

NEIGHBORHOOD



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Newsletter



THE BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES 67 YEARS

"The oldest thing in the world is a garden," was written by one of the original members shortly after the Belleair Garden Club formed, February 6, 1950.

When some Belleair women learned the nearby Clearwater Garden Club was recruiting Belleair women to join their garden club, they felt they wanted their own club and sent letters to 50 area women inviting them to the first Belleair Garden Club meeting at the home of Mrs. Priscilla Liggett. Twenty three curious women showed up.

The club organized at that first meeting with Mrs. Liggett becoming the first President and Mrs. R.E. Hunter the first Vice-President. One year later, the club was Federated and then incorporated on May 1, 1958.

Back then, the Belleair Garden Club's primary purpose as stated in their charter was "to keep the town of Belleair beautiful... so that it would be a happier and more valuable community in which to live." The goals were later expanded to stimulate interest in its gardens, homes and parks.

That first year, the park located at the north end of city's triangular block, now known as Hunter Park, was offered to the club as an ongoing landscaping project. The next year, the City asked the Club's help with three other parks: Magnolia Park, Palmetto Park and Gardenia Park.

The Club continued to develop projects within the community, such as landscaping buildings and the Town Hall. In 1957, with the urging of the Garden Club, the Town became a Bird Sanctuary.

In the beginning, the only source of revenue was the members' dues and proceeds from its annual Flower Show held each year in the Bimini Room at the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. After visiting the Garden Clubs' show a newspaper writer wrote, "I am happy to say that I attended the flower show and it was one of the finest I have ever seen. If these ladies of Belleair can present such a beautiful Flower Show, I wish I could live there."

The members also held annual parties, teas and auctions. They also organized an annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

All this time, meetings were being held in members' homes, and the membership continue to grow, but the meeting space did not. A local developer, E.W. Hallett, came forward and donated four parcels of land on Ponce de Leon and their vision of building their own Club House was born. They organized a building fund.

In 1974, the Town of Belleair approached the Garden Club about a land swap. They wanted the Club's piece of land to build city tennis courts. In exchange, they offered to give them their Town Hall at 903 Ponce de Leon and the town would build a new Town Hall next door.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Continued on page 6

BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to occupied residence and business in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Harbor Bluffs, and part of Largo. We are not officially associated with any city government.

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**BELLEAIR AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**
Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is about your neighborhood. It is mailed to the entire Belleair Area - a total of about 8,000 households - six times a year.

Do you need another copy of this newsletter. You may pick up additional copies of this newsletter at all City Halls, Wildfield Marketplace, Panara Bread, most Banks and the Belleair Market. Need a lot? Call 517-1997.

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@grieffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN
IN APRIL**

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Sheriff: 582-6200
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COMMISSIONERS —
Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer
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Fire Dept: 595-1117
Sheriff: 582-6200
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901 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair 588-3769
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Police Dept: 588-3769
MAYOR - Gary H. Katka
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City of Largo Largo.com
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Police: 586-7427
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Maggie Cluster 488-8705

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Roz White, President 462-2674

CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

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Senator Jeff Brandes 727-395-2512

Dist. 22 3637 Fourth St. N., Ste 101 St. Pete

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Representative Larry Ahern 727-395-2512

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Governor Rick Scott

Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov

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Charlie Crist 202-225-5961

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Ash Wednesday	Lent Begins	1
Movies In The Park	Largo	3
Belleair Bluff's Spring Garage Sale		4
Fashion Show Of Belleair		4
Sunday Concert In Belleair		5
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer		9
Florida State Fair	9-20	
Boat Club To Island Way Grill	12	
Sunday Concert In Belleair	12	
Flamingo Festival Sunken Gardens	12	
Adopt A Pet Week Animal Services	13-17	
Valentine's Day	14	
Winter Fest Calvary Episcopal	18	
Little League Opening Day	18	
Nature Hike McGough Park	18	
Sea Blues Festival Coachman Park	18-19	
Boat Club To Island Way Grill	19	
Presidents Day Public Schools Closed	20	
Blast Friday Clearwater	24	
Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training Starts	25	
Pinellas County Eco Fun Festival	26	
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Did You Know



COFFEE WITH AN AUTHOR Here's a chance to meet a local writer and have a cup of coffee as well. Long time Belleair resident Lil Cromer, an extensive traveler, has put many of her experiences into a book called "The Feisty Traveler." But never fear, this is not your typical travel book. Meet Lil Cromer, when she will be signing books Saturday, February 4 at the Belleair Coffee Shop from 2-4pm. The book is available on Amazon.com.

MENTORS NEEDED Anona Elementary School is in immediate need of mentors! Mentors come in once a week to spend the half-hour lunch period with a student who needs guidance and support. They serve as role models, encouragers and a listening ear. As the relationship develops, mentoring becomes a rewarding experience for both the student and the mentor. The county requires new mentors attend a workshop providing information about mentoring policies and procedures, communication skills and relationship building. If interested, contact Jeanne Joyner at 588-4730 or Joynerje@PCSB.org.

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

NATIONAL SINGLE PARENTS DAY National Single Parent Day was instituted by Ronald Reagan on March 21, 1984, and Shepherd's Village plans to celebrate it at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium March 4, from 9am to 3pm. The event will feature special activities for children including face painting, interactive arts and crafts, and photo opportunities to say "thank you" sent through media technology to the single parent in your life. Attendees will not want to miss the photo-message to acknowledge their single parent, mother or father! In addition, resource exhibits will provide information for single parents to benefit them on their journey, and many give a ways will be given throughout the day. Single parents and their children will get in for half.



GRAND PRIX Spring is just around the corner and so is the Firestone Grand Prix - March 10-12. Look for the barricades to start going up after February 6 with a complete shut down by March 4th. The Dali Museum will be closed March 10-13. The Saturday Morning Market will be closed March 11 and will reopen March 18th. Roads will reopen on the 13th and 14th. The Dali and Mahaffey entrances will be open by March 16. All will be gone by April 1.

and More...



**BELLEAIR REC
BRINGS BACK
YOGA** Starting February 2, 2017, Hatha Yoga is back with a new instructor and new time. Barbara Shimer has been a hatha yoga instructor for over 20 years and will bring her experience

here to Belleair. Join her every Thursday night in Belleair Town Hall at 901 Ponce de Leon Blvd 7-8:30 pm as you progress your practice and flexibility. The cost of the drop-in class is \$6 per class. For more information please call the Dimmitt Community Center at 727-518-3728.

HELP PLAN SAILING EVENTS The Clearwater Yacht Center is organizing their major 2017 sailing events and need planners. If you are interested or curious, come to a meeting at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Saturday, February 11 a 9am. Lunch will be provided. If you want to know more now, contact Dick Boblenz by email at RBoblenz@TampaBay.RR.comr

SUNDAY OUTDOOR CONCERTS ANNOUNCED

February 12: Phil Dirt & The Dozers Surfs Up! A Tribute to the Beach Boys

March 5: Concert with Robby Steinhart The Music of Kansas with Stormbringer

April 2: Band to be announced

Gates open at 4:00 pm. Pre-sale tickets \$5 and Day of \$10. Tickets may be purchased at the Belleair Rec, Bella Vino, and online at www.racehawk.com.

MASSING OF THE COLORS The Military Order of the World Wars invites everyone to their 31st Massing of the Colors event Saturday, March 5 at 2pm in the Pasadena Community United Methodist Church. The free patriotic program involves lots of music and pageantry and is open to the public. Call LTC Currie Patton for more information at 343-7664

GOOD CLEANING PRACTICES When it comes to cleaning products, the products we choose and the way we dispose of them have big impacts on the environment. Concentrated products are a smart choice. Besides needing fewer resources to make the product, they reduce the amount of packaging and smaller containers save energy during shipping. Buy refill containers, which use even less packaging and do not include sprayers or measuring caps, further reducing packaging.

If it mixes with water it is soluble. Most liquid, gel and powder water-soluble household cleaning products can be disposed of down the drain with running water. Most solid products (soap scouring pads, sticks, towelettes, etc.) can be placed in the trash. For other products (such as oven cleaners, crystal drain openers and furniture polishes), follow the manufacturer's disposal recommendations.

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BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB, Cont.

The Club agreed and got busy remodeling their new Club House, which was originally constructed in 1931. It was quaint and about the right size for their basic needs, but it still needed modification. The remodeling required gutting the whole interior and creating a meeting room large enough to accommodate 100 club members. They needed room for gardening and flower arrangement workshops, bridge marathons, teas, dinners and weddings. It would need a large kitchen, a lounge area, library and updated restrooms.

Mrs. Corell donated all the equipment for the kitchen. William Spieth donated the furniture in the lounge in memory of his mother, Garden Club member Alice Spieth.

The new Garden Club Activity Center opened on February 7, 1975, twenty-five years to the day from the first meeting. Membership, four times their original membership 25 years earlier, was over 100 members.

Then Mayor Edward A. Parker, grateful that leaders of the Garden Club had preserved the unique architecture of the building, presided over the ceremony with Garden Club President Mrs. E. Powell McWhirter. The Center was eventually placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1994.

As the Town of Belleair grew, their Public Works and Parks Department took over most of the tree plantings and landscape maintenance. A city sponsored Parks Board was created and Garden Club members who were eager to serve, volunteered.

Today, the Club still maintains one of the Town's Parks and supplied a new bench at the rededicated Hunter Park, but most of their dues and revenue goes to maintaining the 85-year old Activity Center. It recently needed a new roof, new air conditioning and a dishwasher. But, they do still provide scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary education in the fields of horticulture, ecology and related majors.

"We are pleased to continue to maintain the property to this day," says Laura Katz, the President since 2015.

Through the years, horticulture has been the heart of the Club's activities. Much effort is put forward to educate both members and residents. If you have attended the town's Arbor Day festivities, you have probably seen Club members demonstrating potting techniques and presenting children with their very own plant. This last holiday season, Club members decorated a tree for auction at the Tampa Bay ARC Festival of Trees, raising over \$300 for ARC as well as other special events put on by the Rec Center.

It's not all work and no play though. The Club has sponsored many fundraising social activities such as the Mad Hatter luncheons and the Junk to Jewels sales. Currently, Club members have the Petals and Poker night planned for Saturday, March 11th at the Clubhouse. Participants will have an opportunity to play for significant prizes while enjoying a marvelous buffet of hot and cold food and beverages.

Club members look forward to preserving the heritage, honoring goals and commitments and sustaining this remarkable establishment as a means of making this community and our world a little better place because the Belleair Garden Club was here. Since its inception in 1950, the Belleair Garden Club has done much to achieve that main objective.

To join or get more information, contact President Laura Katz, at 735-7574.

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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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²Annual Percentage Yield. The stated APY is accurate as of 10/31/2016. Rate may change after the account is opened.

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FLORIDA CRAFTART PRESENTS:

Sacred Art Tour of Tibetan Buddhist Monks

Dalai Lama sanctioned monks will create a sand mandala with millions of colored grains of sand, along with artistic workshops and cultural events from January 31 to February 5, 2017.



Eight Tibetan monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India will bring to St. Petersburg teachings of ancient ways and beliefs that create the possibility of global peace, non-violent conflict resolution, compassion and wisdom. Highlighting their visit is the creation in Florida CraftArt's exhibition gallery of a Sacred World Peace Sand Mandala that was designed by the Dalai Lama and depicts all religions in harmony.

This visit is part of the monk's nationwide 2017 Sacred Arts Tour, formed to share and preserve the spiritually artistic expression of the Tibetan culture. The monks demonstrate and express their peaceful ways through living art, ritual, dance and chanting.

During the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, the monks will chant, play long Tibetan horns and consecrate the site of the mandala. Immediately following, they will draw the lines for the design of the mandala on a base. Throughout its creation, the monks pour millions of grains of sand from a funnel-shaped metal tool known as the chakpur. This funnel is filled with colored sand and is then rasped to release a fine stream of sand. The artists begin at the center of the 4-foot wide mandala and work outward.

Sand paintings are an ancient art form of Tibetan Buddhism. "Mandala" is a Sanskrit word meaning "cosmogram," or "world in harmony." Drawn in three-dimensional forms of sand, this art is called dul-tson-kyil-khor, signifying "mandala of colored powders" in Tibetan. In general, mandalas have outer, inner and secret meaning. On the outer level, they represent the world in its divine form; on the inner level, they represent a map by which the ordinary human mind is transformed into the enlightened mind; and on the secret level, they predict the primordially perfect balance of the subtle energies of the body and the clear light dimension of the mind. The creation of a sand painting is said to affect purification and healing on these three levels.

On Wednesday, February 1 at 1:30, there will be a conversation about art and spirituality led by Unitarian Universalist Minister Jack Donovan and Maureen McDole, Poet and founder of Keep St. Pete Lit.

A Florida CraftArt members-only reception at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, will feature Tibetan Culture and will be followed by a prix fixe dinner at Iberian Rooster. (Reservations are required.)

The monks will chant daily at 10 am and 4 pm. On Friday, February 3 at 3:45 p.m. the public is invited to join the monks for meditation and chanting. People should bring pillows or mats on which to sit.

The monks will teach a workshop on how to paint Tibetan symbols on rocks at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday for a donation of \$10. Call (727) 821-7391 to make a reservation. Later that evening, the Unitarian Church will hold a pot luck dinner for the monks at 6 p.m. The public is invited to bring a dish to share. Visit www.UUStPete.org for reservations and information.



During the closing ceremony on Sunday, February 5 at 1 p.m., the monks will dismantle the mandala, sweeping up the colored sand to symbolize the impermanence of all phenomena. It is meant to be a teaching to show that everything that exists has a beginning, a middle and an end. Then monks will then lead a procession to Tampa Bay where they will deposit the sand and perform a Buddhist blessing.

The Drepung Gomang Monastery houses 2,000 monks, providing food, health care, and education for monks living in exile from their home country of Tibet. Between 1959 and 1961 most of Tibet's 6000+ monasteries were destroyed when the Cultural Revolution Red Guards began to inflict a campaign of organized terror and vandalism throughout all of China and Tibet, to prevent religious freedom and cultural expression. The Dalai Lama escaped, accepted land from India, and established the Tibetan government in exile. Since 1959, Tibetans have reestablished their monasteries in India, housing tens of thousands of monks, and creating schools, hospitals libraries and archives so they can continue their traditions and culture. Tibetan crafts created at the monastery are available for purchase during the cultural tour, with all funds raised helping to provide support for the monastery.

As the monks have taken vows of poverty, Florida CraftArt is responsible for housing and feeding them during their visit. The Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg is a sponsor, and the apartment complex 430 Beacon has generously donated living quarters. The following restaurants are hosting the monks: Hawkers, Hooks, Iberian Rooster and Deuces BBQ.

Florida CraftArt is located at 501 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. For more information on the monks, visit www.FloridaCraftArt.org or call (727) 821-7391.

Florida CraftArt is a nonprofit organization founded in 1951 and headquartered in St. Petersburg. Its mission is to grow the statewide creative economy by engaging the community and advancing Florida's fine craft artists and their work. Fine craft art is presented in its 2,000-square-foot retail gallery and a large gallery features curated exhibitions. Florida CraftArt is the only statewide organization offering artists a platform to show and sell their work.

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NEW FIRE STATION 43 COMING TO BELLEAIR BLUFFS

By Pinellas County Commissioner Charlie Justice

Protecting public health, safety and welfare is one of the top goals of Pinellas County Government's Strategic Plan. As a county, we are constantly challenged to find ways to accomplish that goal for the residents in our 24 municipalities and for the thousands more in unincorporated Pinellas. During my tenure as Commission Chair last year, we were able to see one of those accomplishments materialize.



After five years of planning in partnership with the City of Largo, City of Belleair Bluffs and the Town of Belleair, we were able to break ground on Fire Station 43.

The fire station will allow for better first response to citizens in those communities and surrounding unincorporated areas during emergencies. Made possible in part by Penny for Pinellas funds provided by the city of Largo, along with county funding from the Unincorporated Fire District, the station will be located at 2765 Bay Way Ave. in Belleair Bluffs. The location, across from city hall, was chosen as the optimum location to meet emergency response time requirements for those residents.

Penny projects like this show us how we continue to build a better Pinellas County. Growth in our community and advances in technology remind those of us who serve the public that we have to keep up with changing times to better serve our citizens.

In 2011, municipality leaders from these communities identified that need and took action. The City of Largo and City of Belleair Bluffs agreed that replacing the existing fire station with a new facility was necessary for public safety. The existing fire station, located on Indian Rocks Road, was constructed in the 1960s and has served the community well for several decades, but a modern fire station will provide better operational needs.

As a result, a capital project for the station was developed, which required support and funding from the City of Largo and the Pinellas County Fire Protection Authority, as well as operational agreements with the City of Belleair Bluffs and the town of Belleair. This construction project is believed to be the first local fire station requiring this level of partnership among so many government agencies.

Penny for Pinellas funding played an important role in this project. The Penny is a 1-percent sales tax that is invested in the areas that mean the most to our citizens. Since 1990, Penny has enabled us to complete projects like this, a new fire station with all of the amenities to serve so many residents, without relying on property taxes. Penny funds can only be used on capital investments such as public safety facilities, roads and other infrastructure projects. Go to pinellascounty.org/penny to find out the important work Penny for Pinellas has done in the county and to learn more about the upcoming 2020-2030 renewed referendum.

Construction of the fire station is expected to be completed later this year. This long standing collaboration between the County and the municipalities prove that with partners, we can truly do more.

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5TH ANNUAL ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS

This three day event will be held Feb 15 – 17, 2017 at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Student Center, downtown St. Petersburg. The conference will host 30 panel discussions of key international issues. Its mission is to bring multiple perspectives and substantive insights on critical world matters to the Tampa Bay community.

With topics ranging from politics to international relations to music, there is something for everyone interested in learning and expanding their world perspective, including:

- Global Populism – What does it mean?
- Trump's America – The international view.
- Offshore Financing – Making the opaque transparent.
- Music – Can it hold the world together?
- The Emerging U.S. Foreign Policy – Reading the tea leaves.
- Canada – Close neighbors or worlds apart?
- Radical Regimes versus Liberal States – The new normal?
- International Education – Great equalizer or growing fault line?
- Non-Governmental Organizations – Humanitarianism's best hope?

Panel participants from around the world are highly qualified individuals with years of expertise in their fields. They are as impressive as the topics themselves.

Deborah R. Lapidus is on the full time faculty at The Juilliard School and at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She recently instructed at the Victoria School of the Arts in Australia, and taught a master class at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts

in London. She was an on-air master teacher for two seasons on the CBC's "Triple Sensation" (Canada), and spent a month this summer working at NYU's La Pietra campus in Florence, Italy.

Hamadou Tidiane Sy, a Senegalese journalist, is the founder and editor of the award-winning Ouestaf News. He started his career working for major international media houses (BBC World Service, AFP, Channel Africa, etc.), then created a journalism and digital media school in Dakar. In 2003, he was selected to take part in the US State Department sponsored "New Century Scholars" Program, when he had the opportunity to spend a year researching and working on conflicts around the globe. A speaker at various conferences, he often reflects on Africa's status and role in the global stage and on the impact of World affairs on the African continent.

Eddy L. Harris, a St. Louis, Missouri native, is the author of six critically acclaimed books: Mississippi Solo, Native Stranger, South of Haunted Dreams, and Still Life in Harlem, all of which involve memoir, adventure tale, travelogue, and cultural coverage. The Los Angeles Reader says of his writing: "At every turn Harris challenges assumptions about race, forcing his readers to examine their own minds... In thoughtful prose that is deeply personal, Harris rips open the wound of race and lets out the evil festering inside... A consciousness-raising session on the conundrum of race relations."

More information on the conference can be found at www.stpetersburgintheworld.com/conference/ or call 727.873.4872

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Oursler family finds the Clearwater Sailing Center a great place for their entire family to utilize.

The Oursler family, despite being from Baltimore, Maryland, had never thought of sailing as a family activity. It was over eight years ago when Mark Oursler received a job offer in Florida and decided to move his family of six to the Sunshine State.

Connor the eldest son, 13 at the time, saw an ad in a local paper for free windsurfing camp at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC). He tried it out and fell in love, but his mother Laura was hesitant in joining at the time because of what she thought would be an added expense.

What Laura discovered was that the membership was more than affordable and the Oursler Family joined the CCSC to help Connor continue his interest in windsurfing and sailing. They had no idea what a family oriented place it would be for them and it didn't take long before Connor joined the sailing team, sailing 420s.

"Soccer didn't work for our family," Laura Oursler said "the CCSC offered so many amenities for all our family to enjoy."

Laura, who is a licensed nurse and a mother of five, spends the majority of her time caring for their middle son Keegan, 15, who is medically fragile, requires 24-hour care and is in and out of the hospital.

"Between windsurfing, sailing and paddle-boarding and just enjoying the outdoors, to the warm friendly people, everyone at the Sailing Center has made it special, it's a great environment for families."

The rest of the Ourlser siblings have followed in Connor's wake. Claire, 18, Cameron, 14, Caroline, 9, are all involved in sailing now as well. Even Keegan is able to watch his

brothers and sisters sail too from the deck of the CCSC in his wheelchair.

The Oursler children are home schooled so the CCSC was a chance for them to socialize but also learn the valuable life lessons and skills from sailing: sportsmanship, hard work, cooperation, learning to deal with the elements, respect for the environment, being independent, self-discipline, problem solving, commitment and have fun doing it.

In looking at colleges, Connor decided he wanted to serve his country and found that the US Coast Guard would be a great way for him to continue sailing and really liked the humanitarian aspect of the Coast Guard. Currently the captain of the sailing team and majoring in Naval Architectural Engineering, Connor plans to head to medical school after he is finishing serving his five years with the CG.

After the family visited the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, Claire saw that girls were part of the academy as well. Her experiences at the CCSC have helped her catch the "sailing bug" and she has applied for the Coast Guard as well. She will find out in April if she gets accepted but is hopeful.

Cameron and Caroline who almost grew up at the CCSC are out on the water as well getting braver by the minute going out into the Gulf of Mexico and having their own sailing experiences and life lessons in optimist prams.

"The CCSC has really been our home away from home. I wish we had gotten involved sooner," Laura adds, "It truly is a wonderful place and a great family activity to get out on the water together."

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Want to get better organized or find more space in 2017? More Space Place can help you do it. As America's foremost space saving and organizational retailer, they offer a huge selection of options, including wall beds and customized closets, garages, pantries, laundries, entertainment centers and much more.

Design options offer solutions that can turn any room into a multipurpose masterpiece that fully utilizes the room's space. Everything is custom designed for your needs including colors, materials, and finishes in your choice of a traditional, transitional or contemporary option. With the help of their talented designers you can create a perfect solution that fits your taste and lifestyle. Custom Closets can include Pull out racks, sliding mirrors, handy hooks, decorative storage boxes, and baskets and a whole lot more to make your closet more accessible and functional. Each closet system is designed to fit the needs of the user through custom design and accessories. They offer wall hung and floor based systems in composite, all wood or a combination of materials with easily adjustable shelves and hanging rods.

"We are very pleased with the closet design from More Space Place. The design is perfect for us and we were very impressed by the installer and designer who worked with us," said Kelly and Jill M. "They delivered on time, on budget, and exceeded our expectations. We look forward to working with them in the future on our garage and some other closet and pantry work."

More Space Place is America's #1 Murphy bed retailer with America's largest selection and a full range of Serta mattresses specifically, designed for wall bed use. Available in a wide variety of colors, finishes and styling options, when the bed is up a room can have a dual-purpose. A child can have extra play space or a room can be an office or hobby room and still have a comfortable bed for family members or out-of-town guests.

"I had a wall bed installed in my home and I absolutely love it," said Linda I. "The contemporary style is a perfect match for my home. Not only is the bed a beautiful piece of furniture, the mattress is extremely comfortable as well."

With a redesign from More Space Place professionals, your garage can become an area you will be proud of and one where you will be able to find everything you are looking for quickly. Customized garage organization systems include garage storage racks and garage cabinets. Floor-mounted systems are available in many standard depths and heights and the wall-hung systems can be adjusted to fit any height. All are made with top-of-the-line materials that will not warp or sag, keeping your garage organized and attractive for years to come.

More Space Place can custom design storage solutions for any room in your home. Their expertise can help you create a gourmet kitchen, a home office that works as hard as you do, or an entertainment center that adjusts to accommodate TVs as they continue to change. Additionally, if you have open living areas they can seamlessly blend cabinetry from area to area

"We are very pleased with our home office," said Andrew and Connie. "From the customized design, the quality of the cabinetry, and the workmanship of the installer, who turned our room into a multi-functional room, I am sure we will enjoy it for many years."

Whatever your budget, More Space Place will work to create your one-of-a-kind solution. Their CAD-based, 3D software allows you to see your design before you make a final decision.

More Space Place Design has 3 locally owned and operated showrooms: Palm Harbor 33136 U.S. 19, phone (727) 773-9888; St Petersburg 10722 Gandy Blvd. N., phone (727) 507-9799; Lutz 23114 State Road 54, phone (813) 935-8432. Open Mon. – Fri., 10 am – 5 pm and Sat. 10 am – 4 pm, other hours available by appointment. Visit MoreSpacePlace.com for more information or to see pictures.

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Business Briefs



432 WEST SIDE CLOSING

After 12 years, owner Ellen Lazenby is closing her women's apparel store, 432 West Side, in The Plaza 100. Her last day is February 28th. Ellen recently told us, "The thought of retirement has been

in my mind for the past year. My lease is up in February and I had hoped to sell the business. Unfortunately, that did not happen, so I made the difficult decision to close.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been able to do what I love. To say I will miss the store, my valued staff, the wonderful customers with whom I have cultivated relationships, the buying, selling and merchandising would be an understatement, but all good things must come to an end.

I am hoping the transition to retirement will be an easy one. I have already been approached by others in the field offering up other opportunities. Right now the idea of not having anything written in cement is quite appealing.

I've had the time of my life and have so many wonderful people to thank for taking the journey with me. Thank you all for the memories and may life be good to all of us!"

The store is called 432 because it originally opened at 432 Indian Rocks Road, before eventually moving to The Plaza 100. The store is holding a going out of business sale all month, with discounts as low as 60% and lower. With the store's closing, it leaves a rare space in the middle of the shopping center, next to Belleair Coffee, vacant. If you are interested in renting the space, call The Plaza's owner David Berolzheimer, at 581-4448, quickly. It won't be vacant for long.

CREATIVE DESIGN MOVES The owners of Creative Design, Marya and Ron Flurnoy, moved their Belleair Bluff's Interior Design Studio, but only half a block. It is now located at 321 Indian Rocks Road North, next to Bender's Chiropractors. For over 25 years, they have been designing some of the finest home interiors in Pinellas County and nationally, offering fine furniture and window treatments. With the move, they also added new team designers April Skye and Debra Hibbs.



CONSIGNER SOLD

Janna Terepka, owner of Janna's Fine Consigner, has sold her business to Lisa Hammock effective January 11th. Lisa's mother Jan, has been a longtime employee at Janna's. Terepka plans to retire and have some fun. The store, which will continue to be called Janna's, is located at 268 Indian Rocks Road N.

Business Briefs



JUICE HABIT OPENS The juice is flowing now in this hometown shop where you can enjoy fresh fruit smoothies, hand crafted juices and delicious Acai Bowls. Owner Ellen Fitzgerald, who is a resident of Belleair Bluffs, finally opened at 12788 Indian Rocks Road, about 2 miles south of West Bay, next to The Produce Stand.

All beverages are made from the freshest fruit and vegetables—never any syrups. The popular Acai Bowls are loaded with fresh fruit and granola. Juice Habit is open Monday-Saturday, 8:30am to 6pm. Check them out on FaceBook and remember, there is nothing stronger than a habit.

BELLA VINO WINE TASTING Bella Vino Wine and Cheese Market is hosting its monthly Wine Tasting on February 24th at 5:30pm. The wines presented will be Chardonnay and Cabernet. The tasting will include sampling twenty wines with Artisan cheeses and appetizers. The cost is \$20 and space is very limited. Please RSVP by calling 584-5552. Bella Vino is located in The Plaza 100 Shopping Center.



ROGAN & ASSOCIATES ADDS FINANCIAL PLANNER Rogan & Associates, Inc is pleased to announce Financial Planner Erin Emnett has joined the Safety Harbor Firm.

"Erin spent the last several years advising clients at Merrill Lynch and is passionate about

helping clients achieve their financial goals. Service comes naturally to Erin as is demonstrated by her volunteer work. She is currently President of the Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay, as well as, Chair of the State Public Affairs Committee for the Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin," stated founder Michael Rogan. "We are very happy that Erin has joined us and excited about the future."

For the last 20 years, Rogan and Associates, Inc has prided itself on creating financial plans designed to grow and adapt with their client's lives. By building personal relationships, they help clients plan for today's needs, manage the surprises that may come tomorrow, and stay on course to succeed for the long term. You can reach Erin at 727.712.3400

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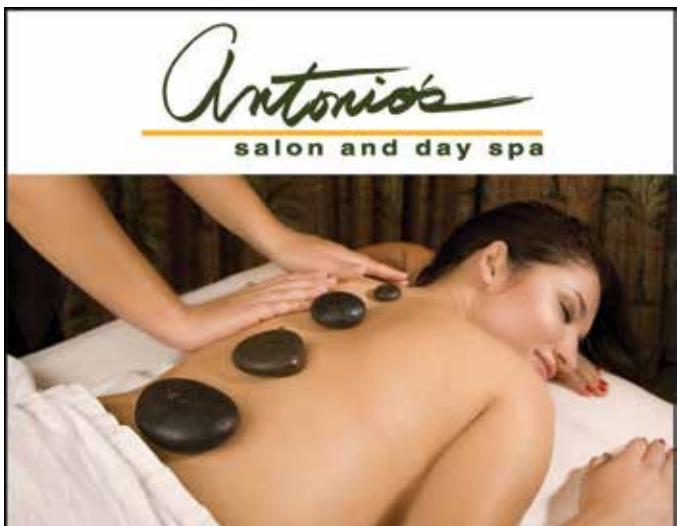
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Business Briefs



20 YEARS OF PEST CONTROL

Tammy and Dana McCutchan, owners and operators of Island Pest Control Services, started their Indian Rocks Beach business in 1996.

Originally from Indiana, they moved to Cape Coral, FL in 1985. The next year, they relocated to Largo when Tammy started working for Ace Pest Control. A year later, they moved to Indian Rocks Beach, which had always been their dream.

Ace was eventually bought by Pest Sheild, and Tammy spent nine years working for the two companies, before deciding to start her own business in 1996. Island Pest Control Services was officially incorporated in 2011.

Tammy holds the pest control license and Dana holds the ID card to help with the business. They have established a great clientele in the areas of Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Largo, Clearwater and Seminole. They do not advertise much, because most of their clients come from referrals from their existing clientele.

If you have pest control needs, call them at 727-596-7715. If there is a service in need that Island Pest Control Services does not provide such as termites, shrubs or lawns. Tammy can help find the right company for you.



BIG MAN MOVING OPENS

One year ago, Josh Anderson and Brooke Mahler used a well known moving company to move to Clearwater Beach. After their move, when inspecting their furniture, the engaged couple

found nicks and scratches all over their belongings. How could such an expensive service come with so much negligence? The couple realized a careful and diligent boutique moving company would be a huge business opportunity in our area... and the vision for Big Man's Moving Company was born! In early November, Josh and Brooke wed and deciding to pursue their dream of owning a family business, used their wedding gifts to partially fund their 26' truck. At 6'8, Josh is anything, but small - and consequently, Brooke had nicknamed him "Big Man," the name they choose for the business. Josh is physically involved with every job to insure your belongings are handled with care. Big Man's Moving Company services Belleair and the surrounding Tampa Bay areas, and offers free estimates. They can be reached at 727-772-3458 or bigmansmovingcompany@gmail.com.

Business Briefs

NORTHSTAR BANK HAS NEW PRESIDENT

With the death of David Stone in November, Scott Jacobsen has been named the new president of Northstar Bank. Previously, he was the bank's Chief Operating Officer responsible for planning, organizing, and controlling the day-to-day operational activities. He has a prior history with Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tampa and AmSouth Bank, Barnett Bank and Southeast. He is also the Chairman of Boys and Girls Club of Tampa Bay and on the board of many other organizations. Northstar has a branch in Belleair Bluffs



MORE CHANGES AT THE BAKERY Sweet IRB, located in Indian Rocks Beach, became The Bakery late last year. Now, it is becoming It's Your Day Bakery and Café and has new owners, Mary and Day Toll. The new owners already own It's Your Day Catering and plan to combine the catering and bakery into an expanded café concept at the Sweet IRB location, offering a larger breakfast and lunch menu. Sweet IRB owner Melissa Dotson says she is moving forward with another venture exploring the creative side of baking and culinary arts. She will continue to interact with the It's Your Day Bakery and Café, but will also have a day job in her prior Tech World profession. "There will not be any major changes," says Melissa. "The staff, retail, wholesale and other offerings will continue to be there." It's Your Day Bakery and Café is located at 311 Gulf Blvd, next to Slyce Pizza.



NEW MANAGER The Indian Rocks Road Publix Grocery Store has a new manager, Crystal Marlow. Crystal comes to our store from the downtown St Pete store.

MARKET 516 Antique Alley has a new addition with this small business owned by Lorie Goman. Market 516 specializes

in inspired home décor and gifts. Check them out online at Market516.com

NEW HOTEL OPENS Clearwater Beach's largest hotel, The Wyndham Grand Hotel, opened in January. It is north of the Hyatt Regency and west of the Pier 60 Hotel. The 5-star resort is a \$175 million project owned by philanthropist and entrepreneur Dr. Kiram Patel. Fifteen stories tall, the hotel has 343 rooms, 238 are hotel rooms and suites the rest are vacation ownership. It has over 22,000 square feet of convention meeting space and one of the largest ballrooms on Clearwater Beach. The 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. Located between its two towers are two bi-level 'Presidential Suites,' each with over 3,000 square feet.

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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.

MEET DEPUTY TONY DeANGELO THE NEW CODE INSPECTOR

If you are a City of Belleair Bluffs resident with a boat in your yard or your lawn is too tall, you might get a visit from Sheriff Deputy Tony DeAngelo, whose primary role is to monitor the city for code violations. Previously, when the city received complaints from residents regarding neighbor's yards, noise and other problems there was no specific city employee assigned to handle it and code enforcement is not the job of the Pinellas County Sheriff's office.



In November, the City Commission hired Deputy DeAngelo with the responsibility of enforcing code violations and to assist with community policing working 12 hours per week in two six hour days. He will also attend city events and visit area businesses. DeAngelo has been with the Sheriff's Department since 1983. He retired around 2000 but came out of retirement in 2011 to work in the Sheriff Department's Office. He also performs the same service for Redington Beach.

"On work days, I report to City Hall," says Deputy DeAngelo. "Any complaints they have received are in my mailbox. Then I go check them out. I also work closely with the Public Works department. "Many problems I find myself, just by driving around. "I inspect abandoned cars and those with expired plates. I see violations involving boats, yards, fences, RVs, and eye sores," DeAngelo continues. "I even find temporary structures and furniture in front yards."

Pinellas County recently conducted a citizens' survey to determine which County Code problems bothered people the most. They found the top three violation complaints were garage sales, noise and improper boat parking. Also topping the list were complaints of utility trucks, vans, trailers, RVs, travel-trailers, noise, abandoned or foreclosed properties and repeat offender homes.

"Many of the violations go back years," DeAngelo explains. "They have done it before and have never been cited so assume they are in compliance."

If you aren't sure if you are in compliance, you can read the city codes online at municode.com, which is also linked from the city web site belleairbluffs.org. Anyone can review the city's ordinances on their personal computer.

"When I talk to people, I try to offer solutions," DeAngelo says. "Some people are elderly or have very little extra money and the fix can be expensive. Storing an RV off site can be costly. Getting a fence fixed costs money. If they work with me—I try to work with them by giving people time to fix their violations. Belleair Bluffs is small, everyone knows each other and most people are very friendly"

"It is just more effective to have a Deputy talk to you about your violation, then one of the city's staff," says Debra Sullivan, City Clerk. During November and December Deputy DeAngelo issued over 30 citations

In January, the city was so happy with DeAngelo, they extended his contract through September.



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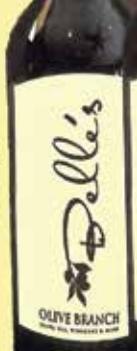
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Bar & Restaurant News



STEFANO'S LEAVES THE BEACH Indian Rocks Beach's Stefano's Italian Restaurant closed in January - but they plan to reopen nearby in Largo. Their building has been sold and they have to be out immediately. "We are close to signing a deal for another space near Indian Rocks, just across the bridge," says restaurant owner Stephan Stryzinski.

DINNER AND A MOVIE Studio Movie Grill has signed a lease as part of the new Seminole City Center Mall. This is going to be an in theater dining establishment that will be a major mall anchor. The theater will have 1,100 seats over 11 screens. The center's developer says, "Not only will our area residents have a movie theater again, but it will be a theater experience like they won't find anywhere else in Pinellas County." It will be outfitted with the latest digital projection as well as a full-service bar and lounge to enjoy before the movie or as a nightcap afterwards. The menu includes entrées, burgers, pizza, starters, desserts, snacks, and more. Studio Movie Grill has 24 locations in 10 states.

SECOND SLYCE OPENING

Slyce Pizza Bar has been building a new store in Madeira Beach and it is ready to open soon. But have no fear, they are not closing the Indian Rocks location. The second store is located on the mainland, at Madeira Shopping Center on 150th Ave between McDonalds and Publix. You can even go by boat and dock at the McDonald's docks. They hope to open the second week of January.



NEW SPORTS BAR

The old Beef-O-Brady's in Largo has reopened as Tailgator's Sports Bar and Pub. New owner Jason Wold opened the Pub in mid-December. Inside, he left much of the design and existing fixtures. The small meeting room for club meetings and private

functions is also still there. The main difference is their menu as the specialty is pizza. The pub's homemade dough recipe is from Chicago, and they offer small, medium, large and extra large pizzas from \$7.95 to \$12.95 with added toppings. Stop in and check them out at 13847 Walsingham Rd., behind the Chase Bank and McDonalds. You can call ahead at 330-6999.

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Bar & Restaurant News



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.

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!

CRABBY'S FOUNDER CELEBRATES 85TH

BIRTHDAY Bill Loder, the original Crabby Bill, turned 85 January 8th. To celebrate, he held a party at his Indian Rocks Beach location, which is now 34 years old, having opened in 1983. Bill has been selling crabs and seafood though for over 65 years, first in New Jersey and now here in Pinellas County. Happy Birthday Bill.



OCEAN HAI AT THE WYNDHAM When the Wyndham Grand opened last month it included this upscale Clearwater Beach restaurant. Their new menu will 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.

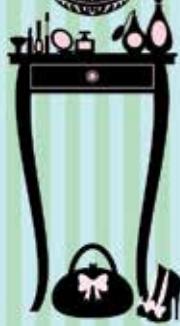
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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**BELLEVIEW BILTMORE'S ARTIFACTS**

Did you know, they found many antiques and artifacts inside the Bellevue Biltmore when they began to demolish it? Construction workers found various items representing many decades over the last 120 years. Some of the items had previously been on display in the old hotel's a museum and library. Most of the larger items like doors, windows, mirrors, chandeliers, and such were sent to Shiller's Salvage in Tampa for resale, but the other items are being kept for future display.

"We found a large movie projector that was used in the Starlite Ball Room to show movies during the 1930s and '40s," says Mike Dooley, a construction supervisor for JMC Communities. "In the basement the St. Andrew's Bar, a workshop, sleeping quarters and tunnels were found. There were a lot of interesting things down there."

"Most of the things we found have been temporarily stored at our office for safe keeping," says Michael Cheezem, JMC Communities President. "We are hiring a professional to plan a new museum on property in our new hotel. The collection will be on permanent display for the public to view."



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THE NEW FIRE STATION IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS



On December 12, the new Belleair Bluffs fire station construction began with the ceremonial ground-breaking. The ceremony not only signaled the start of fire station's construction, but it also marked a new partnership between Belleair Bluffs, Largo, and Town of Belleair as the new station will service all or parts of those three communities, plus parts of unincorporated Pinellas County. This project is the first cooperative project between four Pinellas County municipalities.

Largo Fire and Rescue Chief Shelby Willis said, "the groundbreaking was a very momentous occasion representing the collaboration of four government agencies. We will have a beautiful, functional building that will meet some unique requirements and provide adequate response times to four nearby communities. It shows what teamwork can do."

Belleair Bluffs Mayor Chris Arbutine reiterated the Chief's words adding, "the new fire station is a project for which the county and three municipalities pooled their resources and talents to make happen. This partnership is not only unique in Pinellas County, it is probably unique to our entire state."

Belleair Commissioner Tom Shelly reminded everyone attending the ceremony "that the fire station will be paid for with funds generated by Penny For Pinellas" an important funding source whose renewal will again be voted on by the Pinellas County citizens in 2018.

County Commissioner Charlie Justice also attended the ceremony saying, "the number one priority of the fire station project was to ensure the safety of all our citizens."

The existing Fire Station #43 is considered outdated and will likely be torn down and/or sold. It had previously been an Atlantic Gas station in the early 1960s. The new fire station, located on Bayway Avenue, a few hundred feet to the west of Indian Rocks Road North, is expected to take about 11 months to build and should be up and functioning by the Fall of 2017.



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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**BATS IN YOUR BACKYARD**

By Lara Milligan, Natural Resources Agent UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County

It is hard to imagine what Pinellas County looked like in the early 1900s. Many long-time residents can share stories of US 19 as a one-lane dirt road, of 20 minute commutes from north to south county, of the open grasslands and cattle that roamed on Boot Ranch and the stories go on and on!

Now we have had a tremendous amount of development over the years! Can you imagine being any animal species and trying to survive all of the area's changes? One of these animals, that we do not often think about is the bat.

Bats are an amazing species for a variety of reasons, but two reasons that many people are fond of them is for their pest control and nutrient services. Bats can consume up to 3,000 insects a night and when female bats are nursing their young, their energy requirement is even higher. To put this into perspective for you, a nursing bat can consume up to 2/3 of its body weight daily, which is equivalent to a 150-pound human consuming 100 pounds of food per day!

There is no doubt they eat a lot of food and what goes in must come out. As they say, everything that eats poops, right? The neat thing about bat poop or guano is that you can use it as a natural fertilizer. It's true. So not only can bats help to keep the mosquito populations under control, they can help keep your garden healthy too!

Here is the scoop if you want to attract bats to your yard. There are 1,100 species of bats in the world, 48 in the United States and 13 in Florida. Of those 13, you can attract 4 with a bat house: the Evening, Big Brown, Brazilian free-tailed and Southeastern bat. In the natural environment, bats roost in caves and trees, but with as much development as Florida has seen and will continue to see, bats' opportunity to find habitat in trees is diminishing. Providing a bat house is one way to help provide additional shelter options for these creatures.

Just as people are very particular in what they call their home, bats tend to be pretty picky about bat houses too. You want to make sure you do your research before you build or buy one to put up in your yard. The University of Florida has an EDIS publication on "Effective Bat Houses for Florida," which can be found at: bit.ly/FLbats. EDIS is the Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension, a collection of information on topics relevant to you.

If you don't have a yard to put a bat house in, you can still help by encouraging others to protect their natural environment. For example, bats may roost in Spanish moss, dead and hanging palm fronds, or inside hallowed out trees. You can encourage people to leave these roost sites as they are. Also, promote the use of native plants in landscapes as they tend to attract non-pest insects, which in turn can attract bats.

Everyone can play a part in bat conservation! What will you do? Let me know on Facebook (@PCENaturalResources) or Twitter (Pinellas_Ext_NR). Send your feedback about Everyday Nature articles at: bit.ly/EverydayNature.

You can reach Lara at 727-453-6905 or via e-mail at Lara317@ufl.edu



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WAYS TO STAY FIT EXPLORING FLORIDA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

by Shannon N. Herbon, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

As 2017 gets underway, it's a great time to focus on a healthier lifestyle. Luckily, living in Florida is like having your own personal outdoor gym, so getting adequate exercise can be quite easy with hundreds of state parks and greenways throughout the state. An added bonus? You get to enjoy Florida's natural beauty while doing so.

Below are some ways to keep your mojo going ... and since you will be enjoying Florida's great outdoors, you'll probably have trouble stopping.

While you may have walked for miles in the confines of a gym, a hike among native plants and wildlife, while breathing in the fresh air and soaking up some sunshine is even better. Why not trade in the treadmill? Florida's public lands offer a variety of trail options – through pine forests and hardwood hammocks, rolling hills, on dirt or paved trails, and even along beaches like Anclote Key Preserve State Park.

For those who seek the workout benefits of a rowing machine, miles of crystal clear springs, freshwater lakes and saltwater paddling trails accommodate kayakers and canoeists while offering scenic backdrops guaranteed to take your workout to the next level. Honeymoon Island State Park is a favorite feeding ground for many wading birds, including great and little blue herons, snowy egrets and roseate spoonbills.

Trade in the stationary exercise bike for the real thing and explore Florida's paved and off-road mountain-bike trails. Like with the hiking trails, they wind through a variety of landscapes and rank from easy for those leisurely days, to some of the most challenging around. At Hillsborough River State Park, both hiking and biking trails await leading through more than 7 miles of nature trails. Or enjoy ranger-guided tours through Fort Foster State Historic Site, a reconstructed fort from the Second Seminole War.

As an added bonus, the price for these workout opportunities is next to nothing! Most state parks charge a minimal entrance fee – usually less than the price of a single movie ticket. And there are thousands of miles of greenways and trailways that don't cost a dime to visit, with no lines and no waiting.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Park Service maintains more than 700,000 acres within its national award-winning Florida Park system. So getting healthier is just a step, paddle or peddle away. To find your healthy outdoor lifestyle, visit www.floridastateparks.org and www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com.

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BRONSON THAYER Early Sponsor of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday

Bronson Thayer a well known business man and co-creator of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday passed away on Christmas Eve, following several years of battling cancer.

For many years, Thayer was the Executive Vice President of Lykes Brothers. Before that, he was the President or Chairman of many area banks including the Bank of Clearwater, the Clearwater Bank, Northeast Bank and helped start Bay Cities Bank.



While at the Bank of Clearwater in 1979, Thayer received a visit from two volunteers asking for a sponsorship donation for a new event.

Cary Stiff, a local business woman who was active with the Chamber of Commerce was one of the two. "I recall Bronson as a gracious, kind and tremendously thoughtful person," says Stiff. "He had that rumpled, humble and playful personality that made people instantly comfortable with him and come away feeling special. My best Bronson story takes place in Clearwater in 1979. I was President of the Downtown Clearwater Merchants Association and along with a colleague at the Clearwater Chamber, Don Mains, we had just teamed up to start a little event that would be called Clearwater Jazz Holiday."

"Of course, we had no money and just a brief fuzzy outline of what we could do downtown to entertain people while building foot traffic and filling hotels. We looked around to see who could give us support for this idea and Bronson was the first one we thought of because of his community leadership. We left a note on the windshield of his car explaining the idea and why we wanted to meet - then called him. Back then we knew everyone downtown and where they parked. It is pretty amazing!" Stiff continues.

"Right away he agreed to meet and his response was the best support that we could expect. 'How much did you think you need,' he asked. And he personally was the first to give \$500 to Jazz Holiday. His contribution was soon followed by other community leaders who put in not only money but their time, talents and company resources to make Clearwater Jazz Holiday a reality. As I look back, it was amazing how quickly downtown's business leaders hopped on board bringing the resources we needed. Almost forty years later, I try to remember that as I meet with young people who need to hear those words Bronson said long ago to me – 'how much do you need' - meaning I'm on your team and believe in you. Today the event – with its tremendous business and community leadership and music education goals - is the premium Jazz event on the West Coast of Florida," Stiff, today's Executive Director Clearwater's Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation, concludes.



In addition to his busy professional life, Bronson Thayer also served as President of the Florida Bankers Association, President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Florida Council of 100, Chairman of Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales and Chairman of WEDU-TV.

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THE BLUFFS WINE WALK

The Bluffs Business Association will host the Bluffs Wine Walk on Saturday, March 25th from 4 to 8pm. Guests will pay \$20 in advance or \$25 day of event for the opportunity to sample wine and appetizers at approx. 40 businesses in the Belleair Bluffs community.



Guests will check-in at one of three sponsor locations: Belleair Market at 510 Indian Rocks Road, Creative Design Team at 321 Indian Rocks Road or Radiance Medspa at 2894 West Bay Drive. They will receive a souvenir wine glass, 25 wine tasting tickets, a wristband and a map showcasing all of the wine walk stops. The Jolley Trolley will shuttle guests to participating merchants on Indian Rocks Road between West Bay Drive and Mehlenbacher Road and on West Bay Drive just east of Indian Rocks Road to Sunset Blvd.

Wine walk tickets are only available for purchase in advance online at BluffsBusinessAssociation.com. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event with a credit card (no cash) at the check-in locations.

Free parking is available at several locations throughout Belleair Bluffs. See the map on the website for the wine walk stops and parking locations.

The mission of the Bluffs Business Association is to help businesses connect with the community and each other through involvement in local events, business to business networking opportunities and cooperative advertising programs.

WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS

A full day of family fun is set at Winterfest, Saturday, Feb. 6th, from 10am to 4pm at Calvary Episcopal Church in Indian Rocks Beach.

Winterfest will include patriotic parades, arts and crafts vendors, elaborate silent auction, a street party with a variety of live entertainment, crafts for children, bake sale, hot dogs, hamburgers, beer and soft drinks.

Patriotic Children's Parade, in a wagon, on foot or on a bike, will begin at 11am. The popular Patriotic Pet Parade and Contest will begin at noon. Pet owners are invited to dress up their pets in patriotic attire. Registration begins at 11 a.m. There is no entry fee.

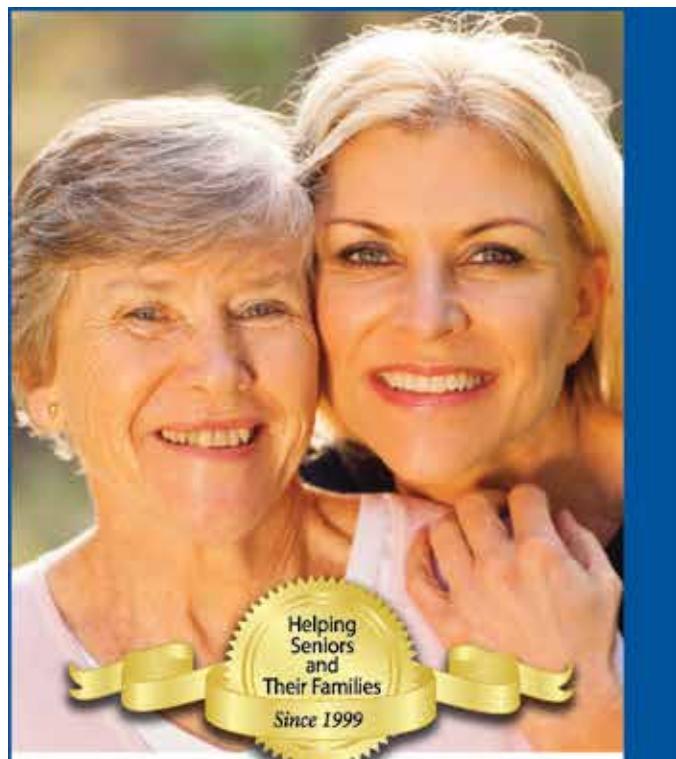
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Clothes To Kids, a nonprofit organization, provides clothing to low-income or in crisis, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge. For information or an appointment to shop, call in 727-441-5050 or visit ClothesToKids.org.



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CLEARWATER FERRY UPDATE

by Camille Hefting

We would like to thank all the business partners and chamber members who came out to our impressively attended Open House and Ribbon Cutting on Friday, January 13th at our downtown Clearwater Ferry Dock. We are very grateful for the continued support that the community has shown us and were so blessed to be able to celebrate our new vessel with everyone.

Looking back at 2016, there are a couple of points that we would like to underline as accomplishments in our growth: our ridership has consistently increased since our opening in March of 2015, and with 1,600 riders last December, we have surpassed 110,000 riders overall. We are very happy to have been able to reach that number before our two-year anniversary, that we will celebrate on March 15th.

Other major accomplishments include our partnership with the City of Clearwater, within which we were able to provide discounted trips to and from Clearwater Beach throughout the Spring and Summer of last year. This partnership was created under the umbrella of a campaign with multiple transportation agencies to reduce the number of cars on the Memorial Causeway Bridge over Spring Break and the busy Summer Season. It enabled us to prove our efficiency and reliability, both to our new riders and to City Officials, who decided to publish a Request for Proposal for Water Taxi Services, which we were awarded late last year. Although we will not offer discounted rate this year, we are looking forward to an even greater partnership with the City of Clearwater and the development of better facilities for our services in Clearwater.

After a successful 2016, we are very excited for 2017 and the projects this new year will bring:

- We will be launching our Orange Line, linking Downtown Clearwater and Clearwater Beach, for our Employer Partners. Annual and Monthly Pass Holders will enjoy priority boarding and a catered schedule on this line, which we are expecting to start in March for the season.
- We are working on new routes throughout the County, following the interest of our riders and of neighboring communities. Dunedin, Belleair Bluffs and Indian Rocks Beach are part of the destinations that we are hoping to develop this year, with the help of the County and the State.
- We continue to work with fellow transportation organization throughout the area to improve regional transit. We believe that Public Transportation would grow exponentially with combined trips and fares, and we are an active contributor in these conversations throughout the Tampa Bay Area.
- Last but not least, we are growing our Advertising Program, which allows for companies to showcase their products and services to our growing ridership base. With products such as inside banners, web interactive map and TV ads, we offer something for every budget. We encourage local businesses to take advantage of our captive audience while they travel to or from the beach, with visual and encouraging ways to convert them into customers. All our advertising partners get FREE placement of brochures/rack cards on our vessels, and we train our staff on board to be true Trip Concierges who will be able to recommend places to eat and things to do at our different stops.

We are always happy to host your groups on board, whether from the media, tourism industry or simply seeking information on our beautiful destination. For all inquiries, please contact Camille Hefting, Sales & Marketing Manager, at Camille@ClearwaterFerry.com or call our office at 727-755-0297.

BELLEAIR BLUFF'S ROBERT DAVID RETIRES

Robert David has been a fixture in the City of Belleair Bluffs, where he has worked for 30 years – since 1987. After over half his life, working for the City, he decided it was time for him to retire.

David began working for the city as a young lad of 25. He started as a part time temporary employee, but within two months, he moved to full time status. In 1987, he left his full time position, but he continued working for Belleair Bluffs in a part-time position. Finally, in 1990, he came back to the city as a full-time employee. He spent five years in Public Works, working and learning under David Sexsmith until he became the Public Works Director in 2003.

During his time, David has seen more city construction projects than most including road and street projects, street name changes and road repairs. He has also been witness to more businesses that have opened and closed than anyone else that has worked for the city.

City Clerk Debra Sullivan remembers, "he was instrumental in the construction of the City Hall Building and Public Works Building – now he is ending his career facilitating the construction of the Belleair Bluffs Fire Station. He started his career in a fire station and ending his career supervising the construction of the brand new one. He is leaving quite the legacy!"

Everyone knows David knows more people in the area, whether they are current or former residents, city leaders, county leaders and "boots on the ground" workers, than anyone in this city.

"His knowledge cannot be replaced. We can try – we can look at files, look at old pictures, look at documents, we can imagine the way things were all those years passed – but only Robert has the first-hand knowledge and recollection," says City Clerk Debra Sullivan.

David's experience and knowledge of all aspects of the city will be forever ingrained in his memory – they can only hope to try and replace him with someone with as much dedication, loyalty and knowledge. All agree, he will be missed.

David's last day was Dec 31, but he will continue to work as a consultant with the city to help complete the fire station. In his spare time, he will be working in his garden, which he thoroughly enjoys, riding his motorcycle, spend quality time with his wife as they plan their European cruise.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pinellas County Historical Society (PCHS) Scholarship application period is open. The scholarship is an achievement award based upon scholarship and volunteer service, and is awarded to a high school (or home schooled) graduating senior, university student, or volunteer at Heritage Village (HV) pursuing post-secondary education.

Eligibility requirements are:

1. Be a junior docent, docent, intern, HV volunteer with mandatory HV entry requirements, or be a PCHS member.
2. Have a minimum of 100 hours' HV and/or PCHS service.

All applications are due by March 15 to ajaldridge@aol.com; or Pinellas County Historical Society; Attention Alyce J. Aldridge, P.O. Box 4862; Seminole, FL 33775



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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN "WE FEED THE POOR"

Second grade students of St. Cecelia Catholic School located in Clearwater recently participated in the Empty Bowls Project. The project is a grass roots movement to help end hunger. Started in 1990, the objective of the "empty bowls" is to raise money to feed the world's hungry people and increase awareness of hunger by advocating arts education, and the finding of new solutions to old problems.

The second graders created turtle designs with the help of the school's art teacher Andrea Wilkinson, and then painted the designs on their bowls. During a Discovery Night held at the school, the bowls were sold for a cost of \$25 and the proceeds were donated to We Feed the Poor, an organization that helps feed the hungry in Haiti.

St. Cecelia School is an International Baccalaureate World School that promotes international-mindedness, respect and tolerance to help ensure a better future for all people. They are located at 1350 Court Street in Clearwater. It is a fully accredited Catholic School (Pre-K to 8th grade) serving four parishes in the Clearwater area. Photo credit: St. Cecelia School

2017 SEA-BLUES FESTIVAL

One of Clearwater's signature and most beloved events, the Clearwater Seafood and Blues Festival (Sea-Blues) presented by Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, returns to rock out Coachman Park Feb. 18-19, 2017. The popularity of this event continues to appeal to thousands and gives residents and visitors a chance to see nationally established and emerging bands as they pump out some of their best blues-inspired tunes. The Sea-Blues Festival kicks-off with a pre-celebration on Feb. 17 with the Blues Walk in Clearwater's Cleveland Street District, which will include music, food, drinks and all the charm the Cleveland Street District has to offer.

Headlining Saturday's day of music, fun and food will be JJ Grey & Mofro. This Southern rock, funky, blues band is no stranger to entertaining thousands, playing at some of the largest festivals worldwide, including Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, Fuji Rock in Japan and more. Jamming out on stage that day will also be The Record Company, a three-man American blues-rock band influenced by the music of the legendary Rolling Stones, John Lee Hooker and punk-rock band The Stooges. The Congress, The Sheepdogs, Bear & Robert, and local favorite The Ries Brothers will also entertain the crowd on Saturday.

American blues guitarist, singer, songwriter Walter Trout will headline Sunday's entertainment. Trout is a three-time winner of the Overseas Artist of the Year title at the British Blues Awards, and a three-time Blues Music Awards nominee. American blues musician and slide guitar legend Sonny Landreth and American guitarist, singer, producer and songwriter Mike Zito will also jam out on Sunday. Completing Sunday's lineup will be Selwyn Birchwood, a blues guitarist, vocalist and songwriter, The Souliz Band, and the popular regional performer The Betty Fox Band rounds out the lineup.

Keeping up with tradition and staying true to its name, visitors to the 2017 Sea-Blues Festival will enjoy some mouth-watering seafood dishes from the area's best restaurants.

General admission to the festival is free. Reserved seating starts at \$25 with two-day passes available. VIP packages start at \$70 and includes a reserved seat, dinner, two drink tickets, access to the VIP bar and executive restrooms. All prices are subject to taxes and fees.

For more information, visit clearwaterseablues.com or [Facebook.com/ClearwaterSeaBlues](https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterSeaBlues).



Mackenzie Tas and Delaney Day both from Largo

DAVID STONE, MR. CLEARWATER & NORTHSTAR BANK PRESIDENT



David Stone, who died November 30, was chief executive officer for several community banks in the Tampa Bay area and was also well-known for his work on many community projects, which eventually earned him the name of Mr. Clearwater in 2001.

Growing up in Dunedin, Stone graduated from Clearwater High School in 1960. Following high school and four years in the U.S. Air Force, he began his banking career when in 1968, he went to work for Bank of

Clearwater. Seventeen years later, when he left to open Citizens Bank & Trust, he was executive vice president.

As President & CEO, Stone oversaw the bank's growth through a merger with Pennsylvania-based FNB, and then as a spin-off to Florida National Bank. Through each change, he was named to oversee the new institution; retiring for the first time in 2004 after a merger with Fifth Third Bank, which still operates locally. A year later, he was lured out of retirement to help struggling Liberty Bank. Within three months, Liberty was showing a monthly profit and its regulatory problems had gone away. As President and CEO, Stone directed Liberty's merger in 2008 with U.S. Ameribank, which made him its local executive vice president.

Stone again retired in 2009, but in 2012 he joined Tampa's NorthStar Bank's board. In 2014, he was asked to serve as "interim" President & CEO. "It was supposed to be for two weeks," Stone said. "Then it was two months and then two years." The appointment became permanent in January, 2015 and lasted until health issues brought about his third retirement last October.

Throughout his career, Stone played major roles in some of Clearwater's most significant community projects. He was on the original steering committee for Ruth Eckerd Hall and spearheaded the construction financing. Later, he became chairman of the performing arts center's fundraising campaign for a major renovation and expansion. Stone was involved in Long Center fundraising, and once it was built, he oversaw the merger with UPARC – another organization he served – into the Long Center, in what later became The ARC Tampa Bay. He was a director at Mease Health Care during a \$26 million expansion and development, before he helped facilitate the merger of Mease and Morton Plant Hospital.

With leadership roles in dozens of local community organizations, when Stone was named Mr. Clearwater, he was described as having "... rolled up his sleeves and given unselfishly of his time, money and talent for the betterment of his fellow man." He was head three Tampa Bay Area banks, a number that increased to six when he stayed on after various mergers left him in charge, but still found time to have an even larger commitment to community betterment and family than his professional life.

Stone and wife Debbie were married for 31 years and had one daughter, Shannon and two grandkids. Nothing was more important to him than his family; his grandchildren called him "Pa Pa Bank," referring to his professional life, too. His wife owned the successful Debbie Stone Jewelry, after she retired from almost 30 years of teaching and administrative duties in the Pinellas County School system.

Stone was 74 when passed away, after a battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

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Music notes are scattered around the bottom of the poster.

Organizational News...

BELLEAIR ROTARY

The Belleair Rotary will host their annual "Wine and Tapas Extravaganza" May 8th. Over the years, this event has raised over \$200,000 for the Rotary charities. Tickets are \$75 in advance. Buy them online at the web site below.

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of the month is the general assembly and Board meeting. Contact President Jo Ann Bruner at 465-4973 or email her at JoAnn_Bruner@yahoo.com. Visit BelleairRotary.org.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. The February 3 meeting will have two guest speakers: Amapola Hansberger who founded LIFA (Legal Immigrants for America) and Stephen Guschov, Esq., Executive Director of LIFA, is the author of five books on the subject of immigration.

Meetings are for lunch at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club, and normally cost \$22 (pay at the door; no credit cards). RSVP for meetings to Mary Miskin at 453-2630 or Renatta Cochran at 595-6678. Get more information at BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

The Belleair Social Club meets every Tuesday morning at 9am in the back of Panera Bread. They meet for dinner at different restaurants on the first and third Sunday at 6pm, and for lunch on the second and fourth Wednesday.

Membership is open to all seniors and there are no dues. Couples are encouraged to join their fun. They would like more male members. They plan monthly social meetings, pot-luck get-togethers, dinners, movie nights and visits to area attractions. Call Marilyn Daminato 585-9633.

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 program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or to join, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Fun Racing is held on 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

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

They meet on the third Friday of the month at the Belleair Country Club for lunch at 11:30am. To join, call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.

On March 25, they hold their annual fundraiser event at the Belleair Country Club. Their Stars and Stripes Luncheon will benefit veterans and also be used to support college scholarships. Outside guests and military veterans are welcome to attend. Contact Cathy Athanson at DURBINWV41@gmail.com on this event.

Organizational News...

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They normally meet the third Wednesday of the month (October - April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach, 10:30am.

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. To RSVP to events, call Mary Carey, 596-5981. Contact President Majorie Rose, at RoseMarjorie38@Yahoo.com for more information about the Club.

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Starting their 38th year, this is the largest and most active social group in the area.

February 2: General meeting will be at the Clearwater Country Club featuring all the Past Presidents, including Founder Cindy von dem Bussche.

February 7: Their Culinary Critics group, members brings a dish containing chocolate.

February 16: Girls Night Out will be a dance lesson.

February 18 The Red Party at the Clearwater Yacht Club. Men are invited to this event, too.

In March, there will be a masquerade party at Alfano's.

Various other activities include: Artsy Outing, Bridge, Bunko Babes, Canasta, Culinary Critics, Girls' Night Out, Lit Ladies, Lunch Bunch, Movie Madness, Tea & Scrabble, and Theater Patrons.

The date and locations may vary so check their web site, www.GBYWS.org. Contact President Devin Pappas, at DevinBPappas@gmail.com for more information.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They meet twice a month (October through May) in Clearwater at 405 Seminole Street. For more information, contact President Maggie Custer at 488-8705, e-mail at mmcuster@outlook.com, or ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

Get ready for Valentines Day. The Kids' Valentines Day Design Workshop will be Saturday, February 11 at 10am. This is a Youth Floral Design workshop designed for parents with young families. Each child will be allowed to make a design for a friend or loved one for Valentines Day (3 days later). All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$12 / child. Funds raised from this event will go towards the Wekiva Scholarship Program. To RSVP, send an email to the address below. Space is limited.

For information, contact, Maggie Custer, President, at 488-8705 or email at ClearwaterGardenClub@gmail.com. Get information at www.ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

IRB BOAT CLUB

In January, members spent a sunny afternoon on the dock at The Pub in Indian Shores. Those who brought their boats received a complimentary boat safety inspection.

The new 2017 Calendar is available at IRBboatclub.com.

Some upcoming events are :

February 12: Brunch at Island Way Grill

February 16: Lunch At The Pub in Indian Shore

March 11: Spring Intracoastal Cleanup

March 24: Picnic at Caladesi Park

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.

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER


Ryan McFerrin, *Reverie*, c. 1975. © Santa Barbara 2004. Courtesy the artist and Pace Gallery, New York.

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Organizational News...

NEWCOMER CLUB

This not-for-profit group can help you meet new acquaintances and good fellowship. You do not have to be new to the area to join. They meet monthly at local restaurants and area country clubs on the first Tuesday of each month normally for lunch with guest speakers. Call Karen Botsford at 531-0378 or visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

February 7: Monthly meeting at the Countryside Country Club. Sam Drake, a renowned acoustic guitarist and vocalist, will provide the entertainment. RSVP to 536-7246.

February 8: Trip to Tampa Bay Downs for a day of horse racing and lunch. RSVP to 784-7386.

March 7: Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club. Erica Weideman of The Haven will be the guest speaker. After the meeting, there will be canasta and Herman card games. Call Sandy Bryan, 536-7246 to RSVP.

March 20: A visit to the Raymond James Art Exhibit in Tampa. Call Connie Maynard at 596-6106 to RSVP.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join, membership is \$15 a year. To join, call Lois O'Donnell, 595-1349 or Sue Edmunds, 596-5710. Honey Brouman is the new president.

February 14: Meet at Alfanos Restaurant for a style show presented by Patchington's of Belleair Bluffs.

March 14: Meet at the Dunedin Fine Art Center. They will view two group exhibitions representing a cross section of Cuban working artists.

April 11: Meet at Bonefish Grill for a program will be presented by Wayne Cathel, a local Belleair photographer.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and meet new business contacts from 5:30 to 6:30 at their monthly mingles.

Upcoming Mingles are: February 9: Wellosophy 360 Clinic and March 9: Belleair Storage

They are hosting the Bluffs Wine Walk on Saturday, March 25th from 4 to 8pm - \$20 in advance or \$25 day of event for the opportunity to sample wine and appetizers at approximately 40 businesses in the Belleair Bluffs community. Tickets are available in advance online at BluffsBusinessAssociation.com or can be purchased the day of the event with credit cards only.

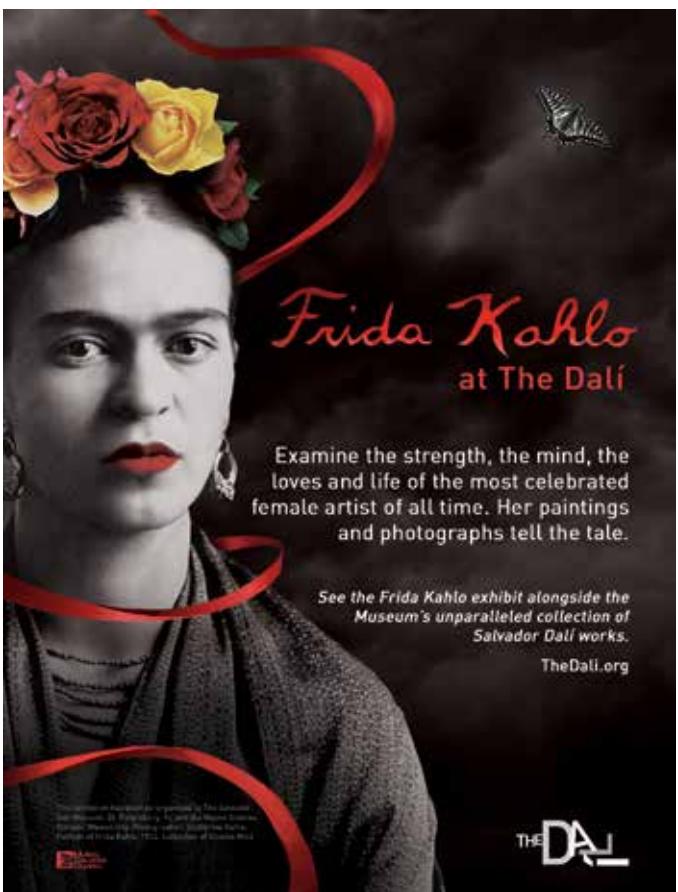
To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com for more information.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

Kay Estock was selected as Volunteer of the Year for 2016. Kay has been an active member for over eight years. In the past she served as Arts Department Chair, more recently, on the Executive Board as First Vice President and many more things. Currently she is membership chair.

They will be presenting the 2017 Daisy Grants at the March Fashion Show and Luncheon March 30th. Daisy Grants are their annual gift giving program. Last year, they gave away \$11,500 in grants to seven Pinellas County charities.

The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and welcomes women from the Belleair area. 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 Downtown Library. Get more information at www.ClearwaterCWC.org.



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See the Frida Kahlo exhibit alongside the Museum's unparalleled collection of Salvador Dalí works.
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This exhibition is presented by The Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, Florida. Museum admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Purchase of \$10 ticket includes admission to the Dalí House-Museum. © 2016 The Dalí Museum, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE DALÍ

Organizational News...

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Meetings are normally the first and second Wednesdays of each month (October through May). The first Wednesday is a tea and general meeting. The second Wednesday meeting usually has horticulture programs. There are also field trips during the year. Meetings are held at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Town of Belleair. March 11: Petals and Poker at 4pm. Tickets are \$100 and include poker chips, food, drink and prizes to the top winners. (The good news is you can not lose over \$100. This is a fundraiser and proceeds benefit the Garden Club scholarships and Club House maintenance.

Club membership is \$50 per year, couples pay \$55 and seasonal members only \$25. Guests are welcome. For information, contact new President, Laura Katz, 581-4153 or email LBKATZ53@gmail.com for more information.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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

There is a lot going on in February. Here is a partial list:

- 5: Super Bowl Sunday Party
- 9: Trivia Night
- 11: Valentine Dinner Dance
- 14: Valentine's Couples Dinner
- 22: Laser Midwinter East Regatta Reg.
- 23: Bingo!



One group at the Club called The Cruisers, which includes sailing and power boating members, enjoys 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.

You do not need a boat to be a member; 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.

BEACH ART CENTER

They continue to focus on a vision of honoring their history and building their future. 2017 begins with a schedule of traditional classes in painting and pottery, an expanded schedule of Art on the Rocks workshops, and a brand-new intro series for those who have never painted. If you have always wanted to paint but don't know where to start, register for "What's My Medium," a 4-part intro that will allow you to complete a mini project in each of the traditional mediums (acrylic, oil and watercolor), so you can feel and see the difference before investing in supplies or traditional classes. The series also introduces new artists to composition and color theory. See details at www.BeachArtCenter.org.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

They meet on the third Monday of every month at Acropol Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Road in Largo at 7pm. Meetings feature guest speakers and candidates. Call Mary Lou Ambrose at 433-4045 or visit www.LargoDemocrats.com.

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OF THE MOMENT..."
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Fashions of Belleair
Presents its 2nd Annual

March into Spring

Luncheon and Fashion Show

Proceeds to benefit recently homeless and wounded veterans through the Abilities Guild/Veterans Mall.

Saturday March 4th
11:00 A.M.
Belleair Country Club
One Country Club Lane, Belleair, FL

Master of Ceremonies: Belleair Deputy Mayor Karla Rettstatt
Pianist: Mr. David Lyon

Participating Boutiques showcasing Men's and Woman's Fashions:
 Belleair Pro Shop Nicole Boutique
 Cassi & Co. Patchington
 Enchanted Physique Periwinkles
 For the Love of Boutique Shoes by Beverly
 Janinas Consignment Suzettes on the Rocks
 Living Pretty

GRAND FINALE FEATURING: Nikki's Glitz & Glam

Reservation required by February 26th
Minimum Donation of \$40
Checks payable to Abilities Guild/Veterans Mall
Mail to: c/o Jean Rascher
609 Osceola Road, Belleair, FL 33756

abilities GUILD

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX GUIDELINES, WE MUST INFORM YOU THAT YOUR GIFT IS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXTENT IT EXCEEDS THE VALUE OF THE MEAL AS RECEIVED. IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR GIFT, WE ESTIMATE THE VALUE OF THE MEAL IS \$24.00. The Abilities Guild is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit founded in 1983 to honor, invest and distribute the assets of abilities. Inc. a non-profit organization.

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IMAGINATION AND DARING: "DALÍ AND SCHIAPARELLI"

Debuts October 18, 2017

First-ever Retrospective Exhibit of Designer Elsa Schiaparelli and Artist Salvador Dalí

Delight in the daring and irreverent works of two celebrated artists when Dalí and Schiaparelli opens at The Dalí, in St. Petersburg on October 18, presented in collaboration by The Dalí Museum and Schiaparelli Paris. It will feature haute couture gowns and accessories, jewelry, paintings, drawings, objects and photos, as well as new designs by Bertrand Guyon for Maison Schiaparelli. This will be the first exhibition dedicated to the creative relationship and works of Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dalí – friends and collaborators that set Paris and the world ablaze with their groundbreaking visions.

Elsa Schiaparelli was regarded as the most prominent figure in fashion between the two World Wars. Her designs deliberately subverted traditional notions of women's roles and beauty, embracing and exaggerating the transgressive nature of fashion. Schiaparelli explored bold Surrealist themes in her designs, heavily influenced by artists, especially Dalí, with whom she often collaborated. The vibrant colors, experimental fabrics and elegant handmade decorations set her apart from other designers of the 1920s and 1930s. Some of the most notable clients for Schiaparelli's haute couture designs included the Duchess of Windsor, Wallis Simpson; heiress Daisy Fellowes; and actresses Mae West and Marlene Dietrich.



Elsa Schiaparelli & Salvador Dalí, c. 1949.

Image Rights of Salvador Dalí reserved. Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Fígues, 2017

Schiaparelli wrote she "invented" her dresses, and the designs were known for their elegant and daring aesthetic combined with exquisite craftsmanship – a marriage of new ideas with traditional craft. Her designs were like the paintings of Dalí in that they combined renaissance precision with wild imagination and dreamlike visions. Their fashion and art both delighted and shocked the senses and that approach was a trademark of their collaborations; their works embodied a sense of freedom and possibility that enlivened popular culture during a tumultuous time.

In 1954, Schiaparelli closed her couture house and devoted herself to writing her autobiography – Shocking Life – written in the third-person, like Dalí's own biography. After remaining quiescent for more than five decades, Maison Schiaparelli was reopened in 2012 at 21 Place Vendôme, the very place where Elsa Schiaparelli left it. Today, Schiaparelli continues the designer's legacy by creating alluring and surprising designs for the Hollywood elite and private clients around the world. A selection of these new designs including fashion and jewelry pieces will be featured in the show.

The Dalí will be celebrating the exhibition with a grand fashion show and gala, bringing Paris chic to downtown St. Petersburg on Saturday October 14. The black tie affair will feature contemporary Schiaparelli designs followed by an elegant dinner reception. A more casual yet equally celebratory Sunday brunch will be held the following day. Tickets for both events are forthcoming; stay informed by registering for alerts at TheDalí.org/Schiaparelli. The show, Dalí and Schiaparelli will run through January 14, 2018.

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LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA!

Three local artists are the subjects of a TV documentary currently being shot in Indian Rocks Beach.

You may have noticed these award winning artists along Gulf Blvd., dressed in their long skirts, big brimmed hats with canvasses and easels in tow.

Mary Rose Holmes, Helen Tilston and Violetta Chandler have been stoically preserving the images of the Indian Rocks Beach quaint cottages for almost two decades.

Their style is a cross between Monet and the Florida Highwaymen; known as Plein Aire they go outdoors and paint landscapes for hours each day focusing on the unique homes.

Their colorful canvasses capture the nostalgia of old Florida, the endangered cottages and create a renewed awareness of the constant threat of bulldozers and big corporate hotels who keep trying to invade the coastal community.

The Plein Aire Cottage Artists received the Florida Preservation Award for Historic Preservation for their work in 2007. Since then, they have been selected to show in Florence, Italy, Ireland and this year they will head to France, giving Indian Rocks Beach continued international exposure.

Now, they are the subjects of a new documentary; "Saving Our Cottages; Artists with a Cause" being produced by the Emmy Award winning production team, Lynn Marvin Dingfelder & Larry Wiezycki, owners of Creative on Main Street Studio in Tampa. "These artists are incredible. Armed with paintbrushes, oils and creativity they have managed to fight the blight of big box hotels and single handedly save the beach cottages" Dingfelder said. "Their passion has preserved unique parts of old Florida. Three women - with easels and oil paint! It's an empowering story focusing on the past, present and future. Something that everyone can relate to and celebrate."

The documentary debut will be in 2018 and PBS has expressed interest in the television rights.

If you have any stories, photos or Super8 or 8mm film footage of your families visits to our Florida beaches or the cottages you would like to share with the producer you can email her at: Lynn@creativeonmainstreet.com.

HOLIDAY MEALS FOR THE NEEDY

For the past 12 years, Beach Community Food Pantry at Calvary Episcopal Church, The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County Sheriff Office Community Policing Officers, Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue and Publix on Indian Rocks Road have donated holiday meals to needy area families three times a year: Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Turkeys and other dinner items are purchased at half price and the meals are prepared by the store.

Feeding families in need is not just a holiday project for the Rotary, Calvary Episcopal, and the Beaches Food Pantry. The Pantry is open every week, 52 weeks a year. The pantry is always accepting money and nonperishable food products. If anyone would like to help with holiday meals, or the food pantry, call 595-2374 or visit www.CalvaryIRB.org.



Videographer Larry Wiezycki on location at Indian Rocks Beach with producer Lynn Marvin Dingfelder (not shown) shooting the artists for several days for the documentary.

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SUNDAY

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- Sonny Landreth
- Mike Zito
- Selwyn Birchwood
- The Betty Fox Band
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4:00–8:00PM Saturday, March 25, 2017

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