Taver Bayly was the second son of Philip J. (P.J.) Bayly and his wife, the former Emma Lowe. A very well-known citrus farmer in the late 1800s, P.J owned most of the land south of today’s West Bay Drive, west of Indian Rocks Road—all the way to the water’s edge. Until World War II, this land along the western shore of Belleair Bluffs was still referred to as Bayly’s Bluffs. The family had seven children, four boys and three girls: Ted, Taver, Philip, Bessy, Harriet, Dorothy and Cyril. “Taver, the second born was the responsible one,” says Sandy Cornett Jamieson, Taver’s granddaughter.

Bayly left for school, but tragically in his final year of college, his father died and he returned home to settle the estate and care for those brothers and sisters still at home. Eventually, most left for college or to live with relatives, but five-year-old Cyril stayed with his brother.

Bayly needed a job. He talked to T.C. Taliaferro, Sr. of Tampa, who was the Chairman of the Board at the People’s Bank of Clearwater. Taliaferro suggested Bayly work for him in Clearwater. Bayly admitted he didn’t know anything about banking. “That doesn’t matter,” said Taliaferro “We’ll start you at the bottom.” Bayly started as a bookkeeper behind the scenes. Later, he moved to a teller position, interacting with the public. “He had a wonderful personality; people loved him,” says Phyllis Bayly Jones, his third daughter.

Developers Dean and Donald Alvord, a father and son team, designed a community south of town called Harbor Oaks. Bayly bought their first lot at 301 Jasmine Way at Druid Road. But, he argued with the developers over the home’s design which was to be a two-story northern-styled home. At the time, Bayly had no family and wanted a smaller single-story design that he said would have better ventilation. He prevailed and after it was built the style became known as the Florida bungalow.

Soon after he built his house, he met Eloise Mabry, the sister of Dale Mabry. They married and had three daughters: Ann, Patricia and Phyllis; all were born at Morton Plant Hospital. “All my boys are girls,” he used to say with a laugh.

In 1912, Bayly joined the City’s first militia. When Pinellas became a county, he stood on the doorsteps of the courthouse, with a gun to prohibit the building from being raided and the courthouse being relocated to St Petersburg.

In 1914, when the community decided to build Morton Plant Hospital, he was part of the fundraising committee. When the hospital opened in 1916, they lacked a financial manager and Bayly volunteered, at no charge.

He would walk to the hospital in the early hours of the morning to spend an hour with head nurse Miss Lillian Hollohan. He then wrote any checks they needed and tallied the books. By 7 am, he would walk ten blocks north to the corner of Cleveland Street and Ft Harrison Avenue to report for his teller job at People’s Bank by 8 am.

By 1918, Morton Plant Hospital was able to stand on its own and Bayly joined the Board of Directors. For the next 20 years, he served as their treasurer. When Morton Plant, the hospital’s founder, died the next year, Bayly joined the Board of Directors for Plant’s Belleview Hotel, which later became the Biltmore Hotel.

Bayly continued to move up the banking ladder working in every position. He was at People’s Bank during the Crash of 1929 when many banks folded. Donald Roebling, a rich neighbor and depositor, made a large deposit to express his faith in the bank. Because the people of Clearwater trusted Roebling, his “bailout deposit” tamed tempers and concerns, keeping the bank open. After the crash, People’s Bank merged with First National of Clearwater and Bayly became a vice-president. By the late 1940s, he was the president.

Continued inside
CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

APRIL
Sugar Sand Festival 15-24
Earth Day 22
Evening With Chefs Sheraton Sand Key 22
Administrative Professionals Day 27
Blast Friday Cleveland Street 29
Arbor Day 29
Free Tree Giveaway 30
Battle Of The Local Bands 30

MAY
Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
Tour Of Botanical Gardens Foundation 1
Annual AmeriLife Foundation Concert 1
Clearwater Free Clinic Golf Tournament 2
Teacher Appreciation Week 2-6
Cinco De Mayo 5
Taste Test Restaurant Week 6
Fish Fry Clearwater Historical Society 7
Derby Day 7
Boat Yard Bash 7
Sea Turtle Awareness Day 7
Mother’s Day 8
Spring Social IECA Island Way Grill 10
Restaurant Week 13-22

Bomber Day Golf Tournament 14
Postal Workers Food Drive 14
Stone Crab Season Ends 15
Sunset Run Sand Key Park 20
Rowdies First Home Game 21
Armed Forces Day 21
Hands Across The Sands 21
Swim Across America 21
Safe Boating Week 23-29
Blast Friday 27
Memorial Day 30
Public Schools Closed 30

JUNE
Hurricane Season Begins 1
Ramadan Begins 1
Sunset Run At Sand Key Park 3
Last Day Public School 7
Chamber Of Commerce Annual Dinner 7
Flag Day 14
National Garbage Man Day 17
Father’s Day Sunday 19
Summer Begins Monday 20
Family Fun Nights Beach Pool 24
Both born and raised in Italy, our founders, Cesare and Carlo, know what an authentic Italian meal means. Family and friends gathering around to enjoy each other's company with a glass of wine and the perfect dish. Come savor Italy's finest flavors including homemade pastas, pappardelle with wild mushrooms, ossobuco milanese, filet mignon in a brandy sauce, fresh seafood, veal classics and homemade desserts. You can dine in or al fresco overlooking the water and Sand Key Bridge while being pampered by our professional staff.
Did You Know...

SEA TURTLE AWARENESS DAY Clearwater Marine Aquarium is kicking off sea turtle nesting season by raising awareness about sea turtles and sea turtle nesting. Each year loggerhead sea turtles arrive on our beaches, sometimes from thousands of miles away. These turtles return to the beaches where they were born, decades before. Sea Turtle Awareness Day is bringing awareness to good environmental practices that we can all participate in, as we share the beaches with sea turtles. Join them Saturday, May 7, at Pier 60 Clearwater Beach from 9am - noon. Visit www.seewinter.com/turtleawareness for info.

5K RUNS RELOCATE The popular Summer Sunset Runs, previously held on Clearwater Beach near Pier 60, have been moved to the Sand Key Park across the bridge. There are four races this year - May 20, June 3, July 1 and July 15. Kids races start at 6:45pm and the 5K starts at 7pm. Get more information, or register at www.WCYRC.com.

37TH ANNUAL BOATYARD BASH On May 7, the Brown Boxer, assisted by the Rotary Club Clearwater Beach, will sponsor the Boatyard Bash benefiting the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Moffitt Cancer Center. The event began in 1979 and was held in the aquarium parking lot until it was no longer available. This year it will be held at Coachman Park near the downtown Marina from 6 pm until 11pm. Individuals may purchase wristbands for entrance at $25 per person, which covers music, beer, and a main dish. Attendees may provide their own sides and dessert and other libations of their choice. The grassy area in front of the Coachman Park stage is reserved and will be open during the day for attendees to set up tables, chairs, etc. for their convenience. The bands playing are Charlie Ho, followed by Derek Scheib and No Filters. To purchase wristbands, contact Alex at 727-237-8037 or Gator at 727-517-0159.

GOLF TOURNAMENT The John Meek, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting the Clearwater Free Clinic is being held May 2 at the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club. Get more information at ClearwaterFreeClinic.org/Golf.

FISHING TOURNAMENT The Clearwater Yacht Club is holding their Inaugural Fishing Tournament on June 11th. This 50/50 tournament is open to Yacht Club members and to the public. The cost to participate is $15 per fisherman and you can bring your own boat or ride along with someone else. Fisherman may keep their fish, or donate them to the Club for the Fish Fry following the tournament. For more information, email thomasjmeyer64@gmail.com.
Ken Hamilton was recently surprised, but honored, to be named Mr. Clearwater recently by the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce. This is the Chamber’s highest honor. Hamilton, now its CEO, has spent nearly 40 years running the Palm Pavilion, his family’s business that his father bought 52 years ago. In addition to being a seasoned restaurateur, he donates his time to hospitals, schools and homeless efforts.

“If I had known I was getting this award, I would have worn a tie,” Hamilton laughed at the end of the evening. His three brothers, Dale, Hoyt and Wade, also are responsible for running The Palm.

Boaters will soon see “No Wake Manatee Protected Area” signs popping up between the Clearwater Mainland and Island Estates. The FWC plans to start installing the new signs soon. One area is north of the Memorial Causeway and southeast of Island Estates. The other area is east of the Intracoastal Waterway and north of the Seminole Boat Ramp area. These areas are very shallow and most boaters do not travel through there. The actual Intracoastal Waterway channel will not be changed in the Clearwater area. Look for signs as early as this summer.

The Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron will be hosting state Certified Safe Boating course quarterly now, instead of monthly. Certified instructors conduct the class. The cost is $45 which includes the text, all material and lunch. Topics include boat types, navigation rules, channel marker systems and new federal laws. This course is aimed at getting you back to port safely. Classes will be held on the following Saturdays June 11, September 10, and December 10. The Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron is located at 1000 Cleveland Street. For additional information, call 447-8775 or 441-8775 or visit www.ClearwaterPowerSquadron.org.

Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, hormones, pain medications, antidepressants, and even illegal drugs are being found in our drinking water and waterways. For years, we were told to flush unused medication down the sink or toilet. Do NOT do this. Instead remove them from their original containers, crush them, place them in a sealable bag or container and add an undesirable substance, such as coffee grounds, dirt or kitty litter to make it less appealing to children and pets and unrecognizable to people who may go through the trash seeking drugs. If you prefer, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Operation Medicine Cabinet allows you to drop off expired or unused medications during business hours at The Sheriff’s Admin Building at 10750 Ulmerton Rd. Largo or North District Office at 737 Louden Ave. Dunedin.

Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.
BOCCE BALL ON THE BEACH

Bocce Ball is the newest sport offered at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center. The Friends of the Clearwater Beach Rec Center, Library and Pool recently purchased a set of Bocce Balls. It's available at the Beach Recreation Center for people who want to try out the game.

It's actually a very old game, popular in ancient Egypt. It was brought to Rome during the time of the Emperor Augustus and has been popular, especially in Europe, but only made an appearance on Clearwater Beach when motel visitors of Italian descent brought their own special balls and began to play next to McKay Field.

Each year, the same group of Bocce enthusiasts gathered to compete until the City of Clearwater turned their play area into a small parking lot. Dismayed at the loss of their game, the visitors, with some help from local residents, asked City Hall to “do something.” Consequently, a court was built on the north end of McKay Field. The Bocce Ball court was so popular it soon became necessary to build an additional court.

Bocce Ball is played with 9 balls, one of them is smaller than the rest and called the “pallino” or “jack.” It is thrown to be the target for the larger balls. The object is to see who can get their balls closest to the pallino. While the game can be played by two, there are usually four people on two teams. The winner of each round is the team whose player gets the ball closest to the pallino. Like most games, Bocce ball takes more skill and practice than expected. It is a low key game of developed strategy, but simple to play. The balls are available, free, at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center during Center hours. In temporary exchange for some kind of identification card, would-be Bocce Ball players may check out the Rec Center Bocce Ball set, and a copy of the few and simple rules of how to play.

The Clearwater Beach "Friends" also provide for extra hours at the swimming pool, donations to the Rec Center sponsored Easter Egg Hunt and sponsorship of a variety of programs throughout the year.

UPCOMING SUNSET CINEMAS

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages will be available on site. See the complete schedule online at www.SunsetsAtPier60.com or by calling 449-1036.

APRIL
22: PITCH PERFECT /PG-13
23: GREASE /PG
29: FINDING NEMO /G
30: BACK TO THE FUTURE /PG

MAY:
6: TANGLED /PG
7: STEEL MAGNOLIAS /PG
13: ALADDIN (1992) /G
14: SPECTRE /PG-13
20: INSIDE OUT /PG
21: CREED /PG-13
27: THE SPONGE BOB MOVIE /PG
28: CONCUSSION /PG-13
Bayly was a “people person” and people really liked him. He became a very successful banker. He loaned money “the old fashioned way” by talking to people. He simply looked them in the eye asked them what they wanted to do with the money, then made a personal judgment. Among others, he loaned money to Publix Super Market founder George Jenkins and Jack Eckerd, the drug store chain founder.

“At First National, Dad had the first office to the right when you entered the bank,” says Phyllis Bayly Jones (84), his youngest daughter. “He had an open-door policy. You could always walk right in, sit down, and talk to him.”

Bayly knew everyone in Clearwater and was a member of almost every Clearwater civic group and president of many of them. He was the Commodore at the Clearwater Yacht Club (1933-1940) and helped create kids sailing programs that the Yacht Club is still known for today. He negotiated the purchase of the land where the Yacht Club is today.

Today, the Yacht Club’s dining room is still the Bayly Dining Room. In 2011, during the Yacht Club’s 100th Anniversary, their new history book was dedicated to Taver Bayly.

When Clearwater adopted the Japanese city Nagano, Bayly participated in the first Japanese Exchange as Clearwater’s representative on the inaugural visit. He was the first president of the Clearwater Rotary. He worked with Andrew Carnegie to build Clearwater’s first Municipal Library. He helped start Clearwater’s first Boy Scout Troop and was a Scoutmaster. During WW II’s gas rationing, he rode his bicycle to work in his black business suit. It greatly embarrassed his wife, Eloise. Aside from his civic and professional interests, he liked vehicles. He was the first person in town to own a motorcycle. He owned a yellow Stutz Bearcat racing car with a “dog house hood”, open bucket seats, and a tiny monocle windscreen in front of the driver. You couldn’t miss him driving around town with Eloise.

He also loved boating and fishing. He owned a 28-foot cruiser called The Venture which he kept near his second home on Bay Esplanade. He liked to catch and smoke mullet. He taught his daughters and grandchildren to fish and how to throw a cast net. “I fished with Granddaddy Bayly many times,” says granddaughter Sandy Cornett Jamieson, “He even showed me how to repair the nets.”

Bayly was selected to be the first Mr. Clearwater in 1965. Surprised by the honor, all he could say was that there were so many other people who deserved the award more, but everyone knew Bayly was instrumental in making Clearwater a more vibrant city and helped shape it into the city it is today. He retired from banking in 1970 but remained a Director Emeritus until he died at the age of 80.

Taver Bayly’s family: Phyllis Bayly Jones, Pat Bayly Alexander, Sandy Cornett Jamieson, and Philip Bayly plus Bill Wallace of the Clearwater Historical Society contributed information and photographs for this article.
CLEARWATER’S ETHAN LOW - A HOT ROD AT 19

19-year-old Race car driver Ethan Low, who competes in races all over the U.S., was a Senior at Clearwater High School, just last year.

Low was born in San Jose, Costa Rica but moved to Florida when he was young. After living in places, his family settled in Clearwater where he attended Clearwater High School.

When most young people refer to after graduation, they mean high school, but not Low. His milestone graduation was from the Atlanta Skip Barber Open Wheel Driving School, while still a sophomore in high school.

How did he decide at such an early age he wanted to drive? “He was always fascinated with race cars, even as a small child,” says father Kevin Low. “He would even sleep with a model car in his bed.”

Go-Cart Racing

He first race experience was at the 2008 St. Pete Grand Prix—not as a racer but as a fan. His father took him to the race when Low was 11. There they let him a person promoting go-carts and selling parts to make your own cart. Soon they were entering go-cart competitions near by and eventually out of state.

“Going into it, I thought a go-cart was something on four-wheels with a lawn mower engine on the back,” said Kevin Low. “I saw this as a great father-son activity. Little did I know, those go-carts cost thousands of dollars and go 80-miles an hour. Plus, the competitions cost hundreds of dollars to enter.”

Go-Carting is divided into age groups. At first Low was in the Mini-Max class (11-12). Then, he entered the Junior Class for kids 13-16 and kept winning. He won the Nationals his first year.

Racing Cars

At 16, Low moved up to real cars. He attended the 3-day racing school in Atlanta. Some of the cars were open-wheeled, formula type cars—just a step away from Indy cars.

Two years ago, Low approached a local racing team and offered to help do anything from washing cars to fetching food. One day, they asked him if he wanted to take a lap or two on a real track. “My first chance to drive took place at the Bradenton DeSoto Speedway,” says Low.

Race teams want drivers with real experience—a proven track record. He was finally getting some laps and seat time. Low started racing various road courses and competition with Mazdas and other types of cars.

“He was very good in the Amateur Series,” his father proudly says. “He could sit behind a wheel of a car he had never been in, go out and beat the best on the track—first time out.”

His first professional race was in Daytona last year. It was a 200-mile race lasting just two and a half hours. He also did a 24-hour Endurance Race and a 38-hour race in a Saab. His team won.

Until recently, Low’s father acted as his personal manager and coach. “Racing is a very expensive sport,” his father laments. “Most of the other families are rich and pay all the costs of their kid’s racing. We are not rich and unfortunately do not have that luxury.”

Going Pro

It was obvious it was time to move to the next level and Low hired Troy Hansen, a professional race car driver manager.

With the help of Hansen, they started searching for business partners. “This is all new to me,” says Low. “I know if I want to continue racing and I will have to attract sponsors and money.”

Visit St.Pete/Clearwater, Pinellas County’s official Destination Marketing Organization met with him and was impressed enough to sign him. “This took about 9 months of meetings and negotiations,” says Low. “I am so thankful that they saw something in me and what I do.” Low now displays the Visit St. Pete/Clearwater logo on the sides of his cars.

“Visit St. Pete Clearwater’s marketing relationship is two-pronged,” says Executive Director David Downing. “The main part is the exposure we receive in key visitation markets around the country when he races.”

“The second part (smaller in scope, but equally important) is Ethan himself,” Downing continues. “He’s a great guy and a passionate area ambassador - a Clearwater High graduate whose undeniable appeal and social media prowess make him popular with a wide range of people. It’s clear even this early that Ethan has the potential to become a household name, and we’re excited to be part of that.”

Just like any professional athlete, Low has to stay in shape. He lifts weights, has a treadmill at home and uses a rowing machine. “Half of racing is endurance,” he says. “You have to be in shape to race at this level. When you hit the brakes, you are applying 1,000 pounds of pressure with your legs. Plus, the G-Forces on your body are unreal. Racing is my job; my only job,” he continues. “Some people drive for Domino’s or Pizza Hut. I drive for me and my business partners. I am very thankful I can work with them.”

What does Low drive at home? He has an old Toyota Tacoma with 300,000 plus miles on it. “It’s a great truck, he says. It takes a lickin’ and keeps on tickin’.”

Overall, since 2013, he has had 10 major wins, 26 podiums, placed in the top five 26 times, driven 44 different cars and had 11 Pro racing starts. He recently raced at Daytona, Sebring, Homestead and the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Low now races a Mini-Cooper which he says is a very well built car. He did not drive in the Firestone St. Pete Grand Prix, although he has since qualified and may next year. In March, he drove in the 12-hours of Sebring.

Everyone says great things about him and his ability. A Porsche team out of N.J. is looking at him. They asked to see his resume and are talking to people who know him.

Low was surprised recently when a young fan asked for his autograph. “I did not know what to say—so I just did it.” It was the first of many to come.

Learn more about Low at EthanLowRacing.com.
Founded in 1916.

Caring Ever Since.

From our family to your family

Morton Plant Hospital got its start in 1916 when several local women asked railroad magnate Morton E. Plant to fund a hospital. He agreed, if the community would also make a substantial contribution. They took the challenge and the hospital opened in 1916. Throughout the years, the hospital served the community, and the community gave back, ensuring that generations of families would be able to count on the compassionate, quality care provided by Morton Plant Hospital.

One of the most noteworthy hospitals in the nation, Morton Plant Hospital was founded because a community cared. And 100 years later, one thing remains the same — our commitment to caring for your family.

The new Doyle Tower at Morton Plant Hospital, scheduled to be completed in 2016. Another example of how the community gave back.

BayCare Morton Plant Hospital MortonPlant100.org
**ISLAND MARKET**  
The southern end of the beach finally has a grocery store, The new Island Market. It is quite large and has a plenty of food and drink options. It is more than a convenience store. They have specialty meats, lots of cheeses, fruits and vegetables, ready to eat meals, sandwiches, healthy drinks, and snacks. Many products are organic. The store also carries a large inventory of beer and wine including locally brewed craft beers. They are open 7 days a week, 8am to midnight, with plenty of free parking. It is located at 646 South Gulfview Blvd. A second location is inside of the Surf-Style store on Coronado Blvd.

**NEW PARKING GARAGE**  
Construction on the parking garage behind Pelican Plaza Shopping Center is ahead on schedule. “We have most of our pre-cast cement on standby on East Bay Drive,” says Mike Connor, President of the Contracting company Paradise Ventures. “We expect the new garage to open in September.”

**NOT UNTIL NEXT YEAR**  
The Wyndham Grand Resort Hotel being built north of the Hyatt Regency and west of the Pier 60 Hotel, will be a 450-room hotel. 345 rooms will be hotel rooms, while 105 will be interval ownership. The building includes 37,000 square feet of amenities. The hotel’s two towers will be connected by a building podium including a pool deck five feet off the ground facing BeachWalk. The project includes a fine restaurant, and a 17,000 square foot ballroom for meetings and special events. This hotel will open in 2017.

**RADIANCE HAMMERS**  
Radiance Medspa, is a sponsor of the womens group Hammers & Heels, a division of Habitat for Humanity. Hammers & Heels’ 2015-2016 pledged goal of $50,000 enables the group to be the official construction sponsor for a home built by women volunteers for the Sparks family, a single mom and her daughter. On a recent Saturday in March, Radiance Medspa was closed so their staff could help Hammers & Heels work on the home.

**COMING SOON**  
The Hampton Inn being built west of the Quality Inn on the south end of the beach should open in July. The 12 story hotel will have 90 rooms. The first six floors are reserved for parking. They are adding color to the outside of the building now and finishing the rooms.
More Business Briefs...

**NOW OPEN** The Opal Sands Resort, the newest upscale Clearwater Beach Gulf front hotel is finally open. Each room has water views and the property’s emphasis is on local art and cuisine. The hotel has 230 standard rooms and 39 suites which range from $400 a night to about $2,000 for the presidential suite (full kitchen, two bedrooms, two and a half baths, and 1,000 square foot balcony with a hot tub.)

**HOMETRUST NOW BILTMORE GROUP** HomeTrust Beachside Realty and the HomeTrust Countryside location will be joining forces to become Biltmore Group International Real Estate, reflecting and paying homage to the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel that, for decades, was synonymous with luxury. The name change takes place May 1st and reflects the company’s position in the luxury real estate market. Biltmore Group will be joining two international MLS systems to provide marketing coverage of our listed properties to buyers and real estate agents worldwide.

**WYNDHAM CHANGES** The Wyndham Garden Hotel on the south end of the beach will be changing names and ownership. On May 1st, it will become DreamView Resort. For now, the new name is the only change. There has been talk of tearing it down and building a larger 202 room mixed use Marriott hotel with 166 regular rental rooms and 36 individually owned condos. That plan has not been formally announced.

**NEW BEACH LIQUOR STORE** Island Liquors recently opened on the south end of the beach with over 4,500 products. It is located across the street from Surf-Style, who also owns it. In addition to a large selection of liquor, they sell wine and beer including local craft beer. Find them at 321 Coronado Drive.

**EAST SHORE COURTYARD** Construction on the East Shore Drive Courtyard Marriott has halted. The signs have been removed from the construction fences.

**BUILDING BEING REMODELED** Frenchy’s purchased the old Ace Hardware building on Pointsettia Avenue and Papaya Street. Now it is being converted into spaces for two tenants. On the north end, Chris Roth is opening a second Clearwater Paddleboard store. His other shop is at 643 Mandalay Avenue. This larger space will allow room for more retail display and easy access to hotel guests. The other side will be the new home of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. They all hope to be in their spaces in May.

**WE WANT YOUR NEWS** Are you moving, expanding or planning an event at your business? We want to know. If you have news or story suggestions, email them to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 727-517-1997
**Restaurant News...**

**SEA-GUINI** This new restaurant is open inside the Opal Sands Resort. This beach-casual but upscale restaurant features fresh local seafood with an Italian twist. The head chef, Todd Hollander, comes to our area from the Key West Westin. His team has been recruited from other popular Ocean Properties resorts. They offer seafood specialties, aged all-natural steaks, and signature pastas made from scratch, using simple, natural and whole ingredients. They also offer handcrafted Neapolitan pizzas prepared to order and baked in a Tuscan brick oven. The dining room has breathtaking views from all areas. You do not have to stay at the hotel to enjoy the restaurant.

**CRABBY’S ON THE ROUNDABOUT** The Crabby Bill’s Restaurant in the Clearwater Beach Marina, is coming down and will be replaced with a three-story building and rooftop deck. The building is still in the final design phase, but demo is scheduled to begin in May. The City owns the land, but Crabby Bill’s has a new 20-year lease, and will be constructing the new building.

**NEW OWNERS AT WESTSHORE PIZZA** Isabelle and Cedric Leyniers, formerly from Belgium, recently bought Belleair Bluff’s Westshore Pizza Restaurant and Sports bar. Cedric previously managed hotels, bars and restaurants in Belgium. After visiting many places, they fell in love with our area, found the Westshore Pizza was for sale, and bought it. “We love the area and the people we have met in The Bluffs,” says Isabelle. “Everyone here is so very nice.” The Leyniers are now offering Trivia on Tuesday nights, at 7pm. Their trivia competition is hosted by America’s Greatest Live Team Trivia. With trivia, they have a special menu, $1 draft Buds, $2 pizza slices, music and prizes for winning teams. Westshore Pizza is located in the Bonefish Plaza on West Bay Drive.

**MARINA CANTINA OPENS** The long awaited southwest themed restaurant is now open in the Marina parking lot. The restaurant features indoor and outdoor seating on the second level. The indoor dining area has large open doors on three sides and a major bar. The third level is a large walk around deck with its own bar and panoramic views of the marina and sunsets. This is another in the Baystar Restaurant Group that also owns Island Way Grill and Salt Rock Grill.
More Restaurant News...

NOW OPEN

Being built along with the Marina Cantina in the Clearwater Beach Marina, the Salt Cracker Fish Camp, located at 45 Causeway Blvd., is open. It replaced the Marina Restaurant. It is open from 7am until 9pm, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and will even cook your catch (you have to clean it first!) The menu includes southern favorites such as shrimp and grits, pork chops, meatloaf and chicken & waffles. There is also plenty of fresh seafood and a raw bar. This restaurant is part of the Baystar Restaurant Group that also owns Marlin Darlin, Island Way Grill and Salt Rock Grill.

BONEFISH NOT CLOSING

The corporation behind Bonefish Grill recently announced it was closing some stores, but Niko Hales, manager of the Belleair Bluffs location, wants you to know they are not on that list. The closest store that will close is in the Florida Panhandle. Bonefish recently started opening for lunch at the Bluff’s location.

SALTY’S ISLAND BAR AND GRILLE

This new two-level restaurant opened April 1st. across the street from the Opal Sands Resort. During their start up, it is only open for dinner at 4pm, but that will change. Normal hours will be 11am to 1 am. They specialize in island inspired cuisine, handcrafted signature cocktails and wine-on-tap which is new to our area. Their goal is to provide diners with “a less expensive option to Clearwater Beach’s fine dining restaurants.” Daily happy hour is 3-6pm. “This has taken us longer than expected, but it was worth the wait,” says Greg Powers, one of the owners. “We couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful building, menu and view.”

EXTREME PIZZA OPENS

This new pizza place is on the north end of the Beach at 407 Mandalay Avenue, across from the Hilton. Extreme is part of a franchise and is the second store in the Tampa Bay area. In addition to signature pizzas, they have fresh salads, monster subs, calzones, wings, and more. They offer vegan and gluten-free pizza options that you can eat in, take out or have it delivered on Clearwater Beach. They are open 11am to midnight. Call them at 223-9100.
MEET THE MANAGER OF THE NEW OPAL SANDS RESORT

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

There is a new manager in town and his name is Jeff Castner. While he may be new to Clearwater Beach, he is not new to the hotel business.

The Opal Sands Resort opened in March and is owned by Ocean Properties, a major hotel operator headquartered in Delray Beach. They own over 125 major hotels, 50 of which are in Florida including Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Beach and the new Treasure Island Beach Resort. Their hotels consist of almost every major brand and independent properties, such as the Opal Sands.

The Opal Sands, a 5-star hotel with 230 guest rooms, has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. It has a large zero-entry gulfside pool, a large outside hot tub, beachside tiki bar and an upscale yet casual restaurant - Sea-Guini. They have over 25,000 square feet of banquet and event space for meetings and weddings. The property employs just under 300 people, depending on the season.

Castner has 25-years experience in the hotel business which began in Denton, Texas. For 13 years, he was the manager of the Jupiter Beach Resort, another Ocean Properties hotel.

While in Jupiter, he was active in the Palm Beach County marketing and publicity ventures, including serving on the boards of the Palm Beach County CVB as well as serving on several of Visit Florida’s committees.

“Palm Beach County is very diverse,” says Castner. “There are many tourism and culture related elements to promote—from the beaches to high-end Palm Beach to the everglades. Just like Pinellas, many diverse coastal cities make-up that county.”

“I have known Jeff for about five years,” says Eric Waltz, manager of the Sandpearl. “In the past, he has been involved with community organizations and I imagine he will continue that here. Jeff is a great businessman and a family man with three children. We wish him the best of luck.”

Castner lives in Palm Harbor with his wife and three children, one of which is soon going into the Coast Guard. He still has one in high school and one in first grade. “I love what we have found here in Clearwater Beach,” Castner says. “It is a very comfortable, as well as active, environment to operate in. Our company is here for the long haul,” adds Castner. “We have invested a lot of money in building this luxury hotel. We plan to stay and so do I.”

Opal Sands Resort is located at 430 South Gulfview Blvd. Call them at 727-450-0380. See photos and get more information at www.OpalSands.com.
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INHERITED IRA PITFALLS
by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Different rules apply when you inherit an IRA depending on your relationship with the deceased IRA owner, and pitfalls exist for both spouse and non-spouse beneficiaries.

For a surviving spouse, it is often advised that the IRA be rolled over to an IRA in the surviving spouse’s name. However, this may be ill advised. As an example, if the surviving spouse is under age 59 ½, the surviving spouse, prior to turning 59 ½, could not access the money in the rolled over IRA without paying a 10% non-deductible excise tax. It may be better to set up an inherited IRA where there is no penalty for withdrawing money prior to age 59 ½. This is but one pitfall, so you should evaluate all alternatives before making a decision.

A non-spouse beneficiary cannot rollover the IRA into their own name. They can take a lump sum, take it over five years, stretch it over their life expectancy, or take differing amounts each year as long as they take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If they don’t, this pitfall results in a 50% non-deductible excise tax on top of the regular income tax that might be owed. The same rules generally apply to a Roth IRA, but income taxes are not owed on the amount withdrawn.

When there are multiple beneficiaries, another pitfall often occurs when leaving the IRA in one account rather than dividing it into separate accounts for each beneficiary. If the money stays in one IRA, the beneficiaries will be forced to take the money out based on the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiary rather than the life expectancy of each beneficiary. This is especially important if there is a wide range of ages amongst the beneficiaries. By separating the IRA, each owner of the inherited IRA can make an independent decision about how to invest the money, how much or little to take out, and will get to name their own beneficiary who can continue the IRA if they inherit it. In short, it can last a long time if properly handled.

The inherited IRA can be kept with the same custodian, or it can be moved to a new custodian. This gives the new owner the chance to adjust the investments in the IRA.

To learn more about avoiding the pitfalls of inheriting an IRA and to examine all of the choices in making these important decisions, please give us a call.

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MOVIN’ ON UP
High-rise living at the beach

By Gordon Obarski, Broker Associate
Doiron Realty on the Beach

Each beach community has its own unique “condo personality.” For instance, Indian Rocks Beach is known for smaller, lower-rise condos that are more casual. Sand Key and Clearwater Beach are more closely associated with luxury high-rise living.

What does a high-rise condo offer that its lower-rise counterpart does not?

BEST VIEW - Vertical construction is driven by the consumers’ demand for the best view of sand, surf and sunset. The view is paramount when shopping for a Gulf front condo, and high-rise elevations provide the absolute best vantage point.

LUXURY, LUXURY AND MORE LUXURY - Sand Key and Clearwater Beach’s high-rise buildings tend to be newer construction with units that are brighter and fresher with updated, open floorplans more suited to today’s lifestyle.

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE - High-rise living is synonymous with a resort lifestyle and oodles of “frills” from swimming pools, cabanas, fitness centers and social gathering rooms to catering kitchens, steam rooms, saunas and tennis courts…every convenience known to man. You may even be surprised to find some features that aren’t traditionally associated with high-rise living—like the private garages with some units at Ultim ar.

MAINTENANCE-FREE LIVING - High-rise owners typically pay higher HOA fees but recognize that it’s the price of peace-of-mind. There’s freedom in knowing they will never again deal with roof replacement, exterior painting and repairs or try to manage a less-than-dependable “yard guy” from 1,000 miles away. Often times, the monthly maintenance fee for a high-rise may look “stiff” at first blush. But, when you stop to consider what all it includes—even reserves for future repairs—you usually discover it to be a fairly good bang for your luxury buck.

ON-SITE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY - Absentee owners and frequent travelers enjoy the fact that high-rise complexes have on-site supervisors and concierges who attend to residents’ needs 24/7. Guard gates at entrances and exits make it possible for owners to simply pull their door closed behind them and be confident everything will be tended to in their absence.

SOCIAL INTERACTION - High-rises offer the optimum environment for entertaining and socializing. And, even those who wish to kick back at the beach by day can get their heart jump-started after sunset with a vibrant nightlife, great restaurants, shops and everything else a “big city” offers close by.

Florida high-rise construction began in Miami but soon after moved to the Gulf Coast due to the scarcity and escalating cost of vacant land. Many communities realized that smart growth would require density and embraced the concept.

High-rise living is not just an address—it’s a lifestyle—where life meets luxury. Ironically, when Manhattan high rises were first built, before the advent of the elevator, the economically disadvantaged folks lived at the top…exactly opposite of how it is today. Today, there’s a certain feeling of success associated with high-rise ownership. It’s come to be a symbol of power and economic strength. The names of Sand Key’s luxury high-rises say it all: Ultim ar, the Grande, Utopia, etc. There’s nothing like being at the top!
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When Radiance Medspa owner, Stephanie Schlager, decided it was time to expand her business, it was only natural to turn to local designer, Suzan Decker Ross, for her interior design expertise. For years, the two highly regarded professional women have worked together through their extensive community involvement - from the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce and Clearwater Jazz Holiday, to various charity, like HEP (Homeless Empowerment Project).

For this project, design work encompasses space planning and furniture layout, color scheme, flooring, finishes, lighting, and art to ensure the entire medspa is not only functional, but creates the desired ambiance for their clientele - a tasteful atmosphere of relaxation and rejuvenation. Decker and designer Marci Tempesta are incorporating natural elements into the sleek, modern, sophisticated design which will feature a teal, grey and silver color scheme. They are working closely with the contractors leading the expansion’s construction - which will double the square footage of the existing facility.

Schlager is particularly excited about the opportunities the new “Radiance University” community room will provide. It will host educational programs as well as networking events - such as AchieveHERS and the Belleair Bluffs Business Association. Radiance will provide food/drink and marketing support for local charities like: HEP (Homeless Empowerment Project), Habitat for Humanity, Hammers & Heels, SPCA 1000 Bitches, and Fab 50- when they are utilizing this room. Supporting the community is the primary goal of the new room.

PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL
The 4th Annual Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival will transform America’s best beach into a museum of dazzling sand sculptures April 15 to 24. The theme is “All Out Music.”

Ten world-class sculptors will rock around the clock sculpting elaborate sand sculptures from Clearwater’s internationally-famous sugar sand. The works of art will be on display for ten days in a 21,000-square-foot tent. More than 1,000 tons of Clearwater sand will be brought to life, taking visitors on a musical journey through the decades.

Team Sandtastic will return for a fourth year to sculpt the exhibit and compete in the Master Sand Sculpting Competition, which will give visitors an up-close, personal look at these fascinating artists. We will rock you throughout the ten-day festival with a variety of free activities including six nights of concerts on the beach, sand sculpting clinics, speed sand demonstrations, a children’s play area, extended Sunsets at Pier 60 hours, fireworks, amusements and entertainment. Last year’s festival drew 30,000 visitors to the exhibit. More than 100,000 participants took advantage of the free activities during the festival.

Admission is $10 / adults, $5 / ages 6 - 17 years, $7 / 55 and older, military personnel, police officers, firefighters and teachers. Five and younger are free.

Visit sugarsandfestival.com or follow the activities at facebook.com/Pier60SugarSandFestival.
Hundreds of World War II veterans are living their final days in Pinellas County. These veterans are somewhere between 90 and 100 years of age, although some soldiers who enlisted underage, maybe slightly younger. Most veterans have never seen the Washington D.C. World War II Memorial built in their honor.

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization, was created to give veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War to chance of go to D.C. to see memorials honoring their service. Two people are credited for the concept: Jeff Miller, of Henderson, North Carolina and retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse.

Morse worked with patients at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Springfield, OH. When he asked them about the memorial, completed in 2004, most said they knew of it but none of them had seen it.” He realized due to their ages, most could never travel to see it. He offered to fly two veterans to Washington D.C. to see it and an idea was born.

Morse pitched the idea of flying more veterans to a local 300-member aero-club. Eleven pilots volunteered and formed a network. By May of 2005, when the first honor flight took place, six private planes flew twelve veterans to D.C. and back. By the end of the year, the program had allowed 137 veterans to see the memorial.

In late 2005, Jeff Miller, son of a World War II veteran and a charter member of the National World War II Memorial Foundation, was inspired by Morse’s efforts and wanted to expand it. He contacted US Airways about chartering an airplane and HonorAir was born. Over three days in 2006, HonorAir flew more than 300 World War II veterans from Asheville to D.C. - free of charge. HonorAir provided everything—a doctor, several EMTs, guardians, tour buses, and food.

When they arrived, they were greeted by thousands of supporters with music and marching bands.

Heroes WeCome a project of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #180 in Vienna, Va was created to organize welcoming ceremonies for the Honor flights at the three Washington area airports. Normally, active military members, school children, and bands playing patriotic music participate.

In June of 2014, the Honor Flight Act was introduced in Congress. It directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for Honor Flight veterans. Today, Honor Flights leave from 130 hubs in 44 states. As of 2015, they have flown 159,703 Veterans, 20,886 in last year alone. They have relied on 107,527 fly-along guardians since it started. There are 21,032 veterans on the standby list. (20% are from World War II, 43% Korea, 36% Vietnam and others.). 2015 saw the first all-female Honor Flight with 140 female veterans on board.

Donations are the heart of the organization and make it possible for more of our aging veterans to make a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the memorials in D.C. The cost of each flight is between $50,000-$60,000, which includes airfare, land transportation, food, beverages, wheelchair rentals and other support materials, is covered by donations. The Honor Flights are completely free to selected Veterans. In addition, Honor Flight always needs volunteers to escort veterans, push wheelchairs, and show them around D.C. Volunteers pay their own expenses (about $400) or find sponsors.

Both Miller and Morse were awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2008 for their work in the program.

The Pinellas chapter of the Honor Flight Network, which started in 2011, is Honor Flight of West Central Florida. It is an official Regional Hub of the national Honor Flight Network. To date, they have taken 1,884 veterans to Washington, D.C. The local president is Beverly Frey. Volunteer Coordinator is Tina Provo.

Honor Flight of West Central Florida flies to coordinate four trips a year. The next one leaves Clearwater / St Pete (PIE) airport at 4 am April 26 and returns that same night at 8:30 pm. This is the 25th Pinellas County mission and will have 78 veterans onboard. Volunteer are encouraged to participate in their welcome home party that evening.

U.S. Marine and World War II veteran Neil Ducharme will be on that flight. His escort is Linda DeWitt, an employee at Belleair Country Club. Ducharme, now 92 and living in Palm Harbor was a part of the Battle of Okinawa and was later assigned to Japan following the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Neil also served in the reserves during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. A follow-up story of the trip will be covered in our next issue.

In 2002, there were almost 5 million World War II veterans still alive; today, there are less than half a million. Honor Flight’s mission is to help each of them to see their memorial. If you or someone you know is a veteran, please contact Honor Flights. Mark Welsh, the Pinellas Coordinator, can be reached at 727-204-1754 or at info@HonorFlightWCF.org.

Find more information at www.HonorFlightsWCF.org or HonorFlight.org.
Celebrating 10 years. Join the party.
Thursday, June 23rd, 6-8pm

Join Our 10 Years Young Celebration & Ribbon Cutting. We’ll be celebrating our anniversary and cutting the ribbon to our expanded new space. It’s a little black dress affair with hors d’oeuvres, beverages, live entertainment, valuable giveaways, and exciting raffles. It’ll be loads of fun.

Date: Thursday, June 23rd
Time: 6-8pm
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Benefiting: HEP, Homeless Empowerment Program
RSVP: Call 727-518-7100, space is limited

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Local Organizational News

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
This is a true founding organization composed of member Condominiums serving the needs of all of Sand Key. They participates in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association and maintains contact with the City and State Departments that have an impact on Sand Key. They serve as the voice of residents of Sand Key in matters that affect the quality of our special Island!

The new Board of Directors was installed at the end of the 2015 meeting and they look forward to meeting old & new members at upcoming meetings which are open to all residents of member Condominiums. Non-members can request a pass in the interest of getting their Association to join.

The SKCA hosts its meetings at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. The next meetings are: May 4 and June 1st. E-mail President Al Zimmerman at AL.Zimmerman2@Verizon.net.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN’S CLUB
They meet monthly from September – May and the socials include lunch with guest speakers, entertainment, and fundraisers. The next meeting is May 17.

Scholarships for Clearwater High School female graduates will be awarded at the special Annual Scholarship Luncheon Program at Heilman’s Beachcomber Restaurant on Clearwater Beach.

Membership is open to all, on the island and off – for membership information, call Joan Landreth at 727-812-8078. For club information, call President Lynn McCaskill at 430-1911. Reservations, call Wendy Bouffard at 727-441-8211. Dues are $20.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
On April 2, they held their third annual Spring Block Party for the whole neighborhood, despite bad weather. It cleared in time for a great and festive crowd to listen to live music by the Studio 10 Band, and sample local restaurant food from Island Way Grill, the new Salty’s, Emily’s Restaurant, Papa John’s Pizza and others.

On May 7, they will team up with the City of Clearwater, the Clearwater Beach Rotary Club and the Island Estates Women’s Club to sponsor a clean-up day on Memorial Causeway from 9 to 11 am. All equipment is provided. Sign up that morning at the intersection of Island Way and Memorial Causeway. Community Service Hours are available for student volunteers.

On May 10, they will host their annual Members’ Spring Social at the Island Way Grill from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Island Estates residents who are not members are welcome to join at the Social.

Dues for membership are $50 per year. Businesses are $60. This helps pay for electrical service, fixtures, maintaining the shrubbery, planting, trimming, spraying, weeding and maintenance of our American Flag, plus the many events throughout the year.

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They promote community interests while assisting and support members. They meet the second Monday of each month in the new Classroom Building in the Clearwater Aquarium. Contact President Mary Lau at 813-335-6770.
Local Organizational News

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Through state funding, they now have the money to upgrade and remodel the old South Ward School into their new Historical Museum. Many people are working on the project but they could use more help. If you want to be on one of many committees please call the numbers below.
The Annual Spring Fish Fry is May 7 at the Plumb House Museum. Play in the annual Bomber Golf Tournament on May 14th. It will be held at Eagles Golf Course beginning at 1pm.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN’S CLUB
In 2015, they made a pledge to the Clearwater Library Foundation for $5,000 over 2 years. They recently presented the foundation a check for $3000. The Countryside Library is using the money to buy furniture for their children’s reading room.
In March, at their annual spring fundraiser fashion show and luncheon the Club presented their Daisy Awards, which totaled $11,500.
The Club is a member club of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC), one of the world’s largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. They meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 11 am, at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N, Cleveland Street. For information about any meeting, call Kay Estock at 536-7737 or Martha Hickey at 813-765-6219. Visit www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB
On Saturday, May 7th, clients from Tampa Bay’s ARC (formerly UPARC) will have a fun day at the Clearwater Yacht Club. They will be treated to lunch supplied by Nick Mitsides, owner of Venus Restaurant in Belleair Bluffs, poolside. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium will supply a dolphin watching boat and a captain for the kids to get out on the water. All the kids get shirts. Members donate their time and their money to this worthwhile event. In the past, the event has raised an average of $7,500 a year which is donated to ARC. This is a fun day. Call if you to volunteer.
Summer Membership - Did you always want to join a yacht club, but felt it was too expensive? They are offering their Summer Membership Program. Join from May 1 to September 30th with no initiation fee and dues of only $100 a month. There is no monthly minimum spending and you do not need a boat. Join now and enjoy their May Events including May 5th: Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, May 7th: ARC Fun Day, May 8th: Mother’s Day Grand Brunch Buffet, May 30th: Memorial Day Cookout
Even if you don’t have a boat, you can still join. Half of their members don’t have a boat and most of their social activities center around parties at their waterfront tiki bar or upstairs in the dining room. They are located at 830 Bayway Blvd., Clearwater Beach. E-mail Communications@CLWYC.org, visit www.Clwyc.org or call 447-6000 for information.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)
They meet on the third Friday of every month at the Belleair Country Club for a luncheon beginning at 11:30am. To join, please call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.
The biggest disaster people face is a fire in their home. Home fires happen quickly - devastating lives and property. Unlike other disasters, most home fires can be prevented. The American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign is underway across the U.S., aiming to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25% over five years. The Campaign has been credited with saving 69 lives as of mid-February 2016. Volunteers have installed 170,000 smoke alarms in more than 4,100 cities across the U.S. Locally, volunteers have installed over 3,900 smoke alarms. Since October 2014, the Red Cross with fire departments and organizations, churches and concerned citizens to go door to door in at-risk neighborhoods offering to install free smoke alarms and to educate the families on fire safety. Residents receive a personalized diagram showing designated emergency exits and meeting places outside the home. “We are so grateful for the support of our donors and the community volunteers powering our Home Fire Campaign,” Central Florida Red Cross Chief Executive Officer, Linda Jorge Carbone. “Every day, Red Cross volunteers step onto a family’s doorstep in the moments after they have suffered a fire to help them through one of the worst times in their life. This campaign puts us on that doorstep before the unthinkable happens in the hopes that we can give them the tools to know how to safely survive and prevent the larger tragedy you can never fully recover from: the loss of a loved one. We know we’re doing something important—every escape plan we write and every alarm we install has the real potential to save lives.”

Fire experts agree that people may have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it’s too late to get out. The Red Cross recommends two easy steps to protect your home and to increase your chances of surviving a fire: get a smoke alarm and create a fire escape plan.

**SMOKE ALARMS** Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms.
- Test smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Install a new battery immediately if an alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.
- Never disable a smoke alarm.

**FIRE ESCAPE PLAN** You may only have two minutes to escape when a fire occurs, but most people mistakenly believe they have more than twice as long to get out.

- Home fire plans should include at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Select a meeting spot at a safe distance from your home where family members can meet after a fire.
- Discuss the plan with everyone in the household and practice it at least twice a year.
**POSTAL FOOD DRIVE**

May 14, the second Saturday in May, is the annual Food Drive by the U.S. Post Office and your local Mail Carrier. That day, leave your donated food by your mailbox for them to pick it up and they will get it to the local food bank.

Here are a few FAQs about the food drive.

*Can I donate baby food, too?* Please do not donate any individual baby food items (including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal). Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks.

*Can I donate toiletries or other personal care items?* The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need.

*Does my food donation stay local?* Yes—all food stays in your local community. It’s not shipped off to some regional distribution center hundreds of miles away. If you want to know where yours is going, call your local post office and ask to speak to your local food drive person.

*Can I give money in addition to (or instead of) food?* While we strongly encourage food donations over money donations, we won’t turn away any donations. If you want to give money, please avoid donating cash (for everyone’s protection); just write a check made out to your local food bank, food pantry or shelter, seal it in an envelope (no postage required), write “Letter Carriers’ Food Drive” on the envelope, and leave it by or in your mailbox.

*Are my donations tax-deductible?* Please contact your local food bank. The food drive person at your local post office should be able to help connect you.

*How can I help (besides donating food)?* If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. You can also contact your local Feeding America member food bank. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day as well as all throughout the year.

When will we know the results of this year’s drive? All locals must have their results mailed in to the Letter Carriers’ national headquarters in Washington, DC, by the end of May. Typically, the tabulated results are expected to be revealed the first week of June, and they will be posted online as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

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**CITY OF CLEARWATER IS HIRING**

**SEASONAL BEACH LIFEGUARDS AND EVENT SUPPORT STAFF.**

**Beach Lifeguard:** Minimum qualifications: Must be at least 17 years of age or older. Completion of USLA site specific lifeguard training as well as a USDOT. 1st Responder course required within 6 months of hire. Must possess a valid CPR card for professional rescuer or equivalent. Ability to pass a lifeguard skills test consisting of a 500-meter swim in less than 10 minutes, and a one-mile run in 18 minutes or less combined. Skill in surf swimming in dangerous currents and conditions. Possession of a valid State of Florida Drivers License. $12.73 per hour, training provided. For more information, contact Patrick Braffer at (727) 462-6963.

**Event Support Staff:** Minimum qualifications: Completion of the 10th grade. Possession of a valid State of Florida driver’s license. Ability to deal with the public in a tactful and courteous manner. Dependability in attendance for outdoor work regardless of weather conditions. Good physical condition including good eyesight and hearing. Must be able to lift and carry objects that weigh up to 40 pounds. Ability to work weekends and evenings during periods of peak activity. $10 per hour. For more information, contact Antwain Hamm at (727) 562-4804.
By Bob Griffin

Have you ever wondered what things you should and should not throw in our big recycle bins? I have. Every time I toss in a plastic grocery bag or Styrofoam container from a restaurant, I wonder, is that supposed to be in there?

After some research, I have put together a list of some of the things you should not recycle at the curb. The first rule of thumb - look on the bottom of a bottle or food container. It will have a printed number that ranges from 1-7 if it is recyclable. If it doesn't, throw it in the garbage.

**PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS** - This is the #1 NO-NO. They do not want the plastic bags you get at grocery, hardware or other stores in the bins. They clog up the machines. Take them back to the grocery stores where they have green bins at their front door, or put them in the dog bag stands around some city. Better yet, take your own re-useable bags to the store and say NO to plastic.

**STYROFOAM** - Styrofoam cannot be recycled. Many stores are recognizing this and are changing to paper/cardboard. In the meantime, throw it in your regular trash—not your recycling bins. Publix will accept Styrofoam egg containers and the trays used in the vegetable department. Styrofoam peanuts used for packing can be donated back to the closest UPS or packing store.

**BATTERIES** -

Per Florida law, it is illegal to dispose of nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries in your trash.

It is OK to place normal alkaline batteries in the garbage, but never in a curbside bin as it causes contamination. 20% of the recycled waste collected at the curb is contaminated and has to go through a separate, expensive, time-consuming process. Nickel cadmium and small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries need to be taken to a Chemical Recycling event or the Pinellas County’s HEC-3 facility. Car & Boat batteries are normally recycled where you buy new ones and you pay a recycling fee. The following normally have a recycling bin: Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe’s, Office Depot, Target, Batteries-Plus, and some but not all Staples.

**PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS** - Even though they may be paper, they probably are not recyclable. Paper towels are made differently than newspaper or computer paper and do not breakdown. Instead, they tear in the machines. Many are contaminated by food products anyway. Do not recycle wax paper, either.

**BUBBLE WRAP** - Plastic bubble wrap and pillows used for packing should not be recycled at the curb. It is just like plastic bags, they clog the machine. Donate them to the closest packaging / shipping store.

**FOOD AND LIQUIDS** - Do not use your recycle bin as a trash can. Do not throw half-filled recyclable water/juice bottles in it. Empty and rinse them out first. Same with pizza boxes with partial food remains – that is garbage and can’t be recycled.

**PLASTIC** - Just because it is plastic does not mean it goes in the recycle bins. Plastic bottles and food containers with a 1 – 7 on the bottom are good, but not bigger items and hard plastics, like toys, tools and PVC. Some can be recycled, but not curbside.

**GLASS** - Not all glass belongs in your bin, either. If it came with food or drink inside, it is good to recycle. Other glass like mirrors, windows, drinking glasses, vases, etc. is unfortunately, just trash.

**METALS** - Here again, the only metal you can recycle curbside is metal that contained food or drink - aluminum or tin cans. No other metal, including pipes, faucets, nails and parts should go in your bins. They are normally recovered at the County’s Waste-To-Energy Facility using magnets and other methods.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** - When your home fire extinguisher reads empty do not put it in the recycle bin. Do not take it to the fire station either. Instead, if you are sure it is totally empty, you may throw it in the garbage. To know for sure that it is empty, pull the trigger, outside.

**PINELLAS FACILITY** - The Pinellas County HEC-3 facility is located at 2855 109th Avenue North (just off 28th Street N. one mile south of Roosevelt Blvd.) in St Petersburg. They are open Monday - Saturdays. Call 464-7500 with questions.

For more information on what to recycle and what not to recycle, visit: PinellasCounty.org/Recycle, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/swapshop, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/GetRidofit and Publix.com/Recycle.
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90 YEARS AGO, THE PALM PAVILION AND JESSE SMITH

By Susan Smith Emmons, Jesse’s younger daughter

In early 1926, Jesse Smith arrived in Tampa, with a round-trip ticket back to Louisville, KY where he lived. He had spent two years in the U.S. Navy as a radio operator on ships crossing the Atlantic during World War I. He met up with some other young men and, in April 1926, together they started the Palm Pavilion. Jesse eventually bought the others out and was the sole owner of the Pavilion for almost 40 years. The return part of that train ticket was never used!

In the early days the Pavilion featured food and bathhouses and a dance floor with a juke box for music. You could rent a bathing suit and towel. The suits were made of wool!

The bathhouse area consisted of several rows of stalls, each with a bench, hooks and a locking door. There were showers and a hand wringer for wet bathing suits. One of the staff had the key to all the numbered lockers and would let people in to their lockers as needed.

From the beginning the Pavilion was open all year-round, seven days a week, which included evenings in all but the winter months.

A terrible storm in 1935 separated the large picnic area which was built on the north side of the Pavilion and it floated up the south side of the pavilion before it dropped near the Kipling Arms.

Behind the dance area there was a skee-ball alley. Both the dance area and the alley disappeared in the early 1940s. The dance area became an area for displaying and selling bathing suits and other beachwear, with some changing rooms behind.

During World War II the skee-ball area, was converted into a large area for the soldiers to change into suits, with shelves of baskets for their clothes, since there were not enough lockers for all the soldiers who came on Sundays from the MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

The floor of the Pavilion was made of wood boards with open spaces between each board for the sand to drop through. Kids used to crawl underneath the floors and collect change that also fell through the cracks.

Through the years income increased from selling bathing suits. In September 1950, the beach was hit by hurricane “Easy” and large parts of the building collapsed. The salt water damaged much of the stock.

Jesse was probably the first local businessman to hire an African-American sales person. Bertha Shawders worked at the Palm Pavilion for many years and was greatly loved by the customers.

The beach itself has changed dramatically through the years, disappearing in storms, and waves have crashed up to the steps on the west side of the Pavilion. For some years the residents and business owners paid to have new jetties built and large quantities of sand pumped in to enlarge the beach. Unfortunately the tides and storms usually washed the new sands away.

In 1964, Jesse retired and sold the Pavilion to Howard Hamilton, whose sons now own the Pavilion. He died March 4, 1980 at the age of 84.
SUMMER CAMPS

It’s time! If you plan to enter your kids in a summer camp this year, don’t wait, do it now.

CLEARWATER REC: There are no summer camps at the Rec Center on the Beach however, the City of Clearwater offers dozens of camps on the mainland. Camp is June 13 - August 5th from 7:30am to 5:30pm and costs $90 a week with a Play Pass, $100 a week without membership. Call 793-2320 for more information.

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM: designed for ages K through 10, they have half and full day programs featuring Winter and her rescued dolphin, river otter, and sea turtle friends! Camp options feature snorkeling in sea grass beds and sand flats, kayaking through estuaries, meeting rescued residents, SCUBA, and seeing marine creatures in their natural habitat. Visit www.seewinter.com or call 441-1790 Ext. 270 for more information.

FREE SUMMER PRE-K: Registration is open for the free summer voluntary pre-kindergarten program presented by Pinellas County Schools from June 13-July 29. Children must be 5-years old on or before September 1st. Visit VPKPinellas.net for the online application or information. For questions, call 400-4411 or 588-6513.

THEATRE CAMPS: Largo Cultural Center offers live theatre camps. Teens 12-18 are invited to sign up for Legally Blonde, The Musical, - June 13 to July 2. Children ages 9-13 can register for Disney’s Peter Pan Jr., - July 18 to August 6. Both are 3-week camps, Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm. For kids 13-18 interested in working behind the scenes, there is Technical Theatre Production Camp, - July 25 to August 6. Visit www.LargoArts.com or call 587-6751.

AUTISTIC SAILING CAMP: Freedom Sailing Summer Camp is a special camp for autistic children, 8 years old and up, where they will learn to sail or paddleboard. The 2-week camp starts June 20th, July 5 and July 18th. Visit www.FreedomSailingCampofFloridainc.com or call Bonnie Monroe at 224-1726.

THE BEACH ART CENTER: Kreative Kids Summer Art Camp is for ages 5 and up. There are eight week-long, half-day sessions Monday - Friday 9 am – noon or 1 -4 pm, June 13 through August 5. Fees: Non-Member - $85 + Materials, Members - $75 + Materials. Scholarship are available. Visit www.beachartcenter.org or call 596-4331.

HUMANE SOCIETY CAMPS: They offer four week-long camps for ages 7-12 where kids spend a week learning animal care, behavior, current events and animal careers. Camps are: June 13th - 17th, June 27th - July 1st, July 11th - 15th and July 25 - 29th. Visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org.

TAMPA BAY WATCH ESTUARY ED-VENTURES: Their Summer Camp offerings have multiple opportunities for learning and adventure. Its location on Shell Key Preserve provides exciting hands-on opportunities to learn about marine ecology and restoration. Call 867-8166 or visit TamaraBayWatch.org.

RAYS BASEBALL CAMP: Enjoy a major league training experience including hitting, pitching and running the bases inside the Dome with special guest speakers including current/former Rays players and coaches. Camp cost from $200 to $250. For kids 6-13. Call 825-3415.

CLEARWATER SAILING CENTER: They offer sailing and windsurfing camps for all ages. Camps are designed for children 5-17. They also offer Camp Awesome, designed for children with special needs. Call 517-7776 or visit ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org.
Volunteering at The Dali

Volunteers are an integral part of the success of The Museum operations and programming. Presently, 415 active volunteers, ranging in age from 16 to 90, contribute their time and talents in a variety of ways. Students (high school and college) are also welcome to volunteer for approved course credit or scholarship requirements.

Areas of opportunity include guest relations, education, membership, marketing, operations, evening and daytime special events, and more. Training is provided and volunteers receive special benefits for their service. The Dali seeks volunteers from all backgrounds. A background in art is not required for most volunteer opportunities.

Their Docent Program is the heart of The Museum’s educational mission. Adult Docents create, and conduct public tours of The Museum’s permanent and visiting exhibitions as well as private tours arranged by the Group Tours department. Over 100 docents currently lead tours at the Museum.

Adult docents enroll in a 17-week training program (roughly the equivalent of a three credit university-level course) that consists of 15 two-hour lectures, three written tests, and a final mini-tour examination. After completing the initial training, docents are required to conduct a specific number of tours each month for at least one year.

In addition to the initial training period, there is ongoing training for docents including curatorial walk-throughs of new exhibitions, refresher classes and advanced seminars. Docents are responsible for developing their own tours and are encouraged to develop a repertoire of tours for specific audiences and special interest groups.

Museum docents can choose to become “Dali Vision” Docents and teach outside of The Museum by presenting at schools, hospitals, recreation centers, after-school programs, social service groups and other community organizations.

As part of the Junior Docents summer program, elementary and middle school students are trained in a mini-docent course that enables them to share general information about Dali and his paintings. This program introduces students to artistic processes, builds self-esteem and public speaking skills, and brings families to the Museum.

The Dali encourages people of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures to apply. The Dali welcomes visitors from more than 30 nations; those who speak additional languages (other than English) are especially encouraged to get involved.

Pam Whitaker - Coordinator of 400 volunteers

Pam Whitaker once just a Dali Museum volunteer is the Volunteer Coordinator overseeing all 415 volunteers. From 2008 to 2011, she was a volunteer that showed up and did what she was asked to do. In 2011, Pam was offered a full time job as The Dali Director of Visitor Experience, which is how they describe the volunteer’s mission.

“We have people of all ages volunteering here—teenagers, students, young and old. We have many volunteers in their 70s and 80s”, says Whitaker. “People volunteer here for a wide variety of reasons. Many students get community credit in high school and college. Many of the senior citizens do it for social reasons—to meet people and to feel useful.”

“Our volunteers are diverse with unique backgrounds and skill sets. We have former teachers and business people; some have graphics, presentation or other specialized skills. The main thing we emphasize though is to have fun while working,” Whitaker explains.

Many volunteers speak foreign languages. Often visitors call The Dali and ask if they can have a tour in their native language. Naturally Spanish is the second most requested language, but there are guides that speak Japanese, Chinese, German, French, Russian, and some others.

“We consider our volunteers to be Ambassadors for St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay area. One out of six Dali guests are from outside the U.S. We want them to know about our whole area, not just The Dali,” Whitaker explains. “People ask us about where to eat and what else to do nearby. We know our guests go back to their homes in other states and countries and talk about their experience. We want our volunteers to represent us and the area favorably.”

Some volunteers participate in field trips to other museums and attractions, so they can become aware of what those facilities offer—plus it is a reward for their hard work. Volunteers also make presentations at other locations away from The Museum such as at schools, businesses and meeting groups.

“Our goal is for our volunteers to have a wonderful experience working here, and to pass that experience on to our Dali visitors, Whitaker concludes.

Rachel Furlott - A Dali Volunteer at 85

Rachel Furlott, age 85, has been volunteering at The Dali since her husband died, 5 years ago. She works in the Audio Department, handing out headsets. “We have had headsets for many years, but in January, we introduced a new more modern system”, says Furlott.

Furlott does not get paid for volunteering, but she says she gets a lot out of it. “I meet the most wonderful people. Many are from other states and nations,” she says happily. “I have made many new friends here.”

Furlott works two to three hour shifts, four days a week which is ten to twelve hours a week. Last year she worked over 1,000 hours at The Dali, but she does not call it work. Also, she has participated in The Dali “Travel Council” taking field trips to other cities and attractions. “We went to Tampa, Sarasota and even Naples, last year,” she adds.

“Volunteering at the Dali has been a wonderful experience.”
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By Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida’s State Director

Despite the attention given to millennials, Tampa Bay includes the highest percentage of residents who are 65 or older in the nation. As boomers continue to reach that 65-plus milestone, don’t expect the bay area to yield its top spot any time soon.

What’s rarely mentioned, however, is that the same features that attract the talent, energy and potential of the millennials will also attract and keep vibrant Florida’s huge — and economically muscular — 50-plus population.

As Tampa Bay charts a course toward economic growth, elected officials, economic development experts and entrepreneurs should simultaneously target millennials and also court the 50-plus population. Here’s why:

• **OLDER PEOPLE HAVE MONEY:** While there are wide economic disparities among the 50 and over population as there are throughout all generations in the United States, older people are much more likely to be financially well off than millennials. Americans aged 50 or older control 80 percent of the wealth of the country.

• **GRAY IS GOLD IN FLORIDA:** According to a 2015 study prepared by AARP and Oxford Economics, people 50 or older were responsible for 57 percent of all consumer spending in the Tampa Bay region. Statewide, a 2014 study by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation found Floridians ages 50 and over were responsible for 58 percent of all consumer spending in the state, sustained nearly 6 million jobs and created $429 billion per year in direct, indirect and induced economic impact.

• **ACTIVE BOOMERS ARE WORKERS:** In 2015, 63 percent of the 50-plus population was in the workforce. They earn more than half of all employee compensation, though they make up about 35 percent of the total workforce.

• **BOOMERS ARE ENTREPRENEURS:** Florida has long been known as a small business state, and entrepreneurs and startups have been key to the state’s recurring economic booms. What’s not as well recognized is that about 15% of the 50-plus population are small business entrepreneurs, compared to about 11 percent of the 25-49 age range.

Later this year, AARP Florida and Encore Tampa Bay will offer the Caregiver Accelerator, a learning experience for people interested in creating new businesses that can support family caregivers and those they care for.

Would-be entrepreneurs will get coaching on how to put together a business plan, find capital and grow a fledgling business from a good idea. In May, AARP is sponsoring a conference at which entrepreneurs will be able to pitch their business ideas to potential investors. The potential business upside is enormous — Florida already has 2.67 million family caregivers. With tomorrow’s longer life-spans, the market for caregiver services is poised for rapid growth.

This year, the oldest boomers turn 70 and the youngest turn 52. Most are still working and many still have children in school. Millennials are still establishing their niche in their career and personal lives. In each generation, Florida can find opportunities for growth and prosperity.

AARP Florida stands ready to work with anyone to build livable communities across the state through the AARP/World Health Organization Age Friendly Network of Communities. Together, we’ll build a Florida that welcomes all ages to the sunshine.
By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

To understand the budget, you have to understand the overall process. As the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners gets deeper into the fiscal year 2017 budget, I wanted to share an overview with you.

From December to January, the Pinellas County Office of Management and Budget analyzes six years of budget information to produce a financial forecast. The prior year’s actual revenue and expenditures are compared to the estimates. The current budget takes the actual expenditures to date and projects the remaining months left in the fiscal year. The coming budget year is forecasted based on past history and future trends using various forecasting tools.

From January through March, each department and agency develops their strategic plans, which link to the various projects and programs in the annual budget. This helps ensure sound strategy linked to big picture goals drive budget decisions. The plans include a summary of the scope and purpose of each department and the specific challenges to be addressed in the coming years.

In February, targets or budget guidelines are developed by the county administration based on the financial forecast. These are communicated to the county’s departments and agencies for use during their budget development.

From March until April, county departments and agencies submit their completed budgets. The Constitutional Officers have a due date of May 1 for their budgets. The budget submissions are analyzed by Office of Management and Budget staff in preparation for public budget work sessions with the County Commission.

From April to June, various public work sessions are held to obtain feedback to develop the tentative budget. These sessions address the millage rate, proposed program enhancements or reductions and revenue adjustments.

The proposed budget is then prepared by the county administrator based on direction from the various public work sessions with the County Commission and priorities in the county’s strategic plan. The proposed budget presents a balanced budget for the coming year.

Additional public work sessions may be held in August and September. All changes to the proposed budget are announced at each of the public hearings. Finally, two public budget hearings are held for citizens to provide further input. At the first public hearing on September 14 at 6 pm, the board will consider the approval of the tentative millage rates and budgets. At the second public hearing, September 27 at 6 pm, the board will vote on the adopted millage rates and budgets. All of the County Commission meetings are in the Pinellas County Courthouse at 315 Court Street, Clearwater, fifth floor assembly room.

On Oct. 1, the new fiscal year begins based on the adopted budget and the annual budget process ends. A few months later, the process begins again.

The county budget is something that touches each of our lives; I encourage everyone to become familiar with the proposed budget later this year. Additionally, the board will host a community conversation on May 3, 5:30 to 7 pm in the digitorium on the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College, where residents may ask questions of the entire board and the county administrator in a town hall style forum.

I also welcome everyone to attend a budget public hearing and provide input to the Board of County Commissioners.
To mark the beginning of beach weather as the addition of the Opal Sands Resort will bring more people and swimmers to the south end of Clearwater Beach, the City of Clearwater recently added a new lifeguard station near the jetties. It was designed by Fisher Architects (as were the others) to have a more modern design that compliments the design of the Opal Sands. Clearwater Beach prides itself on being one of the only beaches on the Gulf Coast offering lifeguards and now has 6 on duty, full time all year.

To keep visits to the beach as enjoyable as possible, beachgoers should remember the following:

► Swim within a Safe Bathing Limit. This might be anywhere from knee deep to 300 feet off shore. It will be marked with buoys. Normally, boaters and jet skis are not allowed inside a marked Safe Bathing area.

► On Clearwater Beach, always swim near a lifeguard. They are on duty from 9:30am until late afternoons. Do not put tents, shacks or other temporary shelters west of any lifeguard towers. They block the lifeguards line of site preventing a clear view of the beach or people in the water.

► Use trash receptacles or take your trash with you. Do not litter. Leave only your footprints.

► Do not disturb or feed the wildlife and PLEASE don’t feed the seagulls.

► Be aware of turtle nesting season which begins May 1. Turtles may appear anytime from May through August. Do not approach a mother sea turtle or she will return to the water and drop her eggs. Don’t use flashlights on the beach to scare adult turtles back into the water. Do not leave large holes or sandcastles in the sand as they block or trap both adult or baby turtles. Limit your use of residential lights so as not to confuse hatchlings that find their way to the water by following the natural moonlight.

► Protect your valuables. Don’t leave wallets or cell phones on a blanket, unprotected while walking or swimming.

► Be aware of the Florida sun. The sunshine can be intense, even on cloudy days. It won’t take long for a nasty sunburn. Use a tent or umbrella if possible while sitting on the beach.

► Learn the Stingray Shuffle. Stingrays having a mating and migration season during which time people report more stings. Purple Flags indicates that stingrays may be in the area. When in the water walking, shuffle your feet through the sand, without actually lifting them up off the sand. This will scare any nearby buried stingrays causing them to swim away and help prevent you from stepping on it.

► Head Riptides warnings. Riptides are currents of water that move quickly from the shore out into the gulf. They can occur at any time, especially near storms. Do not try to swim against the current-- that is towards shore. Swim a short distance to the north or south, and normally you will exit the rip tide. Signal for help if you need it.

► Always swim with another person and never swim beyond your ability.
In April, Radiance Medspa will celebrate its 10th year. The Medspa specializes in non-surgical cosmetic services for the face and body and is the #1 provider of BOTOX and Juvederm in Tampa Bay and among the top 1% in the United States. Radiance is owned by Stephanie Schlageter.

Schlageter was born and raised in Evanston, near Chicago. At 15, she took a job at the 350 slip Wilmette Harbor Marina on Lake Michigan—driving dinghies, tying up boats and pumping gas. Soon, she learned to work on small engines and started an engine repair business on the side. By 19, she was their harbormaster, and worked there for 11 years, through college and graduate school.

“I always wanted to do something in the medical field,” says Schlageter, “and I was good at math and science.” She started at Boston’s Tufts University studying pre-med, but ended up receiving a Mechanical Engineering degree as the only woman in the class.

“On a lark after graduation, some friends and I went to Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic) and got jobs teaching English. I lived outside of Prague for a year and traveled all over Europe—what an experience.”

She returned to Chicago to pursue her Masters in Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern University. Schlageter explains. “I specialized in CT scanning and did my Master’s research in the Brain Tumor Research Lab. There I also met my husband Kurt, who was studying for his PhD in Neuroscience.”

“With my Master’s Degree, I got a job as a Research and Development Engineer with a Largo medical manufacturing company,” Schlageter continues. “I developed Orthopedic surgical instruments. After several promotions, I was responsible for managing a $500M division.”

In 2005, Schlageter, with a desire to work for herself, became aware of a franchise for Radiance Medspa. “Medspas are a relatively new concept,” Schlageter explains. “They weren’t around 15-20 years ago. Now you see them everywhere.”

The concept - part medical and part retail, interested me and I bought a franchise. So did hundreds of others. Unfortunately, the franchisor abandoned the operation. Many lost everything when the support disappeared. “I decided to go ahead on my own,” Schlageter says with pride.

At first, Schlageter had five employees and a physician. Today, there are twelve employees - two are physicians and four are nurse practitioners. They are expanding their facility by adding new treatment rooms, a training room and several employees.

Schlageter is very involved in the business community and is the Chair-Elect for the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce. “One thing I value about having a successful business is being able to channel that success back into the community. We wouldn’t be where we are without community support and we make it a priority to give back.”

The Schlageters, married for 20 years, live in Belleair Beach with their a 15-year old daughter, Lauren. Husband Kurt is a Medical Science Liaison for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Radiance Medspa is located at 2894 West Bay Drive near Wild Fields. Call them at 518-7100 or visit at www.RadianceMedSpa.com
Organizational News

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION
They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapel by the Sea Church. The next meetings are May 3, June 7 and July 5 at 6:30 pm. The beach police lieutenant gives an update on pertinent beach issues at each meeting. Updates on beach traffic, parking and short term rentals are also on the agenda. All members, or those wishing to join, are welcome to attend. Visit their new website www.ClearwaterBeachAssoc.com

They were proud to sponsor the Clearwater Beach Annual Easter Egg Hunt by donating $200 to the Easter Bunny.

The Annual Spring Picnic, originally scheduled for April 2nd was canceled due to severe weather. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 23rd at Triangle Park. The event runs from 2pm to 5pm. Triangle Park is located on Bay Esplanade at Narcissus Drive.

The CBA is a neighborhood association organized to promote projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature. Membership is $25/household and checks can be made payable to CBA and mailed to PO Box 3295, Clearwater 33767.

For more information about the CBA contact Board Members Beth Prast at esphome@yahoo.com or David MacNamee at DMacNav@TampaBay.RR.com

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB
They sponsor the annual Holiday Lighted Boat Parade which will be on December 10th. In addition, the Island Estates Yacht Club holds monthly meetings, events and parties. Memberships are available and owning a boat is not required. Contact Commodore Paul Lightfoot 727-744-1728 or Rear Commodore Mary O’Connor 727-595-5952 for information.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER
Give the gift of sailing. Gift certificates are available for memberships, private sailing lessons, and "Adult Learn to Sail" courses are offered on weekends, or rentals.

Fun Racing is held on the third Saturday each month. Skippers meeting is at noon on the deck, and racing is from 1 to 3pm. They offer instruction in Stand Up Paddle boarding and kayaking. ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org.

They are open Tuesday-Sunday from 9am to 5pm

BELLEAIR WOMEN’S REPUBLICAN CLUB
Jay Beyrouti, former Chairman of the Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee (PCREC) and former mayor of Redington Shores will speak Friday, May 6th at their monthly meeting at the Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane. Mr. Beyrouti will give his insight into the Middle East crisis.

Registration is at 11:30 and lunch/meeting is at noon. The cost for the luncheon is $22.00 and reservations are required. Please make your reservation by emailing Mary Misskin at misskinfl@gmail.com or by calling her at 727-453-2630 or you may contact Renatta Cochran at renflco@tampabay.rr.com or call her at 727-595-6678.

Pre-payment is appreciated. Please send your check payable to BWRC to Claudia Thomas, 5512 Salem Square Drive N., Palm Harbor, 34685.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY
Now in its 63rd year, they hold weekly meetings at the Carlouel Yacht Club every Thursday at noon. Nick Ekonomides, President, can be reached at 447-1075. ClearwaterBeachRotary.com

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Their next meetings are May 3 and June 7. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows.

They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or to consider joining, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5758.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY
At their annual meeting the outgoing and the new President decided to function as co-presidents. They also celebrated the completion of the Rec Center and Library’s remodel. In the coming months, Friends will co-host environmental and conservation programs relating to Clearwater Beach

The Friends meet on the third Thursday of each month at noon for lunch. The next meetings are: April 21 and May 19. Guests are welcome.

Friends is a non-profit organization that works to sustain the Beach Library and Recreation Facilities and Pool as a viable part of the community. You are welcome to join them and share your ideas on how to improve things. Call Linda Owens at (260) 894-0270 for more information.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB
The club features a monthly tea & general meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm, as well as horticulture programs on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., in the Town of Belleair.

Club membership is $50 per year, couples pay $55 and seasonal members only $25. Guests are welcome. For information, contact new President, Laura Katz, 581-4153 or email lkbkatz53@gmail.com for more information.

NEWCOMER’S CLUB
Are you new to our area and just have not been able to meet anyone? Joining this new, organization which is really a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends and acquaintances. You do not really have to be a newcomer to join; many existing members already live in the immediate area. The ladies meet monthly at local restaurants for lunch with guest speakers. Afterwards, many stay and play cards or visit. Call Marie Michel at 530-5194 or visit www.WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB
They held their big annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 6th. The event was very successful. Funds raised from events such as this help fund their programs, including Penny Pines, Coral Reef Foundation, Youth Wekiva Camp, Camp Seek, and the Clearwater Community Gardens.

They meet twice a month from October through May, at 405 Seminole Street, Clearwater. For information, contact President Alice Jarvis, bgjalo@aol.com or call 391-3066.

Featured LISTINGS in the Clearwater Beach Area

- 11 SAN MARCO ST, #1008
  - MANDALAY BEACH CLUB
  - 2 Bedroom & 2 Bath | 1,840 Sq. Ft.
  - $875,000

- 11 SAN MARCO ST, #1204
  - MANDALAY BEACH CLUB
  - 3 Bedroom & 2 Bath | 1,600 Sq. Ft.
  - $899,000

- 750 ISLAND WAY, #701
  - SEA ISLAND SOUTH
  - 2 Bedroom & 2 Bath | 1,840 Sq. Ft.
  - $375,000

Properties PENDING & SOLD by Tara Beheshti

- 8399 MEADOWBROOK
  - OFFERED AT $417,000

- 501 MANDALAY 1009
  - SOLD FOR $1,525,000

- 31 ISLAND WAY
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