

CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

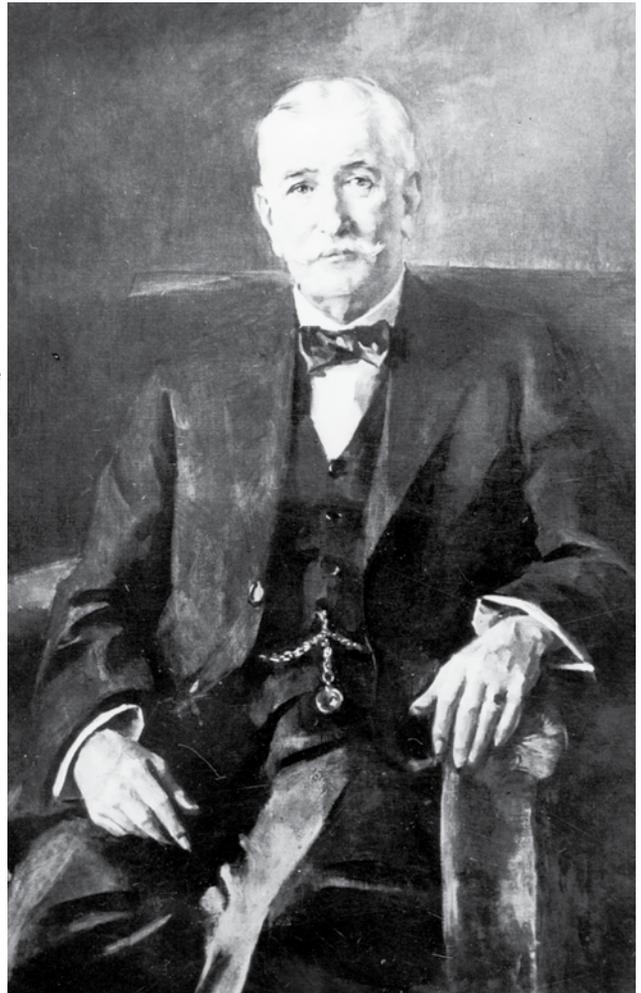
JUNE / 2016 ISSUE 39



Newsletter

including Sand Key and Island Estates

MORTON PLANT The Man



Everyone knows Clearwater's hospital is called Morton Plant Hospital. Many also know when, it was built 100 years ago, it was named for a man - Morton Plant, who we assume either built it or donated the money to build it, but who really was he?

Morton Freeman Plant was born Aug 18, 1852, in Groton, Connecticut to Henry and Ellen Plant. His father was already wealthy from his railway and steamer lines. Morton was Henry's second son. The first child lived only 17 months.

His mother had consumption (now known as tuberculosis) from the time Morton was born. During the winter, they would move south to Jacksonville, Florida and other southern cities for her health. In 1862, coincidentally during the Civil War, Plant's mother died. He was only ten years old.

During his childhood, Plant's father was very busy expanding his Southern Express Railroad company throughout the south. Because his father traveled all the time, Plant was basically raised by relatives. He got his first boat, a catboat, at 13 and his obsession with boats only grew over time. At 16, he was employed part-time by his father working for the Southern Express Company. Later in life he would become its Chairman of the Board. He graduated from the Russell Military School, in New Haven where his love of sailing intensified.

His father married Miss Margaret Loughman, a New Yorker of Irish descent. Plant and his new step-mother did not see eye-to-eye and since he was 21, Plant didn't feel a need for a new mother and kept his distance.

By 1884, Plant was involved in all aspects of his father's railroad operations serving as Vice President of The Plant System. He remained Vice President until 1902, when three years after his father's death, the Plant System was consolidated with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

At 35, Plant married Nellie Capron on June 23, 1887. They had one son, Henry Bradley Plant, Jr., in 1895.

The Plant Company, owner of Clearwater's Belleview Hotel, began its construction in 1895. It was built entirely of Florida pine and painted with a grayish paint sealer which led to the nickname "The Grey Gables." The hotel opened January 15, 1897. Plant recommended and oversaw the addition of recreational amenities, including a 6-hole golf course and bicycle racing track.

Two years later, at the age of 80, Plant's father died at his home in New York. He had recently drawn up a new will, leaving almost everything to his grandson, Henry Jr., but wife Margaret had the will nullified and regained most of his fortune. Plant received a small portion; grandson Henry Jr. received nothing. Plant's portion included \$73 million and the ownership of several hotels, including the Griswold in New London and the Belleview in Clearwater.

After his father's death, Plant became the sole owner of the Plant Steamship Lines and continued to be Vice President if almost all of his father's railroad operations. Plant also owned the Shore Line Electric Railway, one of the largest single trolley systems in the United States.

Plant was never a full-time Clearwater resident. He spent most of his time in New York and in New London, Connecticut. He was a major player in the development of New London, helping to build roads, churches, office buildings, hotels, and their trolley line.

In Groton, Connecticut, Plant owned a large farm called The Branford House. It was a \$3 million spread. Wife Nellie designed the house and grounds while she studied architecture at the Sorbonne. Today, the mansion, owned by the University of Connecticut, is considered to be one of the most beautiful homes in the U.S.

continued inside

CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - a total of about 5,000 households - six times a year.

You can pick up another copy at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli or the Island Estates UPS store.

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN AUGUST!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
112 S. Osceola Avenue www.clearwater-fl.com	
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MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4042
Doreen Hock-DiPolito (Vice-Mayor)- Seat 2 Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 ● Bill Jonson - Seat 4 Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
333 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach	
POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES	449-8732
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
MARINE AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
JOLLEY TROLLEY	445-1200
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	Sue Williams, President	446-4471
LITTLE LEAGUE	John Murphy	813-486-4430
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	Thursdays, 12:15pm Carlouel Yacht Club	
	John Funk	599-3864
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	Beth Prast	859-802-6110
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	Alice Jarvis	391-3066
SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION	Meets first Wednesdays each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Ctr	
	AL Zimmerman	727-593-7379
ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	Mary Lau, President	813-335-6770
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	Lynne McCaskill, President	430-1911
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	Anne Garris	446-4410
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Bill Wallace, President	446-2676

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO		464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES		464-3377
	Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates	464-3276
	Karen Seel Sand Key	464-3278
STATE:		
	Senator Jack Latvala	727-793-2797
	Republican, District 20	
	26133 US Hwy19 N. Ste 201, Clearwater	
	Latvala.Jack.web@flsenate.gov	
	Representative Larry Ahern	727-395-2512
	Republican, District 66	
	8282 Seminole Blvd. Suite B, Seminole	
	larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov	
	Governor Rick Scott	
	Rick.Scott@myflorida.com	
FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:		
	Marco Rubio	202-224-3041
	www.Rubio.Senate.gov	
	Bill Nelson	202-224-5274
	www.BillNelson.Senate.gov	
AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:		
	David Jolly	727-392-4100
	9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772	
	www.house.gov/jolley	

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

National Garbage Man Day	17
Father's Day	19
Summer Begins	21
Boat Club to Tarpon Springs	25-26
Pinellas Grouper Week Begins	27

JULY:

Sunset Run At Sand Key Park	1
Independence Day	4
Fire Works Clearwater Harbor	4
Family Fun Nights Beach Pool	8
IRB Boat Club Three Rooker	9-10
MLB All Star Game	12
Sunset Run at Sand Key Park	15
Rays Concert Series Bret Michaels	16
Pitch for Pink, Bright House Field	22
Family Fun Nights Beach Pool	22

Home Show Tropicana	22-24
Tampa Bay Rowdies Home	23
Parents Day	24
Rays Concert Series Hunter Hayes	30

AUGUST:

Little League Registration	
Coast Guard Appreciation Month	
Sales Tax Holiday	5-7
Largo's Highland 5K Run	6
Family Fun Nights Beach Pool	5
Thrasher's Chamber Beach Day	5
Trim Notices Mailed	8
Public School Begins	10
Buc's First Pre-Season Game	11
IRB Boat Club to Marina Cantina	13
Backwater's 16th Anniversary Party	16
Largo's Indoor Garage Sale	20
Primary Elections	30

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Did You Know



WE ARE #1 AGAIN A recently held online TripAdvisor survey once again found Clearwater Beach is the number one beach among their top 25 best beaches.

TripAdvisor looked at over one million reviews over the last year to determine this ranking. Siesta Key came in third and St Pete Beach was fourth. Unlike other contests where people are encouraged to vote, some several times, this study was conducted from the comments people left after they had actually visited the various beaches. "Our beach is the number one beach in the U.S. (in many different polls)," says Darlene Kole, CEO of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. "With that popularity comes people (tourists). "This increase in business is important," says Geri Lopez, Clearwater's Director of Economic Development. "Tourism is such a big economic driver. Hotel rooms bring in more taxes than condo rentals. Tourists spend more money in the community when they stay in an area hotel."

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Then this is the group for you! The St Petersburg Second Time Arounders Marching Band is looking for a few new members. They have been pleasing audiences for over 34 years. Besides local area parades, they perform in distant cities. Last year they went to the Stampede in Canada, this year it is Seattle. Call 421-2344 to get involved.

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.

RIO BOUND

Brad Kendall, 34, is a crew member on the #1 ranked Paralympic Sonar crew which won the 2016 Para World Championships in Medemblik



Netherlands in late May. Shown here left to right- bowman Hugh Freund (Maine), Trimmer and Tactician (Clearwater native) Brad Kendall, and Skipper Rick Doerr (New Jersey) Kendall began sailing at the Clearwater Yacht Club when he was 6 years old, but move on to other watersports as he got older. In 2003, when he was 22, Kendall, his father and a friend were flying home in a small plane when it crashed. Only Brad survived, but eventually lost both his legs above the knees. The life-changing, tragic accident ultimately brought Kendall back to sailing. With this win, they will now go to Rio to represent the United States in the Paralympic games in September.

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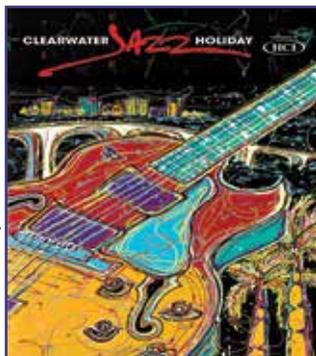
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and More...

POSTER REVEALED The Clearwater Jazz Holiday, presented by HCI Group, Inc. will be October 13 through 16, 2016! This year's artwork, which creates the overall theme for the event, was unveiled this month. The artwork. The 2016 Clearwater Jazz Holiday Artist is Florida native Allison Hardin. Born in 1984, her earliest childhood memories involve fishing, snorkeling and lobstering with her family. Painting mostly Florida marine life, Hardin recently switched gears to do a series based on one of her other passions, music. She currently lives in St. Petersburg, working as a manager in a family owned business.



BOARD VACANCY There is a vacancy on the Clearwater Housing Authority board. Applicants need to reside within Clearwater city limits, or reside in Pinellas County and work within Clearwater city limits, to serve for a four-year term. The Clearwater Housing Authority provides housing and rent subsidies for low to moderate income families. The board meets on the last Friday of each month at 8:30 am. For information, call (727) 562-4090.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY AUGUST 5-7 Tallahassee again approved the sales tax holiday, but with some changes. First, it is shorter, only three days, and computers and their accessories are no longer included. There also is a cap on clothing purchases, per store of \$60. This holiday affects 270,000 Florida merchants and millions of families. While it is tailored for families with school-aged children, everyone can shop tax free, those days.

MOVIE STAR MADNESS AT THE CMA In the wake of two hit movies, Dolphin Tale 1 & 2, Clearwater Marine Aquarium is offering special movie-theme experiences and giveaways this summer. These events feature real-life stars—CMA's animals and care team—along with actors from the actual films. Some of the stars include Sawyer, Hazel and Phoebe from the actual movies. Specific dates for actor appearances are on the CMA web site (www.SeeWinter.com/MovieMadness).

WATER NEEDED From start to finish, the making of one quarter pound hamburger patty requires 460 gallons of water or the equivalent of two months of your showers. The number can vary depending on the production system; grazing uses less than industrial feeding. It takes a lot of water to grow grain and roughage to feed a cow. Water is also needed for them to drink. Per pound of product, beef products have a larger water footprint than any other animal product. Overall, the meat and dairy industry use one third of the earth's fresh water.



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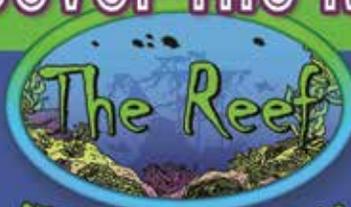
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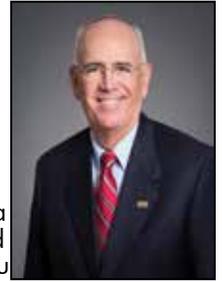
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FAILING TO PLAN ISN'T A GOOD PLAN

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

As the old adage goes, people don't plan to fail, they simply fail to plan. For some strange reason, this is especially true when it comes to our finances. When did you last update your written financial plan? Oops, you have never had one done?



Imagine trying to build a home without a set of architectural drawings. How would you feel about a doctor operating on you without having prepared a plan for the surgery or a lawyer going into a trial without a written plan to win the case? Every business owner or CEO knows the value of a business plan. Not having a plan is a plan, but not a very good one.

In short, perhaps you can get lucky and succeed without a plan, but you significantly increase the odds of success when you have a written plan, no matter what you are doing. A financial plan also instills confidence in your investments.

The plan does not necessarily have to be hundred pages long and weigh five pounds. Sometimes it can be written in a few pages. It needs to be tailored to your unique situation and should not be a cookie cutter plan where everyone basically gets the same advice. Often the plan is specific to a particular part of your financial life like retirement, estate planning, etc.

If an integrated plan is needed it will cover your net worth, cash flow, budgeting, risk tolerance analysis, investment review and analysis, asset allocation, retirement planning including Social Security, education funding for the children/grandchildren, estate planning, insurance (life, disability, property and casualty, personal liability, long term care, etc.), and asset protection.

In the "old" days, the plan needed to be updated every three to five years or whenever a major financial/personal event (new job, promotion, marriage/divorce, health issue, etc.) occurred. Today, however, though the use of software, it can be kept current on almost a daily basis letting you see how even small changes in income and/or net worth will affect the plan in a positive or negative way. Thus, keeping the plan current will not only keep you up to date, but it can also help in making a decision about different scenarios.

If you have never done a financial plan why wait? Please schedule a complimentary no obligation meeting with us to learn more about creating your personal financial plan.

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MORTON PLANT, continued

Plant had a large philanthropic spirit. One favorite charitable activity involved sending bright young people to college. He helped found The Connecticut College for Women, now part of The University of Connecticut in New London, by buying land for \$25,000 and building two dormitories, at the cost of \$60,000. He named them Plant and Blackstone Halls, after his mother and father. He gave the school a \$100,000 endowment, the beginning of a \$250,000 legacy with the college. He was also the College's first chairman of the board, when it opened in 1915.

Plant was also an enthusiastic sportsman including yachting, baseball, and golf. He owned the schooner "Ingomar", and won 21 out of 25 races in Europe in one season. He also owned the "Elena", which likewise won many races. His steamship yachts included "Venetia", "Vanadis" and the "Iolanda," on which in 1909-10, Plant and friends, voyaged around the world. He published a book about the trip called The Cruise of the Iolanda.

Plant owned a large stake in the Philadelphia National League baseball club and was the sole owner of the New London Eastern League club. He was also fond of hunting and competitive shooting. In addition, he was a member of several sports-oriented clubs, including the Manhattan Club, Automobile Club, Ardsley Club, and the Racquet and Tennis Club.

In 1912, Plant's son Henry, was involved in a serious car accident which crushed his leg and hip. That accident demonstrated to Plant the need for a local hospital, leading Plant to become involved in raising funds for a hospital which would eventually bear his name. The Morton Plant Hospital opened January 1st, 2016 aided by his \$100,000 endowment.

Shortly after his son's accident, his wife Nellie died on August 7, 1913. They were married for 26 years.

By the early 1900s, cars started to be seen in the area. As Plant mingled with most of the prominent families in New York and Connecticut, he and his friends were the first to own them. Clearwater had very bad streets. Plant offered to pay a third of the cost of paving South Ft Harrison Avenue from Turner St to Belleview Boulevard with bricks.

Eventually, Plant paved from South Ft Harrison to his hotel. There had been congestion where Belleview Boulevard meets Indian Rocks Road when the train deposited hotel visitors there every day around 5pm.

A year after his wife's death, Plant married Mae C. Manwaring in 1914 in Groton, Connecticut. Previously married, she had a son Phillip, who Plant adopted. Phillip was ten years older than son Henry. Mae wanted to live in New York and Plant already owned a mansion encompassing the entire block of Fifth Avenue.

Mae had fun with her new husband's wealth. She suggested a swimming pool be built on the Belleview's property. Italian tile setters laid over one million ceramic tiles to line the 75x60 foot pool, which was completed 1919.

The Plants lived in their mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue until 1917. They then built another house in upper Manhattan, which is where they were living when Plant died of pneumonia on November 4, 1918, just five years after he and Mae were married. Plant was 66. His son Henry Plant Jr. lived primarily in Connecticut and on his 140-foot yacht, the Mascot in Miami. He was in poor health most of his life and died at the age of 42.



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CHILDREN'S DREAM FUND CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

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."



Fransie Geringer

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.

**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 or bfloridian.org

UPCOMING SUNSET CINEMAS

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages will be available on site. See the complete schedule online at www.SunsetsAtPier60.com or by calling 449-1036.

JUNE

- 17: DESPICABLE ME (PG)
- 18: DADDY'S HOME (PG-13)
- 24: THE LEGO MOVIE (PG)
- 25: CAPT AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER (PG-13)

JULY

- 1: RACE (PG-13)
- 2: JAWS (PG)
- 8: THE BOURNE IDENTITY (PG-13)
- 9: HAIL CEASAR (PG-13)
- 15: ZOOTOPIA (PG)
- 16: STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (PG-13)
- 22: INSIDE OUT (2015) (G)
- 23: AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (PG-13)
- 29: FROZEN (PG)
- 30: STAR TREK: INTO DARKNESS (PG-13)



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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.



Rob and Michelle Cameron

Business Briefs

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CLEARWATER FERRY WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS

Recently the Ferry received two awards, the Outstanding Small Business of the Year by the Clearwater Downtown Partnership and the Small



Business of the Year Award from the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. Owner Trisha Rodriguez says, "Our sincerest heartfelt thanks go out to everyone in the community who has used our services, talked about us, supported our endeavors and recognized our owners and founders in the last year. We genuinely appreciate all of you and all of the support and hope to bring as much business to Clearwater as possible!"

ISLAND DOG OUTFITTERS MOVES Owners Sara and Clint moved Island Dog Outfitters—but not far. The pet supply and services business is now located at 479 Poinsettia Avenue, behind Pelican Plaza and about half a block from the old location.

HOMETRUST BECOMES BILTMORE GROUP

HomeTrust Beachside Realty and the HomeTrust Countryside location are now the Biltmore Group International Real Estate. The name change took place May 1st and reflects the company's position in the luxury real estate market. Biltmore



Group joined two international MLS systems to provide marketing coverage of their listed properties 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!

VALET PARKING Clearwater Marina now has Valet Parking for any marina business including the new Marina Building and Marina Cantina. The city manages the service with a new contractor. The valet service operates during day and evenings. Make sure to get your ticket validated or a receipt from a marina business though before you leave, or you will be in for sticker shock! Look for the small blue tent just east of the Marina Building.

Business Briefs

SMITH & ASSOCIATES OFFERS NEW CONDOS

Brightwater Blue, with Dutch West-Indies architecture, is a new luxury waterfront condo community. To stand the test of time, the entire building, including floors and roofing systems, are solid concrete. The structure is additionally supported by steel framework and completed with state of the art mechanics.



Each unit comes standard with a car garage, boat slip, 10-foot ceilings, Kitchen Aid Stainless Steel Appliances, Custom Cabinetry, Silestone Quartz Countertops, Crown Molding, Large Waterside Balconies and 16 Foot Sliding Doors allowing magnificent Clearwater Beach views.

Smith & Associates Real Estate will begin taking deposits in early June at the on-site sales office and model center located at 170 Brightwater Dr., Clearwater Beach. For information or to schedule a tour, contact Sophia Vasilaros of Smith & Associates, 727-430-0141, email svasilaros@smithandassociates.com or visit BrightWaterBlue.com.

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.

CLEARWATER PADDLEBOARD OPENS SECOND LOCATION

Chris Roth, owner of Clearwater Paddleboard on the north end of the beach, opened a new location in the new building on Poinsettia Avenue. This second location is larger and more convenient for his customers, residents and tourists.



FISH MARKET NOT YET OPEN The Fish Market at the east end of the Clearwater Marina Building is still under construction. It is owned by and will be staffed by the BayStar Restaurant Group, who owns two restaurants in that building.

CLOSED

Tommy & David's Salon, north end of the beach
 Del Sol Shop, north end of the beach
 Island Vibes, north end of the beach
 Lori's Soap & Sponge Market, Sand Key Shopping Center.

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MORTON PLANT MEASE HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Without the financial backing of the community more than 100 years ago, Morton Plant Hospital might not have ever existed. Today, 100 years after opening its doors, Morton Plant Hospital continues to rely on community support through the Morton Plant Mease Healthcare Foundation.

In 1914, several ladies in Clearwater who had been trying, not too successfully, to raise money to build a hospital, visited Morton Plant. His son Henry had been injured in a car accident in 1912 and without a hospital in Clearwater, Mr. Plant brought a railroad car to Clearwater as a makeshift hospital. The ladies knew that Mr. Plant recognized Clearwater's need for a hospital. He did not donate money out right, but he told the ladies that if they could raise \$20,000 to cover the building costs, he would give the hospital a permanent endowment of \$100,000 in Atlantic Line railroad stock. At the time, Clearwater's population was less than 2,500, but the goal was reached in two months and the hospital opened on Jan. 1, 1916.

That early loosely organized group that raised enough money to build Morton Plant Hospital has grown and evolved over the years.

Today, the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation provides philanthropic support for the four Morton Plant Mease Hospitals – Morton Plant Clearwater, Mease Dunedin, Mease Countryside and Morton Plant North Bay in New Port Richey. The Foundation's vision is to be the leader in promoting initiatives that deliver exceptional healthcare in Pinellas and Pasco counties.

When talking to anyone with ties to Morton Plant Hospital, the conversation will usually come around to the generosity of the community through the Foundation.

Lou Ann Nash, who has been affiliated with the hospital since her birth on the Maternity Porch in 1934, says, "Every time the hospital has needed anything the Foundation has gotten it."

"The generosity of the community through the Foundation has allowed Morton Plant Hospital to grow and expand through the years and to equip Morton Plant with the medical devices and technology that allow its doctors to remain leaders in patient care," says Ernestine Morgan, President and CEO.

Currently Morton Plant Hospital is in the midst of a \$200 million construction project, the Doyle Tower, named in honor of benefactor Roz Doyle. The tower will feature private rooms, an additional main entrance, a new surgical center, a new women's wing and new orthopedic units. Donors Kate Tiedemann and Ellen Cotton have established the Tiedemann Technology Trust that among other things will fund an intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging (iMRI) for the new Doyle Tower. None of this would be possible without the work of the Foundation.

Steven Cass chairs the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation board because he believes in the work of the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease. "Because of the generosity of our donors, our hospitals have been able to provide our community with access to the highest quality medical treatment."

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Business Briefs

NEW LOOK FOR THE MARRIOTT

The Marriott in Sand Key is undergoing a facelift. Last month, they started on the west side of the hotel, facing Gulf Blvd. They plan to also refinish the deck around the pool. This should all be completed by July, depending on the weather of course.



NEW NAME The Wyndham Garden on the south end of the beach changed names last month. It is now Dream View Resort. For now, that is the only change. Uday is still the owner.

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 Markeplace in Palm Harbor.

HAMPTON INN OPENING SOON The Hampton Inn, being built to the west of the Quality Inn on the south end of the beach, has 90 rooms. The 12 story building has a six floor parking garage. It is slated to open July 14th.



NEW CHAMBER OFFICE Last month, the Beach Chamber moved into their new office and Welcome Center. Frenchy, owner of many restaurants, bought the old Ace Hardware at 429 Poinsettia Avenue and modified it for office space. The Chamber is leasing from him. They are located at the south end of the building which is on the corner of Poinsettia Avenue and Papaya Street, north of Cooter's. Shown here are the Board of Directors in their new space.

NEW CONDO PROJECT The Elan condo project is being built by the Ascentia Development Group at 415 Island Way, on Island Estates. This is the first new development on the island in over four years. The gated community will be four stories and many of the 44 units have boat slips. The mix of two and three bedrooms units range from 1,500 to 2,700 square feet and are priced from \$500,000 up to over \$1 million. Ground breaking is expected this fall. Visit www.ElanClearwater.com or call Dave Traynor with Smith & Associates at 813-784-6373 for more information. The sales gallery is at 415 Island Way Drive.

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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.

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.
 - 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 volunteer or visit 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.
 - 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.
 - Stay connected with your local Red Cross via www.facebook.com/redcrosscentralflorida and on Twitter @TampaRedCross.



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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 Jim Brady, 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.

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 countless letters from 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.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, www.dep.state.fl.us



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Bar & Restaurant News

ISLAND CAFE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS
 For three decades Island Café has claimed they serve the best pancakes on the beach. The little cafe located east of Toucan's celebrates thirty years in June. Owner Art Wallace bought the restaurant two years ago. "We did not change a thing—except the name," says Wallace. The restaurant used to be called JB's Islander Café. They are located at 432 Poinsettia Avenue.



BACKWATER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY August 16, from 5-7pm, is their annual Southern Boil on the patio, to celebrate their 16th Anniversary. For more information, visit BackWatersonSandKey.com.



CLEARWATER'S CRABBY BILL'S 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.

BASIMO BEACH CAFE
 This new morning spot, recently opened on the north end of the beach, is a great place for your morning coffee or an organic lunch. They offer coffee, smoothies, veggie burgers, hummus and salads with many organic items on their menu. Find them at 55 Baymont St., at Poinsettia Ave, one block off Mandalay Ave.



CLOSED Union Burger and Coffee Culture, 454 Mandalay Avenue.

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Bar & Restaurant News

RESTAURANT WEEK WINNERS The votes have been counted and the 2016 winner are:

CLEARWATER BEACH TASTE FEST WINNERS

Best Taste Fest Booth: Tate Island Grill Sandpearl Resort
2nd Place: Bob Heilman's Beachcomber & Bobby's Bistro
3rd Place: Crabby's Bar & Grill

Best of The Taste: Bob Heilman's Beachcomber & Bobby's Bistro Wine Bar
2nd Place: Island Way Grill
3rd Place: King's Pizza & Grill

RESTAURANT WEEK AWARD WINNERS

Best Chef: Chef Hector Hernandez, Bob Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant
2nd Place: Chef Justin Weaver, Watercolour Steakhouse
3rd Place: Chef Michael Crosby, Sea-Guini Seafood Restaurant, Opal Sands

Best Appetizer: Pan Filo's Co. Bar & Grill
2nd Place: The Reef Steak & Seafood Company
3rd Place: Ocean Flame Interactive Buffet Restaurant, Shephard's Beach Resort

Best Entrée: ClearSky Beachside Café
2nd Place: Crabby's Bar & Grill
3rd Place: Frenchy's Saltwater Café

GROUPEE WEEK

This special promotion was created by Pinellas County's Visit Clearwater St Pete to promote this area as a grouper and



seafood mecca. During the week of June 26 through July 3rd, area seafood restaurants have been asked to design seafood specials and events. Their web site has a list of special events and recipes at www.GrouperWeek.com.

PROINO'S BREAKFAST CLUB Proino's is coming to Clearwater Beach. After many delays, construction is at full speed and they expect to open in July. Open for breakfast and lunch, but not dinner, their other two locations, both in Largo are very popular. This newest Proino's is located between The Reef and Cesare's. Looking for a job? Send email to ProinoBreakfastClub@gmail.com.

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

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Palm Harbor – 33835 US Hwy 19 North – 727-771-8880

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THE VITALE BROTHERS HAVE BRUSH...WILL TRAVEL

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Murals 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.

"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. 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.

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KAHWA COFFEE - COMING TO BELLEAIR BLUFFS

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

What 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 the word. Raphael is from France, and he 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 Batista 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 Bonfish Shopping Center, just to the



east of Bonfish.

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. 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."

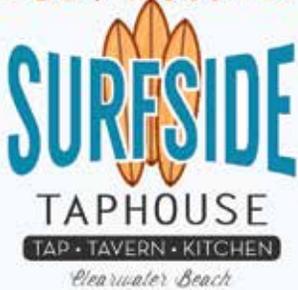
Their stores offer more than just coffee. They serve a selection of French pastries, organic cookies, and muffins. Some stores offer a lunch menu with fresh salads, sandwiches, and have outdoor café seating. Of course, their stores also sell their coffee by the pound.

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.



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

BEACH PERMITS REQUIRED

**If Tropical Storm Colin had been a hurricane,
would you have had your Access Permit?**

If you are new to the area, you may not know that during an major storm or hurricane evacuation, Clearwater Beach residents and businesses will need a permit to reenter the beach area. Under the program created by the Pinellas County Sheriff's office and managed by the Clearwater Police Department, residents and business owners must register at the downtown Police Station to receive their FREE emergency permit. Two permits will be issued per household and businesses may request additional passes for employees.

After an evacuation, officers will man nine entry points along the Pinellas Beaches and will scan bar codes on the permits. People will only be allowed to return to their own beach neighborhoods. One of the entry points is Court Street at the Memorial Causeway. Another is the south end of the Sand Key Bridge.

Residents should sign up now, before the next storm when things get busy. "This is one of those things we have to be ready for, but hope we never need," says Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. "We want to keep the beaches safe, but at the same time keep people out who do not belong there."

Residents can get their permits at the 645 Pierce Street, downtown. Please bring a current vehicle registration or driver's license. If that registration does not show Clearwater Beach, then bring other proof of residency. Call 562-4242 for more information.

NOTE: If there is an evacuation, with no significant property damage, Access Permits will not be needed for reentry.

NEW PUBLIX PLANNED

The Publix on Island Estates is over four decades old--and small by Publix's standards. Plans are in the works to tear down the 42-year old store and build a new modern one on the same site. The City has received a rendering and requests for permits from the Lakeland company. There is not a start date yet. Normally, when Publix does a full remodel, the employees are placed in other stores until the construction is finished. It normally takes a full year.



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FREEDOM SAILING CAMP

by Bonnie Monroe

In 2012 Freedom Sailing was created. My young teenage son was given a small Zuma sailboat that he thoroughly enjoyed learning how to sail. I watched firsthand the benefits he received from being on the water sailing with friends and family. Freedom is a non-profit program providing a summer camp program for high functioning autistic youth. We take these kids out on to the water and teach them to sail, paddle board or kayak [depending on the tides and weather] which opens a whole new world to these youths that they can not only share with friends and family, but that also gives them a skill they will be able to do as adults.

In 2014 we had our first summer camp program. We are going into our third year of summer camp and this year we will be sponsored by Safety Harbor Recreation Department and will be holding our summer camp program off of Philippe Parkway. Our first two weeks of camp will be June 20th -July 1st. Second two weeks: July 5th – July 25th, Third two weeks: July 18th-July 29th. Register at www.cityofsafetyharbor.com/379/camp.com. We offer scholarships through our program and 80% of our sailors have been scholarship with the help of Autism Speaks, Guardian Trust and a Fundraiser that we held. If you would like to help with our program donations are accepted on our website, go to freedomailingcampoffloridainc.com. All funds go into the program. We have no paid staff. We are all volunteers. If you would like information or would like to meet on the water to see if this program is a good fit for your child call me at (727)224-1726.



Aquatic Center lifeguards, from left to right: Luke Maloney, Taylor Schmitt, Jade Porter, Sierra Kingman, Savannah Summy, Jarrett Moore, Haley Stevens (not in photo)

AQUATIC CENTER

The Clearwater Beach City Pool is open, but hours may vary. Most days the pool opens by Noon. The pool will be open on Monday July 4th from 10am to 7pm.

FRIDAY NIGHT SWIM UNDER THE LIGHTS: The night time events will be June 24, July 8 & 22 and August 5.

SWIM TEAM: Swim for the Clearwater Beach Swim Team. There are four sessions between June 13 and August 4. Session #1 began June 13.

RENT THE POOL: Did you know you can rent the City's pool for your personal private parties, when it is not open to the public? It is a great way to celebrate birthdays, graduation and company picnics. Prices start at \$200 and a lifeguard is provided. Parties normally last 2 hours.

The Family Aquatic Center is located at 51 Bay Esplanade. Call them at 462-6020. Get more information at www.MyClearwater.com.

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- Aubrey Wollett 4 p.m.
- The Ries Brothers 5:30 p.m.
- Coachman Park Pops w/ The Wilsons 7:30 p.m.
- Fireworks Display 9:30 p.m.

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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 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 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 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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Tuesday - Thursday

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All Day Long
Sunday & Monday

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Everyday • 2pm to 6pm • Just \$5

Jakes Cheeseburger
add bacon 1, sunny side up egg 1.5

Pimento Cheese Bites
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Southern Wedge
fried green tomatoes, bacon,
blue cheese dressing

Smoked Fish Camp Dip
with Saltine crackers

Southern Cracker Dip
with chips

Six Chicken Wings
buffalo or sweet jalapeño sauce

Five Oysters
fire roasted or raw on the half shell

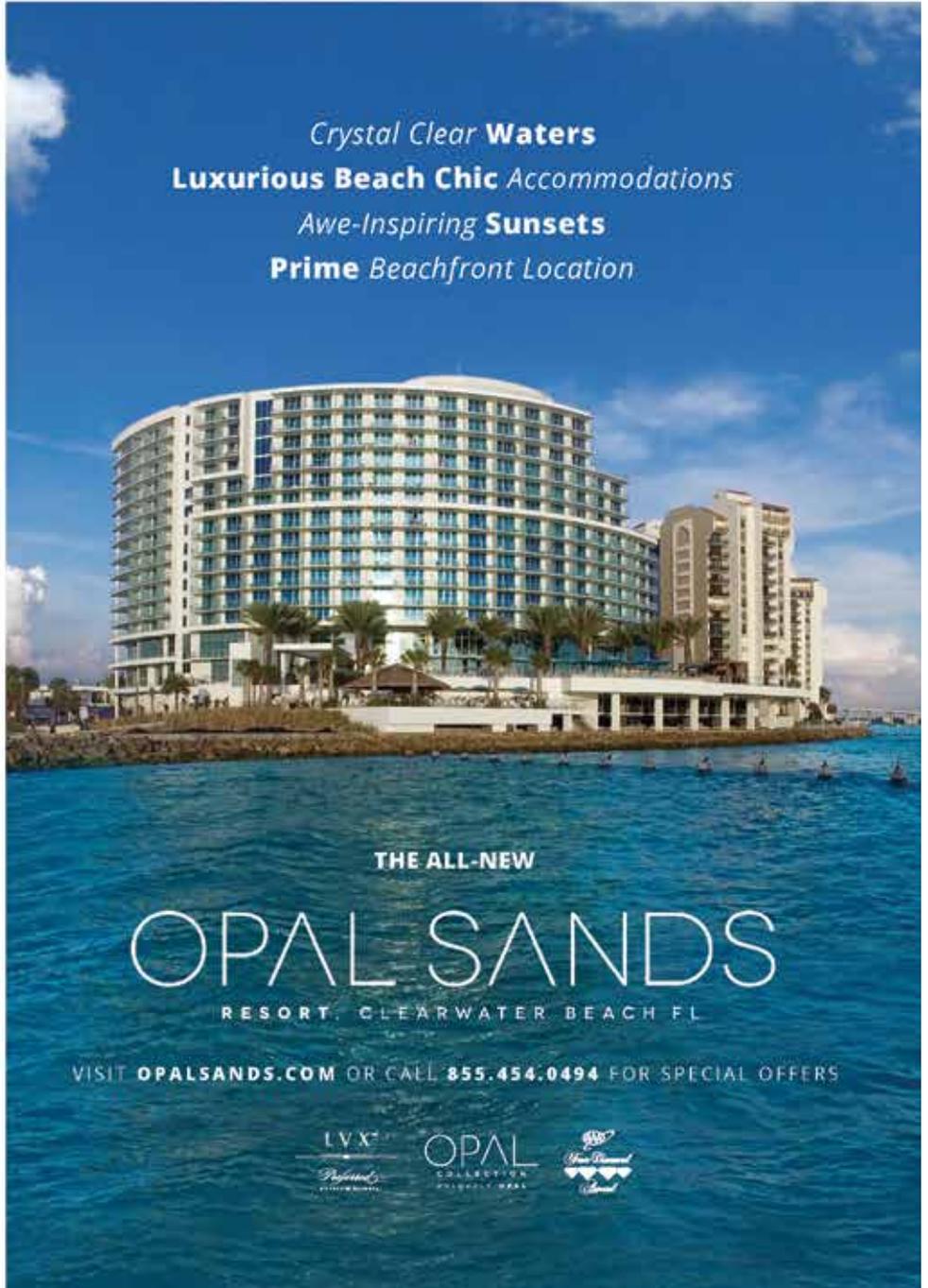
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lime, cilantro, coconut milk
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Organizational News...

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

This organization is composed of member condominiums. They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Assn. and maintains contact with the City and State Departments that impact Sand Key. They serve as the voice of Sand Key residents in matters that affect the quality of their special island!

They are very concerned about some noxious invasive plant species that have been spreading on Sand Key and have recently undertaken an initiative, in conjunction with the City of Clearwater and Pinellas County, to identify specific sites where the species are located.

Their meetings at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. The next meetings are: July 6 and August 3. Meetings are open to all residents of member condominiums. Non-members can request a pass in the interest of getting their Association to join.

E-mail President Al Zimmerman at AL.Zimmerman2@Verizon.net.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

They meet monthly from September – May with socials that include lunch with guest speakers, entertainment, and fundraisers.

The club once again awarded scholarships for Clearwater High School female graduates at the special Annual Scholarship Luncheon Program. At the same luncheon, the Installation of New Officers for 2016-17 was held. Lynn McCaskill is once again the President

Membership is open to all, on the island and off – for membership information, call Joan Landreth at 812-8078. For club information, call President Lynn McCaskill at 430-1911. Reservations, call Wendy Bouffard at 441-8211. Dues are \$20.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They promote community interests while assisting and support members. They meet the second Monday of each month in the new Classroom Building in the Clearwater Aquarium.

Membership is \$50 per year. Businesses are \$60. This helps pay for electrical service, fixtures, maintaining the shrubbery, planting, trimming, spraying, weeding and maintenance of our American Flag, plus the many events throughout the year.

Contact President Mary Lau at 813-335-6770.

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Over 300 people attended their Annual Fish Fry in May, where Michael Sanders received an award for his longtime service to the Society. Awards of Recognition were also given to Sen. Jack Latvala and Rep. Chris Latvala for their support and efforts in obtaining funding during the last legislative session that will be used to upgrade and remodel the old South Ward School into their new Historical Museum. Many people are working on the project but they could use more help. If you want to be on one of many committees please call the numbers below.

Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$5 students, \$20 family, \$150 corporate, \$250 life and \$500 patron. Call Bill Wallace 446-2676 or Michael Sanders 434-1684. Visit www.ClearwaterHistoricalSociety.org for information.



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 a 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. Visit www.IRBboatclub.com.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Club is a member club of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. They meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 11 am, at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N, Cleveland Street. For information about any meeting, call Kay Estock at 536-7737 or Martha Hickey at 813-765-6219. Visit www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

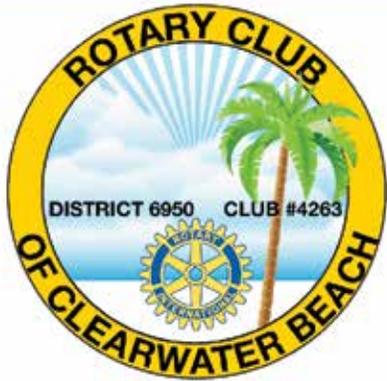
They are proud to announce that their own Brad Kendell, and his Sonar Crew, have been selected to represent the United States in the Paralympic games in September in RIO. Brad and his team have been training at the CYC and the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

They are holding a Meet-and-Greet fundraiser for Brad on Saturday, July 9th at 6pm. The suggested donation is \$350 per family. Athletes have to pay their own way to the Olympics. Congratulations to Brad, Hugh and skipper Rick. Get more information at www.USSailing.org.

Summer Membership - Did you always want to join a yacht club, but felt it was too expensive? They are offering their Summer Membership Program. Join from May 1 to September 30th with no initiation fee and dues of only \$100 a month. There is no monthly minimum spending and you do not need a boat. Join now and enjoy their upcoming events including June 23: Trivia Night, June 29: Sailor's Table in the Grille, July 4: Independence Day Cookout, July 14: Wine Tasting and Food Pairing, July 21: Trivia Night Even if you don't have a boat, you can still join. Half of their members don't have a boat; most of social activities center around parties at their waterfront tiki bar or upstairs in the dining room. They are located at 830 Bayway Blvd., Clearwater Beach. E-mail Communications@CLWYC.org, visit www.Clwyc.org or call 447-6000 for information.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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



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BILLY AND KATIE CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

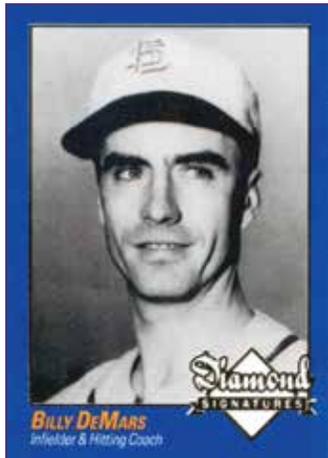
By Bob Griffin, Publisher

There is only one thing Billy DeMars loves more than baseball, that is his wife of 70 years, Katie. For Billy, that is no small statement, seeing as he has earned two World Series rings.

Billy and Katie, who have lived on Island Estates since 1990, were married in 1946. He was 21; she was two years older. On June 7th, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Billy grew up in Brooklyn, and like most kids in his neighborhood, he played baseball and stick-ball on the city streets. He also played for his high school's baseball team.

In 1943, right after he graduated from high school, Billy was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was 17. But there was a war, and after only two months of professional baseball, Billy joined the Navy. He was sent to Jacksonville's Naval Air Station where he worked as an aviation radioman. It was there that he met Katie, a machinist mate.



Billy and Katie began dating. Billy he bought a 1936 Ford for \$150 that had a "rumble seat" in the back. When they double-dated, the other couple had to ride in the extra seat. "Dating back then was mostly riding around town, then going to an area restaurant. Eating Navy chow was hard to do seven days a week," Billy chuckles.

After the war, Billy went back to baseball, but he took Katie with him. They were married by a Justice of the Peace in Wadsworth, Ohio.

Billy played for the Philadelphia Athletics (1948), the Asheville Tourists, then the St. Louis Browns (1950-51) and finally the Toronto Maple Leafs (1952-1955).

In May 1958, Billy began an 11-year managerial career with the Baltimore Orioles farm system. While Billy was an average hitter in the pros, and never hit even one home run, he was recognized as a great hitting coach. "I used to tell my players, playing baseball and coaching is an everyday job," Billy added.

After leaving the Orioles, in 1969 he moved up to the Majors coaching the Philadelphia Phillies for 13 seasons. They won the East Division in 1976, 1977 and 1978. They won the World Series in 1980.

Billy left the Phillies in 1981 to coach for the Montreal Expos (1982-84) and then the Cincinnati Reds (1985-87) when they won the World Series.

While with the Reds, Billy became a good friend and key advisor to Pete Rose who was a "player-coach." He was Rose's coach when Rose broke Ty Cobb's record of 3052 hits. When Rose tied the record, he gave that ball to Billy. Later, when Rose broke the record during the same game, he gave Billy the bat he used to hit the ball. They were that close. Rose once said, "DeMars was the best hitting coach in all of the baseball".

"I was the third base coach when Pete broke Ty Cobb's record. It was a big deal. Everyone ran out on the field. I saw Pete cry. Pete was a really great guy!" Rose went on to set the all-time hits record of 4,256.

When Rose resigned from the Cincinnati Reds, so did Billy who returned to the Philadelphia Phillies as a roving minor league batting instructor during the 1990s.

Billy and Katie first bought a house in north Clearwater Beach when he coached for the Phillies during the 1980's. "When the Phillies were sold in 1981, everyone was fired. I went to Montreal, but we kept the house in Clearwater Beach," Billy recalls. "In 1990, we bought a condo on Island Estates. "It is amazing how this little island has grown." Over the years, Billy and Katie have been involved in the Civic Association and Katie used to be in the Woman's Club.



"This is such a nice place to live," adds Billy. "You have your own Publix, gas station, local bar and Island Way Grill. We love all the restaurants in the area, especially those on the beach.

Our favorite restaurant has to be Bob Heilman's Beachcomber. "We knew Bob Heilman Sr. He was a really nice guy. His daughter, Nancy, used to be the greeter. I remember meeting Jim Campbell, who at the time was the General Manager of the Detroit Tigers, there once. I told him it was the best restaurant in Clearwater. Campbell said, 'No, it is the best restaurant in the United States'."

All together, Billy was in baseball 58 years. "I loved baseball too," says Katie. "I went to almost all the games."

At age, 90, Billy is number 57 on the list of oldest living MLB players. Eddie Carnett, at 99 is the oldest. He will be 100 on October 21st.

To celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary, Billy ordered a cake from Publix with a photo of their wedding day on top. He took the cake to their favorite restaurant, where family members from around the country had gathered to surprised Katie with a party. "That's better than any Championship ring," Billy exclaims.

Organizational News

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapel by the Sea Church, however they do not meet during the Summer. The next meeting will be September 6. All members, or those wishing to join, are welcome to attend. Visit their new website www.ClearwaterBeachAssoc.com.

The CBA is a neighborhood association organized to promote projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature. Membership is \$25/household and checks can be made payable to CBA and mailed to PO Box 3295, Clearwater 33767.

For more information about the CBA contact Board Members Beth Prast at esphome@yahoo.com or David MacNamee at DMacNav@TampaBay.RR.com

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

Fifty members attended their monthly May social at Island Way Grill. During the afternoon buffet a visiting manatee entertained the group.

This social group, meets once a month at different places. The next social is July 23 at the Clearwater Yacht Club. It is Jimmy Buffet night so wear your colors.

They sponsor the annual Holiday Lighted Boat Parade which will be on December 10th. In addition, the Island Estates Yacht Club holds monthly meetings, events and parties. Memberships are available and owning a boat is not required. Vivian Smith is the new commodore for 2015-16. For information contact her at 688-7377.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Give the gift of sailing. Gift certificates are available for memberships, private sailing lessons, and rentals. "Adult Learn to Sail" courses are offered on weekends.

Fun Racing is held on the third Saturday each month. Skippers meeting is at noon on the deck, and racing is from 1 to 3pm. They offers instruction in Stand Up Paddle boarding and kayaking. ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org.

They are open Tuesday-Sunday from 9am to 5pm.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

The meet monthly on the first Friday of the month for lunch with issue appropriate speakers. Registration is at 11:30 and lunch/meeting is at noon. The cost is \$22 and reservations are required by emailing [Mary Miskin at miskinfl@gmail.com](mailto:MaryMiskin@gmail.com) or by calling her at 727-453-2630. Pre-payment is appreciated. Please send your check payable to BWRC to Claudia Thomas, 5512 Salem Square Drive N., Palm Harbor, 34685.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

Now in its 63rd year, they hold weekly meetings at the Carlouel Yacht Club every Thursday at noon. Nick Ekonomides, President, can be reached at 447-1075. ClearwaterBeachRotary.com

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 short program. Their next meetings are July 5, August 2 and September 1. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or to consider joining, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

The Friends meet on the third Thursday of each month at noon for lunch. The next meetings are: June 16, July 21 and August 18. Guests are welcome.

Friends is a non-profit organization that works to sustain the Beach Library and Recreation Facilities and Pool as a viable part of the community. You are welcome to join them and share your ideas on how to improve things. Call Linda Owens at (260) 894-0270 for more information.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The club features a monthly tea & general meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm, as well as horticulture programs on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., in the Town of Belleair.

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@gmail.com for more information.

NEWCOMER'S CLUB

Are you new to our area and just have not been able to meet anyone? Joining this new, organization which is really a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends and acquaintances. You do not really have to be a newcomer to join; many existing members already live in the immediate area. The ladies meet monthly at local restaurants for lunch with guest speakers. Afterwards, many stay and play cards or visit. For more information, please call Karen Botsford at 531-0378 or visit. WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They meet twice a month from October through May, at 405 Seminole Street, Clearwater. For information, contact President Alice Jarvis, call 391-3066, e-mail ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

After many years as President, Kris Hampsey has passed the gavel to Sue Williams. You can reach her at 446-4471

CLEARWATER COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

They offer "All About Safety" Boating Classes at Morton Plant Hospital in the Cheek-Powell Pavilion building, 455 Pinellas Street, Second Floor. Unlike some internet courses, the class is taught by certified USCGAUX instructors who can answer your questions and share their experiences about our local waters. Topics include: Boating Emergencies, Know Your Boat, Getting Underway, Navigating, Operating Your Boat Safely and Legal Requirements. All graduates receive a Florida State Certification Card. Classes are held on the second weekend of each month from 8am-1pm. Next classes are July 9-10 and August 13-14. The cost is \$35.

They offer Free Vessel Safety Checks at the Seminole and the Belleair Boat Ramps on the first Saturday of the month.

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.

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