

# NEIGHBORHOOD



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Newsletter

## TAVER BAYLY

### Morton Plant Hospital's First Volunteer

Taver Bayly was the second son of Philip J. (P.J.) Bayly and his wife, the former Emma Lowe. A very well-known citrus farmer in the late 1800s, PJ owned most of the land south of today's West Bay Drive, west of Indian Rocks Road—all the way to the water's edge. Until World War II, this land along the western shore of Belleair Bluffs was still referred to as Bayly's Bluffs. The family had seven children, four boys and three girls: Ted, Taver, Philip, Bessy, Harriet, Dorothy and Cyril. "Taver, the second born was the responsible one," says Sandy Cornett Jamieson, Taver's granddaughter.

Bayly left for school, but tragically in his final year of college, his father died and he returned home to settle the estate and care for those brothers and sisters still at home. Eventually, most left for college or to live with relatives, but five-year-old Cyril stayed with his brother.

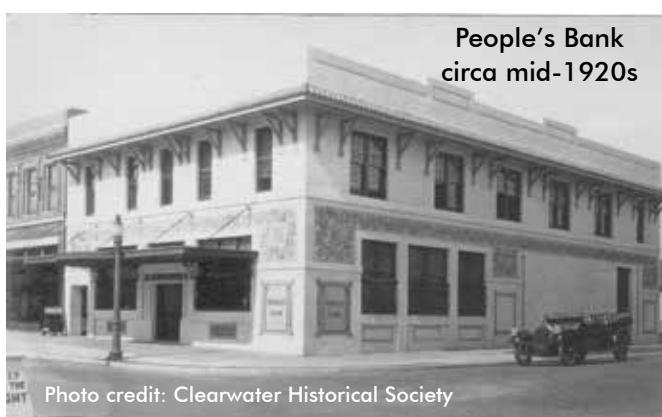
Bayly needed a job. He talked to T.C. Taliaferro, Sr. of Tampa, who was the Chairman of the Board at the People's Bank of Clearwater. Taliaferro suggested Bayly work for him in Clearwater. Bayly admitted he didn't know anything about banking. "That doesn't matter," said Taliaferro "We'll start you at the bottom." Bayly started as a bookkeeper behind the scenes. Later, he moved to a teller position, interacting with the public. "He had a wonderful personality; people loved him," says Phyllis Bayly Jones, his third daughter.

Developers Dean and Donald Alvord, a father and son team, designed a community south of town called Harbor Oaks. Bayly bought their first lot at 301 Jasmine Way at Druid Road. But, he argued with the developers over the home's design which was to be a two-story northern-styled home. At the time, Bayly had no family and wanted a smaller single-story design that he said would have better ventilation. He prevailed and after it was built the style became known as the Florida bungalow.

Soon after he built his house, he met Eloise Mabry, the sister of Dale Mabry. They married and had three daughters: Ann, Patricia and Phyllis; all were born at Morton Plant Hospital. "All my boys are girls," he used to say with a laugh.

In 1912, Bayly joined the City's first militia. When Pinellas became a county, he stood on the doorsteps of the courthouse, with a gun to prohibit the building from being raided and the courthouse being relocated to St Petersburg.

In 1914, when the community decided to build Morton Plant Hospital, he was part of the fundraising committee. When the hospital opened in 1916, they lacked a financial manager and Bayly volunteered, at no charge.



People's Bank  
circa mid-1920s

Photo credit: Clearwater Historical Society

He would walk to the hospital in the early hours of the morning to spend an hour with head nurse Miss Lillian Hollohan. He then wrote any checks they needed and tallied the books. By 7 am, he would walk ten blocks north to the corner of Cleveland Street and Ft Harrison Avenue to report for his teller job at People's Bank by 8 am.

By 1918, Morton Plant Hospital was able to stand on its own and Bayly joined the Board of Directors. For the next 20 years, he served as their treasurer. When Morton Plant, the hospital's founder, died the next year, Bayly joined the Board of Directors for Plant's Bellevue Hotel, which later became the Biltmore Hotel.

Bayly continued to move up the banking ladder working in every position. He was at People's Bank during the Crash of 1929 when many banks folded. Donald Roebling, a rich neighbor and depositor, made a large deposit to express his faith in the bank. Because the people of Clearwater trusted Roebling, his "bailout deposit" tamed tempers and concerns, keeping the bank open. After the crash, People's Bank merged with First National of Clearwater and Bayly became a vice-president. By the late 1940s, he was the president.



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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997  
[bob@grieffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@grieffindirectories.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN  
AUGUST!**

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Sheriff: 582-6200

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

Hurricane Season Begins	1	Belleair Bluffs July 4th Celebration	4
Sunset Run At Sand Key Park	3	Fireworks Coachman Park	4
Ramadan Begins	6	Boat Club Three Rooker	9-10
Public School Closes	7	Clearwater Yacht Club Fishing Tourn.	11
Summer Camps Begin	8	MLB All Star Game	12
Belleair Bluffs Business Assn Mixer	9	Home Show Tropicana	22-24
True Blue Day Coachman Park	11	Tampa Bay Rowdies Home	23
Disney And Dali Exhibit Ends	12	Parents Day	24
Flag Day	14		
Indian Rocks Flag Retirement	14	<b>AUGUST:</b>	
National Garbage Man Day	17	Little League Registration	
Father's Day	19	Sales Tax Holiday	5-7
Summer Begins	20	Largo's Highland 5K Run	6
Boat Club to Tarpon Springs	25-26	Trim Notices Mailed	8
Pinellas Grouper Week	27-3	Public School Begins	10
		Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	11
		Buc's First Pre-Season Game	11
		Gracie's Big Splash Belleair Rec	12
		Boat Club to Marina Cantina	13
		Largo's Indoor Garage Sale	20
		Primary Elections	30

### JULY:

Sunset Run At Sand Key Park	1		
Independence Day	4		



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## Did You Know



**BLOOMING** A century plant in Belleair Beach is about to bloom, after which it will die. Larry and Katie Leffler, at 110 Harbor Drive, planted it when they moved to Belleair Beach. A century plant, also called American Aloe is native to Mexico, Arizona and Texas and is cultivated as an ornamental plant. Despite the name American Aloe, it is not closely related to aloe. It has a diameter of 6-10 feet with gray or green, 3-5 foot leaves. This one is variegated, but not all are. Near the end of its life, the plant sends up a tall, branched stalk, with yellow blooms that can reach a height of 30 feet. The blooms resemble a candelabra and sit atop the vertical stalk. Although it is called a century plant, it typically lives only 20-30 years, flowering only once at the end of its life. When it dies, the plant produces a shoot from the base which continues to grow. "We planted this plant when we moved here 20 years ago," say Larry. "We would be sad to see it bloom, and completely die."

**PLASTIC TO ENERGY** Pinellas County has one of the best waste to energy plants in the state. One thing they burn is plastic grocery bags collected at area grocery stores. When burned, one plastic bag will generate enough power to light a 60-watt bulb for 20 minutes, or a 15-watt LED bulb for over an hour. When you bring the bags back to your grocery store for recycling though, remove your receipts. If there is even one paper receipt, the store pays a huge fine! And don't worry, when you see smoke at the Roosevelt and I-275 plant, it is really pure water vapor. You can tour the plant any day and they have a direct recycling re-use store where anything you find, you can keep - and it's free.

**ANONA CHANGES** The Pinellas County School System is renovating over 100 schools and Anona Elementary is one of them. The 2016-17 Anona plan includes renovation of a 10-room wing, the cafeteria, and the front office area - at a cost of \$3.6 million. Look for work to begin this summer.



**FISHING TOURNAMENT** The Clearwater Yacht Club is holding their Inaugural Fishing Tournament on June 11th. This 50/50 tournament is open to Yacht Club members and to the public. The cost to participate is \$15 per fisherman. You can bring your own boat or ride along

with someone else. Fisherman may keep their fish, or donate them to the Club for the Fish Fry following the tournament. For information, email thomasjmeyer64@gmail.com.

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**THE ANONA 2016 CLASS** This is Anona Elementary School's Graduating Class of 2016. There are 150 children in this year's class. While the school is in Largo, some of the kids live in Belleair Bluffs, some in Largo, and others live in Indian Rocks Beach. Good Luck!

**REDUCED BUS RATES FOR KIDS** The Youth Summer Haul Pass is on sale now. Youth ages 18 and under can ride PSTA buses all summer long for just \$35. Pass is valid from May 15 to August 31, 2016. For more information visit [www.psta.net/haulpass.php](http://www.psta.net/haulpass.php).

**BEACH 5K RUNS RELOCATED** The popular Summer Sunset Runs, previously held on Clearwater Beach near Pier 60, have been moved to the Sand Key Park across the bridge. There are four races this year - May 20, June 3, July 1 and July 15. Kids races start at 6:45pm and the 5K starts at 7pm. Get more information, or register at [www.WCYRC.com](http://www.WCYRC.com).

**GET DAD A PET FOR FATHER'S DAY** In honor of all the great dads across our community, Pinellas County Animal Services will be open Father's Day



on Sunday, June 19, from 10 am to 2 pm. Adoption specials will be available for all fathers who adopt during this event. Every pet that gets adopted will go home with a bag of pet food and a surprise treat. Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. A list of adoptable dogs and cats is available at [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices).

**LARGO GOLF COURSE** They have two new programs you might like. Once a month, they open for night play with special balls and lights in the trees. Play is the last Saturday of the month and costs \$20 which includes a light dinner. They also offer Foot Golf, which is played like soccer but on a golf course. You kick a soccer ball on the green, instead of hitting a golf ball. Each hole has a special hole off to the side. You can play Foot Golf daily at 1pm or later. It costs \$10 for 9 holes or \$15 for 18 holes. Group and family rates are available. For information call 518-3024 or visit [LargoGolf.com](http://LargoGolf.com). Find them at 12500 Vonn Road, north of The Village Inn.

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

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## INHERITED IRA PITFALLS

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Different rules apply when you inherit an IRA depending on your relationship with the deceased IRA owner, and pitfalls exist for both spouse and non-spouse beneficiaries.

For a surviving spouse, it is often advised that the IRA be rolled over to an IRA in the surviving spouse's name. However, this may be ill advised. As an example, if the surviving spouse is under age 59 1/2, the surviving spouse, prior to turning 59 1/2, could not access the money in the rolled over IRA without paying a 10% non-deductible excise tax. It may be better to set up an inherited IRA where there is no penalty for withdrawing money prior to age 59 1/2. This is but one pitfall, so you should evaluate all alternatives before making a decision.

A non-spouse beneficiary cannot rollover the IRA into their own name. They can take a lump sum, take it over five years, stretch it over their life expectancy, or take differing amounts each year as long as they take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If they don't, this pitfall results in a 50% non-deductible excise tax on top of the regular income tax that might be owed. The same rules generally apply to a Roth IRA, but income taxes are not owed on the amount withdrawn.

When there are multiple beneficiaries, another pitfall often occurs when leaving the IRA in one account rather than dividing it into separate accounts for each beneficiary. If the money stays in one IRA, the beneficiaries will be forced to take the money out based on the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiary rather than the life expectancy of each beneficiary. This is especially important if there is a wide range of ages amongst the beneficiaries. By separating the IRA, each owner of the inherited IRA can make an independent decision about how to invest the money, how much or little to take out, and will get to name their own beneficiary who can continue the IRA if they inherit it. In short, it can last a long time if properly handled.

The inherited IRA can be kept with the same custodian, or it can be moved to a new custodian. This gives the new owner the chance to adjust the investments in the IRA.

To learn more about avoiding the pitfalls of inheriting an IRA and to examine all of the choices in making these important decisions, please give us a call.

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**TAVER BAYLY, continued**

A young Taver Bayly

Bayly was a "people person" and people really liked him. He became a very successful banker. He loaned money "the old fashioned way" by talking to people. He simply looked them in the eye asked them what they wanted to do with the money, then made a personal judgment. Among others, he loaned money to Publix Super Market founder George Jenkins and Jack Eckerd, the drug store chain founder.

"At First National, Dad had the first office to the right when you entered the bank," says Phyllis Bayly Jones (84), his youngest daughter. "He had an open-door policy. You could always walk right in, sit down, and talk to him."

Bayly knew everyone in Clearwater and was a member of almost every Clearwater civic group and president of many of them. He was the Commodore at the Clearwater Yacht Club (1933-1940) and helped create kids sailing programs that the Yacht Club is still known for today. He negotiated the purchase of the land where the Yacht Club is today.

Today, the Yacht Club's dining room is still the Bayly Dining Room. In 2011, during the Yacht Club's 100th Anniversary, their new history book was dedicated to Taver Bayly.

When Clearwater adopted the Japanese city Nagano, Bayly participated in the first Japanese Exchange as Clearwater's representative on the inaugural visit. He was Clearwater Rotary's first president. He worked with Andrew Carnegie to build Clearwater's first Municipal Library. He helped start Clearwater's first Boy Scout Troop and was a Scoutmaster.

Taver Bayly's family: Phyllis Bayly Jones, Pat Bayly Alexander, Sandy Cornett Jamison, and Philip Bayly plus Bill Wallace of the Clearwater Historical Society contributed information and photographs for this article.

During WW II's gas rationing, he rode his bicycle to work in his black business suit. It greatly embarrassed his wife, Eloise.

Aside from his civic and professional interests, he liked vehicles. He was the first person in town to own a motorcycle. He owned a yellow Stutz Bearcat racing car with a "dog house hood", open bucket seats, and a tiny monocle windscreens in front of the driver. You couldn't miss him driving around town with Eloise.

He also loved boating and fishing. He owned a 28-foot cruiser called The Venture which he kept near his second home on Bay Esplanade. He liked to catch and smoke mullet. He taught his daughters and grandchildren to fish and how to throw a cast net. "I fished with Granddaddy Bayly many times," says granddaughter Sandy Cornett Jamieson, "He even showed me how to repair the nets."

Bayly was selected to be the first Mr. Clearwater in 1965. Surprised by the honor, all he could say was that there were so many other people who deserved the award more, but everyone knew Bayly was instrumental in making Clearwater a more vibrant city and helped shape it into the city it is today. He retired from banking in 1970 but remained a Director Emeritus until he died at the age of 89.



Sandy Jamison, Bayly's granddaughter with her Aunt Phillis, Bayly's daughter, in front of the house Taver Bayly built. Jamison still lives there today.

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Fransie Geringer

In 1981, a story went out over the AP wires that 8-year old Fransie Geringer of South Africa, who suffered from the aging disease progeria, dreamed of meeting his hero Pinocchio. The Sunshine City Jaycees of St. Petersburg responded by raising the money to bring Fransie and his family to Florida. After the visit, which included a trip to Disney World to see Pinocchio, excess funds from the trip were offered to Fransie's family. However, it was their wish that the funds be used to help other children. Some members of the Jaycees, including former Mayor Rick Baker, decided to form a non-profit organization, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund. Baker remembers, "All Children's Hospital (now part of John's Hopkins) was in St. Petersburg, so we were uniquely aware of the difficult times that many seriously ill children faced on a daily basis. The idea was to use the money left over from Fransie's effort, along with other money raised, to provide some of those children with a few great days. We got to help a child, and his or her family, experience some of the best moments of their lives."

In celebrating its 20th year of making dreams come true, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund changed its name to Children's Dream Fund to reflect the organization's growth and scope. The organization serves children living throughout West Central Florida. Referrals are received from area hospitals including Johns Hopkins All Children's, St. Joseph's Children's, Tampa General Hospital, and the Sabal Palms Children's Center.

The Children's Dream Fund has fulfilled the dreams of over 2,000 children ages 3-18 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. A child does not have to be terminally ill to qualify for a dream, nor is a dream the child's "last wish." The types of dreams vary greatly. They may involve meeting a celebrity, a trip, a gift such as a computer or playground, or the most-requested dream, a week at the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee. The Dream Fund makes memories for children that last a lifetime. To quote the mother of Savannah, 13, who has cancer and went on her dream to Hawaii, "We are forever thankful to the Dream Fund for giving Savannah and our family a chance to 'breathe.' She laughed, smiled and even cried tears of joy. We never thought we'd see her that happy ever again."



*The most recent dream recipient  
 Marissa meets Taylor Swift.*

The Children's Dream Fund's office is in the Priatek Plaza in downtown St. Petersburg. A volunteer board of directors governs the organization and advocates for it in the community. It is an independent wish-granting organization, and not affiliated with a national group. The Dream Fund undertakes no telemarketing or phone solicitation. In 2015,

over 84% of every dollar raised went directly to program expenses, and the Dream Fund is consistently awarded a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator. To learn more, go to [www.childrensdreamfund.org](http://www.childrensdreamfund.org).

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## COTI FEEDS PINELLAS HOPE

Each month, members and friends of Indian Rock's Church of the Isles (COTI) meet in the church's kitchen to prepare lunch for residents of Pinellas Hope, a homeless shelter managed by the Catholic Charities of Pinellas County.

"We get together each month to prepare the meal," says Marty Synott, COTI coordinator of the IRB meals program. "We feed anywhere from 70 to 150 people, depending on the season."

"This week we provided meatball subs, salad, chips, and cookies," says volunteer Nancy Ertz. "Most of the time, people bring just hot dogs and hamburgers, so they like our meals."

Volunteers cook the food in the church's kitchen and deliver it to Pinellas Hope in Clearwater off 126th Avenue N. They stay to help serve. The food is paid for by the church and donations. One church member covers any shortages.

"For Christmas, we brought a holiday meal of fried chicken and desserts," adds Marty. "There was a Christmas program with music and singing.

You do not have to be a member of the Church of the Isles to help. Call Marty Synott at 249-3011 to get involved. They also welcome donations.



## FERTILIZERS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

In the quest for the perfect lawn, people apply fertilizers and pesticides to their yards each year, priming their grasses for potentially serious ecological and human health consequences. The chemicals run off lawns into local springs, streams, and lakes every time it rains, eventually washing into the Gulf, causing more than half of our water pollution, while harming our waterways and the plants and animals in aquatic habitats. Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance prohibits residents from fertilizing lawns during the rainy season. From June 1 to Sept. 30, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants. Fertilizers are not plant food. They sometimes can be used to supplement sugars that plants make through photosynthesis.

If you decide to use a fertilizer, use it properly. It's easy:

- Make fertilizer selections based on need. Decide which nutrients will give you the result that you want for your lawn, and then buy only those.
  - Use fertilizers sparingly to reduce nitrate levels. More is not necessarily better. Read and follow all instructions of the package.
  - Do not fertilize when storm events are forecast. This will help reduce the level of nutrients washing into water systems during and after the storm.
  - Select slow-release fertilizers. They are kinder to the environment and are usually more cost effective. Look for terms like "time-released," "slow-release" or "water insoluble nitrogen" on the fertilizer's package.
  - Remember to fertilize only when needed. Do not apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of grass.
- Do your part to preserve our water, coastlines and wildlife – the very things that help make our area bright and beautiful. For more information visit [watermatters.org](http://watermatters.org) or [befloridian.com](http://befloridian.com).

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## HONOR FLIGHTS - A TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

**H**undreds of World War II veterans are living in Pinellas County. These veterans are somewhere between 90 and 100 years of age. Most have not seen the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. built in their honor.

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization, was created to give veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War a chance of going to D.C. to see the memorials. Two people are credited for this concept: Jeff Miller and retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse.

Morse worked with patients at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Springfield, OH. When he asked them about the memorial, completed in 2004, most said they knew of it but none of them had seen it." He realized due to their ages, most could never travel to see it. He offered to fly two veterans to Washington D.C. to see it and an idea was born.

Morse pitched the idea of flying more veterans to a local 300-member aero-club. Eleven pilots volunteered and formed a network. By May of 2005, when the first honor flight took place, six private planes flew twelve veterans to D.C. and back. By the end of the year, the program allowed 137 veterans to see the memorial.

In late 2005, Jeff Miller, son of a World War II veteran and a charter member of the National World War II Memorial Foundation, was inspired by Morse's efforts and wanted to expand it. He contacted US Airways about chartering an airplane and HonorAir was born. Over three days in 2006, HonorAir flew more than 300 World War II veterans from Asheville to D.C. - free of charge. HonorAir provided everything—a doctor, several EMTs, guardians, tour buses, and food. When they arrived, they were greeted by thousands of supporters with music and marching bands.

Heroes Welcome a project of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #180 in Vienna, Va was created to organize welcoming ceremonies for the Honor flights at the three Washington area airports. Normally, active military members, school children, and bands playing patriotic music participate.

In June of 2014, the Honor Flight Act was introduced in Congress. It directs the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for Honor Flight veterans.

Today, Honor Flights leave from 130 hubs in 44 states. As of 2015, they have flown 159,703 Veterans, 20,886 in last year alone. They have relied on 107,527 fly-along guardians since it started. There are 21,032 veterans on the standby list. (20% are from World War II, 43% Korea, 36% Vietnam and others.). 2015 saw the first all-female Honor Flight with 140 female veterans on board.

Donations are the heart of the organization and make it possible for more of our aging veterans to make a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the memorials in D.C. The cost of each flight is between \$50,000-\$60,000, which includes airfare, land transportation, food, beverages, wheel-chair rentals and other support materials, is covered by donations. The Honor Flights are completely free to selected Veterans. In addition, Honor Flight always needs volunteers to escort veterans, push wheelchairs, and show them around D.C. Volunteers pay their own way (about \$400) or find sponsors.

Both Miller and Morse were awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2008 for their work in the program.

The Pinellas chapter of the Honor Flight Network, which started in 2011, is Honor Flight of West Central Florida. It is an official Regional Hub of the national Honor Flight Network. To date, they have taken 1,884 veterans to Washington, D.C. The local president is Beverly Frey. Volunteer Coordinator is Tina Provo.

Honor Flight of West Central Florida tries to coordinate four trips a year. The next one leaves Clearwater / St. Pete (PIE) airport at 4 am Tuesday, June 7 and returns that same night at 8:30 pm. This is the 26th Pinellas County mission and will have 78 veterans on board. Volunteer are encouraged to participate in their welcome home party that evening.

Linda DeWitt flew on an Honor Flight April 26th as a volunteer escort for Richard Mayfield age 89. They met for the first time at the flight orientation. Here is her experience.

We all arrived at the airport at 3:30 am and were greeted by firetrucks on the runway squirting water over the plane as a salute to the veterans. After a two-hour flight, we arrived in Baltimore to another set of firetrucks greeting us. Three red, white and blue buses were loaded with veterans, volunteers, and wheelchairs for the hour drive to Washington DC. Our first stop was the Air Force Monument.



After lunch, we moved on to the WW II Monument. It resembled the Colosseum and had a fountain in the middle with famous sayings. We got a group photo of all 76 veterans with the memorial. The next stops were the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Wall two blocks around the corner.

We drove around a portion of Arlington cemetery and the Iwo Jima statue, then drove an hour back to Baltimore. During the drive, the veterans told stories and sang old military songs. The driver was full of history and stories and made the drive very interesting.

During the 2-hour flight home, there was a mail call with each veteran receiving an envelope of 25 to 30 letters from children's groups, politicians, and church groups. The writers said how they appreciated their service; it was very emotional for some. When we landed, the families of each veteran, military personnel, therapy dogs, church groups, biker groups, Rotary members - at least 1200 people - were lined up with a band to shake their hands. It was over 2 city blocks long and included Generals, Lieutenants, and local politicians. It was a breathtaking welcome home from a trip of a lifetime!

In 2002, there were almost 5 million World War II veterans still alive; today, there are 670,000, With an estimated 32,000 War-era Veterans living in the our area. Honor Flight's mission is to help each of them to see their memorial. If you or someone you know is a veteran, please contact Honor Flights. Mark Welsh, the Pinellas Coordinator, can be reached at 727-204-1754 or at info@HonorFlightWCF.org. Find more information at www.HonorFlightsWCF.org or HonorFlight.org.

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**WARD'S SEAFOOD - OVER 60 YEARS OF SEAFOOD**

Since 1955, Ward's Seafood Market has been supplying the area with locally caught fresh seafood. But few people remember Johnny and Millie Ward, the folks who started it.

Between 1950 and 1970, most people caught mullet.

During certain times of the year, the mullet schooled by the thousands in all Pinellas waterways, especially around Clearwater Harbor and Sand Key. Fishermen used gill nets to round them up and pull them into their specially designed boats. The engines were in the middle of the boats so not to interfere with the nets in the back.

Johnny Ward grew up in Clearwater in a fishing family. His three brothers and later his son all were fishermen. Johnny would catch a boat-load of mullet and haul them off to a nearby fish market—to sell them to whomever had the best price.

In 1954, Johnny met Millie. He was a young guy in his 30s; Millie was in her 20s. She had recently relocated to Clearwater from Indiana. She liked his dark tanned look and he liked the way she smiled. Johnny loved to fish. Soon Millie loved to fish, too. They got married that same year. They decided to sell the fish Johnny caught and had left over. At first they simply sold the day's catch out of ice chests and buckets in front of their home.

In 1955, they built a house at the southwest corner of MLK South and Belleair Road. Soon after, they decided to open their own fish market. In 1956, Johnny added a 20'x20' building just to the north of their house. He called it Ward's Seafood Market. Johnny and Millie ran the small fish house seven days a week.

"We sold fish - both retail and wholesale," says Millie. "Johnny fished all day and brought the fish to the store. We got seafood from other area fishermen, too. I would help fillet, display and sell the fish, crabs, scallops and other seafood. Johnny used his truck to deliver seafood to area restaurants and bait shops. We even supplied grocery stores, including Publix, in the early days."

"We delivered fish and seafood to many restaurants that no longer exist today," Millie recalls. "I remember selling to Leon's, The Pelican, Fisherman's Wharf, The Garden Seat, The Palm Garden, Morrison's, and even the Safety Harbor Resort."

There were five additions to the initial building. They added more coolers and more retail display cases. They only had the one location. "We had all we could do," adds Millie. "Between fishing, delivering, and selling, we could not even think about expanding."

The Ward's had about ten employees. "Three were girls," Millie says. Millie paid the bills and the employees, plus billed the customers. "We owned a few trucks and they were kept



Johnny Ward

busy every day."

They sold grouper, snapper, mackerel and of course mullet. "Mullet was very popular in those days, especially smoked mullet," Millie adds. Ward's also sold shrimp, crabs and lobster, flown in from Maine."

Ward's also smoked a lot of fish. "Johnny was a great smoker," Millie adds. Word quickly spread that the Ward's had the "freshest fish in town" and their business just got bigger and bigger.

In 1975, after working for 20 years, the Ward's decided to sell the business to Wayne Widmark. He operated it for the next 15 years. In the meantime, "Johnny kept on fishing, because that is what he did," adds Millie. "I used to fish with him a lot. I loved fishing almost as much as he did." He kept his boat on a trailer at home and launched it at the Seminole Boat Ramp.



Millie Ward, today

In 1990, Widmark sold Ward's to the current owners Rob and Michelle Cameron.

"We moved here from Upstate New York in 1985," says Rob. "I got a job as a cook and Michele was a nurse at Morton Plant Hospital."

Rob worked at the Indian Shores waterfront restaurant Greenstreets, as a cook and kitchen manager. "We used to get our fish delivered from Ward's," Rob recalls. "One day, the driver

told me Ward's was hiring. I called Widmark. He hired me and after five years I found Ward's was in financial trouble and was getting ready to shut down. I felt the business still could be successful if run right, so Michele and I laid out our savings, borrowed some money - the rest is history."

Rob and Michele have owned the business for 26 years. They have grown it and now it includes a takeout kitchen and nationwide shipping, with about 5,000 customers per week, depending on the season.

"We still get most of our fish and products from local fishermen, just like Johnny and Millie used to do. I consider myself very privileged and thankful to have had the opportunity to know and learn from the Ward's and to carry on their legacy," says Rob.

Johnny died in 2007.

Millie, now 84 says she misses the good ol' days" of going out on the water with Johnny and catching lots of fish.

Ward's Seafood Market is located at 1001 Belleair Road in Clearwater. Call them at 727-581-2640. Visit [WardsSeafood.com](http://WardsSeafood.com).



Rob and Michelle Cameron



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## Business Briefs

### WILD FIELDS MARKETPLACE

There has been a change to the ownership group with Doug Bebell coming on board. Doug is the brother of Guppy's Chef Scott Bebell. Doug is also the Chef at their sister restaurant,



Mystic Fish. They are striving to offer customers better quality and consistency with a focus on organic produce, wild caught seafood, Strauss grass-fed beef and prepared foods. Oh, and the truck in the produce department is gone, it has been moved to their other Wild Field Marketplace in Palm Harbor.

**ALBERTSON BECOMES SAFEWAY** The three remaining Florida Albertsons Grocery stores were sold to Safeway, a grocery chain based in California. This includes the Albertsons at Largo Mall, at 10500 Ulmerton. Safeway has just finished remodeling it, with a grand reopening at the end of May. The new store includes an expanded food section, a Starbucks, contemporary décor, wide isles, a large organic section, digital signs, menu boards, an expanded natural area and living well products. The store stayed open during the remodel. In other markets, Safeway offers Gas Rewards and delivery. They hope to bring those services to the Largo Mall store too.

**HOMETRUST NOW BILTMORE GROUP** HomeTrust Beachside Realty and the HomeTrust Countryside location will be joining forces to become Biltmore Group International Real Estate, reflecting and paying homage to the historic Bellevue



Biltmore Hotel that, for decades, was synonymous with luxury. The name change took place May 1st and reflects the company's position in the luxury real estate market. Biltmore Group will be joining two international MLS systems to provide marketing coverage of our listed properties to buyers and real estate worldwide.

**NEW PHARMACY** Bay Life Pharmacy & Compounding Belleair Bluffs brings the old pharmacy concept back to town but with a new twist. They offer expert personalized pharmacy services in a boutique shopping atmosphere! You can consult with your pharmacist, get your prescribed medications and select from a variety of holistic and natural remedies that work! Not only that- they compound, have a medical supply & Ostomy expert available and deliver - free! However, they hope you stop in and enjoy their store which also has many unique, beachy gift items from around the world for you to enjoy!

# Business Briefs

## SPLASH HARBOR

Our beach now has its own version of Adventure Island—located in Indian Rocks Beach. The owners of the Holiday Inn Harborside built the Splash Harbor water park featuring two 42 foot tall water slides.



Smugglers Run is a tube slide that spins you into a huge water bowl before you shoot into a plunge pool below. Pirates Plunge is a faster slide for bodies only. There is also a relaxing 600 foot Great White Lazy River with waterfalls and splashing water tunnels. Treasure Cove Splash Zone is an interactive children's play area with three slides, a splash fun area and a massive dumping bucket. The Blue Lagoon pool and the Iguana Falls feature a mushroom shaped splash area. The deck includes a sun area and shaded poolside cabanas.

The water park is available to customers of the Holiday Inn and Villas for a small fee. The general public can also use the park for a fee (around \$25 per person) when the park is not at capacity from the hotel.

Splash Harbor is available for summer camps, birthday parties and special events. For information, visit [SplashHarbourWaterPark.com](http://SplashHarbourWaterPark.com) or find them on FaceBook.

**55 YEARS** Bluffs Animal Hospital is celebrating 55 years of caring for family pets. Located at 320 Indian Rocks Road N in Belleair Bluffs, they provide medical services for dogs and cats, as well as grooming and boarding. Established at this very location in 1961 by Dr. Gerald Lee and his wife, Liz Lee, the veterinary practice grew steadily, and is now owned by Dr. Guy Gibson and Dr. Doug Spiker. The hospital has 5 full-time veterinarians.

One thing that sets Bluffs Animal Hospital apart is they see pets on a walk-in basis. With the exception of surgery and dentals, there are no appointments to see a veterinarian. From the beginning, Dr. Lee understood pets do not get sick on a schedule and should be able to receive care when they need it. It is a convenience for pet parents too!

The hospital recently added two new veterinarians: Dr. Trish Futoma and Dr. Annie Gintert. Dr. Futoma is a graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She grew up in Connecticut and moved to the area from a multi-doctor practice in central Florida. Dr. Gintert is a recent graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, but she grew up in Pinellas County. Dr. Gibson, Dr. Spiker and Dr. Heatherly are excited to have these two veterinarians join the Bluffs family.

**ANIMAL AMBULANCE** Vet Care Express, Animal - Ambulance, new to Pinellas County is an Emergency or non-Emergency transport service for all pets. Vet Care Express is Veterinarian recommended and provides an affordable, reliable and caring solution for any pet transport need. They are fully licensed, insured and professionally equipped with oxygen, pet masks, a stretcher, gurney, and first aid supplies. They work closely with area emergency clinics and Veterinarians. Whether you have an emergency or just need to get your pet to the Vet, groomer or boarder, they are ready. Vet Care Express is open 24 hr. - 365 days/year. Call 727-900-7775.

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## **PREPARING FOR A DISASTER TAKES A COMMUNITY**

The American Red Cross prepares to respond to disasters year round with the hope that we never need to use that training. But each year, Floridians must deal with the realization we are the most hurricane-vulnerable.

The Tropical Meteorology Project from Colorado State University predicts that the "2016 Atlantic basin hurricane season will have approximately average activity." They predict a total of 13 named storms and six hurricanes. But it only takes one storm (or even a tropical storm) to destroy our paradise.

Hurricanes can cause hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Preparation is the best protection against these dangers.

Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. It's important to have flood protection associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact us. For information on flood insurance, visit [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).

The Red Cross recommends all Florida residents update their family evacuation plan, emergency preparedness kit and get better prepared.

Download the free Red Cross Emergency app to your mobile device. Emergency is the one-download resource that puts vital information at your fingertips. This "all-inclusive" app combines more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts from natural to man-made, giving you real-time information to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Choose the alerts that are important to your location. Monitor activity across the country to know when incidents are about to occur in the locations of your family and friends. Activate "Family Safe" to notify loved ones that an alert has been issued in their area and check to see if they are safe. Access vital information on what to do before, during and after an emergency strikes. Download via Apple App Store or Google Play or text "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999. Disponible en español.

### **Make an emergency**

**preparedness kit.** Your kit should include a portable, sturdy, easy to carry, water resistant container and should have enough supplies for seven days. Check your kit and replace perishable stock every six months. Whether you purchase a kit or choose to build your own, your seven-day kit should include:

- Water - one gallon/person, per day.
- Food - non-perishable, easy items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, and canned fruit. Make sure to include a manual can opener.
- A battery or hand-crank radio,

flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.

- A first aid kit.
- Prescription and non-prescription medication items (seven-day supply). Include medical supplies like extra hearing aid batteries, syringes, etc.
- Copies of important documents, including birth certificates, insurance policies, a medication list and medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home and social security cards.
- Cell phone chargers.
- Multi-purpose tool.
- Sanitation and hygiene items.
- Extra cash. ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- A blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowls).
- Maps of the area.



### **Prepare a family evacuation plan that includes:**

- Identifying two meeting places: one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Making advanced preparations for your pets. Be aware that pets may not be allowed in shelters. Contact hotels, motels, family members and animal shelters to see if they would allow pets in a disaster situation. Keep a list of "pet friendly" locations. If you evacuate, take your pets with you.
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. During or after a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance, if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact person's phone number and email address.
- Plan your evacuation route. Use local maps and identify alternate evacuation

routes from home, work and/or school. Know where you are going and how to get there before you leave home.

### **Know what to do if a hurricane WATCH is issued.**

- Listen to weather updates from your portable radio.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, hanging plants, bicycles, toys and garden tools; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Close all windows and doors. Cover windows with storm shutters or plywood.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture or move it to a higher floor to protect it from flooding.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Check your disaster supplies kit to make sure items have not expired.

### **Know what to do if a hurricane WARNING is issued.**

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if told to do so. To locate the nearest Red Cross emergency shelter, check your hurricane app or visit [redcross.org/shelter](http://redcross.org/shelter).
- If in a manufactured home, check tie-downs and evacuate when told to.
- Unplug unnecessary appliances.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- If not advised to evacuate, stay inside, away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Use flashlights. Do NOT use open flames, candles and kerosene lamps.
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.
- Get involved – find opportunities to support community preparedness and response.
- Call American Red Cross at 727-898-3111 to get started as a volunteer or visit [redcross.org/central-florida](http://redcross.org/central-florida) and click "Volunteer" on the left side of the home page.
- Get trained in CPR and First Aid by calling 1-800-Red-Cross or visit [redcross.org/take-a-class](http://redcross.org/take-a-class).
- Once you become a Red Cross volunteer, take free disaster training courses at your local Red Cross office at 818 Fourth St. North, St. Pete.
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**A SUMMER OF SAILING SETS A YOUNGSTER ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS**

by Anne McKay Garris

The Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key is offering a week of free sailing camp experience this summer. Each paid-up camper may bring a friend the first week, free of charge, to get a sample of the adventure of sailing. The camps, for ages 5 and up, last for 9 weeks and provide adventure on the water at a level of sailing appropriate to their age and interest. Camps begin June 6 and registration is underway by calling 727-517-7776.

The free week idea comes from Norman Olsen, a long time Center supporter and Board Member. "Youngsters are happier going into a new adventure with a friend," he says, "and it makes the camp more affordable for the friend. By the end of a week, both youngsters will feel more at home, having experienced the challenge and excitement of sailing and gotten to know the other campers. Hopefully, the friend will be able to sign up for the rest of the camp."

Mr. Olsen's experience with teaching youngsters to sail dates back to 1973 when he was on the board of the Clearwater Yacht Club. He established a youth sailing program, using 10 boats of the 420 class, a lightweight boat capable of holding 3 children and are used in high school and college competitive sailing. The program, titled Clearwater Olympic Yachting Committee Junior Sailing Program, eventually taught over 1,000 children to sail.

When he found the Yacht Club area too confined for expansion of the successful program, Mr. Olsen, who was now Commodore of the Clearwater Windjammers, helped persuade the Clearwater City Commissioners to provide land at the north end of Sand Key for a City sailing center. With that accomplished, he headed up a successful drive for funding for the design of the building.

"I believe, if you teach children how to sail they will learn to

be confident, resourceful, independent and responsible individuals," Olsen says, telling, as an example, the story of young Gary Jobson, who graduated from the program at the Clearwater Yacht Club and went on to become a Silver Medalist at the 1992 Olympics, as well as a vigorous supporter of U.S. youth sailing programs.

Over the ensuing years, Mr. Olsen has founded and developed two other award-winning U.S. junior sailing programs, teaching over 4,000 children and young adults how to sail in Lake Forest, IL, and Crystal Lake, MI. He has participated in the making of several nationally distributed films on youth sailing, most notably as Marine Director and advisor on a sailing feature film, called The Dove, which was produced by Gregory Peck with Paramount pictures.

Always, Mr. Olsen's purpose has been to promote sailing as a healthy, lifelong sport that teaches young people skills needed to succeed in life. Over the years, he has received letters from countless parents testifying to their children's personality improvements resulting from what they learned at the tiller of a sailboat.

Since returning to live in Belleair, Norman Olsen has begun a quest for funds to buy additional Optimist Dinghies to expand the Youth Sailing Program at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key, because, as he believes, "Young people learning to sail, teach themselves how to listen to the wind or their inner voice to make good decisions."



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## RESIDENTS CAN HELP PREVENT SEWER OVERFLOWS DURING RAINS

Tampa Bay area residents are well aware that, along with sunshine and sunscreen, most summer afternoons feature a brief, but heavy rainstorm. Florida's rainy season runs from June through October and accounts for 70 percent of Florida's annual rainfall.

When the Bay area experiences record rainfall, storm water management systems can become overburdened. Extreme rain events can stress wastewater sewer systems resulting in sanitary sewer overflows due to the volume of excess water.

Storm water can penetrate the wastewater sewer system through leaky manhole covers, cracked or broken sewer pipes, and unauthorized connections between sewer pipes and storm water pipes. When a sewer system is over capacity, it can overflow into the environment.

An average household of four can produce as much as 400 gallons or more of wastewater per day. Residents can help avoid an overflow by following these tips to put less water in the sewer system, especially during heavy rains.

- Do not water the lawn if it is raining.
- Check underground wastewater pipes of homes built before 1985. Many homes built prior to 1985 were built with clay pipes or Orangeburg pipes, which are made only of paper and tar. Also, check your clean-outs to make sure the caps are on securely.
- Postpone doing loads of laundry and dishes during periods of heavy rainfall, if possible. Remember that all dish and laundry wastewater gets sent to wastewater treatment plants that may already be dealing with excess water.
- Add mulch to reduce evaporation. Mulching reduces water needed in a garden by as much as 50 percent. It also has the added benefit of preventing weed growth, deterring pests,

stabilizing soil temperature and providing nutrients to the soil as it decomposes.

- Harvest rain to water flower beds, herb gardens and potted plants.

Rain is free and beneficial for plants because it does not contain hard minerals.

- Choose native plants that are adapted to the area because they need less water.
- Check hose and sprinkler connections for leaks – a drop wasted each second can add up to a couple of gallons each day.
- On slopes, plant native species that will retain water and help reduce runoff.
- Irrigate your lawn with reclaimed water. To find out if reclaimed water is available in your neighborhood, contact your utility company.
- Most importantly, never let your children or grandchildren play in flood waters; it is simply unsanitary

Conserving water during a flood may sound counterintuitive, but it can make a huge difference when wastewater treatment facilities are at capacity. Water conservation protects an essential resource, and it can also protect our homes and our environment from sewer overflows. For more information on storm water safety, visit [dep.state.fl.us](http://dep.state.fl.us).



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## Bar & Restaurant News

### NEW OWNERS AT VENUS

After three decades of operating The Venus Restaurant, Nick and Despina decided it was time to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and spend more time with their grandchildren. After searching for a family who would continue the tradition of their family, Nick and Despina sold the restaurant to Mark and Irene Norberg, in May.



The Norberg's are not new to the restaurant business. Mark has been a restaurateur his entire career and was VP of Operations for Darden's Seasons 52. Irene was raised in a family run Greek restaurant in Atlanta and has run several local restaurants with her husband.

The Norberg's are no strangers to Belleair Bluff's either. Irene's sister is Evelyn Michaelos (St. Michael's Eye Institute) and they have been visiting here for years and always made a point to dine at the Venus.

"I was looking for an opportunity to get back to the part of the business I love," says Mark. "I was tired of the corporate world and wanted a chance to be involved in the day-to-day operations of a local favorite."

"Nothing is going to change except the light bulbs if they burn out," says Mark. "We have the same name, staff and chef." Nick will stay involved in the business as the landlord and will remain a presence in the operations.



**A SECOND SLYCE COMING SOON** The owners of Slyce Pizza Bar in Indian Rocks Beach are building a second store on the mainland near Madeira Beach between Publix and McDonalds. It overlooks the water and you can use the nearby floating docks to go by boat. The store is still under construction and will not open for another couple of months.

**SEA-GUINI** This new restaurant is open inside the Opal Sands Resort. This beach-casual but upscale restaurant features fresh local seafood with an Italian twist. The head chef, Todd Hollander, comes to our area from the Key West Westin. His team has been recruited from other popular Ocean Properties resorts. They offer seafood specialties, aged all natural steaks, and signature pastas made from scratch, using simple, natural and whole ingredients. They also offer handcrafted Neapolitan pizzas prepared to order and baked in a Tuscan brick oven. The dining room has breathtaking views from all areas. You do not have to stay at the hotel to enjoy the restaurant.



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# Bar & Restaurant News



**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**  
Chez Colette Bistro's owners are celebrating their first anniversary. Last summer, Colette Pommel, and her son Nicholas, bought the French restaurant which opened as Le Bouchon in 2002, and changed the name to Chez Colette Bistro.

**CLEARWATER'S CRABBY BILL CLOSED** The Crabby Bill's restaurant in Clearwater Beach, next to the round about, is closed, but it did not go out of business. The building is being rebuilt. The restaurant closed in May to prepare for demolition. The City owns the land and the building. Crabby Bill's however has a long term lease. Over the years, the location was a gas station in the 1970s, followed by the Clearwater Beach Seafood Restaurant in the 1980s, Crazy Bill's in the 1990s and finally Crabby Bill's in July 2000.

The new, taller Crabby Bill's restaurant will have open-air patio seating on the first level and air conditioned dining on the second. The third level will be open air with beach views and sunsets. It is scheduled to reopen next March.

## MARINA CANTINA OPENS

This long awaited southwest themed restaurant is now open in the Clearwater Beach Marina parking lot.



The restaurant features indoor and outdoor seating on the second level. The indoor dining area has large open doors on three sides and a major bar. The third level is a large walk around deck with its own bar and panoramic views of the marina and sunsets. This is another in the Baystar Restaurant Group that also owns Island Way Grill and Salt Rock Grill. As parking is limited, valet parking is available.

**BEEF-O-BRADY'S CLOSES** The restaurant in Largo, near Wal-Mart Grocery, closed without notice in March. The note on the door still says closed for medical reasons. Some say they lost their franchise due to lack of business.

**BELLEAIR COFFEE** Belleair residents and owners Chris Whalen and Cammie Griffin are now hoping to open in early June. Construction of the new coffee store is finishing up in The Plaza Shopping Center with a Grand Opening in the middle of June with free food and coffee.

"We plan to specialize in coffee--all kinds of coffee," says Chris. "We get our coffee primarily from Intelligentsia, a leader in the industry." They will also serve cappuccino, latte, espresso and a variety of teas. Drinks are served in biodegradable drinkware, plus they will offer pastries baked on site.



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

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## THE VITALE BROTHERS HAVE BRUSH...WILL TRAVEL

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

**M**urals have been popping up on the sides of area buildings everywhere. One of the people behind it is the gifted muralist Johnny Vitale.

Vitale says he has been a doodler as far back as he can remember. His mother says as a child, he used to scribble, even when he was in his highchair.

When he finished high school, Vitale did not know what he wanted to do, so he got a job as a waiter at The Hurricane Restaurant in Pass-A-Grille. He was the guy who drew on the chalkboards and made happy faces on the guest's receipt. He also did some t-shirts. Vitale admits he was a lousy waiter and the restaurant's owner Rick Faulkenstein agrees.

One day, Rick told Vitale he had good news and bad news. The bad news was he was being fired from his waiter job. The good news was they wanted him to paint some large murals on three of walls at the Hurricane and pay him to do it. It was Vitale first paid job as an artist.

When the Hurricane murals were done, Vitale and his brother Paul, went to work for a local billboard company painting large images on billboards. As luck would have it, the company went digital the following year and fired all their painters.

Vitale and his brother decided to start their own mural painting business. In the beginning, business was slow. Very slow.

Back in 2000, Vitale was driving past Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant on Park Street and had a vision of a Mexican lady dancing in a colorful dress on the side of the building. He sketched it on a napkin and left it with the manager. Two days later, the owner Vince Lopez called him and asked "How much?" They struck a deal and Carmelita's became the first customer of his new business.

Things took off after that, and since then, the Vitale Brothers, have done some big things, including: Murals inside of Tropicana Field, the back of The State Theater, Tampa's Poe Parking Garage next to The Glazer Museum, Tropical Scooters, Thai Pan Alley and P.J.'s Oyster Bar in Indian Rocks Beach. Great Bay Distributors had them paint murals inside their new building in St. Petersburg which turned out to be one of their largest projects to date.

Last fall, the Arts Alliance of Downtown St. Pete, sponsored a mural painting festival which included painting ten large buildings. The Vitale brothers painted or assisted in with three of them. To see their Downtown Mural work, visit [www.ShineOnStPete.com](http://www.ShineOnStPete.com).

"The Vitale Brothers are very talented artists," says John

Collins, Director of the Downtown Arts Alliance. "People do not know how much they were the cornerstone of the Shine Mural Festival. They prepared the other artists, advised them, and helped the emerging artists. We were very fortunate to have them working with us and basically, they are just really nice guys."

"Those Vitale Brothers are a hoot to work with," says Bama Palmer, owner of P.J.'s Oyster Bar. "They are so creative—and fast. All I had to do was point at a wall, and they were on it the next day."



Loreal Hair Company, a division of Salon Centrix, discovered them and flies them all over the U.S. to paint their new stores. "Loreal has become our biggest clients, based on money," says Vitale.

They travel to many distant states including California, Iowa, New Jersey, Las Vegas, Georgia and Virginia. When they fly, they cannot take any paint on the airplane. When they get to their destination, they rent a car and head straight to Home Depot and Michaels. They normally carry their own brushes with them. "Have Brushes—Will Travel," Vitale chuckles.

Vitale, now 45, says his company has grown to four people including himself, brother Paul and two other artists. When he needs more help, he knows where to find it. "The art world is a tight knit group. When we need help, we can usually get it with just a phone call," Vitale explains.

So the next time you see a large painting on the side of a wall, you might be looking at the work of the Vitale Brothers. See more of their work at [VitaleBrothers.com](http://VitaleBrothers.com). To get your own mural, call them at 727-520-0969.



## CHASING SHADOWS, AMAZON'S #1 LAW ENFORCEMENT BOOK

**Written by Daryl May, Previous Pinellas County Deputy Sheriff.**

by Daryl May, Belleair Resident

*Chasing Shadows* is a memoir recounting my years as a Pinellas County deputy sheriff in the 1960s and my travels and travails later as a stand-up comedian, guitarist, singer and songwriter.

I suppose, we all have stories to tell. It's only a matter of how badly we want to tell them. Maya Angelou, essayist and activist, said, "It only takes three things to be a writer. First, you got to have something to say. Secondly, you got to have the ability to say it and, thirdly, you got to have the courage to say it all." And so, not long ago, I took up pen (actually, I turned on my laptop) and wrote *Chasing Shadows*, a mostly humorous book recently released on Amazon by DocUmeant Publishing, NYC, recounting how, over the years, life and law enforcement in Pinellas County have changed significantly, technically and theoretically.

A deputy sheriff in the 1960s was mostly on his own in hairy situations. On the midnight shift everything north of Clearwater to the Pasco County line was usually patrolled by one deputy. The only contact for help was the car radio, portable body radios with mikes attached to an officer's shoulder was technology not yet available. It seems like only yesterday, but fifty-five years ago the Mafia was fiercely entrenched in the Tampa Bay area, the Pinellas KKK was burning crosses on weekends, court systems were segregated and communities were significantly divided in regards to race.

There were memorable moments. Four days before his Dallas assassination, I guarded President John Kennedy in Tampa, smelled the Cuban cigar smoke on his jacket and, along with thousands of others, sensed his overwhelming aura. But on that day, I and other lawmen questioned what we

considered unsound security measures for the most powerful man in the world. My first arrest as a very green deputy was a good ol' Largo boy by the last name of May. He was knee-walking, ankle-dragging drunk and found it incomprehensible that I could jail someone that shared his family name. Little Red Riding Hooker is an amusing arrest I made while working undercover as a vice cop. No pun intended.

I once apprehended a desperado that had had a bottle of apricot brandy broken over his head. While cuffing the rowdy fellow, it was all I could do to keep from licking my fingers.

Then one fateful night, on a lonely stretch of US-19, I was forced to use my service revolver to survive. A life was lost. I left law enforcement not because of the incident but resolved there was more to life's journey than battling society's outlaws and chasing bandits ... I would follow my dream.

For the next several years, I entertained at posh hotels around the country, did comedy at an Australian ski resort and performed on cruise ships. Stuttering Nashville artist Mel Tillis had a hit record with a funny song I wrote about the Gator Bar, a juke joint in down town Largo.

*Chasing Shadows* is available on Amazon and book signings at Brenda May's Salon, 1419 South Ft. Harrison, Clearwater, Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon during June. I am also available for book signings and speaking engagements. For information please call: 727/442-8451 or contact me on Facebook or at my website: darylmaycomedy.com.



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## SUNKEN GARDENS WELCOMES 20 NEW FLAMINGOS

George and Lucy have been empty-nesters in recent years at Sunken Gardens, a St. Petersburg historic botanical attraction. The two lonely flamingos were once part of 17 flamingos who made their home at the Gardens, which is one of Florida's original roadside attractions. The two have been anxiously awaiting some new feathered friends.

After more than three years of fundraising efforts by supportive citizens, Sunken Gardens welcomed a new flock of 20 young Chilean flamingos. St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman hosted an event at the Gardens, 1825 Fourth Street N., last month, to welcome the new long-legged wading birds.

"It has been quite the journey to get our new flamingos, and we couldn't have done it without the commitment and enthusiasm of the community," said Gardens Supervisor Bill O'Grady. He traveled to meet the birds prior to their journey to St. Petersburg and will monitor them closely the first few weeks in their new home.

Raising funds was only the first step in getting the precious pink birds to their new home in one of Florida's most beautiful botanical gardens. In late 2015, the city funded a new night time enclosure to house the anticipated birds, and then in 2016, it finally received a commitment from their breeder that he would allow them to purchase the birds. The city underwent a rigorous adoption process, which included several required letters of recommendation and documentation of adequate living conditions. The Gardens welcomed them to the community with a Flamingo Festival on May 1.

For more information on St. Pete's journey to restock the flock, contact Lauren Kleinfeld, Sunken Gardens Manager, at [Lauren.Kleinfeld@stpete.org](mailto:Lauren.Kleinfeld@stpete.org).

## MIDORI ORGANIC SALON & SPA JOINS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

63,180 lbs of hair clippings, 42,122 lbs of hair color, 109,512 lbs of foil and color tubes, and 206,392lbs of wastepaper, salon bottles, and other paper and plastic items – that's the amount of waste being tossed out by hair salons across North America EVERY SINGLE DAY; that's a total of 421,206 lbs! As a newly Green Circle Certified Salon (GCS), Midori Organic Salon & Spa is proud to announce they are part of a comprehensive recycling and sustainability program to significantly reduce the industry's environmental impact.

From the sourcing of ingredients, to the disposal of packaging and products, the salon and beauty industry has long posed many challenges to the environment. With this in mind, Midori joined forces with GCS to work together to reduce their ecological footprint and to move sustainable. Through the GCS partnership, they will be redirecting what was garbage out of the water streams and landfills, to be re-purposed into innovative green solutions. Starting June 1, all hair clippings, extensions, excess color and developer, papers and plastics, foils, aerosol cans and color tubes from Midori will be collected by GCS - effectively cutting the salon's total waste by 85-95%, literally overnight!

As people continue to take increasing interest in the ethical and environmental impacts of their purchasing power, they wanted to give their customers a genuinely more responsible and greener choice while still looking and feeling beautiful.

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Wild Fields Marketplace

## SPECTACULAR DESIGNER WATERFRONT RESIDENCE

Beautiful, unique design and architectural elements create a sense of awe inspiring tranquility upon entering this unusual local waterfront residence. Designers Cara Mayes and Jen Kravchuk, of Decker Ross Interiors, decided on a Modern Farmhouse style with Coastal accents, which they incorporated into the design plan for this home. They chose shades of grey, tan, and steel blue to enhance the beauty of the existing driftwood ceiling and granite floors. To avoid using a lot of busy patterns, Cara and Jen chose to mix natural linen and lush velvet to create textural contrast and interest, without detracting from the beautiful architectural detail of the residence. Nailhead trim provides a consistent embellishment throughout their design from the custom cornice boards to the sofa and unique cocktail table. "We tried to emphasize the unique architecture of the home by selecting certain items, such as the large nautilus shell art piece and interlocking circular patterned rug in the Dining Room," Cara commented. "We repeated the circular motif established in the nearby large round picture window, as well as the spiral staircase," she added. The corners of the cocktail table incorporated the circular motif, which was also repeated vertically in the embroidery pattern on the beautiful, custom made draperies.



When it came to accessorizing, "We created a cluster of hurricane style candle holders, and then artistically arranged some branches with an array of succulents, for the centerpiece on the dining table," Jen remarked. The designers also selected a large iron lantern style chandelier in the Living Room, and brought in some coastal elements with oyster shell and silver leaf coral lamps, driftwood candlesticks, a large shell vessel with lovely silk floral, as well as a modern abstract art beach scene. The homeowners are extremely pleased that the beautiful design aesthetic reflects their taste and lifestyle, and that Cara and Jen paid such close attention to every detail throughout the process.

Decker Ross is located at 1445 Court Street, Clearwater. You can reach them at 727.442.9996 or [www.DeckerRoss.com](http://www.DeckerRoss.com)

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Laurie Zugay & Bill Hallar – Housewarmers

Laurie and Bill have volunteered as Housewarmers in the Ronald McDonald St. Pete East House kitchen every Thursday night since March 2015, amassing over 80 hours of service. As Housewarmers, they greet dinner groups and familiarize them to the kitchen as they prepare meals for our families. Their easy, gentle manner helps put everyone at ease; they answer questions, help prepare food, locate essential items and, most importantly, join families and groups for dinner to engage in conversation. Laurie has also put in countless hours assisting with the East House renovations. Many of the lovely elements in the house are the direct result of her keen eye for design and ability to envision the best layout. Laurie and Bill are also special event volunteers who enjoy helping at core fundraisers. What a great team!



## KAHWA COFFEE - COMING TO BELLEAIR

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

**K**hat does Kahwa mean? According to Raphael Perrier, owner of Kahwa Coffee in St. Petersburg, it means coffee and he knows, because that is his business.

Coffee got its known beginnings in Ethiopia in the Kaffa region of Africa. The Turkish name for coffee is Kahve, which evolved into Qahwa in Arabic. Today, the spelling differs from country to country, but kahwa is the original spelling for the word coffee throughout Africa. It evolved to café in France and caffè in Italy. The French use kahwa as slang for coffee. Raphael is from France, and the trademarked the word Kahwa for his company name.



When you talk to Raphael, you instantly know he is originally from France. His wife Sarah is from Canada but has lived much of her life in St. Petersburg. The two met and married in Philadelphia, where Raphael was a local Barista in cafe.

Ten years ago, after they were married, they moved to St. Petersburg and started a business, importing coffee beans. At first, they bought, blended and roasted their special brand of coffee and only sold it wholesale. Then in 2008, they

opened their first store on the corner of 5th Avenue and 2nd Street N., in St. Petersburg. Today, they have a very large distribution network which sells their coffee wholesale locally and internationally. At the same time, they now manage nine coffee shops in the Tampa Bay area. They are in the process of opening their tenth store in Belleair Bluffs in June.

Employees, called Baristas, must undergo an intense training program at the store to make sure each cup of coffee they serve is "the best coffee you have ever had," says Raphael. They employ over 80 people, nine of which are at their St. Pete roastery, near 34th Street N. That is primarily where Raphael and Sarah are each day.

They own nine coffee and bakery stores in the Tampa Bay area. Four stores are in Tampa, four are in St. Pete, and one is in Sarasota. To celebrate their 10th anniversary, they are opening their 10th store which is still under construction in Belleair Bluffs in the Bonefish Shopping Center, just to the



east of Bonefish.

The Perriers import beans from all over the world, especially Central and South America. To bring complex flavors to each cup of coffee, Kahwa specially blends different types of coffee beans. They only use 100% Arabica beans, but can be grown worldwide. Once the beans arrive in St. Petersburg, they are roasted at their St. Petersburg roastery. "We are extremely proud of our unique coffee blends," adds Sarah. "We make a wide variety of blends and know anyone can find one or more suited to his or her tastes."

Their types of coffee includes: Sirocco, Mistral, Boreas, Zonda, and Special Roasts. You can learn about each one on their web site, [www.KahwaCoffee.com](http://www.KahwaCoffee.com). The blends are available to purchase at many area grocery stores. Lately, you may also see the two on HSN promoting their coffees nationwide.

"Weekly, we roast and ship more than 5,000 pounds of coffee," says Raphael. "Not bad for only 9 people." They have over 600 wholesale customers, worldwide. Many customers are in Philadelphia, Miami, Orlando including Epcot, the Bahamas, and other major cities. They also sell directly to hundreds of area restaurants.

"We use their coffee in all our downtown area stores," says Steve Westphal, owner of Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House, The Hangar and other restaurants. "Kahwa is a great local brand and Raphael and Sarah are wonderful people."

Their stores offer more than just coffee. They serve a selection of French pastries, organic cookies, and muffins. Some stores offer a lunch menu with fresh salads, sandwiches, and have outdoor café seating. Of course, their stores also sell their coffee by the pound.

They are equally proud of their local community involvement. They live in the Allendale area where their two children attend nearby schools. They support many local non-profit organizations and participate in many local fundraising efforts.

For information or to find the locations of their stores, visit [www.KahwaCoffee.com](http://www.KahwaCoffee.com).





Forty years ago, in 1976, the nation had a big 200th birthday celebration. The people in Belleair Bluffs wanted to celebrate too and decided to create a city 4th

of July parade. It featured antique cars, decorated bicycles, floats, fire trucks from Belleair Bluffs and surrounding communities, a military color guard, singers and bands. The headliner was the world famous Largo High School Band of Gold marching band, who had just returned from an eastern United States tour.

The parade was the largest ever to have taken place in Belleair Bluffs before or since. Over 5,000 people lined the parade route, which ran from the fire station on Indian Rocks Road south to West Bay, then west to a reviewing stand in the Belleair Bazaar shopping center. It became an annual tradition.

"I remember the parade," says former Mayor John Diller. "We did not move here until 1984, but we came down to visit our parents on holidays. Later when I was Mayor, I used to ride in a convertible with my name on the side."

"I remember the picnics they used to have after the parade," says his wife Gwen Diller. "There was a lot of fun, food and talking."

**FORTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE DAYS**  
"We were in the parade in 1992," says Pat Arbutine, co-owner of The Silver Queen and Belleair Coins. "Art helped us decorate my car with about 20 balloons. We had magnetic signs on the side with our company's name. Chris drove my car. Chris Jr., Mary Jane, and I all waved to the hundreds of people who lined the parade route. My grandkids, then 2 and 3 could barely see out the windows. I remember it was a beautiful day and a great parade. After the parade, we all went to the park for a picnic, but there were very few people actually there."

Twenty-eight fire hydrants throughout the city were painted with patriotic themes by a dedicated committee of Belleair Bluffs citizens. The group was led by June Reed, the wife of Mayor Wilson Reed and recognized by the Florida League of Cities. The newspaper reported, "It was worth a tour of the city just to see the fire hydrants."

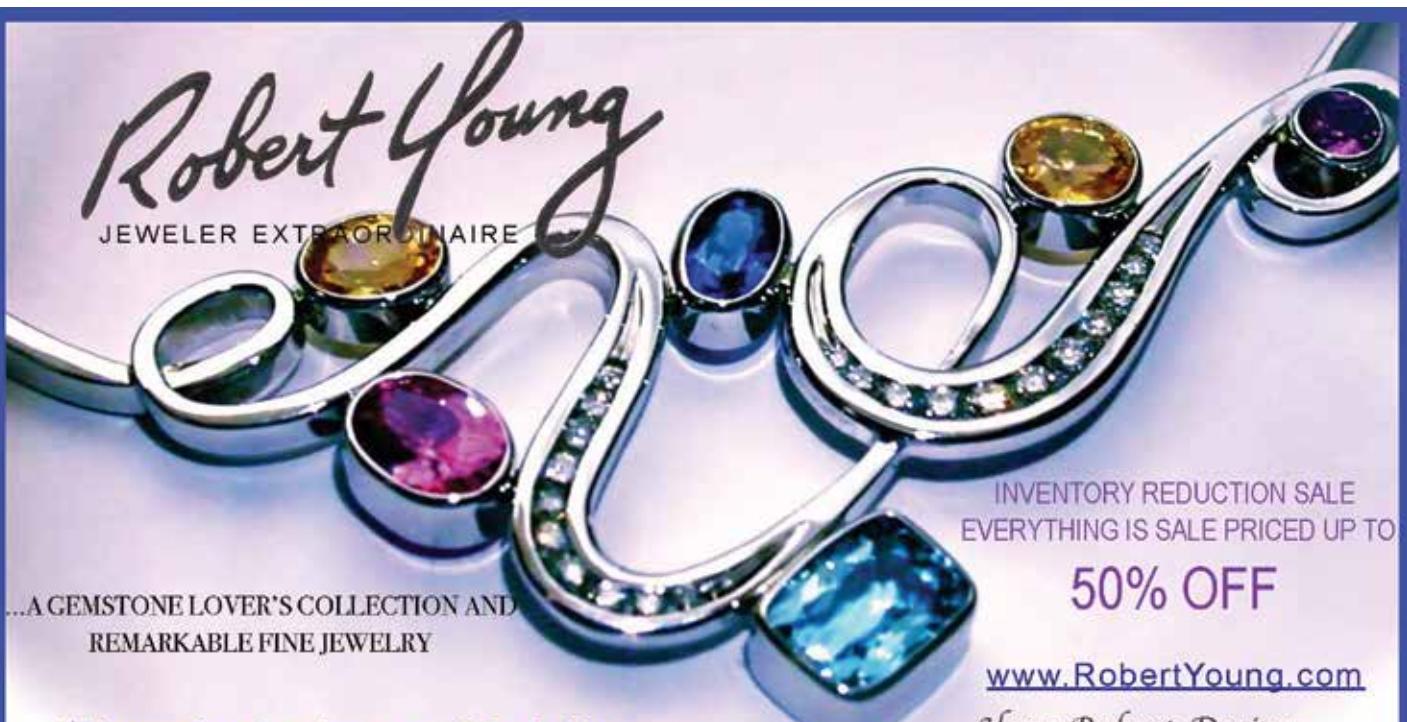
Fourth of July parades continued to be held in Belleair Bluffs, until 1993.

In 2002, City Clerk Debra Sullivan introduced a new tradition—the Annual July 4th Picnic held inside and around the new City Hall & Community Center. The picnic consisted of games and displays—including the classic "dunk the mayor" tank. Inside were summer time foods including hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's, plus an old fashioned dessert contest.

This year's annual picnic, their 15th on, is Monday, July 4th.



Information and photos in this article are from the book "Belleair Bluffs-- from the Beginning" by Wayne Ayers. That book is available for purchase at the Belleair Bluffs City Hall



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## THE GYM-FREE SOLUTION TO A BETTER BODY

By Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald

Like most of us, you probably have a couple extra pounds that just won't go away even with regular exercise. If you've reached that point where you look into the mirror and you're finally ready to explore options for looking your best, we can help. Instead of spending 60 minutes at the gym, you can eliminate fat for good with one CoolSculpting session. That's right, just one hour. No needles, surgery or downtime required. With more than 3 million treatments performed worldwide, it's the number one non-surgical body sculpting treatment for good reason.

Clinically proven safe and effective, CoolSculpting uses a proprietary cooling technology to selectively reduce unwanted fat. It is FDA-cleared to treat visible fat bulges in the chin area, thighs, abdomen, love handles, bra fat, back fat and under the buttocks. It works by gently cooling targeted fat cells in the body to induce a natural, controlled elimination of fat cells without affecting surrounding tissues. Once treated, those fat cells are gone for good.

The first thing most people ask is, "Will the fat ever return?" We are born with a certain number of fat cells and after adolescence they never divide. These cells expand and contract based on how much fat the body is storing. When a fat cell dies, the human body cannot replace it. After a CoolSculpting treatment, remaining fat cells can still expand, but the eliminated cells will never return. As long as you maintain your weight with your normal diet and exercise, your long-term results should remain stable.

The result is a noticeable, natural-looking reduction of fat in the treated area. However, the results are not immediate. Changes may be seen as early as three weeks after treatment, with the most dramatic results experienced

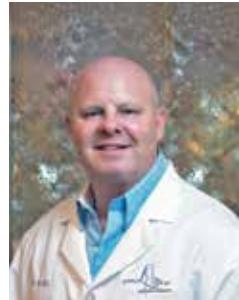
after one to three months.

To help patients reach their goals, PureLife Medi-Spa offers a complimentary weight loss program in combination with CoolSculpting. An eight-week Detox B12 program can be started immediately following the CoolSculpting treatment. PureLife Medi-Spa is the only practice in Tampa Bay with the ability to treat multiple areas simultaneously with four machines. This is a time-saving benefit to patients with multiple problem areas and busy schedules. PureLife Medi-Spa has also been recognized as the only Premier CoolSculpting practice in Tampa Bay, treating more patients than any other office in the region.

If you'd like to lose the fat without regular visits to the gym, CoolSculpting may be the simple solution you've been looking for. Freezing the fat is a safe and effective way to eliminate troublesome fat for good!

Call (727) 595-3400 or visit [www.purelifemedispa.com](http://www.purelifemedispa.com) today to schedule a complimentary consultation and to see incredible before and after CoolSculpting results.

Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald, Owner and Medical Director of PureLife Medi-Spa, has been practicing family medicine for 20 years. Dr. Fitzgerald, DO, MT(ASCP), is also a Medical Technologist, and in 2013 was awarded a U.S. patent for colon cancer prevention. Doc Fitz says, "CoolSculpting is amazing science!" If you can squeeze it, Doc Fitz and his staff can freeze it and spot reduce fat without surgery in just one hour!



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Photos Courtesy of G. Joseph Fitzgerald, DO

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Duke Energy Storm

## Are you ready for hurricane season?

Hurricane season begins June 1, and experts are predicting a more active season than in recent years. It has been more than a decade since a hurricane has affected Florida, but we know it isn't a matter of "if" a hurricane will strike, but "when."



**Alex Glenn**  
Duke Energy  
State President, Florida

Duke Energy Florida is ready to respond. During the past year, Duke Energy Florida has continued to take aggressive action to strengthen our energy delivery system, such as comprehensively inspecting power poles, upgrading our distribution system and thoroughly trimming trees and vegetation that may contribute to power outages if a storm strikes.

Over the last four years, we've invested more than \$640 million to maintain and strengthen our Florida system.

Being fully prepared is essential and we encourage our customers to take the time to plan ahead:

- Create (or update) an emergency supply kit to help you save valuable time later. Remember, your supply kit should be made up of everything you need for at least two weeks, especially medicines and other supplies that may be hard to find.
- Keep a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand.
- Ensure all first-aid supplies and medicines are readily available.
- Review your insurance policy and include an extra copy of it in your supply kit, along with extra copies of any other important paperwork.
- Make sure flashlights are readily available and working and that a supply of extra batteries is on hand.
- Have a portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio access to monitor official weather forecasts and other important information for your area.
- Have a plan to move yourself and your family – especially those with special needs – to an alternate location in case you have to evacuate or experience an extended power outage.
- If you have an emergency generator, learn how to use it safely and ensure it is in working order.

We're proud to be recognized as an industry leader in storm preparedness and restoration and we want to ensure you are ready for hurricane season as well.

On behalf of Duke Energy's nearly 4,000 Florida employees, we wish you a safe storm season.

Alex Glenn is state president, Florida at Duke Energy, the largest electric power company in the U.S., serving more than 1.7 million customers in Florida.



## **WAYNE HEFTY LEFT HIS MARK ON OUR AREA**

Wayne Hefty arrived in Pinellas County riding his HOG - a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

He came from Kentucky, where he was the President of the Grim Reapers, a large biker club. "I got tired of that lifestyle, and moved here to change my ways," says Hefty. After moving to Florida, he found Jesus Christ and his wife of now 40 years.

Hefty first lived in Treasure Island's Sunset Beach and from 1975 to 1979 he worked for the City of Gulfport as their Park Supervisor. He loved working with landscaping and designing green spaces, so in 1979 he started his own business designing and installing parks and playgrounds.

In 1992, when he was 45, he saw an advertisement for a Director of Public Works in Indian Rocks Beach. "I saw this as a big opportunity and I aspired to apply for that job," Hefty says. "But, the ad said an Engineering Degree was a prerequisite and I had none," Hefty explains. "I did not even have a college degree. My education was from the School of Experiential Learning. In other words, I had had many jobs, but no formal education."

Over 60 people applied for the job, including consultants and area engineers. Hefty still had his ponytail, a big beard and looked like a biker. "I just showed them my resume." When they asked about his work habits, he simply said, "my intent is to help the existing workers take pride in their City and complete every project to the best of their abilities. Let's just get the job done!"

They hired him in April, right before the annual Art in the Park show. His first priority was to get the city spruced up. Over the next four years, he attacked dozens of projects in Indian Rocks and helped make many improvements.

When a local resident decided to sell the land, Hefty was involved in creating and designing the city's Nature Park. "I found a grant to buy the park," he says. Hefty was also involved in the design and installation of the Beach Access Walkovers. This combined project between the City and the County installed walkovers between 1st and 23rd Avenues.

"I introduced the city and county to a new form of cement that was pervious to water. It allowed water to drain without running off. We used it on many of the beach access parking areas, explains Hefty.

Hefty was involved with the Sea Oats Planting Program in 1994. Florida Power (now Duke Energy) supplied about 500 of their employees to help in the project.

"I remember Wayne was very interested in planting trees," says R.B. Johnson, Indian Rocks Beach's Mayor. "He suggested the planting of the oak trees that surround our Little League field and today shade the bleachers.

Then they hired a new City Manager, Eric Messerve." Hefty says. "Even though I had been on the job for four years, Messerve began demanding that the head of Public Works have an Engineering Degree. Eventually, I was motivated to leave and left the city in March of 1996 after 4 years. Shortly afterward Messerve was let go."

In 1998, Hefty became a consultant to the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County Utilities. Working for Pic Talley, he was asked to survey the energy usage at an area school. That led to auditing 140 Pinellas school buildings, which was difficult since they were in eleven Pinellas municipalities.

Hefty became involved in the County's Water Management. With a focus on waste management and recycling by the schools, he created an Energy Team to manage the county's water, trash and recycling programs. It was responsible for sewer, water, gas, trash, recycling, solar energy, and other systems. They documented over \$12 million in savings.

Hefty worked for Pinellas County for about six years, until in 2004, he went to work for a consulting firm, Energy Systems Group. The company was doing the same things Hefty had been doing for Pinellas County, but had projects in thirteen states.

Somewhere along the way, Hefty became involved with Keep Pinellas Beautiful. The organization was formed in 1996 with Bill Sanders as its first director. Hefty was the treasurer for many years and has been an active board member for ten years.

"Wayne Hefty is one of our long standing members of the Keep Pinellas Beautiful Board of Directors. He has served as a volunteer since the early nineties when the affiliate began. His passion and dedication to our organization have helped expand our educational reach to thousands of students and adults throughout Pinellas County. He helped develop the Bright Futures Student Scholarship program, spearheaded the in-school recycling program and orchestrated the Recycle Regatta for many years. Wayne's "Can-Do" attitude and enthusiasm for Keep Pinellas Beautiful's mission continues to contribute to the success of our Keep America Beautiful Affiliate," says Pat DePlasco, Executive Director Keep Pinellas Beautiful.

Wayne, now 71 is a consultant for Recycling Services of Florida, which oversees most of the Pinellas County public schools. "I feel that the Lord brought me to each of these jobs," Wayne says with a smile."

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## DON'T BE COMPLACENT HURRICANES CAN SURPRISE US

By Commissioner Karen Williams Seel

With hurricane season beginning this month comes the increased potential for disastrous storms. The important thing to remember is to not be complacent. Although the Tampa Bay area has not sustained a direct hit from a hurricane since 1921, we are still extremely susceptible to these destructive storms. Now is the time to make sure you and your family are prepared should the next storm make landfall in our area.



When a major hurricane hits, the biggest threat to life is not wind, instead it is the accompanying storm surge. Storm surge from hurricanes can cause water from the bay and the gulf to move ashore with extreme speed. This water leaves great destruction in its path and drives items that are not secured throughout the community and possibly out to sea.

In Pinellas County, we live on a peninsula, which makes us extremely vulnerable to storm surge flooding. Thanks to efforts by Pinellas County Emergency Management, you can now see what impact storm surge could have on your home, business or neighborhood, by using our award-winning Storm Surge Protector Web application.

All you have to do is go to [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) and click on the Storm Surge Protector Application link. A new window will open and you can type in your address to view a three-dimensional rendering of your home. The application shows your evacuation level and depicts how much water your home and car would be under, depending on the severity of the storm. You can also see how your neighborhood would be affected in a storm surge scenario. The app is easy to use and I encourage you to take advantage of this innovative tool.

If you live in one of the beach communities, part of your hurricane plan must be the Emergency Access Permit. To give you peace of mind in the event of an evacuation, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and barrier island communities are providing these free permits, which will ensure only those who live or work in an evacuated community can re-enter immediately after an evacuation order is lifted.

The permits will help law enforcement keep trespassers from using a disaster for their personal gain by stealing from those affected. You can pick up a permit from your beach municipality, or you can visit [www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit](http://www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit) for more information.

Another great tool to sign up for is Alert Pinellas, which is an emergency notification service. It is free to our residents and will give us multiple ways to get the word to you whenever an urgent situation arises. All you have to do is register your contact information with Alert Pinellas and an automated message will be sent to alert you to local emergencies. Just click the sign up button on [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) to register and read about other preparedness measures and access the storm surge application yourself.

As always, know that your county is here to help. I hope everyone will join me in refining their hurricane plan this year and every year – as being prepared for a hurricane will mean keeping your family safe if one comes our way.

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# Organizational News...

**BELLEAIR ROTARY**

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of the month is the general assembly and Board meeting. Their 10th Annual Wine and Tapas Extravaganza in April at the Belleair Golf and Country Club was very successful. Contact Ed Shaunasee at 641-4567, Ed@BelleairCC.com or visit BelleairRotary.org to get involved.

**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.) Next meetings are June 3, July 1 and August 5. Call Mary Miskin at 453-2630 or Renatta Cochran at 595-6678. Get more information at [www.BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com](http://www.BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com)

**BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB**

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

Membership is open to all seniors and there are no dues. Couples are encouraged to join their fun. They would like more male members. They plan monthly social meetings, potluck 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. Next meetings are June 7 and July 5. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or join, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

**CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER**

Fun Racing is held the third Saturday each month. If you are new to racing or an old hand at it, this is a fun way to learn, and keep your skills sharp. Skippers meeting is at noon on the deck, and racing is from 1pm to 3pm. They also offers instruction in Stand Up Paddle boarding and Kayaking. [ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org](http://ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org).

**BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB**

Now in its 25th year, Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. There are no regular meetings through September. Call Linda Wolling to RSVP 286-6567. Contact Majorie Rose President, 238-8691.

**DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)**

They meet on the third Friday of the month at the Belleair Country Club for lunch at 11:30am. The next meetings are June 17 and July 15. To join, call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.

**SUNCOAST CAMERA CLUB**

Make friends with people who share your interests, improve your photography and share your work. Meetings are at The Hospice of Florida, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd at 7pm. Call Veronica Serra at 512-4878 [SuncoastCameraClub.org](http://SuncoastCameraClub.org).

**BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB**

There are no regular meetings through September. Normally, the first Wednesday is a tea and general meeting. The second Wednesday meeting usually has horticulture programs. There are also field trips during the year. Club membership is \$50 per year, couples pay \$55 and seasonal members only \$25. Guests are welcome. For information, contact new President, Laura Katz, 581-4153 or email [1bkatz53@gmailcom](mailto:1bkatz53@gmailcom) for more information.

**GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY**

At their annual meeting in May they selected Devin Pappas as the new President and Carol Frecker, Vice President.

This group of 180 women live and work in the Belleair, Belleair Beach, Clearwater, Clearwater Beach, Sand Key, Largo and the surrounding areas. They meet monthly from September through May. Various activities include: Artsy Outing, Bridge, Bunko Babes, Bunko Bunkettes, Canasta, Culinary Critics, Girls' Night Out, Lit Ladies, Lunch Bunch, Movie Madness, Tea & Scrabble, and Theater Patrons.

They normally meet once a month (not including June through August). The date and location may vary so check their web site, [www.GBYWS.org](http://www.GBYWS.org). Contact Jo-Ann Benware, President, [Joannbenware@MSN.com](mailto:Joannbenware@MSN.com) for information.

**BELLEAIR BRIDGE CLUB**

Do you want to play bridge? The Belleair Bridge Club plays in the Belleair Bluffs City Hall Auditorium twice a week, all year. It is coordinated by the Belleair Recreation Center. Call Betty Grandoff at 669 5283 or the Belleair Rec Center to play.

**THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB**

Chartered in 1911, this is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition of yachtsmen the world over. Although, you don't have a boat to join. Half of their members don't. Most of their social activities center around regular parties and events in their restaurant or Tiki-Bar out back.

Brad Kendall, and his sonar crew, who have been training at the CYC for the past 7 months, have been selected to represent the United States in the paralympic games in September in Rio. Read more about this on [www.USSailing.org](http://www.USSailing.org) Paralympic Sailing.

June 11th is the first CYC Cruiser 50/50 Fishing Tournament. Cost is \$15 per fisherman. Afterwards, there will be a fish fry. Visit [www.Clwyc.org](http://www.Clwyc.org) to learn more.

They are offering a Summer 2016 Membership program, effective from May 1 – Sept 30, 2016. There is no initiation fee and dues are \$100/month. There is no monthly minimum spending, No reciprocity with other clubs, and No overnight dockage. At the close of the summer membership, the summer member in good standing may be offered membership in a class of their choice (Full, Social, or Junior) at the then current rates for dues and initiation. Prospective members can only take advantage of one such Summer membership program. Call or email the office for more details! 447-6000 or [office@clearwateryachtclub.org](mailto:office@clearwateryachtclub.org)

**BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB**

They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join, membership is \$15 a year. To join, call Lillian Nazario, President at 585-4843 or Sherrie Morton at 581-8313.

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and meet new business contacts from 5:30 to 6:30 at their monthly mingles. Any business, regardless of location, is welcome to attend and bring a guest.

The next Mingles are:

June 9: City of Belleair Bluffs, City Hall

July 4: Instead of a mingle, they are co-sponsoring the July 4th picnic at City Hall

To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit [www.BluffsBusinessAssociation.com](http://www.BluffsBusinessAssociation.com) for more information.

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## Organizational News...



### IRB BOAT CLUB

In April, close to 50 members gathered at Salt Rock Grill for a Sunday Funday! The weather was perfect, the food amazing as always, the drinks and champagne were flowing and the company couldn't have been better. What a great way to kick off our summer of boating fun!

Below is a list of some of their upcoming events:

June 25-26: Tarpon Springs / Overnight

July 4: Fire Works, Clearwater Harbor

July 9: Three Rooker

August 13: Marina Cantina, Clearwater Beach Marina

The IRB Boat Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside, IRB) monthly on the third Thursday, September through April. Everyone is welcome, it is not just for Indian Rocks residents. Anyone who has a boat and wants a reason to use it can join, for free. To get involved, call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or e-mail [Bob@IRBboatclub.com](mailto:Bob@IRBboatclub.com). Get more information at [www.IRBboatclub.com](http://www.IRBboatclub.com).

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

There are no meetings through September. For information contact, President Alice Jarvis at 391-3066 or email at [bjala@aol.com](mailto:bjala@aol.com).

### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUP

This newly formed group is for mothers of young children 4 and under who want to exercise and socialize with other mothers. If you want to connect with other nearby families, contact Shelly Clark at 385-7970 or email her at [IRBShellyClark@yahoo.com](mailto:IRBShellyClark@yahoo.com).

### NEW NEWCOMER CLUB

If you want to meet new people, this not-for-profit group can help the development of acquaintances and good fellowship. You do not have to be new to the area to join. They meet monthly at local restaurants and area country clubs on the first Tuesday of each month normally for lunch with guest speakers. Call Karen Botsford at 531-0378 or visit [www.WelcomeNewComerClub.com](http://www.WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

## ARE YOU TURNING 65 THIS YEAR?

CONFUSED ABOUT MEDICARE?  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO  
WHEN YOU ARE 64 1/2?

I can help you through the Medicare Maze. I am an Independent Agent that works with most of the companies and can help you decide which plan is best to fit your needs. Call for a free consultation.

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Independent Insurance Specialist



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- Low Testosterone
- IBS
- Diabetic neuropathy
- Hypertension
- Cologuard Study for People Over 65
- Gout
- IBS
- Iron Deficiency Anemia

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ask for Marianne or Chris

**ENCORE 16**

Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony presents Encore 16, with two of the world's top a cappella choruses & quartets. 2015 International Sweet Adeline Finalists "Windsor" and 2015 International Medalist Main Street will be performing along with Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony and the Toast of Tampa Show Chorus under the direction of Tona De Rosa.

Tickets are now available for this unparalleled cast of talent on stage together for the first time!

Shows sell out — order early! Show times are 8pm, Friday, June 10 at the Palladium at St. Pete College and 3pm & 7pm, Saturday, June 11, at the USF School of Music Concert Hall, Tampa. Order Palladium tickets at Mypalladium.org or call 727-822-3590. USF tickets are available from HeraldsOfHarmony.org or calling 813-994-8787. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$55.

**HAVANA HARRY'S TURNS FIVE**

Since the store's name is Havana Harry's, you would expect the owner to be named Harry, but he isn't. George Haber owns the sandwich shop.

So where did the name Harry come from? "It is sort of my nickname," George says with a chuckle. "When I play poker online, it is my moniker."

While Haber (53) was born in Holguin, Cuba, his family left when he very young. First, they moved to Spain. When they finally had permission to move to the U.S., his parents lived in the Largo area.

"I remember when I started at Largo Central Elementary," Haber says. "I did not speak any English—and they spoke no Spanish. The teachers just put me in a room with crayons to keep me entertained."

Haber learned English and eventually received a Degree in Hospitality from St Pete Junior College. With that, he ran a small restaurant and lounge on West Bay Drive.

After a short stint in real estate, during the Great Recession, Haber knew he needed a real job. The small storefront on Walsingham Road was available and he decided to open Havana Harry's.

The sandwich shop specializes in Cuban sandwiches, but it offers so much more. The menu includes more than ten dinners served over yellow rice, including salmon, ropa vieja, and pulled pork. You can dine inside or pick up your order to go. "80% of our orders are takeout," Haber says. You can see the menu [www.HavanaHarrysMarket.com](http://www.HavanaHarrysMarket.com).

George lives in Indian Rocks Beach with his wife, Maryann. They have two sons, Brett and Alex who both work at Harry's. He employs six people, four are relatives.

Havana Harry's is located at 13932 Walsingham Road. They are open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday from 11am to 9pm and 10am to 6pm on Sundays. Call 596-5141 for pick up orders or just drop in.

Haber is opening a second store on Starkey Road, north of Ulmerton Road.

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# City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication

Summer 2016



## Independence Day Celebration!

Monday July 4, 2016  
11 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.

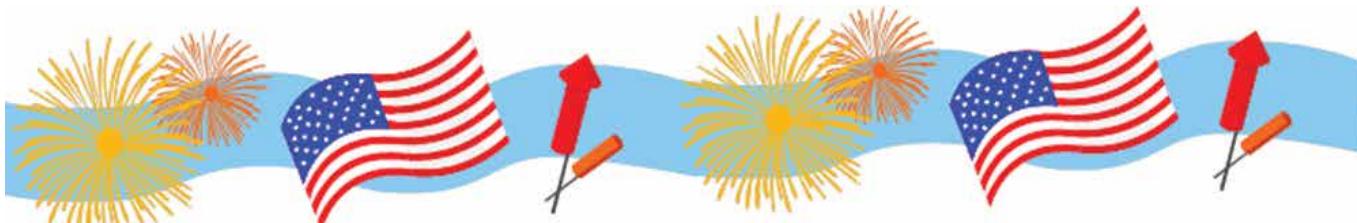


Belleair Bluffs Community Center & Park ~ 2724 Sunset Blvd.

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

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

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



### YOUR CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Chis Arbutine, Sr.  
Taylour Shimkus  
Joe Barkley, III  
Suzy Sofer, Vice Mayor  
Jack Nazario

PHONE NUMBERS	
City Hall	(727) 584-2151
Fire Dept.	(727) 587-6714
Public Works	(727) 581-6808
Sheriff's Office	(727) 582-6200
<b>DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES</b>	

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Debra Sullivan, MMC, City Clerk
Robert David, Public Works Director
Thomas J. Trask, City Attorney
Email: info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov

City Commission Meetings Every  
3rd Monday at 6:00 pm  
Visit our web site  
[www.belleairbluffs-fl.gov](http://www.belleairbluffs-fl.gov)



# City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication

Summer 2016

## FROM THE MAYOR, Chris Arbutine, Sr.

Once again it is time to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of this country at our annual event. Please attend and share the fun!

We are very excited to finally see the new fire station plans. The fire station replacement was clearly needed and will continue to provide the best response times to all our residents. A rendering of the station is shown here. We will have our second public meeting specifically on the fire station on July 18th at 6:00p.m.

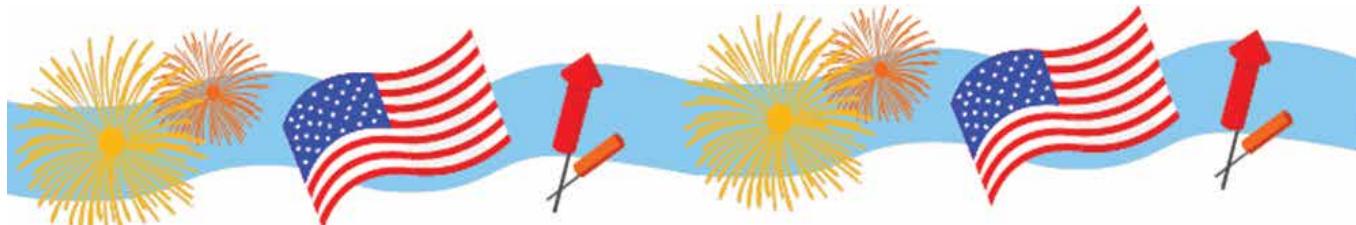
I am always available to YOU to voice any concerns or questions YOU may have on any issue. Call me cell phone at 727-458-2148.  
Thank You, Chris Arbutine, Sr.



## From Public Works Director, Robert David

How about a short recap of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)? This derived from the Clean Water Act of the 60's and has, in my opinion, developed into one of the most comprehensive programs in government today. Every government entity must receive and maintain a permit to discharge surface water runoff into the waters of the United States. I know this is a lot to think about but, if the water is filtered prior to going into the bay, gulf, river, stream etc., just think of how much cleaner our bodies of water would be. The next time you wash your car on your driveway, think how sulfate from the soap reaches the storm sewer system. There is a lot of nitrogen that ends up in the storm system when grass clippings end up in the street. Think about fertilizing your yard, not to mention the aquifer, but any residue washes into the storm sewer system. Now, it's not just you or me, it's everyone. Now that I understand it and have been reporting the City of Belleair Bluffs results for years, I know how important it is for us to be very diligent in our efforts to keep the water around us clean. Here in this City we take pride in that every storm sewer project we do, we install a filtration system of some kind to capture trash, silt, oil, pollutants before it reaches that big body of water. Let's keep up the good work!

Come help us celebrate this year, and remember those who made this country what it is. See you here at city hall.



Pinellas County Clerk of Court has a new program called **Property Alert**. Residents can register their name and get emails if anything with their name is recorded at the Court.  
[www.pinellasclerk.org](http://www.pinellasclerk.org)

## FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, Debra Sullivan

**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU CAN GET PERTINENT INFORMATION QUICKLY.**

We can notify you of storm updates, event updates and you can receive this newsletter via email!

Send your email address to: [info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov](mailto:info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov)



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