



THE NEARBY COLUMBUS STATUE

Even with all the talk of statues in the news recently, many may not have noticed we have a statue of Christopher Columbus firmly planted in downtown St. Petersburg, near the access of the future pier, at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Bayshore Drive NE, next to Fresco's Restaurant. Did you ever wonder where it came from? With Columbus Day this month, we thought this was a good time to look at its history.

As you can see from the plaque on the front of the statue, the Knights of Columbus, Council 2105 erected it in May of 1960. The international organization Knights of Columbus (K of C), was founded in 1882 by an Irish-American Catholic priest. The K of C choose to name themselves after mariner Christopher Columbus, a Catholic Italian explorer and also an American hero, to express their belief that not only could Catholics be full members of American society, they were instrumental in its foundation. The Knights of Columbus has grown to over 15,000 councils with over 1.9 million members throughout the United States and in many other countries.

The organization is based on the Catholic Church's concepts including charity, unity and fraternity. The K of C originally rendered financial aid just to members and their families. Today, they offer mutual aid and assistance to anyone sick, disabled, or needy.

Nationally, they raised over \$177 million last year. Their charitable activities encompass an infinite variety of local, national and international projects, including partnerships with the Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity. They are proud that their members have volunteered over 75 million hours of service.

The St. Petersburg Chapter Council 2105 was chartered in December 21, 1919 and is connected to two downtown Catholic churches: St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church. They meet on the second Monday of the month at St. Joseph's on 22nd Avenue S. Their local projects include funds for Food for Families and Coats for Kids. Food For Families, their largest activity, provides food for poor families on the first Saturday of the month. If you would like to join the local chapter, please call Sean Denny at 727-678-0183 or email him at Venner20@aol.com. Get more information at www.FloridaKofC.org. There are five other Tampa Bay chapters, including one in Pinellas Park.

As far as the statue of Columbus goes, the local K of C Chapter erected it to honor their organization's 40th anniversary and their patron, Christopher Columbus. The statue, made from carrara-marble, was carved in Italy, Columbus's homeland. It measures six feet and when installed was valued at over \$3000. With the help of the city, it was installed on the access way to the old pier, in the center of a "postage stamp" sized park. The City maintains the statue and the grounds around it.

Due to lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, today we celebrate a Federal Columbus Day holiday, but the U.S. has celebrated this day since our Colonial Period. It was started, in 1792, when New York and other cities celebrated the 300th Anniversary of his landing in the New World (he never actually landed in today's U.S.) President Benjamin Harrison again asked people to celebrate Columbus Day on its 400th Anniversary in 1892.

Many Italian-Americans, who consider Columbus Day a celebration of their heritage, staged the first major Columbus Day celebration in New York City on October 12, 1866. Colorado proclaimed the first statewide Columbus Day in 1905. In 1934, Congress and President Franklin Roosevelt declared October 12 the Federal Holiday Columbus Day (four states do not recognize Columbus Day - Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon and South Dakota.)

It is celebrated in other countries as well and is called Dia de la Raza (Day of the Race), Discovery Day, Fiesta Nacional (in Spain) or Day of the Americas.



In 1970, to standardize Federal holidays, Columbus Day was fixed to the second Monday in October. Many businesses including government offices, schools, the post office and most banks close. Many communities hold parades. San Francisco claims to have the oldest continuously celebrated Columbus Day parade - started in 1868. New York City boasts the largest celebration with its large Italian-American community.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher



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

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SALES

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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, UPS Store and the Belleair Market. Call 517-1997 if you need more than a few.

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 DECEMBER

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Fire Dept: 587-6714
Sheriff: 582-6200
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COMMISSIONERS —
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Police Dept: 588-3769
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Karla Rettstatt Deputy Mayor
Tom Shelly • Tom Kurey

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Police: 586-7427
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John Carroll • James Robinson
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BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB
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BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB
Marjorie Rose 238-8691
BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB
Laura Katz, President 735-7574
BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB
Lois O'Donnell 595-1349
BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Bonnie Trembulak 686-8797
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB
Maggie Cluster 488-8705
TOWN OF BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOC.
Roz White, President 462-2674
CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO 464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377
Karen Seel 464-3278

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26133 US Hwy19 N. Ste 201, Clearwater
Latvala.Jack.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Jeff Brandes 727-395-2512
Dist. 22 3637 Fourth St. N., Ste 101 St. Pete
Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov
Representative Larry Ahern 727-395-2512
Republican, District 66
8383 Seminole Blvd. Suite B, Seminole
larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov
Governor Rick Scott
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274
www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:
Charlie Crist 202-225-5961
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete
www.Crist.House.Gov

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Columbus Day Holiday 9
St Patrick's Catholic School Fun Fair 12-15
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 12
Junk & Jewels Sale 12-14
Pint Size Pumpkin Patch SW Rec Center 14
Oktoberfest Indian Rocks Beach 14
Household Chemical Cleanup Largo 14
Town Of Belleair Garage Sale 14
Fire Department Open House 14
Stone Crab Season Begins 15
Hispanic Heritage Concert 15
Clearwater Jazz Holiday 19-22
Clearwater Beach Chalk Walk 19-22
Coastal Clean Up 21
Blast Friday Clearwater 27
Owl-O-Ween Mcgough Park 27
Country Jubilee Heritage Village 28
Halloween Spooktacular Largo 28
Haunted House Belleair Rec Center 27-28
John's Pass Seafood Fest 28-29
Halloween 31
Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

NOVEMBER

28th Annual Morton Plant Golf Tourney 2
Home Show Tropicana Field 3-5
Turtle Trot 4
Belleair Bluffs & Belleair Beach Garage Sale 4
Farm Day Heritage Village 5
Daylight Savings Time Ends 5
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 9
Salute to Veterans Hunter Park 10
Rib Fest St. Pete 10-12
Veterans Day 11
Garage Sale Largo Community Center 11
Taste of IRB 11
Visit Egmont Key Days 11-12
Christmas Under The Oaks 12
Autumn Marketplace At The Alley 12
Madd Walk Largo 14
Great American Teach-In 15
Beaujolais Day 16
Us Disable Sailing Championship 15-18
Suncoast Dixie Land Jazz Festival 17-19
Festival Of Trees 17-19
Christmas At The Plaza 30

DID I JUST SEE A BALD EAGLE?

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

I think it would be safe to say that most people know what a Bald Eagle looks like without ever having seen one in the wild. They have large white heads with a bright yellow bill and a large white tail you can see in flight. Advanced birders will often hear a Bald Eagle before they see one, but their call doesn't quite match their large and fierce appearance. Their main call is a series of short, high-pitched whistles. Movies often use the hoarse, screaming call of a Red-tailed Hawk when showcasing large birds like a Bald Eagle, but don't let those sound effects fool you. Once you learn the call of an eagle, it's hard to mistake it with any other bird. It's a good way to know there is an eagle in the area and then you can use binoculars to locate it in the sky.

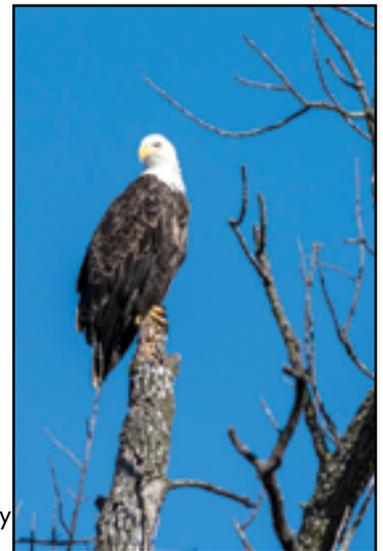
In addition to the potentially misleading call, Bald Eagles don't always have their distinct white head and tail, and yellow bill and feet. When first born, eaglets are a light gray color with a dark bill and dark eye. As chicks get a little bit older they become a solid, dark brown. As they continue to mature into their first year, they start to show white mottling on the underside of the wings. By their second year, the white mottling extends to the breast. In year three, their feet are distinctly yellow, the head turns whitish with a dark stripe through the eye, and their bill begins to turn yellow. By year four, they look very similar to adult Bald Eagles, but still have some dark spots on the head. Finally, by year five, Bald Eagles will have the white head and tail with yellow bill and feet we have come to know and love.

Perched or in flight, Bald Eagles might be mistaken for a Red-tailed Hawk or a Vulture, but there are a few ways to tell them apart. Bald Eagles are much larger than these other two species. When perched, look for a large head and long, hooked bill. When soaring, look for the very straight posture of the wings and the slow wing beats. When you hear or see a Bald Eagle you will most likely be near a body of water as fish make up a big portion of their diet.

Unlike the Osprey that are excellent fishermen, Bald Eagles are better known for their ability to steal food from other birds, like the Osprey. Eagles will hunt for their own fish, mammals, and other bird species too, but are often seen harassing other birds for food. Bald Eagles will also eat dead animals or garbage. Now that you know a little more about the Bald Eagle, spend some time outside to see if you can hear or see one.

It is a good time of year to spot an eagle, so keep your eyes and ears open!

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



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Did You Know



GARAGE SALE SEASON It is time for the area's citywide fall Yard Sales. Here is a list of most of them:

- October
 - 14: Town of Belleair
- November:
 - 4: Belleair Bluffs
 - 4: Belleair Beach
 - 11: Largo Community Center
 - 25-26: Indian Rocks Beach.

BENEFIT DINNER The St. Petersburg Arts Alliance is holding their ARTFUL WINE PAIRINGS BENEFIT DINNER on November 1. A limited number of tickets (100) are available for the exclusive five-course dinner. Each course is paired with a specially selected estate wine from around the world. The dinner will be held in the Birchwood's beautiful Grand Ballroom on St. Petersburg's Beach Drive. Tickets are \$175 per person. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit stpetersburgartsalliance.org.

CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA The merchants of The Plaza are hosting their annual Holiday Open House Thursday, November 30th from sunset to 9pm. The Bayside Quartet (members of the Florida Orchestra) will play from 6-8pm, with Dr Scott Behler on the piano. Carolers from the Indian Rocks Christian School will be strolling the sidewalks. The event is free. Hors d'oeuvres provided by E&E Stakeout. There is limited seating so bring your own chair, just in case. The Plaza is located at 100 Indian Rocks Road, just north of West Bay Drive.

OWL-O-WEEN Enjoy one of the area's best Spooky Nature Trails on Friday, October 28 at the McGough Park off Walsingham Road. There will be a great spooky trail, a raffle, candy and toasted marshmallows, plus ghosts and goblins of course. The event, inside the Narrows Park, starts at 6pm and costs \$5. Call 518-3047 to pre-register.

BEACH CLEAN UPS The fall beach clean-up, co-sponsored by Keep Pinellas Beautiful is October 21st. Citizens canvas our beaches to pick up everything not disposed of in the trash cans—cigarette butts, straws, plastic bottle lids, etc. Show up at Indian Rocks's County Park or Largo Central Park Nature Preserve, at 8am and you will be done by 10. Visit www.mykpb.com.

The IRB Boat Club will clean the Intracoastal Waterway islands and shoreline on October 28th from 8 - 10am. They need volunteers and boats. Call Bob Griffin 727-430-8300 to help.

PARTY FOR THE PAWS Come howl with Pet Pal at their 7th Annual Party for the Paws fundraiser on Saturday October 21st, at Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill - 1320 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, from 6 - 9pm. This dog and kid friendly event has tons of festivities including: Live Music by Screamin' Donkey, Doggie Biscuit Bar, 50/50 Raffle, Raffle baskets, Tye Die Creation Station, Doggie Costume Contest, and more.



Growing up there was only one thing better than spending the day at Clearwater Beach...going to the Palm Pavilion. Since its earliest day, The Palm has been a special place where family and friends come and create memories to last a lifetime.

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and More...



LITTLE LIBRARY UPDATE Karla Rettstatt of the Belleair Community Foundation, artist Kelly Nash, and Eric Wahlbeck with Town of Belleair's Parks and Rec dedicated a new Little Library at the Dimmitt Community Center. Take a look and take a

Book - and leave one in exchange. For information about the Belleair Community Foundation, call 219-1817..

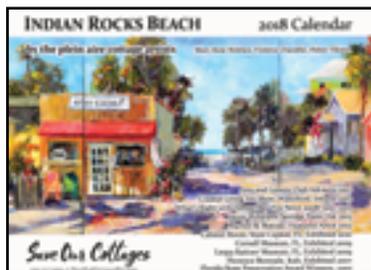
GET FIT IN BELLEAIR BEACH Fitness Exercise classes are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9am at the Belleair City Hall. Yoga Classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:15am. Each class is one hour.

TROPICANA FIELD'S FOOTBALL BOWL'S NEW NAME ESPN and local bowl promoters have landed a new sponsor and a new name for our annual St. Petersburg Football Bowl. The annual college bowl game, held at Tropicana Field, December 26th, will be the Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl. They have a three year deal with Bad Boy Mowers. "Even if we have another sponsor in the future, we will keep the 'Gasparilla Bowl' in the name for continuity," said local organizers. The local bowl game has had many prior names, such as The Beef-O-Brady Bowl, Magic-Jack Bowl and most recently The Bit Coin Bowl. The St Petersburg Bowl game has a TV audiences of about 2-million. Tampa's Outback Bowl Game, on New Years Day, has a TV audience of over 6-million viewers.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE The Largo Fire Department is celebrating Fire Prevention Week with an Open House on Saturday, October 14 from 1 to 4pm at Station #41. The event provides family-friendly activities and demonstrations, with tours of the station and trucks. Plus, there will be a chili tasting. Donations benefit the Children's Burn Foundation.

Station #41 is located in the middle of Largo at 180 4th Street, SW, Largo, 33770. Call 587-6737 for information.

ON SALE NOW Fall is here and its time to starting thinking about your 2018 calendars. The new "Save Our Cottages Calendar" by the Plein Aire Cottage Artists are hot off the presses and available at The Indian Rocks History Museum and the Indian Rocks Library, Belleair's Jana's and Nichole's, Largo's The Porch and various business's on the beach including: Kooky Coconut, The Welcome Center, Cookie Cutter, Cafe de Paris, Island Bead Shop, The New Day Cafe, The Kandy Kitchen, Island Surf Shop and Sandy's. Proceeds from calendars sold by the museum and the library are donated to those organizations.



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WE ARE SORRY THIS IS LATE

Unfortunately, due to the untimely arrival of Hurricane Irma, this newsletter is coming to you a little late. We normally plan for you to receive this around the 1st of every other month. But, as it is just the two of us producing each issue, when we should have been writing and typesetting our downtown St. Petersburg issue, we were preparing our home and evacuating (we live in a Zone A).

After the storm, we were unable to begin working again until our power and Internet were restored, and our computer equipment unpacked and reinstalled.

All told, we were about two weeks late on that issue, which then pushed this one back. We are very grateful you are still here to receive this issue, and we are still have a place to produce it. As we all know, it could have been much, much worse.

Baring any other unforeseen natural disasters, we will be caught up and be back again December 1st. Thank you for understanding. Becky and Bob Griffin

**TOWN OF BELLEAIR
UPCOMING EVENTS**

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE -October 14
Participate in the Town of Belleair's City Wide Garage Sale. Contact the Rec Center to be on the map.

HAUNTED HOUSE - October 27-28
Plan to get scared—in the Rec Center's Haunted House. Friday, is the VIP House Preview. Saturday open to the public.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY THANKSGIVING DONATIONS
The Town of Belleair is partnering with Mildred Helms and Belleair Elementary Schools again to adopt 40 local families in need. They will provide the families with a complete Thanksgiving meal, various essentials, toiletries, and other items. You can donate one item or adopt a family for \$100. Donations can be dropped off at the Dimmitt Community Center from November 1-15. For a full list of collection items, please visit www.belleairrec.com.

SALUTE OUR VETERANS: November 10
Honor our local vets and their families at the Belleair Community Foundation's Fourth Annual Veterans Day Celebration on Friday, November 10 from 5-8pm at Hunter Memorial Park, 999 Indian Rocks Road. Set up a picnic with blankets and chairs while enjoying a free concert from local classic rock favorite, Public Option. Local vendors will be selling food. Beverages will be sold in the beer and wine garden.

THANKSGIVING CAMP: November 20-22
The Belleair Parks and Rec is open for Thanksgiving Break camp for grades K-7. Camp runs from 8am to 4pm and will offer various games, activities, a field trip and so more. Call 727-518-3728 or visit www.belleairrec.com for information.

BELLEAIR RESIDENT GIFT DELIVERY RESERVATIONS:
Town of Belleair's annual Santa Claus Holiday Gift Delivery will be December 13th, 14th, and 15th between 6 and 9pm. If you are a resident of Belleair and would like Santa to deliver a gift to a child 12 or under, at your home, please make your reservations in person at the Dimmitt Community Center or online at belleairrec.com from Wednesday, November 29 through Friday, December 8. For information, call 727-518-3728 or visit www.belleairrec.com

LIFE AT THE EDGE



The newest Clearwater Beach hotel is Edge, and it is quite literally...on the edge - the edge of the street - the edge of Clearwater Pass -and the edge of Clearwater Beach. Edge is a 10-story hotel with 155 rooms; some rooms are facing Clearwater Pass, some the Gulf of Mexico and others are facing the City of Clearwater and the Intracoastal waterway.

The hotel has a tropically decorated lobby on the sixth floor that opens onto Edge's signature pool. One side of the hotel's pool has a 27-foot wall of glass that faces south overlooking Clearwater Pass. You literally feel like you could swim over the edge right into the Pass. There are actually two pools surrounded by a 17,000-square foot deck. Of course, there is a tiki-bar nearby to quench your thirst with tropical drinks.

Edge plans to be the new go-to place for weddings - both indoor and out. From pre-wedding activities, through the ceremony, elegant receptions and even a beautiful honeymoon, Edge can provide it all. Imagine your wedding on their large waterfront deck projecting over the water. It is the perfect location. Staff includes expert wedding planners who are equipped to provide a champagne brunch, sunset dinner or even dancing under the stars.

Edge offers hotel guests a complimentary breakfast buffet, a state of the art fitness center and a modern business center. The hotel is equipped to handle business travelers and their meeting needs.

Even if you are not a guest at the hotel, Edge offers two new restaurants. The first, at pool level is called 505 at the Edge (the address of the hotel). While dining, you can enjoy beach music in the open-air restaurant with one of the best sunset views on the beach! The menu is full of the chef's fresh coastal perspectives with a creative twist on entrees from seafood to steak.

Their rooftop restaurant and lounge, Jimmy's on the Edge, has panoramic views of the entire Clearwater Beach area, a 24-foot long fire pit, and a 300 square foot projection TV. Besides a complete Key West styled bar, they offer Florida inspired cuisine, a vast array of craft beer, fine wines, and tropical drinks. It is the perfect place for a casual, relaxed dinner. Of course, the bars and restaurants are open to the public. You do not have to be a guest to enjoy them.

Edge is located at 505 South Gulfview Blvd. You can reach them at 281-3100 or EdgeHotelClearwaterBeach.com.





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One of the first financial decisions made by many is to buy life insurance. This usually happens after getting married. You want to protect your family from your premature death. But now you are retired and you still have life insurance. What should you consider?

First, keep it assuming you can pay the premiums, but if your spouse doesn't need the money, you may want to change the beneficiary to the children/grandchildren. If it is a dividend paying policy, use the dividends to reduce the premium. Next, consider using it to supplement retirement income.

If you have a concern about long term care, then consider a 1035(a) tax free exchange to a new policy that provides an advance on the death benefit in the event you are confined to a long term care facility. There are issues to be considered before replacing life insurance including; commissions, fees, expenses, surrender charges, premiums, and new contestability period.

Life insurance proceeds are income tax free, but not estate tax free. How can you get it out of your estate? You can set up a life insurance trust and make a gift of the policy to the trust. If you live three years after the gift, it will not be included in your estate. It may be just as convenient to gift the policy to the children/grandchildren. You can also gift it to a charity where you will get a tax deduction.

But what if you don't want to keep the life insurance? You can cancel the policy and take the cash value. Check on the cost basis of the policy because any amount over this will be taxed as ordinary income.

What if you want to spread the taxes out over a period of time? Do a 1035(a) tax free exchange to an immediate annuity over a set number of years. If you do not need the income you can delay paying the taxes by doing the exchange to a deferred annuity.

Another approach is to consider selling your policy to a third party. In this case, an investor will buy the policy. The older you are and the less healthy you are the more the investor will generally pay you for the policy.

Like any asset you want to maximize its value. If you would like to discuss alternatives, we are pleased to provide a complimentary meeting.

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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change

AN INTIMATE EVENING: THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA AND STING

Going all out for its 50th anniversary, The Florida Orchestra will feature a performance by world-renowned musician Sting at its gala concert on Saturday, December 9, 2017, at the Mahaffey Theater, under the baton of Music Director Michael Francis. All proceeds will benefit the orchestra's robust community and education programs as well as TFO's artistic initiatives.

In a concert like no other in Tampa Bay, "An Intimate Evening with The Florida Orchestra and Sting" puts the iconic rock star and former frontman of The Police at center stage, but it will not be your typical rock show. Joined by a 3-piece band with music supervised by Rob Mathes (Sting, Bruce Springsteen, Renée Fleming, and more), expect 90 minutes of the 16-time Grammy winner's most celebrated hits re-imagined and arranged for an orchestra, including Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic, Englishman In New York, Roxanne, Every Breath You Take and Fields Of Gold, among many others. Some arrangements are from Sting's widely acclaimed Symphonycities album.

Gala concert tickets go on sale exclusively to Florida Orchestra subscribers on Monday, September 25, and to the general public on Monday, October 2. Tickets will be \$75, \$100, \$150, \$250 and \$375 with select premium seats at \$450. Concert tickets do not include gala reception or dinner. This season's 50th anniversary gala concert is generously sponsored by Schmidt Investments of South Florida.

"We have a true world star coming to make music with The Florida Orchestra," says Michael Francis, who will share a stage with the British rock icon he grew up listening to in England. "Sting is not just a rock star. He's a deep, comprehensive artist who is constantly re-examining the world around him."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer has sold 100 million albums from his combined work as the frontman of The Police and as one of the most distinctive solo artists in the world. A composer, singer-songwriter, actor, author, and activist, Sting also has received a Golden Globe, four Oscar nominations, a Tony nomination and the Kennedy Center Honors. Sting has not performed in the bay area since 2010, when he appeared at what is now the MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheater in Tampa.

This year's gala is chaired by Schmidt Investments CEO Bob Schmidt, who is also a TFO board member, and celebrates the 50th anniversary of The Florida Orchestra and its supporters with an extraordinary evening. Packages include a pre-concert champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres and live music, valet parking, prime seats at the concert and a post-concert gourmet dinner with Sting, Michael Francis and TFO musicians, all overlooking the waterfront at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. The dinner will be catered by pre-eminent local chef Chris Ponte, who has been a James Beard Award semifinalist. Gala package reservations are on sale now at 727.362.5424, or email nardle@floridaorchestra.org.

The gala is The Florida Orchestra's only major fundraising event of the year. All proceeds support TFO's high standard of artistic excellence as well as growing education and community programs, including free hospital, park, museum, youth concerts and more throughout Tampa Bay. Last season's gala concert with violinist Itzhak Perlman raised more than \$600,000.

For Maestro Francis, a musician of Sting's caliber is a good fit for the orchestra's 50th anniversary gala: "Not only is Sting involved in rock, pop, jazz, and world music, but he loves and supports the classical world. He really sums up what the Florida Orchestra is all about, especially as we look to the future. We are genuinely communicating with Tampa Bay in so many different ways."

7 pm Saturday, December 9, 2017, Mahaffey Theater. Tickets on sale at FloridaOrchestra.org or 727.892.3337.

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DISCOVER THE ISLAND 2017

Come to Egmont Key State Park on Saturday, November 11th and Sunday, November 12th and join the Egmont Key Alliance "Discover the Island" fund-raiser while you enjoy one of Tampa Bay's gems!



The 159-year-old lighthouse is still working to guide ships into Tampa Bay. Come see its majestic spiral staircase and participate in the many activities sure to enlighten all ages.

See Civil War re-enactors, stroll the island on our self-guided walk with interpretive sites along the way, including nature, wildlife, military and history. In addition, children's games, a silent auction and a viewing of the lighthouse. There will be live birds of prey from Boyd Hill Preserve, The Egmont Shanty Singers, presentations on history and wildlife and a Florida flag history presentation will be included.

Food, drinks and souvenirs will be available for purchase on the island. Shuttle ferries will be leaving Fort DeSoto Park from 9 am to 2pm, with the last ferry returning to Fort DeSoto at 4 pm.

Day passes include the ferry: Adults \$20, Youth 6-11 \$9 and Children 5 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Bay Pier boarding site starting at 8:30 AM each day. Follow the brown "Egmont Key Ferry" signs to the location.

Discover The Island is the 18th annual fund-raiser for the Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Citizen Support Organization of Egmont Key State Park, dedicated to protecting, restoring, and preserving the island. To get more information please go to www.EgmontKey.info. Look for the "Discover the Island" link on the left side of the webpage. If you still need additional information, call 813-361-7563

THE ROTARY CLUB CELEBRATES WORLD POLIO DAY

Poliomyelitis is caused by a virus transmitted person to person, often through contaminated water, mostly affecting small children. The virus targets the nervous system with varying outcomes including disability, paralysis, or even death. It cannot be cured, but is prevented by a safe and effective vaccine.

Rotary International began its fight against polio with a multi-year project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines in 1976. Every year since 2013, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has matched funds raised by Rotary, two-to-one. Rotary and its partners have provided vaccines to over 2.5 billion children in 133 countries.

Since 1988, we have seen a 99.9% worldwide reduction in polio cases in the worldwide, going from close to 350,000 cases to just 10 so far this year.

The 5th Annual World Polio Day will be live-streamed at 5:30pm on October 24th to provide information worldwide on the progress towards total eradication of polio. For more information, visit www.endpolio.org.

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach will gather at a local establishment on World Polio Day and will have on hand raffle tickets to win 2 tickets to The Big Game in Minneapolis, 4 nights lodging, \$1000 cash or other cash prizes. All proceeds raised go towards charitable causes including the eradication of polio. Visit the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach at indianrocksrotary.org or find them on Facebook.

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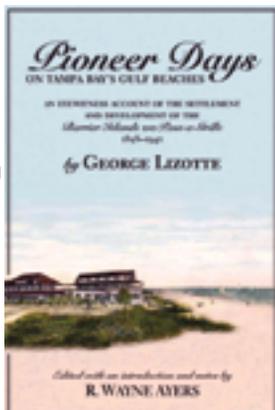
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BOOK GIVES AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF EARLY BEACH LIFE

By Wayne Ayers

As the editor of the new book "Pioneer Life on Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches," I have become intimately involved in this firsthand look at our beaches' past, as told by George Lizotte, a Pass-a-Grille innkeeper.

Lizotte told his story in a series of articles he wrote for the Gulf Beach News in 1940. He was 79 years old at the time, and his tale covers the local beaches, beginning at Pass-a-Grille in the late 1800s. At that time, he and pioneer Zephaniah Phillips were the first settlers in the area.



Among the many tales of early life on the beaches told by Lizotte is a dramatic scene during the great hurricane of 1921. He gives a hair-raising account of swimming through his hotel, dodging the furniture floating about him, and the collapsing walls crashing in.

Along his life journey on the beaches, Lizotte encounters a lively cast of characters, including famous fishing guide George Roberts, who reportedly skipped his wedding night to fish. He told his bride-to-be, "Lady, you can get married any time, but you've got to catch these tarpon when they're biting."

Silas Dent, the hospitable hermit, caught stone crabs using his toes as bait, and captured crabs and rattlesnakes with his bare hands.

Steamboats provided the only transportation to Pass-a-Grille and the beaches, and the visitors arrived from St. Petersburg and Tampa and points beyond in regularly scheduled routes. Lizotte describes the ruckus created when the first car arrived (brought over by barge), a never before encountered scene on the beach strip.

Lizotte goes on to witness the beginnings of St. Petersburg Beach, Treasure Island (first known as Coney Island), and Mitchell's (later Madeira) Beach.

He concludes his eyewitness account of the beaches past at Indian Rocks Beach, where he devotes an entire chapter to "The Rocks" first settlement as "a land of fishing camps." Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, "genial hosts of the Indian Rocks Inn," are lovingly portrayed by their good friend George Lizotte.

I have been privileged, as editor, to work closely with my wife Nancy, and with the University of Tampa Press, to bring George Lizotte's story of Pioneer Life on Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches to life as a book.

Tampa Bay Magazine termed Lizotte's eyewitness account "a fascinating read." I, and others, have found that to be true. The book is a "one of a kind," said Raymond Hinst of Haslam's Book Store in St. Petersburg. He added, "There's nothing else like it."

"Pioneer Life on Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches" by George Lizotte. Edited by R. Wayne Ayers. Published by University of Tampa Press. The book is available at Crabby Bill's, Heritage Village, Indian Rocks Museum, Florida Botanical Gardens gift shops, Haslam's Book Store, Barnes & Noble Tyrone, and is also on-line at Amazon.com and UTpress.UT.edu.

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Business Briefs



ANNIVERSARY SALE The Cook's Cottage in The Plaza 100 is celebrating their 15th year serving the Belleair area. The shop, owned by husband and wife duo, Pam and Brian Timmons has been a family run business since it opened in 2002. Stop in the week of October 15th during their celebration. Everything

in the store of independent gourmet housewares will be 15% off. This is a great time to start your holiday shopping. They will also offer special tastings and daily giveaways. Besides an array of housewares, including cookware, coffee, cutlery, gadgets, and gifts. The Cook's Cottage also offers a bridal registry and a knife sharpening service.

PLANNING A WEDDING OR SPECIAL EVENT? Let Cove Cay Golf Club make your special day wonderful and stress free! Choose from their two gorgeous rooms with waterfront and golf course views. Services include table settings with white linens and napkins, chef prepared and customized menus, and a full service bar. Let them host your next wedding or reception, rehearsal dinner, bridal or baby shower, birthday party, brunch, luncheon or corporate event. Marissa, their event coordinator, will make every detail perfect and your life easier. Contact her at 727-536-1949 x 26.

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BRING YOUR POKER FACE Radiance is sponsoring Viva Las Vegas October 26th at their MedSpa located in the Bluff's Shopping Center. As they have done in previous years, all the proceeds will go to HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program). There are no losers in their casino style games and you stand a chance of winning some really big prizes. Everyone gets cool swag bags, and refreshments. There will be raffles for Botox, Juvederm and CoolSculpting—and more. Admittance is a \$25

donation to HEP. Please RSVP by calling Liz Mooney at 442-9041 (X 110).

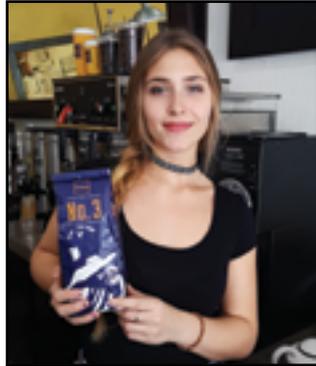
BANK OF TAMPA OPENING SOON The Bank of Tampa is expanding into Clearwater. They already have two other branches in Pinellas County. Construction of the new branch, on South Ft. Harrison, is under way.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSN. PLANS MEETINGS:
October 12: Belle's Olive Branch, The Plaza
November 9: Belleair Dental, 2600 West Bay Drive
December 14: Holiday Party (to be announced)
Social Hour begin at 5:30pm. Call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com.

Business Briefs

KAHWA COFFEE'S IRMA RELIEF

Tampa Bay Ray's Player Evan Longoria has partnered with area coffee roaster Kahwa Coffee to create the "Signature Series No. 3," a blend of three different coffee beans. The proceeds of the sales go to local charities helping with Irma relief efforts. Through this venture, Kahwa and Longoria hope to raise over \$10,000 in the first phase of their collaboration.



Longoria described it as "something a little sweet, a little nutty, with full bodied flavor." You can buy a bag at the Kahwa Coffee in Belleair Bluffs' Bonefish Plaza or at any Kawha location.

PET SUPERMARKET COMING SOON Being built at 2630 West Bay Drive, the new Pet Supermarket construction slowed down a bit due to Hurricane Irma, but it is now back on track. They are accepting applications.

SUZETTE'S...TOO

A new Suzette's women's clothing store opened in the Bluffs. Suzette's Too, owned by Jeanne, is located right next door to Suzette's On The Rocks, which is owned by her sister Laura Bush. Suzette's Too sells women's clothes that are similar yet different from her sister's shop next door. "Our line of clothes are more casual," says Jeanne. "The two stores' inventories complement each other nicely."



Suzette's On The Rocks is 11 years old, but Laura Bush moved the store to Belleair Bluffs four years ago. Find both stores at 400 Indian Rocks Road, facing south. Call Suzette Too at 266-4392.

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.

WALSINGHAM PUBLIX REOPENS The Publix on Walsingham Road, which was formerly an Albertsons store, has reopened. Earlier this year, it was demolished and rebuilt as a modern Publix store. It is now 46,000 square feet and has a new pharmacy. This is the second area Publix that has been completely rebuilt. The Indian Rocks Road store was done a few years ago. The Belleair store on East Bay has undergone some renovations, but was not completely rebuilt.

ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS Now, your chairs and umbrellas will be ready when you get to the beach, because AMI Chairs accepts reservations at amichairs.com or by calling 941-357-6103. They are located at the Indian Rocks County Park access seven days a week, 9:30-4:30.

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Business Briefs

NEW BARBER IN TRAINING Irena Strecha, owner of Belleair Bluffs' Stefanec's Barbershop, had her first baby on September 3. She named her new son Luka Nolasco, who was 9 pounds and 21.75" inches tall. Look for Luka to have his own chair at Stefanec's, in about 18 years.



WYNDHAM WAVE Clearwater Beach's Wyndham Grand will open six under-the-sea themed guest rooms. The rooms will feature marine life from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and is inspired by the story of Winter the dolphin. These rooms will feature a king-sized bed, a bunk bed and other special amenities. The Wyndham will donate a portion of each nightly rental to the aquarium.

LEMONADE A BIG HIT AT THE THORN COLLECTION Martha Thorn and Company held their 4th Annual Lemonade Stand for charity on September 20th. It was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma. "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," says Martha Thorn owner of The Thorn Collection affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty in Belleair Bluffs. "We raised \$16,300 that day for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation." The National Pediatric Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for research to eliminate childhood cancer. Get more information at www.NationalPCF.org.



EXPANSION NEARING COMPLETION Morton Plant Hospital is almost done with its new \$200-million campus transformation that adds 200,000 square feet of space. The primary project is the new Doyle Tower, a four-story patient and surgical tower with operation rooms and clinics. The Emergency Center was also expanded during this project. Construction began in March of 2015.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS October 2nd, Beverly Shoes celebrated their 10th anniversary in Belleair Bluffs. Recently, Beverly Halliwell sold her shop to long time employee Courtenay Twinam, however, Beverly is still involved in the company, giving Courtenay guidance. The shop has expanded its lines and accessories and Marci Finn, an employee for five years, has been promoted to manager. Swing by the store in The Plaza and wish them a Happy Anniversary.



Business Briefs



BEACH ZONE OPENS Beach Zone is open for business. The big beach supply store, at the south end of the new shopping center next to CVS, opened September 1. There has still been no announcements yet as to who the tenants will be for the other four spaces. There are

a couple of people very interested, but nothing but the details are still being negotiated.

STILL FOR SALE The county owned property, just south of 18 On The Rocks has been for sale since December 2015. It has been put out for bids three times, the last of which was July 2016, but the bids have not been high enough. Now, they have divided the property into three parcels, and are taking separate bids on each.

The three parcels total .83 acres MOL. The rectangular site with 300 feet of frontage on Gulf Blvd. would be appropriate for a mixed-use development incorporating commercial and residential units. Interested persons should contact county employee Jim Just at 464-3925 or email him at JJust@PinellasCounty.org. You may also call the City of Indian Rocks Beach with any zoning questions.

IT'S BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU TIME Just past midnight on the third Thursday of November, over a million cases of Beaujolais Nouveau begin their journey to Restaurants and Wine Stores throughout the world. This year, that day is November 16th. Beaujolais [BOE-zjoh-lay] Nouveau is a light, simple, grapey, red wine produced from the Gamay grape that is meant to be consumed within six months of release. Beaujolais Nouveau is a wine that you should drink slightly chilled and enjoy as a quaffing wine or with lighter cuisine. It is very popular on the Thanksgiving table, in part due to the release date, but also because it pairs well with turkey or even ham. Beginning November 16th, look for the 2017 selections at Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market, located at The Plaza 100 Shopping Center at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, next to E & E Stakeout Grill

LAUGHING LIZARD SOLD Indian Rock Beach's only Bed and Breakfast, owned by former City Mayor Bill Ockunzi, was sold. New owners, T&J Gonzalez Properties Management, are headquartered in Plant City. Ockunzi owned and operated Laughing Lizard as a B&B until last year. Gonzalez Properties plans to continue to operate it as a multi-unit vacation rental, with an office in the front. Currently, Gordon Realty House operates out of that location. Ockunzi moved to Safety Harbor.

NORTHSTAR BANK CHANGING NAMES Northstar Bank was bought earlier this year by Sea Coast Banks. On Monday, October 23 you will see a new sign in front of the bank located at 715 Indian Rocks Road North, but inside there are few changes. Branch Manager Christina Dickson and her staff are all still there.

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SEARS STORE CLOSES - A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?



By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The shopping world is changing. If you have not traveled to the northwest side of town, you may not know that the Sears building at Tyrone Square Mall has been razed. It was one of only five left in the Bay Area. Is this an indication of things to come in the retail world?

Everyone can relate to Sears, the company that started in 1888 as a catalog company. My first-ever purchase was an \$8 fishing net from a downtown Jacksonville Sears. The Tyrone Mall Sears, called Sears, Roebuck & Co when the store was built, was within eyesight of where my wife grew up. As a teenager, it was her after school hangout, even before it had a mall attached. Her father and grandfather managed Sears stores in other states, before she was born.

Dwight Holmes, a Tampa architect now living in Indian Rocks Beach, was involved in designing and building that Tyrone Blvd. Sears store.

"In the 1960s, I worked for Herbert H. Johnson, a major architectural firm out of Miami," Holmes told me. "They designed most of the Florida Sears stores. Sears was at the top of the ladder in department stores, and based in Chicago, with

other big guys like J.C. Penney, Macy's and Sax Fifth Avenue."

"From 1966 until it opened in 1968, it was my job to oversee the store's construction," Holmes explains. "I saw the project develop from the ground up. Then, it was the biggest project I had ever done. I can't believe now they are tearing it down."

Many years after it opened, in 1982, while working for the DeBartolo Corporation, I was the Assistant Manager of Tyrone Square Mall, which included that Sears store. At the time the Mall had four large anchor stores, one at each corner: Sears, J.C. Penney, Maas Brothers and Robinsons. Two are long gone, and Sears is following suite.

To get the job at Tyrone, I was interviewed by the Mall's Manager and the heads of the four department stores. The manager of Sears asked me what I was going to do to bring shoppers to the mall. I told them "I am going to hire a Rain Dancer and make it rain a lot." They laughed, said I knew what I was talking about and hired me.

Later, I was transferred to Tampa's University Square Mall—with the same four department stores. That is when I saw the beginnings of Sears problems, when the Sears store dropped out of the Mall's Merchants' Association--something that had never been done in the entire United States. The manager said they were having sales problems (across the country) and he was told to cut costs wherever he could, so he cut us out of his budget. That was in 1984.

That early stumble was probably caused by numerous managerial missteps, which alienated its middle-class customers and new competition. Sears was well-known for its selection of tools and hardware, then along came Home Depot and Lowes. Back to school shoppers moved to the "upscale" Target and then suddenly, rural Wal-Mart moved into urban markets. It all cut into Sears profits, who was unable to correct the problems.

Now, we are seeing many department store chains closing stores in the area and around the country. Sears has announced 62 major store closings, J.C. Penney 130 to 140, and Kmart (owned by Sears) is closing 165 stores, Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom are poised to be next. Wal-Mart and Target are cutting back, as well.

Why the new round of closings? Amazon and online shopping such as eBay, Overstock.com and Zappos.com have all taken their share of the pie. It is now about the convenience, which many times includes reduced prices.

Their remotely located warehouses (E-bay doesn't even need warehouses), fast delivery and razor-thin margins give them a price advantage.

Unfortunately, now we are also seeing small mall-oriented stores closing, too. Payless Shoes is closing 400 stores; BCBG is filing bankruptcy. Charlotte Russe, Gymboree, Nine West and Claire's are closing stores, too. As more mall stores close, you will see more indoor malls close.

The big guys have created an internet presence and are promoting their online sales. You can go to Target.com or WalMart.com, buy the same products as they offer in their stores, and you never have to leave your home.

When you put it all together, people love the convenience of being able to shop when they want, without dealing with crowds, while saving money. Even Black Friday is moving to online shopping. No use in fighting this trend, it looks like it is here to stay.

So what is going to be built on the site of the old Tyrone Sears store? Restaurants, of course! You can't do that online.



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ST. PETERSBURG MEMORY CAFÉ

By Jane Ogilvie

Last month, the Memory Café experience was introduced to Downtown St. Petersburg at the Hollander Hotel. St. Pete Memory Café is currently scheduled to meet monthly at Carrabba's Italian Grill, located at 1951 4th St. N. from 11am-1:00pm on every 2nd Monday in the private dining room. The meeting is free. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

Memory Café is a leisurely gathering of people with memory concerns. It's for those who have already received a dementia diagnosis and are still living at home, those with early onset dementia, and those who await more accurate diagnoses. Socialization and the simple act of going out to eat, meeting and talking to others is a key factor in helping to maintain a high quality of life while living with dementia. Memory Café helps to fill this need and decrease feelings of loneliness.

St. Pete Memory Café gets you out of the house to enjoy the company of understanding others together with your full time care partner. This is an opportunity to participate in stimulating conversation, meet new people, share a good joke, offer helpful everyday living tips, boost spirits, lunch, and learn in a non-stressful environment.

Memory Cafes originated in the UK. It's a concrete example of the term, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Dementia information and support resources were lacking. Norman McNamara who had received a Lewy Body Disease dementia diagnosis at age 50 and his wife Eileen weren't ready to give up living their active and fulfilling lives. A disturbing interaction with a shopkeeper one day, unexpectedly inspired the couple to much greater action.

They found other people with memory problems and began getting together with them regularly. This kind of camaraderie became a lifeline to continue living engaged and enriched lives. Since then, Memory Cafes have been started in other countries. As a result of Norm and Eileen's efforts and with help from a few other key people, the Purple Angel Global Dementia Awareness organization was born. This organization exists to help educate the public and the business community about dementia. It seeks to diminish the stigma associated with this incurable brain disease, and strives to make day to day business interactions friendlier and less stressful.

The St. Petersburg Memory Café is the second Memory Café created and sponsored by Cate McCarty, PhD, Dr. Cate Dementia Coach, and Jane Ogilvie, LPN and Elder Care Issue Consultant at Senior Solutions of Pinellas County. Their first area Memory Café was started in Gulfport, earlier this year at Neptune Grill Restaurant and has been favorably received. In August, Meridien Research became an active sponsor of these two events.

Together, Cate and Jane share a combined 70+ years of professional skill and experience in helping families with various aging issues including dementia. Both are Purple Angel Global Dementia Awareness Ambassadors, and understand dementia professionally and personally through family experiences.

Please RSVP to attend the St. Petersburg Memory Café at Carrabba's: Jane: 727-327-0167 or sensol@seniorsmile.com or Cate: 813-384-7571 or catemccarty@gmail.com

Dementia directly and indirectly effects every community and business in St. Petersburg. People living with dementia are customers, family members, friends and neighbors.

If your business is interested in helping to raise dementia awareness in St. Pete by becoming Dementia Friendly, or you'd like your business to be considered for sponsorship of the St. Pete Memory Café, please contact Jane or Cate.

COUNTRY JUBILEE IS A FALL TRADITION AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

The 39th annual Country Jubilee is back again at Pinellas County's Heritage Village, located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo, on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society, all proceeds go to support the operation of Heritage Village. The event offers visitors a wide variety of crafts, enjoying live bluegrass, folk, rock and traditional country music along with stepping into the past to enjoy old-timey fun-filled activities for the whole family.

Cornucopia of crafters

More than 80 craft vendors will sell home-created items, including: candles, soap, doll clothing, honey, smoked almonds, paintings, photography, jewelry, stained glass, wooden treasures and handmade holiday decorations.

Fantastic food

Visitors can choose from pulled pork sandwiches smoked in the Village's own smokehouse, hot dogs, chicken platters, pizza, kettle corn and more. For dessert, brownies, pies and cookies will be available along with many other choices.

Musical offerings

Bluegrass, folk and many other styles of musical entertainment will be offered at the bandstand, starting at 10 a.m. Back by popular demand: Charlie Bill, Leigh and Steve Humes, Chant the Trees, Bill & Eli Perras, Charlie Morris, and Crackerbillies will be part of the entertainment at the event.

Entertainment/Demonstrations

For visitors who want to do more than listen, ukulele lessons will be given at the McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin. Instructors will provide beginner and advanced beginner lessons for children and adults. A number of ukuleles will

be available for use and visitors are encouraged to bring their own and participate.

A first time, featured activity for children will be an opportunity to build a wooden Optimist-Pram and sail the boat near the Boat House.

The Largo Historical Society will demonstrate how sugar cane is made into sugar cane syrup. A truck load of raw sugar cane will be ground and pressed, then boiled down to make the syrup.

The Pinellas Genealogy Society will advise visitors about tracing their ancestry. Society members will be on hand in front of the Greenwood House to answer questions and provide information about research techniques.

At the Train Depot, the Morse Telegraph Club Florida Chapter will be demonstrating how people communicated with Morse code. Four Men and Their Trains, a local train enthusiast club, will run "G" scale model trains all day around the Train Depot.

Flea Market

The ever-popular flea market is bigger and better than ever. The Lowe House will display crafts and holiday decorations, while the Harris School will be loaded with books, videos, DVDs and phonograph records. The Safety Harbor Church will have vintage linens, collectibles and antiques and the Pinellas Room will be loaded with a variety of items, from jewelry to sets of dishes, and tools.

Free event parking and a free shuttle are located at 119th Street between Ulmerton and Walsingham Roads. A donation of \$4 for adults, 12 years and older, is suggested for admission. Children under 12 enter free



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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE - THAT'S THE TRUE HURRICANE IRMA STORY

On Saturday, September 10th, Hurricane Irma, took aim at Pinellas County. By Monday, the storm was north of the Tampa Bay, but it had left its mark on the Belleair area and Pinellas County.

The highest reported area winds were around 65 MPH, more than enough to cause an evacuation of the barrier islands, topple thousands of trees, bring down miles of power lines and close hundreds of businesses.

78 percent of Pinellas households were without power for multiple days. Many parts of Belleair Bluffs had no power for over a week. It was interesting the things that people missed the most, post-Irma. Electricity, ice, gas, Internet, cell phones and COFFEE! Coffee was high on that list.

Many people rose to the call and worked to restore our lives. Utility companies—Duke Power, Frontier Communications, Spectrum Cable--showed up with an army of trucks. The police, sheriff, fire and EMS were out in force. But, there were many examples of people helping people. People who were not being paid come to the aide of their fellow neighbors.

Here are just a few of those stories... we have a few more in our Restaurant News section.



BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB – The Golf club was closed and converted into the Emergency Command Center of the Town of Belleair. The Club provided food and amenities.

PUBLIX ON SOUTH FT. HARRISON

donated a large quantity of perishable food before and during the storm to The Town of Belleair's Emergency Command Center workers who needed food to keep going.

THE DOYLE FAMILY, who now owns the Biltmore Golf Course facility, opened up their construction site to provide a staging area and much needed sand to fill over 1,200 sand bags.



NORTHSTAR BANK had power restored by Tuesday, long before many other. People came in to charge their cell phones. "We offered everyone coffee," says Christina Dickson, branch manager. "One guy asked if he could use our board room to set up his small business. We said, "Sure. Why not."

THE SUNCOAST SEA CADETS, an area Navy / Coast Guard sponsored youth program, went into the neighborhoods after the storm to help the Clearwater Garden Club clean up trees and debris. (SuncoastSeaCadets.org.)



LARGO HIGH SCHOOL was Belleair's closest designated Hurricane Evacuation Center. Principal Bradley Finbinder did not really know how many people to expect. He had workers lined up - a school staff of five in the cafeteria, five from plant operations, five from administration and others

showed up like clockwork at 6am. Eventually about 3,800 people came to the School to escape the storm

First, they filled the gym, then the hallways, then building #2, then the Research Center (Library) and then some classrooms. They stayed for about two days and received hot meals from the school's staff.

When workers began to be overloaded, Finbinder emailed other school employees to ask if they could help. Six more showed up. Even the evacuees pitched in to help, moving furniture and emptying trash cans.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB opened its doors to the community after the storm, offering fresh hot coffee to all its neighbors. It was a great moment of fellowship with old and new friends, swapping personal Hurricane Irma stories.

CITY OF LARGO When the City hit a few roadblocks trying to secure supplies for working employees and first responders, local businesses donated including: The Amish Country Store, CIS Services, Frida's Café and Bakery, Mugs Sports Bar and Grill, Pal Joey's, Publix Grocery, Safeway, Starbucks, Tailgators Sports Bar, Target, Tijuana Flats and Walmart. Largo Medical Center opened their parking garage to Fire, Police and Community Development vehicles giving the city the ability to stage recovery vehicles for immediate response after the storm. The Town of Belleair, welcomed Fire Station 43 personnel to relocate to their Public Works facility a Cat-5 structure. Pinch-a-Penny opened their Cat-5 warehouse to recovery employees. When gas was limited, Wawa reopened their pumps for City vehicles. It takes a community working together to weather a storm. The generosity of these businesses and residents, allowed the City to provide necessary services to its citizens

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

on Ulmerton Road is not an official evacuation center, but they had communicated to church and school employees they, and their families, were welcome to stay in their large, hurricane proof facility. They also volunteered it to First



Responders and their families, too. Soon, the word was out. Members and non-members alike began showing up at their door. In all, 1,500 people, with 400 pets, made their way to the church. Evacuees braved the wind and rain to help new arrivals bring their suitcases and animal crates inside. Everyone received hot meals, played games and made the best of it.

PUBLIX IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS closed at noon on Saturday and reopened Monday. All the food was fine thanks to a commercial generator. As soon as they opened, people started drifting in, "Do you have any coffee?" "Can I plug in a cell phone?" Store Manager Miriam Odum, set up a FREE coffee table near the front door and served hundreds of cups. She moved the vending machines by the front door to allowing room to plug in extension cords so people could charge their phones while they shopped.

"One resident came in to buy several hundred bottles of Gatorade," recalls Miria. "He and his son had collected neighborhood donations to provide drinks to the army of power company employees." Miriam and Publix employees contributed to the Gatorade fund. Management also fed many of those workers.

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November 30th - The Plaza Christmas Party

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Bar & Restaurant News



118 ICE CREAM FLAVORS

When Fun Ride Rentals moved out, Tropical Ice Cream expanded - big time. In addition to adding to their space, owner Craig Severson, is adding four new ice cream coolers with 42 new flavors of ice

cream. That means he now has 118 flavors. Severson says, "we now carry more flavors of ice cream than any other ice cream store in the United States!" The expansion also includes adding more seating, handicapped restrooms and a new game room for kids. He hopes to have it completed soon. Find them at the corner of Walsingham and Gulf Blvd.

NEW PUB OPENING IN INDIAN ROCKS New owners are coming into the space formerly occupied by The Sand Bar. It will be a gastro-pub with lots of TVs—"and really good food." The space is being totally remodeled and upgraded; the new owners have not been announced the name yet. Plans are to open later this year

TIME TO ORDER THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Let Maggie Mae's do the cooking. They offer to-go Thanksgiving Dinner's for pick up the day before Thanksgiving, after 3:30pm at their 2961 West Bay Dr., Belleair Bluffs location. All dinners will be fully cooked and packaged so all you have to do is re-heat and serve. No mess. No fuss. Just good food! Place your order no later than November 20th.



All dinners include: Sliced Turkey Breast, Old-Fashioned Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Gravy, Candied Yams, Cranberry Relish, Dinner Roll and slices of your choice of Pumpkin Pie or Apple Pie. Dinner for one is \$17, for two \$32 and for four \$60 (packed family style) Maggie Mae's will be closed on Thanksgiving Day so that their employees can enjoy the day with their families.



KEEGAN'S STONE CRAB FESTIVAL SCHEDULED

The Annual Stone Crab Festival at Keegan's Seafood Restaurant will be October 27-29. They do not have any bands but instead have low, low prices on Stone Crab Claws for those three days—while supply lasts. Get more information at KeegansSeafood.com.

Bar & Restaurant News

WESTSHORE PIZZA WEATHERS THE STORM

The crew at Westshore Pizza went to inspect the store the day after the hurricane. "We went by the shop on Tuesday morning just to see if it was OK," says co-owner Denise. "We had the doors wide open and a guy walks in asking for coffee. We had a generator, so we made the guy some coffee. Before we knew it, we had a dozen people—residents and power company employees asking for coffee, then food. Our ovens run on gas, so we fired them up and made pizza and sandwiches with anything left the cooler.



For four days, we cooked. We gave away food, drinks, beer and wine. We did not charge anyone. Some left donations, but we were just happy we did not have any damage.

TACO BUS HEADING TO CLEARWATER BEACH

The very popular Taco Bus is opening a new location on the northeast corner of the new Edge Hotel, next to the sidewalk. This will be the ninth



Taco Bus restaurant, most of which, are in the Tampa Bay area. The first originated in a refurbished school bus, but now there are brick-and-mortar locations plus buses that all offer a range of Mexican hand-held wrappers stuffed with beef, fish, or even fermented soybeans. This new one has just started construction, and there is no opening date announced yet. If you just can't wait, visit the closest open location at 2324 Central Avenue, in St Petersburg

BAYSIDE RESTAURANT GROUP FEEDS LINEMEN

After Hurricane Irma, Frank Chivas, primary partner of the Baystar Restaurant Group (Marlin Darlin's, Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Marina Cantina, and others) had the idea of providing bag lunches to the crews working to restore the area's power. He called his various restaurant managers who quickly prepared 750 lunches. Then around



5:30am Monday morning, when the storm had moved out, Frank gathered the lunches from his restaurants and delivered them to the crews. It took some doing, but Baystar Restaurant Group got it done.

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Bar & Restaurant News



BELLEAIR MARKET SERVES THE COMMUNITY

The Market stayed open serving customers until noon on Saturday. It was everyone's last stop for batteries, water, beer, wine, whatever they needed, before the storm hit. Then, staff boarded up and went home. At 8am on Monday, with the

hurricane still blowing, a customer called looking for a cup of hot coffee. "Coffee? Hot? What are they thinking," though owner Chris Scott. With no power he and Julie went to the store, started the generator and made some coffee, which led to hundreds of gallons of coffee.

Their food was slowly thawing, so they got a gas grill and started cooking it — breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. They estimated they served 300 dinners on Monday. Tuesday they made 60 gallons of coffee, 175 breakfasts and 200 other meals. Between Wednesday and Thursday, another 300 breakfasts and 400 lunches. When the propane ran out, Officer Rick Doyle of the Belleair Police Department, got more—twice. The Belleair Market served all the Duke Power, Police and Firemen for free. Others paid whatever they could offer since credit card machines didn't work without power. Many customers ate and drank for free.

Chris and Julie say they worked four straight fourteen-hour days, as did much of their staff. Even customers jumped in and worked the grill.

THE DONUT EXPERIMENT This new donut shop in the south end of the beach, specializes in made-to-order donuts and premium coffee. It starts with one of their fresh-made cake donut, then you pick from a huge selection of icings and toppings. It can be as simple as plain or glazed or as crazy as key lime, maple bacon or Sriracha. Donuts start at \$1.35, with a dozen starting at \$13. They are located at 668 South Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach, next to Gondolier Pizza. Visit TheDonutExperiment.com.

DOCKSIDE DINO'S SPACE REOPENING This restaurant's space has been closed since owner Dino passed away last year. Now, Frank Chivas and the Baystar Group (owners of Marlin Darlin's) are remodeling the space with plans to open a small coffee and ice cream shop inside. It is located at the north entrance of the Clearwater Beach Marina Building.



NEW OWNERS FOR CLEARWATER'S CORK 'N BREW

Welcome Shane & Angela Bittaker, the new owners of the Cork 'N Brew restaurant located at 524 Mandalay Ave, Clearwater Beach. You can enjoy 22 beers on tap and over 30 different fine wines with a range of appetizers, small plates, and lava rock

cooked dining selections. It is open Tuesday through Sunday and they offer Happy Hour Specials and live music on Friday and Saturday nights.

HOW OLD IS YOUR SMOKE ALARM?

October is Fire Prevention month, and the Fire Department wants to make sure your smoke alarm is current and functional. It should be replaced every 10 years, and smoke alarm batteries should be changed each time you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Times, which is coming up next month. To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the manufacturer's date on the back of the alarm. Smoke alarms provide early warning should a fire break out in your home or business



27TH SUNCOAST JAZZ CLASSIC Hosted on Clearwater Beach November 17-19

The annual Suncoast Jazz Festival is November 17-19, on Clearwater Beach. The festival spans five simultaneous indoor venues and ballrooms between the Sheraton Sand Key and Marriott Sand Key, with bands rotating hourly, day and night. Dedicated Jolley Trolley lines allow attendees to freely ride from property to property to hear the various entertainers.

The festival will present over 20 bands and guest artists from both Tampa Bay and nationally. The majority of the regular festival attendees and sponsors are drawn from around US, Canada and international locations. A grant from the City of Clearwater has made it possible to extend jazz festivities for the public all week long around the City of Clearwater.

Dance floors are available near the musicians for dancers who enjoy their music doing the Lindy Hop or East Coast Swing. On Friday night, one ballroom has a larger swing dance floor for the Swing Dance Party from 7 PM to midnight, which begins with an hour of instruction by the Swing Time Dancers.

Festival bands are highly entertaining spanning traditional jazz, big band, swing, zydeco, banjos, rockabilly and more.

November 15th, the Festival and the Central Park Performing Arts Center present Louis Prima Jr. (separate ticket required).

Youth bands from area High Schools will also perform in accordance with our support of area youth musicians. As a 501(c)3 organization, the Festival provides substantial scholarships and educational events benefiting young musicians in our community.

Daily tickets are on sale now starting at \$40. Three-day tickets are \$125. Student tickets are available for \$10. For information or to purchase tickets, visit our web site at suncoastjazzclassic.com or call (727) 248-9441.

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE



Death By Chocolate, the annual delicious tradition of the Largo Rotary, is Friday, December 1 at 7pm at the Largo Community Center.

The evening will feature mouth-watering delicacies and deserts created by the area's top restaurants. This chocolate heaven will tempt your taste buds, while holiday music will fill the air. This is one of the Largo Rotary's largest fund-raisers and helps fund their good works throughout the area. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door and available by calling 587-6793.

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38TH CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY - OCTOBER 19 - 22

Now in its 38th year, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Presented by HCI Group Inc. is thrilled to present, in concert, between October 19 and 22: Kenny Loggins and Michael McDonald, The Avett Brothers, Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox, The Temptations and The Four Tops, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Anderson East, The James Hunter Six, Jon Cleary, Jason Miles Presents "Celebrating the Music of Weather Report" Featuring Jeff Coffin and Carter Beauford (of the Dave Matthews Band) Philip Dizak, Shaun Martin, Mino Cinelu, Gerald Veasley and Karen Briggs, Honey Island Swamp Band, La Lucha Featuring Jeff Rupert and Marty Morell, Helios Jazz Orchestra, Mama's Batch, Alex Harris and Band, Erica DiCeglie, The Players School of Music Featuring Peter Mongaya and Friends and Ruth Eckerd Hall / Clearwater Jazz Holiday Youth Jazz Band! The Clearwater Jazz Holiday continues its exciting collaboration with Ruth Eckerd Hall to bring an amazing and diverse lineup of headline acts to Clearwater in 2017.

This year's artwork helps create the overall theme for the 38th Clearwater Jazz Holiday. The 2017 Clearwater Jazz Holiday Artist is Nate Baranowski. Nate is a street painter, muralist, and fine artist based out of Tampa, Florida, USA. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where his passion for street painting began. Nate is a versatile artist experienced with a range of mediums, including large chalk murals, indoor and outdoor painted murals, acrylic on canvas, and various forms of digital painting and concept art. After working for several years in the themed design industry, Nate branched out into full-time freelance art at the beginning of 2015. Throughout the year, Nate travels to perform in street painting festivals across the country where he joins other talented artists to wow audiences with elaborate chalk drawings. Street painting is unique in that it can be appreciated by people of all ages, from the casual festival goer to the art aficionado. This art form is a perfect way for Nate to

connect to the audience.

Presented in the 20-acre landscaped Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater overlooking beautiful Clearwater Harbor and the majestic Memorial Causeway Bridge, the Jazz Holiday is four days and nights of some of the best live performances in the world presented to the public. The visitor experience is complemented by the Clearwater area's mild fall weather, miles of world-famous Gulf beaches, brilliant sunsets, nearby attractions, accommodations and dining to suit every taste and budget.

One of the longest-running and known events in the country, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday has presented in concert multiple luminaries of our generation. The mission of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation is to be Florida's leading proponent of jazz entertainment and education, through the annual presentation of a world-class, live music festival. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation is a 501c3 organization that has been center-stage for numerous scholarship and educational activities to benefit the music students of our community-from the blues-loving beginners to piano-playing protégés, and everyone in between.

The magic of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday emanates from its long-time collaboration with the City of Clearwater, Ruth Eckerd Hall, St Petersburg/Clearwater CVB, and hundreds of volunteers that orchestrate every chord of the Jazz Holiday, a celebration of the most recognized and emerging national, regional, and local artists. From smooth and straight ahead jazz, to rhythm and blues, jam band, folk, Americana, funk, fusion, and Latin, thousands of music lovers always relish in a colorful and diverse musical lineup.

Tickets On-Sale NOW starting at \$16 in advance. Children 12 and under are FREE. Limited Reserved Seating and VIP tickets are available. For information, call (727) 461-5200, or visit ClearwaterJazz.com or facebook.com/ClearwaterJazz.

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FALL COLOR FOR YOUR YARDS



By Randy Lee

Fall is here in Central Florida and its time to add color to the landscape. With sunny, cooler weather it is time to get out in the yard and finish end of the year details like trimming, fertilizing and planting flowers. We plant both annuals (living only one season) and perennials (living for several seasons) during this time of the year. My favorite time to plant is the first of November

since the heat is gone and the holidays are right around the corner. We plant thousands of annuals in November and December so get your trowel out and let's get started.

There are many annuals to choose from: sweet alyssum, geranium, pansy, begonia, petunia, snap dragon and salvia. These are the more popular annuals. Popular perennials include crown of thorn, penta, lantana and blue daze. I prefer perennials in the summer months and annuals in the winter. Annuals are generally planted from October through May so take advantage of them during these months. Impatiens is also very popular in Florida. The two varieties we grow in Florida are Sunpatiens and New Guinea.

Before selecting your flowers, keep a few things in mind. First, what colors do you want to use and how do you want to use them in the overall design in the landscape? Colors are grouped into two groups: the cooler lighter colors and the hotter more vivid colors. Cooler colors include white, pink and blue. Vivid colors include red, purple and orange. Most people have a preference.



Next, remember to use the right flowers in the right place. Is the area wet or dry? Are the flowers in full sun or shade or somewhere in between? Each type of flower has a preference.

The area should be prepped with a light fertilizer and good potting soil - the ground may need to be loosened as well. A granular fertilizer can also be used every eight weeks to keep the flowers looking their best. I typically will mulch before planting if using smaller flowers since mulching after is difficult.

You may want to layer the flowers with a shorter flower in front like sweet alyssum and a taller plant in back like geranium - this layering effect can be very dramatic. Be sure to space the flowers correctly and do not be afraid to use a lot of plants. Follow these few steps for many months of beautiful flowers.

- October/November checklist:
- Fertilizer ban is lifted
- Great time to plant fall color
- Ease off on the mowing and trimming
- Great time to plant large trees
- Redo pots and containers at this time

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HURRICANE PROTECTION THE ROCK AND THE BLESSING

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

We dodged a big one last month, Hurricane Irma. A Category 4 hurricane slated to hit Tampa Bay. All the weather forecasters showed a line running up the state and going right through Pinellas County. Then—everything changed. Irma’s course shifted to the east and traveled through Polk County, Orlando and on to Jacksonville.

What happened? Was it the steering currents? Or something greater?

For over a hundred years, old-timers and local writers have talked about a blessing by a Tocobaga Princess who buried a rock somewhere in Pinellas County. The princess is said to have delivered a prayer and asked the gods to spare the area of hurricanes and other bad weather.

Is this story true? We know, the Tocobaga Indians were in this area from about 600 AD until the Spanish arrived in the mid-1500s. They were a friendly tribe who mostly farmed and fished.

If you look at the history of hurricanes, A major hurricane has hit the Tampa Bay / Pinellas area. Records are sketchy prior to the mid-1800s. We had two big ones in 1848. The last one to hit Pinellas was in 1921 (It came in at Tarpon Springs). Others have passed close enough to create high winds and damage.

Most weathermen say it is all in the statistics. We live on the West coast of Florida, the backside, and most hurricanes form near Africa and move in a westerly direction. They say we are somewhat protected by Florida’s land mass. However, hurricanes start in the Western Caribbean in September and October. Those have a tendency to move north and westerly—towards Tampa Bay.

We will never know for sure if the tale is true, but whether or not it is true is not really important. Myths get passed down from generation to generation and like Santa Claus, if you believe, then it is true to you. Folk tales give us comfort, so we don’t care if we cannot prove or disprove.

Many people like to believe the blessing protects us. “It’s almost like the myth becomes history,” says Rui Farias, Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History. “I was not a believer before—but now I am. Thank goodness for the Tocobagan Indians, is all I have to say.”

Was it the blessing—or just good luck? Who knows? Either way, be thankful that Hurricane Irma did not directly hit Pinellas County.

HOLIDAY TOUR TICKETS

The Florida Orchestra Guild will host its sixth annual Holiday Tour of Homes, December 2nd. It is even more special this year as the Florida Orchestra celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

On that date, many downtown residents in the Northeast area and Snell Isle, will open their homes for the Christmas Holiday tour. Each home will reflect their personal and unique way of holiday decorating based on family and cultural traditions.

Tickets, on sale now at a discount, are \$20 in advance. Order tickets by mail, payable to The Florida Orchestra Guild, and mailed to Holiday Tour of Homes, 1440 52nd Avenue North, St Pete, 33703. Look for their booth at the Saturday Morning Market, too. Call 254-1176 for more information.

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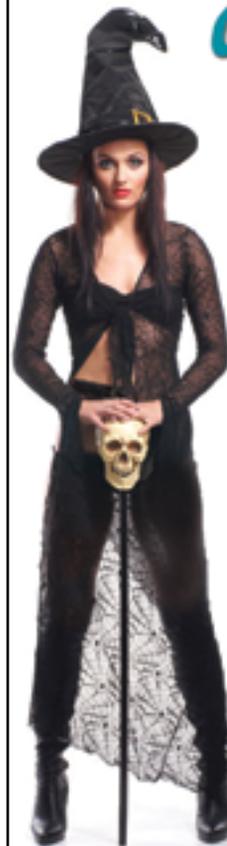
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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

All citizens who wish to legally operate a motor vehicle on the road must possess a valid driver's license or learner's permit. However, the same cannot be said about citizens on the water. Although Florida law now requires boat-operators born after January 1, 1988, to complete an approved boater education course and receive a "Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card," there are exceptions. This means responsible vessel operators should arm themselves with boating knowledge and rules of the water, as well as remain alert for the other boaters who don't.

To help prepare citizens and encourage safe, responsible boating, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office sponsors programs like "Operation Kid-Float," a boating safety education and personal flotation device (PFD) loaner program. Florida law requires that one PFD, or "lifejacket," per passenger be readily accessible on the vessel at all times, and children under age 6 must wear PFDs while underway. Through Operation Kid-Float, boaters can pick up available PCSO-owned PFDs at popular boat ramps throughout the county, including Dunedin City Marina, John Chestnut Park in Palm Harbor, and Fort De Soto Boat Ramp in Tierra Verde. The PCSO Marine Facility in Indian Shores is also available for drop off only.

In addition to the operation's message board kiosk locations, marine deputies carry loaner PFDs onboard to distribute as necessary during boat safety equipment inspections.

When marine deputies are patrolling Pinellas County's nearly 588 coastal miles on busy holiday weekends, they also keep an eye out for children who are already sporting their PFDs and reward them with Operation Kid-Float t-shirts.

PFD possession is only one way to stay safe on the water. Before you boat, adhere to these key safety tips:

1. Complete a safe boating course: Driving a car and a boat require different skill sets and knowledge about entirely different rules and regulations. Enrolling in an in-person or online boaters' safety course is a great way to learn the rules of the water and familiarize yourself with basic boating principles. Visit the National Safe Boating Council website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org for links to several approved online courses.

2. Know your boat: Before you set sail, get familiar with the vessel you are operating and the area you are navigating, including water depth, tides, weather, slow or idle speed requirements, and swim exclusion and restricted zones.

3. Get equipped: PFDs aren't the only required boating gear. Visit the FWC's website for a list of other mandatory items based on what type of boat you have: <http://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/equipment/>.

4. Scan constantly: There are no stop signs or traffic lights on the water. You MUST constantly scan the water for other boaters, swimmers, water skiers, or stumps and other things jutting up from the water that can damage your boat or cause harm.

5. File a "float plan": Share your trip details – where you're going, when you plan to return, passengers' names, and boat information – with a responsible person before you launch, in case you lose contact in an emergency. Make sure to contact that person when you return safely.

6. Don't boat under the influence: Remember, operating any vehicle – including a boat – while impaired by drugs or alcohol is illegal and can end in a lot worse than a citation. Just as you would before a night out on the town, designate a sober driver for days on the water.

For more boating safety tips, visit the FWC, National Boating Safety Council, and the BoatUS Foundation websites. And, of course, don't forget the sunscreen!



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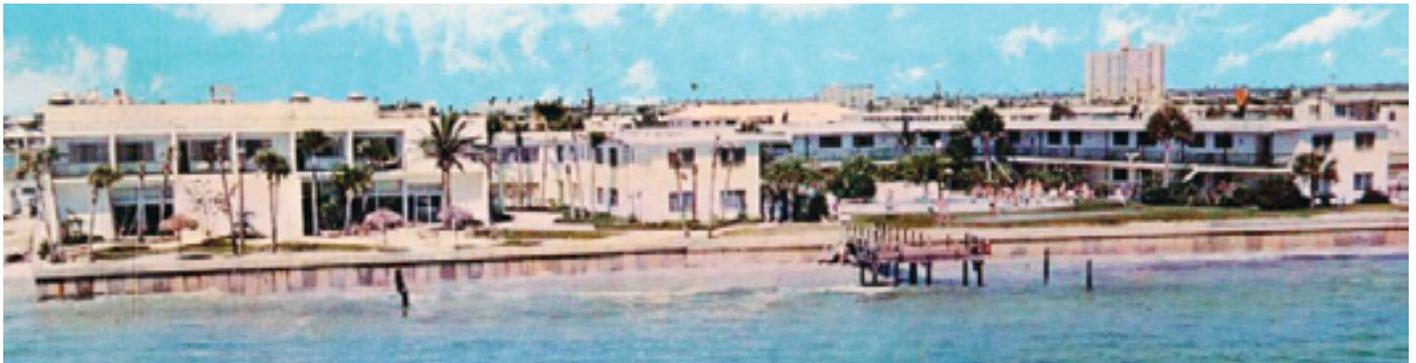
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look for the seminar listed in this newsletter



SHEPHARD'S BEACH RESORT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

When Bill Shephard moved his family to Florida, he left a motel he had owned for 11 years in Brunswick, Maine to start a new journey as the owner of Clearwater Beach's Lagoon Resort Motel, known today as Shephard's Beach Resort. Forty years later, his son Bill and daughter Gerri, who have been part of the business since 1991, are proud to continue his legacy as they celebrate these forty years, all at the same location!

From the beginning, Bill Shephard, Sr. was always putting money back in to the business and finding ways to improve his property. Over the years, he spearheaded several remodels. He updated all the rooms in the hotel several times, added two towers and parking garages, and in the process, created one of the area's most popular entertainment facilities, with both restaurants and bars. He never stopped looking for ways to better the business, one of the many things Bill Jr. and Gerri learned from their dad.

Bill Shephard, Sr. purchased the 67 room Lagoon Resort Motel in July, 1977. In the beginning, he had a lot of work to do to get the motel property to a standard he was proud of. The amenities were different back then. A spirited game of shuffleboard or tennis were sources of excitement. The property also had a buffet restaurant, called "The Bank." The restaurateur operating it had a long-term lease signed by the previous owner.

In the 1980s, the motel had many regulars that would stay for long periods of time. Bill and his wife Connie hosted Fish Fries and BBQs in the courtyard for their guests to show their appreciation. In the early 80s, Bill decided to do a dramatic makeover of the motel that included changing the flat roof to a pitched roof on the two-story building. As the 80s were coming to an end, so was the lease on the restaurant. Bill decided to take on a new venture, the restaurant business. Being that Bill had no experience in the restaurant business, many industry people tried to discourage him by telling him how difficult it was. Never less, Bill forged on and after totally gutting and remodeling the restaurant and kitchen, Shephard's Restaurant and Lounge opened on Christmas Eve, 1988. The 1990's brought the addition of Shephard's Tiki Bar. Live reggae music and bikini contests made it one of the most popular weekend hot spots. What started out as a table by the pool, then a little tiki hut, has eventually evolved into an entertainment venue with two bars, and a state of the art stage and lightshow, that has been host to several national acts. With the popularity of Shephard's Restaurant and Shephard's Tiki Bar, the name of the hotel gradually morphed from The Lagoon to Shephard's Beach Resort.

The early 2000s brought the first major expansion for the property. A new tower with forty new hotel rooms, a six story parking garage and two-level nightclub that opened in early 2001. The hotel now had ninety-four completely updated rooms that ranged from Studio and one or two bedroom suites, to the ultimate—the Sunset Suite on the top floor overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

The 2001 expansion was also the beginning of a state of the art, two-level nightclub called The Wave. There the chest pounding sound system and talented DJs keep the party going all night! To go along with the nightly themes and drink specials, The Wave also offers exclusive bottle service and private booths above the crowd in the VIP section of the club.

In 2012 the tiki bar area and stage were remodeled to bring their entertainment value up to the next level. New bars, a bigger stage, a new sound and lighting and the huge LED video wall make this venue, Shephard's Tiki Beach, one of the best in Florida.

In 2013, their largest expansion commenced. The two-story building was demolished to make way for ninety-three new hotel rooms, additional parking garage, and a new 7000 square foot pool and deck with cabanas. The new tower opened at the beginning of 2014. At the same time, Shephard's Restaurant and lounge also went under major construction. The goal – a new, modern buffet space became an open-air tequila and tap room called "Salt." It all opened in July of 2014.

Unfortunately, Bill Shephard Sr. never got to see the last evolution of Shephard's, but they know he would be proud. His philosophy was clear when he said, "My greatest personal satisfaction about the place has been that I have enjoyed seeing it grow and look forward to continuing the process of growing in the future. I hope to expand it right here. We stay fresh with the trends and keep modern. Many of our guests return again and again over the years. And, of course, our help is so good. We strive to get the best and keep them."

In all, the resort employs around 200 people and has several managers. They are proud to have people who have worked here for many years including Paul Andrews (nineteen years) and Jason Thoma (fourteen years) who are the facility's general managers. Paul handles the hotel operations and Jason the food and beverage operations.



Son Bill Jr. and daughter Gerri with their father, Bill Shephard Sr., in 2007.

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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 every month is the general assembly and Board meeting. They have events throughout the year and proceeds benefit many local charities including Belleair Elementary (Bicycles for Reading, Adopt a classroom), Upper Pinellas UPARC, the Salvation Army, Polio Eradication, the Rotary Foundation and many other local causes. Reach President John Funk at FloridaFunks@Yahoo.com or 727-599-3864. Their web site is www.BelleairRotary.org.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. Meetings are for lunch at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club, and normally cost \$22 (pay at the door; no credit cards). To RSVP for meetings. Call Mary Miskin at 453-2630 or Renatta Cochran at 595-6678. Visit 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.

NEWCOMER CLUB

Are you an area newcomer and just have not been able to meet people? 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 locations for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and theater shows.

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

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Gardens are flourishing with 36 families enjoying friendship, food and fun. It is funded by donations. The Summer Brunch provides over 50% of its annual funding.

They meet twice a month (October through May) in Clearwater at 405 Seminole Street. They also hold demonstrations on the third Saturdays of the month. Garden Club members get in free at the Francis Wilson Playhouse on final rehearsal nights. The new 2017-2018 President is Robyn Rinberger

For information, email ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com, call 316-5504, or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.org.



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City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication

Fall 2017

Thank You To All!

Hurricane Irma surprised us all and we want to thank all the businesses that opened up their doors to provide assistance to those in need.

We also want to thank the residents who have come in to City Hall to offer a kind word of thanks and to those residents who have been so helpful and understanding during the debris pick up.

This was an arduous process and we are fortunate to have only minor damage with the exception of a few homes.

Our thoughts go out to those in other areas who are suffering from tragedies.



City Wide Garage Sale

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

8:00AM TO 2:00 PM

Signs may only be placed on private property with proper authorization

ALL FEES ARE WAIVED

For Any Questions, please call 727-584-2151

Water Monitoring

Now, we must mention the NPDES, we know, boring. We have again entered into an agreement with Pinellas County to do all of our water monitoring of inlets and outfalls. This measures the toxicity going into and coming out of our drainage systems. Please do your part, don't put anything in an inlet! **NO oil, NO leaves, NO pool water** containing diatomaceous earth or chlorine, please, **nothing but rainwater.**

Thanks, and now onto something more pleasant...

ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

The annual Belleair Bluffs' Holiday Event is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2017 from 6 to 8 pm. The Salvation Army Band will be providing music while we all gather at the Community Center, 2747 Sunset Blvd. Following a welcome by Mayor Chris Arbutine and the City Commission the tree will be lit heralding the arrival of Santa. Santa will provide "goodies" to the children. The Bluffs Business Association will donate refreshments. The Horse Driven Hay Ride is back~~~~~.

Residents are asked to bring canned goods, boxed food, baby formula, flour, sugar, peanut butter, rice, pasta, or canned juice or fruit to donate.

Anyone that brings a food donation or a book for the "Little Library" will receive the City's Annual tree ornament.



Message from the Mayor

I feel blessed to be in a community that was able to come together in a time of trouble and need, to help one another survive and make it through. I want to thank all the businesses and residents that gave of their time and energy to help the community as a whole. Belleair Bluffs showed its true character and resilience in a positive manner.

Mayor Chris Arbutine

CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY PRESENTED BY HCI
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This project was sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. *Awards subject to change.

Organizational News...

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Junks & Jewels - October 12-14: This event, part Flea Market and part collectibles, is held every other year and offers an eclectic mix of collectibles, jewelry, antiques, toys and useful household goods. It is held at the Belleair Garden Club's campus. Pre-sale is October 12 (4:30-7pm) and costs \$5. Friday and Saturdays are free to the public. For information, call 412-2344.

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. Seasonal members \$30. Guests are welcome. Contact Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com or visit BelleairGardenClub.com.

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

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

October 18: Garden Tour and lunch at the Columbia.

November 15: Presentation by Michelle Orvis, owner of Belle's Olive Branch in Belleair Bluffs, followed by a catered lunch.

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Contact Mary Carey at 596-5981 or MLCKC@aol.com.

Presented by:
 IRB Action 2000
 City of Indian Rocks Beach

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Octoberfest on the Beach

KOLB PARK, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
OCTOBER 14, 2017
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Live Music Featuring
 Erica DiCeglie Band & MC - Mark Ralston
 Enjoy German music 11-1pm by Vince Demor
All Day Food & Fun
 Kinderfest 11:00 am to 2pm
CONTEST START TIMES 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm
 Stein Carrying Contest • Keg Throwing Contest
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For more information, visit OktoberfestOnTheBeach.com
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 BEER & WINE BEING SERVED
 * Please bring I.D. for alcoholic beverage consumption

HUGE SALE
"Junk & Jewels"

Collectibles, Jewelry, Toys,
 Household Goods, Art,
 Holiday Decorations.

Presale: October 12, 2017
4:30 to 7:00 pm
 (\$5.00 entry for presale only)

Sale: October 13-14, 2017
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

CASH ONLY
 Net proceeds support club scholarship & historic preservation programs.
 Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Belleair Garden Club
903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair 33756
412-2344 information

Organizational News...

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

They have started their new year with new president, Carol Frecker. The largest and most active social group in the area, this is their 38th year in Belleair. Their purpose is to meet, to know, and to grow—forming friendships through social activities.

They normally meets once a month, although the September meeting at Island Way Grill was canceled due to Irma. The date and locations vary.

Various activities include: Girl's Night Out, Lunch Bunch, Bridge, Culinary Critics, Scrabble, Artsy Outings, Bunko, Canasta, Mah Jongg and other adult activities including couples parties, cruises and girls nights out.

For info visit GBYWS.org, contact President Carol Frecker at 386-5806 or email GBYCommunication@Gmail.com.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

They meet monthly at 11:30am on the third Friday, at Belleair Country Club for lunch. Call Linda Mintz 488-1068.

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN. OF BELLEAIR

They are excited about the upcoming golf season, packed with plenty of friendship, fun, and tournaments! New members who wish to join the 18-hole group are welcome. Opening Day is October 24th. Contact the Belleair CC Pro Shop 727-442-0229 to sign up and join the fun. For information, visit www.belleaircc.com.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

Lois O'Donnell is serving as President (2017-18).

"Women With A Purpose" is this season's club charity. It provides assistance to Tampa Bay area women with families who need help in coping with the diagnosis of cancer. The October 10th meeting at the Beachcomber Restaurant will feature Jane Morse Swett, President of Women With Purpose.

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. Call Lois O'Donnell, 595-1349 or Sue Edmunds, 596-5710.

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.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

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*. Women in Belleair are also welcome to join 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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GET INFORMED

Before the Nov. 7 Penny for Pinellas renewal vote

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

November 7, our citizens have an important decision to make about our future: the Penny for Pinellas 1-percent sales tax is up for renewal for another 10 years. Since 1990, the Penny has been a crucial source of support for our long-term county and city level infrastructure needs, everything from enhancing our roads and protecting our water quality to expanding parks. Ahead of the vote, Pinellas County and our 24 cities have set future Penny priorities so our citizens know how this funding would be used if the renewal passes. Here are a few projects set by the Board of County Commissioners.

Water Quality, Flood & Sewer Spill Prevention: In an online survey, this was our citizen’s number 1 priority for future Penny funds. The county plans to make substantial investments to reduce flooding and prevent sanitary sewer overflows. This would include drainage projects to alleviate street and yard flooding along Indian Rocks Road as well as dozens of other locations around the county.

Roads, Bridges & Trails: Our goal is to provide safe, efficient travel for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists by expanding travel lanes where appropriate, improving intersections, building new sidewalks and resurfacing aging pavement. Sidewalk and road resurfacing projects are planned on Belleair Road alongside other projects, including the Oakwood Drive Bridge, Starkey Road and many more. The county also plans to use Penny funds to close gaps in the Pinellas Trail loop, which would take users around our peninsula. The Town of Belleair is also planning numerous road projects.

Safe, Secure Community: We saw firsthand the importance of Penny investments during Hurricane Irma. Dozens of agencies worked together under one roof at the county Public Safety Complex to coordinate evacuations, shelters and storm recovery. The Penny supported hardening buildings to create more emergency shelter spaces and a renewed Penny would continue expanding our shelters. Public safety vehicles, facilities, equipment and emergency communication radio towers are some of the top projects that would support our first responders.

Preserving Parks & Our Environment: The county would make targeted investments to replace and upgrade facilities, amenities and basic infrastructure throughout our park system.

Community Vitality: A portion of the renewed Penny would continue to be invested in land for affordable housing. The county has purchased numerous properties with Penny funds for development into quality homes through partnerships with local agencies and development companies.

In addition to the county’s projects, each city has set its own list of Penny priorities. Visit pinellascounty.org/penny, to see proposed projects on the interactive map. You can also search #PennyforPinellas on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates.

I encourage you to learn about the Penny before you vote. While the referendum is on November 7, you may opt to vote by mail during October. For decades, the Penny has allowed us to make critical investments without relying on property taxes. To fund the same projects without the Penny requires an estimated 2.4 mills of property tax, or about \$314 a year based on the average Pinellas County home value. Since the Penny is a sales tax, our millions of visitors help offset these costs; spending by tourists contributes about one-third of the Penny. Finally, it’s important to clear up any confusion: if the Penny is renewed, our sales tax will remain the same as it is now. Pinellas County’s 7-percent sales tax is right around the state average in Florida.

You can request a speaker to provide a presentation at your next community meeting by calling (727) 464-4600 or visiting pinellascounty.org/speak. Please feel free to contact me at (727) 464-3278 or kseel@pinellascounty.org. I welcome your input or questions about the future of the Penny.



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