



## The Beach's World War II Years

World War II impacted the life of every single American...man, woman, and child... including those living in Indian Rocks. Not only did nearly every person have a father or brother or sister or aunt or uncle in military service, but also everyday activities were affected by the War Effort.

You couldn't just go anywhere you wanted any time of the day or night, or just walk into a store and buy anything you wanted. Your first thought was always about supporting our country to win the war and bring peace to the world.

Every American family was issued books of ration stamps. Women took stamp books to the grocery store where the stamps limited their purchases of sugar, coffee, meats, fats, canned vegetables and canned milk. For men, ration stamps limited their purchases of gasoline, fuel oil, tires and tubes, and no new cars were available during war years. For children, ration stamps determined when they could get new shoes or a bicycle.

In Anona School's vegetable garden, every student had one row, which he weeded and watered at recess. The vegetables were served in the lunchroom. Extras were sold to neighbors. Students also collected scrap metal to be recycled into military equipment. We saved foil wrappers from our chewing gum and empty cans, anything to increase our collections. On Tuesdays, we proudly took our dimes and quarters to school to buy Savings Stamps, which we pasted into Stamp Books. When my book

was filled with 187 10-cent stamps, Mom and I took it to the Post Office with a nickel to make the total value \$18.75 and that bought me a Defense Savings Bond, which in 10 years would be worth \$25.

My father and sister were two of many volunteers who worked four-hour shifts in the look-out tower next to Brandon's Pavilion watching for planes or submarines. 24-hours a day, volunteers watched and when something was spotted, they phoned MacDill Air Field whose job was to identify it as friend or foe.

No one was allowed to swim after sunset. The Coast Guard inhabited Val Antuono's house (30 Gulf Blvd). Two Guardsmen with tommy guns patrolled the beach through the night. All residences had to be blacked-out, no light showing. Car headlights were painted black with only a 1 inch-by-3-inch space for light to shine through.

US Army Air Corps planes droned overhead daily except Sundays. P-40s and P-51s from Pinellas Air Field (now Clearwater-St. Pete Airport,) B-17s from Drew Field (now Tampa International), and B-26s from MacDill (Tampa) took target practice at the gunnery and bombing range on the uninhabited north end of the island (now Belleair Beach and Sand Key.) On Sundays, we kids rode bicycles to the range and collected the expended 50-calibre bullet shells.



Local families welcomed some soldiers we met on the beach or at the gunnery range to occasionally have dinner in our homes.

Posters reminded us "You also serve..." and we were proud to participate every way we could. ■

Story and photo by Billy Bie, Indian Rocks Beach Resident



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.

**PUBLISHER**

Bob & Becky Griffin

**ART DIRECTION**

Becky Griffin

**SALES**

727-517-1997

**CONTACT INFO**

P.O. Box 1314

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

517-1997 ~ 517-1998 FAX

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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 FEBRUARY**

**CITY NUMBERS**

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2747 Sunset Blvd City Hall: 584-2151  
Fire Dept: 587-6714  
Sheriff: 582-6200

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COMMISSIONERS —  
Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer  
Jack Nazario • Taylour Shimkus

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www.cityofbelleairbeach.com  
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Fire Dept: 595-1117  
Sheriff: 582-6200

MAYOR - Leslie Notaro

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Mitchell Krach • Pamela Gunn  
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Police Dept: 588-3769

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**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

Maggie Cluster 488-8705

**TOWN OF BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOC.**

Roz White, President 462-2674

**CLEARWATER SAILING** 517-7776

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**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Jack Latvala 727-793-2797

Republican, District 20

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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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER**

St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show 1-3

Fall Campout McGough Park 1

Death By Chocolate 1

Miracle On Cleveland Street 1

Ride & Run With The Stars 2

Toys For Tots Post Office Drive 2

Holiday Stroll Largo Central Park 2

Sail For The Hungry Yacht Club 2

Train Weekend Largo Central Park 2-3

Jingle Bellas Concert Largo Arts Center 3

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7

Belleair Bluffs Holiday Event 8

IRB Tour Of Homes Indian Rocks 9

Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade 9

Heritage Village Holiday Houses 9-24

Bellaire Holiday Parade And Party 10

Suncoast Barbershop Chorus Largo 10

Gingerbread House Day 11

Hanukkah Begins 12

Gift Delivery Town Of Belleair 13-15

Ugly Christmas Sweater Day 15

IRB Lighted Boat Parade 16

Largo Old Fashion Christmas Parade 16

Santa Milk & Cookies Fun Run 16

Holiday Stroll Largo Central Park 16

Santa & Suds 5k Run 17

A Celtic Christmas Concert Largo 19

Winter Begins 21

Public School Closes 23

Christmas 25

Kwanzaa Begins 26

Boxing Day 26

St Pete Gasparilla Bowl 26

Blast Friday 30

New Year's Eve 31

**JANUARY**

New Year's Day 1

Outback Bowl Game Tampa 1

Epiphany Tarpon Springs 6

Public School Starts 8

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 11

Martin Luther King Day Public Schools Closed 15

Florida's Arbor Day 19

Martinis & Matisse 20

East-West Shrine Game 20

## FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

### 14th Annual Holiday Meal Program & Ride & Run With The Stars

With December's arrival comes a year's worth of holiday anticipation and anxious preparation.

As we begin fighting the crowds at shopping malls, and filling our calendars with decadent family meals and holiday events, it can be easy to forget that some families struggle to provide even the most basic necessities.

Although several organizations coordinate holiday fund-raisers and charity events, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has the unique opportunity to give back to children and families with whom they have met and interacted, sometimes on multiple occasions. Putting names and faces to the recipients of our holiday giving is added incentive to PCSO members who dedicate additional time and effort to benefiting the less fortunate during the season.

For what is the 14th consecutive year, the Sheriff's Office kicked off the holiday giving season through a partnership with the Indian Rocks Beach Rotary Club, Beach Community Food Pantry at Calvary Episcopal Church, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District, and Publix. The partnership aims to limit the number of families who go hungry by delivering food to families who otherwise could not afford traditional holiday meals around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Volunteers load patrol cars with hearty Publix meals, including items like fully cooked turkeys, cornbread, mashed potatoes, green beans, loaves of bread, and more, and deputies deliver them to families whom they have identified in their daily work within the community.

Once they finish off the pumpkin pie and pack up the cornucopia, the PCSO sets its sights on hosting the largest

law enforcement-organized holiday charity fund-raiser in the Tampa Bay Area, which has raised more than \$500,000 in donations and proceeds since its inception 24 years ago.

Ride & Run With The Stars, which this year will be Saturday, December 2nd, is a day's worth of family activity including a 5K chipped race, 10K and 25-mile bike rides, a "Challenge" 5K run and 25-mile bike ride combination, and a "Family Fun" 1-mile walk or skate.

Post-race activities include the opportunity to refuel with food truck fare, a Kids Zone with arts and crafts and a climbing wall, a fly-in visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus on the Sheriff's Office helicopter, and a silent auction with tables full of gift baskets, vacation tickets, gift certificates, and more.

The only thing more rewarding than a day of family exercise and activity is knowing that the proceeds support the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project, through which PCSO members use the money raised to shop for holiday gifts, clothing, food, and other necessities for families in need.

Like the food drive partnership, the gift packages assembled during Ride & Run With The Stars' shopping day are hand-delivered by familiar-faced deputies.

If you are interested in getting involved with Ride & Run With The Stars, whether by registering for a race, ordering a t-shirt, sponsoring the event, or making a donation, contact Lieutenant Joe Gerretz at 727-582-5960, and visit [rideandrunwiththestars.com](http://rideandrunwiththestars.com) for more information.

In the meantime, let me be the first to wish you happy thanksgiving, happy holidays, and happy giving!

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# Did You Know



**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
Saturday, December 2nd is the annual Postal Toy Drive. Leave a new, unwrapped toy by your mailbox and your postal worker will deliver it to the Marine Corps to be part of the annual Toys-For-Tots drive.

**RECYCLE TIPS** Home recycling is sorted by machines at a recycling facility. Small bottle tops and shredded paper slip

through the machines or cause improper sorting. Plastic bottle caps should be left on the bottle or removed and placed in the trash! Always read the recycling information on your container to "Recycling Right."

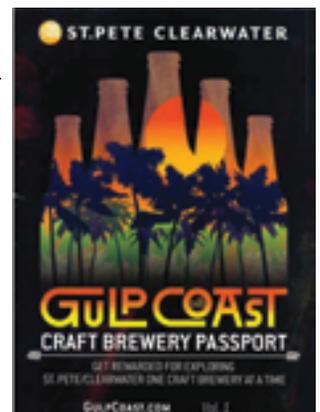
**INSURANCE TIME** Open Enrollment season is upon us. If you purchase your own health insurance through the marketplace, now is the time to buy or change your health insurance plan for 2018. Open Enrollment ends December 15th. To get covered, visit [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov).

This is your chance to make changes that work best for you and your family. You can find plans with no-cost preventive care — like flu shots and mammograms.

**FREE CALENDARS** Do you have your 2018 calendar yet? Hubbell Funeral Home in Belleair Bluffs has a FREE one for you. Just drop by their front door and ask for it. They are located at 499 Indian Rocks Road North.

**MONEY FOR COLLEGE** During the early spring, students traditionally begin their college applications. Does your child need a scholarship? Look into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA. Last year over \$2.3 billion in financial aid went unclaimed. You must supply a lot of information, so start now for next year. St Pete College is holding a series of help nights. Get information at [SpCollege.edu/fafsanights](http://SpCollege.edu/fafsanights) or call Gwen Reed at 341-7924.

**GULP COAST.** Visit St Pete/Clearwater, the Pinellas Marketing organization created a Passport-like booklet highlighting Pinellas's Craft Beer Breweries. They invite you to visit them ALL - from Tarpon Springs to South St Pete, many housed in unique revitalized warehouses and historic buildings. Their free Gulp Coast Craft Brewery Passport comes complete with maps, selected tastes, tour information and descriptions of all 40 breweries. Have your PassPort stamped at each brewery and mail it in for a special t-shirt. Order your free PassPort at [www.gulpcoast.com](http://www.gulpcoast.com). It is not just a list of craft breweries - "It's an adventure!"



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# and More...



**RINGING THE BELL**

The Salvation Army is at area stores ringing their bells. You will find one at the Belleair Bluffs' Publix. Some are volunteers from area businesses, others are Salvation Army clients that are paid a minimum wage to ring the bell. Either way, your donations go to the

Pinellas Chapter of the Salvation Army to fund their many projects and help thousands of people, locally.

**HAZARD COLLECTION EVENT** The Town of Belleair and Pinellas County are hosting a Haz-to-Go Collection Event Saturday, December 9 from 10 am - 1 pm in the Public Works Building parking lot at 1075 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. You may drop off chemical and electronic waste, including but not limited to, fertilizer, light bulbs, household cleaners, cell phones, computers, and batteries. All items will be disposed of properly and safely at no cost. Visit [www.townofbelleair.com/haztogo](http://www.townofbelleair.com/haztogo).

**ORANGE CROP DAMAGED** Thanks to Hurricane Irma, this year's Florida Orange Crop forecast is the lowest in 75 years. Before Hurricane Irma, the forecast was a low 54 million boxes. Now, projections are 31 million—23 million boxes were destroyed by the storm.

**MARTINIS AND MATISSE** The Clearwater Free Clinic's largest fund-raiser, Martinis and Matisse is January 20th. It usually draws over 800 people and consistently sells out. Enjoy a mix of drinks, dinner, art, music, and dining. All proceeds benefit the Clearwater Fee Clinic, whose mission is to deliver comprehensive medical care to uninsured families through volunteerism and community partnerships. Tickets are available after December 5th at [www.MartinisandMatisse.org](http://www.MartinisandMatisse.org). Call 331-8149 for additional information.

**SUNDAY CONCERTS IN BELLEAIR** The popular Sunday Concert Series is back in 2018. Mark your calendars: February 11, March 4, and April 8. Musical acts will be announced soon.

**FLORIDA'S OWN ARBOR DAY**

National Arbor Day takes place in April, but Florida has an Arbor Day twist. Florida's Arbor Day is the third Friday in January. Why? This is the proper time to plant trees in Florida. As we frequently hear from our northern friends, Florida is nice and warm compared other parts of the county during "winter." Florida's seasons are quite different from other states and that plays a critical role in the way our trees function. In Florida, we have a dry season and a wet season; the dry season runs from November to April and the wet season from May through October.



**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN FEBRUARY** Read this issue, and others, online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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### THE QUINTESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS PLANT

Poinsettias were first introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Robert Poinsett, amateur botanist and first ambassador to Mexico. He introduced the plant to the United States when he brought some cuttings to his plantation in Greenwood, South Carolina.



December 12 is National Poinsettia Day, an official day set aside to enjoy this symbol of holiday cheer. It was established upon the death of Mr. Poinsett to honor him and the plant he made famous. He died in 1851.

Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where they grow wild. The enchanting legend of the poinsettia dates back several centuries, to a Christmas Eve in Mexico when a little girl named Pepita had no gift to present to the Christ child. Her cousin Pedro urged her to give a humble gift. So, on her way to church she gathered some weeds she found along the road. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened: The weeds blossomed into brilliant flowers. Then they were called Flores de Noche Buena - Flowers of the Holy Night. Now they are called poinsettias.

From the Society of American Florist, [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com)

### DON'T TRASH THE HOLIDAYS

Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle during the holiday season. Here are some suggestions:

**Reduce** – buy items you think will be used by the receiver. An expensive gift might better than two items that won't be used or might quickly break. That reduces the need for wrapping paper, too.

**Reuse** – use bows, ribbons, gift bags, tissue paper and tags year after year. Even reusing a Christmas tree year from one year to the next or buying a live tree to plant in your yard saves waste.

**Recycle** – wrapping paper, and gift or cardboard boxes. Foil wrapping paper or paper with glitter goes in the garbage because it cannot be properly recycled with regular paper.

Real trees can be recycled into mulch after the holidays if your city or hauler separately collects yard waste. You can also bring your real tree (bare – no ornaments, lights, tinsel) to Pinellas County Solid Waste, 3095 114th Ave N, St. Petersburg. The price is \$3 for up to 5 Christmas trees.

Some common mistakes people make is to put all their "package wrappings" in the recycling bin. The hard plastic casing that protects items from breaking should be placed in the trash. Styrofoam packing should not be placed in home recycling containers because the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) where the recycled materials are sent to be sorted and sold for recycling do not want Styrofoam. The plastic bags wrapped around products can be reused, but should not be placed in home recycling containers because they become tangled in the various sorting machines in the MRFs.

In Pinellas County garbage is burned to generate electricity for over 40,000 homes per day; the material placed in the garbage is "recycled" into energy. For more information and suggestions, please use Pinellas County's A to Z Guide for recycling and disposal. It can be found at [www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit).

## RULES OF THE ROAD

Bicycles, Walkers and Drivers, this means you! This topic was suggested by a local Sheriff Deputy. "The main violation I see in our area is people riding bicycles and motorcycles while wearing headphones," he said. "It is not only against the law, it is so dangerous. While wearing them, you cannot hear cars, bicycles coming up behind you, sirens or even horns."

There are many other rules of the road for bicycles, pedestrians and cars. Here are just a few.

**CYCLISTS** - A bicycle is considered a vehicle. Therefore, a bicyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as motorized vehicles, and can also receive traffic tickets. That means cyclists must slow down at yellow lights and stop at ALL red lights and stop signs. Cyclists are allowed on sidewalks, except in designated areas where they may pose a risk to pedestrians, such as in a busy downtown area.

While on a sidewalk, cyclists must yield to pedestrians. They also need to make sure they look for turning motorists, stop at driveways, all intersections and parking lots.

Bicyclists should travel on the right side of the street, with traffic, and if there is a designated bike lane, they should use it. A cyclist traveling slower than the normal speed should ride close to the right curb area.

In a group, cyclists should ride in a single file, unless the bike lane or roadway is significantly wide enough to ride side by side. Cyclists should never ride more than two abreast except on paths and roadways designed for that. This applies even to the early morning hours when there may be less cars to compete with.

For riders 16 years and under, helmets are required by law. For those over 16, helmets are highly recommended.

**PEDESTRIANS** - Pedestrians, walkers, joggers and runners have rights too, and in most cases they must be given the right of way. But pedestrians must understand that they have responsibilities, too.

If there is no sidewalk, pedestrians must be on the left side of the road, facing into oncoming traffic. When on a sidewalk, it is OK to walk on either side of the road. If a sidewalk is available, pedestrians must use it, and are not permitted to walk in the street. This includes runners.

Pedestrians may cross the street mid-block, unless there are traffic signals at each end of the block. If they are crossing mid-block, the pedestrian must yield to oncoming vehicles, whether they are motorized or non-motorized. If there is a crosswalk, they must use it.

**MOTORISTS** - At crosswalks, motorists must STOP if a pedestrian has signaled an intent to cross, whether there is a blinking light or not. Everyone must stop, as soon as the person steps one foot off the curb. Motorists emerging from an alley or driveway that crosses a sidewalk are required to yield to pedestrians.

If the road is too narrow to share, drivers must give cyclists the right of way. When a road narrows, cyclist must be given the time and space to merge left and get in front of the driver. Florida law requires that a motorist keep a safe distance when passing a cyclist. This means at least 3 feet of clearance. Drivers may cross the center line in a no-passing zone to pass a cyclist.

For more information, see [www.dot.state.FL.us/Safety](http://www.dot.state.FL.us/Safety).



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## USING ALTERNATIVE ASSETS IN YOUR IRA

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



Most IRA investments go into traditional assets like stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. Sometimes investors want to put in nontraditional assets. Nontraditional assets like collectibles (stamps, coins, art work, etc.) are not permitted. A small exception exists for some US gold and silver coins and for gold, silver, platinum, and palladium bullion.

Potential alternative investments include closely held stock, stock options, partnerships, LLCs, real estate, mortgages, etc. Most are illiquid and could cause some issues for those over age 70 1/2 and subject to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules. It is best to not have 100% of the IRA in illiquid investments as the penalty for not taking the RMD is 50% of the amount that should have been withdrawn and the income tax on 100% of the RMD. Some investments may require additional cash either from contributions or earned income.

Let's take real estate because at a minimum the carrying costs would include taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc. and without sufficient cash flow could lessen the value and/or force a sale. From a tax standpoint, the IRA cannot use depreciation and will not receive favorable capital gains tax treatment as all of the money comes out as ordinary income, unless it is a Roth IRA. Unlike private ownership of real estate, the IRA cannot generally borrow in most situations and thus loses the power of leverage.

There are prohibited transactions, which the IRS deems to immediately liquidate the IRA, which could cause not only income taxes to be paid but if under age 59 1/2 then a 10% non-deductible excise tax. As an example, you can't buy or sell assets to or from yourself, borrow money, or lease assets owned by the IRA, have investments where you have a controlling interest, etc. The IRS does not want you to use the IRA for self-dealing. We strongly urge you to seek the advice of your financial, tax and legal representatives. Do not rely on the assurances of anyone promoting or selling alternative investments as it could be dangerous to your wealth.

Not all custodians/trustees of IRAs will accept non-traditional assets as investments. Generally, you will need to reach out to a specialty group to hold these assets on your behalf. Please give us a call for a complimentary meeting if you would like to discuss the use of alternatives in your IRA.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chairman and CEO  
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## 2018 BEACH WALK/WALK

A Clearwater Beach tradition is ready to launch. Chapel-by-the-Sea and Religious Community Services (RCS) will kick off the 9th Annual Beach Walk/Walk on Sat. Jan. 27, 2018. Chapel-by-the-Sea and RCS partner to raise funds to provide food and services for the less fortunate residents in Pinellas County. Last year the RCS Food Bank and The Haven for Domestic Violence served over 165,000 needy people. Since its inception in 2010, the Beach Walk/Walk has raised over \$100,000 in support of RCS's activities.

From the beginning, the Walk drew heavily in support from Clearwater Beach residents and merchants. Ken Hamilton, owner of the Palm Pavilion, launched the event by opening his doors at dawn to support early registration. Frank Chivas of Island Way Grill followed by hosting a sumptuous pancake breakfast that has been followed in recent years by Dan Shouplin, owner of Clear Sky Café. Ed and Marsha Droste answered the call by multiple sponsorships including Hooters, Pete & Shorty's, Forever Pillows and Splittsville Bowling.

Over the years the list has grown to include Steve Collins at Island Estates Mobil, the staff at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Rosemary Windsor of Jolley Trolley and George Lefevre at Windward Bar & Grille. In fact, Molly, a renown Windward bartender, achieved a first by flying a drone to record the Walk. DITEK, Shephards, East Shore Resort, Sand Pearl, Belleair Country Club, Sheraton Sand Key and many other merchants and residents have contributed to the event and supported the Walk's Super Silent Auction.

In recent years, the Island Estates Civic Association has been key in their support of the Beach Walk/Walk. Mary Lau, Heather Brock, Mike Andersen, Dave Allbritton and many local supporters have participated and helped promote the event to the residents, visitors and merchants of Clearwater Beach.

Call 727.446.0430 for information or visit ChapelByTheSea.net for Registration Forms.

## THE WINTER SOLSTICE The First Day of Winter

Although, many years it is hard to tell when you live in Florida, this year, Winter officially begins December 21 at 11:28 am (EST). It is the shortest day of the year and known as the Winter Solstice.

A solstice is an astronomical event that occurs twice a year (June and December), when the sun reaches its lowest or highest point in the sky, relative to the celestial equator. Both solstices are related to the seasons of the year (Summer and Winter).

The word solstice is derived from the Latin word sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still) meaning the movement of the sun's path comes to a stop before reversing directions, as it appears from earth. The concept of the solstice was developed by ancient Greek celestial navigation.

On the Winter Solstice, the sun is at its lowest point in the sky, relative to the Northern Hemisphere (the U.S.). It is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere.

It is important to note that the Earth does not move at a constant speed in its elliptical orbit. And the Earth's orbit is not a perfect circle. Therefore, technically seasons are not of equal length. The Winter Solstice slightly moves each year between December 20th to December 23rd. Most of the time, it falls on December 21 or 22nd.

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## ROBERT YOUNG - 25 YEARS YOUNG

Robert Young, who has been operating at his Indian Rocks Road locations for 25 years this month, has been a jewelry designer for over 46 years. He is truly, the jeweler extraordinaire.

Originally from New Jersey, Young went to George Washington University and attended The Corcoran School of Art, both in Washington, D.C. Shortly thereafter, in 1971 he began his jewelry career.

Young moved to Tallahassee with a friend and decided he was going to learn silversmithing. On a return trip to New Jersey to visit family, he bought a "How to Make Jewelry" book at New York City's famous Fifth Avenue bookstore, Brentano's. "The next day, I went to a jewelry tool company and explained that I planned to be a silversmith, but I had almost no money. I asked if they had any factory seconds or demonstrator pieces they'd give me. Sometimes, when one asks, one receives, and they filled up a cardboard box with tools that were worth hundreds of dollars. Lucky for me, since then I had less than \$200 to my name," Young chuckles.

Back in Tallahassee, he set up his shop; the first was in his attic. "I moved it into a 'head-shop' after a short time, and operated there," Young remembers. "In the mix of waterbeds and incense, they also sold pipes and rolling papers. I put my bench in the front window and made jewelry for hippies."

Young eventually returned to Washington D.C. for five years operating a jewelry store in fashionable Georgetown, where he changed his jewelry and began using gold, gemstones and diamonds. Once again on the move, in 1980 he found a very small storefront in Largo on Indian Rocks Road, next to the Coffee Mill. He leased that space for 13 years.

"When I had the Largo shop, I spoke to a class at Largo High School," Young recalls. "Three of the students who saw my presentation showed up at my store that afternoon and said they wanted to make jewelry with me. I hired them, and they worked for me for many years. One of them, Mark McKinlay, still does. The other two continued and eventually started their own jewelry businesses."



"By 1992, I thought it might be a good time to buy something instead of renting a store. If I was going to move, I wanted to be closer to my clientele, which primarily came from the Belleair area. I started looking and found the building on the corner of Indian Rocks Road North at Sunset Blvd, north of The Plaza. It used to be a restaurant (first Carlson's, then Hollander's). It was not for sale, and could only be leased. I came close, but just across the parking lot, to the north, was another building – for sale. I bought it and turned it into Robert Young Jeweler Extraordinaire, where you see it today. 25 years later, I am still here."

"I love the people I have met here; those who are clients and those about town too," Young says. "My market is mostly a five to seven mile radius. But, I do have my loyal customers who live in many of the surrounding cities and of course the beaches."

There is a side of Robert Young though, that few people know. His interests span a variety of areas, making him a true Renaissance man. Among his pursuits are gourmet cooking, drawing, painting, and travel. He reads a lot: science, political, art history, as well as French language study. His artwork consists of charcoal and pastel nudes, abstract paintings and ink landscapes. Many adorn the walls of his jewelry store. He recently had a one day showing at Galleria Misto in the Plaza.

Young is an artist, and always has been. His artistic sense is apparent in his custom jewelry. "My designs are not just pieces I put together; each piece has some extra artistic meaning," Young explains. "There is always some deliberate reason in what I create."

At times, the purpose of his design is to show off the diamond or gemstone. Sometimes, it is to explore some realm of his art. When looking at his work, you'll see his mix of design, among them are primitives, masks, figuratives (such as a manatee), abstracts (mimicking famous artists), art deco and others.

Often, he's asked to redesign family heirloom jewelry, other times he makes a client a custom piece from new materials. First, he listens to what you want, and draws it. After showing you what he plans to make, he listens again to make sure it is really what you want. Then, he makes it! That is why he is extraordinary.

Robert Young Jeweler Extraordinaire is celebrating 25 years in Belleair Bluffs. He is located at 250 Indian Rocks Road. Learn more about his services at [www.RobertYoung.com](http://www.RobertYoung.com), or call him at 584-1110. ■



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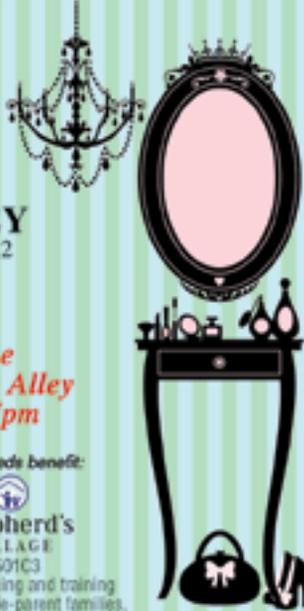
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# Business Briefs



**NEW BANK NAME** Sea Coast Banks bought Northstar Bank earlier this year. In October, it was official and Northstar has a new name and sign in front of the bank at 715 Indian Rocks Road N. Inside though, there are very few changes. Ashley

Edwards has moved over from AmeriBank to be the branch manager and Christina is still there as Business Development Manager.

**CLEARWATER GAS SYSTEM NEWS** Clearwater Gas, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County, broke ground on twelve single-family natural gas homes. The homes are located near the northeast corner of North Garden Avenue and Maple Street in Clearwater. To date, Clearwater Gas System has provided gas service to over 50 habitat homes. They also partnered with Pasco County Schools with Pasco's first compressed natural gas facility in Odessa. The facility will fuel 30 new school buses; natural gas will be provided by Clearwater Gas. Their service territory includes 919 total miles of gas main (730 miles in Pinellas County plus 189 miles in Pasco County.) They have added over 1,000 new gas customers in the past 12 months.

**BANK OF TAMPA BREAKS GROUND** Soon there will be a new Bank of Tampa branch in Clearwater, near Clearwater Beach. In September, officials of the bank gathered to break ground on the new branch at 900 South Ft. Harrison, near Publix. This is their third location in Pinellas. Craig West, former President of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce, will be the branch's Marketing Director. It is projected to open in the Spring. Visit BankofTampa.com.

**PLUMLEE RETIRES** Pat Plumlee, owner of Indian Rocks Beach's Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, has retired. She has been practicing real estate for over 50 years. As a child, Pat's parents owned a small hotel on Clearwater Beach. In her early years, she built, ran, and sold a large publishing company with her late husband, Ernie. She started Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty in 1990. Her son, Todd, joined her 15 years ago as General



Manager and will be serving as President of the company. In 2006, she opened the Beach Welcome Center, which is still going strong. Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty also runs one of the largest vacation rental businesses on the beaches. We all wish Pat good luck in her retirement and hope to see her around town.

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# Business Briefs



**PURE LIFE CELEBRATES FOUR YEARS** PureLife Medi-Spa recently celebrated their Fourth Anniversary. "Our business has really taken off since we opened our doors in 2013," says Elif Fitzgerald, owner of the Largo Med-Spa. "We have grown from only three employees to over a dozen staff and aesthetic specialists." They want to thank the Indian Rocks Beach community for welcoming them to Largo. Find them at 12442 Indian Rocks Road North, near Anona Elementary. Consultations are always complimentary. Get information at [PureLifeMediSpa.com](http://PureLifeMediSpa.com).

**PROPERTY SOLD** The big vacant lot, in Indian Rocks, between 23rd and 24th Avenues on Gulf Blvd has been sold by Pinellas County to Ariyana Saint Jennings for \$1.1 million. The County purchased the property for \$2.8 million in 2006 to build a parking lot. No firm plans for the property have been announced.

**DREAM VIEW TO BE JW MARRIOTT** Dream View Hotel is planning to close in April and a JW Marriott will be built in its place. It will be the next in a long line of high-end waterfront hotels on Clearwater Beach. The development will be part hotel and part ownership with short term rental units. In total, there will be 166 one, two and three bedrooms units and 36 penthouses for sale—but you can not live there full-time. Owners can only stay 30 consecutive days at a time. When not owner occupied, units become part of the JW Marriott vacation rental pool.



The new hotel will also include two restaurants. One will be an upscale big name restaurant, and the other more casual. With this new construction, the hotel will also expand its usable beach area.

Units start at \$565,000 up to \$1.365 million. 12 of the 36 penthouses are already under contract. The Dream View's current owner, Uday Lele, is also the developer of this \$120-million project. It is located at 691 South Gulfview Blvd. in South Beach. Call 443-0321 for sales information. See their web site on [www.jwmarriott.com](http://www.jwmarriott.com).

**NEW GM** Marine Max, a Clearwater based boat sales company, recently announced that Collin Heimensen has been promoted to General Manager of the Clearwater facility. Collin is active in the community and is Vice-Commodore of the Clearwater Yacht Club. Congratulations Collin.

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

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**FRESHLY BAKED FOR 15 YEARS** Next month, Panera Bread celebrates fifteen years in Belleair Bluffs. They opened in the Bluffs Plaza on January 1st, 2003. Pictured here is John Garland, Manager, with two of his assistant managers. They now have their classic Holiday cookies for sale. Buy one or a dozen. You can pick up extra copies of this newsletter inside Panera Bread near the fireplace, too.



**GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION** Demolition of the Pelican Golf Course, formerly known as the Belleview Golf & Country Club, started mid-July. It was delayed during Hurricane Irma, when the Doyle Family who own the property, allowed the construction site to be turned into a temporary waste collection site.

"Now, we are passed demolition and have started working on infrastructure," says Supervisor Johnny Patronis, who works for Triton Building Group LLC. "We are preparing the land, fairways, and greens, putting in sprinkler lines, and doing basic site development." The Golf Course is projected to open in the Spring of 2019.

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** October 7, they held their Fall Wine Walk, with the goal of introducing people to the many Belleair Bluffs merchants. Over 400 people walked or rode the Jolley Trolley to sample great wines and snacks at 45 Belleair Bluffs businesses along Indian Rocks Road and West Bay Drive. Shown above are Jeff Ceren, Skip Strittmatter and Jackie Ceren of Clearwater Beach relax at the Belleair Market on Indian Rocks Road. The next Wine Walk will be Saturday March 10. Tickets will go on sale February 1st.



They have no meeting in December. Their next after Hours Mingles is January 11 at the office of Charlotte Mullen of Strategic Financial at 161 4th St NW, Largo. Social Hour begins at 5:30pm. Call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com.



**THANK YOU!** The Town of Belleair wanted to thank some who went above and beyond during and after Hurricane Irma. Mayor Gary Katica presented proclamations and plaques to Chris Scott and Julie Champion of the Belleair Market and to Ed Shaughnessy of the Belleair Country Club.

Members of the Doyle Family were recognized for their help in the clean up. They allowed the town to dump debris onto part of the closed golf course, which was under construction. Publix was also recognized for donating truck loads of food to feed first responders and power workers.

# Business Briefs



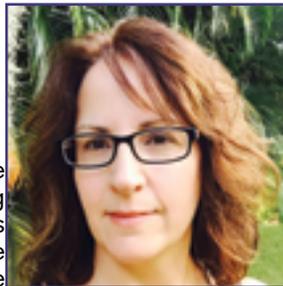
## LOCAL ARCHITECT WINS TWO AWARDS

Indian Rocks Beach resident Scott Holmes won two more awards for excellence in Architectural Design. These recent awards, from the Masonry Association of Florida, were for the Most Outstanding Concrete Block Masonry (called quick bricks) and the most Outstanding Masonry Building in the state, both are for the St. Anthony's Catholic School Addition and Renovation.

**NEW UPSCALE NAIL SALON** Oscar NailBar, sets the highest standards in all the services they offer including nails, pedicures, facials, waxing, eyelash extension, and massages. They use only the highest quality, natural products and disposable manicure kits. Owner lai Ngo has 13 years experience and opened this shop three months ago because she saw too many salons that are use chemical products that not good for customers, workers, or our environment. "We only use organic products in our shop," Lai says. "We want to protect the health of our customers and our workers." She even installed a special air filtering system to refresh the air and remove the chemical smell. They offer a money back warranty. Stop in; all new customers receive 25% off all services. They are located at 1233 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, next to Nature's Food Patch.

## NEW SERVICES ADDED

Lisa Gecelosky, LMT Massage Therapist, who has an office at 2401 W. Bay Drive, Suite 429 in Largo, recently added some new services:



**Cupping** - Using flexible silicone cups of varying sizes, massage cupping is a combination of massage movements and negative pressure. The vacuum produced creates a suction effect, which increases blood and lymphatic circulation while relaxing muscles and releasing "knots." The amount of suction varies from light to deep, depending on your needs. Cupping allows her to do deep work without the discomfort associated with deep tissue.

**Facial Cupping** - Mini silicone cups with coconut oil are used to massage & smooth fine lines. May help with collagen production, migraines, TMJD, and sinus issues.

**Foot Reflexology** - Applied pressure therapy that stimulates reflex points located on the feet, which correspond to specific areas of the body.

**Reiki** - A Japanese technique using universal energy (ki) to tap into your body's own ability to heal & restore to a state of balance. It is also called "hands on healing."

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## GUPPY'S ON THE BEACH CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

**G**uppy's on the Beach opened in Indian Rocks Beach 25 years ago, this month. After many remodels, thousands of lunches and dinners and hundreds of awards, Guppy's continues to be the #1 choice for fine dining on Indian Rocks Beach.

How did this jewel of a restaurant come about?

The site where Guppy's sits was not always a restaurant. "This had been many things prior to it opening as Guppy's," says Scott Bebell, partner and Executive Chef. "It had been a beach house, gas station, beach bar, and a French cafe before it was Guppy's."

Many people from the '90s remember it as La Cave, a popular French Café, owned by Josine LaFosse-Marin and her husband. "La Cave was very small—and dark inside," remembers Guppy's owner Eugen Fuhrmann. "The inside had open rafters, where guest were known to hit their heads. Because of the lighting, it was the kind of place you could go to with a girlfriend to not be seen, but it had very good food."

Way before Guppy's, back in the 1970s, Fuhrmann owned a restaurant in Bermuda, where he met and worked with well-respected chef Erwin Scheuringer. Eventually, they both moved to Florida and together opened The Lobster Pot in Redington Shores in 1978. They sold it in 1999.

Fuhrmann and Scheuringer opened a second small restaurant in Belleair Bluffs, in 1985, and called it simply Eugen's, after Fuhrmann. They eventually renamed it E & E Stakeout (for Eugen & Erwin), and it is still a very popular Belleair eatery.



Guppy's painting by Helen Tilston, a member of Indian Rocks Beach's Pleinaire Cottage Artists.



Eugen Fuhrmann and Scott Bebell

In 1990, one of the owners of La Cave had died. The next year, Fuhrmann, having been friends with Josine, made an offer to buy La Cave. He brought in Scheuringer and Scott Bebell as his partners. Bebell had been the sous chef at their Belleair Bluffs restaurant.

The restaurant needed work, but nothing structural. They wanted to redesign it to make it feel beachier. "Mostly, we painted the inside, added better lighting and replaced the toilets," says Chef Bebell. "I worked at the Indian Rocks Beach location in the mornings, and cooked in Belleair Bluffs in the evenings."

"My son, Andreas, came up with the name," remembers Fuhrmann. "He thought it rhymed with 'Yuppies', a popular word of the '90s." The name had little to do with the fish," he chuckles.

Guppy's on the Beach opened in December of 1992. Andreas was the General Manager and Bebell the Executive Chef. It quickly became a favorite among locals and a tourist destination.

"We have never seen ourselves as a tourist-type restaurant," adds Fuhrmann. "We probably average 60% locals and 40% tourists, even today."

The restaurant has been remodeled two or three times since it opened, enlarging the kitchen, the front patio and modifying the back-dining areas. With 165 seats, they serve between 3,000 and 4,000 customers a week, depending on the season. They are Zagat-rated and were Voted "Best Dinner in the IRB" by this Neighborhood Newsletter six years in a row.

"Part of the reason people come back is we are very much on top of our food and its preparation," Bebell states. "But, just because our name is a fish, that does not mean it is all we serve. We have steaks, pastas, fresh salads, and soups."

Fuhrmann points out that many of his employees have worked at the restaurant almost from the beginning, including Cathy Hall, Comptroller/Office Manager, (21), Paul Russell, General Manager (15), Jose Rizo, Sous Chef (17) and others.

"We are blessed to have the support of the locals on the beaches and those who live in Indian Rocks Beach," Fuhrmann continues. "I can only hope that this success continues for another 25 years."

During recent Hurricane Irma, the restaurant was closed for a week. Management gave every employee \$500 to help them during a week of lost wages and tips.

Guppy's on the Beach is located at 1701 Gulf Blvd on Indian Rocks Beach. They are open Sunday through Thursday 11:30 to 10 pm, and Friday & Saturday 11:30 to 10:30 pm. Stop by and wish them a Happy Anniversary! Find more information about all three of their restaurants at [www.3bestchefs.com](http://www.3bestchefs.com).

NOTE: Fuhrmann opened Mystic Fish in Countryside with Scott's Brother, Doug Bebell. Doug was the Chef at Lobster Pot for many years. ■



Erwin Scheuringer

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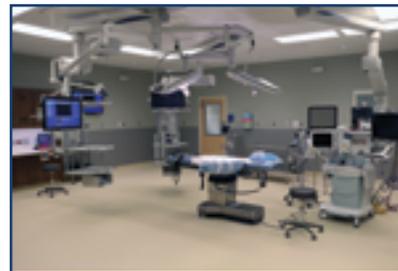
## MORTON PLANT'S DOYLE TOWER OPENS

Mr. Morton Plant would be proud and amazed, to see what they have done with the hospital that has his name on it. Two and a half years ago, they started construction on the new wing of Morton Plant Hospital



named after longtime Belleair resident Roz Doyle.

Now finished, the newly opened Doyle Tower, located on the southeast corner of the existing Morton Plant Hospital, is a \$200-million campus transformation that added 200,000 square feet of space. The four-stories are dedicated to patient care and surgery with operation rooms and clinics. The tower features new private patient stay rooms, a surgical center, women's services and orthopedic units. All the new patient rooms are singles—no more sharing rooms with other patients.



Surgery, women's care and orthopedics will be each aligned on their own designated levels for more efficiency, and to improve patient, visitor and physician satisfaction. The hospital has also introduced new technology with this expansion, including

built-in robotics and digitally integrated surgery suites.

In addition to the tower, the project includes a new front door and entranceway to the existing hospital. You can still use the other entrance on the west side. The Emergency Center was also expanded during this project.

Staff began moving into the new building in early October. Some patients were admitted in mid-October, and should be fully operational by the first of November.

Morton Plant Hospital has been serving Clearwater and the surrounding communities since 1916. They are part of the BayCare Hospital Group. Now with this expansion, Morton Plant is proud to offer 687 beds and over 50 specialties of medical service. For information, visit [MortonPlantHospital.com](http://MortonPlantHospital.com), or call 727-953-6877. They are located at 300 Pinellas Street in Clearwater.

## CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS KIDS SHOES & PANTS

Clothes To Kids needs elementary school boys and girl's school shoes small sizes 11-8 and boys and girls pants sizes 6-16. As the cooler weather arrives many school children need shoes that fit and clothes that keep them warm.

Donations may be dropped off from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday in Clearwater at 1059 N. Hercules Avenue or in St. Pete at 2168 34th Street South. Cash donations are also needed to purchase clothing in short supply, new underwear and socks. For information or to schedule an appointment to shop, call 441-5050 or visit [www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org).

Clothes To Kids, is a nonprofit organization providing clothing to low income or in crisis, Pinellas County school-age children, free of charge.

# HARVEY & IRMA, CAUSE TO REFLECT

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

Now that our second grandchild has arrived and lives in Belleair, my wife Linda has decided that we need to move closer to the kids. Okay, I'm game, as I enjoy working with Linda designing a new home for us. It's a fun process, so we'll begin searching for another site closer to the kids.

In my MLS search, I came across many existing homes with beautifully remodeled expensive interiors, but unfortunately built on grade, all just three to five feet above sea level. That reminded me of my own advice about considering an existing home at grade level or building new. With the historic flooding from Hurricane Harvey in Houston, and our own Cat 1 Hurricane Irma (with 8 -10' storm surge estimates that could have been a Cat 3 or 4), it was a no-brainer to decide to build to new higher & stronger FEMA standard home.

With global warming and sea levels rising, can we expect to not have a major storm disrupt our lives for the next 30 years? I definitely do not want to be uprooted for a year or two as my home was being re-built. Plus, I firmly believe new energy efficient homes built to FEMA standards will command a large premium. It's the "Supply & Demand" ratio, since there is a very limited supply of new raised homes along our beautiful Pinellas beaches. Decision made, either choose a vacant lot or buy an older home for demo and build a new home.

I anticipate that FEMA will greatly escalate flood insurance rates beginning in January 2018. As I understand the conversation in Washington, the 5 million existing FEMA policies might remain in effect, with large premiums increases each year - but - new policies would not be issued with subsidized rates! FEMA already owes the U.S. Treasury \$25 billion (before Harvey & Irma), and presently pays \$400 million a year in interest. It seems naïve to believe Congress will allow subsidizing additional billions of

dollars of premiums each year. Virtually every home on our beautiful Pinellas barrier islands that is not newly built to FEMA elevation standards, would most likely be much less marketable as home buyers become aware of the extremely high flood insurance rates. Sure, a few might find cash buyers not be required to have flood insurance, however, those homeowners risk losing hundreds of thousands of dollars if their home suffers major storm damage.

Do Linda and I want to throw many thousands of dollars away each year on flood insurance premiums (the grand-kids college funds!), or go uninsured and lay awake every night worrying about losing our investment? That's not for us. We both decided that building a new home, constructed with all new Florida Building Code standards of 150mph storm, above the FEMA required elevation, will allow us to sleep peacefully, and have a very sound investment for ourselves.

I hope I'm not sounding alarmist, or preaching "Chicken Little, the Sky is Falling," I'm just passing along my own beliefs for a peaceful next three decades. Linda and I both agree. As an added benefit, our existing waterfront home is constructed above FEMA standards, so it will command a premium sales price as opposed to grade level homes, no matter how well decorated the existing homes are. Much to think about!

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,000 homes since 1971, and has the new 2018 "Key West" home at 239 144th Ave. N, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to email me directly at: [tsmith@ghdcsi.com](mailto:tsmith@ghdcsi.com), or request a meeting at our new model.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



### FLORIDIAN CAFE NOW SPEGGTACULAR

The somewhat new Floridaian Beach Café, on the south end of the beach, has undergone some changes. Now called Speggtacular, The Floridaian Beach Cafe merged

with Speggtacular, a breakfast and lunch restaurant that has another location in Largo. The Clearwater Beach restaurant will be reopen later this month.

Ernest Utegaard, the owner of the Floridaian Beach Cafe, and Emmanuel Goufas, the owner of Speggtacular, decided to partner up to create Speggtacular's second location instead of re-opening The Floridaian Beach Cafe after hurricane Irma.

They still only serve breakfast and lunch. Find them at 770 South Gulfview, next to Caesar's On the Beach.

**BASIMO NOW OPEN** Basimo Beach Organic Café located on Baymont Street, opened a second coffee café in the Shoppes of Sand Key. They are more than just a coffee shop; they serve organic smoothies, light breakfast, and lunch sandwiches. Basimo is located in the south half of the shopping center. Drop in for their special blend of coffee, too, in a great beach atmosphere.



photo credit: Brian Goff

### SALT PUBLIC HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A new restaurant and bar is already under construction in the spot The Sandbar, vacated in August. Called Salt Public House, it is owned by a local family - Sam

Aidan, and Sabrina Bowles.

The family is not new to the restaurant business, they have owned three other restaurants. Aidan and Sabrina are from Ireland, and all three previous restaurants have had an Irish touch. "This one will not be Irish," says Aidan. "This will be a nice Sports Bar—one of the best in the area." Sabrina, Aidan's wife will be planning the menu and running the kitchen. "There will be wings, but a whole lot more," adds Sabrina. They are adding many modern amenities and more TVs.

Look for Salt Public House to open in early 2018 at 1309 Gulf Blvd, next to Nekton.

**TACO BUS ALMOST OPEN** Clearwater Beach soon will have its own Taco Bus on the northeast corner of the new Edge Hotel, next to the sidewalk. This the ninth Taco Bus restaurant and offers a range of Mexican hand-held wrappers stuffed with beef, fish, or even fermented soybeans. The St. Petersburg location, on Central Avenue, was recently relocated to Treasure Island.

# Bar & Restaurant News

## THE REEF NOW CALLED BUMPA'S

The Reef on the south end of the beach, quietly changed their name October 1. It is now Bumpa's Fish Shack, but they have the same owners (the same ones that own the Brown Boxer) and most of the same



staff. It is the same great food in a more casual atmosphere, with lower prices. They recently opened a Bumpas Fish Shack in Tarpon Springs and have had such a great response from the locals, they decided to bring Bumpas to the beach, and changing the concept from the Reef to Bumpas Fish Shack. They will continue to have live music events and free parking. Find them at 735 South Gulfview, in Clearwater Beach, next to Brown Boxer.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**RUSTY'S** Rusty's Bistro and Chef John at the Sheraton Sand Key were ranked the #1 Restaurant on the Pinellas Beaches by USA Today. Rusty's has won Zagat awards over the years, the Golden Spoon Award by Florida Trend and many others. Placing in the Top Ten were also Island Way Grill (#5), Salt Rock Grill(#9) and Frenchy's Rockaway Grill (#10). See the list at 10BEST.com/destinations/Florida.



**OWNER OF 18 ON THE ROCKS DIES** Patrick Adani, co-owner of 18 On The Rocks died in September from a heart attack. He and wife Nancy were co-owners with Doug and Cindy Thompson.

Patrick, who attended the University of Nice in France in their Business & Hospitality program, previously worked for Shells Seafood. He and Thompson opened 18 On The Rocks in 2014. Nancy, and their daughter April, are still involved with the restaurant. All plan to continue running the restaurant in his memory.

**MIKE'S PIES** If you want to serve a delicious Mike's Pie this Christmas, get them at Bella Vino's. They stock Mike's holiday pies, including Pumpkin, Key Lime, Apple Crisp, Pecan, Chocolate Mouse, Reese's, Heath Bar Crunch, Regular, Pumpkin, Banana Foster or NY Cheesecake, and others. Call Bella Vino's owner Brian at 584-5552 to reserve your pie or email him at Brian@BellaVinoWineMarket.com.

**BONEFISH GREAT FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES** Did you know that Bonefish Grill is open for lunch, now? It is a good place to take your out of town guests for the holidays, or to have your business lunches. They have call ahead for dinner seating. 727-518-1230.

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## WATER WONDERS

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

Have you ever wondered where your water comes from? In our area, the answer can get a little complicated. It is important for us to know where our water comes from so we can protect our water resources and also ensure a sustainable water supply. Believe it or not, we have seen the days where our water supplies weren't so sustainable; the 1970s "water wars."

The water wars resulted from rapid growth in our region and increased groundwater pumping from water sources in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. As lakes and wetlands were impacted by overuse, officials realized alternative sources needed to be developed. It took many years, and the transformation of the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority (formed in 1974) to what is now Tampa Bay Water, to put an end to the wars. Tampa Bay Water developed a plan that was implemented between Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties, New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. These governments work with Tampa Bay Water to develop regional drinking water supplies. While groundwater sources make up the majority of our water supply, it was important to look at alternative sources to help ensure a long-term water supply and the health of local ecosystems.

Unincorporated areas and 19 of the 24 municipalities in Pinellas County, receive their water from Tampa Bay Water. The sources vary throughout the year and can be found at [www.tampabaywater.org](http://www.tampabaywater.org). The end product is usually a blend of groundwater, surface water and desalinated seawater. The exceptions: Bellair has a local groundwater supply; Oldsmar and Tarpon Springs have brackish groundwater reverse osmosis plants; and Dunedin and Clearwater have groundwater reverse osmosis plants.

More about these sources:

1 - Groundwater- Water that seeps into the soil and percolates through different layers, ultimately reaching the Floridan Aquifer, an underground layer of limestone rock. Tampa Bay water utilizes thirteen well-fields in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties to retrieve groundwater, which is treated at one of the seven treatment facilities before it is sent to one of the local governments or blended with one of the other supplies listed below.

2 - Surface (River) Water- Tampa Bay Water utilizes the Alafia and Hillsborough Rivers, Tampa Bypass Canal and stored water from the C.W Bill Young Regional Reservoir for surface water supply.

3 - Desalinated Seawater- Seawater or ocean water is pretreated before going through the reverse osmosis process. During reverse osmosis, the pretreated water is forced through a semi-permeable membrane allowing the freshwater to pass through, leaving the salts and minerals behind. The filter membrane has pores the water is forced through which are about .001 microns or about 1/100,000th the diameter of a human hair!

It is hard to believe that a state surrounded by water, covered with wetlands, and spotted with lakes and rivers could ever face a water supply problem, but it has happened in the past. Tampa Bay Water is working hard to protect drinking water supplies through the use of these alternative water resources. We have recovered from the water wars in large part due to these new supplies but also through effective residential and commercial conservation efforts which will continue to be an important part of our lives.

Find out where your water is coming from and take a trip to see the source of water for yourself. Building a connection with our local water resources is a good start for understanding the bigger picture of water resources in the state. See how much you know about water and watersheds in Pinellas by taking the County's quiz online at: <https://www.research.net/r/watershedpinellas>

## WHAT TO DO THAT IS FUN FOR EVERYONE? How about a little Time Travel!

by Ted Shannon Belleair Resident

Heritage Village, just off Walsingham and right next to the Florida Botanical Gardens, is where you will find an easy way to go back in time. This 21 acre living history experience is an amazing way to spend a couple of rewarding hours of the time you can control. This wonderful preserve gives you a great view into how it was 50, 75 or even 100 plus years ago.



The Village is open to the public free of charge and while the hours are limited, Wednesday - Saturday from 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1pm - 4pm, with a little planning it is an adventure worth taking. If you want to make half a day of it, there is a walking bridge directly into the Florida Botanical Gardens and you can take in that treat as well, also free of charge.

Heritage Village is a grouping of 31 structures of various periods dating back as early as the 1850's. Each building is able to be entered or viewed and has period artifacts appropriate to that structure. There are homes, a church, school, shops, train station and a store that is full of all the staples of the era! There are even a few vehicles to admire. You will also find a few plants and a garden that is quite interesting. All of the buildings give you a sense of how it was at that time. However, some of the structures have been modified to have modern Air Conditioning so, taking some time there in the summer is an enjoyable event. It really reminds you of how good we have it today in our own temperature controlled, electrically operated homes.



At certain times of the year, there even are special events demonstrations of blacksmithing or sugar mill production and several other activities. You can find the schedule at [pinellascounty.org/heritage/annual-events.htm](http://pinellascounty.org/heritage/annual-events.htm) or google "heritage

village" and click on "Plan Your Visit." There are some events that history buffs would not want to miss!

Heritage Village is a great "all ages" attraction and it is something all kids should get an opportunity to see. It is also a romantic hand-holding opportunity (without kids). If you do have kids or grandkids make sure that you make the time for this quality entertainment adventure. Tell them it's like a set from a movie only real or something. Tell them they can post pictures on Instagram or Facebook or Snapchat or whatever is the latest selfie platform, proving they went back in time.

Our tax dollars have already paid to create this time preserve of historic structures and artifacts. So, with free admission the price is nice! Plus this place is way less crowded than the theme parks you have to take out a mortgage to visit. Take advantage of what is right up the road from where you live and learn what the Floridians of the past lived like. It is time well spent!

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The holiday season can be very hectic, so **call TJ's tonight for delivery 727-596-1515**. Kick back and relax. All of us at TJ's would like to wish you a Merry Merry Christmas. Please remember the children might not get their wish this season before you open that special bottle of wine! Thank you so much.

**TJ's Italian Cafe 1515 Gulf Blvd.  
Indian Rocks Beach 727.596.1515**  
[www.TJsItalianCafe.com](http://www.TJsItalianCafe.com)

## FIRST NIGHT ST. PETERSBURG BRINGING RYAN MONTBLEAU TO PERFORM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!

First Night St. Petersburg 2018, presented this year by 411-PAIN, will feature the nationally touring Ryan Montbleau Band on the finale stage from 9:30pm-midnight.

Ryan Montbleau will be bringing his mix of rock, funk, soul folk and psychedelia for an amazing performance with his band. Ryan has been crafting songs since college and has honed his performances to a wonderful mix of love songs, funky jams and psychedelic soul gems. His songwriting is inspired by such great as Bob Dylan, Robert Johnson and Bob Marley. Ryan hails from Massachusetts and has been entertaining audiences across the country. Montbleau has opened for John Hammond, Melissa Ferrick, Ani DiFranco, Martin Sexton, and Rodrigo y Gabriela. His band has performed at Bonnaroo, Jam Cruise, Cayamo Songwriter's Cruise, and they have become a regular act at the Gathering of the Vibes Music Festival in Connecticut. He has also toured with Martin Sexton as his backing band and opening act. Local bluesman Damon Fowler will perform 7:00pm-9:00pm, prior to Montbleau.

First Night St. Petersburg 2018, our family New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts, has admission buttons for sale at [www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com). First Night has seen an increase in buttons purchased early from people outside of Florida and the U.S. as St. Petersburg becomes known as a great destination to experience art and music! Their beautiful buttons, designed by local artists The Vitale Brothers, are a collectable item!

Buy your buttons early and start planning your evening! Buttons are available for sale now on their website at [www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com). They will go on sale locally on Thanksgiving.

In advance, buttons cost \$12 adults, \$5 children 6-12, Children 5 and under are free. The cost on Dec. 30 and 31 increases to \$15 adults and \$10 children

### BUTTON SALE OUTLETS INCLUDE:

#### Gas Convenience Stores:

Old Northeast Rally 2131 4th St. N – St. Petersburg,  
Treasure Island, Rally 10801 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island,  
Seminole Citgo, 5401 Seminole Blvd. - Seminole

#### Kahwa Coffee Shops:

475 2nd Street N & 204 2nd Avenue S - St. Petersburg and  
3928 Henderson Blvd - Tampa

#### St. Petersburg Businesses and Organizations Annex at Beach Drive

Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Dr. NE

Courtyard by Marriott 300 4th St. N.

ARTicles, 1445 Central Ave.

St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce 100 2nd Ave N.

The Morean Arts Center, 719 Central Ave.

Florida CraftArt, 501 Central Ave.

St Pete. Chamber Visitor's Center, 100 2nd Ave. N.

For more information or to volunteer for a shift at First Night, call 727-823-8906 or an email to [info@firstnightstpete.com](mailto:info@firstnightstpete.com).

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2016 - Belleair Holiday Parade's Holiday Prince and Princess - Croix Coletti and Mason Morash

**BELLEAIR RECREATION CENTER**

**HOLIDAY PARADE & PARTY - DECEMBER 10, 5PM**

Everyone loves a parade! It begins near Town Hall and heads north to Hunter Memorial Park. After the parade, visit with Santa, enjoy crafts, food, hot cocoa, and music.

**HOLIDAY CAMP - DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 5TH.**

Camp runs from 8am to 4pm, not including December 25 and January 1. Camps will offer various games, activities, and a field trip. Call 727-518-3728 or visit belleairrec.com for more information.

**POLAR PARCEL SERVICE - RESERVE BY DECEMBER 8**

The Town of Belleair's annual Santa Claus Holiday Gift Delivery is December 13th -15th between 6 and 9pm. If you are a resident of Belleair and would like Santa to delivery a gift to a child, 12 years and under, at your home, please make your reservations in person at the Dimmitt Community Center or online at belleairrec.com. You provide the gift no larger than 12" x 12", wrapped and clearly marked. You will receive an email from Santa confirming your reservation.

For more information, call 727-518-3728.

**BELLEAIR'S 16TH ANNUAL SUNSET 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN - SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 5PM**

This course is flat and fast and runs through the heart of Belleair. After the run, join other runners for a post race party with free food, drinks, and fun. Registration varies from \$20 to \$35. Post Race Party Only \$15. Register NOW at www.RaceHawk.com.



**FAMILY GOLF TOURNAMENT - MAY 5TH**

They may not have a golf course, but they are going to have a Family Golf Tournament at a location to be announced.

**BRIDGE IS BACK**

Do you like to play Bridge? Come play at the Belleair Rec Center., on Thursdays and Saturdays, Noon to 4pm. The cost is \$5 each.

Visit www.BelleairRec.com to see other events and sports programs that are planned or call 518-3728.

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**FALL COLOR FOR YOUR YARDS**



By Randy Lee

We are lucky that we live in a beautiful part of Florida where mild temperatures are the norm. Every few years, however, we get freezing temperatures that can damage our landscapes. About every ten years, we get a freeze that damages all tropical plants. Temperatures below fifty degrees can cause damage. Pinellas County can have a temperature variation from ten to fifteen degrees

(north county vs. south county beaches), which affects the landscape. Several factors affect freeze damage: the duration or how long the temperature is below thirty-two degrees - the longer the temperature is below freezing, the more damage. The exposure of your landscape is critical - north and west exposures sustain more damage and the chance for damaging winds is greater.

It is important to protect tropical trees, palms, plants, flowers during these cold spells. Here are so ideas of what to do before a freeze, methods for protecting plants and what to do after a freeze.

Keep updated on the weather if a freeze is predicted - all tropical plants and trees could be affected. Every yard has microclimates where temperatures are cooler or winds are stronger - keep these in mind when temperatures drop and when designing your landscape. Windbreaks are structures that lessen wind damage. They can be permanent structures that brace the wind or they can be made for winter use as panels or an extension of a building. Frost blankets are another trend we see used more commercially, but can be used for residential landscapes. They must stay anchored to the ground and not get blown around. A fresh layer of mulch can help plants and their root systems stay warmer - one to three inches is ideal. Also, a well watered lawn and landscape fair much better than a dry one - just be sure to water before temperatures get below forty degrees. Small trees and shrubs can be wrapped with towels or blankets and tied off at the base - never use plastic since it will burn foliage. Potted plants can be brought indoors or into the garage where temperatures are warmer. A tricky point with cold temperatures is when to use the irrigation system and when not to. The system should be turned off if we are in the mid-thirties for a few hours - this will burn plant material. If, however, we are going to be below freezing for several hours, turn the system on and hope for the best! The water will ice over and act as a layer of heat.

After the freeze, irrigate lawns and shrubs once temperatures climb above forty-five degrees. Make sure you do not keep plants and trees covered for too long - let them breathe when the weather warms and cover them again later if necessary. Prune cold damaged plants lightly after four weeks and reserve major pruning until spring. Luckily, freezes do not happen often but be alert to the weather and what to do when they occur. Protect your plants accordingly so there is less to do when spring rolls around.

**December/January Checklist:**

- Watch for freezing temperatures
- Ideal time to plant flowers and vegetables
- Great time to plant cold tolerant trees
- Perfect time to install a new lawn
- Trimming, mowing and fertilizing are at a minimum

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## THE NEW AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS MUSEUM

This new downtown museum is already under way on Fourth Avenue N between Third and Fourth Streets. The construction of this \$70-million museum is starting as soon as the permits, expected this month, are issued. This is the dream of businessman and collector Rudy Ciccarello who is spearheading and paying for project. It will feature a vast collection of furniture, pottery, tile, metal work, lighting, photography and other decorative arts from the American Arts and Crafts movement. The museum will be a five-story, 137,000 square foot facility.

The \$70 million project does not include the \$16 million already spent to acquire the 3.2 acres of prime downtown real estate, construction of the parking garage already built and open, architectural fees, consulting and permits. Once started, the museum is expected to take two years to build and decorate.

This is the second privately financed museum recently announced in the downtown area. The first was The James Museum, founded by Tom and Mary James, scheduled to open early next year.

### CASA'S SOUP-ER BOWL: Food Drive Needs your Help

For many people, when they hear that someone is reaching out for help to get out of an abusive relationship their first instinct is to ask, "why didn't she just leave?" Let's put aside the tragic irony of that statement - they're annoyed that someone is trying to escape abuse... because they haven't already escaped abuse. Instead let's just answer it head on.

So, "why didn't she just leave?" It might be because she has nowhere to go. In fact, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among women and their children.

Thankfully, CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) and other domestic violence centers have programs empowering people to overcome these challenges and attain a safe home. (24-hour hotline: 727-895-4912.)

CASA provides food to the approximately 133 people at their domestic violence center. No one will ever be forced to go hungry while staying at their emergency shelter, no matter how expensive it gets... and it does get very expensive!

They need your help to sustain its emergency shelter, provide living necessities like nutritious food, and continue programs healing the soul, healing the pain and giving people tools to attain financial independence. Help out by participating in CASA's Soup-er Bowl Food Drive for a Safe Home! They need sponsors, donation drop locations and committee members to make its upcoming "Soup-er Bowl" initiative a success.

They are lining up resources for their January Soup-er Bowl! Last year, 50 businesses, clubs and organizations helped collect five months of nonperishables. This year, please help them reach their goal of eight months of nonperishables, plus financial resources to provide 8 months of fresh food and vital health initiatives! Visit [www.casa-stpete.org/SouperBowl](http://www.casa-stpete.org/SouperBowl) or e-mail Mo Venouziou at [info@casa-stpete.org](mailto:info@casa-stpete.org) to get involved!

### IRMA COMMAND CENTER CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Neighborhood Newsletter, we ran a story about People Helping People during Hurricane Irma. We stated that the Belleair Country Club was converted into a Command Center. That was wrong. They were closed, and sent food and services to the Town of Belleair's Command Center to assist in the recovery. We are sorry for the incorrect information.



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## IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

### BREAKFASTS WITH SANTA

**December 9**, St Jerome's Early Childhood Center hosts their 26th Annual Breakfast with Santa at 8am. It is open to the entire community, but please RSVP or buy tickets in advance. They are \$6 advanced / \$7 day of. St Jerome's is located at 10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo. Call them at 596-9491.

**December 9**, 10am: Largo Community Center \$6. Call 518-3016

**December 16**, 9:30am: Southwest Rec Complex \$6. Call 518-3125

### WINTER'S WONDERLAND AT CMA

This month, join the Clearwater Marine Aquarium for a splashingly great holiday celebration as they transform into Winter's Wonderland. Get your family photo taken with Winter Claus, experience Winter Wonderland with lights and décor all around, and watch special Santa dive presentation at Mavis's Rescue Hideaway. Their Sea of Lights Boat Cruise will take you around Clearwater Bay to see the holiday lights by boat from 4-9 pm Dec. 15-16 & Dec. 22-23. \$9.99 admission.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS

The Botanical Gardens becomes a wonderland of over 1 million LED twinkling lights. This family-friendly event has nightly entertainment, including visits with Santa. Refreshments are available, as well as Holiday themed gifts at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop. Opens at 5:30 pm each night through the end of December. \$4 suggested donation is encouraged for entry. Visit [www.flbgfoundation.org](http://www.flbgfoundation.org).

### HOLIDAY 5K RUNS

**35TH ANNUAL JINGLE BELL RUN**, December 13, 7:30pm. Held along St. Petersburg's magnificent waterfront! This run is going to glow with 1,500 luminaries, 15 bands, three glow zones, snow, glow in the dark face paint, glow necklaces, wristbands and thousands of merry runners, joggers, walkers and four legged trotters. [Runsignup.com/boleyjbr](http://Runsignup.com/boleyjbr)

**SANTA'S MILK AND COOKIE RUN**, December 16. Held at the Highland Rec Complex at 8am, run the course, then receive Cookies and Milk from Santa's stash. The race costs \$20/family or \$10/person. Call 518-3016.

**SANTA AND SUDS 5K** December 17. Experience a beautiful run/walk across the Clearwater bridge and get a free drink (soda, water or beer) for finishing. The race starts and ends at the 400 block on Cleveland St. Holiday costumes encouraged! [santaandsuds5k.com](http://santaandsuds5k.com)

### HOLIDAY STREET PARADES

**THE 7TH ANNUAL TOWN OF BELLEAIR'S HOLIDAY PARADE** is December 10th, at 5pm near Town Hall. After the parade you can visit with Santa, enjoy crafts, food, hot cocoa, music and more.

### LARGO'S OLD FASHIONED

**CHRISTMAS PARADE**, December 17. It kicks off at noon at 1st Ave and 4th St SW and circles Largo's brick streets.

### HOLIDAY HOME TOURS

**FLORIDA ORCHESTRA GUILD'S HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES** - December 2, from 10 am to 4 pm. It features six homes in St. Petersburg's Snell Isle and Northeast neighborhoods. Advance tickets are \$20; day of they are \$25 and may only be purchased at the Tour home at 125 Lamara Way NE. Call 727-254-1176.

### INDIAN ROCKS BEACH'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

December 9 from 2-6pm. Start with a reception from 12 - 2 at the Beach Art Center, then tour of some of the best decorated houses in Indian Rocks Beach. Advance tickets are \$15; tour day, \$20. Visit [IRBhome.com](http://IRBhome.com).

### HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S 20TH ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES,

Sunday, December 10, 3 to 8pm. Tickets, \$20 in advance; \$25 on Sunday and are available at [www.HONNA.org](http://www.HONNA.org)

### HOLIDAYS AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

Each year, Heritage Village decks the halls for the holidays. Enjoy holiday decorations in several of the old historic old houses, along with garland and greenery. It is a festive experience. The display opens December 9 and runs Wednesday - Sunday until the end of the month.

### LARGO CENTRAL PARK HOLIDAY STROLLS

**December 2**: Rocking Lights Family Fun Night

**December 16**: Let it Snow Night. In addition to the holiday displays featuring over one million LED lights. Enjoy a snow zone and a visit from Santa from 6:30-9:30pm

### HOLIDAY LIGHTED BOAT PARADES

**December 9**: Island Estates Holiday Lighted Boat Parade, begins at dark. Best place to view the parade is Coachman Park.

**December 16**: Indian Rocks Beach. Starts behind the Holiday Inn Harbourside at 7pm.

**December 17**: Redington and Indian Shores. It starts in South Redington and ends at The Pub in at 9pm.

### TOY DRIVES

December 2 is the annual Postal Toy Drive. Leave a new, unwrapped toy by your mailbox and your postal worker will deliver it to the Marine Corps to be part of the annual Toys-For-Tots drive.

Indian Rocks Beach, December 11-13, at Century 21 Beggins. Hosted by the Indian Rocks Homeowners Association, they are collecting Christmas bikes. Last year they collected over 100 that were then donated to Grace House and Shepherds Village. You can bring bikes or other toys to their office at 1511 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach beginning December 11th, or bring them to the toy drive party on the 13th at 6pm. Call Kathy MacKinnon at 430-8974.

### DECEMBER EVENTS

#### 2ND - MIRACLE ON CLEVELAND STREET

This free family-friendly festival transforms downtown Clearwater's Cleveland Street into a holiday wonderland complete with snow, a skating rink, horse and carriage rides, pictures with Santa, carolers from the Clearwater Chorus, a giant gingerbread house, face painting, a balloon artist, inflatables and more. Children will be able to phone Santa's Elves in the North Pole to share their Christmas wish list. 5-10 pm.

**3RD - JINGLE BELLAS** This electric string holiday performance is at Largo Central Park's Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$34 to \$50 in advance at [LargoArts.com](http://LargoArts.com).

**10TH - SENSITIVE SANTA**, 1-3pm at Largo Community Center. Designed for youths with Autism spectrum or other sensory issues, it allows kids to meet Santa Claus in a quite environment. Space is limited. Registration is required. Call 518-3131.

**10TH - BARBERSHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Celebrate the holidays with the tones of the Suncoast Barbershop Chorus joined by the Community Chorus. 2pm. Largo Community Center. Call 518-3131 for more information.

**19TH - A CELTRIC CHRISTMAS** Enjoy the music of Christmas—Irish Style with Tomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas concert at the Central Park Performing Arts Center, 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20-\$35. [LargoArts.com](http://LargoArts.com).

**21ST - A ROCKAPELLA CHRISTMAS**, at 7:30 pm at the Capitol Theatre. A musical evening of holiday cheer.

**22ND - RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL** This spirited performance transports the audience into the television special (from 1964) as songs drive the plot with familiar and nostalgic set design. 3pm or 7:30 pm show, at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

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## Organizational News...

### WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN. OF BELLEAIR

They are excited about the upcoming golf season, packed with plenty of friendship, fun, and tournaments! They have a full calendar of events October through April. Peggy Souza is the President. New members who wish to join the 18-hole group are welcome. Contact the Belleair Country Club Pro Shop 727-442-0229 to sign up and join the fun. For information, visit [www.belleaircc.com](http://www.belleaircc.com).

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. To RSVP for lunch, or to consider joining, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578

### CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

Belleair Women are welcome to join the Clearwater Community Woman's Club. Part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, it is a volunteer service club established more than 40 years ago. Their motto is "Making A Difference." General Meetings are held the third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 11am, at the Clearwater Downtown Library. Get information at [ClearwaterCWC.org](http://ClearwaterCWC.org) or call Martha Hickey, 813-765-6219.

### THE BELLEAIR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

This new organization recently formed in the Town of Belleair. They recently hosted, The Boogie in Belleair, a successful fund-raiser at the Dimmitt Belleair Rec Center. Contact Karl Rettstatt [Krettsta@TampaBay.RR.com](mailto:Krettsta@TampaBay.RR.com), or Peggy Souza (at [Peggy@PeggySouza.com](mailto:Peggy@PeggySouza.com)) to join or for more information, or visit [www.BCFWorks.org](http://www.BCFWorks.org).

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

**Don't know what to get for that hard to buy for person on your gift list? The following businesses offer the perfect holidays gift - Gift Certificates! It's a One size fits all gift.**

### RESTAURANTS:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
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| Chez Colette Bistro   | E&E Steakout          |
| Hungry Howie's Pizza  | Maggie Mae's          |
| Marlin Darlin's Grill | O'Keefe's Bar & Grill |
| Palm Pavilion         | Shephard's Open Flame |
| Westshore Pizza       |                       |

### BUSINESSES:

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Belle's Olive Branch       | Bella Vino Wine Market |
| Belleair Market            | Belleair Opticians     |
| Belleair Pool Supplies     | Chloe's Home Decor     |
| Carlson Wildwood Florists  | Cassi & Company        |
| Frame Factory              | Galleria Mistro        |
| Island Cove Bead Gallery   | Gold's Gym             |
| Lisa Gecelosky Massage     | Largo Feed             |
| New Approach Salon         | Moda Belleair          |
| Munchies Natural Pet Foods | Silver Queen           |
| Pure Life Women's Center   | Robert Young Jewelers  |
| Radiance Med Spa           | Shoe's by Beverly      |
| Sue Thibeault Hair Stylist | Suzette's on the Rocks |

## FINDING HOPE IN FLORIDA - GUATEMALAN FAMILY FINDS TREATMENT

By Joe Harless

The Brolo family trip to Ronald McDonald House Charities Tampa Bay (RMHC-TB) came by way of a Salvadorian beach.

The Guatemalan family of four was on vacation in early 2017. Father Alejandro, an insurance representative, and mother Claudia, a makeup artist, had taken their daughter Nina, 3, and son Italo, 3 months, to the beach when Nina began suffering from fevers. Worried, the family visited a local doctor, who ordered lab tests and an exam. "Everything looked normal," Claudia said, "but then Nina fainted."

The situation was particularly frightening given Nina's stellar health record. She was a healthy baby, never getting sick and maintaining healthy growth standards. She had been experiencing respiratory issues in January 2017, but her parents thought it was only congestion. Tests now revealed otherwise; Nina had pneumonia with pulmonary hypertension, and two holes in her heart.

Nina's illness presented several unique challenges. While she needs surgery to repair the holes in her heart, the pulmonary hypertension diagnosis removed the option of immediate surgery. Sufficient time would be needed for Nina to recover enough to allow for surgery - several months. Additionally, Guatemala's high elevation would hinder her recovery period.

Frantic, her parents sought the advice of a specialist, who directed them to Florida's Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, and advised them of RMHC-TB. Florida's sea level would be more beneficial to Nina's health, and RMHC-TB would allow the family to stay together while they waited.

To a family unfamiliar with Ronald McDonald House, the suggestion was mystifying. "We knew nothing about RMH," Alejandro, who quit his job to make the journey, comments.

While Nina was flown to Johns Hopkins in an air ambulance, her family followed, arriving at RMHC-TB in late February. Nina immediately began treatment, starting the healing period that would prepare her for heart surgery. Treating the pulmonary hypertension requires continuous IV medicines, painful necessities that Nina must endure for a six-months.

The coming months will require faith, strength, and family unity. Doctors have recommended that Nina spend the next year living at sea level because of the pulmonary hypertension. Due to her medical needs, Nina cannot go back home. The family currently stays in the country thanks to a six-month travel visa, but they must seek an extension to stay.

Despite those challenges, the Brolo family's time at RMHC-TB will be marked by their gratitude for the support and love they've found here. A relative loaned them a car for transportation, allowing the family to take in a few baseball games and enjoy the sights of Florida, while the House offers them the facilities to make some of their own foods in the RMHC kitchen. Nina's baby brother Italo, only five months old when they arrived, is growing up at RMHC, and the family plans to celebrate his first birthday there. Nina continues her treatments, but now the family feels comfortable and confident about her future.

"I don't know what we would do without it," Claudia said of RMHC-TB. "They give me their heart, and comfort me through these stressful times."



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## Organizational News...

### BELLEAIR ROTARY

They had a booth at the annual Halloween event in the Town of Belleair where over 700 children had a fun and safe Halloween. Members manned the Rotary booth and handed out candy and information.

They also sponsored a BBQ cookout for the Clearwater YMCA Soccer Organization and Season Finale on Highland. What a way to end their soccer season.

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, Upper Pinellas UPARC, the Salvation Army, Polio Eradication, the Rotary Foundation and many other local causes. Reach President John Funk at 599-3864 or email him at BelleairRotary2017@Gmail.com. Their web site is [www.BelleairRotary.org](http://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 595-6678. Visit [BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com](http://BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com).

Their Christmas Party will be held at the Belleair Country Club, on Friday, December 1st. Registration is at 11:30 and the luncheon begins at 12:00 pm. Reservations are necessary. Fun entertainment is to be provided by Pinellas Property Appraiser, Mike Twitty, who is an accomplished electric guitar player and singer. There will be a sing along and plenty of decorations to get you all in the Christmas spirit.

### 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.

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

From October through April, the club features a monthly tea & informational meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Horticulture programs happen on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am, both at the Belleair Garden Club, 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in Belleair. Annual membership is \$50 per year per person. Couples pay \$75. Seasonal members \$30. Guests are welcome. Contact [Kathleen\\_Hardwick@MSN.com](mailto:Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com) or visit [BelleairGardenClub.com](http://BelleairGardenClub.com).

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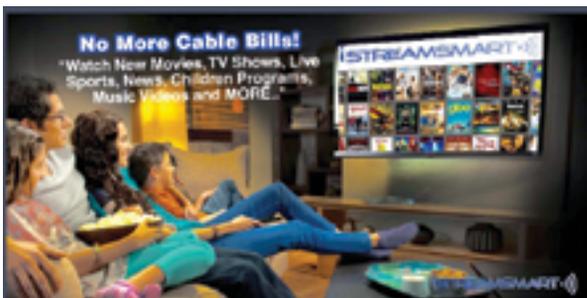
**COVE CAY**  
GOLF CLUB

## WINTER HEATING SAFETY

As the temperatures drop, the number of fires increase. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 108,400 winter residential building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Although cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires, heating equipment is second on the list as one of the leading causes of home fires during the months of December, January and February. Heating your home safely is not as simple as the "flick of a switch." Fire & Rescue recommends the following tips:

- Have a professional service heating equipment annually.
- Keep combustibles, or anything that can burn or melt, away from heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and water heaters (at least three feet).
- NEVER use a range or oven to heat your home.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish candles when you leave a room.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children (preferably in a locked cabinet).
- Test smoke alarms and make sure you family knows the fire escape plan.

Additionally, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Be aware of the dangers and know the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light-headedness or headaches. High levels of CO can be fatal, causing death within minutes. Carbon Monoxide alarms can provide early detection. However, they are not a replacement for smoke alarms.



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## Organizational News...

### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

In November, they entertained service members who are preparing to leave to serve, or have just returned, and their families. Servicemen including members of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and the Coast Guard. For the past five years, they have done this twice a year. It was created by the Inn Keeper's Association who put many of the service personnel in hotel rooms. Others chip in with boat rides on the pirate ship and mini-golf followed by the cook out at the club. This year there were about 25 families and 90 people

The Club has lots planned for December:

- December 9: Watch the Island Estates Boat Parade
- December 16: Breakfast with Santa and Dock Party
- December 31: New Year's Breakfast Buffet at 9-1.
- New Years Eve Gala 7:30pm to 1am.

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.

### 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.

### BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

Lois O'Donnell is serving as President (2017-18). They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, (October - May) at various area restaurants.

"Women With A Purpose" is this season's club charity. It provides assistance to Tampa Bay area women with families who need help coping with the diagnosis of cancer.

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.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

This Garden Club started in 1991 as a merger of the Belleair Beach Garden Club (1947-1991) and the Island Garden Club (1959-1991). They normally meet the third Wednesday of the month (October thru April) at the Belleair Beach Community Center.

December 13 is their Holiday Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club. The guest speaker will be Brian Neiman from the University of Florida Extension Service. His topic is "Trash to Treasures." Social time is 11:30am to Noon.

January 17's meeting will be held at the Belleair Beach Community Center at 10:30am. There will be a presentation by Aleisha Bostdorff, a plant biologist at Wilcox Nursery. She will talk about Container Planting. A Share-A-Dish luncheon will follow the presentation. Guests are always welcome. Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Contact Mary Carey at 596-5981 or MLCKC@aol.com.

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Call Mary Carey, President, to RSVP these events at 596-5981. E-mail Marjorie Rose at RoseMarjorie38@Yahoo.com or Mary Carey at MLCKC@aol.com for more information about the Club.

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# Organizational News...

## 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.

December 5 is their Annual Holiday Fashion Show with Bon Worth at the Belleair Country Club. To RSVP call Mary Jane at 352-263-5518.

Visit [WelcomeNewComerClub.com](http://WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

## CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The meetings December 8th & 9th will feature Floral Design for the Holidays by resident and awarded winning designers Marsha Clark and friends. Basic materials will be provided but you should bring your own bowl and scissors or pruning shears. \$10 covers materials. Please pre-register at email below.

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 2017-2018 President is Robyn Rinberger.

For information, email [ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com](mailto:ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com), call 316-5504, or visit [ClearwaterGardenClub.org](http://ClearwaterGardenClub.org).

## GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

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.

December 14 is their holiday meeting at the Carlouel Yacht Club. At the meeting, they will be accepting donations for the Kimberly Home, their community service organization this year.

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](http://GBYWS.org), contact President Carol Frecker at 386-5806 or email [GBYCommunication@Gmail.com](mailto:GBYCommunication@Gmail.com).

## MID-PINELLAS 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](http://www.LargoDemocrats.com).

Their November meeting included guest speaker Dr. Susan MacManus with an insightful review of last month's elections and a food drive for the Beach Community Food Pantry.

## 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 [ClearwaterCWC.org](http://ClearwaterCWC.org).



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## ABOVE IT ALL: A CRANE OPERATOR'S LIFE

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

The tallest guy downtown has got to be Mike Kell, a crane operator on the construction site of ONE, St. Petersburg, the high-rise at the east end of Central Avenue. Now working on the top floor of the 41-story building, he has been working on the project since shortly after its 2016 groundbreaking.

Kell, who works for the Morrow Equipment Company, operates one of two cranes used to lift supplies to the uppermost floors. Kast Construction, one of many contractors on the ONE project, leases the cranes and Kell's services.

With over 25 years of experience, Kell has helped build many of our tall buildings. His last job was on Sarasota's waterfront. He worked on St Petersburg's Signature Condo, Clearwater Beach's Hyatt Regency and the Westshore Yacht Club. Kell, who has worked for Morrow about five years, lives in Lakeland and commutes downtown each day. He leaves home three hours before sunrise, getting to the job at 4:30 am. "When I get to work, it is dark," says Kell. "I always see the sunrise, a job perk."

He rides one of the buildings newly installed elevators to a top floor, then climbs a ladder attached to the crane, up to his perch. He stays there the entire work day, which can be 12-14 hours. He does this five, or sometimes six days, a week.

"I normally get home about 7 pm," Kell says. "I spend some time with my wife; we have dinner together. Then I go to bed. Whatever she made for dinner is usually my lunch the next day."

Each morning, Kell takes his lunch, a gallon of water and a bucket up with him. Since he does not come down all day, you can probably figure out what the bucket is for. He even has a small microwave and a crockpot up there.

"This job requires teamwork," Kell stresses. "I have Pedro, my partner on the ground. He is my 'eyes on the ground' because I cannot see him or the hook I am dropping - we communicate by radio. Pedro tells me where the hook is and where it needs to go. He tells me the distance I have to the ground - 40, then 30, then 20 feet. I stop at 10 feet and then slowly lower the hook until Pedro tells me to stop."

"Pedro is a good guy," Kell continues. "He is my signal man. I have to trust him and what he says because he is 40 floors below me. We pick up and drop loads very fast, because time is money."

Crane operators are certified and licensed. They are monitored by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"I had to take several tests to become a certified crane operator," Kell explains. "Much of the test is math and involves calculations. You must know about weights. My crane can lift 18 tons but it may be at the outer end of the crane's arm. That is a lot torque. Wind speed and gusts are some of my greatest concerns," Kell adds. "When I have a load on a 500-foot cable, things can start swinging very quickly if you are not careful. My cockpit has a lot of electronics," he adds. "I have nine screens on the dashboard, much like an airplane."

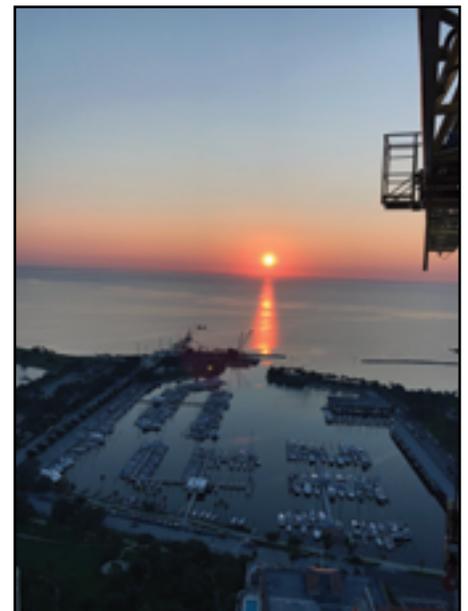
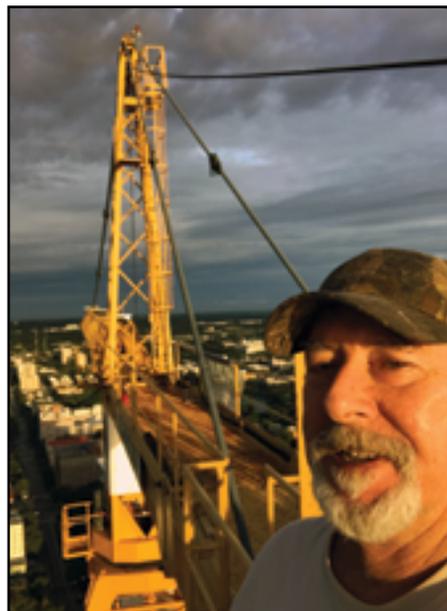
Kell calls the weather stations when he



sees storms coming. "You can see the weather coming, ten miles away. Cranes are magnets for lightning. I was hit three times in one day," Kell recalls. As we learned during Hurricane Irma, cranes are designed to withstand hurricane force winds. "During severe weather, it is best to put them in neutral and let them swing in the wind, like a sailboat on a mooring," he explains.

Tim Mairn, Sales Manager of Morrow's Florida operations said, "The cranes will be up over 500 feet in the air when this job is finished. Kell is a great operator and is very concerned with safety—his own as well as that of his fellow workers."

"Probably my biggest problem is getting a day off," Kell admits. "When they are pouring cement, you have to be there. It's hard to make doctor appointments, see your kid's school events, or go hunting, which I love to do. Sometimes you work even when you are sick." ■



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