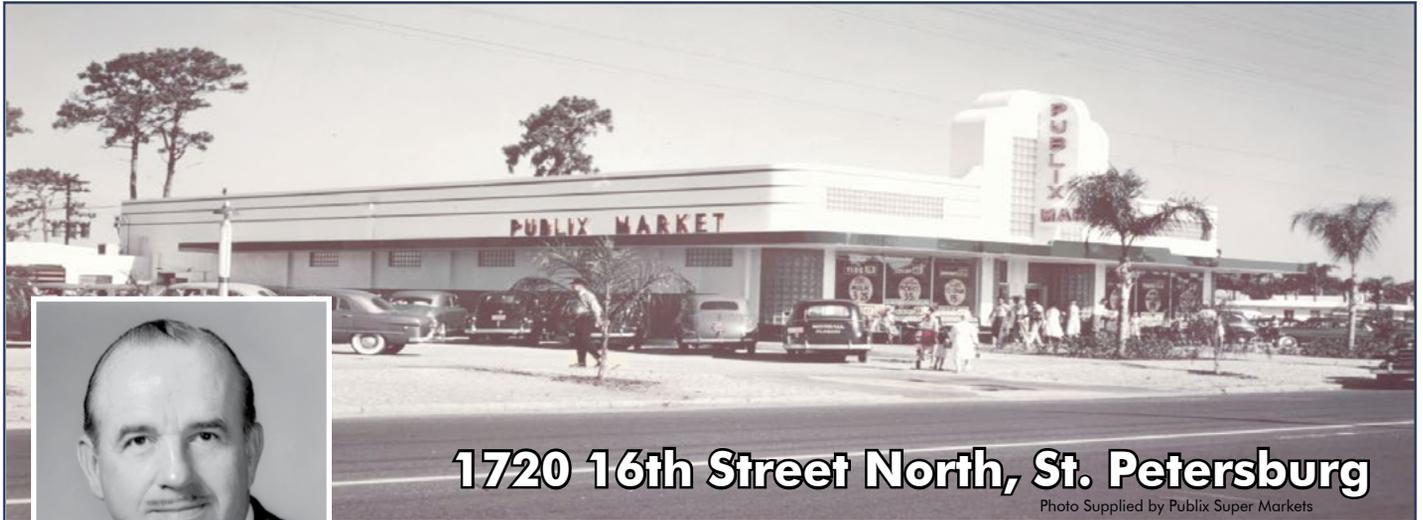


CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

Newsletter



including Sand Key and Island Estates



1720 16th Street North, St. Petersburg

Photo Supplied by Publix Super Markets

PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS' EARLY BEGINNINGS

While just a hundred years ago they didn't exist, grocery store chains are an integral part of our lives today. As a child, depending on where you grew up, you may remember visiting A&P, Winn-Dixie, Albertsons, Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion, Food City and a host of others, including Publix. Publix Super Markets has been operating in Florida since 1930, its first Pinellas County store opened in 1945.

The Publix brand was founded in Winter Haven by George Jenkins, when he was just 23. George grew up in a small Georgia town where he worked for his father, who owned a small general store. After struggling to make a living, his father eventually moved his business to Atlanta. When he was 17, Jenkins enrolled in night classes at Georgia Tech while simultaneously working a day job. He was a hard worker, driving a cab, selling shoes, delivering groceries for his dad's store and selling candy at a consignment shop. He never actually worked in his dad's Atlanta store. Instead, he took a clerk job at a nearby Piggly Wiggly. Within eight weeks, while still in his teens, he became the store's manager.

Unsure of his grocery business future, Jenkins accepted a job selling Atlanta real estate where he learned of a major Florida land boom. He promptly moved south and in Tampa, met the owner of several local Piggly Wiggly stores. The store owner became so impressed with Jenkins that he hired him and soon promoted him to manage his St. Petersburg store. When that store's sales quadrupled, Jenkins was transferred to Winter Haven, and managed the chain's largest store for four years.

In 1930, all the area stores were sold to an Atlanta based franchise. Jenkins drove to Atlanta to introduce himself to his new boss, but the owner refused to meet with him. Disgusted, Jenkins drove back to Winter Haven, decided to open his own grocery store and resigned.

With very little money, Jenkins, now only 23, incorporated as Publix Food Stores. He created 30 shares in his future company for \$100 each. He sold four shares to close friends; two Piggly Wiggly employees each purchased four shares. He kept 13 shares for himself. This raised nearly \$1,200. George added \$1,300 of his own money and opened the first Publix Food Store Sept. 6, 1930 in Winter Haven.

Jenkins, with the help of five employees, opened that first store practically next door to the Piggly Wiggly. The two stores competed with price cutting and special deals; the Piggly Wiggly eventually closed.

In 1935, only five years after opening the first Publix, Jenkins opened a second discount grocery store called The Economy Store, also in Winter Haven.



That same store today, which is a Family Dollar Store

CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - a total of about 5,000 households - six times a year.

You can pick up another copy at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

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

Thank you for reading,

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN FEBRUARY!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
112 S. Osceola Avenue, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
Doreen Caudell - Seat 2 ● Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 ● Bill Jonson - Seat 4 (Vice-Mayor)	
Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES	449-8732
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLEY TROLLEY	445-1200
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	

CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
LITTLE LEAGUE	
John Murphy 813-486-4430	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
Alexandra Everist 237-8037	
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	
Beth Prast 859-802-6110	
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	
Maggie Caster 488-8705	
SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
AL Zimmerman 727-593-7379	
ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
Mary Lau, President 813-335-6770	
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Lynne McCaskill, President 430-1911	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Anne Garris 446-4410	
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Bill Wallace, President 446-2676	

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO	464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276	
Karen Seel Sand Key 464-3278	

STATE:	
Senator Jack Latvala	727-793-2797
Republican, District 20	
26133 US Hwy 19 N. Ste 201, Clearwater	
Latvala.Jack.web@flsenate.gov	
Representative Larry Ahern	727-395-2512
Republican, District 66	
8383 Seminole Blvd. Suite B, Seminole	
larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov	
Governor Rick Scott	
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com	

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

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Public School Close Winter Break	19
Winter Begins	21
CBA Christmas Caroling	22
Christmas Caroling	22
Hanukkah Begins	24
Christmas Eve	24
Christmas	25
Kwanzaa Begins	26
St Pete Bowl	26
Boxing Day	26
Outback Bowl Beach Day	30
New Years Eve	31
Fireworks Sand Key Park	31

Happy New Year!

JANUARY

New Year's Day	1
Last Regular Bucs Game of Season	1
Outback Bowl	2
Public School Reopen	3
Epiphany	6
ROC Day At Heritage Village	7

Dunedin Art Show	7-8
NCAA Championship Beach Bash	8
NCAA Football Championship Game	9
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16
Public Schools Closed	16
IRB Boat Club Lunch at The Pub	21
Florida's Arbor Day	21
Martinis & Matisse	21
Blast Friday Cleveland Street	27
Memorial Causeway Clean Up	28
Gasparilla Invasion	28
Beach Walk-Walk	28
Chinese New Year	28
Backwater's Chili Cook-Off	29
CYC Chili Cook-Off	29

FEBRUARY

Ground Hog Day	2
Florida State Fair	2-12
Island Estates Fun Run & Blood Drive	4
Super Bowl	5
Yard Sale St Brendan's Church	11-12
IRB Boat Club Island Way Brunch	12

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Did You Know



SAVE THE DATE
Next year, the popular Sugar Sands Festival will be held April 14-23 on Clearwater Beach. The theme will be Sugar Sand FantaSEA. Visit SugarSandFestival.com.

ROOFTOP SUNSETS The Rooftop Terrace on the upper deck of the Clearwater Main Library will be open for sunset every Tuesday (weather permitting) at 5:30pm. Attendees will meet at the grand staircase on the first floor and proceed to the rooftop terrace for a view of the sunset (times may vary). The roof top terrace provides a special vantage point to experience views of Clearwater Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. The Main Library is located at 100 N. Osceola Avenue. For more details, please call 562-4970.

TOURISM VOLUNTEERS Do you like talking to people and giving them advice on what do to? If so, maybe you would enjoy helping our area visitors find things to do during their stay. The Clearwater Beach Chamber is in need of volunteers to man 3-hour shifts once a week at the Visitor Center inside the Surf Style store on Clearwater Beach. They have a great group of fun-loving volunteers but can use a few more. It is great fun talking with people from all over the world who are here to enjoy our area. If you want to volunteer, call the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce at 727-447-7600.

JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIPS Once again, next summer Clearwater is sending four area high school students on an educational trip to Japan. The selected students will receive a \$2,000 scholarship towards the cost of the one week in Nagano, Japan, which is Clearwater's sister city. Eligible students must be a resident of Clearwater, enrolled in high school with a minimum 3.5 GPA and be enrolled in a world language class. There may be other requirements. Deadline to apply is January 6th. Contact Chris Hubbard at 562-4837 if you are interested.



ARMED FORCES HISTORY MUSEUM TO CLOSE The popular but well-hidden Largo Museum will close January 29th. If you have toured it, you know what a loss this is to community. This was owner

and curator, John J. Piazza's personal project for the last 55 years. Unfortunately, he died in September. The staff at the Armed Forces Museum hope that an angel will come forward and acquire the building and its exhibits, but it will have to happen quickly. To learn more about this treasure, visit ArmedForcesMuseum.com.

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#1 IN RECYCLING Pinellas County was recently recognized as the Florida county with the highest recycling rate in 2015. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection determined Pinellas County has a 89% recycling rate, which is ahead of Palm Beach and Hillsborough Counties, both at 72%. The state averaged 54% overall in 2015. The State Legislature has a set a goal of 75% by the year 2020. Pinellas was 63% the year before and rose 26% partially due to an increase in recycled construction and demolition debris including concrete.



CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS The Fifth Annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs will be held at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg in the University Student Center located downtown, on February 15-17. Join them for three stimulating days of listening and learning as multiple panels of distinguished experts discuss critical international issues of the day.

2017 FOOTBALL COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP The College Football National Championship game is being played in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium on January 9th. This bowl game determines the national champion of the 2016 NCAA Division I college football season. The winners of the Fiesta Bowl and the Peach Bowl, both of which are played on New Year's Eve, will battle it out to determine who is the best of the best.

MARTINIS AND MATISSE This unique event, that usually draws over 800 attendees each year, is January 21. Benefiting the Clearwater Free Clinic, whose mission is to deliver free medical care to uninsured families, it promises to be a memorable night. Tickets are available now. and it will sell out. Call Meg Lokey at 331-8149. See www.MartinsandMatisse.org for more information.

DREDGING DONE The City hired a private company to dredge the narrow channel east of the Sand Key Bridge; just off Clearwater Point. The County and State dredged it two years ago, but it filled in within a year and large boats could no longer get through. The project took a month but finished the day before the Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade.

ENERGY VAMPIRES Leaving cell phone chargers, laptops, printers, and coffee makers plugged in allows them to continue drawing energy and running up your electric bill. If it has a light to tell you that it's off, it is probably an energy vampire. If you often forget to pull the plug, smart power strips can be a great alternative. These strips cut power to devices when you turn off a main device. Good uses for these include computers, printers, televisions, DVD players, and DVRs.



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Dr. Guillermo Cosma, psychiatrist, practiced from 1973 to 2002

Dr. William Kilgore, orthopedic surgeon, practiced from 1963 to 2000

Dr. Jeff Sourbeer, family medicine, practicing since 1984

Dr. Ryan Bialas, anesthesiologist, practicing since 2015

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Morton Plant Hospital got its start in 1914 when several local women asked railroad magnate Morton F. 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 and its physicians 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.

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The new Doyle Tower at Morton Plant Hospital, scheduled to be completed in 2017. Another example of how the community gave back.



MortonPlant100.org
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PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, Continued

During a Florida recession in 1940, Jenkins purchased a local orange grove. That land deal allowed him to secure a \$70,000 bank loan to build the store of his dreams—Florida's first "supermarket" which opened November 8, 1940. He referred to it as his "food palace". It had a lot of glass and marble, stucco exterior, a paved parking lot, automatic opening doors, air conditioning, fluorescent lights, wide aisles, open dairy cases, many large freezers and music was played overhead. These features were unheard of in a grocery store in the 1940s.

He soon decided to close his two original Winter Haven stores and moved forward building his modern supermarket concept.

At the end of World War II, thousands of veterans and their families were moving to Florida. Money and building materials though were scarce, so in 1945, Jenkins purchased the Lakeland Grocery Company, a chain of 19 grocery stores called the All American Food Stores based in nearby Lakeland. With stores in Clearwater, St Petersburg, Tarpon Springs and Largo, the acquisition brought Jenkins' back to Pinellas County for the first time since he managed the St. Petersburg Piggly Wiggly store all those years before.

The All American stores did not meet the high standards held by Jenkins and his new Publix super markets. During the 1950s and '60s, each of the buildings was eventually sold or torn down and rebuilt in the using the Publix design.

There were two Clearwater stores. The North Ft. Harrison location was abandoned for a new one on Cleveland which today is Nature's Food Patch. The original store went on to be many things since including an Arthur Murray Dance Studio. It is now an Islamic Mosque. An acquired store in St. Petersburg at 1720 16th Street N. is a Walgreens, but still has the old Publix façade.

In 1951, Jenkins moved his corporate offices to Lakeland and built his first distribution center. He continued to expand and enhance his chain of grocery stores. In the 1950s, they added bakeries and flower shops. Delicatessen were added in the 1960s. In the 1980s pharmacies and ATMs called Presto! were added. Today pharmacies are in 90% of all the Publix stores. Liquor store sales were added in the late 1980s and became standard in 2003.

In 1991, for the first time, Publix built a store outside Florida. The chain expanded first into Georgia, Jenkin's birth state. By 1995 there were over 500 Super Markets in three states. They hit the 100,000-employee mark about the same time. In 2009, a St. Augustine store became its 1,000th.

By 2014, Publix operated in six southern states, that being: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. There are plans to expand into Virginia in next year.

Today, Publix is the largest, employee-owned company in the world, ranking #67 on the 2016 Fortune's list of the 100 Best Companies to work for. It is the largest privately owned company in Florida. In 86 years, Publix has never had an employee layoff.

In addition to over 1,100 grocery stores it has eight distribution centers and ten manufacturing facilities where they produce dairy, deli, bakery and other food products. 70% of all Publix Super Markets are in Florida.

"Mr. George", as his employees affectionately called him, had two brothers, Charlie and John. Charlie worked in the grocery business alongside his brother. John was an attorney who became involved with real estate development and banking—two businesses that led to a partnership with Jenkins in many Pinellas shopping centers.



One of the original All American stores on N. Ft. Harrison in Clearwater, now a mosque.

Jenkins was married twice; his first wife Lee Savings Jenkins died in 1947. After her death, he married Anne MacGregor. They divorced in 1974. He had seven children.

At the age of 82, Jenkins suffered a stroke in 1989, but continued to work, visiting stores in his wheelchair. He died in 1996 at the age of 88.

Jenkin's grandson Ed Crenshaw, retired this year as the company's CEO. Todd Jones, a Publix veteran for 36 years who started as a bagger and Front Service Clerk, is currently the company's CEO.

One of Jenkin's greatest legacies was the creation of the George Jenkins Foundation. It supports Special Olympics, the March of Dimes, Children's Miracle Network, the United Way, various local food banks and soup kitchens and more.

Close friend Governor Lawton Chiles once stated "George Jenkins made a tremendous contribution to our business climate, but perhaps more importantly, he was a true civic leader who had a deep dedication to improving our communities."

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WYNDHAM GRAND OPENING

Clearwater Beach's largest hotel, The Wyndham Grand Hotel, is on schedule to open January 18th just north of the Hyatt Regency and west of the Pier 60 Hotel. The 343-room hotel has a 530-space parking garage and two towers connected by a building podium with a pool deck five feet off the ground facing BeachWalk. Inside is Ocean Hai, an upscale restaurant near the pool and a 10,600 square foot ballroom for special events and meetings space.



David Yamada and Miguel Diaz

Ocean Hai's menu features Asian Fusion including sushi, with inside and outside seating and a beautiful view of the Gulf and Pier 60. Bars will be available in the lobby and poolside where there is also a small grill restaurant.

The hotel will employ over 300 people, although the number will vary with the season.

General Manager David Yamada and Miguel Diaz, the Director of Sales and Marketing are managing the hotel. Yamada, with the Wyndham for six years, comes here from Southern California. He recently managed Wyndhams in Jamaica and Tucson. He lives in Palm Harbor.

Diaz has 22 years experience in the hotel marketing business and has been with Wyndham since June. He previously worked for the Starwood Hotel Company most recently in Savannah. He and his family live in Seminole.

"We have spent the past few months getting to know the Clearwater and Tampa Bay community," says Yamada. "We have enjoyed meeting the leaders, both in business and the Clearwater Beach neighborhoods. This is a great community for a Wyndham Grand."

Visit WyndhamGrandClearwater.com, for more information.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

Do you want to watch fireworks this New Year's Eve? Here are a few local spots to see them.

CLEARWATER BEACH - This is the closest fireworks show to the area as it they are being shot off at Sand Key Park. However, the park is closed at night, but you can view the show from the south along Sand Key Beach or to the north in Clearwater Beach. The beach just north of the Clearwater Sailing Center has good views too.

DOWNTOWN ST PETERSBURG - The annual First Night event, hosted downtown in St. Petersburg, has not one but two sets of fireworks. The first is at 8pm for the families with small children and again later at midnight. First Night requires a paid badge to get into many of the venues, but the fireworks are free. Children tickets at \$5 each and adults are \$10 each (in advance). Check out at www.FirstNightStPetersburg.com.

TAMPA - Downtown Tampa will have fireworks near Channelside. They normally have live music and a ball drop at midnight. Also Busch Gardens will stay open until 1am on New Year's Eve with fireworks at midnight. However, this requires admission to the park. Visit BuschGardens.com.

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WISHING YOU A SAFE HOLIDAY

The holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve is the peak time for home cooking fires. As you prepare your holiday schedule and organizing your family feasts,



remember to follow a few simple safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove, they should always stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure the Christmas tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure your Christmas tree or any decorations are not blocking an exit.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Get rid of the Christmas tree after the holiday is over. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage.
- Practice fire escape routes in your home with your family and house guests. This includes the family meeting area outside where everyone will meet should a fire occur in the home.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

2017 FOLK FAIR CANCELED

The Annual Folk Festival held at Heritage Village and co-sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society has been cancelled. Not enough people volunteered to provide support for their Country Jubilee and they couldn't risk that happening again. Many volunteers and some anticipated recruit did not show up for the Jubilee and parking on 125th became dangerous for the few over-extended volunteers.

In the past, visitors could listen to dozens of the Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians on traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout the Village.

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--	--	---

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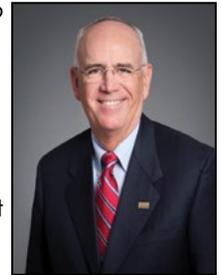
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2017- A LOOK AHEAD

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



It is often said that the only two things certain in life are death and taxes. To that we might add a third certainty... uncertainty. This is especially true for 2017 as we enter with a Republican in the White House and Republicans controlling both houses of Congress. Let us share some thoughts about 2017.

Tax reform at both the corporate and individual levels is likely. However, President Trump will not get his way entirely as he must contend with some members of both parties. Thus, compromising will be necessary. The likely outcome is lower tax rates. ObamaCare is probably going to be repealed and replaced, but the provision precluding insurance companies from excluding pre-existing conditions will likely be part of the new bill as will insuring children up to age 26.

Military spending will go up under the new administration, but Democrats will want some concessions for going along. This will be good for defense contractors. Infrastructure spending will also likely increase, but Mr. Trump will not get the \$1 trillion over the next ten years that he "promised" during the campaign. Construction companies will be the main benefactor. This spending will not kick in until 2018, however.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be better than 2016, but probably will not exceed 3%. A recession is unlikely. The equity markets will probably post a single digit increase and the bond market (because of rising interest rates) could experience a negative total return for the year.

Employment numbers should continue to be good, but not as robust as they have been the past few years, and the unemployment number is likely to drift downward. With increased government spending, higher energy prices, and increasing wages, the threat of higher inflation could be a drag on the economy. This might cause the Fed to increase interest rates faster than anticipated.

In short, there are many reasons to be cautiously optimistic. Do not overreact to events in the short run. Instead take a long term view. If you would like to stay abreast of our thoughts, please go to our website (ProVise.com) and ask to have the ProVise Bullets sent to you semi-monthly via email and/or take advantage of our complimentary one hour consultation to discuss how 2017 and beyond might affect your financial planning.

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CLEARWATER BEACH AUTHOR PENS CHILDREN'S BOOK ON HANDLING BULLY BEHAVIOR

In January 2015, Tracey Sullivan adopted a purebred flashy fawn boxer puppy from Ohio that was already named Tebow. "I have to write a book through the eyes of this dog," Sullivan thought.

Sullivan's inspiration for "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" (published by Lulu) emerged from her unbridled joy of children's picture books. The unconditional love from dogs, who she imagined with human traits, in an adventure while living in a beachside community became the basis of the story. She is grateful for the opportunity to pay it forward while enlightening both children and adults with life lessons.

"TEBOW TAILS: Caspar's Conquest" is based on a group of dogs that are best friends and live in the beachside community Barkington Bluffs. When they band together, there is always spontaneous fun and adventure. This juvenile fiction book leads to a life lesson about how to handle or respond to bully behavior and treating friends the way one would like to be treated.

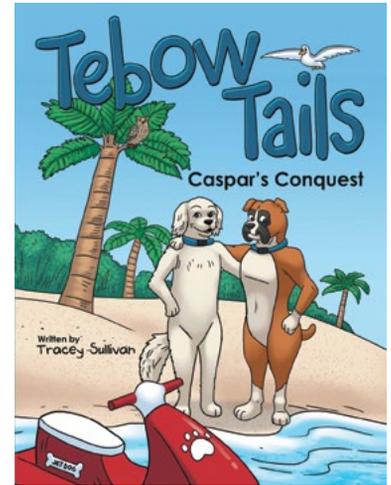
"I believe this book will appeal to children and adults of all ages because MOST of us can relate to the unconditional love of dogs/pets, imagining them with human type traits, and the delight and adventure of living in a beachside community," Sullivan tells. An excerpt from this book:

Bailey growls, "That brother of mine needs to be taught a lesson on how to treat his friends kindly. Hunter would not be a happy camper if we treated him poorly." Caspar chimes in, "Maybe Hunter just needs a hug."

Tebow smiles inside and thinks, That is exactly why Caspar is my best friend.

Founder and author of the "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" series, Sullivan graduated from the University of Florida and has a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and Accounting from the University of South Florida. She was previously a mathematics professor at St. Petersburg College. She and her husband, Bob, have two grown children, Scott and Jessica, and live with Tebow and Caspar in Clearwater Beach. "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. For more information, readers may check www.tebowtails.com.

The first of this month, Sullivan hosted a TEBOW TAILS Book Launch Party The Reef Steak & Seafood Company, 725 South Gulfview Boulevard, Clearwater Beach. Since the two main characters in the book are real dogs, both Tebow and Caspar were at the Book Signing for the kids and adults to meet. The Reef Restaurant is dog friendly.



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Business Briefs



RETURNING TO REAL ESTATE

Dan Beach's father purchased Harbor Barber & Salon in 1979 and Dan joined him there in 1986, purchasing the business five years later. In addition, Dan has had his real estate license since 2005. Recently, he activated it again and will be joining John Funk, who has been an active Broker for 40 years, owning seven real estate

businesses in three states and teaching real estate courses for three colleges. The new arrangement came to pass over a haircut, of course. Dan is very excited to be joining such a successful and reputable Broker on our beach, one who is also very involved in the local community. Don't worry though, over the years Dan has established many friendships with his shop's clients intends to continue owning and working there too, for many years to come. But you will also find him at John Funk, The Beach Broker at 55 Papaya Street, Clearwater Beach. You can reach Dan at 442-6419.

CONVIENANCE ON MANDALAY

A new small convenience store opened at 662 Mandalay Ave. Called Beach Stop Groceries. it has no signage, but it stocks beer, wine, sodas and a small amount of snacks and other beach trip items.

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Clearwater Gas has the state's best marketing person in the Natural Gas Industry. Lisa Brown, Marketing Director for Clearwater Gas was recently named Marketing Person of the Year for 2016 by the Florida Natural Gas Association. Brown began with Clearwater Gas and the City in 2001 as a sales person. Since then she has become an integral member and contributor to the overall success of Clearwater Gas.



"Lisa deserves this award for her work ethic, dedication, integrity and most importantly, for being an invaluable representative of our gas industry for the past 15 years," says Kristi Cheatham-Pettit, Sales Manager for Clearwater Gas System.

This is the sixth time beginning in 1991, a Clearwater Gas employee has received this statewide honor. Clearwater Gas is the fourth largest municipal gas system in Florida and ranks 34th in the United States among 1,000 other public gas utilities.

PADDLE BOARDS #2 OPENS

The second location for Clearwater Paddle Boards, next to the Clearwater Beach Chamber's new office, is now open. It is owned by Chris Roth who also owns the store at 643 Mandalay. This new store is at the corner of Poinsettia and Papaya Streets. Call 744-9008 for more information.

Business Briefs

BEACH SKYTRAN UPDATE Tom Nocera reports BeachTran Clearwater LLC has recently been formed as the operating entity for a SkyTran - the aerial transit solution



for the City of Clearwater, should city officials decide to greenlight the project. "While we await the aerial transit site recommendations from the city's consultants, expected before the end of the year, we're making preliminary plans to roll-out a regional aerial rapid transit system to connect Tampa, Clearwater and St. Petersburg, to be called STAT - St. Pete Tampa Aerial Transit, LLC," Nocera says. If Clearwater makes available the necessary right of ways, and the engineering determines the bridge will be able to accommodate the lightweight, aluminum aerial guideways, then BeachTran's says they are ready and prepared to bring about the first operational SkyTran system in the western hemisphere. Being the first means, the area could be positioned to reap a windfall of benefits including SkyTran locating a manufacturing facility in Pinellas County. Since traffic congestion is a global problem, many interested parties may travel to Clearwater for fact-finding, to see the system in operation and to experience flight along an aerial guideway from an initial station on the mainland to a station at Pier 60.

"We believe BeachTran has the best long term solution for Clearwater – and it will provide many benefits if the City implements this solar-powered passive maglev technology," Nocera concluded.

BELLE'S OLIVE BRANCH FOR CHRISTMAS This new holiday shopping spot wants to remind you they have many great Holiday gifts. They will custom make a gift baskets to go or they will ship it for you, with an array of items such as flavored olive oils, balsamic vinegars, fresh olives, homemade Italian pasta, condiments... You pick! They also sell the perfect size pairings for hostess gifts packaged by hand and wrapped ready to go. It is the perfect place for unique gifts for those hard to buy for. Their items aren't just for cooks but those who love to eat healthy! Why not give a gift everyone can enjoy! Belle's Olive Branch is located on the north side of the Plaza 100 facing City Hall. Call them at 330-6724.



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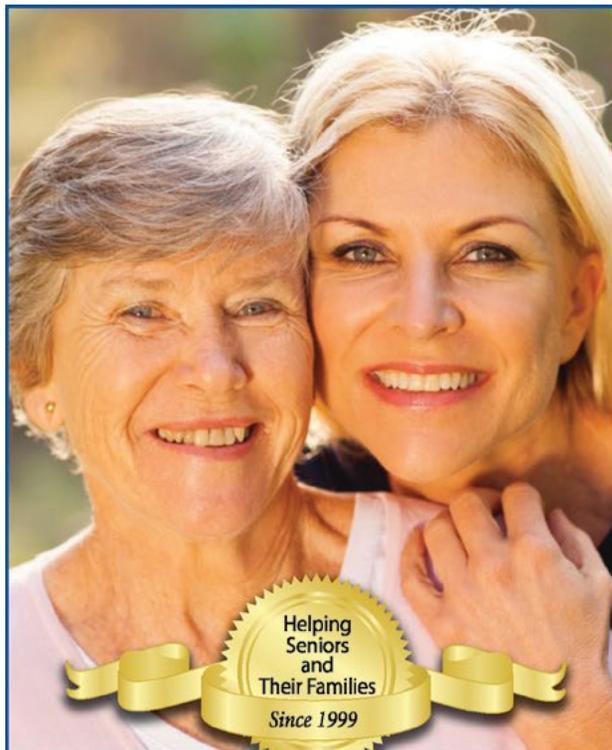
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PARKING GARAGE OPENS By the time you read this, developer Paradise Ventures, hopes the new parking garage, behind the Pelican Shopping Center on Poinsettia Avenue, open. Originally



scheduled to be completed in September, the date was moved to mid-December. The high rise parking garage, under construction since last the fall, is seven-stories and provides 700 new spaces on the north end of the beach. It is a public/private partnership with the city and Paradise Ventures Inc. The first floor will be retail on the east side, possibly with two small restaurants. Enter the garage on the east side of Poinsettia Avenue.



HAMPTON WINS BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Clearwater Beach's newest hotel, The Hampton Inn & Suites received the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce's annual Beautification Award. "With so many new hotels opening on Clearwater Beach, and even more remodeling, it is getting harder to pick a winner of this annual award," says Beach Chamber President Darlene Kole. "We were

surprised and are honored the Chamber selected us for this prestigious award," says Eileen Crowley, Director Sales for Southwind Hospitality, who also manages the hotel at 635 South Gulview Blvd., next to the Quality Inn. It opened in September and has 91 rooms, all suites.

PUBLIX PROJECT ON SCHEDULE

The Island Estate's store closed in August and is still scheduled to reopen next fall. In the meantime, store manager Louie Stavropoulos, is



co-managing a Publix in Seminole. The other employees were given a choice of stores to work in for the year. Pictured here are four of the 15 that at working at the South Ft Harrison store: Nancy Woodring, Dennis Stone, Kristie Martin and John Norcross). Drop by and say hello.



ANOTHER HOTEL TO OPEN SOON

The new Fairfield Inn & Suites, on Bay Esplanade, north of the Rec Center has topped out at six stories. It will have 102 rooms over parking and is projected to open in February.

Business Briefs



BOUTIQUE TURNS 30 This month, longtime Nicole Boutique owner, Wanda Matuska will be celebrating 30 years of fashion in Belleair Bluffs. Matuska has always been interested in clothes. When she was a little girl she designed clothes for her paper dolls. Her passion eventually led her to the world of fashion and sales. Matuska opened Nicole Boutique in 1986, the year her daughter Nicole was

born—hence the name. The Boutique continues to be a pillar of fashion in the heart of the Bluffs.

Nicole Boutique is located at 2892 West Bay, in the Bluffs Shopping Center next to Cody's Roadhouse Grill. Call them at 585-1544 for more information.

BELLEAIR BARRE OPENS This new fitness studio opened in Belleair Bluffs at 760 Indian Rocks Road. Owner and trainer Corrine Argenziano is a trained ballet dancer, nationally certified dance instructor and a certified personal trainer. "I have been teaching dance for over 20 years," Corrine says. "I have been teaching Barre Fitness classes for the past 6 years. I reopened this shop with the plan to provide more than just barre classes," she continues. "I plan to offer classes in dance fitness, Barre, adult ballet, butts and guts, stretch and yoga. We plan to offer wellness seminars and weightloss classes in the near future." Belleair Barre will hold an official grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 19 at 5:30pm. Refreshments will be served. There will be a special class schedule during the holidays. Stop by the studio to try your first Barre class for free. For more information, call her at 336-2376. Check them out at BelleairBarre.com.

BELLEAIR MONTESSORI 65 YEARS OLD Belleair Montessori Academy, formerly Tiny Tots in the 1950s, is celebrating their 65th year of operation, all in the same location. Since opening, thousands of families have attended the school and now Oliver Hernandez, the great, great grandson of founder Evelyn Twedt, is in the pre-kindergarten class. Oliver the fifth generation of his family at Montessori, is 4 years old and has been at Belleair Montessori for over a year. His grandmother, Cathie Hernandez, has been working at the school for over 30 years. Her mother, Joan Kirk, retired 5 years ago after 35 years of running the school. Cathie has three grown children; two of them are teachers. Cathie's daughter Sara Moses is an 8th grade teacher at Pinellas Preparatory Academy in Largo. Her oldest son lives in Asheville, NC and is an English teacher. Hopefully next June, Cathie will also have Sara's daughter at the school when she turns one. Belleair Montessori Academy is located in the Town of Belleair. Call them at 584-2867. Get more information at www.BMAKIDS.com.



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PUBLIX AND ITS LARGO CONNECTION

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

John Jenkins, youngest brother to Publix founder George Jenkins, was an attorney working in Atlanta for Coca Cola when his brother founded Publix. George and John had a third brother, Charlie who worked in the stores before eventually becoming the President of Publix.

In the 1950s, with the design of his new "Super Markets," George wanted to build "shopping centers"—a new concept at the time. His first shopping center was St. Petersburg's Central Plaza.

Publix had acquired a grocery store chain in 1945, and one of its stores was in Largo's downtown area on West Bay Drive between 1st and 3rd Streets NW. The old style store had no parking except along the street. George wanted to replace it by building Florida's second shopping center to be located in Largo. He felt on the edge of town where there was plenty of parking would be the best place.

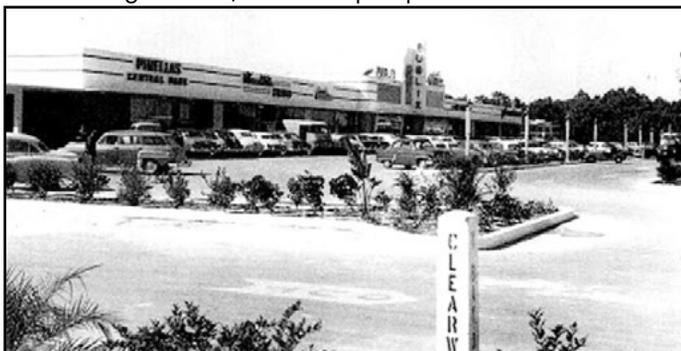
"Largo was different in 1956," said Joe Blanton, George's partner in Pinellas' real estate and development. "A shopping center would have been a great economical boost to the city. It seemed logical to George that Largo Central Bank, the town's only bank, would want to be part of that new shopping center. He asked the bank to loan him some of the money."

The Largo Cental banker remarked, "Largo would never amount to anything." This struck a nerve with George. He told the banker, "a person should be more positive about his community, especially the president of a bank. You should have faith in the community you serve."

"Alright," the banker told him. "If you have so much faith in Largo, why don't you buy this bank?" And so, George did just that, in a roundabout way. Actually, his brother John bought the bank, moved from Atlanta and became its President. Under his guidance, the bank prospered.



The first Largo store that was replaced



Largo's first shopping center with its newest Publix

In 1953, John and partners formed the Pinellas Central Bank planning to include it in George's new shopping center at West Bay Drive and Clearwater-Largo Road. When the new Pinellas Shopping Center opened the following year, Publix closed its old store and reopened it there. Since 1954, three Publix stores have been built on that same site.

The Pinellas Central Bank was the second in a chain of five banks including the Bank of Indian Rocks Beach (in the Indian Rocks Shopping Center), The Mid-County Commercial Bank (in the Tri City Plaza) and others. Each shared their shopping centers with a Publix Super Market.

John and his wife Rosalie, lived first in Clearwater, and later moved to Harbor Bluffs. They were married for 35 years and had three children - all girls.

John always wanted to be an actor. He quit high school (as it turned out only temporarily), and with some friends, hopped on a train to Hollywood. It didn't work out though and he returned home, finished school and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts and Law degree from the University of Georgia, where he met his wife. He once ushered at a Broadway theater, but that was as close to acting as he would get. He fancied he could sing, but his family laughingly disagreed, and dance...which he definitely could.

The Jenkins family spent as much time together as possible, given his demanding job. He taught his daughters to play golf at an early age and they still enjoy the game, today. He also taught them how to shoot. While serving in the Army during WWII, he instructed soldiers in marksmanship skill while at Ft. Benning, Ga. and shared that skill with his daughters. While living in Atlanta, he belonged to a horseback riding club where he rode with his daughters.

John and Rosalie were close friends with Jack and Ruth Eckerd. Over the years, John loaned Jack money to build some of his Eckerd Drug stores. John and George included Eckerd Drug Stores in many of the shopping centers they built.

John, who become President of the Florida Independent Bankers Association and the Florida Bankers Association, died from a stroke in 1978. His group of five banks was sold to Miami's Southeast Banks.



George and Rosalie Jenkins with their three daughters and a friend

Information for the article was supplied by Kay Jenkins - John Jenkins daughter, Charlie Harper - Largo Historical Society and "**Publix, 50 Years of Pleasure**" by Pat Watters. Photos supplied by Publix Super Markets.



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RECYCLING MAKES GOOD SENSE FOR BUSINESSES

Many businesses recognize that recycling is good for their bottom line as well as the environment. A strong recycling program can reduce waste disposal fees and demonstrate that a business is invested in protecting natural resources.

Commercial municipal solid waste accounts for nearly 55 percent of the total municipal solid waste stream in Florida. According to 2015 data, about 54 percent of commercial waste is currently being recycled.

In 2008, the Florida Legislature set a statewide recycling goal of 75 percent by 2020. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Recycling Recognition Program honors businesses that help the state move toward that goal.

A business wanting to develop an effective recycling plan first must understand its waste stream. Perform a facility walk through and assess all waste generating practices. This will help pinpoint, which materials to collect for recycling and what waste possibly could be prevented in the first place.

The greatest potential for waste reduction can be found by targeting materials that constitute the highest percentage of the waste stream. At the same time, include materials that easily can be recycled regardless of how much of the waste stream they constitute.

A facility walk-through also will help determine what size and type of recycling containers are needed. Containers should be clearly marked and placed near where recyclables are generated for the convenience of participants.

Lowering the volume of trash and frequency of trash collection can cut waste disposal fees. Choosing the right

waste and recycling containers and collection services is an essential part of making a program cost-effective.

Recyclables collection service may be provided by a trash hauler, recycling company or a small collector. County recycling coordinators are a good resource for advice on starting or expanding a recycling program.

A recycling rate of at least 60 percent is necessary for a business to qualify for the DEP Recycling Recognition Program in 2016. The number rises to at least 70 percent in 2017. For 2020 and after, a business must have a recycling rate of at least 75 percent.

The department has an easy, free tool for organizations to track and report their recycling efforts – the Florida DEP Business Recycling Tracking Tool, or Re-TRAC. Through the website, companies can track different types of recycling efforts and produce reports on how those efforts are helping to shrink their environmental footprint. The tracking tool helps the department identify companies that are doing more to go green.

Recycling reclaims valuable materials, lessens the need for more landfills and creates jobs. In Florida, recycling and reuse businesses employ 32,000 people and generate an annual payroll of \$765 million and \$4.4 billion in annual revenues.

To learn more about the Recycling Recognition Program, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/recognition.htm> or call Henry Garrigo with DEP's Waste Reduction section at 850-245-8822.

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RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF: BRINGING HELP AND HOPE

When Hurricane Matthew barreled up the East Coast in October, the American Red Cross was on the ground and ready to respond. Whether it was providing a safe place to stay, a hot meal, a warm blanket, or a shoulder to lean on, the Red Cross was there.

Months after the devastating storm, residents from Florida to the Carolinas are still picking up the pieces in the hardest hit areas. It will take time for people to rebuild their lives and homes, but with the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, the work of the Red Cross continues to help.

"Volunteers are the heart of the Red Cross," said Linda Jorge Carbone, CEO of the American Red Cross Central Florida Region and the Tampa Bay Chapter. "They are the hands and feet that deliver our mission every single day. They are neighbors helping neighbors, whether the skies are blue or grey. We couldn't do what we do without them."

More than 35 Red Cross volunteers from Pinellas County answered the call to help fellow Floridians in their time of need. St. Petersburg resident Charles White volunteered at a local Red Cross shelter, then traveled to the East Coast of Florida to help residents of some of the hardest hit communities as they returned home after the storm had passed.

"Time is the most valuable thing a person can give," White said. "Everyone needs help at some point, and people should not have to experience a disaster or recovery alone."

Recovering from a disaster can be a confusing, emotionally draining and complicated process. Safety Harbor residents Lou and Fran Abilock knew they could help. The husband and wife team are Red Cross caseworkers, trained to help people create recovery plans, navigate paperwork, and locate help from other agencies and community resources. The Abilocks

call their efforts "incredibly rewarding" and encourage others to get involved.

Lou explains: "When we turn on the evening news, too often we see natural disasters that affect our neighbors. Our hearts go out to them but what can we do? To change our compassion into meaningful action requires training. This is where the Red Cross comes in. If you want to help people recover from disasters, the Red Cross can provide the training and organization for you to make a meaningful contribution."

In Florida alone, the Red Cross mobilized 1,500 disaster relief workers -- over 90 percent of whom were volunteers. These heroes delivered help and hope to thousands of Floridians who needed shelter, food, water, clean-up supplies and emotional support. To learn more about volunteer opportunities in disaster preparedness or recovery, visit redcross.org/centralflorida and click on "Volunteer" on the left side of the page.

The Red Cross depends on donations to provide immediate relief for disasters. Help Floridians and others in the U.S. affected by Hurricane Matthew by visiting redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or texting the word MATTHEW to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

The American Red Cross, a not-for-profit organization, shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters. They supply about 40% of the nation's blood, teach skills that save lives, provide international humanitarian aid, and support military members and their families. For information, visit redcross.org or cruzjoamericana.org, or follow them on Twitter at @RedCross.



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HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS IS BRIGHTER THAN EVER BEFORE

More than one million lights this year add extra sparkle to the holiday season

The Florida Botanical Gardens' Holiday Lights in the Gardens has grown brighter than ever before, this year featuring more than one million lights. The family friendly annual event offers visitors the perfect way to experience the magic of the holiday season. Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be held from Friday, Nov. 25 through Saturday, Dec. 31, every evening from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. A donation of \$4 per person, ages 13 and over, is suggested.

With nearly 70,000 visitors last year, the holiday event continues growing as a perennial favorite for residents and visitors of the Tampa Bay area. Now with more than one million environmentally friendly LED and laser lights, the gardens are transformed into an even more stunning holiday wonderland filled with favorite seasonal and Florida-style displays around every bend of Pinellas County's 35-acre botanical treasure.

Along with the light displays, a wide variety of skilled volunteer entertainers will delight visitors with their talents, including ballet dance troupes, local choral groups, and musicians performing jazz, bluegrass and folk. Visits with Santa Claus will be held every night through Dec. 23.

Food is available for sale each night and the Foundation will have a holiday gift cart in addition to the specialty items for sale at the Botanical Bounty gift shop.

During the event, an up-to-date schedule of nightly entertainment will be available at www.flbg.org, or visitors can call the Holiday Lights hotline at (727) 582-5800 for recorded information.

Since 2000, the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation and the Pinellas County Parks Department have brought the magic of the holidays to residents and visitors with the Holiday Lights event. Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation volunteer board members work throughout the year to design and plan this Florida-style holiday wonderland, and hundreds of community volunteers welcome guests at the entrances, plan schedules and provide other invaluable support.

The Holiday Lights is the foundation's largest fundraising event of the year. Every dollar raised goes to maintain and improve the gardens, as well as maintaining and bringing new, exciting displays for next year's Holiday Lights event.

A video of past Holiday Lights can be viewed at www.youtube.com/pctv1.

Other events scheduled during the Holiday Lights include the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation gift and plant sale on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parking for the event is free. Visitors with limited mobility can gain easy access by parking at the east entrance of the gardens. Weeknight visitation is encouraged for a more leisurely experience and ample parking. Large groups traveling together by bus or van are encouraged to call ahead to assure accommodation.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, with an alternate entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. The gardens remain open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day, with free admission during daylight hours. For more information, visit www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2100.

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BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB TENNIS

By Hal Bodley

When Belleair Country Club president Mark Goldman helped cut the ribbon during the “grand re-opening” celebration of the club’s tennis courts, he saw five years of planning and “pushing” came to fruition.

“To accomplish something like this took quite a lot of time and planning” said Goldman. “The tennis committee has been working and pushing for it at least five years. We had to convince a lot of folks we needed this type of facility.

Goldman praised the club’s board of directors and general manager and chief operating officer Ed Shaughnessy for “bringing this project to reality.”

The state-of-the-art renovation of the seven tennis courts and the creation of two pickleball courts to accommodate the popular, fast-growing sport is complete.

Five of the club’s seven tennis courts were renovated and expanded by 36 feet, conforming to the 60 feet by 120 feet recommended by the U. S. Professional Tennis Association.

Additionally, Hartru clay surfaces with the latest available HydroGrid® Sub-Surface Irrigation System were added and LED lighting was installed.

“I don’t know of any other facility with this of state-of-the-art lighting,” commented Shaughnessy.

Shade structures with fans and ice-cold water fountains have been placed between courts.

“The final element was the new fencing, wind screens with our logo and netting to protect tennis players from errant golf balls,” added Shaughnessy.

For Drew Wager, the club’s director of tennis, completion of the long-awaited project is a dream come true.

“These projects and improvements enhance our racquet sports play enormously,” Wager said. “We can get much more night play and with the courts being spread out we can accommodate more league competition and tournaments. These courts are perfect, the surfaces are like a pool table.”

Wager said Belleair is the only private club “with pickleball courts and ours have the same state-of-the-art lighting as the tennis courts. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.”

Charlotte Mason, longtime member and tennis player, said with a chuckle, “I’m not certain these courts are going to help my game, but there’s certainly a good feeling when you walk onto them. We’re very proud of what the club has done for racquet sports. We now have a tremendous facility.”

Shaughnessy pointed out that Courts 1 and 2 were renovated five years ago, but were enhanced with new lighting and other improvements during this extensive six-month project.

Goldman explained that under the leadership of member Harry Sload the Belleair Country Club Tennis and Pickleball Association has been created to “recognize the importance of what we’re doing with racquet sports.”

“We want to enhance and promote the tennis and pickleball programs here at Belleair,” said Sload during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “We have a lot of great events planned. Over 80 members are playing pickleball.”

Pickleball, invented near Seattle in 1965, is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It’s played with a paddle and plastic ball with holes on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net.

Belleair Country Club member Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is senior correspondent for MLB Advanced Media. He’s been covering Major League Baseball since 1958 and was a founder of USA Today, retiring after 25 years in 2007.

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Bar & Restaurant News

PALM PAVILION REMODEL The Beach Shoppe at the Palm Pavilion in North Beach recently completed a full scale, floor-to-ceiling remodel. The Palm Shoppe now features a new Grab and Go area with different prepared foods from the Palm's kitchen including sandwiches and subs, snacks, baked goods, cold drinks, juices and 100% Columbian coffee brewed each morning.



The Shoppe also sells signature clothing, souvenir T-shirts, Koozies, sunscreen and gift cards for last minute Christmas shopping. The Palm Pavilion is located at 10 Bay Esplanade, west of the Fire Station.

SPOTTED DONKEY CANTINA This restaurant connected to and owned by the Hilton has opened. The second of its kind opened by Hilton, it features a southwestern and Mexican fare with fresh, spicy and enticing dishes from the Southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Their full bar features their signature Tequila, Herradura Double Barrel Reposado, which is blended and aged exclusively for the Spotted Donkey. They have other barrel aged cocktails; ask the bartender for a recommendation. The Spotted Donkey is open from 11am to close for lunch, dinner and Tequila!



DETROIT MOVES Detroit Coney Island, previously open at 600 Mandalay Avenue, lost his lease. But owner Dante, did not have to go far. He teamed up with Art Wallace of Island Café at 432 Pointsettia and together

they change Island Café into a Detroit Coney Island, still with breakfast and the pancakes everyone loves so much. The menu features breakfast until 2pm, lunch and also dinner, which is available from 11am until closing. The combined restaurant opened right after Thanksgiving. Together they are opening other Detroit stores, one has already opened in Largo.

OCEAN HAI AT THE WYNDHAM When the Wyndham Grand opens next month it will include this upscale Clearwater Beach restaurant. Their new menu will be have an Asian Fusion flair, inside and outside seating and views of the gulf and Pier 60. They will also feature sushi. Visit WyndhamGrandClearwater.com.

15 YEARS AND COUNTING Belleair Bluffs Westshore Pizza is 15 years old. In the beginning, they were located in the middle of the Bonefish shopping center, but moved to the west end and expanded a few years ago. Cedric and Isabelle Leyniers bought the business last year. Celebrate with a pizza and a pitcher of beer from Westshore Pizza.

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Bar & Restaurant News



CRABBY'S CONSTRUCTION The Crabby Bill's, south of the Roundabout, in the Clearwater Beach Marina, is going up fast and they say the views from the top floor are spectacular. The restaurant should open later in 2017, but if you need some Crabby food and attitude, they have another location on Beach Walk.

BRING YOUR PARTY HERE Belleair Bluffs' Bonfish Grill says they are the perfect place to bring your out of town guests and large groups. They can handle up to 40 people comfortably, and you know they will enjoy it. They are now open for lunch, too.

JIMMY HULA'S This new, fun place to eat will be opening right after Christmas at 454 Mandalay Avenue, across from the Beachcomber. This is one of a dozen locations in a small chain headquartered in Orlando. "Jimmy Hula's restaurant is the result of 50 years of global travel by Jimmy Hula himself," says new owner Zack. "His personal cooking style evolved to mimic his life of waves, experiences and recipes from across the planet." The menu feature tacos, burgers, beer and more. See it at JimmyHulas.com.



SMUGGLER'S ISLAND PUB This new restaurant is going into the space at 411 Mandalay Avenue across from the Hilton, which was previously occupied by Dominic Capri Italian Restaurant. It has been empty since 2009. Smugglers Island Pub is, as the name says, a pub with beer, wine and a full bar. They plan to have 24 different beers on tap and tapas type food. There will be 80 seats. It is scheduled to open late in January.

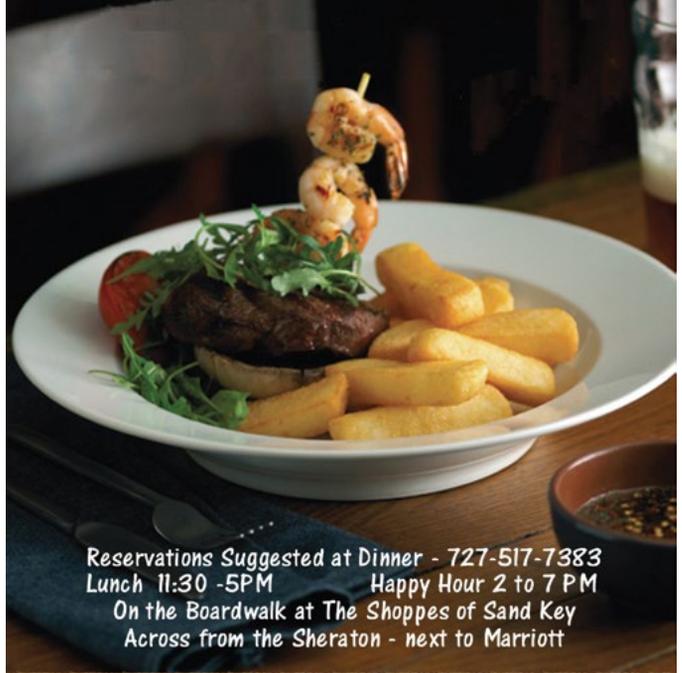
One of the owners, Nigel Castanheiro has owned other Pinellas locations including St Pete Beach's Sloppy Pelican.

RESTAURANT STILL COMING Proino's Breakfast Club choose not to open a third location on the south end of the beach, but one of the Proino's group's investors has taken over the location. More on this soon.

LAST MINUTE SHOPPING IDEA BayStar Restaurant Group will give you a "Trip to the Island" when you buy gift certificates. For each \$100 in gift certificates good at any area BayStar restaurant (Island Way Grill, Marina Cantina, Salt Cracker, Marlin Darlins, Salt Rock Grill, or Rumba's Island Grill) you will receive a free Sunday Brunch at Island Way Grill, a \$27 value. Buy them at any of their restaurants.

FRENCHY'S REMODELS STORE The Frenchy's restaurant on Baymont Street is the oldest of the four, built in 1981, 37 years ago. It was closed n November for a full remodel with the hope of reopening by December 22.

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MOVING THE BILTMORE LEADS TO THE BELLEVIEW INN

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Belleview Place's groundbreaking, at the site of the Belleview Biltmore, was Thursday, November 17th. Developer Michael Cheezem, Belleair Mayor Gary Katica and several dignitaries used gold-plated shovels to provide the customary first shovel photo for the newest development in the Town of Belleair.

The groundbreaking was the end of an era and the end of a decade of fighting over the Belleview Biltmore Hotel's future. The hotel is now almost demolished, after a year of "deconstruction" work.

"Because so much wood and many of the doors and windows were salvaged, the demolition process has been very time-consuming," says Jeff Parker, President of Biltmore Construction. "We are now 90% done."

Now it is time for "the big move." The original five story lobby, once located on the west end of the hotel, has been saved. It will be moved and refurbished to be part of the new Belleview Inn included in the project Belleview Place.

The company hired to execute the 120-year old structure's move has already started. They are jacking up the building and placing computer controlled hydraulic carts under it. There are 27 of them, similar to dollies, that will automatically adjust up and down, as the building is moved.

The plan is to lift the building, turn it 90 degrees and move it 320 feet to the east. The foundation where the building will eventually be relocated is already being prepared.

If things stay on schedule, the move will happen the week before Christmas and be completed by Christmas Day. New construction should start shortly thereafter with a totally remodeled and reimagined Belleview Inn

The Inn, which will be a small boutique hotel, will be the centerpiece of the Belleview Place community, and features a unique collection of amenities, including the community's resort-style pool, Tiffany room for smaller functions, Masie's Market, a History Room with artifacts and information about the hotel's history, and a Grand Lawn.

JMC has committed \$13 million to move and renovate the 38,000 square foot structure. The Queen Anne style Victorian Inn will be available to Belleview Place residents as well as the hotel guests. It will set the stage for a new age of elegance in Belleair.

The first residences, expected to be ready for occupancy May of 2018 will be in the section of the development called The Alamanda. The six story condominium building will have four resident floors over two levels of parking. Units vary from 1,724 to 3,676 square feet. Prices begin in the mid-\$600,000s.



"Public sales of the condominiums and the carriage homes have already begun. In fact, over 50% of the first phase units, in The Alamanda, are already sold. No other new home community in Florida boasts such a fascinating and treasured history with such a unique combination of amenities," stated Michael Cheezem, CEO, JMC Communities.

For sales information visit www.BelleviewPlace.com, the sales center at 275 Belleview Boulevard or call 469-7070 to speak to a sales associate.

Much of the heart of pine flooring is available through South End Reclaimed and Anderson Lumber. Visit these web sites for more details: www.SouthEndReclaimed.com or HCAAndersonLumber.com. Architectural Salvage is still available at Schiller's Salvage in Tampa www.SchillersSalvage.com.

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View Looking North From Memorial Causeway

AT LAST A COACHMAN PARK PLAN

by Anne McKay Garris

The bay front area of the City of Clearwater has always been unique. Long before the white man arrived, the high bluffs over Clearwater Bay, with their fresh water springs and the bountiful fishing spots, were favored by Florida Indians.

In 1949, the City of Clearwater purchased the land west of today's Clearwater Main Library from the Coachman family, naming it Coachman Park. The rest of the bay front was deeded to the City by the State of Florida when it provided land to build Memorial Causeway, with a restriction requiring that the land can only be used for open space and recreation uses. The deed especially mentions a prohibition against "carnivals."

After several attempts to develop the area commercially, in 1983 the people of Clearwater voted to require a referendum to approve any development except parkland on the bay front from Osceola Street westward.

In 2000, a large campaign failed to persuade Clearwater residents to allow a developer to have a fifty year lease, and the land has remained unchanged for 16 years until buildings began to rise throughout the downtown area.

Now, city leaders are determined to have a new plan for neglected Coachman Park. The City hired HR&A Advisors, Inc., an organization with extensive experience in designing successful parks and are developing a plan, called "Imagine Clearwater."

They gathered together a group of "Stakeholders," citizens known to have concerns about developing Clearwater's bay front, and asked the citizens what they want to see on their bay front. Residents were encouraged to share their wishes and dreams for Clearwater's bay front park. The plan had to fit the needs and wishes of its citizens while providing urban design, transportation, parking, and public access.

Gathering opinions, preferences and suggestions from a series of public and stakeholder meetings, the consultants have prepared a preliminary plan which will come before the Clearwater City Council in early 2017. Likely the most controversial part of the plan is the demolition of the Harbor View Center on the corner of Cleveland Street and Osceola to open the view from downtown and make the bay front more visible. A Gateway Plaza, featuring an event space where small events could be conducted as well as small restaurants and retail uses along the top of the bluff would replace the building.

A large, open space called "The Green" would replace the current Maas Brothers Parking Lot. It would hold a new band shell with removable seating to be used in larger events such as the annual Jazz Festival. On the bay front, to the north of the Green, would be a picnic area, children's playground and scenic walks dotted with benches, among the tropical landscaping.

To the south of the Green, extending under the Memorial Causeway Bridge, would be a unique area called The Cove where, bay waters will be redirected into the park to create a marshland effect with special vegetation. Beside the boat slips, where the water meets the land, steps will allow visitors to wade out into the waters.

Bicycle paths will be incorporated and 200 parking spaces for event parking will be provided. Research has determined there are 4,000 parking spaces in nearby Downtown, or within reach of unique transportation, such as Clearwater's Jolly Trolley. Details of the preliminary plan have been presented to the public and a description of it is available on line at ImagineClearwater.com.

SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY NEW PATH FOR SEABIRD REHABILITATION

As of September 1st, the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, formerly Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, is a completely new organization, and is now in operation at the beach front facility, formerly used by the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. The new organization has experienced management, a new board and new leadership from the Busch von Gontard family, who have a long history of wildlife and environmental conservation. The mission of the new organization remains the same: the rescue, rehabilitation and eventual release of sick, injured and orphaned birds.

“For as long as I can remember, my family has been devoted to causes that conserve precious wildlife and the environments where they thrive,” said Andrew von Gontard, President of Seaside Seabird Sanctuary. “It is our passion for the wildlife that has moved us to step in to invest significant time and resources into the revitalization of this sanctuary. We look forward to working closely with the staff and volunteers to ensure seabirds have a first class rehabilitation facility working on their behalf.”

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary’s day-to-day operations will be managed by Eddie Gayton, who has more than six years of experience in wildlife rehabilitation and is the former operations manager at Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. Brian Tharp, a retired United States Air Force officer, will serve as the business manager. The two will be supported by staff and volunteers, who have been a part of the sanctuary for years.

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, created by the Busch von Gontard family and an independent Board of Trustees, took over operations from Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, Inc., whose president, Ralph Heath, founded the sanctuary 45 years ago. While Heath and Suncoast are no longer affiliated with the beach front sanctuary, the family plans to

carry on his legacy of caring for the seabirds and respect his contributions to them over the years.

“The staff and I are excited to have this new organization in place so we can continue helping the birds,” said Gayton. “For us, our focus has always been on the birds and making sure these animals are getting the care they need so they can return to their natural habitat. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to help these injured seabirds, rehabilitate them and release them back into the wild.”

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary will work closely with area veterinarians to provide medical care for the birds and guidance to the staff. They will also maintain strict adherence to all applicable state and federal rules and regulations. They have been working closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to ensure all essential permits are in place and all policies and procedures moving forward are designed with the health and safety of the sanctuary’s most treasured assets – the birds – in mind.

Von Gontard said he and his family, along with the new board and staff, are determined not only to restore public confidence in the sanctuary, but to reestablish its recognition as one of the premier avian rehabilitation centers in the nation. Created in 1971, the sanctuary has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of birds, ranging from the Eastern Brown Pelican to the Eastern Screech Owl. It was the first facility to breed Eastern Brown Pelicans in captivity. The birds who cannot be returned to the wild are given a permanent home at the sanctuary, which is open to the public 365 days a year. Admission is free, but visitors are encouraged to donate to support the sanctuary’s mission.



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NEW HAPPY HOUR CONCERTS

The Florida Orchestra is debuting a new series of Happy Hour Concerts presented by Smith & Associates Real Estate, with a spirited mix of live symphonic music, free select drinks and a meet-and-greet with musicians at the Straz Center in Tampa. Tickets are on sale now online at floridaorchestra.org, by phone at 727.892.3337 and at the Florida Orchestra box office.

The three concerts are a new way to experience the orchestra in a casual atmosphere. Doors and lobby bars open at 5:30 pm; the hour-long concert with no intermission begins at 6:30 pm. Patrons may linger in the lobby afterward to sip and mingle with the musicians. Each concert features a TFO's premier conductor: Music Director Michael Francis, Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik and Principal Guest Conductor Stuart Malina.

Tickets are \$35 general admission seating. Drinks from sponsors will be complimentary, including Stella Artois beer and Tito's Handmade Vodka. Other drinks, including soda and water, will be available for purchase. The Concerts are:

A Toast to the Classics, Thursday, Feb 2, 2017 - A light and lively night, with Bernstein's Candide Overture, Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and Prokofiev's Summer Day. Stuart Malina conducts.

American Spirit[s], Thursday, Feb 23, 2017 - Music made in the USA, including a Duke Ellington Portrait, Gershwin's An American in Paris, and a real treat: Jeff Tyzik conducting his own work, New York Cityscape.

Scheherazade: A Fantasy in Music, Thursday, Mar 23, 2017 Love. Murder. Deceit. Rimsky-Korsakov's haunting music weaves the tale of Scheherazade, Michael Francis as your guide.

SUNSTAR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Pinellas County continues to offer the Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership Program to assist residents with the out-of-pocket expenses associated with ambulance transportation. Enrollment begins Thursday, Dec. 1, for the 2017-2018 membership period.

"We continue to provide services to ensure a safe and secure community," said Jodie Sechler, director of Ambulance Billing and Financial Services at Pinellas County Safety and Emergency Services. "This program helps our residents avoid unexpected costs associated with ambulance transports."

The Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership Program is not an insurance plan. It is a Pinellas County government program that works with an individual's insurance company to cover 100 percent of eligible expenses associated with deductibles and co-payments. The membership plan will also cover 50 percent of the cost for any trips denied by the insurance company. It is estimated that the average cost of a single transport is \$707. Annual membership fees are \$63 for an individual and \$98 for a family.

If plan members are uninsured, they receive a 20% discount on ambulance transportation services. This is an average savings of \$140 per transport.

The family plan covers those related by blood, marriage or adoption who reside in the same household. For more information, call (727) 582-2008 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/firstcare.

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CHARLIE BUCKO CLEARWATER BEACH CRABBER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Charlie and Sally Bucko have lived in Clearwater Beach many years, beginning in 1969. Before that though in the mid-1950s, they spent time visiting Charlie's dad who lived on the north end of Clearwater. When his father died in 1959, Charlie and Sally moved into his house.

By 1971, they had bought a small home in the Carlouel subdivision on Bruce Avenue. "Carlouel was a small, quiet neighborhood when we moved in," says Sally. "There were not many houses, and the ones that were here were not that big. It was very safe, too. When you walked to the beach, you could leave your doors unlocked," she remembers.

"The small community was very friendly. Everyone knew each other." They socialized with the Dimmitts (who owned the Chevrolet Dealership), Dean Young (the cartoon artist who created Blondie and Dagwood), the Hamiltons (owners of the Palm Pavilion Restaurant), Frenchy (who owns Frenchy's Restaurants) and with Bob Heilman and his wife (of the Beachcomber).

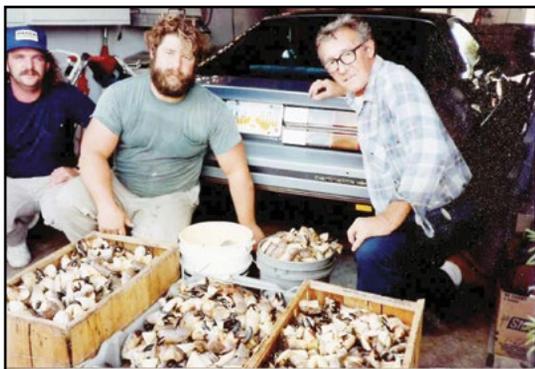
Charlie, originally from Gary, Indiana, really liked fishing. "I remember, before we lived here, his father told him about a boat that was for sale," says Sally. "We drove down from Indiana, looked at it, and bought it. Named the Duchess III, Charlie kept his new boat in a rented slip at the Clearwater Beach Marina."

Charlie tried operating a fishing charter business, but the first ten years were not profitable. "There was just too much competition," recalls Sally. Then, Charlie started trapping stone crabs. He bought a different boat for his crabbing business. At first, he started with 200 traps, then increased it to 400—soon he had 1,000 traps.

His traps were not plastic like the ones they use today. Charlie built them himself out of cypress or yellow pine. He would drop the traps in the water just off the coast of Clearwater Beach from October to May—our stone crab season.

Sometimes he caught a lot, and sometimes very few. "One time he brought in 1,000 pounds of stone crabs—that was his record," remembers Sally.

During the season, he worked seven days-a-week, depending on the weather of course. He was out on the water by 7am and home by 2:30pm. But he wasn't done, after his day on the water, he still had to deliver the freshly caught claws to area restaurants and suppliers.



He used to sell the crab claws to many area restaurants, including the Beachcomber and The Flag Ship which was where Island Way Grill is today. What he did not sell to restaurants, were sold out of his garage. Sally and their 10-year old daughter, De De, helped. All their neighbors knew Charlie had some of the freshest stone crab claws around and would stop by the house asking what they had.

Everyone loved Charlie and many long time residents still remember him fondly. "I remember Charlie well," says Ky Lewis owner of the "Daisy Mae" charter fishing boat that operated out of Clearwater Beach. "He used to make his own crab traps. One day he cut off two of his fingers with a radial saw."

"I was on the "Daisy Mae" out in the Gulf of Mexico overnight with Charlie and four other guys. About 5am, in 15-foot seas, the boat began to sink in. Charlie came running down and woke me up, yelling 'we're sinking!' Five minutes later we did. Thank goodness, "The Double Eagle" was nearby and saved us."

Charlie was good friends with a local sheriff's deputy—Gerry Coleman. When it wasn't being used for crabbing, Gerry would rent Charlie's boat. Gerry eventually became Sheriff of Pinellas County and died a few months ago.

Crabbing was hard work. In the beginning, Charlie did all the work himself, pulling the heavy traps by hand. Later, he added cranking systems, some run by gas motors. The boats then needed two or three crewmen, each. Over time, it became harder and harder to find help. Although young at heart, the work began to be too much for him and in 1995, twenty five years after moving to Clearwater Beach, Charlie retired from crabbing and sold both his boats.

Not ready to completely retire, Charlie decided to buy a fish market on North Ft Harrison, call Bucko Seafood. He sold seafood and other crabber's stone crab claws to the public. Unfortunately, that did not last too long. Twenty-five years of crabbing had taken its toll on Charlie. He sold his seafood market in 1996 and completely retired. Shortly thereafter he got sick and passed away at the age of 77.

This month is the 10th Anniversary of Charlie's death - December 14, 2006. Sally and Charlie were married for 58 years. She still misses him every day, but enjoys remembering their good ol' days of crabbing and living on Clearwater Beach together during simpler times.





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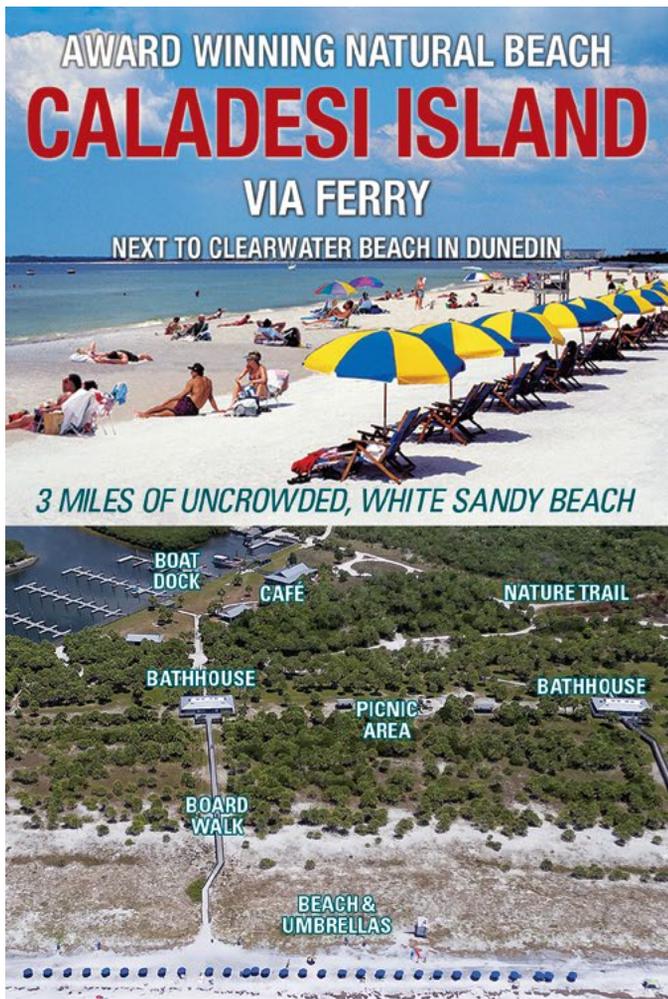
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HUMANE SOCIETY YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD



Lea Simon first came to the Humane Society of Pinellas in the summer of 2015 for Kids Summer Camps. She returned again this summer and took her passion for animals to a new level when she learned about the Senior Pet Connection program that provides pet food assistance to low income home-bound senior citizens. One of the summer camp lessons taught campers about the service and how giving back to the community is important.

Lea really connected with this idea and when she came to camp the next day, she came bearing donations for Senior Pet Connection. After camp, she had gone to the store and spent her pet sitting money to purchase food for Senior Pet Connection.

It was truly touching to see Lea go above and beyond to help seniors in this program. Lea shines a positive light on her peers and is always asking how she can help. Whether it was picking up supplies in camp or helping the younger kids with the activities, she is always going out of her way for others.

"I love animals and have a passion for wanting to help others. When I grow up, I want to be a service dog trainer. I think this will be a good fit for me because I love animals and want to help those who don't have everything I have. I really want to continue being at the Humane Society because it teaches me so much. I am really honored to win the Youth Volunteer Award," says Lea.

Lea and her parents, Ted and Helene Simon, live in Indian Rocks Beach.

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 schedule online at www.SunsetsAtPier60.com or call 449-1036.

DECEMBER

- 23: DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)
- 24: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (PG)

- 30: FROZEN (PG)
- 31: SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE (PG)
New Year's Eve!

JANUARY

- 1- SUICIDE SQUAD (PG-13)
Outback Bowl Weekend
- 6- THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS (PG)
- 7- JASON BOURNE (PG)
- 13- KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS (PG)
- 14- STAR TREK BEYOND (PG-13)
- 20- THE WILD LIFE (2016) (PG)
- 21- SUICIDE SQUAD (PG-13)
- 27-NINE LIVES (PG)
- 28- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (PG-13)



THE JAMES MUSEUM INSPIRATION

Tom & Mary James' are providing a \$50 million personal investment to transform a downtown St. Petersburg city block into the home to The Tom & Mary James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017. Tom James is executive chairman of Raymond James Financial, Inc. For 40 years, he was CEO of the company before relinquishing his role in May 2010.

The James Museum has its roots in Tom and Mary's undivided love both for culture and the city of St. Petersburg that has been their home. Tom began collecting while a student and when their travels took them west, they were captivated by the art, landscape, and wildlife of the West. They began to collect what moved them — an art of action and attention to place made by contemporary artists. They collected for their pleasure, though with an aim to help living artists to live by their art alone. Many of the artists became personal friends.

A collection of art can stay a private collection. As such, it may be shown or not shown, traded or sold. But a museum open to the public is another thing entirely. It is a kind of gift, a public trust. Built entirely from the James' private funds, The James Museum is being constructed in downtown St. Petersburg to spur the cultural and economic life of their City: in short, to build community in a manner parallel to their contributions to every other aspect of our civic infrastructure. Through exhibitions and education programs, The James Museum will emphasize core values of the art that moved Tom and Mary during their collecting: action, fortitude, heritage, and integrity.

At 80,000 square feet and incorporating an event space large enough for 500 people, The Tom and Mary James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art will display six hundred of the nearly three thousand works in their collection at a time. The James Museum will welcome the local community and visitors with ease.

We plan to open The James Museum in the fall of 2017. The Museum will come to life in stages that will be shared with the community each step of the way.

We appreciate the help of the City of St. Petersburg in enhancing the streetscape and in enabling regular access to parking. We celebrate today the thoughtful action of the City Council in approving these accommodations that will make the James Museum more attractive and accessible. Today we are also pleased to show the look of the building as envisioned by the St. Pete Design Group, Yann Weymouth, lead architect. The architecture reveals aspects of the collection it will hold through carefully chosen materials and a façade and foyer that projects the grandeur of the west.

The reconstruction of 100 Central Avenue has begun. They plan to open in the fall of 2017. Next spring, the stone monolith that symbolizes and brings the pedestrian eye to this building will be installed. In the coming year-and-a-half, they will be designing the exhibition concepts and prepare an opening exhibition. The Museum will come to life in stages that will be shared with the community each step of the way.



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Organizational News...

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are composed of member Condo residents & businesses, but serve the needs of all of Sand Key by participating in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association and maintains contact with the City and State Departments that impact Sand Key. Their meetings, open to all residents of member Condominiums are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. E- mail Al Zimmerman, President skcinc@aol.com.

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Their Membership rates have increased for 2017 as the cost to print their newsletter and to maintain the Plumb House and utilities have increased. Membership is now \$20 for individuals, \$5 students, \$35 family, \$150 corporate, \$250 life, \$500 patron and \$1000 benefactor.

They are still working to open their new museum in the old South Ward School. Volunteers are doing much of the work and many local businesses have donated services.

Free guided tours of the Plumb House are offered on the first and third Thursdays from 8:30am to 11pm and Saturdays through April, from 10am to 1pm. Donations are welcome, 1380 Marting Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Clearwater.

The society is loaning 10,000 of George Fulmer's famous black and white Clearwater photos to the Clearwater Public Library where they will be professionally archived in digital form. The \$33,000 project has been paid for buy a grant from the city. Half the images will be uploaded to pinellasmemory.org to preserve Pinellas County's history.

Call Bill Wallace 446-2676 or Michael Sanders 434-1684. Visit ClearwaterHistoricalSociety.org for information.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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 meet the second Monday. Upcoming events are:

January 28: Memorial Causeway Clean Up at 9am

February 4: Fun Run and Blood Drive

Membership is \$50 per year. Businesses are \$60. This helps pay for electrical service, fixtures, maintaining the shrubbery, planting, trimming, spraying, weeding and maintenance of the American Flag, plus the many events throughout the year. Contact President Mike Anderson at 777-2787 or visit myislandestates.org.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They are accepting applications for their 2017 Daisy Grants. Daisy Grants are their annual gift giving program. Last year, they gave away \$11,500 in grants to seven Pinellas County charities. Grants may be as high as \$2,000 each. Applications must be mailed by January 5 and received no later than January 12. Applications and rules are available at www.ClearwaterCWC.org. The awards will be presented at the March Fashion Show and Luncheon March 30th.

Lucile Casey is their new 2017 president. The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It is a volunteer service club and was established more than 40 years ago. Their motto is *Making A Difference*. General Meetings are held the third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 11am, at the Clearwater Main Downtown Library. Get more information at www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Their annual "Change of Watch" happened this month. Commodore Johnny Cardosi passed the helm to Vice Commodore Ed Proefke who will be Commodore for 2017.

Upcoming events include:

DECEMBER:

22: Holiday Social

31: New Year's Eve Party

JANUARY:

11: Jazz Night

21: Motown Night

29: Chili Cook-Off.



A group at the Club called The Cruisers include sailing and power boating members who enjoy weekends at other yacht clubs, quiet anchorages, and boat trips locally and as far away as the Keys and Bahamas with other members. The group, always ready for a new adventure, is free to join if you are a Club member.

Even if you don't have a boat, you can still join the Yacht Club. Membership is at an all time high and many of their members don't have boats; most 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 Clwyc.org or call 447-6000 for information.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

They invite everyone to be a part of their large, fun group dedicated to the improvement of the community while enjoying enlightening and informative speakers, events, programs, and even group outings, such as a museum and luncheon events or a day at the races, among others. Social Hour precedes all luncheons for a chance to meet and socialize.

Membership is open to all, on the island and off. Dues are \$20. For membership information, call Joan Landreth at 812-8078. To receive monthly e-newsletters on upcoming events visit islandestateswomensclub.org. Newcomers are encouraged to also call our Welcoming Committee Chair, Amber Davis, at 727-743-2722. For club information, call President Lynn McCaskill at 430-1911.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

This social club began as a small club for the Island Estates neighborhood, now it has many members who live off the Island. They were the sponsor of this year's 42nd Annual Island Estates Holiday Lighted Boat Parade which had over 60 boats

Earlier this month, they celebrated their Change of Watch at the Belleair Country Club. 2016 Commodore, Vivian Smith passed the gavel to Mary O'Connor. Paul Lightfoot was recognized as 2016 Member of the Year and Commodore Special Awards were given to Barbara Loubier and Patricia Ostrosky.

January 1st, they will host their New Year's Day Brunch at the Belleair Country Club. Please RSVP. They still enjoy having social events almost every month and welcome new members. For more information, contact Mary O'Connor at 871-1881. For membership information, contact Jean Sanders Emmajean.Sanders@Gmail.com

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Organizational News...

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapel By-The-Sea Church. All members, or those wishing to join, are welcome to attend. Visit www.ClearwaterBeachAssoc.com.

December 23 - They will provide Christmas Caroling at Mandalay Park, next to the Fire Station, at 7pm. Bring chairs, blankets and flashlights to read song lyrics. Refreshments will be provided. It is co-sponsored by Chapel-By-The-Sea. .

This neighborhood association promotes 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. Contact Board Members Beth Prast at esphome@yahoo.com or David MacNamee DMacNav@TampaBay.RR.com for more information about the Association.

IRB BOAT CLUB

In October, members cleaned the islands in the Intracoastal Waterway picking up trash near Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair. This is the ninth year they have provided this service as part of the Keep Pinellas Beautiful program. The Club has adopted the island south of the Belleair Causeway and members clean it regularly.

The boating year is winding down but the 2017 Calendar will be available soon Some upcoming events are:

January 21: Lunch at The Pub in Indian Shore

February 11: Brunch at Island Way Grill

In addition to events, the Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) monthly, on the third Thursday. Everyone is welcome, it is not just for Indian Rocks residents. Anyone who has a boat and wants a reason to use it can join, for free. To get involved, call Bob Griffin 517-1997, e-mail Bob@IRBboatclub.com or visit IRBboatclub.com.

CLEARWATER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

This all volunteer non-profit organization teaches boating safety courses. Courses emphasize boating safety skills. One of the best ways to have a fun boating experience is to "know before you go". If you are a new boater or an experienced boater in need of a refresher course, consider taking a boating course or attending a seminar. To join email Peter Losi, Education Officer, at LOSEAS13@Gmail.com.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They meet twice a month from October through May, at 405 Seminole Street, Clearwater. Contact President Maggie Custer, 488-8705, e-ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

This year, the Garden Club produced "a bumper crop" of fresh beans in November. 35 of the 36 available plots are leased in the East Gateway Garden.

Annual Games and Cards Luncheon: January 27 (noon to 3pm) at the Club House. \$15 each, this is a team event.

General Membership meeting - February 10th with a floral design demonstration by Master Floral Designer Kathy Thomas.

Valentine's Day Floral Workshop for Kids - February 11, 10am, \$12. Each child will make a Valentine's Day design for a friend or loved one. All supplies are provided. Funds raised will go towards the Wekiva Scholarship Program. You must RSVP, space is limited.

For more information, contact, Maggie Custer, President, at 488-8705, email at ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com or visit www.ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

Breakfast meetings are twice a month at Jimmy's Fish House at the Clearwater Beach Holiday Inn, and they offer monthly social and community events. December 22 Bob Griffin, Publisher of this newsletter, will speak on the topic of The History of Publix in Pinellas County. The January meetings will be the 12th and 26th.

President Alexandra Everist can be reached at 237-8037 or visit 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. 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 786-5578.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

The Friends meet on the third Thursday of each month at noon for lunch. Guests are welcome.

Jan 11, 5:30pm: Presentation on Scallops, Oysters and Snails

February 8, 5:30pm: Presentation on Coastal Conservation

February 14, 2:30pm: Sheraton Sand Key Chef John Harris will hold another of his popular cooking classes demonstrating how to prepare a special Valentines Dinner.

February 21: Annual Meeting at the Beach Rec Center

February 22, 5:30pm: Celebrate Presidents Day with author, singer, and composer Joseph Gilmartin. He will perform his winning song, "Tribute To Our Lady".

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 Donna Eliason or Linda Owens at (260) 894-0270 for 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.

The Club started in 1991 and is a merger of the Belleair Beach Garden Club (1947-1991) and the Island Garden Club (1959-1991). They celebrated their 25th Anniversary on November 16th with speaker Wayne Ayers, a resident of Belleair Beach and local history writer as the guest speaker.

The Club normally meets the third Wednesday of each month (October thru April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach, 10:30am. Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome.

Club membership is \$50 per year, couples pay \$55 and seasonal members only \$25. Guests are welcome. Call Mary Carey to RSVP to events, 596-5981 or contact Majorie Rose, President, at RoseMarjorie38@Yahoo.com for information about the club.

ISLAND ESTATES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Island Estates Tuesday Luncheon Club meets weekly. This organization goes back 50 years. Contact Robert Landreth at 812-8078 or email him at RobertNL@AOL.com.

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Join your neighbors for the 8th Annual Chapel-By-The-Sea BeachWalk/Walk & Breakfast **January 28, 2017** to benefit the Food Bank and The Haven of RCS.

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 Phone: 727-446-0430

Organizational News...

NEWCOMER'S CLUB

Do you want to meet new friends? Joining this organization which began as a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends and acquaintances, will help. You do not really have to be a newcomer to join; many 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. For more information, please call Karen Botsford at 531-0378 or visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

On December 22, Carlouel residents will be Christmas Caroling. "This is not your ordinary caroling", says Sue Williams President. Meet at the beach access at 5pm (BYOB). At 5:30pm, they will begin a slow stroll through the neighborhood to sing and see the Christmas lights. Sheet music will be provided and maybe a guitar or a pied piper will lead you. Bring your own flashlight to read the music. Golf carts and bicycles are OK, too. If you want to participate, please call Sue Williams, President, at 446-4471. Come out and meet your neighbors.

They welcome new neighbors to join the group as they move into the Carlouel neighborhood. They admit they are the smallest and least active HOA in the area, however, they do have a few events. To participate, please call Sue Williams at 446-4471 or visit their new website, full of history, weather and events, www.MyCarlouel.com.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Celebrating their 126th Anniversary this year, the Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on varying dates. January 19th, they will meet at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11am followed by lunch at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to join this organization. Call Cathy Athanson at 510-7135 or email Dubinwv41@Gmail.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on the third Wednesday at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Avenue at 11:30 to socialize. Lunch begins at 12 noon. Their programs normally pertain to the Constitution or Revolutionary history. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Jim Phillips at 447-1616 or email to JPhillips1936@icloud.com.

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

Their 35th year is about to begin, with the first rehearsal on Tuesday, February 7th. They are always looking for new members and sponsors. In 2017, they will perform locally in the Chasco Parade in Pasco County and the St. Patrick's Parade in Ybor City.

This is an all-volunteer marching band. Call 322-4778 or get more information at SecondTimeArounders.com.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Give Sailing Lessons for the holidays. Gift certificates for memberships, private sailing lessons, and adult courses may be purchased in the front office.

Fun Racing is the third Saturday of the month. If you are new to racing or an old hand at it, this is a fun way to learn, and keep your skills sharp. Skippers meet at noon on the deck; racing is from 1 to 3pm

The CCSC also offers instruction in Stand Up Paddle boarding and Kayaking. They are located on Sand Key, just north of the Marriott Hotel, at 1001 Gulf Blvd. Call 517-7776 or see www.ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org.

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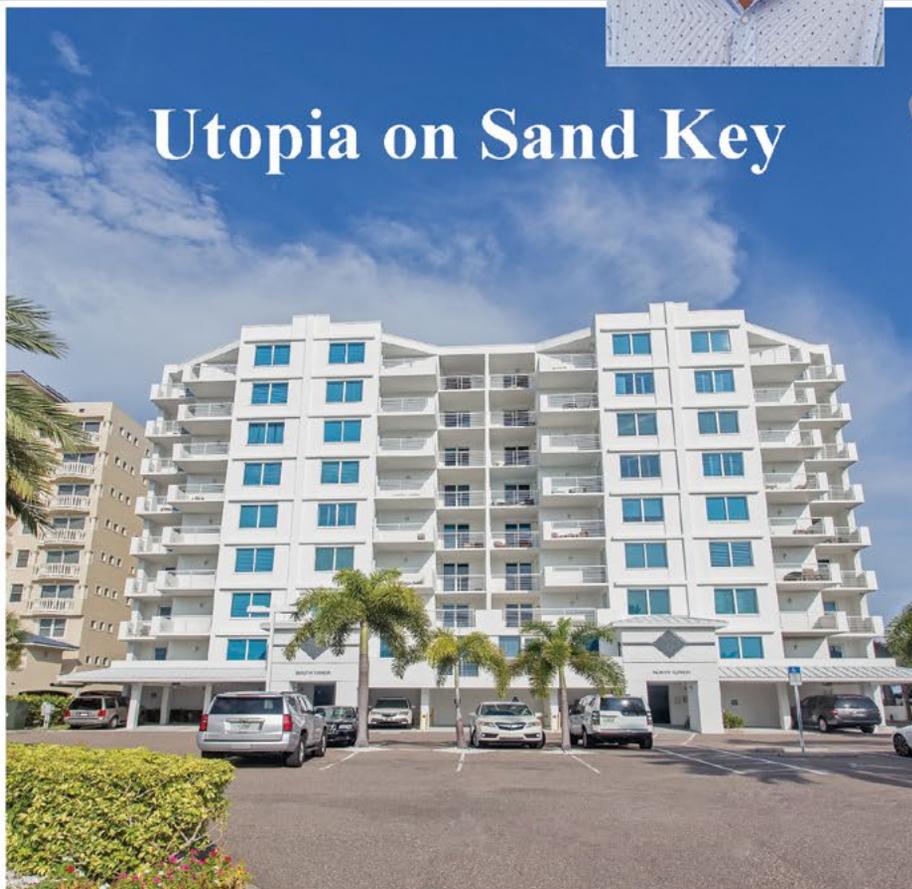
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