteers are needed. Sponsorship opportunities are also available by calling the UPARC Foundation at (727) 797-8712. For more information about the 2013 Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay or to register to Volunteer, visit the UPARC Foundation website at [www.uparcfoundation.org/fot.htm](http://www.uparcfoundation.org/fot.htm). Come and kick off your holiday season with UPARC. Your support makes a difference and is needed now more than ever!

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## CONNECT WITH TAMPA BAY

By Nanette O'Hara, Public Outreach Coordinator, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

The arrival of fall in Florida means we can all enjoy outdoor activities without feeling like we're inside a furnace! This is a great time to explore the natural beauty of Tampa Bay, one of only 28 "estuaries of national significance" designated by Congress.

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program, an intergovernmental partnership that assists in protecting the bay, has a variety of tools and programs to help you connect with this special body of water in our own backyard.

Recreational fishing is the most popular water-based activity in the region. Before you cast a line into the bay, make sure you know what fish are legal to keep by downloading our Ethical Anger Wallet Card at <http://tbep.org/pdfs/Wallet-Card-Sept-2013.pdf>. Printed, foldable cards also are available at many bait and tackle shops.

Our Boating and Angling Guide to Tampa Bay is also a must-have reference. The Guide features a large map of the bay showing boat ramps, channels, speed zones, and important natural resources like seagrass beds and bird nesting islands. Email [colleen@tbep.org](mailto:colleen@tbep.org) to order yours.

Wondering where to start your personal Tampa Bay adventure? Check out the "Enjoy Tampa Bay Responsibly" section of website at [http://tbep.org/enjoy\\_tbep.html](http://tbep.org/enjoy_tbep.html) for tips on cool things to see and do, such as kayaking, bird watching, or hiking in a nature preserve.

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, help us restore the bay by volunteering for one of our "Give A Day For The

Bay" workdays, held on Saturday mornings at various parks and preserves.

Workdays to remove invasive plants and replant natural areas with native vegetation are scheduled for November 16, December 14, and in January, March and April of 2014. Learn more or join our volunteer list at <http://tbep.org/help/giveaday.html>. We'll even feed you lunch!

Climate change is an emerging critical issue that will affect all of us who live along the coast. Water levels in Tampa Bay already have risen an average of one inch per decade over the last 60 years and are expected to rise another 10 inches or more this century. Get a sneak preview of how rising sea levels might impact our shorelines, structures and communities by viewing our King Tide Traveling Photo Exhibit at Weedon Island Preserve this November and December. "King" Tides are a common name for the highest tides of the year; the exhibit features photos taken during the King Tides of 2012 by residents from all over Tampa Bay, and from all over the world, as a way to raise awareness of sea level rise.

These are just a few ideas to motivate you to get out and discover the habitats and inhabitants of wild and wonderful Tampa Bay. For more info, visit us at [www.tbep.org](http://www.tbep.org) or give us a call at (727) 893-2765.



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# Downtown Aquarium Project

## A VISION FOR SUCCESS

### Understanding the Facts & the Potential



#### Facts

- Referendum scheduled for November 5th and, if passed, only authorizes CMA to use the land to build and pay for an aquarium.
- **No General revenue of the City's** will be expended to design, construct, operate or maintain the aquarium.
- **Taxpayers will have no obligation for CMA's Debt.** In the unlikely event the aquarium was not successful, creditors would only have two options.
  1. Replace management and operate the aquarium
  2. Disassemble the building, sell the assets and give the land back to the City.
- The land will remain owned by the Citizens of Clearwater and CMA will be solely responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility.
- CMA will pay for the relocation of all easements
- Lease Term – 60 Years
- Terms – Variable Rent: \$.50 charge for each sold ticket up to \$7.5 million plus interest until City Hall is paid for; then fixed payments of \$250,000/yr for remainder of lease term.
- City will have at least 180 days notice to vacate City Hall.
- CMA pays for the demolition of City Hall.
- All Funds for construction must be committed to and a performance bond in place by 8/1/16 or the project will be abandoned and City Hall will remain in place.
- Parking garage – CMA may either donate land to City to build and operate a garage on a mutually agreeable site or, CMA will build and operate it at its own expense.
- CMA will reimburse City to relocate as many as 4 tennis courts (\$75,000 each).
- If referendum passes, the City may consider an extension of the lease of Harborview Center until 60 days after the grand opening of the new facility.
- At the end of the lease term, the City will have the option to:
  1. Re-lease the land and buildings to the Aquarium for its continued operation.
  2. Take back possession of the land and do with it whatever is in the best interest of the Citizens of Clearwater.
- A downtown aquarium has the potential to stimulate redevelopment.

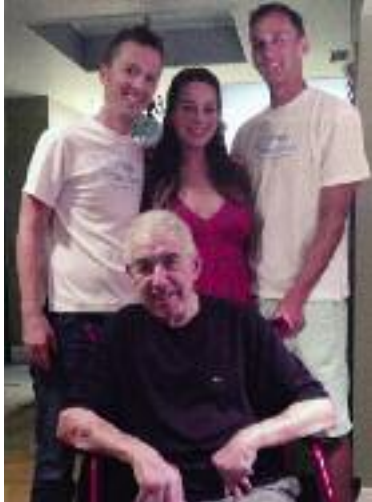


CLEARWATER MARINE  
AQUARIUM

## RUNNING FOR HER DAD

By Bob Griffin

When Domenique 'Nikki' Pulli (24) and Jeremy Holland (28) aren't running to get food on your table at the Palm Pavilion, they training to run in the NYC Marathon. Nikki works in the kitchen and Jeremy has been a waiter there for 5 years. They met while working at the restaurant.



Nikki's dad was a well-known Major League Baseball umpire in the 1970s. He was also well respected within the National Baseball League and recalled the historic game when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record. When he retired, he moved to the Tampa Bay area. Shortly afterwards, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, the same disease Michael J. Fox has.

"He had a ten year long battle with it before he died this year," says his daughter Nikki.

Jeremy, her friend at The Palm was a runner and had entered many area races, two of them full marathons. "I noticed that many of the races are for the benefit of a charity," Jeremy says. "I suggested to Nikki that we form a team and run in a marathon to raise money for a Parkinson's charity." The only problem was Nikki was not a runner; she never had been. But, she liked the idea.

Jeremy had some friends that attended this year Boston marathon and it gave him the idea to think big. "Let's do the NYC Marathon," he proposed.

So that was the beginning. The first thing they did was form a team, named Team Pulli, after for her dad. They recruited a third runner, Price Richardson. Jeremy designed their logo with a baseball and the Parkinson's Association logo on it.

The next step was to start raising money. Jeremy donates all his tips every Tuesday night. Ken Hamilton, owner of the Palm Pavillion bought all the employees Team Pulli shirts to wear every Tuesday. They also printed posters and flyers.

Nikki and Jeremy train almost every day and practice on the Pinellas Trail and the beaches. Nikki's training runs are 15 - 20 miles at a time. The New York City Marathon, like all marathons is just over 26 miles.

"The objective is not to run fast. It is to get there and finish. Of course, it is also to raise money for our charity, the Michael J. Fox Foundation," says Nikki proudly. "We told my dad what we were doing before he died and he was very happy and proud."

The NYC Marathon is November 3rd. Tuesday, October 29, the Palm Pavilion plans to have a big send-off party for the three-member team. There will be one final big push to raise more money that final week.

You can donate to Team Pulli at [www.MichaelJFox.org](http://www.MichaelJFox.org). Find more information on Parkinson's disease at [www.APDAParkinson.org](http://www.APDAParkinson.org).



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## AMERICANS LOVE HALLOWEEN

Over \$5 billion a year is spent in our country celebrating Halloween. But how did traditions like asking strangers for food and dressing up as ghosts develop?



Halloween has its roots in an ancient harvest festival Samhain, held at the end of the Celtic year. It marked the end of

summer and the beginning of winter. They believed spirits of the dead returned during Samhain to damage crops and play tricks on them. During bonfire celebrations, Celtic priests wore animal skins while sacrificing crops and animals to the spirits.

When the Romans arrived in England, Scotland and Northern France, they brought their own holiday, Feralia. Also in late October, it was the day they honored the dead.

In the eighth century, with the spread of Christianity, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 All Saints Day, likely to replace Samhain. It was a similar but holier holiday honoring saints and martyrs. Later, it was renamed "All Hallows" and Samhain on Oct. 31st began to be called "All Hallows Eve," before it was shortened to "Hallowe'en."

All of these holidays involved dressing up in one way or another. The celebrators of Samhain wore animal skins, those that observed "All Saints Day" dressed as angels or saints, some would impersonate the dead that day, explaining our ghoulish tradition.

The first trick-or-treaters were far from today's smiling children with commercialized costumes. They lived in

Medieval England, and practiced "souling," in which poor people would beg for sweet breads, in return for praying for the families' souls. During the mid-1800s, Irish and English immigrants brought Halloween to the U.S., where trick-or-treating develop into their own version, but it didn't become popular here until the 1930s.

### Fun Halloween Facts:

1) **Halloween Is The Second Highest Grossing Commercial Holiday After Christmas** - Between lights, lawn ornaments, costumes and loads of candy, the average American spends about \$65 on this holiday.

2) **Harry Houdini Died On October 31, 1926** - The magician was accidentally killed by a student who hit him in the stomach repeatedly as part of a stunt. He died from a ruptured appendix when he refused medical treatment.

3) **Phobias For That** - Samhainophobia is an intense and persistent fear of Halloween that causes panic attacks. Other phobias for this time of year: phasmophobia (fear of ghosts), coimetrophobia (fear of cemeteries) and wiccaphobia (fear of witches).

4) **Jack-O-Lanterns Weren't Always Pumpkins** - Irish tradition was to carve faces of the dead on hollowed-out turnips, then later on gourds with candles inside to make them glow. Today's Jack-O-Lantern is usually a pumpkin, which most likely was grown in Illinois--a state that grew 542 million pounds of pumpkin in 2007.

5) **A Quarter Of All The Candy Sold Each Year Is For Halloween** - Four out of ten adults admit to sneaking sweets from the candy bowl. 90% of parents admit to sneaking candy from their kids' trick-or-treat bags. While Americans consume 20 million pounds of candy corn a year, Snickers Bars has been the number one Halloween treat for years.

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## MOVE OVER CINDERELLA INTRODUCING FRAXEL MAX

The Magic Wand For The Ultimate Skin Makeover

By Stephanie Schlageter, Radiance Medspa



You live in Florida, which almost guarantees you love sun. Unfortunately, years of outdoor fun can leave even the most diligent sunscreen wearer with discoloration, fine wrinkles and poor skin texture. Luckily, there is a solution worthy of a Fairy Godmother. With a wave of a nearly-magic wand, brown spots, fine lines and scars can disappear. That magic wand is Fraxel Max. It's the latest advancement to Fraxel, the in-office procedure that, for the past decade, has left hundreds of thousands with improved skin pigment and texture, reduced fine lines and wrinkles, and relief from other conditions that can spoil an enchanted evening.

Fraxel Max is a non-invasive laser treatment that penetrates the top layers of the skin to thermally damage them and stimulate new collagen production. Fraxel Max resurfaces the skin, and lets your own natural healing process slough off, smooth away and eliminate brown and red spots, acne scars and wrinkles. It even tightens skin at the same time. The Fraxel Max treatment literally stimulates the body to create new, healthier skin.

Fraxel when performed by itself offers significant results. When paired with other non-surgical technologies at the same time, the treatment is referred to Fraxel Max and it can provide a life-changing outcome. This advanced skin resurfacing protocol produces dramatic results in just four visits, approximately one month apart. Since sun avoidance is necessary before and after each of the treatments, Fall is the perfect season to start resurfacing the skin.

Just as magic should be, Fraxel Max is nearly painless. Prior, a topical numbing cream is applied to the skin, and during treatment, patients describe a prickly, heat sensation. Following treatment, patients experience mild swelling and redness similar to a sunburn, and in 2-3 days, fresh, new skin begins to appear. There is no downtime because makeup can be applied right away.

If you are considering Fraxel Max, look for a Fairy Godmother you trust. In Florida, only Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Medical Doctors are permitted to perform Cosmetic Laser Treatments like Fraxel Max. Find a trained, experienced professional who will not only wave the magic Fraxel wand, but also suggest a comprehensive treatment plan to have you looking and feeling like a princess.

For information about Fraxel Max, contact Radiance Medspa at 727-518-7100 or visit [radiancemedspa.com](http://radiancemedspa.com). Radiance Medspa is in its 8th year at 2894 West Bay Drive in Belleair Bluffs.

## BROWNS BACKERS NEWEST CHAPTER IN INDIAN ROCKS

The Browns Backers Worldwide (BBW) one of the largest organized Fan Clubs in professional sports, has a newly sanctioned chapter in Indian Rocks Beach. The president of the club is Bill Dotson and the official viewing site for all Browns NFL regular season games is Slyce Pizza Bar. The organization brings Cleveland Browns Fans together to support the Browns, and to work with charities chosen by the local chapters. There are over 360 clubs in 10 different countries. For information, visit [BrownsBackersIRB.com](http://BrownsBackersIRB.com), [www.facebook.com/bbibrb](http://www.facebook.com/bbibrb) or on twitter @BrownsBackerIRB

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## OUR SUMMER EVENINGS AS A TURTLE NEST SITTER

by Jo Nocera

Summer is over and so is the turtle nesting season on the Gulf Coast, which runs from May to October.

My husband, Bert and I have spent the last four summers watching turtle nests from Sand Key down to Indian Shores. We volunteer through the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. It all began when Bert and my son were on Indian Rocks Beach one evening and came across a caged nest that had hatched. As there were no nest sitters around, they called the phone number shown on the nest, and soon a "captain" from the aquarium came to release the turtles. It is quite a sight to see those tiny turtles swimming frantically into the surf. This sparked our interest and we signed up to volunteer the following year.



The reason nests have restraining cages placed on them is because turtles hatching at night are normally drawn to the surf, but because of bright lights in buildings along the beach, they become disoriented and head toward the buildings. It is the goal of Clearwater Marine Aquarium to educate the public and not cage any nests. They have successfully decreased the number of caged nests each year. Bright lights also affect nesting sea turtles, as they lay after dark and are extremely sensitive to light. In our area, which is from Clearwater to St. Pete Beach, we see mostly Loggerhead turtles.

Now, you need to know the odds of seeing a nest actually hatch are slim. We have spent many a night enjoying the quiet breezes and the shooting stars, but not seeing any turtles hatch. We often equate nest sitting to watching paint dry. Not very exciting for hours on end, checking the nest every thirty minutes for signs of turtles trying to dig their way out. Then suddenly there will be a depression or a small hole and soon anywhere from 50 to 130 hatchlings will be swarming the cage, climbing on top of each other looking for a way out. At the first sign of hatching we call our captain. There are a handful of dedicated people who are allowed to handle the turtles. The turtles must be removed from the cage, counted, collected in a bucket and taken to the waters edge. There we dig a trench and release the turtles into the trench, watching for any that are disoriented and head back to the beach. All those boring hours are forgotten in the excitement of giving nature a helping hand.

Loggerheads are currently listed as threatened and it is estimated that only one in one thousand hatchlings will survive to adulthood.

If you would like to volunteer or would like to know more about how you can make your lighting turtle friendly, contact the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Go to [www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com) and follow the quick link to volunteer.



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## THANKFUL FOR THANKSGIVING ...and the chance to break bread with special people!

By Chef Dawn Bause, 313-618-6559

Owner Cooking with Dawn Tours and Tastings

Even though Thanksgiving is over a month away, it's not too early to start thinking about your Thanksgiving Day dinner. Whether you're cooking the entire meal or bringing a dish to someone's house ~ planning ahead is the key.

I know that Thanksgiving can be a high stress time in the kitchen. Even I have been known to get the Thanksgiving Day jitters and have yelled at my poor husband in the midst of it all. But over the years I have come up with some tips for reducing stress and making it more of the celebration it's suppose to be.

You'll want to start your preparation a good week or two ahead. Remember you're not just doing this just for Thanksgiving, you're organizing your kitchen, fridge, pantry and cupboards for the whole holiday season.

1. Start with a brightly colored file folder. Write down your list of "Things to Do" and put it in the folder. Decide upon your menu, gather your recipes and put them in the folder. Keep that folder out on the counter where you can see it and find it.

2. Next, make your shopping list, and yes, put it in the folder, but wait before you begin shopping.

3. You have to clean and organize your refrigerator and freezer to make room for the ingredients you'll be buying, and the dishes you're going to make ahead.

4. Locate the pots, pans, serving dishes, and utensils you need for the meal. Clean the silverware, china and crystal. (Note: I love using the disposable aluminum roasting pans

for baking, storing and warming the side dishes). There are half pans and large roasting pans. You need a large one for the turkey, and a few half pans for your side dishes. The best part is I throw them out after dinner; my treat to myself and guests. There will be no scrubbing pans Thanksgiving day!

5. Recruit helpers to go shopping with you, to unpack the groceries, and to help prep. Where is it written one person is supposed to do everything? Half the fun of a big celebration is the preparation and it's simply selfish on your part not to share this with someone else who will be attending. Spouse, friend, neighbor, grandchild, someone, anyone! And remember, the kitchen is everyone's place on Thanksgiving so invite guests in to help serve and clean up. This is "Thanksgiving" we're thankful to have each other in our lives. And we're thankful to be here and able to help.

6. Prep up as much as you can a day or two ahead. Some things can even be made the weekend before.

7. Buy some extra containers for left-overs or find ones you have with the tops, so clean up goes faster.

8. Last, but not least, set the table a day or two ahead, and then clean up the house before the guests start arriving.

This year I'm serving the traditional dishes with a new twist. Turkey of course, with Tequila Pan Gravy, Mashed Potatoes with Butternut Squash, French Green Beans with Butter Sauce and Crispy Leeks, Sangria Cranberry Sauce, and Bourbon Pumpkin Pie. In case you haven't noticed, there's a theme to my dishes with the addition of wine and spirits. " Yes, I cook with wine, and sometimes I even put it in the food!" Here's a toast to a grateful heart!

[www.CookingwithDawn.com](http://www.CookingwithDawn.com), [AskDawnNow@aol.com](mailto:AskDawnNow@aol.com)

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