



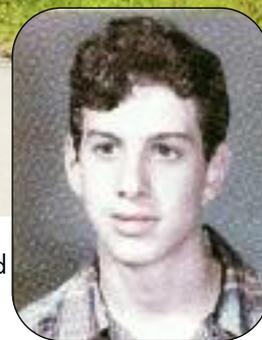
Photo courtesy of Pinellas County Communications



THE PINELLAS TRAIL 25 YEARS LATER



Bert Valery



Albert Valery

December is the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Pinellas Trail. Before it was built, area walkers, runners, bikers, and skaters had to take their chances on our city streets. Unfortunately, it took the

death of a young man to jump-start the building of the Pinellas Trail. His tragic death is what motivated his father Bert Valery, to make the trail a reality. riding places. To get his message out, Valery spoke to groups big and small--from homeowners to city councils. He also enlisted the help of the media. He did not care if a trail was created over railroad tracks, power line corridors or on the edges of major drainage ditches - as long as it was safe for cyclists. Valery found support from many area biking clubs and cycling shops.

On April 1, 1983, 17-year-old Albert Valery was killed while riding a bicycle on the Belleair Causeway. He was returning home from his part-time job. The tragic accident was the catalyst to move the concept of The Pinellas Trail forward, by focusing on its need.

Valery approached the Metropolitan Planning Organization, who controlled transportation project's money. With their support, he made a presentation to the County Commission. "By this time, the Commission knew about the concept and it was well received," says Valery. "Commissioner Mary Sheen Todd made the motion and helped push it through." From that meeting, the Commission created the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Each commissioner assigned three people from their districts to be on it. The first meeting was attended by over two dozen citizens and business owners.

Parents Bert and Patti Valery started a movement to create safer areas for bicycling. Their vision was "bicycle pathways" from one end of the county to the other, 30 miles each way, protected from cars. It would take five years of relentless petitioning and campaigning, numerous presentations to dozens of local municipalities and the twisting of many politician's arms before their concept of a "linear park," a green ribbon running through the county as a recreational trail, took form.

In 1988, Pinellas Trails, Inc., a non-profit activist group and fundraising organization was created. The organization worked to expand the idea of a linear park.

Creating the trail required a vision, but the first steps were unknowingly taken prior to young Albert's death. In 1980, AMTRACK pulled out of Pinellas County leaving their tracks unused. The Seaboard Railroad wanted to abandon many of their county lines. State Senator and environmentalist, Mary Grizzle proposed the State of Florida buy the tracks for \$20-30 million. As a result, in 1983 the FDOT became the owner of hundreds of miles of tracks, with no plan for them.

"No one really wanted to build this," Valery recalls. "The head of County Parks was ready to retire and thought the project was too big. Even Fred Marquis (for whom the trail was later named) gave no support in the beginning. He wanted to use the tracks to construct a \$2 billion monorail system. That was nixed by the voters in the late 1980s.

After Albert's death, his father started his campaign for safer

Others saw Valery's vision. Brian Smith, head of Pinellas County's Planning Department, thought it was possible. County Commissioner Mary Sheen Todd also liked the idea. It was time to create a real plan. The abandoned tracks seemed out of reach. They were not for sale and some of them were still in use by CSX. The possibility of building the trail on easements under power lines owned by then Florida Power was proposed, but Florida Power did not like it, primarily due to liability issues.

Continued inside

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

CREDITS



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Bob & Becky Griffin
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**SEE YOU AGAIN
IN FEBRUARY!**



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CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Holiday Lights Botanical Gardens 1-31
- Heritage Village Holiday Houses 1-24
- Big Boat Show St Pete 3-6
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 3
- Miracle On Cleveland Street 4
- Death by Chocolate Largo Cultural Center 4
- Sail for The Hungry 5
- Change of the Watch CW Yacht Club 5
- Post Office Toys for Tots 5
- Pinellas Trail's 25th Anniversary Event 5
- Holiday Home Tour at Heritage Village 5
- Holiday Stroll Largo Central Park 5
- Belleair Holiday Parade & Party 6
- Belleair Holiday Tree Lighting 6
- Hanukkah Begins 7
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7
- Town of Belleair Resident Gift Delivery 9-11
- Christmas at The Plaza 10
- Belleair Bluffs Holiday Event 11
- Santa's Holiday Review Largo Center 11
- Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade 12
- IRB Lighted Boat Parade 19

- Belleair Holiday Concert Biltmore 19
- Winter Begins 21
- Santa and Suds 5K Run Clearwater 20
- Public School Out for Holidays 21-5
- Belleair Rec Holiday Camp 21-24
- Christmas 25
- Kwanzaa Begins 26
- St Pete Bowl Game Tropicana Dome 26
- New Years Eve 31
- JANUARY**
- New Year's Day 1
- Little League Sign Up Begins 2
- Public School Reopens 5
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 14
- Gulf Beaches Road Race 17
- Martin Luther King Day 18
- Belleair Sunset Run 5K Run 23
- Gasparilla Invasion Tampa 30
- Heritage Village Folk Festival 30
- FEBRUARY**
- Ground Hog Day 2
- Florida State Fair Opens 4
- Crusader Gallop 5k Run St Cecelia 6



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STUDENTS MAKE DONATIONS November 20th, the Friday before Thanksgiving, thirty students from Largo's Country Day School, most of them 8th graders, surprised volunteers at the Beaches Food Pantry with boxes of food, which the families of the private school have been collecting for three weeks. Food Pantry Volunteers say the timing was great as their pantry was almost bare. Anyone wanting to donate food for Christmas to the Beaches Food Pantry can bring donations to the pantry Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, at 1615 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach behind Guppy's Restaurant.

JOIN THE CLUB The Club at Treasure Island launched a new part-time membership. If you are a winter visitor, their Part-Time Resident Membership is perfect for you. It is available October – May, for four, five or six consecutive months. Access to all club amenities and services including dining, marina, tennis center, pool pavilion, tiki bar, fitness center and classes, special events and programs, coin-free arcade, and exclusive concerts are included. For information call 727-367-4511.

BELLEAIR SUNSET 5K RUN The Belleair Parks & Recreation Department will host the 14th annual Belleair Sunset 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, January 23, 2015, at 5 pm. This certified 5K race offers a flat, fast course that runs through the heart of beautiful Belleair. After running the race course, get ready for the best post party around with complimentary food, drinks and fun. Register before January 9 for discounted registration! Register online at Racehawk.com. For more information, visit www.belleairrec.com or call 727-518-3728.

CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA Join them for a Free musical holiday celebration featuring The Bayside String Quartet principal players of the Florida Orchestra and special guest Dr. Scott Behler, Pianist Thursday, December 10th, from 6 to 8 pm. There will also be strolling carolers from Indian Rocks Christian School, refreshments, and an Art Show at the Galleria Misto: "What I Glamour?"



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FLORIDA SENIOR GAMES The City of Clearwater has been selected as the host city for this 24th Annual Olympic-style sports festival for athletes age 50 and older. The nine-day event, running from December 5 to 13th in various Clearwater facilities is the culmination of various qualifying events held throughout the year to find the State's Top Senior Athletes. Local facilities hosting some of the events include: The Long Center, Ft DeSoto Park, The Innisbrook Resort and Clearwater High School. For more information visit www.FlaSports.com or call 866-354-2637.

HOLIDAYS AT HERITAGE VILLAGE The special Holiday Tours at Heritage Village began Thanksgiving weekend. Historical houses are decorated true to their time period, locality and lifestyle, from an elaborately decorated Victorian home to a simply adorned 1852 log cabin. Heritage Village brings Pinellas County history to life at 11909 125th Street N., Largo where Walsingham Rd meets Ulmerton Rd. It is over 21 acres with 25 historic structures. Next door, Florida Botanical Gardens will be decorated with thousands of holiday lights.

WHEN POSSIBLE, DECLINE THE RECEIPT

When you handle cash register receipts, they are likely thermal paper coated with either BPA or its chemical cousin, BPS. We now know BPA and BPS are absorbed into our bodies from regular receipt handling. It is of particular concern to pregnant or nursing women, women of childbearing age and adolescents. BPA/BPS are endocrine disruptors and can imitate our body's own hormones in a way that could be hazardous for our health. When asked, decline the receipt. Use digital or email receipts whenever possible. If you do get one, throw it away and do not recycle it. The BPA/BPS contaminates the paper in the recycling process.



PINELLAS FOLK FESTIVAL January 30, 2016 from 10 am - 4 pm, listen to dozens of the Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians with traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout the Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street N., Largo. A \$5 donation is suggested.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINELLAS TRAIL, continued

Then the State passed a law allowing abandoned railroad easements to be acquired by the nearest landowner, if not owned by a local government. This meant a person backing up to a train track could extend their property lines to the middle of the track at no cost.

About the same time, the Federal government wanted to increase public transportation and offered grants to improve methods of transportation. The Pinellas Trail concept qualified and grant money became available.

In 1989, County Manager Fred Marquis proposed using the newly created Penny for Pinellas money to buy the tracks for development of a Pinellas Trail. The Penny for Pinellas was already approved by the voters; all the County had to do was earmark the funds for the never before tried concept of a linear park.

"Fred got the various cities on board with the project," said Barbara Sheen Todd. "He saw it as a use-it-or-lose-it proposal."

The County Commission allocated \$1.5 million to build the first 15-mile segment beginning at Taylor Park and running a short distance north and south. County voters extended the Penny for Pinellas sales tax, which led to further funding of the complete 35 miles of trail.

On December 1, 1990, five miles of Trail were officially opened from Taylor Park (Largo) south to Seminole City Park. It was the beginning of what would become over 70 miles of roadway, reserved exclusively for people on foot, bikes, and skates. At the same time, two more sections were built at Seminole City Park and near U.S. 19 at Curlew Road.

It would be easy to say "and the rest is history" but that was only the beginning of now 30 years of planning and construction. There were overpasses to build and CSX was still operating in parts of St. Petersburg.

In 1994, sections of the Trail opened north to Tarpon Springs and moved into

the western part of St. Petersburg. By 2002, they built an overpass over Pasadena Avenue and sent the trail on towards downtown St. Petersburg. On the Trail's 15th Anniversary, in 2005, the County purchased the abandoned CSX section of tracks near downtown St. Petersburg and started two years of construction on that part of the trail.

In 2008, the County Commissioners agreed to form the Pinellas Trail Loop connecting Downtown St. Petersburg to an area east of Lake Tarpon. At the same time, downtown St. Pete opened three miles of trail along the waterfront.

Progress Energy eventually agreed to allow the use of some power easements and even contributed money to the project. In return, much of the northeast trail was named Progress Energy Trail (later changed to Duke Power Trail when the companies merged).

After 20 years, the 34th Street overpass opened and construction began on the path running through Clearwater's Downtown area. By 2011, the trail was 37 miles long.

Today, although the loop is not fully connected, a plan is in place to complete it by 2020. The loop will serve as a linear park and a multi-modal transportation pathway directly linking eight municipalities and numerous unincorporated areas

In 2003, the Pinellas Trail was designated as part of a National Recreational Trail within the National Trails System by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service. The Pinellas Trail has been inducted into the Rail Trail Hall of Fame and has twice received the Best Trails of Florida Award from the State Office of Greenways and Trails.

"It is a shame that it took a terrible tragedy, like the accident that claimed Bert Valery's son's life, to develop something as nice as this Pinellas Trail," says Barbara Sheen Todd.

Although the trail was started with money from Penny For Pinellas, County, State and Federal agencies have also

invested more than \$63 million in expanding and improving the trail over the last 25 years.

It is estimated that an average of 70,000 people use the Pinellas Trail each month. The trail is a priceless haven in a busy, highly urbanized environment. The construction of 10 overpasses and 3 underpasses allow trail-goers to safely travel above and below traffic through some of the County's busiest intersections.

The existing 47-mile trail offers residents and visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy the outdoors close to their home, school or office. The trail is patrolled by the Pinellas County Security Task Force, which are not police but represent law enforcement officers, the County Sheriff, and other agencies. Pinellas County Park Rangers also patrol the trail daily as well as auxiliary rangers who are supplied by Pinellas Trails, Inc.

Each Pinellas Trails, Inc., volunteer travels the trail 12 hours per month. Some walk, or bike while others drive a golf cart bought by the organization. Their program "Trees for the Trail" plants trees along the corridor. They started the Auxiliary Ranger Program to support police enforcement. They pay for maps, signage, benches, water fountains and other amenities along the trail. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to pay for these expenses.

"Our goal is to ensure the viability of the trail," Scott Daniels says. "We stress safety and security. This has become a special source of pride—for me, for Bert, the County, and everyone who lives here and uses the Pinellas Trail."

In the beginning, only three other places had any form of a community trail. Today, over 1,000 cities have them. Almost all have asked Pinellas County for input or visited to see our now famous Pinellas Trail.

A 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Pinellas Trail is December 5 at Largo's Taylor Park beginning at 10 am. Visit www.PinellasCounty.org/Trail or www.PinellasTrails.org for more information. ■

SOME OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING OUR PINELLAS TRAIL A REALITY

Scott Daniels

An active bike rider, he met Valery as the Trail concept was developing. He was a founding member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Pinellas Trails, Inc. and is still their spokesman.



Brian Smith

As the County Planning Director he was involved creating the trail from Tarpon Springs to downtown St Pete. Although retired after 30 years with the County, he is still on the Board of Directors of Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.



Barbara Sheen Todd

A County Commissioner in the late 1980s and early '90s, she helped to push the Pinellas Trail through the Commission and worked closely with Marquis, and other Department Heads.



Fred Marquis

Pinellas County Administrator from 1979 until 2000, he proposed using Penny for Pinellas to fund the trail and took steps to make it happen. The trail was named in his honor.



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HONORING THE SERVICE OF OUR VETERANS IS IMPERATIVE

By Karen Williams Seel,
Pinellas County Commissioner



Seventy four years ago this month, as our nation watched Europe and areas of the Pacific deteriorate due to a horrific war, the men and women serving in our nation's armed forces were brutally attacked by the then-Empire of Japan. This fall, my husband, who happens to be a veteran, and I were able to visit the Pearl Harbor site for ourselves. The experience was nothing short of awe-inspiring. To think, more than seven decades ago, this brutal attack led to the most far-reaching war our nation has ever seen. With the entry of the United States into World War II, the world was saved from tyranny. This is the true hallmark of those who choose to put on the uniform and lace up the boots. Since the dawn of our republic, we have refused to bow down to vicious combatants who aim to threaten the principles of liberty and freedom. Our veterans are not only heroic for their acts of valor in combat, they are also heroic for the values and freedoms which they voluntarily choose to protect.

Pinellas County government works tirelessly to make sure all veterans in the county are treated with respect and receiving the benefits that their service has earned them. This is why the Board of County Commissioners has committed additional funding to the Veterans Services division, to make sure all our county's veterans have the assistance they need. Last month, we honored Michael Dowling, who works in Veterans Services for the county and is a veteran himself, with an employee recognition for his work on behalf of local veterans. Veterans like Michael are Doing Things daily to make Pinellas County such an amazing place to live, work and play.

One in ten Pinellas County residents is a veteran. It is likely one or more of the friends, family members, co-workers or customers you interact with daily is an individual who proudly wore this nation's uniform. These heroes among us are willing to lay their life on the line to protect our liberty and freedom. Not only do I take my hat off for these fine men and women, I also do so for the families they are forced to leave behind in times of conflict. I am committed to revering the service of local veterans and we should always remember how vastly different our world would be without the men and women of our armed forces.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

Holiday Lights in Florida Botanical Gardens	1-31
Heritage Village Holiday Houses	1-24
Miracle On Cleveland Street in Clearwater	4
Post Office Toys for Tots collection	5
Holiday Home Tour at Heritage Village	5
Holiday Stroll in Largo's Central Park (5-9pm)	5
Belleair Holiday Parade & Party, 5pm	6
Belleair Holiday Tree Lighting	6
Town of Belleair Resident Gift Delivery	9-11
Belleair Bluffs Christmas at The Plaza	10
Belleair Bluffs City Holiday Event (6-8pm)	11
Santa's Holiday Review at Largo Cultural Center	11
Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade	12
Indian Rocks Beach Lighted Boat Parade	19
Santa and Suds 5K Run in Clearwater	20
Public School Close for Holidays	21
Holiday Camp at Belleair Rec Center	21-24

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THE PLAZA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

The Plaza, at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. When it was built in 1955 by developer Frank Stump, it was called Sunset Bluffs Shopping Center and was only one-third of today's size. Stump, a founding member of the Belleair Bank which later became Bank of America, also developed Sunset Bluffs Estates, just west of the shopping center.

The original building only had the storefronts from *Living Pretty* north to the AAA Travel Agency. In 1956, Stump added an A&P Grocery store to the south. At the time, it was the largest A&P store on Florida's west coast. In 1966, he added a few new stores south of it.

Largo resident David Berolzheimer purchased the shopping center from Stump in 1974, 41 years ago. "The Galleries art gallery and Scrupples Restaurant were my first new tenants," says Berolzheimer. "Scrupples became *Eugen's Restaurant*, which is now *E&E Stakeout*. At the time, there was a drainage field and some parking to the south. A new sewer system was added by the county around 1974."

A&P sold most of their Florida stores in the late 1970s and the space was leased by *Kash N' Karry*. They operated there for about 10 years, until *Kash N' Karry* went out of business in the 1980s. At that point, Berolzheimer decided to sub-divide the space and ever since, various tenants have occupied the former grocery store's space.

The oldest existing tenants are Jim Dundee and owner of Belleair Optical. "I remember many of the old stores that are not here anymore," says Dundee. "There was the A&P Grocery store, of course, Edward's Camera, Anchor Hardware, Belleair Travel, Johnny's Barbershop, Presley's Liquor Store and a hair salon. Dave has been a good landlord and great friend," Jim adds. "He treats The Plaza like a second home."

Today, The Plaza is 30,000 square feet with over a dozen tenant spaces. Berolzheimer works with his tenants to keep the spaces full, while keeping the building and landscaping well maintained. Every December, Berolzheimer sponsors a free Christmas Concert with Florida Orchestra members. This year's concert event is Thursday, December 10th.

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RCS'S GRANDE GALA

Clearwater's RCS (Religious Community Services) is a social-service nonprofit organization. The organization provides basic community services including: The Haven of RCS, for women who have experienced domestic violence, the RCS Food Bank, and RCS Grace Homes, which provides housing to homeless families.



Belleair Bluffs resident Devin Pappas and her family moved here from Rhode Island in 2011. Before the move, she was an area supervisor for 9 WEST, a large women's fashion store chain. She oversaw 20 stores with about 350 employees. "When I moved to Florida, I chose not to work anymore, but I wanted to do something," Devin said. "I became aware of RCS and the programs they provide for women, and I offered to volunteer."

Three years ago, Devin created the The Career Club program. The six-week program teaches women, who may be homeless and/or victims of domestic violence, how to recover their independence by learning job and life skills while living in The Haven of RCS. "I teach them the skills needed to get a job," Devin says. "It may be how to write a resume, what to say in an interview, or how to dress."

In January of this year, Caitlin Higgins Joy, RCS President & CEO, asked Devin to chair a new fundraiser. That was all she had to ask. Devin formed a small committee to help plan an event, with food, music and an auction, but she wanted it to be a real party that would be so much fun, people would talk about it for weeks. The first step was to pick a theme - they chose the Roaring '20s.

"We considered holding the event in the RCS warehouse," says Devin. "But we soon decided it was too big and needed too much work and money to make it look classy. Once we visited Banquet Masters near Ulmerton and 49th Street, we knew that was our spot. Although we had to pay for the facility and food, it allowed us to focus our time on other things like the menu, music, decorations, auction and the special elements that would make it unforgettable for all that attended."

"Our goal was to raise about \$80,000 and entertain a lot of important people, i.e. donors," said Devin. "We never dreamed the event, called The 1st Annual Grande Gala for Flappers and Fellas, would evolve into what it did."

The Gala was October 10th. Party-goers posed for photos, sipped Zelda champagne cocktails, nibbled on mini-desserts and danced the night-away—all for a good cause.

The surprise of the evening was during the auction when a donated car was auctioned three times! The first and second winners donated the car back to RCS; the third winning bidder went home with a 2016 Hyundai Elantra donated by Scott Fink and Hyundai New Port Richey.

"It was magical to see the committee's vision come to life," said Devin after the event. "It was spectacular to see the guests dancing in their 1920's attire, enjoying the event and contributing generously during the evening."

The Grand Gala was a super success, raising \$173,000, all for RCS—more than twice the original goal. "We are already planning the 2nd Annual Gala," adds Devin.

RCS is a 4-star charity rated by Charity Navigator.

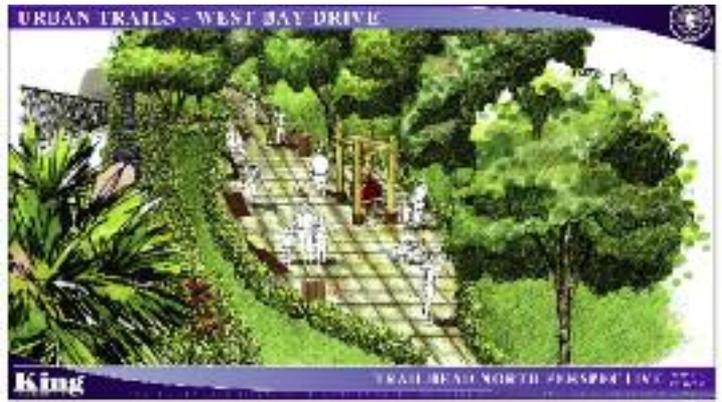
LARGO'S NEW PLAN FOR THE PINELLAS TRAIL

The West Bay Drive Trail Head Project will connect the Pinellas Trail with Downtown Largo neighborhoods and the commercial center. The project is intended to add seven access points to the Largo area. In addition, the project will provide landscaping and amenities to areas in and around the Pinellas Trail and West Bay Drive.

The Trail bisects the City of Largo. It provides a unique protected green space for walking, jogging, skating and biking. Largo is fortunate to have over three miles of the trail running through it, but there are minimal access and exit points to Largo's section of the trail. The City of Largo is proposing to construct pedestrian and bicycle trail access improvements within the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District. Improvements will also address informational signage and new trail amenities. Under consideration are various trail access points, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, overpass enhancements, trail rest areas, safety improvements, storm water treatment features, landscaping and other amenities.

"Our goal is to encourage people to come off the trail and into our community," said Teresa Brydon, Economic Development Manager for Largo. "Another objective is to create open spaces where people can hang out and enjoy our part of the area around the trail."

Construction for these additions should begins in 2016. For information, you can contact Rafal Cieslak, Project Manager through email at DowntownTrailHead@Largo.com. You can also see more on www.Largo.com.



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CONDO SALES AT THE HOLIDAY INN

It has been announced that the new building almost finished at the Holiday will not be regular hotel rooms but owner owned vacation rental condominiums. Engel



& Volkers will be handling the sale at the newly named Harbourside at Marker 33 — a 57 unit, 8 story vacation condominium development next to the Holiday Inn Harbourside at 399 2nd Street on Indian Rocks Beach. The family friendly waterfront condos feature the new waterpark called Splash Harbor with a Pirate Ship, two 42' water slides, a 600 foot Lazy River, concession stand, a gift shop, a splash pad, dumping bucket and a mine for gems and shark teeth.

With views of the Gulf of Mexico and the intracoastal waterway, these resort-style condos have 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and many include dens— ranging from 1,200 – 1,600 square feet. Units start at \$350,000. Contact Steve Kepler at 727-647-6696 or Bridget Cortes at 813-404-3847 of Engel & Volkers for information and to view units. Visit www.harboursideatmarker33.com for information, updates and to view photos.

IT'S A PARTY! Belleair Market is celebrating their first Anniversary with an all day party on December 12th from 11am to 5pm with complimentary wine and craft beer tastings. While you are there, experience their cigar humidor, and taste their famous Cuban sandwiches and new chicken wings. You can also do a little holiday shopping with their gift baskets, wine tools, travel humidors and more.

BELLEVIEW BILTMORE GOLF COURSE

UPGRADES They recently finished a \$330,000 renovation of every bunker on the golf course. They removed the old sand, re-contoured every bunker, added new drainage and new G-Angle sand, and finished with sodding each one. They also renovated tees on #6, #8, & #12 by adding teeing area and sodded them with celebration sod. In addition, their golf shop was given a face lift including a new logo, paint, the removal of the slate wall and new golf shop fixtures. It is now stocked with a complete repertoire of new logoed merchandise and members only logo. The next phase of the renovations will begin in April/May of 2016 when they will be renovating all the course's tee boxes.



BBA PLANS DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

The December meeting has been moved to the 3rd at Marlin Darlin's Grill, 5:30pm. January 14 the will be at the Belleair Market, 6pm. Call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 for more information or visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com.

More Business Briefs...

PASTRY SHOP

OPENS Nick Zahos opened his bakery, Astoria Pastry Shop, on November 7 on Antique Alley. It is just one block from where he lived, until he and his mother moved to Greece when he was 9. That is where he learned to cook. When he returned to the U.S., he moved back to Pinellas County and worked in various restaurants and bakeries - most recently Freida's on Ulmerton Road.



Astoria Pastry Shop offers European, traditional and modern pastries, cakes, pies, cheesecakes, cookies, along with coffee and espresso. Their new patio, under the big oak tree, is a perfect place to enjoy a coffee and pastry.

"We have 4 or 5 bakers helping with the baking," says Zahos. "They come in at 6 am and are usually done by 1 pm. Even my mother Maria helps. Big sellers are our spinach pies and quiche. All of our quiches are meatless. We have a three-cheese quiche, too. We offer a line of gluten-free cakes and cookies, too" Nick adds.

They are open Monday-Saturdays 8 am to 5 pm. (Closed on Sundays) at 560 Indian Rocks Road, next to Petal and Vines. Stop in for something from their large line of holiday specials including pumpkin pies, gingerbread cookies and special pastries. Call them at 585-3777.

SKIP THE MALL, SHOP SMALL

Busy moms and working women know shopping for the perfect gift is time consuming. That's what Anne Smith, owner of Periwinkles Gift Boutique, discovered as a stay-at-home mom with two very busy kids. "There were so many times I needed a gift, but just didn't have time to drive to the mall," she says.



Realizing other women must have the same problem, Smith opened Periwinkles Gift Boutique in 2006. "We carry a little of everything - Vera Bradley, home accents, clothing, jewelry, gourmet foods, bridal and baby items - That's what makes it so much fun. You may come in looking for one thing and end up finding lots of unique indulgences."

If you aren't able to shop during regular business hours watch for Periwinkles Ladies Shopping Night Out events, when the store stays open late and serves treats and cocktails as well as their quarterly Stroll where they partner with other local businesses for evening events. Visit Periwinkles Gift Boutique at 400 Indian Rocks Road North, Belleair Bluffs or give them a call at 727-596-3045.

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Restaurant News...



LOS MEXICANOS REOPENS The Los Mexicanos Restaurant on Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach closed in early September due to a kitchen fire. They have repaired the damage and are now open again for business as usual.

FIREHOUSE SUBS GIVES BACK The Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue received \$24,000 from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation who provides funding to public safety organizations and first responders to purchase life-saving equipment. The funds will purchase Hurst eDraulics combination tools and Hurst Quick Struts to assist firefighters on the Rapid Intervention Team. Firehouse Subs has eight locations in Pinellas County, including the Largo Mall store which participated in a training and demo session of the new equipment.



CAFÉ DE PARIS APPRECIATES CONCERNS On Saturday, November 14, the day after the Paris terrorist attacks, Café de Paris found many customers stopping by their Bakery in Indian Rocks Beach. The customers, many of them who had not previously shopped there, expressed their concern for what had happened in France. One woman even placed a bucket filled with flowers at their front door. Many inquired about owners Xavier and Valerie de Marchi's friends and family in Paris, but being from Bernerac, which is five hours south of Paris, they don't have any family there. "It was overwhelming to know how many people were thinking of us though," said Xavier.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PJ's Oyster Bar has been in Indian Rocks Beach since 1985. To celebrate their 30 years, they are holding a big celebration on January 2nd. The event is 11am to 11pm. There will be four bands (Razed by Wolves, Blue Lighting, T-Bone Hamilton, and Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88's). There will also be a Hula Hoop contest and a Twist contest. Not to mention, all kinds of food and drink specials. Best of all, it is free. Save the Date: January 2nd.

SHARKY'S COMING SOON This new restaurant and bar on the south end of the Clearwater Beach will be opening at 411 South Gulfview Blvd. any day now. Sharky's will serve beach food, including flat breads, pizza, tacos, and wings. It is owned by Martin Cole with the Magnuson Hotel.

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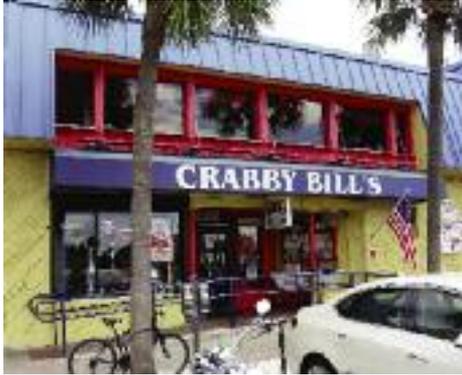
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More Restaurant News...

COMING DOWN

The big Crabby Bill's restaurant next to the Clearwater round-about is coming down, soon. The City of Clearwater, who owns the two-story building, plans to tear it down in 2016.



Crabby Bill's has been awarded a lease on the property and will continue to operating a restaurant there. After demolition, Crabby's will build a 3-story building and lease it for 30-years. It is one of two Crabby Bill's on Clearwater Beach.

ISLAND WAY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION In partnership with the Downtown Five-0-Five Club the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation invites supporters to a sumptuous buffet compliments of Island Way Grill for a \$10 donation. The festivity is on Tuesday, December 8 and begins at 5:05 until 7:00 PM.

It will be a fun filled evening on Island Way's outdoor patio overlooking the Clearwater Harbor and marina. Sheriff Jim Coats hosts the event and John Hayes, PGA will be in attendance to provide free golf swing analysis'.

Please RSVP with guests names to Jose Molina by December 3 at jose@chichi.org. Only the first 300 names will be accepted for the RSVP. Island Way Grill is at 20 Island Way, Clearwater Beach.



UPDATED RESTAURANT HAS NEW NAME

Bellevue Biltmore Golf Course's restaurant has a new name and logo. It is now the 1501 Bar and Grille. In addition to the new name,

they gave the bar area a face lift with new bar lighting, a foot rest, glass shelving, two 55 inch TVs, and new paint.

NEW OWNERS The Europa Restaurant, newly named Europa Café, has new owners, a new look and a new menu. Mary and her son George recently relocated to the area after living in Chicago for 19 years. They have refurbished and updated the inside of their casual restaurant located at 12125 Indian Rocks Road. They have new hours too, and now serve dinner. Visit them from 7am to 8pm Monday through Friday or 7am to 3pm on weekends.

NEW LOOK The interior of The Pub in Indian Shores has recently undergone a facelift. The inside bar has been expanded to almost three times what it was, with several high-def TVs to catch all the NFL games. They also expanded the gift shop. Plans to remodel and overhaul the three waterfront decks outside are on going. Learn more about The Pub at ThePubWaterfrontRestaurants.com.



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Something Fun To Do Nearby

SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT LARGO'S ARMED FORCES MUSEUM

by Becky Griffin, Publisher

It all started 55 years ago with a grenade. John Piazza, Sr. bought that grenade and began his lifelong passion of collecting military equipment. Over the years, he added to his collection of various weapons, uniforms and even vehicles spanning wars from WWI to Vietnam. Eventually, he had to invest in a large warehouse to store it.

Piazza (76) served as a Marine and is still a member of the local Marine Corp. League. After his service, he worked with a healthcare company that managed Senior Centers. He found the Center's residents enjoyed talking about their years of service and were interested in seeing his assorted artifacts. As the collection grew, he created small exhibits, packed them into a trailer thus creating a small traveling military history museum, enjoyed by his Centers' residents.

About ten years ago, Piazza retired and spent the next 18 months converting his warehouse into the Armed Forces History Museum. He had already assembled 80% of today's collection. Because he never had plans to convert the warehouse into a museum, it is tucked out of sight in an industrial park, but when you pull in, and see the various jeeps and military vehicles, a helicopter on the roof, and even a plane all in the parking lot, you realize there is more here than you imagined. When you walk through the doors into the 50,000 square foot museum, there is an overwhelming feeling that it is like "the Smithsonian meets Disney." The multi-award winning museum featured on the History Channel, TLC, and PBS, boasts the largest collection of military memorabilia in the Southeast, with many interactive displays. With nearly 100,000 artifacts and 50 operational vehicles, the museum is ever evolving.

One of the most popular exhibits is the WWI trench. When you enter, you are immediately transported back in time to experience what soldiers felt. As you walk through the life size trench, you hear the gunfire and see the smoke. Soldiers are radioing instructions from the communications room. Everything you see was actually used in WWI.

From there, you enter the WWII arena. The first thing you see in the center of the room are several large scale models of Japanese ships (appearing to be at sea) that were used in the filming of the movie Tora! Tora! Tora! Numerous American and Japanese uniforms are on display. Actual Pearl Harbor footage is running on a 20-foot screen. You hear radio transmissions from a WWII communication center and listen as a local Tampa hero recalls how he won the Medal of Honor.

The exhibits and memorabilia continue, including a MASH tent, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a special tribute to POWs and MIAs and more. Saddam Hussein's uniform is on display. Large scale model planes appear to fly overhead and they have gone to great lengths to enhance your experience with murals and interactive displays throughout.

A very popular area is the virtual Voyager Motion Simulator. You feel the excitement while experiencing one of ten different virtual encounters. In addition, climb up to the cockpit of a Russian Mig jet, ride a WWII ME reconnaissance vehicle, see an actual Quonset Hut, or peer through a working 42-foot submarine periscope. Piazza created the museum because he wants to pay tribute to our Military Veterans every day, not just on Veteran's Day. He hopes by helping people to experience the battles and relive the history, they will be more aware of veteran's sacrifices.

But, Piazza and the Museum staff are

not just about re-living history. They are also about education. Their Operation: Education initiative, funded through donations and special events, provides Title 1 Schools all-expense paid field trips for their students. Trips include transportation, admission and a boxed lunch for each student. Any teacher may also borrow a duffle bag, filled with artifacts from a specific war, free of charge, which they can use for two weeks. This allows students to touch and hold the same equipment used by a soldier at war.

The museum is available for private parties, and throughout the year, they sponsor many fundraising events. Their very popular Red, White and Craft Beer Brews Fest, held in the spring, has over 75 craft beers, food trucks, museum tours and more. Their Memorial Day Funfest includes crocodile wrestling and a petting zoo. The Stars & Stripes USO Show has grown so large, it is now held downtown at the Coliseum. It is a live re-enactment of a USO Show.

As we said, if you have never been there, The Armed Forces History Museum is hard to find. It is located at 2050 34th Way N., Largo. From Ulmerton Road, turn onto 34th Way N. heading north, where the Citgo gas station is (approximately 1/4 mile west of Belcher Road.) The museum entrance is at the end of the street. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays noon to 4 pm. They are closed Mondays. Admission is \$17.95 for adults, \$14.95 Seniors, \$12.95 ages 13-18 and \$9.95 ages 12 and under. Retired military personnel are free.

The Armed Forces History Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization funded primarily through admissions, donations, and special events. For information, call (727) 539-8371 or visit ArmedForcesMuseum.com to see photos of the exhibits. ■

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MARJORIE ROSE PRESIDENT OF THE GARDEN CLUB

A rose by any other name is still a rose and this one, Marjorie Rose, of Indian Rocks Beach, happens to be President of the Belleair Beach Island Garden Club. She is starting her second year. (Note: There is a second Garden Club in the Town of Belleair).



It may seem odd that the President of a Belleair Beach organization lives in Indian Rocks Beach, but Rose says it is not really that strange at all. "We have over 30 paying members who live as far away as St Petersburg, Clearwater Beach, Largo, and Seminole.

At one time, there were two Belleair Beach Garden Clubs. The Belleair Beach Garden Club started in 1947; The Island Garden Club started in 1959. In 1991, the two groups combined to form one club called the Belleair Beach Island Garden Club. They are beginning their 25th year as a combined club.

Marjorie is from Canada, where she lives half the year. The Club meets October to April, and she returns to Indian Rocks Beach in October, just in time for the first meeting. She has been a member for five years.

The Belleair Beach Island Garden Club meets once a month on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am. They meet at the Belleair Beach City Hall Community Center or occasionally at other nearby locations. Their various speaker topics range from gardening and floral arrangements to creating a Florida friendly environment. After their meetings, they often go to a nearby restaurant for lunch. Meetings sometimes involve field trips to places like the Florida Botanical Gardens or Sunken Gardens.

Membership is \$20 per year. With that, you get a membership handbook, contact info, and a mailed monthly newsletter. The group sometimes pays for its speakers and makes donations to appropriate groups.

"We are here to help our members become better gardeners," says Rose. "We teach people to appreciate horticulture."

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GOODBYE CHINNY CHIN CHIN!

By Stephanie Schlageter, Radiance Medspa

Whether you call it a wattle, a turkey neck or some other creative name, submental fat – the fat under the chin - historically has been difficult to treat without surgery, needles or downtime. That is, until now, thanks to the FDA-cleared CoolMini, a new CoolSculpting applicator that can freeze away fat in targeted areas.



CoolSculpting is a revolutionary fat reduction technology developed by Harvard-based scientists and backed by a long history of scientific research. This state-of-the-art fat-freezing technology was developed as a result of the discovery that children who frequently ate popsicles (thereby exposing their cheeks to prolonged cold) experienced permanent fat loss in their cheeks in the form of dimples. Scientists took this information and created the CoolSculpting system for removing fat permanently from the body.

CoolSculpting sends controlled cooling below the skin's surface to target specific fat cells. The surrounding tissues are not affected, but the fat cells are frozen to the point that they are naturally and permanently eliminated by the body over time.

Each CoolSculpting or CoolMini treatment area takes just an hour and, to save time, multiple areas may be treated at the same time – sometimes referred to as DualSculpting. After the treatment, minor bruising, swelling or numbness at the site of application may occur but are temporary and will resolve within 1-2 weeks. Complete results develop over the 12-18 weeks that follow the treatment and the results last a lifetime.

When selecting a CoolSculpting provider, look for a medical professional who specializes in non-surgical medical treatments and has been certified in the CoolSculpting procedure at CoolSculpting University. Although the CoolSculpting procedure is simple to perform, it is important to have it done by a trained medical professional to ensure a safe and efficacious experience.

Since receiving its FDA approval in 2010, over 2.5 million CoolSculpting treatments have been performed on abs, love handles, thighs, back and arms. And now, with the new CoolMini the knees, bra-fat, and chin can be treated as well. Hello CoolMini, Good-bye chinny, chin, chin!

CHIHULY COLLECTION MOVING

Morean Arts Center's Chihuly Collection is relocating from 400 Beach Drive to a new property on the 700 block of Central Avenue. The new location



will include an exhibition space and approximately 4,000 square feet of outdoor space. The grand opening of the new collection is scheduled for fall of 2016.

"The Collection has made such a huge impact on the arts community of St. Petersburg as a whole", stated Nancy Loehr, Morean Arts Center Board Chair. "The excitement of being able to expand and improve the collection as well as continue the city's transformation to a major arts destination is exhilarating," Loehr states.



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HE PLAYS TAPS

For nearly a year, Ken Deka drives 20 minutes to the beach to the County Park in Indian Rocks Beach to play "Taps" on his bugle exactly at sunset. Traveling from Largo, Deka shows up about an hour early and walks the beach. Many regular beachgoers recognize him and thank him for his nightly performance.

"I used to access the beach at 27th Avenue, but there is very little parking there," Deka says. "So, I moved my base of operations to the County Park at 18th."

Deka, originally from South Bend, IN, joined the Army right out of high school and served for three years. He and his brother are both proud Vietnam veterans.

After his service, Deka went to school and received a degree in computer science. He worked as a computer programmer for about 25 years and is now retired.

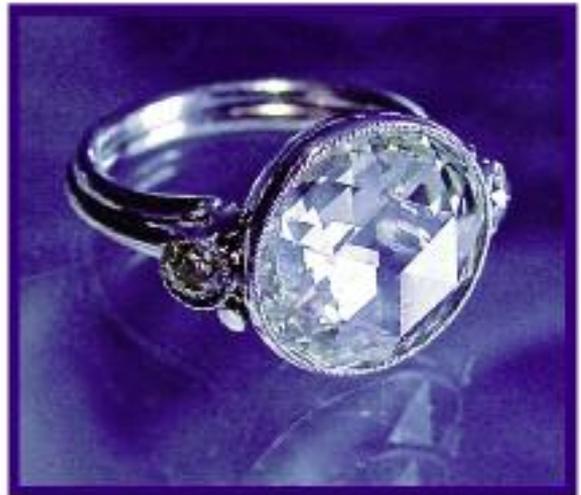
Deka never played in a band; he learned to play the bugle at home as a kid. "I liked it because it was loud," he says. He was a military veteran, as was his late brother. They both served in Vietnam in the late 1960s. "While in the military, I always noticed the reaction of the crowd when someone played "Taps," at funerals and sunsets."

"A kid came up to me the other day and asked me why I do this. I told him, in the military you hear "Taps" every night--my favorite time of the day," Deka says. "For me, it was always a nice, quiet and peaceful time. It gives you a minute to stop and think. A lot of guys did not make it home alive. It makes you remember that our Freedom is not really Free."

"Taps" is a 24-note melody normally played on the bugle or the trumpet. It was written for bugle which is the simplest brass instrument with no valves and no means of changing pitch other than the player's mouth. Therefore, "Taps" is composed of a limited range of notes.

Robert Young
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EVERY NIGHT ON THE BEACH

Traditionally sounded during military flag ceremonies and funerals including the wreath ceremonies conducted at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier each year, "Taps" is also sounded nightly in military installations. It is often used by American Military schools, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth groups when sitting near their campfires at night.

The name "Taps" is a variation of the word "taptoo" derived from the Dutch word "taptoe" which means "close the beer taps" and send them back to camp. At one time, the military used three single, slow drum beats to signal lights out. It was known as "Drum Taps" or simply "Taps."

During the Civil War, the tune was known as the "Scott Tattoo" as it was arranged by Union Army General Daniel Butterfield which explains why it is sometimes called "Butterfield's Lullaby."

Butterfield came up with the melody to replace a previous "lights out" bugle call used by the French. He hummed the tune to his bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, who perfected it. Within months, "Taps" was used by both Union and Confederate troops.

In 1862, Captain John C. Tidball, a member of the Union forces, began the custom of playing "Taps" at military funerals when one of his corporals died in action. They were not allowed to perform the normal three-gun salute, due to the close proximity of the Confederate Army. Tidball suggested playing "Taps" instead. It was soon taken up by others and by 1874 it was officially recognized by the United States Army.

"I did not get serious about the bugle or playing "Taps" until my brother died. He loved to hear too." Deka adds. "A sunset is beautiful to watch and "Taps" is a beautiful song to go with it. It is the perfect way to end a day and to remember someone you love. I guarantee, every veteran on the beach feels like standing at attention and saluting while I play."

When he starts to play, almost everyone stops and stands at attention in silence. As the last note sounds, they applaud his performance. Catch his next performance at the next sunset on Indian Rocks Beach. ■

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun
 From the lakes,
 from the hills, from the sky
 All is well, safely rest
 God is nigh.
 Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
 May the soldier or sailor,
 God keep.
 On the land or the deep,
 Safe in sleep.
 Love, good night, Must thou go,
 When the day, And the night
 Need thee so?
 All is well. Speedeth all
 To their rest.
 Fades the light; And afar
 Goeth day, And the stars
 Shineth bright,
 Fare thee well; Day has gone,
 Night is on.
 Thanks and praise, For our days,
 'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
 'Neath the sky,
 As we go, This we know,
 God is nigh.



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TRENDS FOR CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS IN STYLE

Flowers have always been a top gift choice for any occasion. People appreciate the beauty and ephemeral nature of flowers as a unique investment in memories, according to research by The Michael Cohen Group. In fact, 92 percent of women can remember the last time they received flowers; and 97 percent of men and women recall the last time they gave a floral gift. This is never truer than at the holidays.



Great holiday arrangements begin with greenery. In ancient cultures, people believed that bringing foliage into the home during the season was lucky and guaranteed the return of vegetation in the spring. Even today, green remains a staple in holiday décor. Christmas has a way of conjuring feelings of nostalgia. We think of Grandma's house, a cozy fireplace, cookies baking, a great feast and wonderful times with friends and family.

Flowers and plants are the finishing touch that make the holidays complete. Incorporate a scented pine or other greens into a centerpiece or table arrangement. Accent the greens with flowers that complement the home's décor.

Ask your florist for a bunch of evergreen, cypress or mistletoe to place throughout your home – over the threshold, in the foyer or on the mantel.

Line a mantel or dining table with small evergreen topiaries or "baby" Christmas trees decorated with bows or flowers. Florists carry a wide selection of poinsettias in pink, peach, white, plum and speckled or marbled varieties, in addition to the traditional red.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Cheryl and the Gang at Carlson Wildwood Florist www.belleairflorist.com

TWO HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Belleview Golf Club and The Belleair Civic Association invites you to this year's FREE Holiday Concert, "Sing JOY!" The Concert is at 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 19. This year they are truly honored to have Belleair residents and world renowned tenor, Giorgio Aristo, and soprano, Melody Aristo-Kielisch as the featured musical artists. These performers are versatile and have a repertoire ranging from the classical to popular genres. Giorgio and Melody will be joined by other performers and you will have an opportunity to hear them all perform a wide variety of holiday music.

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm for "The Rising Stars of Belleair" concert. You will not want to miss performances from Aristo Vocal Performance Studio. The Rising Stars will be performing a variety of holiday classics to get you in the holiday spirit. The students will also perform pieces from Broadway to classical favorites. Admission is free.

Both concerts will be at the Belleview Golf Club, 1501 Indian Rocks Road. For additional information, please contact Kristi Watson at the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club at (727) 581-5498.

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SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR HELP!

By Deborah Clark

With a busy 2016 election year right around the corner – which includes three countywide elections – the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office must rely on qualified election workers to assist in conducting fair, secure and accurate elections.

A countywide election in Pinellas County requires over 2,000 election workers spread across our three office locations, our five early voting sites and our 222 polling places throughout the county. Election work can take many forms:

- Poll Workers – Each poll worker is assigned to work at a specific polling location on Election Day. Poll workers must be available to set up their sites before the polls open and must remain at the polling place until after the polls close.

- Early Voting Workers – Before all state and federal elections, the Supervisor of Elections staffs 3-5 early voting sites for voters who wish to cast their ballots prior to Election Day. Early Voting can begin from 10-15 days before the election and last from 8-14 days. Early voting hours range from 8-12 hours each day.

- Other Election Work – The Elections Office relies on temporary election workers to help answer phones in a Call Center environment, open mail ballots, sort and count ballots for the post election audit, process petitions for future ballot contests and initiatives, and perform other clerical tasks in support of upcoming elections.

Our poll workers serve as the backbone to our operation, offering much-needed assistance for our voters on Election Day. From setting up the polling place, to checking in voters, to handing out ballots and distributing “I Voted” stickers, our poll worker family is a vital element in conducting a successful election.

There are six poll worker positions – Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Machine Manager, Ballot Distribution Manager, Inspector and Precinct Deputy. Each role requires a different set of skills and experience.

Florida law requires the following to serve as a poll worker: Be a registered or pre-registered voter in Pinellas County, be able to read and write English, and attend the required poll worker training classes for the assigned position. And yes, Pinellas County Poll Workers are compensated for their training and for working an election. Depending on the assigned position and number of training classes, a Poll Worker can earn \$265 on average in a countywide election.

Serving as an election worker at one of our three offices requires dedication, long hours and constant attention to duties. Our offices are busy throughout the year with a variety of tasks to complete – many by state-mandated deadlines, and election workers earn up to \$400 a week.

To learn more about being an election worker or to apply, please visit our website – VotePinellas.com – and click on the ‘Be a Poll Worker’ tab on the top right-hand corner of the page, or call (727) 464-6110, or email PollWorker@VotePinellas.com.

We cannot conduct elections without quality election workers. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to fulfill a civic duty and make a difference in your community.

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Morton Plant Hospital

MortonPlant100.org

THE KING AND QUEEN OF SILVER AND GOLD

The Silver Queen and Belleair Coins, both under the same roof just east of Belleair Bluffs, are one of the state's largest buyers and sellers of gold and silver. The family business, started by Art and Pat Arbutine, both 81, opened in 1972.

"We moved around a lot while Art was in the Air Force," says Pat, "and we knew we wanted to retire in Belleair Bluffs. Art had this idea to open a small coin shop, so when he left the Air Force, we did it."

The Arbutines leased a small 700 square foot shop, where Peter's Tailor Shop operates today, at 778 Indian Rocks Road N. and opened Belleair Coins. In 1979, they created The Silver Queen, a related concept, but specializing in buying and selling china and silver place settings and fine jewelry. Both businesses kept growing and by 1984 needing to expand, they bought land at the south end of their strip center and built a larger storefront (it is now home to a physical therapist.)

They ran both businesses out of that slightly larger space for ten years. When they decided they needed to expand again, they found there were zoning issues in Belleair Bluffs. In 2002, they decided to move their business out of Belleair Bluffs into a new 15,000 square-foot home in Largo at 1350 West Bay Drive, where they remain today.

Art and Pat's three sons, Greg (51), Chris (50) and Jayson (49) all work in the business with specific responsibilities. The third generation is showing the beginnings of a future there too, as their grandchildren are learning the trade.

About 500 people come through their doors each week, although it varies depending on the season. When you enter the store, you are in the middle of The Silver Queen, which is where they

display and sell fine china, silver and jewelry. They have a small area which acts like a museum displaying very old and valuable pieces, that are for sale.

To the right of the entrance is Belleair Coins. This is the area where you have your valuables appraised and possibly bought. "We buy almost anything precious, except furniture," says Chris. "This includes silver, bullion and jewelry. People come in with things, but have no idea what it might be worth," Chris adds. "There is no charge for us to estimate their value. If they are interested in selling, we will make them an offer, on the spot."

"We are experts in pricing such things. We have been doing this a long time and we are in contact with a network of buyers who expect us to call them with certain types of jewelry and antiques. We may or may not offer the most money, but we are definitely competitive," Chris explains.

Some purchased items are sold at The Silver Queen; others are sent to buyers. Some jewelry and other products are melted down to be resold as solid gold and silver.

"We are not scrap buyers and we are not a pawn shop, either," Chris emphasizes. "We buy value and we buy to resell. We look for nicer pieces of jewelry that we might be able to resell. When we buy something for resale, we make about a 10-20% fee, just like buying and selling a car."

"This business has certainly changed over the years," says Chris. "People in flea markets sell jewelry and silver that may or may not be worth anything. eBay has been popular for about 10 years, but people who use it to sell or buy their stuff do not always know what they are getting. We are local and we have been here for over 40 years. People know us. We even occasionally make house calls," Chris explains. "Sometimes people call us when their family members die and there is just too much stuff or it is too heavy. Our kind of customer service is something you can't find online."

"When buying coins, we either buy them to resell



Chris, Art and Pat Arbutine

to investors or to melt down for their raw value. We have many people in our network - collectors, investors or even auctioneers. Many small dealers buy from us."

The Silver Queen buys and sells pre-owned silver and sterling. "In the old days, hippies would come in and buy our old sterling silverware and turn it into hip jewelry, rings, and bracelets," says Pat, reflecting on the 1970s and '80s. "Now after four decades, we are starting to see our friend's grandchildren coming in selling their grandparents stuff."

The two businesses are like economic see-saws. People selling in down economic times and buying when the economy is moving upwards.

Pat's favorite thing is their museum area. "It is the center piece of our store," Pat proudly exclaims. "We have some very historic pieces and many authentic Tiffany lamps. We used to travel a lot, buying things along the way. I saved it and put it in the back room because I always wanted to have a museum to show it off. It is also for sale, too. Our oldest things are some ancient coins. We have a spoon made by Paul Revere. We also bought some Flying Tiger medals."

"You cannot be a collector and a dealer at the same time," Chris gently reminds his mother. "You can't do both."

"We wanted to be the Tiffany's of Belleair Bluffs, says Pat proudly. "Now we consider ourselves the Tiffany's of Largo."

Get more information on these two businesses on their web sites: SilverQueen.com and BelleairCoins.com. Owner Chris Arbutine has been the Mayor of Belleair Bluffs since 2001. ■



ROBERT PHELPS The Man And His Art

Robert Phelps, a self taught artist, is recognized for his vibrant figurative work and uniquely-colored portraiture. Through his work, he strives to express the raw, intimate beauty of his subjects. His portraits range from a menacingly-brooding Mike Tyson to adorable teacup chihuahuas. He paints what gives him joy, believing this to be the highest form of artistic "statement." Last spring he had a show in The Studio@620 located at 620 1st Ave. South, St. Petersburg. This is his story, in his own words:

I've always been very artistically inclined and spent my youth and childhood drawing and painting. Our family roots are in rural, mountainous West Virginia, extending out to Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia. I spent most of my childhood exploring the woods with my brother and that affinity for the wilderness and nature has never left me. Most of my work is a celebration of animals, wilderness, and natural beauty. I also spend a lot of time painting "wild" characters - Hells Angels, Mike Tyson (and many other fighters), nymphs, satyrs, and a pantheon of rock stars, writers and celebrities of the more "colorful" ilk (Mick Jagger, Hunter S. Thompson, etc.) My current painting style is most closely aligned with the expressionist or fauvist (French for "the wild beasts") technique where I'm exploring emotional content instead of literal reality in my subjects.

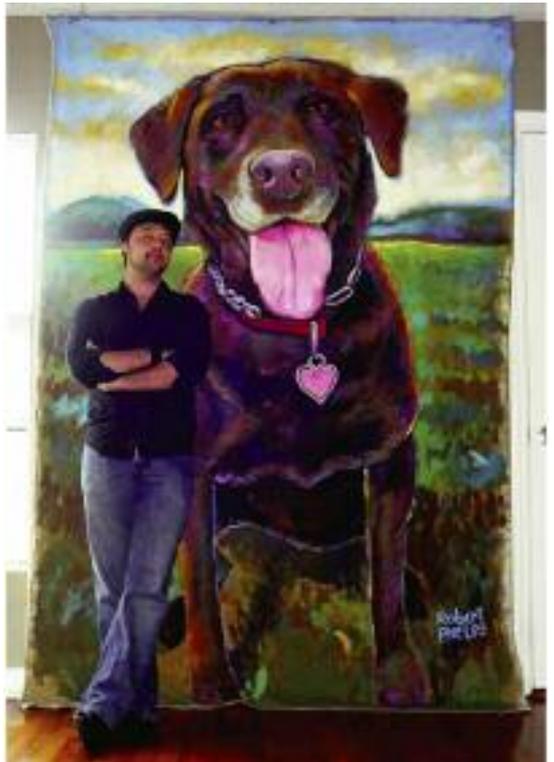
I graduated high school in 1994. I was an Academic Scholar and participated in many electives, Art Club, French Club, National Honors Society, etc. I was a public speaking champion for the Future Business Leaders of America. I also ran track, cross country, soccer, etc. I went to community college for a year or so, but I was a bit too restless for college and soon went to work in 1996 as a scenic painter for Disney's Animal Kingdom. I spent the next three years working for companies as a muralist and decorative painter for hire before moving to St. Petersburg in 2000. I continued working as an independent faux painting subcontractor until forming my company in 2007. I've been doing business as Painted Poetry, LLC since then, www.PaintedPoetryHome.com

In my portfolios, you'll see examples of many residential faux painting and mural projects. I specialize in custom faux finishes and employ a variety of decorative painting techniques. I enjoy doing a variety of mural styles for both commercial and private clients.

Some of my commercial clients include DeBartalo Holdings the owners of the San Francisco 49ers, DeLosas Pizza, The Hut Restaurant, The Moon Under Water, Gecko's restaurants, etc. You can see my murals at The Hut, Delosa's and most recently the Moon Under Water.

In the ensuing years, I have participated in dozens of solo and group art shows and have been very active in the arts community. I favor doing themed shows. One of note was a 2008 fight themed show called "There Will Be Blood" at Interior Motives (now known as ARTicles gallery).

A few celebrities have my work in their collection or have signed their portraits like Jerry Rice, former UFC champion BJ Penn, director John Waters, and comedian Maria Bamford. The most recent and interesting is comedian Adam Carolla and his cohorts on the TV show *Catch a Contractor*. I've been a longtime fan of Adam's work and was in the process of



painting his dog when I got word the dog had died. I rushed to get a memorial portrait out to his grieving family. Adam was very gracious in mentioning it on his podcast. In thanks to his cohorts who had acted as my liaisons, I painted their dog Kilo's portrait and presented it to them at a function in Atlanta last month.

I have a special fondness for painting dogs and pets as I find the work very meaningful. I find that my expressive painting style is a natural fit for the exuberance and innocence of animals. I regularly donate work to animal rescue charities and participate in their auction events.

You can reach Robert at 727-453-2952. ■

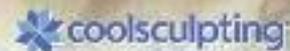




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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR ROTARY

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of the month is the general assembly and Board meeting. They have events throughout the year that benefit many local charities. To get involved, contact Joyce Baskin, 432-7218, Joyce@Repkajennings.com or visit BelleairRotary.org.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. Meetings are for lunch at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club, and normally cost \$22 (pay at the door; no credit cards accepted.) Next meetings are December 4, January 8 and February 5th.

To RSVP for meetings, call Sherri Morton at 581-8313 or email her at SherrieMorton@TampaBay.RR.com. For more information, visit BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

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

Membership is open to all seniors, living in the greater Belleair area. There are no dues and couples are encouraged to join their fun. They would like more male members. They plan monthly social meetings, potluck get-togethers, dinners, movie nights and visits to area attractions. Call Marilyn Daminato 585-9633 for info.

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. The next meetings are January 5 and February 2 at 11:30am.

Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcomes new members. To RSVP for lunch or to join, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

New business hours for winter - closed Monday and Tuesday, open Wednesday - Sunday 9-5pm. Closed Christmas Eve and Day, New Year's Eve and Day.

Give the give of sailing. Gift certificates are available for memberships, private sailing lessons, adult course "Adult Learn to Sail" offered on weekends, or rentals.

February 7-14 the sailing center will host the Nacra 17, 49er and 49erFX Worlds. Racing will be in the gulf and the center will be packed with about 400 Olympic level sailors from all over the world.

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

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, (October through May) at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join, membership is \$15 a year. To join, please call Sherri Morton at 581-8313.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

December 9: Holiday Party at Judy Sorenson's (11:30am)
January 6: Ikebana Presentation by Muriel Scrivner (1pm)
January 13: Field Trip to Sunken Gardens (9am)
February 3: Annual Orchid Extravaganza (1pm)
February 10: Orchid Mounting Presentation (9:30am)

The club features a monthly tea & general meeting on the first Wednesday of the month 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.

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

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

BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They look forward to helping with Rec Center events such as the Christmas Tree lighting. Membership is open to all residents of the Town of Belleair. Its purpose is to create goodwill within the community through promotion and support of civic, recreational, and social activities. If you are not already a member, you can join now for 2016. If you want to help or get involved, call Petey Henning, 584-4874 or e-mail Phenning4@TampaBay.RR.com.

THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Saturday, December 5th, is their annual Change of Watch, one of the Club's oldest traditions. Commodore Rowland Milam will become the Immediate Past Commodore, Vice Commodore Johnny Cardosi will be inducted as the Commodore, Rear Commodore Ed Proefke, Jr. will be inducted as the Vice Commodore, and newcomer Collin Heimensen will be inducted as the Rear Commodore. After the flagpole ceremony, members celebrate upstairs with dining and dancing. Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country.

Half of their members don't have a boat. Most of their social activities center around regular parties. Many events are held at their in-house restaurant or Tiki-Bar out back. Call 447-6000, visit www.Clwyc.org, or email Office@CLWYC.org to learn more.

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They meet the third Wednesday of each month (October through April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach. Now in it's 25th year, membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Call Brenda Licht to RSVP for events at 595-5427. Contact Majorie Rose President, 238-8691.

SUNCOAST CAMERA CLUB

This group promotes better photography. Make friends with people who share your interests, improve your photography and share your work. Meetings are at The Hospice of Florida, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd at 7pm. Call Veronica Serra at 512-4878 or visit SuncoastCameraClub.org.

NECK-LESS

By Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald

Have you ever wanted a tighter more youthful neck without surgery, scars or downtime? Are you tired of looking at pictures of yourself and seeing a double chin? Or looking in the mirror and seeing your profile and asking yourself the question: What happened to my neck? Chances are you inherited your neck. The dreaded turkey neck is a common concern among millions of people. If neck stretching yoga treatments, firming creams and turtle necks have exhausted you, we have a better and permanent solution: CoolSculpting with Cool Mini.

A double chin is an extra layer of fat below the jaw-line and can be as uncomfortable as it is unsightly. A "turkey neck" is caused from sagging of loose skin, flaccid muscles and excessive accumulation of fat. There are several strategies in treating fat in the neck, which involve anesthesia, incisions, scarring, downtime, facial garments, excessive costs, the list goes on. A neck-lift involves making an incision underneath the chin, removal of fat and 10-14 days of downtime. We are in a generation of fast and easy, budget conscience, no downtime and wanting it done yesterday. CoolSculpting meets the needs of millions of people struggling with fat in their neck by offering them exceptional results with no downtime!

CoolSculpting is an FDA approved technology that uses cold therapy to freeze and destroy fat cells, with NO surgery. It delivers controlled, targeted cold therapy in a treatment that lasts about one hour per treatment area. The skin is treated with cooling plates, which modify the fat's temperature to just above freezing. Energy is extracted from

the fat cell by the cold, causing it to die. Though it is referred to as cryolipolysis, it is not actually "freezing" the fat or the surrounding tissues. Rather, it crystallizes the lipids in fat cells causing the slow collapse of cells as they die. The procedure targets only fat cells and only those in the superficial fat layer close to the skin. The body then carries off the dead cells over the course of 60-90 day for a more gradual, natural result. Treating the neck only takes 60 minutes and the patient can resume normal activities.



Which of us doesn't have a little fat to treat under the chin?

Common patients looking for this new procedure are:

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Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald, Owner/Medical Director of PureLife Medi-Spa, has been practicing family practice medicine for 20 years.

NECK-LESS

By

PureLife Medi-Spa

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Organizational News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They are proud to announce, their new Community Garden has 40 garden plots. The Club meets twice a month from October through May, at 405 Seminole Street, Clearwater. For more information contact, President Alice Jarvis at 391-3066 or email at bgjala@aol.com.

BEACH ART CENTER

Support the Arts! Become a member! Anyone interested in the enjoyment of the visual arts can join. Members are the heart and soul of the Center and their support makes a great variety of wonderful programs possible for both adults and children. Join or renew your membership and support the arts. Single Yearly Membership: \$50, Family Yearly Membership: \$65, Sponsorship Yearly Membership: \$250. The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach. Call 727-596-4331 or visit beachartcenter.org to more information.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's Club is announcing their call for their Daisy Grant nominations. Selected local charities will receive up to \$2000 in grants issued at their annual Daisy Grants Fashion Show on March 13, 2016. The Club has been awarding these grants for eight years to charities demonstrating a need and specific fund uses. Interested Charities can apply on line at www.ClearwaterCWC.org. Applications must be postmarked by January 6th.

The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and women in Belleair are welcome to join. It is a volunteer service club and was established more than 40 years ago. Their motto is "Making A Difference". General Meetings are held the third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 11am, at the Clearwater Downtown Library. Women in Belleair are welcome to join the Clearwater Community Woman's Club. Get more information at www.ClearwaterCWC.org, contact Martha Hickey, 813-765-6219 or email MarthaDHickey@Hotmail.com.

PINELLAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

They meet monthly on the second Monday at 7pm at Banquet Masters, 13344 49th Street N., Clearwater. New members are invited for orientation at 6pm.

Call Charlotte Smith at 539-6009 for more information or visit www.PinellasRepublicans.com.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

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.

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.

NEW NEWCOMER CLUB

If you a new to the area or just want to meet new people, this new not-for-profit group can help the development of acquaintances and good fellowship. You do not have to be a newcomer to join, a lot of members already live here.

They meet monthly at local restaurants and area country clubs on the first Tuesday of each month normally for lunch and guest speakers. They also have many outings during the year. Call Marie Micheel at 530-5194.

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HEALTHY EATING STARTS AT THE GROCERY STORE

Grocery shopping can be overwhelming and many shoppers find themselves opting for a quick meal, instead of venturing into fresher, more nutritious ingredients. What you put in your body has a significant effect on your physique. That's why anyone who wants to be healthier should adopt a clean, whole foods diet, said nutrition expert and trainer Julia Zammito, who owns Total Body Results.

Those new to eating clean might have trouble adjusting without someone guiding them. Once a month, Zammito offers a free tour of the Publix grocery store at 13031 Walsingham Road, Largo.

"Most often, people do not know what to eat for overall health & weight loss. The grocery store tour teaches you how to read labels, check for chemicals in ingredients, specific shopping tips and includes a seven-page handout with a list of with my top picks and recipes," Zammito explains.

Zammito suggests a healthy everyday diet incorporates fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean meats. "We really touch on ingredients and label reading. Labels are important, however, being able to distinguish ingredients within a product is essential. People are very surprised with what's actually in the foods they consume," says Zammito.

Zammito has one universal rule for anyone looking to eat healthier: drop the processed foods. "This means planning your meals so you're not tempted by junk foods," she says. "You want to become label-reading experts, because often what you think is healthy is not. Avoid artificial sweeteners – particularly high fructose corn syrup – sugar, hydrogenated oils, trans fats and high levels of sodium.

"For those who aren't used to incorporating a variety of vegetables into their diet, it won't take long for your body to

crave them," she said. "The more fruits and vegetables that you eat, the more your body wants."

As for whether things should be organic, that's a personal choice, she said.

"If you want to go organic, go for it." She does provide attendees of her tour with a list of the Dirty Dozen – pesticide-laden fruits and veggies that should be organic – and the Clean 15 – the fruits and veggies lowest in pesticides.

"Tofu and other soy products should always be organic," Zammito states. "You should buy organic meat and dairy, too, because you get antibiotics and hormones directly from the animals." Although, she does stress how dangerous and unhealthy red meats are, suggesting people replace it with ground chicken or turkey. "People also should decrease the amount of dairy they ingest," she adds. "Organic Soy, coconut and nut milks are a great alternative."

Healthy Eating becomes easier with time. It's forming habits. "Our taste buds are like a muscle and with time become stronger. When you begin to eat "real" food, it won't take long for your body to crave real food," Zammito concludes.

Julia Zammito has over 17 years of experience in the Health & Fitness industry. She is the owner of Total Body Results, offering group personal training programs. She is on a mission to inspire & educate as many people as possible on how to eat healthy for overall health and weight loss. For information or to register for a trial workout or consult, visit TotalBodyResults.com or call 727-709-3854



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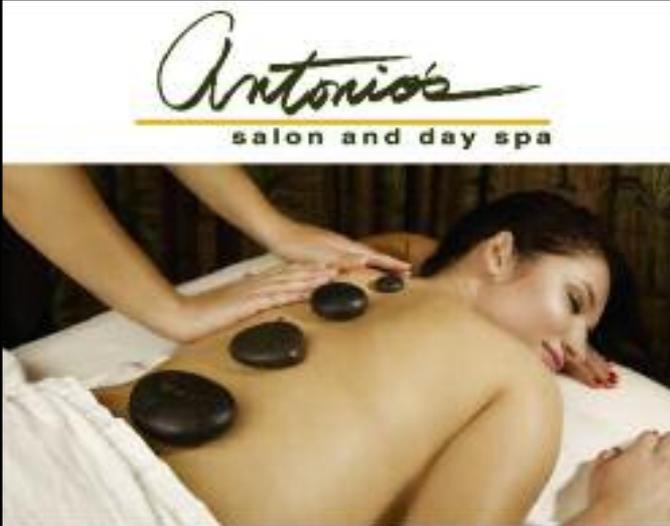
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NEW PHARMACY OPENING SOON

Bay Life Pharmacy located in Pinellas County, will open its fourth location Friday January 15th in Belleair Bluffs to conveniently serve the area and its neighbors. This locally owned community pharmacy offers free delivery, personalized pharmacy care and much more!

Bay Life Pharmacy is a locally owned community pharmacy serving the Tampa Bay Area for nine years. Bay Life Pharmacy has three other locations, two in Clearwater, and the third in Largo.

Bay Life Pharmacy specializes in personalized pharmacy care, with free delivery, free home consultations, free pill-box packaging, compounded medications, ostomy supplies, diabetic shoes, and other boutique Durable Medical Equipment.

At Bay Life Pharmacy, patients and their needs come first. This is demonstrated daily by a highly trained and caring staff of health care professionals dedicated to providing the best patient care available. Patient counseling, educational seminars, physician and insurance provider coordination, plus a great selection of durable medical equipment and supplies makes Bay Life Pharmacy a one stop shop for Belleair Bluffs pharmacy needs.

The open house for the pharmacy, open to both the public and health care professionals will be held Friday March 18th, 2016. Food and refreshments will be provided. Contact Community Care Director Amanda Meyer for more information, 727-271-2347, Amanda.meyer@baylifepharmacy.com

BEACH ART CENTER'S 10TH ANNUAL MONTE CARLO NIGHT

The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach is hosting the 10th annual Monte Carlo Night on Saturday, February 20, 2016. They invite everyone to be a part of this high profile fundraising event by becoming a sponsor and/or silent auction donor.

Approximately two hundred people are expected to attend this fun community event and fundraiser that includes casino games with professional dealers such as Roulette, Black Jack, Texas Hold'Em Poker and Craps. A key event feature is the fabulous live and silent auction of unique items of art, dining, services and memorabilia.

Please show your support for the Beach Art Center by being a sponsor of the event or donating a silent/live auction item. All sponsorships/donations will be recognized in event materials, social media and on our website. For information contact Anna at 727.596.4331.

Available Sponsorships:

Event Sponsor - \$2500	Casino Sponsor - \$1500
Food Sponsor - \$1000	Bar Sponsor - \$500
Game Table Sponsor - \$100	

The Beach Art Center, located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL., is a non-profit 501(c)3 and this event helps supports their mission of visual art education and enrichment for the community through classes, exhibitions and programs for adults and children. Their Gallery and gift shop hours are Monday – Friday 8:45 am - 4:00 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Admission is free. The Beach Art Center is a member of ART4ALL-PINELLAS. For more information, phone 727.596.4331 or visit www.beachartcenter.org.



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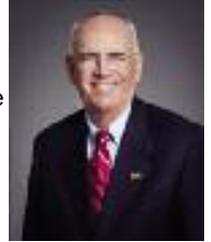
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SOCIAL SECURITY: AARP STUDY SHOWS NEED FOR ADVICE

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

AARP and the Financial Planning Association (FPA) recently conducted a study regarding the financial literacy about Social Security benefits which are a significant part of retirement income for many individuals. Only 9% of those surveyed said they were "very knowledgeable" and only 50% said they were "somewhat knowledgeable" about how Social Security benefits are determined. Yet 39% said that Social Security would represent a majority of their income in retirement. In reality, the percentage is closer to 50% for young retirees and over 60% for those that reach age 80. (Source: AARP) This is a major disconnect.



39% didn't know that they could claim Social Security as early as age 62. 88% intend to wait until full retirement age (66 or 67 depending on your birth date). Prior to this age, the benefit is reduced and a recipient may only earn a limited amount of money before they are penalized by losing part or all of their Social Security benefit.

Only 13% intend to wait until age 70 when the maximum benefit is available. For those recipients that have divorced, they may be able to make a claim on the ex-spouse's benefit if 50% of his/her benefit is greater than the one's own. Unfortunately, 34% thought you had to be married for only five years to claim the benefit under this provision, while 74% didn't know that you have to be married for a minimum of 10 years.

So where do people go to get advice regarding Social Security benefits? While you might think Social Security itself, only 45% seek their advice. The number one source is family and friends at 46%. This doesn't leave much room for professional advice. This is especially disconcerting given the importance of the decision. When asked to estimate the benefit amount, 67% overestimated and 16% underestimated, meaning a whopping 83% are uninformed.

By some estimates, there may be up to thousands of ways to claim Social Security for a married couple. Making this decision without the help of a professional means you could be leaving tens of thousands of income on the table. Why would you want to do this when we can use sophisticated computer software to help you make a good decision?

Just call our office and we will provide you with specific information to help you plan for your Social Security benefits. And the best part? We will do so at no cost or obligation to you. Please call Evelyn Sheridan in our office at 727-441-9022 to receive you complimentary report.

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BEAUTIFUL SPACE-SAVING FURNITURE

"Space-saving" furniture is one of the fastest growing areas in home furniture today, as people combine their need for more space with their desire for more luxury and function. Many areas in your home can benefit from organizational furniture. Here are some space-saving trends in high demand by today's busy families.

The 100-year-old Murphy bed now offers modern innovations in styling, finishes, and mechanical technology. The bed cabinets can be beautiful pieces of furniture. It also offers the opportunity to create dual purpose rooms. With the lift of a finger, a guest room can become a home office, exercise room or home theater. When it's time for bed, simply lower the bed and the room turns back into a guest bedroom.

Demand for Custom Closets has increased because people have become aware of the benefits a well-organized closet brings, most importantly, better organized clothes. This not only reduces time spent finding special items, but it can help save money in cleaning or pressing bills. Once reserved for high end

homes, custom closets are now a standard in most new homes.

Garage Cabinets have become much more popular as we all collect more and more things we can't seem to part with. A good garage cabinet or wall system keeps many of those things you can't live without tidy and out of sight while still leaving room for the car.

Home Offices have been growing in popularity since the early 1990s. Although laptops, tablets and cell phones have changed space needs, studying, paying bills or working at home is more effective with a dedicated space. Many times, allocated home office space is an odd shape making customizable furniture the only answer. If you happen to have an entire room that can serve as a home office, you will find customizable furniture designed for your way of working greatly improves the potential, beauty, and usefulness of a home office.

One area in our homes that is constantly changing is the Home Entertainment Media Center. The introduction of the big screen TV

started the trend, and it continues to grow with today's wall mounted lower cost flat screen technology. Media centers with music, gaming and ever growing larger TVs are becoming the family gathering place. Once only addressed by furniture retailers with simple TV cabinets, centers now requires more flexible furniture systems that allow for more customization to get the full benefits of the home theater experience.

In the Tampa Bay Area, the leading retailer for this type of furniture is The More Space Place. They have three convenient showrooms and design centers: St. Petersburg west of the Gandy bridge on Gandy Blvd., Palm Harbor, north of Tampa Rd. on US19 and Lutz, 2.5 miles west of I-75 on State Rd. 54. The design centers are staffed with friendly designers that have years of experience in helping clients find the design that best fits your needs. Call 727.580.0405 or visit MoreSpacePlace.com to find the store closest to you. They offer free design service as well as free in home design consultations. Let More Space Place can help make your home work better for you today.

Orthopaedic Specialties of Tampa Bay Proudly Welcomes Dr. Mitchell Herrema

Mitchell Herrema, D.O. was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended Michigan State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology with honors. He also earned academic All-Big Ten while playing football there and was named MSU's "Student Athlete of the Month" in April, 2001.

After completing his undergraduate degree, he remained at MSU to earn his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency training at McLaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. He also did several specialty rotations including sports, trauma and total joint arthroplasty at the Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. After residency, he completed a fellowship in adult reconstruction and total joint arthroplasty at Joint Implant Surgeons of Florida in Fort Myers, Florida. During fellowship, he performed or participated in over 1,000 total joint arthroplasty procedures, including anterior hip, partial knee resurfacing, revision hip and knee replacement, and total shoulder replacement. He received additional training in robotic-assisted partial knee and hip replacement as well as knee arthroscopy. Dr. Herrema is also trained in the use of the innovative XP Preserving Knee Replacement, which eliminates the need to remove the patient's ACL, thereby enabling surgeons to preserve healthy ligaments.

Dr. Herrema brings a conservative approach to his practice. He believes in trying nonsurgical options prior to knee or hip replacement. These options include injections, physical therapy, bracing and other anti-inflammatory agents to help reduce pain from arthritis. Although Dr. Herrema specializes in revisions of failed or older surgeries that need reparation or refinement, he also practices general orthopaedics.



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JD'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

JD's Restaurant and Lounge celebrated 30 years in Indian Rocks Beach in November. The popular beach restaurant and bar was purchased in 1985 by Tom and Jackie Downing a few months after Hurricane Elena hit.

The building that is home to JD's has a long history. It was built by Furman Moodie about 1945. He and his wife Elise operated Moodies Drug Sundries on the first floor and lived upstairs. Later they added clothing and small beach related novelties. Indian Rocks Beach resident Shera Bie worked there around 1948 serving sodas and ice cream; it was her first job.

Later, Moodie sold the building to Jimmy O'Neal. His second wife Dubie was a restaurant operator and together they ran the O'Neal's Restaurant there until 1985, when the Downings bought it and opened JD's Restaurant and Lounge. Dubie later opened another restaurant where E&E is today.

Tom named the restaurant JD's after his wife, Jackie Downing. Husband and wife ran the bar, with the help of their children Kip, Jay and Leslie until Tom died in 2007. Jackie has stayed involved, but noww JD's is primarily run by the three kids.

"The old building leaked and with water rising it made us wonder if our decision to buy the restaurant was a good one," says Kip Downing. "We hunkered down and just tried to create a venue that provided both locals and tourists, with a place to go for good food, cold drinks and live entertainment. We are still open six days a week starting with breakfast to late night."

The Downing family prides itself in a friendly, family atmosphere as well as the freshness of each and every meal. They are still the "HOME OF THE ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH FRY" every day of the week.... and their Meatloaf recipe is really their grandmother's secret recipe.



Owners Kip, Jackie and Jay Downing



Happy Hour is everyday on the patio

They are the only place in town with two live music venues. Their popular piano bar inside features Indian Rocks Beach resident Phil Tolotta as the Piano Man. Their outside venue, on the back patio overlooking the Intracoastal, offers music seven days a week.

JD's Restaurant and Lounge is located at 125 Gulf Blvd. Visit www.JDSRestaurant.com.



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