



ANDREW JACKSON, FLORIDA'S FIRST GOVERNOR

Most people do not know it, but in 1821, Andrew Jackson, became Florida's first governor. They only know him as the President of the United States.

During the War of 1812, Major General Jackson, of the Tennessee Militia, was sent to New Orleans, where he won the Battle of New Orleans, instilled marshal law, and subsequently became a national hero. Afterwards, he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

He returned to his home in Hermitage, Tennessee. But his retirement was short. When the Creek Indian uprisings killed hundreds of settlers in Georgia and Alabama, General Jackson was again called into service. With his Tennessee Militia, that included Sam Houston and Davey Crockett, he chased the Creek Indians into North Florida, which was still Spanish Territory. In 1814, in what is today central Alabama, Jackson's party finally defeated the Creek Indians in the bloody "Battle of Horseshoe Bend."

After battling the Indians, Jackson captured Pensacola and disposed the Spanish Governor who had supported the Indians over the United States. There, Jackson executed two British subjects, which forever dogged his reputation and nearly caused an international incident.

He could not understand why Congress did not simply declare war and force Spain to leave. At the time, Jackson was quoted as saying, "If Congress would simply give the word, authorize the measure, Florida shall be in the possession of the United States within three months—and if allowed—Cuba within six."

When he left Florida, Jackson stationed troops in Pensacola. Spanish officials were outraged, as were President Monroe and others in Washington. His political opponents called his victory over the Indians an "outrageous usurpation of military power and a threat to the supremacy of constitutional government." They worried Jackson had all the makings of a military dictator. Only Congress can declare war, and Jackson's Florida campaign had not been sanctioned.

Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, used Jackson's conquest of Florida and Spain's inability to control the territory to pursue the Adams-Onís Treaty land-trade deal with Spain that obtained the Florida territory. In 1819, Spain and the United States signed the treaty, which officially gave East and West Florida to the U.S. West Florida, included parts of today's Alabama and Mississippi. East Florida was everything east of the Suwannee River. Spain finally ratified the agreement in 1820. The U.S. followed suit on February 19, 1821. Florida was a United States territory.

Jackson, who at 54 years old was in poor health, had again returned home to Tennessee planning to retire and manage his farm, far away from war and politics. Never less, recently re-elected President Monroe, directed Jackson to go to Florida and supervise the change of ownership. Jackson did not want to fight any more battles, but he was a still soldier and a patriot. He also could not resist the call to serve his country, and preside over ceremonies. He wanted to see Spain relinquish all claims to the Florida. It made Jackson feel vindicated; he considered this assignment his victory tour.

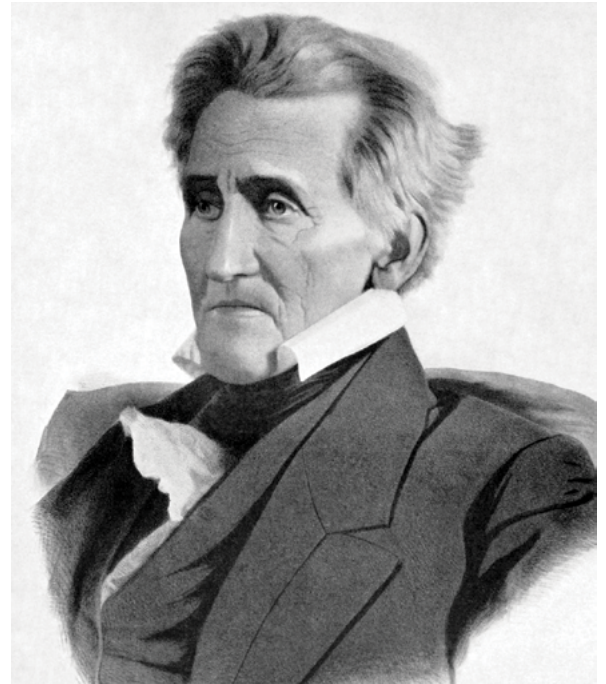
Jackson thought he would simply haul down the Spanish flag, raise the American flag and go quietly home. He took his wife Rachel, traveling by boat from Nashville to New Orleans, and then on to Pensacola. Although it was July, she wrote "We have the finest sea breezes and most beautiful water."

Pensacola at the time was a confusing place. Few residents spoke English; they spoke either Spanish, French, or a half dozen other local dialects. The Jacksons stayed outside Pensacola's city limits, as he refused to enter the city until the transfer was official and the Spanish were gone.

The exchange of flags in St. Augustine for East Florida happened on July 10, 1821. One week later, a similar ceremony occurred in Pensacola. On the designated day, Spanish Governor Jose Maria Callava and General Jackson met to transfer the flags. The Spanish flag was lowered and the American flag hoisted "100 feet." Jackson thus accepted the "surrender" by Governor Callava.

After the transfer of flags, there was still a considerable amount of paperwork to be executed. Jackson distrusted the Spanish to the end, despising most of the bureaucratic details.

Jackson told his wife and others that this would be the end of his career in the military and public life – but it was not to be. The Florida territory required a governor—a military governor. Monroe knew that Jackson would not want to remain in Florida long, but asked him to fill the position.





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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@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN AUGUST

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

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Charlie Crist 202-225-5961

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

Hurricane Season Begins 1

Tax Free Days for Hurricane Supplies 2-4

Denim & Diamonds 3

Tax Free Days Hurricane Preparedness ends 5

Hazardous Waste Drop Off Town of Belleair 7

Belleair Bluffs Business Assn Mixer 8

Sunset Run #1 in Sand Key Park 9

Flag Day 14

Flag Retirement Ceremony Indian Rocks 14

County Commission Open Forum SPC 15

National Garbage Man Day 17

Father's Day 18

Summer Begins 21

Sunset Run #2 in Sand Key Park 23

JULY:

Independence Day 4

Belleair Bluffs July 4th Celebration 4

Fire Works Coachman Park 4

Major League Baseball All Star Game 11

Sunset Run #3 Sand Key Park 14

Parents Day 23

Grouper Week Opens 23

AUGUST:

Grouper Week Closes 3

Tax Free Days For School Supplies 4-6

Public School Begins 10

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 10

Sunset Run #4 / Sand Key Park 11

Buc's First Pre-Season Game 11

Gracie's Big Splash Belleair Rec 12

Property Appraiser Trim Notices Mailed 14

Boat Club to Marina Cantina 19

Rosh Hashanah 21-22

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day - Schools 4

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 14

Grandparents Day 10

Buc's First Real Game 10

Patriots Day 11

Autumn Begins 22

Boat Club's Island Party 23

Coachman Park Boat Race Festival 29-30

Yom Kippur Begins 29

Blast Friday 29

Boogie 4 Belleair 30



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MENU HIGHLIGHTS

~ APPETIZERS ~

Eggplant Rollatini
Stuffed and rolled with onion, spinach and ricotta, then oven baked

Black and Blue Tuna
Lightly seared, thinly sliced yellow fin tuna with raspberry-teriyaki glaze and wasabi sauce

Seafood-Stuffed Mushroom
Shrimp and crab stuffed mushroom, topped off with a very light basil cream sauce

~ ENTRÉES ~

Fatale Con Pollo
Bowtie pasta, chicken, spinach and sun dried tomatoes in a roasted garlic cream sauce

Lobster Cozze Fra Diavolo
Two 4oz. Main Lobster Tails served with mussels over fettuccini pasta in a spicy light plum tomato sauce

Grouper Rolando
Fresh Black Domestic Grouper stuffed with shrimp, crab, ricotta and spinach with a light basil cream sauce.
OMG!

TJ's Destination Filet
Pan-seared and baked to temperature, stacked with a grilled onion and portobello mushroom, topped with port wine demi-glacé, then finished with a 5oz. lobster tail on top

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Did You Know

PENNY FOR PINELLAS



You will soon be hearing a lot about the Penny For Pinellas campaign, which is up for renewal November 7, 2017. The program allows for 1¢ of our sales tax to go to the Penny for Pinellas fund, which is shared with individual cities. The Penny has enabled both the county and its 24

municipalities to build a better Pinellas, with improved roads, bridges and trails, water quality and flood prevention, public safety facilities, and preservation of our parks and environment. The Penny can only be used for capital expenses and infrastructure investments. It cannot be used for ongoing maintenance and operating costs. If renewed by the voters, that penny is expected to generate over \$2 billion over its next ten years.

FASHIONS NETS \$10,000 The 8th Annual Fashions of Belleair luncheon and fashion show brought in \$10,600. "It was a run-way success," says Marsha Uhler, owner of Cassi's in Belleair Bluffs. This year's event, held at the Belleair Country Club, had 186 in attendance.

All proceeds benefit veterans served by Warrior Bridge through the Abilities Guild Veterans Mall, which is a storeroom of kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom essentials and clothes given to injured veterans referred from the Bill Young and James Haley VA Hospitals. The Mall has served over 1,500 veterans. The Fashions of Belleair event dates back to 2010. In addition to Marsha and her husband Bill, a half-dozen other volunteers, including Karla Rettstatt, Deputy Mayor of Belleair, and Mall Founder Virginia Meyer helped make the event successful.

INK MANIA Do you have a tattoo you are proud of or want one? Attend the Ink Mania event at the Coliseum, June 9-11. It is an expo that showcases many area tattoo artists - over 200. This is a great chance to learn about how they do what they do. Get more information at InkManiaExpo.com.

FERRY TEST COMPLETE

The six-month test of the Tampa Bay Ferry, between the downtowns of St Petersburg and Tampa, is over—at least for now. The heavily financed test ended April 30th. The ferry has returned to Massachusetts (its home port) while city governments evaluate the numbers. The project is reimbursing some of the money paid by the four supporting governments. Mayor Kriseman will present the numbers soon and any proposed changes we may see in the future. Hillsborough County has already set aside several million dollars dedicated to their share of bringing the Ferry back and keeping it going.



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NEW TOWN MANAGER

In April, Micah Maxwell left his position as Manager of the Town of Belleair to become Clearwater's Assistant City Manager. The Commission choose to forego a national search and instead tapped JP Murphy as their new Town Manager. With a three-year contract, he will be paid \$125,000 per year.

Already the Assistant Town Manager, JP (35) has been with the town since 2005, in different areas. His specialty is finance. He started as an intern, but by 2007 he was hired as the Information Services Coordinator. Later that same year, he moved into communications and records for the Town's Police Department. The next year, he became the Budget Director. In 2010, he became the Finance Director and Assistant to the Town Manager. Soon thereafter he moved up to Assistant Town Manager.

JP lives in the Odessa/Keystone area. "I look forward to working with each of the commissioners, Town Staff and the residents of Belleair—as I always have," said Murphy.

BOOGIE 4 BELLEAIR On September 30th, this new fun fundraising event comes to Belleair. Organized by The Belleair Community Foundation, it will be held at the Dimmitt Community Center as a night club concept with food, drinks, music and dancing.

HAZ-TO-GO IN BELLEAIR If you have hazardous waste or electronic equipment to dispose of, do not throw it in your personal trash cans. Plan to take it to the Town of Belleair's Osborne Public Works Building at 1075 Ponce De Leon, June 7 from 10am to 1pm. It is free.

They will accept: auto fluids, cooking oil, fertilizers, fluorescent & LED lights, household cleaners, oil, paint, paint thinner and remover, pool chemicals, batteries, smoke detectors cell phones, computers & monitors, hard drives, surge protectors, tablets and televisions.

BELLEAIR MONTESSORI ACADEMY GIVES BACK

For the past year, Officer Teddi Easterman of the Belleair Police Department has been visiting Belleair Montessori Academy once a month to read to the children. The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County partnered with local law enforcement agencies by providing a book for officers to read. During National Police Week, the class honored Officer Easterman by presenting her with a book the children made, flowers, cookies and juice. The children also made "GORP" (trail mix) for her to share with the officers of the department. Belleair Montessori Academy is located at 905 Ponce de Leon Blvd in Belleair.



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ESTATE PLANNING ISN'T JUST FOR THE WEALTHY

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management
Group



Although it is entirely possible by the end of the summer that tax reform, including the elimination of estate taxes, will have occurred, it doesn't mean that you shouldn't have an estate plan in place.

At the core of any plan is having the proper documents (will, power of attorney, healthcare surrogate, and living will) in place. Regardless of age or wealth, it is important to have these documents. For some, a living trust should be considered as it will help minimize the cost and time delays of probate. If you set up a living trust, you must retitle the assets into the name of the trust. Before visiting with an attorney, be sure to bring a list of the assets with you for review.

When was the last time you updated these documents? These documents should be reviewed at least every five years. Finally, make sure that they are in a safe place, but do not put them into a safety deposit box. We provide our clients a secure vault at our website for safe storage and easy access worldwide.

Some assets pass by law. Usually spouses will title assets using Tenants by the Entirety or Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship (JTWROS). These assets pass directly to the surviving owner. Other assets, including life insurance, annuities, IRAs and other retirement accounts, transfer by use of a beneficiary designation.

Do you have the right beneficiary on the forms? Do they need to be updated? Did you get married, have a child, have a beneficiary predecease you, go through a divorce, or have a significant change in your financial picture – positive or negative? Do you have primary, contingent, and possibly tertiary beneficiaries named? Should you leave the money outright to the heirs versus leaving it to them in a trust? By using a trust you can possibly keep a spendthrift heir from fettering away the money, provide for a special needs heir, and protect the assets from the creditors (including a spouse) of the heir.

Not having an estate plan is an option, but generally not a good one. If you would like to explore these and other thoughts regarding your estate plan, please give us a call for a complimentary visit.

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ANDREW JACKSON, Continued

President Monroe selected Jackson for a few reasons. First, Jackson hated the Spanish and would get them out of the territory. Although Spain had given Florida to the U.S., they were slow to leave. Second, Jackson hated the Indians. He led the American army in the first of the three Seminole Wars in Florida. Finally, Jackson was a political threat in future elections. Sending him to Florida removed him from the political arena.

After the transfer, a resident asked Jackson for help in a legal land matter. Jackson, a former lawyer specializing in land matters, requested that previous Spanish Governor Callava turn over documents related to the matter. Callava, refused and Jackson, showing his hair-trigger temper, threw the deposed governor in jail, before agreeing to release him the next day. Callava quickly left for Cuba, spreading the story of Jackson's actions and uncontrollable ambition.

Jackson expected to be given wide "powers of patronage" to run his Florida government, such as endorsing his selections to other government positions and even his successor as governor. Instead, President Monroe himself selected all the high-ranking positions, including secretaries, judges and attorneys who were to work under Jackson.

Richard Keith Call was considered Jackson's most important appointee. He volunteered and fought under General Jackson in 1812-14. Call followed Jackson on two campaigns into Florida and at the Battle of New Orleans. Call handled the early negotiations with General Callava. Call later was named to the Pensacola Town Council and continued his law practice near Pensacola. He served in the Florida Legislature from 1822-1823 and was a territorial delegate to Congress in 1824.

Despite the heat, humidity and his poor health, Andrew Jackson established the first effective governing structure in Florida within the first few weeks of getting control. After the government was adequately set up, he promptly resigned on October 5, 1821 and returned to Tennessee. He only was governor for about 8 months.

Instead of Jackson's recommendation of Richard Call, President Monroe appointed Pensacola U.S. Judge William P. DuVal to succeed Andrew Jackson. DuVal served 12-year (1822-1834), which is the longest term ever served by a Florida governor.

When Andrew Jackson returned home to Tennessee, he was back in the middle of politics. He did not want to run for any office, but the local machine nominated him for both the Senate and later the Presidency.

Jackson was one of four people to run for President as a Democratic-Republican in 1824. The election was the only one in history to be decided by the House of Representatives. While Jackson won the popular vote, John Quincy Adams was elected. Jackson ran again in 1828 as a Democrat and won by a landslide. He was the seventh President of the United States and served two terms. In March of 1836, Jackson declared his old friend Richard Call Governor of Florida.



Statue of Jackson in Washington, D.C



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THE DOLPHIN TREE

Char Nelson's home, at 129 Live Oak Lane, in Harbor Bluffs may not be waterfront, but it has dolphins thanks in part to a diseased oak tree.

Originally, Nelson planned to have the dying tree removed from her front yard. Then one day, she had the idea of turning it into a piece of yard art honoring her husband.

"My husband Dave, passed away a year ago," says Nelson. "We had a boat and during our boat rides, the dolphins always followed us in the Intracoastal. Dave loved to see them jumping behind the boat."

"When oak tree was starting to die, I called a company to cut it down," she explains. "Then in the process I got this idea and told them to stop." They were down to about 12 feet off the ground. I searched online for a wood sculpturer and found Keith Carroll; he lives across the state in Melbourne."

"Char called me and sent photos of the remaining tree trunk," Keith says. "She asked me if I could turn that into something with dolphins. Of course, I said yes, that is what I do."

Carroll drove over, chainsaw in hand, and met Char in the front yard. She was on her way to work. Eight hours later when she returned, the carving was done.

Carroll applied a coat of sealer on the dolphins and Char added a polyurethane paint, as Carroll directed. Finally, she added a permanent gold-plate proclaiming the finished piece "Dave's Dolphins" and giving Carroll his due credit.

If you want to see more of Keith Carroll's work, you can find him on Facebook.com at Wood Carvings by Keith Carroll or call him at 321-432-8783.



12TH ANNUAL TARPON RODEO TO BENEFIT TAMPA BAY WATCH

Tampa Bay Watch will host the 12th Annual Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo, a catch and release fishing tournament on June 8 & 9 with cash prizes totaling \$4,000. Anglers will fish their favorite spots throughout Tampa Bay from one mile offshore running north to Redington Fishing Pier and south to Longboat Pass. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Tampa Bay Watch, a nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and restore

the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary through scientific and educational programs. The tournament is open to the public but it is sure to fill up fast with anglers who love to fish, catch and release! To register, please call Tampa Bay Watch at 727-867-8166 x234 or visit tampabaywatch.org/edalbertarponrodeo.





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IS IT FINALLY TIME FOR YOU TO LOOK INTO SOLAR?

by Ted Shannon

You've heard for years that solar is the way of the future. "Going Green" will make you feel good about your impact on the planet. But, is it worth the actual cost? Will it add more than PR value? Do you have to start dressing like a hippie? What are the benefits?

The biggest incentive is the 30% tax credit from the IRS. That means that 30% of total cost is a direct reduction on your taxes. Simple math - If a large solar system costs \$25,000, you get \$7500 back as a refund, or a reduction on what's owed. This benefit will "sunset" at the end of 2019 and goes away Dec. 31, 2021. That's a strong argument for looking at solar now.

Solar can lower your monthly bill. Solar companies offer low interest loans, or, if you are clever, finance it on a HELOC or mortgage and get the additional tax write-off. Solar financed over years brings the actual amount you pay for electricity down from what you now pay. That's right, going solar will cost less monthly in most cases.

Solar adds value to the home. Systems cost between \$10,000 and \$30,000 for the average-size home depending on electricity usage and size of roof to fit solar. If you install solar and no longer have a power bill bigger than the base \$10, your home will be worth more if you sell it. Who wouldn't want to buy a home that makes its own power? Homes with solar sell faster and for more money than homes without. It depends on the age of the system and warranties still in effect. NOTE: warranties vary between companies. Do your research.

Expect long term reliability. Solar panels produce electricity

for up to 40 years. Standard warranties on panels are 20 years. There are no moving parts, but they lose about 0.4% per year in production. Solar can be producing at 90% after 20

years. Few solar companies have production guarantees, but some do. Again, research!

To go solar you need sun exposure. Southern without shade is best. Trees over roof? Forget solar. Also, don't put solar on old roofs. The newer the roof the better, panels can be removed and reinstalled for a re-roof, but it costs.

Prices have plummeted. Solar costs have dropped over 50% in 5 years.

Is it time to go solar? Yes - and you don't have to be a hippie.

Ted Shannon is a resident of Belleair Beach and works with residential and commercial solar. He can be reached at 727-386-8407 or tedthesolarguy@gmail.com for any questions you have. Find him on Facebook as Ted the Solar Guy.



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3RD ANNUAL RCS GRAND GALA Commemorates 50th Anniversary

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, friends and supporters of RCS will gather at The Conmy Center in Dunedin, to celebrate RCS's 50th anniversary and raise funds for the organization. Through ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and auction purchases, last year's event raised over \$230,000. The 3rd Annual RCS Grand Gala: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace, Love, and Understanding will include dinner, dancing, live entertainment, and a keynote address by Jay Harris of ESPN. It will also include silent and live auctions of donated items from local businesses.

RCS was founded in 1967 by a network of congregations of varying faiths in response to social ills. RCS's focus still remains the same today—serving individuals and families with dignity and helping them along the path to self-sufficiency. Each year RCS serves over 115,000 people in Pinellas County through the RCS Food Bank, RCS Grace House, The Haven of RCS, and the RCS Thrift Store; that is almost 15% of the county's population.

"I'm not sure if our founders could've envisioned what we've become fifty years later. I'm sure they hoped and prayed for long term success and deep impact in the community, but now to be serving over 115,000 individuals and families with the support of over 2,500 volunteers and staff would be considered a miracle," says Kirk Smith, President and CEO. "The real miracle; however, is the amount of selfless support we continue to receive from our amazing donors. It's because of events like the RCS Grand Gala, we're able to position ourselves to increase capacity and envision another fifty years of service to the most vulnerable among us."

More information on the 3rd Annual RCS Grand Gala: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace, Love, and Understanding can be found at www.RCSGrandGala.com.

NEW DINNER THEATER

After completing a successful opening season at Havana Harry's 2, Just For Laughs Dinner Theatre is excited to begin their second show "Lovers and Other Strangers," now playing through June 18. This comedy is

about relationships, something we can all relate to, and was a hit on Broadway and then later made into a film.

The dinner theater is an excellent affordable diversion at only \$36 a ticket, which includes the show and an extensive all you can eat buffet. There is also a full bar available! The community is so excited to finally have something like this that is centrally located and run by seasoned actors and chefs.

Coming Soon!! "Murder at the Howard Johnson's" by Sam Bobrick and Ron Clark, September 9 through October 29. All is fair in love? Even murder? That's the question posed by this light and funny suspense comedy about a love triangle in a Howard Johnson Motor Inn.

Call 727-466-6546 to make your reservations or to ask any questions you may have. Visit JustForLaughsDinnerTheater.com for more info. Located at 1999 Starkey Road, Largo.



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IN MEMORY OF JOHN DILLER PAST MAYOR OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

John Diller never aspired to be Mayor or even a Commissioner, but when they asked him to serve, he agreed.

Diller held office in the City of Belleair Bluffs for ten years. He was a City Commissioner in 1987 and became Mayor in 1991. After leaving office, he continued working in various volunteer capacities for years. Most recently, he was chairman of the city's Planning Board, until retiring in 2013. People who attend City Council meetings knew him well, as he would speak at virtually every meeting.

John and his wife, Gwen, lived Belleair Bluffs, just a few blocks north of today's City Hall. "That was only the second house we ever lived in," says Gwen, John's wife of 67 years.

The Dillers, lived in Naperville, Illinois, close to their parents, until in 1967 Gwen's parents moved to Belleair Bluffs. In 1984, when Diller retired from the Post Office they followed them to Belleair Bluffs. "We did not know anyone, except my parents," says Gwen.

"One day a neighbor asked John to run for the city commission," Gwen remembers. "That required getting 35 signatures from our neighbors. John told them he did not even know a dozen people in town. The neighbor handed him a paper with 35 signatures already on it and even offered to pay the \$10 fee for him."

Diller was elected in 1987 for two four-year terms as a Commissioner, followed by three six-year terms as Mayor from 1991 to 1997.

In an interview conducted a few years before his death, Diller remembered his time in office.

"In those days, commissioners were paid \$100 per month and the Mayor \$200 per month. During my 10 years in office, City Hall was located at 115 Florence Drive behind today's Bank of America. That building had all the city's business in one place. The office and meeting room was in the middle. Public Works and the Police Department were on the north end.

When I was Mayor, we started the process to acquire the land where city hall is today. It had only a few run-down houses on the block. The purchase was assisted by a bequest from a resident who left the city \$250,000 in their will.

We acquired the land while I was Mayor, but they built the new city hall after I left. I was a supporter of the new building including a large auditorium."

"Mayor Diller was a leader who remained calm and navigated every situation to the most positive outcome available. This was demonstrated with moving the Police to the Pinellas County Sheriff and his precursor work regarding the City Hall Complex and Fire Department issues," says current Mayor Chris Arbutine.

Diller was an active member and past president of Christ the King Lutheran Church. He and Gwen moved to Regal Palms Senior Living in Largo a few years ago. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary last June. He passed away on April 26, 2017. He was 87.



John Diller and his wife, Gwen at their home in 2013.

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PINELLAS COUNTY JOINS RECYCLING EFFORT TO "TRASH THE BAG"



Maintaining its commitment to practicing superior environmental stewardship, Pinellas County has joined a regional effort to promote recycling of plastic and encourage residents to "trash the bag."

The multimedia public education campaign features a new bay-spanning video and co-branded webpage, TampaBayRecycles.org, which will provide recycling information and encourage residents to keep recycling bag-free, no matter

where they are in the Tampa Bay area. Partners in this effort include City of St. Petersburg, City of Tampa and Hillsborough County.

Plastic bags and bagged recyclables are NOT recycled because they can't be efficiently sorted by recycling equipment. Plastic bags also get tangled in the sorting equipment, which causes equipment damage, creates health and safety hazards for workers, reduces the amount of recyclables that can be recovered, and increases the cost of the recycling process. All recyclables should be placed in recycling carts and municipal drop-off containers loosely, not bagged.

Using reusable bags is more eco-friendly than using disposable plastic bags when shopping. Plastic bags can

be reused for other purposes around the house, recycled at participating retailers, or disposed of in garbage carts.

All four jurisdictions participating in the regional recycling effort use Waste-to-Energy facilities for trash disposal, turning garbage into renewable electricity.

Curbside and residential recycling systems are only designed to process certain items, including:

- Clean and empty plastic bottles and containers
- Clean and empty aluminum cans
- Clean and empty glass bottles and jars
- Dry paper, newspaper, and junk mail
- Clean and empty metal containers
- Clean and empty milk and juice cartons
- Dry paperboard boxes (such as cereal boxes)
- Dry flattened cardboard

This partnership marks the first time Pinellas County, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, and the City of St. Petersburg have worked together on a single regional recycling campaign. For additional information on recycling in Pinellas County, visit www.pinellascounty.org/recycle.

This initiative is a key component of Pinellas County's Strategic Plan: reducing, reusing and recycling resources including energy, water and solid waste.



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BELLEVUE BILTMORE GOLF CLUB CLOSES FOR REMODELING

Last year, the City sold the Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club, on Indian Rocks Road, for \$3.8 million to The Doyle family, residents of Belleair. The city bought the property to protect it from being developed into something else, paying for \$3.5 million.

The Doyles also want to protect, and improve the golf course. Their first action was to rename the golf course. It is reverting to its original name, The Pelican Golf Club, given to it when the club opened in 1926.

The Club was built long after the days when Henry and Morton Plant owned the Biltmore. It was designed by famous golf course designer Donald Ross. The course was renamed Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club, in 2001, while under a Japanese developer's ownership.

The Pelican Golf Club including its golf course closed May 31st. A full remodel is scheduled to start in the fall. North Carolina designer Shane Robichaud has been hired to design the Club's new golf course and two new buildings.

Plans call for a new clubhouse with a restaurant, lounge and locker rooms. A smaller building, to be called The Grill Room / Golf Shop, will include a small restaurant and retail golf shop.

Robichaud's plans call for the golf course itself to be radically changed. The fairways will be widened, and the grass and greens removed and replaced. Drainage and irrigation will be improved. Parking spaces will be reduced from the current 392 down to 175. All of this will take many months.

Most of the residences on or near the golf course were concerned about how this will impact their long-time views in addition to the impact on wildlife, drainage, sidewalks, and cart paths. Many attended a meeting at City Hall where the architect made a presentation and answered questions.

During the presentation, all the city commissioners liked what



they saw. Mayor Katica said "There should always be a golf course in Belleair and I am glad the Doyles own it."

Construction beginning this fall should be completed in the Spring of 2019. The total cost of this conversion and remodel is around \$18-million. When they acquired the property, the Doyle family promised to never allow development of any kind on this property.

When the golf course closed, what happens to the employees? "On May 31st, 40-45 employees were working at the club that was managed by Green Golf Partners. Some will unfortunately be laid off and others are moving to other Green Partners golf clubs located in Tampa Bay and even Cape Coral. All the golf carts will be relocated elsewhere, probably Cape Coral. I have enjoyed working here and meeting the people of Belleair," says Zack Vervaecke, with PGA Green Golf Partners.

There was a final event for members and the public. It has still not been announced how the current memberships will be handled—that will be up to the Doyles.

All Photos Courtesy of
G. Joseph Fitzgerald, DO

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Business Briefs



CEREAL FOR THE HUNGRY

Clearwater's Natures Food Patch, teamed up with 10News WTSP, suppliers, and its customers to collect and provide healthy breakfast items for

Feeding Tampa Bay's summer initiative "Cereal for Summer." Children go hungry over the summer without the programs that feed them during the school year. The promotion collected breakfast items, such as cereal, oatmeal, cereal bars and shelf stable milk in May.

Vendor Seitenbacher donated six pallets of cereal to the program. Customers purchased breakfast items and pitched in with "buy-one donate-one" promotions.

The May promotion was considered a huge success and provided \$43,159 worth of food and donations for thousands of needy kids. Nature's Food Patch is located at 1225 Cleveland Street in Clearwater. Get more information at NaturesFoodPatch.com.



NEW PET SUPPLY STORE COMING SOON

A Pet Supermarket, is being built at 2630 West Bay Drive directly across the street from Publix. This was once the site of Belleair Bluffs City Hall. There are three other Pet Supermarkets in Pinellas. The closest

open location is at 4445 East Bay Drive, Clearwater. They are currently accepting applications: petsupermarket.com/careers.

BANK SOLD

NorthStar Bank, a Tampa-based bank with a branch in Belleair Bluffs, has been sold for \$32 million to Stuart-based Seacoast Banking Corporation. NorthStar first opened in Tampa in 2007, and in Belleair Bluffs in October of 2013. This is Seacoast's second local acquisition this

year; it converted three Gulf Shore Bank locations in April. Seacoast operates 53 Florida branches.



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NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact us. E-mail news to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-517-1997.

Business Briefs

VETERINARIAN ADDED TO GROUP

Bluff's Animal Hospital has announced a new veterinarian, Dr. Patrick Brady, has joined their group. Celebrating 56 years, they still are a full service walk-in practice. Services include in-house labs, digital x-rays, dentistry, non-invasive laser therapy, surgery, bathing, grooming and boarding. Bluff's Animal Hospital is located at 320 N. Indian Rocks Road.



SHOES BY BEVERLY



SHOES BY BEVERLY STATUS

Beverly announced this spring she wants to retire and put her store up for sale. Is she leaving? Maybe or maybe not, as she is not saying. But, the store is liquidating most of the inventory and prices have been cut to as

much as 65% off! All sales are final. Shoes by Beverly is a sophisticated shoe and handbag boutique that has been in The Plaza for almost 10 years.

FERGUSON TEAM JOINS COASTAL PROPERTIES

Coastal Properties Group & Christie's International are proud to announce that multi-million dollar top producers, Scott and Amy Ferguson, have joined the invitation only brokerage. With unsurpassed international exposure, from single family homes to luxury estates, from condos to investment properties, Scott and Amy will help with all your real estate needs. You can reach Scott at 727-744-0993 or Amy at 727-644-1254.

BIG MAN'S MOVING CONTINUES TO GROW

Newlyweds, Josh and Brooke Anderson, who applied their marriage gifts towards the purchase of a 26' moving truck, started Big Man's Moving Company are continuing to grow and expand.



After completing 100 successful moves in their first three months of business, they realized it was time to expand their fleet to two trucks. "We are humbled to receive such amazing community support, and are honored to be entrusted with the treasured belongings of our customers. The biggest obstacle we have encountered is having to turn people away because we are already completely booked. This second truck doubles our capacity, and allows us to serve more residents. I recommend you reserve your move 3-4 weeks in advance, as this is the busy season and companies with good reputations book quickly," Brooke explains. Big Man's Moving Company specializes in local and long distance moves. Call 727-772-3458. www.bigmansmoving.com

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Here they are - this year's Anona Elementary Graduating Class. In just seven short years, they will be the Graduating Class of 2024 and on their way to adulthood. There were 75 kids in this year's graduating class, continuing a tradition that dates to 1874. One third of the students live in the Belleair area. Principle Ann Welch, (standing, at the left) has been at Anona for two-and-a-half years. Enjoy your summer, and remember school starts again on August 10th!



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ANIMAL SERVICES NEEDS FOSTER CARE FAMILIES

In a continuous effort to promote animal welfare, Pinellas County Animal Services is seeking volunteers to join the foster care team. Individuals foster shelter pets that need additional time and care. The program, named PACK (Providing Affection, Care and Knowledge), requires a foster application and approval. Volunteer applications available online at www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer

Some of the animals that will benefit from the program include: puppies and kittens too young for adoption, and those recovering from surgery or illness.

Foster volunteers will work directly with the volunteer coordinator and the medical staff.

The foster care training will provide potential foster parents with basic animal cleaning and feeding tips, care specific to the animal(s) being fostered and the shelter's emergency procedures.

To be part of the foster care team, participants must possess:

- Genuine concern for the welfare of the animals
- Willingness to be compassionate to special needs animals
- Commitment to follow all foster policies and directives as required by the volunteer coordinator
- Transport foster animals to/from shelter during business hours

"Adoption cannot take place without temporary foster homes for our animals," said Doug Brightwell, director of Pinellas County Animal Services. "We partner with our residents to provide our animals with additional love and care outside of the shelter."

In 2016, Pinellas County Animal Services volunteers fostered 1,060 animals that needed additional time and care.

Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (727) 582-2636 or sgroves@pinellascounty.org or fill out the application at www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer. To learn more about the shelter, visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices or call (727) 582-2600.

BLUFF'S FIRE STATION PROGRESS

Construction of the new Belleair Bluff's Fire Station is still on schedule for a fall completion. The recent drought has helped, as there have been no weather delays.



"Currently we are firing on all cylinders and are in the process of completing the roofing and the floor slab in the truck bay," says Mark Kulig, Supervisor for Creative Contractors.

"The floor slab on the side, where the firemen live is complete and we are starting interior framing, mechanical ductwork, electrical, plumbing and fire sprinkler installation. On the exterior, we are installing window and door frames and getting ready to start the stucco activity and also are in the process of installing the new retaining wall in the retention pond adjacent to the park.

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8TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Citizen Engagement Program - June 15

- Hosted at the St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
- Citizens able to submit questions live via blog, social media, telephone and in-person

Residents are invited to join the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator in a Community Conversation to discuss county services and important topics live on June 15.

The public meeting will take place from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at St. Petersburg College - Seminole campus, in the University Partnership Center Auditorium, 9200 113th St. N., Seminole. It will be preceded by a Meet and Greet from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

There are five ways to participate in the conversation:

- Be part of the live audience at the St. Petersburg College Seminole campus.
- Watch it live and blog on www.pinellascounty.org/CommunityConversation. The blog opens in advance for questions on Wednesday, June 14, at 9 a.m.
- Watch and ask questions on Pinellas County's Facebook or post on Twitter and Instagram using #pinellascc.
- Call (888) 409-5380 to listen and ask questions.
- Watch on PCC-TV (Spectrum Channel 637, WOW! Channel 18 or Frontier Channel 44) and SPC-TV (Spectrum Channel 636, WOW! Channel 19 or Frontier Channel 47).

Citizen comments are encouraged as part of the conversation with Pinellas County Commissioners: Chair Janet C. Long, Vice Chair Kenneth T. Welch, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, John Morroni, and Karen Williams Seel, and County Administrator Mark S. Woodard. The conversation will be moderated by Al Ruechel of Bay News 9.

For more information about Community Conversation, including links to resources about the county's strategic plan and the citizen survey, visit www.pinellascounty.org/CommunityConversation or call (727) 464-3000

STAN THE CARPENTER

Recently, Stan Wolney, a local carpenter, received a call for an unusual problem. A homeowner living in a Biltmore area condo inherited a family heirloom - an armoire that was likely 150 years old.



The armoire, with four doors and two drawers, was too large to fit in the elevator or to be carried up the stairs. Plus, it was old and needed to be refinished.

Wolney said he could take it apart, refinish it, then reassemble it inside the owner's condo. To make matters worse, it was further damaged by the moving company delivered that delivered it to Wolney's workshop.

Wolney disassembled the large piece of furniture, fixed the damage and refinished the surfaces. "It was unique because it was 150 years old," says Stan. "It had dowels, not screws, the way they worked years ago." Wolney figures spent about 30 hours in the job. It will be delivered later this month.

"My specialty is woodworking - all kinds of wood," says Wolney. "Some people have a vague idea of what they want. I make their ideas happen." Stan is a Vietnam Veteran. If you have a special project that requires working with wood, call him at 215-4770.

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SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON UNDERWAY

Beach residents and visitors reminded to take precautions protecting nests until Oct. 31

Sea turtle nesting season is underway, and in order to practice superior environmental stewardship, Pinellas County reminds beach residents and visitors in beach communities to keep conditions safe for sea turtles to thrive.

Females generally nest from early May through August with turtle eggs typically taking between 50 and 60 days to hatch.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitors nearly 26 miles of coastline and reports on sea turtle nesting activity. The staff engages in early morning patrols to locate new nesting sites and late night patrols to check existing nests for hatchlings. They also watch the nests from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. to make sure that hatchlings make it to the water safely. Do not pick up hatchlings heading toward the water, shine lights or use photo equipment with a flash. Hatchlings use starlight and moonlight reflecting off the water to find their way to the ocean, and if they become misled by artificial light, they can become disoriented and die.

In addition to checking the beaches every morning for signs of new nests, aquarium staff mark the nests and rope them off to avoid human disturbance. As an endangered species, loggerhead turtles are protected under federal law. Bothering their nests is illegal. To report the disturbance of a sea turtle nest, or report the sightings of turtles or hatchlings lost, stranded or wandering in the street, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement at 1-888-404-3922 or *FWC from a cell phone.

Most Pinellas County beach communities have ordinances in place prohibiting lighting that casts glare onto the beach during turtle nesting season, which ends on Oct. 31.

During nesting season, residents and beach visitors should do the following:

- Turn off outside lights, draw drapes and avoid using flashlights or fishing lamps on the beach.
- Remove obstacles such as sand castles or sand pits that may make it too difficult for hatchlings to make their way to the shoreline.
- Keep the beach clean. Eliminate trash items that may entangle baby hatchlings and adult turtles.
- Do not approach or harass adult turtles as they make their way back to sea.
- If residents spot turtle tracks or what might be a nest, and it does not appear to be protected by stakes or ribbon, call the Clearwater Marine Aquarium at (727) 441-1790, ext. 1.

By obeying the law and following some simple guidelines, residents and visitors can greatly improve the chances of sea turtle survival.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium reports that 2016 was a record year for nests and events that impacted them. The area was host to 318 turtle nests with more than 13,000 hatchlings released into the ocean last year. Tropical Storm Colin and Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew damaged and destroyed several nests.



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Bar & Restaurant News



BONEFISH CELEBRATES 15 GREAT YEARS IN THE BLUFFS

In June 2002, 15 years ago, Bonefish Grill opened. Since then, they have served a lot of Bang Bang shrimp and many wonderful dinners.

The restaurant opened the same year Chris Arbutine became Mayor

of Belleair Bluffs. "I have eaten at Bonefish more times than I can remember," says Mayor Arbutine. "I enjoy it every time. It is a great place to eat, drink and socialize. They have been an excellent addition to our community."

Niko Hales, managing partner at our Bonefish, has been there since 2015. Bonefish Grill is located at 2939 West Bay Drive. Call ahead seating is available; call 518-1230.

IRIE FIRE JAMAICAN-AMERICAN GRILL This new restaurant serving authentic and Jamaican food with American dishes also, opened at 351 West Bay Drive, in Largo. They offer more seating than it looks, with a covered outdoor area in the back and a private room coming soon. They have a full bar with drink specials during the week. Call them at 727-351-5821.

PANERA'S PARENT COMPANY SOLD In April, JAB, parent company of Krispy Kreme Donuts, Dunkin' Donuts, and more, purchased the Panera Bread brand. JAB, a European company, has been on a buying spree lately spending over \$40 billion on acquisitions. They paid \$7.5 billion for Panera Bread. Local managers do not expect any noticeable changes to the local stores. Panera Bread operates a store in Belleair Bluffs at 2928 West Bay Drive.

CRABBY'S OPENS! The new replacement Crabby Bill's at the Roundabout in Clearwater Beach Marina area finally opened with a new name - Crabby's Dockside. The building is three levels with an open air top deck providing a 360 degree view of the marina, including the roundabout, Pier 60 and of course our beautiful sunsets. Check them out at www.CrabbyBills.com.

VENUS FEEDS ARC CLIENTS

Mark Norberg bought Venus Restaurant a year ago. He inherited a special annual event held the Clearwater Yacht Club - ARC Day. Once a year, the Yacht Club holds an event for ARC Pinellas Clients. The Club treats them to a day of swimming, boating and a big cook-out. For years, Belleair Bluffs's Venus Restaurant has provided the hot dogs and hamburgers to over 50 clients. This year, Norberg continued the tradition. In addition, The Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the Chart House, and John Jackson (the musician) contributed to the event.

While Venus Restaurant is 31 years old this month, Norberg bought the small eatery one year ago. Drop by this month and wish Mark a Happy 1st Anniversary, and thank him for helping to make ARC Day special for the kids. The restaurant is located at 2441 West Bay Drive.



Bar & Restaurant News

AQUA PRIME

SOLD Steve Wesphal has now left the beach. Wesphal, who sold The Pub in January, sold his other beach restaurant Aqua Prime in March. Wesphal, who lives downtown, still owns five restaurants there.



Vargo (Chef), Engelhardt (Proprietor) & Morales (GM)

The new owner is Greg Engelhardt, who comes from the Feather Sound Country Club, where he was the Head Chef. He owns other businesses and restaurants, three of which are in St Thomas, Virgin Islands. He has extensive experience as a chef and will be involved with all aspects of the business. For now, they plan very few changes. Both Manager Johnny Morales and Head Chef Jason Vargo are remaining with the restaurant.

Aqua Prime is located at 213 Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach. Call 330-7724 for reservations.

THREE YEARS LATER

Chicago Jaqx Pizza will celebrate three years of pizza on June 14th. "And they said we would not last," laughs owner Gary Pantan. The restaurant brings a touch of Chicago to IRB—not just in name, but in pizza, too. The menu includes three pizza styles (thin crust, deep dish and stuffed), a fantastic half-pound burger and 25 types of beer, 12 of them on tap, and over 25 wines. They offer dine-in or take out and just restarted delivery this month. Drop by on June 14th and help celebrate. They are located at 1511 Gulf Blvd. They are the one with the big yellow awning. Call Chicago at 303-3946.



STEFANO'S NEW RESTAURANT Stefano's Italian Restaurant closed their Indian Rocks Beach location in January with plans to relocate just over the bridge in Largo. That did not work out, so now they are moving to Seminole's Portofino Shopping Center, on the northeast corner of Park Blvd at 131st Street. Stefan says the build out is about 70% finished and he hopes to reopen in June.

CARIBBEAN PIZZA? A new pizza spot, just east of Belleair Bluffs, called West Bay Pizza and Caribbean Restaurant opened recently. In addition to pizza, they serve calzones, stromboli, subs, salads, wings, plus a complete Caribbean menu featuring chicken, duck, goat and more. Ask about their homemade drinks, which include Mauby, Sorrel, Irish Moss, Mango Lassi and Peanut Punch.

They are open six days a week (closed Sundays) and deliver to the Belleair area including the beaches. West Bay Pizza is located at 1280 West Bay just west of the Pinellas Trail. Call them at 314-4000.

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Bar & Restaurant News

VIE'S AT SHIPWATCH This new restaurant is within sight of the Walsingham Bridge, on the Largo side - in Shipwatch. Owned by Mark Porter and his wife, it is named after their daughter. The restaurant has a nautical theme with portholes lining the dining room and seating for about 70. They have a side room with a pool table and several TVs.

Chef Kim Palumbo (seated) came from Slyce Pizza. The menu is quite simple, and full of light choices. Lunch offerings include soups, salads and sandwiches, with nothing over \$6. For dinner they offer fish, chicken, pasta and Mom's Meatloaf, with nothing over \$11.75. They offer a variety of appetizers from \$3 to \$6.50 wings. Weekends feature breakfast beginning at 8am with nothing over \$5.75. They also have a large selection of beer and wine.

Vie's Waterfront Restaurant located at 11900 Shipwatch Drive, in the Shipwatch Condominiums. It is open to the public. They have inside and outside dining on a deck facing the water. If you have a boat, there are two slips reserved for diners. Just tell the guard you are going to the Vie's Shipwatch Restaurant. Call them at 754-4421 for directions and takeout



NEW VFW Bob Florio, owner of Mako's, sold his property to the VFW Post 10094. The property reopened in mid-April as a VFW. Al Pristera, the new manager, says they moved because in November, the previous Sabala Plaza location had a fire. Florio approached them about buying his building.

Membership in the VFW is limited to members of the military who served in foreign wars and their families (including children). Membership varies from \$35-40. They also host a VFW Auxiliary to help support their many outside projects.

The new VFW is located at 14450 Walsingham in Largo. Call Al for details on joining at 596-8959.



SAIGON CAFE VIETNAMESE CUISINE Located at 118 W Bay Drive, Largo, they serve fresh made to order Vietnamese food in a casual surrounding, with outside seating available. They are open for lunch and dinner. Call them at 727-223-9916

FLORIDIAN BEACH CAFÉ This new small diner is located at 770 South Gulfview Blvd, next to Cesar's On the Beach in Clearwater. They have a fun menu with dishes named after Florida cities and beach concepts, such as The Round About Breakfast Sandwich, The Panhandle, The Tarpon Springs Omelet, Day Tripper, and even the Belleair Omelet, which has 3 eggs with spinach, artichokes, basil and sundried tomatoes topped with a mix of cheese. It comes with potatoes or grits.

They are only open for breakfast and lunch—7am to 3pm with inside or outside seating and an open air bar with specialty drinks. Call The Floridian at 401-3507 for take-out.

WHERE PINELLAS COUNTY STANDS WITH BUSINESS RECRUITMENT

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Pinellas County recently hosted the second Pinellas County Economic Leadership Symposium in April to bring together thought leaders from across the nation to share their insights with local leaders in business and government about what economic drivers attract new and economically diverse businesses to an area. Part of the symposium was a review of a recent study commissioned by Pinellas County Economic Development to assess our county's ability to attract high-wage jobs by way of corporate recruitment. Now, you might think that we would fair very well. Who wouldn't want to move to sunny Florida and live in paradise? But, the answer to the question is more complex than you might think.



When choosing a location, companies hire site selectors to evaluate a multitude of quantitative and qualitative factors that play a role in a business's decision-making process. Examples are:

- Demographic trends
- Is the area growing or shrinking in population?
- Workforce availability
- Does the area have the employees with the necessary skills?
- Logistics
- Is the region centrally located or easily accessible?
- Operating Costs
- What would it cost to operate over one year or 10 years?
- Available real estate
- Is there "shovel-ready" real estate?

These are just a few of the factors that go into the decision to locate a business in a new region. So, how does Pinellas County stack up against other areas of the country?

The study looked at attracting corporate headquarters, financial services businesses and advanced manufacturing businesses. While Pinellas County competed well with other areas in the country for corporate headquarters and financial services businesses, we do not compete well in attracting advanced manufacturing companies. Comparable areas like Atlanta, Greensboro or Greenville do much better due to the availability of competitive industrial real estate options. In other words, we don't have shovel-ready sites for these businesses to build their preferred type of facility. In our area, these highly technical companies with many facility requirements would have to adapt existing space to their needs at an added expense. Along with our peninsula-on-a-peninsula location, sunny Pinellas County doesn't look so sunny to companies concerned with ongoing operating costs for shipping and initial costs for retro-fitting an outdated facility.

But, overall, Pinellas County does have strengths to offer companies looking to locate here. The report stated that our community presents well to prospective businesses and offers an attractive option for corporate expansions and relocations. We offer corporate headquarters and financial services businesses good real estate availability that is effectively priced in, mostly, the Carillon area. And, we are supported by a great team at our economic development department.

Although we want to see a sunnier report, we know that we need to keep working towards the goal of smart redevelopment to keep attracting corporate and financial businesses and the goal of assembling land in large enough parcels to attract advanced manufacturing companies to our county. After all, it's about attracting and retaining the highest-wage jobs across diverse types of businesses that grow a strong and resilient economy so our local workforce can thrive.

For your own look at the study results presentation and video links of the entire symposium, visit www.pinellasbydesign.org/2017symposium.htm

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205 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair Bluffs**NATIVE BUZZ**

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

Have you ever wondered if we have native bees in Florida? We do, and a lot of them! We actually have hundreds of native bee species buzzing around and they are quite different from the non-native European honey bees we hear so much about.



Nation-wide there are over 4,000 species of native bees, and here in Florida there are over 300! Bees can be divided into two categories, honey bees and native bees. Honey bees were brought to the Americas by European settlers and thus are considered to be non-native species. These bees are eusocial meaning they work and live together for survival in a colony of thousands. Honey bees are very protective of their colony and will risk their lives to defend it, using their stingers to discourage intruders. Their colonies are built out of wax honeycomb, which the bees construct and this is where our honey comes from. Honey bees are generalists, so they can feed on the nectar of a variety of flowering plants, which is why you can find a lot of different types of honey in the market: orange blossom honey, wildflower honey, tupelo honey, saw palmetto honey, gallberry honey, and the list goes on. To produce honey from European honey bees, hobbyist and/or commercial producers need unique equipment, supplies, and gear to be successful. Native bees on the other hand are quite different.

Native bees are mostly solitary, living in a narrow nest either below ground or in wood cavities near the ground, and most of them don't make any honey. They also differ from the honey bees in that native bees are often specific pollinators, attracted to particular plants, which the bee needs for food and the plant needs for pollination. Although people are often fearful of the sting of bees, many of the native bees are often stingless or will only sting if annoyed or feel their lives are threatened. It is easy to create habitat to attract native bees and it requires little to no management once established if you wish to attract these native pollinators to your yard. Some common native bees you might see in your yard include: Bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.), Carpenter bees (*Xylocopa* spp.), Metallic Sweat Bees (*Halictidae* spp.), Leafcutter Bees (*Megachile* spp.), Digger Bees (*Andrena* spp.), and many more.

You can encourage native bees to your yard by:

- Stopping use of insecticides
- Leaving bare soil in undisturbed areas so bees can dig their nests and tunnels
- Leaving some stumps and logs so the wood borers have a place to nest
- Planting native plants and nectar plants that bees love such as: saw palmetto, seagrape, wild coffee, goldenrod, Walter's Viburnum, Pennyroyal, Blazing Star, Powderpuff, Carolina wild petunia, tick-seed, and blanket flower.
- Building a bee house visit: <http://bit.ly/BuildABeeHouse>

Bees provide great benefits to us. Eighty percent of flowering plants around the world are pollinated by native bees, and one out of every four bites of food people take wouldn't be possible without the help of bee pollination. So let's do our part to help keep these very important pollinators around for generations to come!

You can reach Laura at Lara317@ufl.edu or 727-453-6905

BELLEAIR POOL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Did you know there are over 90,000 pools in Pinellas County? About 8,000 of those pools are within a five-mile radius of Belleair Pool Service and Supply, who services about 500 of them—every week.



David and Jeanie Oxley own and operate Belleair Pool Service and Supply at 1702 West Bay Drive in Largo. June 1st marks the 10th Anniversary of their business operating at that location.

David has been in the pool business for decades. He started in the mid-'70s as a pool repair technician and then worked in pool construction for a small Tampa builder.

David worked for several large pool builders, including Tropicana, National and Curtis Pools. He began in service, then construction, and finally sales. In the 1990s, he worked for pool wholesale equipment distribution companies, and later for a specialty chemical manufacturer.

Then in 2007, there was a recession (remember?) and pool construction dropped way off. David's wife, Jeanie, suggested they start their own business, specializing in pool remodeling and that is what they did.

When they opened Belleair Pool Service, they tried to follow the plan, but due to the recession, the major pool builders also were offering pool remodeling and repair. It was a very competitive market. Instead, the Oxleys concentrated on pool maintenance and repairs and slowly grew to the size they are today. Today, Belleair Pool Service and Supply services pools in mid-county, from Madeira Beach to Clearwater Beach, including the Belleairs and Largo. They are state licensed, CPC # 1458792.

In addition to their business, David is also an instructor for the National Swimming Pool Foundation teaching the Certified Pool Operator course and the Florida Swimming Pool Association's Florida Public Pool Specialist course.

"I figure we have over 1,000 loyal customers who look to us for supplies and personal service for their pools," says David. This is in addition to the pools they actively maintain.

They are located at 1702 West Bay Drive and you can call them at 727-483-9671. If you are in the area, stop by and see Captain, their store mascot. Visit BelleairPoolSupply.com for more information about their services.

NEW BELLEVIEW ENTRANCE SIGN

The new sign on South Ft Harrison at Belleview was built by JMC Development, the developer of the new condo village on the site of the former Belleview Biltmore.



At a cost of \$93,000, they used 11,580 original bricks from the Belleview Biltmore hotel. The 120 years bricks were trimmed to reveal their natural beauty to make a historic connection between the hotel's celebrated past and the exciting future of the development.

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AREA CONSIGNMENT STORES - WHERE TO FIND THEM

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The Belleair area is home to quite a few consignment stores. These stores sell secondhand items (typically clothing, furniture and accessories) on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the sale.

There is a big difference between a consignment store and a thrift store. Consignment stores normally carry a higher quality product that people have taken care of. Thrift stores usually sell donated items people no longer want. Consignment shopping may take a little education and change of habits. Many consignment shoppers stop in regularly, to check the inventory.

Here are our nearby consignment stores:

JANNA FINE CONSIGNER APPAREL

**268 Indian Rocks Road N., north of The Plaza
727-584-9222**

Lisa Hammock bought the store six months ago, but it has been open for 24 years. Specializing in fine women's apparel and accessories, the displayed clothing turns over every 60 days and is seasonally appropriate. Lisa takes in over 90 new products, weekly.

Consignors are limited to 15 items at a time. If their clothing does not sell in 60 days, and the client does not want their stuff back, Lisa donates it to Hospice. If it sells, the store takes a 60/40 split on most merchandise.

Lisa emphasizes there are two sides to this business—the consignors and the shoppers. Her store has been known to turn many a consignor into a future shopper.



DE JA NEW BOUTIQUE

**1495 Indian Rocks Road S., one mile south of West Bay Dr.
727-216-3321**

This relatively new store, owned by Caren Chase, opened about four years ago. They specialize in women's clothing and accessories, but do carry some men's clothing, too. In addition to clothing, they sell jewelry, shoes, handbags and accessories. She has hundreds of consignors and over a thousand products for sale; most items are designer brands.

BELLEAIR PEACOCK FINE CONSIGNMENT GALLERY

**249 Clearwater-Largo Road,
Largo, north of West Bay,
727-586-3888**

This store is not in Belleair, but it is nearby and is different than most consignment shops. New owner Gregg Martin bought the 14 year old store in January.



The store features luxury, high-end furnishings with many vintage, highly collectible, one-of-a-kind items. They have a mixture of consignment and new furnishings, art and jewelry. They attend Estate Sales and offer their finds for sale in the store, too. They offer a 50/50 split, free estimates and pick up.



A NEW LOOK-CONSIGNMENT

**904 West Bay Dr., Largo, across from Publix
727-586-3665**

This store specializes in home furnishings including lamps, mirrors, and other decor. The store takes a 50/50 split and there is no time limit for your item's sale. Very seldom are there price reductions to sell a product.

Owners Kathy and Bruce have been in this business for twenty years and in this location for six. Bruce says this is a relationship business. They work closely with all their consignors and regular customers. Over the past six years, they have had over 2,000 consignors.

CHLOE'S CONSIGNMENT

**1260 West Bay Drive, Largo, west of The Pinellas Trail
727-303-0883**

Having opened in April, this is the newest consignment store in the area. Owner Kay Davis used to work at Pat's Consignment, down the road.

The store specializes in high end and affordable furniture including accessories, mirrors, lamps, clocks and more. They have many things to display or to decorate your walls. Mention this story and receive 20% off your next purchases.



HOME AGAIN INTERIORS

**12025 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, near Pizza Shack,
727-595-0195**

This store has been operating for 20 years. Ruth Martin has owned it for 15 of those years. She specializes in furniture and has lots of art for sale. Ruth offers a 60/40 split on merchandise with pick up. If you bring it in it is a 50/50 split. They have 3,300 consignors. "I have a very good reputation in this business and many long time customers," Ruth says.



PAT'S HOME CONSIGNMENT

**1704 West Bay Drive, Largo, Near Subway Sandwiches
727-588-2529**

The store has been in this location since 2007 and has had over 6,000 consignors over the years. Pat's products range from \$10 into the thousands. There are many high end products including a signed Mermaid table worth \$2,500. She does not take everything. "If I do not think it will sell, I tell my consignors that in advance," says Pat. Products start out with a 50/50 split; after 30 days that changes to 60/40.



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WHAT IS FOGGIARE?

by Sharon (SAM) Cantrell BS, CLE

I live and work in the Bluffs and always get questions about what Foggiare is, but mostly how do we pronounce our name. Honestly it took me a while to master it. Foggiare, an Italian word for SHAPE is pronounced: FOR JAR RAY.

Some treatments found in Foggiare have been successfully used for many years throughout Europe and the rest of the world, mainly for weight management and shaping the body. Now, Foggiare has developed a system integrating these combination therapies into a new and exciting program for total wellness and body shaping. The most exciting thing about using these combination therapies is there is no down time or pills and it is totally non-invasive. I call it my mini vacation. I look and feel better with firmer skin and less of those little bulges that show under my summer clothes.

This wellness treatment is relatively new in the U.S. Using leading edge technology, it converts fat cells to liquid which is naturally drained by the body's own filtration system.

Areas with localized fat like thighs, abdomen, flanks (aka love handles), and buttocks are the most popular but there is no limitation as to the areas you can change.

FOGGIARE™ is not a method to "lose weight" but focuses on reshaping the body. Clients do, however, see a reduction of their weight on the scale! It is especially effective for the reduction of adiposity, the famous "love handles" that won't go away with diet and exercise. Treatments will also remove cellulite, preventing fat cells from recurring in the treated areas.

Our Institute on West Bay Drive has served the community for over a year and its popularity continues to grow. To date our clientele runs the gambit from professional athletes to physicians with limited time and then people like me who just need help with a specific area now that summer is here.

One of the consumer areas that has grown is the new moms. Let's face it; it is hard to get back to where you were prior to your bundle of joy. A healthy diet and exercise do a great deal, however, when you add our combination therapies two times a week it gives you that little extra with large results.

Before I forget, let me tell you about our amazing beauty line that can be used in conjunction with our treatments. It is based on a cutting edge DNA repair technology. My personal favorites are the Body Bio Repair Complex and the DNA repair serum.

I invite everyone to call me at 727-422-7102 or 727-239-0580 and set up a free consultation. Its a fun, healthy, no pills no pain, purely treatment system that helps you meets all your wellness and fitness expectations.

Foggiare is located at 1920 West Bay Dr. Largo, FL 33770



PINELLAS COUNTY BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROGRAM.

By U.S. Congressman Charlie Crist and Janet C. Long,
Chairman of the Pinellas County Commission

Pinellas County received good news last week from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – almost \$30 million in federal funding is now available to renourish up to 10.5 miles of our beaches. Beach renourishment is critical to protecting our coastline and our economy. We have some of the best beaches in the world, visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists each year, which provide unrivaled recreational opportunities for everyone and important natural habitat and nesting grounds for shorebirds, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Successfully protecting our beaches through this renourishment project depends on more than just funding. It also depends on the cooperation of property owners along all three sections of the project (Sand Key, Treasure Island, and Long Key-St. Pete Beach). Pinellas County sent letters in January to owners of beach-front property along Sand Key where sand will be placed on private land. The letters request that owners sign easements to allow the nourishment activities and the beach in front of their properties to remain open to the public in perpetuity, an Army Corps legal requirement for the project to move forward.

Renourishment of our beaches is scheduled to begin this fall, but planning, engineering, and design work must be done quickly in order to put the project out to bid for construction, award the contract, and complete the scheduled work on time. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has asked Pinellas County to have all easements signed and in place by June 2nd to meet this timeline.

Without the signed easements, the Corps may be forced to leave segments of the beach project uncompleted. With a number of easements still outstanding, engineers estimate that more than 1.5 miles of the project will be bypassed. These sections of the beach could threaten the integrity of the project and leave those areas at greater risk of further erosion and personal property damage in the event of a severe storm or hurricane event. That's bad for homeowners, bad for tourism, and bad for sea turtles and other wildlife that call the beach home.

We write to assure property owners that these easements don't allow the Army Corps or anyone else to access your home. They simply allow work to proceed along the beach where new sand is needed. If you have questions, Dr. John Bishop, Pinellas County's Coastal Management Coordinator, at (727-464-8677), will be happy to take your call and walk you through the details of the easement.

The Pinellas County shore protection project is a national model for cooperation among all levels of government and property owners. To achieve the best possible design and construction that will deliver maximum storm protection, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, we need everyone's help. Thank you to those who have already signed the easements. And if you have not already done so, please return your signed easements today.

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www.rlbydesign.com

DOUBLE EAGLE - 50 YEARS OF FISHING FUN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In May, Clearwater Marina's *Double Eagle* celebrated 50 years of fishing. The fishing boat is often referred to as a party/head boat. In the early days, these boats were known as "cattle boats," because it felt like you were herding cattle as you boarded that many passengers. These type of boats take large groups of novice and veteran fishermen out into the Gulf of Mexico, making wonderful memories while catching fish.

Over its 50 years, *Double Eagle* has had six owners. Captain Bill Gilmore was its first. "We commissioned the boat and started our fishing operation May 22nd, 1967, fifty years ago," remembers Gilmore. "The *Double Eagle* was built by Clark Mills of Clearwater Bay Marine Ways. It was the first catamaran-style vessel licensed by the US Coast Guard to carry passengers in Florida."

50 years ago, there were many fleet companies competing for each tourist dollar. "When we started, *Queen Fleet* had two boats, *Rainbow* had two, *Buckeye* had two and there were at least six other boats," says Gilmore. "It seemed that all the owners had to have two boats," he chuckles.

"I lived on a schooner across from the marina, near today's Pier 60 Hotel. I could see my boats from the schooner's bridge," Gilmore continues. After Gilmore retired, he and his wife moved to New Hampshire.

Neil Wingo owned *Rob Ann*, a smaller 6-pack boat kept in the marina. It was called a 6-pack because that is how many people he was licensed to carry at one time. In 1969, Wingo sold *Rob Ann* to go into a partnership with Gilmore. That was the same year Gilmore added the *Double Eagle II* to the fleet. "Neil was one of, if not, the best fisherman in the marina at that time. I knew I wanted him working with me," explains Gilmore.

They sold the original *Double Eagle* in 1980. The same year, the 88 foot, all aluminum *Double Eagle III* was added to the fleet. *Double Eagle II* & *III* are still carrying fisherman into the Gulf of Mexico.



Sandy and his son Chad on the *Double Eagle*

In 1971, Sanford "Sandy" Haggert, a local born and raised nearby, started working on fishing boats. His son Chad and daughters Chasity and Cassandra, were all born nearby in Morton Plant Hospital. "I was a deck hand on the *Eagle* from 1971-'74," recalls Haggert, now 65. "I became a captain in '75 and then in 1982, I became a partner in the *Double Eagle*."

"I remember this marina when it was twice as big," Haggert says. "It had a large marina building and then a smaller building at the east end. The parking lot was half the size and there were additional boat slips on the east end where The Bait House is today. On the east end, there was a small marina shop that was home to a retail fish market and The Captain's Table restaurant. All three were owned by "Pappy" Haggert, my father. There was a Shell gas station near the east end owned by Jerry Hunt."

Gilmore added Richard Wilson as a third partner in 1982. He started as a captain with the *Double Eagle Fleet* in 1971, and worked with the fleet until 1988. He stayed on as a partner until about 1994, when he sold his share.



"I was able to buy the *Double Eagle* fleet in 1999," states Haggert. "I took out a loan to buy it all from Gilmore and Wingo."

For a short time in the early 2000s, Haggert took on Luke Palmer as a partner. Palmer also had started as a deckhand. He received his captain's license in 1994 and shortly thereafter, moved into that role full time. He became the acting manager with a small ownership percentage before selling in 2007.

Haggert, his wife Rose Ann and his son Chad are partners today in the *Double Eagle* fleet. They have run the two boats for 18 years, always out of the Clearwater Beach Marina.

"At one point in time, I remember 13 party boats operating out of the Clearwater Beach Marina," says Haggert. "The *Dixie Queen*, then owned by Herb Brower, tied up at the west end near South Gulfview Boulevard. There was the *Sea Hawk*, owned by a Greek guy named Pete Papadopoulos."

Harold Hayes owned the *Rainbow* fleet, one was called *The Rainbow* and the other the *Miss Elsie*. The *Nautilus* was owned by John "No Neck" Staletis. Joe Krammer had two party boats - *Miss Buckeye I* and *II*. Another party boat, called *Sea Fever*, was owned by Mickey Couch who kept it tied up on the mainland near the Pierce condos.

The *Double Eagle* goes fishing seven days a week, every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Most trips are 4-8 hours, either half or full days. There are some overnight Friday through Sunday fishing trips, but those trips depend on fishing seasons and regulations. Over 18,800 people went out on the *Double Eagles* last year. "Over the past six years, our business has been consistently going up," says Chad Haggert, who now runs the daily operations. Chad has been in charge since 2008.

The only times things have been bad for the *Double Eagle* were during the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill, when the cost of diesel oil spiked and during Red Tides. Of course, we are always dependent on the weather, too. "We have no control over any of those things," adds Chad.

"I believe that the development of Orlando's Disney World effected Clearwater Beach's tourism and as a result, our fishing business," says Sandy Haggert. "I noticed a significant decrease in business, and the number of other boats, after Disney got going in the late 1970s and '80s. But now, with the recent changes to Clearwater Beach and with the beach being more nationally known, business is on the rise again!"

Get more information on the *Double Eagle* or book a fishing trip at DoubleEagleDeepSeaFishing.com. The ticket office is open from 6:30am-8pm. Call them at 727-446-1653.

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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR ROTARY

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 June meeting will feature State Senator Denise Grimsley (R) Winter Haven). There will be NO meetings in July and August

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

They meet 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.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They have 10 plots available for the next year, each 4x8 feet, on the corner of Betty Lane and Grove Street. Contact Howard Warshauer at CaptainHW@Gmail.com for more information.

They meet twice a month (October through May) in Clearwater at 405 Seminole Street. They also holds demonstrations on the 3rd Saturdays of the month. Garden Club members get in free at the Francis Wilson Playhouse on final rehearsal nights.

For more information, contact President Maggie Custer at 488-8705, e-mail at mmcuster@outlook.com, or ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

Organizational News...

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

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

The GBYWS was established in 1979 for the purpose of promoting friendship through social activities and community service. Members of the society must be women, at least 21 years of age and reside in the Belleair / Belleair Bluffs general area. For more info on the GBYWS, see their web site at www.GBYWS.org.

Various 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. E-mail GBYCommunication@Gmail.com for more information

IRB BOAT CLUB

Thirty-five members went to Salt Rock Grill in May. They do something every month using their boats. Everyone is welcome to get involved Some upcoming events are :

June 24-25: Tarpon Springs weekend

July 4th: Fireworks, Clearwater Harbor

July 22: Three Rooker Island

August 19: Marina Cantina Restaurants

In addition to events, the Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) monthly, on the third Thursday, September through April.

The Boat Club, which gives boat owners an excuse to use their boats, is free to join and you do not have to live in Indian Rocks Beach. Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or e-mail IRBboatclub@gmail.com. Visit www.IRBboatclub.com.

NEWCOMER CLUB

Are you an area newcomer and just have not been able to meet people? Try joining the Welcome Newcomer Club. This is a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends. But you do not have to be a newcomer to join. The ladies meet monthly at different restaurants and country clubs for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and theater shows.

The next monthly luncheons will be:

June 6: Beachcomber Restaurant

July 11: East Lake Woodlands Country Club

Please RSVP with Ginny by calling 365-3493 or Mary Jane at 352-263-5518. Visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN. OF BELLEAIR

They welcome members who wish to join the 18-hole group. The WGA has a full calendar of events October through April. For information, please contact the Belleair Pro Shop at 727-442-0229 or www.belleaircc.com.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

Celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, 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 president. Meetings will resume in October.

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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Organizational News...

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Club continues the tradition of offering a temporary summer membership program, running from May 1 through Sept. 30, in which new members pay no initiation fee and dues of \$125 per month. There is no minimum food expense required. For more information, contact GM Tom Brusini at 727-447-6000.

There are a lot of events planned:

- June 1 Troops Rewards Dinner
- June 9 Cruisers to Tampa Marriott
- June 12 Sailing Camp Session #1 begins
- June 17 Jimmy Buffet Party
- June 18 Father's Day at the Tiki
- June 20 Book Club
- June 22 Bingo Night

Chartered in 1911, this is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs and is known as the most fun, family friendly Yacht Club in the area. If you would like to join, you do not need to own a boat. Half of their members don't have one. Most of their social activities center around parties in their own restaurant or at their waterfront Tiki-Bar. Learn more at Clwyc.org, e-mail Office@CLWYC.org or call 447-6000.

BEACH ART CENTER

They continue to focus on a vision of honoring their history and building their future. They will have limited open hours throughout the summer. Check their web site for changes to their hours. See details at BeachArtCenter.org. The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd, in Indian Rocks Beach, next to the Indian Rocks City Hall. Call them at 596-4331.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and meet business contacts from 5:30 to 6:30 at their mingles. Upcoming Mingles are:

- June 8: Suncoast Osteopathic Foundation in Largo
- July 4: City's Independence Day Picnic
- July 13: Lisa Farmer of Coastal Properties Group
- August 10: Creative Design Team, Belleair Bluffs

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

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

From October through April, the club features a monthly tea & informational meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Horticulture programs happen on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am, both at the Belleair Garden Club, 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in Belleair.

Annual membership is \$50 per year per person. Couples pay \$75. Three month members \$30. Guests are welcome. Contact Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com or visit BelleairGardenClub.com.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They recently awarded their \$2,000 Daisy Grants to five local charities; these charities had applied for the grants for a specific purpose. The Grants were awarded to The Lighthouse of Pinellas, Inc., Religious Community Services, Grace House, The ARC Tampa Bay, Inc., College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. and St. Vincent dePaul Community Kitchen and Resource Center, CCSP.

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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NEW GOLD GYM OPENS

Celebrity chef Robert Irvine and Belleair resident Ed Bogacki have partnered to bring a state-of-the-art Gold's Gym to Largo. Men and women of all ages will find something to suit their goals and training preferences inside the 18,000-square-foot facility, which boasts a huge variety of exercise equipment and amenities.



In addition to a large open-space free weight training area and a huge assortment of the latest cardio machines, the Largo Gold's location has a functional training area on artificial turf outfitted with kettlebells, weight sleds, and battle ropes, a suspension training area, cycling studio, a childcare center packed with activities, plus a large group fitness studio that hosts all manner of classes, including Les Mills, Zumba, Silver Sneakers, and more. Members can also make use of the dry sauna and juice bar and shop from a wide array of supplements and training gear for sale.

The shining new facility reflects the evolution of the Gold's Gym brand over the past few decades—from a small hardcore bodybuilding haven in Venice, CA to an all-inclusive experience that offers something for everyone.

Call them today at 727-240-1400 to set up a tour and find the membership package that suits your needs. Remember: at Gold's Gym, Largo, nothing is impossible.

SUNSET RUNS AT SAND KEY PARK (June 9, 23, July 14, August 11)

This popular Summer Sunset Run Series, now being held in the Sand Key Park instead of Clearwater's Pier 60, is returning. Get more information, and register at www.WFYRC.com.

The West Florida Y Runners Club hosts the four events to raise money for scholarships. They are held on Fridays, near sunset. Free Kids races start at 6:45pm. The 5K starts at 7pm. Adults pay \$20 for each race (no shirt), \$25 with shirt or pay \$50 for all four with a shirt. Races start and end behind the Sheraton Sand Key.

READING WITH THE RAYS *Read your way to the Ballpark!*

Since 2006, the Rays Baseball Foundation has teamed up with Suncoast Credit Union for the summer reading program Reading with the Rays-Read Your Way to the Ballpark. The program encourages kids to avoid summer reading loss by reading 24 hours over the summer.

Participating libraries track their progress and award prizes for reaching certain goals, including free tickets to a Rays game. Reading with the Rays spokesman Evan Longoria visits local libraries throughout the summer to speak to the kids about the importance of reading.

How to Play: The rules of the game are simple. Choose your favorite books from the Library, or your favorite section of the Tampa Bay Times, to read over the summer. As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases and collect Rays prizes.

When you read enough hours to get on first base, ask your parent or guardian to initial your card and bring it to the Library. The Librarian will sign your card, put a sticker on the base, and give you a reading reward. Round the bases by reading a total of 24 hours and receive two tickets to a Rays game! Offer ends 9/29/2017. Pick up your Rays card starting June 5th at your Library

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CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA TODAY

Even after 65 years, the Clearwater Beach Marina is as much a part of Clearwater Beach as ever. The man in charge of keeping things running smoothly at the marina is Bill Morris, Marina Manager. Morris retired after 27 years in the US Coast Guard before going to work for the City of Clearwater over 18 years. "This job was too great an opportunity to pass up," explains Morris. "I grabbed it as soon as it was available."

"The Clearwater Beach Marina has been an important part of Clearwater and its beach for decades," says Mayor George Cretokos. "All of the businesses and vessels based in the marina provide an ambiance that is pleasing to



the senses of visitors and resident alike. Those opportunities and experiences help make Clearwater the best beach in the country," he adds.

Today, over 40 commercial boats call the Marina home. Eighteen fishing charter boats, mostly six-packs (meaning they can only have six fishermen per trip) are tied up along the sidewalk. In addition, there are three party fishing boats, The Double Eagle 1 & II and Queen Fleet.

Besides fishing, the other commercial boats including:

- Lunch & Dinner Cruises - Starlight Majesty, Calypso Queen, and Yacht Serenity.
- Charter Sailboats - Kai Lani and Miss Clearwater.
- Parasailing - Chute Em Up, Stick Em Up and Serenity.
- Watersports - Paddle Out Adventures, and Totally Tubular Watersports
- Scuba Diving- Dive Clearwater
- Sightseeing & Tours - Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise, Tropics Boat Tours, Mega Bite, Little Toot, Island Time, Encounters with Dolphins, Fun Boat Adventures, and Sea Life Safari.
- Speed Boat Rides - Thriller and Sea Screamer
- Jet Ski Rentals - Beach Jet Ski and H2O Watersports
- Boat Rentals - Beach Motor Boat Rentals and Clearwater Boat Rentals.



Pirate's Pantry and Re/Max Realty.

The marina supplies both regular unleaded gas and diesel to hundreds of boaters, daily. "We sell a lot of fuel,



photo by Wayne Cathrell

although our sales vary greatly based on the time of year," says Morris. "Annually, we pump an average of between 700,000 and 800,000 gallons of gas through our pumps." They sell 40% more diesel fuel than gas and serviced 20,239 customers in the last 12 months.

The marina offers a free black water pump out service to Clearwater residents. Their special boat, which operates once a week, comes to your boat. They can accommodate about 12 vessels per week. There is a free self-serve pump out at the Fuel Dock, available to everyone.

The Marina is planning a full remodel within the next five years and has already reconfigured and decreased the number of recreational boat slips to accommodate newer boats with wider beams. During Morris's ten-years, the recreational docks and catwalks they have been re-decked. The fuel docks were remodeled with new electronic pumps that fuel faster. The primary marina building was remodeled to include the new Marina Cantina and Salt Cracker restaurants, an elevator and new central air was added, and the building was made to conform to modern hurricane standards.



Bill Morris and his staff.

Morris oversees much more than just the Beach Marina; he and his small staff, also oversees the Harbor Marina (on the mainland), the City's Airpark on Hercules, Pier 60 Fishing Pier and the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key. If that was not enough, there are three fishing piers in Clearwater Pass, tug and barge maintenance, and the Seminole Boat Ramp. He has coordinated several dredging and fill projects with the Environmental Engineering Department and the Army Corps of Engineers, supervised the City's portion of the construction of Crabby's Dockside (it opened earlier this month), and is involved in the future waterfront and Coachman Park remodel.

"Bill Morris is the third Harbormaster named Bill that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 35 years," says Phil Henderson, Jr. owner of Starlite Cruises. "He does a pretty good job of balancing all the issues that come his way. We've enjoyed a long and professional relationship."



City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication

Summer 2017



Independence Day Celebration!

Tuesday July 4, 2017
11 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.



Belleair Bluffs Community Center & Park ~ 2747 Sunset Blvd.

Raffle Prizes ~ Hot Dogs ~ Hamburgers ~ Dessert Contest ~ Bouncy House

Fire Department: See fire truck up close ~ Pinellas Sheriff's Department ~ Free Kids Fingerprinting

Plan to attend the Belleair Bluffs Independence Day Picnic co-sponsored by the Bluffs Business Association. To enter the dessert contest bring your dessert to City Hall by 10:30am.



NPDES INFORMATION

What is stormwater Runoff? Stormwater Runoff is rainfall that does not seep into the ground but runs off over our yards, streets, parking lots, and buildings. The stormwater runoff then enters our storm sewer system which flows directly into creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay, or the Gulf of Mexico.

How does stormwater get polluted? As stormwater flows over our lawns, driveways and parking lots, it picks up fertilizers, oil, chemicals, grass clippings, litter, pet waste, and anything else in its path. The storm sewer system then transports these pollutants to local lakes and streams, and eventually Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico.

Are the storm sewers the same as sanitary sewers? Stormdrains are the openings you see along curbs and in streets and parking lots. They carry away rainwater and transport it through the storm sewer system to nearby waterways. Water and other debris that enter stormdrains do not go to a treatment facility. In contrast, the sanitary sewer takes household water and waste from toilets, sinks and showers, and transports it to a wastewater treatment facility. There, the water is treated and can be reused for reclaimed water.

Homeowners: Homeowners can make a big difference in our local stormwater runoff by minimizing fertilizer and pesticide use, picking up after their pets, and washing their cars at a car wash facility. Other helpful measures include not draining your pool into the storm sewer, recycling hazardous household waste and landscaping.

PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall (727) 584-2151
Fire Dept. (727) 587-6714
Sheriff's Office (727) 582-6200

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

YOUR COMMISSION

Mayor Chris Arbutine
Vice Mayor Joe Barkley
Commissioner Jack Nazario
Commissioner Suzy Sofer
Commissioner Taylour Shimkus

**City Commission Meetings Every
2nd & 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm**

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