

NEIGHBORHOOD



Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997

Newsletter



The Kilgore homestead at the turn of the century located on West Bay Drive showing Samuel Kilgore (in the hat) and son Jimmy . Inset Photo is Reverend Jimmy and his wife Rhoda.

THE KILGORES - A FOUNDING FAMILY

The Kilgore name is not well known by today's residents, but the family was one of Belleair Bluffs first area settlers.

Elias Kilgore and his family moved to the area from Newberry, South Carolina in 1853, living on a tiny dirt road that today is West Bay Drive. He brought his son Jimmy, daughter-in-law Rhoda and their 4 children. The family survived raising cattle and growing citrus. Citrus farming was foreign to a family from South Carolina, but they soon caught on.

His son James (Jimmy) Summers Kilgore homesteaded land and built a log cabin about a mile south of West Bay between Indian Rocks Road and the bay. He planted a citrus grove where the Harbor Bluffs subdivision now exists. "Rev Jimmy" was a lay preacher in the Methodist Church and helped organize Anona United Methodist Church, one of the oldest continuously operated churches in Pinellas County. Church records show at the age of 49, Kilgore served as pastor in 1872 and again later in 1882-83.

Jimmy and his wife, Rhoda Chapman Kilgore had five children, Samuel (Henry), Benjamin (Ben), Keziah, Amanda and Frank. All were born in South Carolina, except for Frank, who was born here a year after they arrived.

The official 1860 census, showed James and Rhoda shared "House #18" with their five children, ages 5 - 14. Census records also show only 35 families lived in West Hillsborough, what we call Pinellas today, for a total of 178 people. The Kilgores were referred to as Family #18.

When the Civil War started, teenagers Henry and Benjamin enlisted. Henry was serving with General Robert E. Lee

when the south surrendered. He was paid in Confederate dollars which were later were worthless. He walked home from Appomattox, Virginia with the other surviving soldiers.

Upon arriving home in 1867, 21 year old Henry married Elpenice (Mittie) Hart, who is considered to be the first non-native girl born in our county. He homesteaded 160 acres along West Bay Drive and built a double-pen log house with a loft where later his sons James Elias, Henry Alvin, Jessie Barnard and Reginald would sleep.

When his boys were old enough, they helped Henry clear the land and plant more citrus groves. They also planted and shipped vegetables grown on their land. The Henry Kilgore homestead was known as Kilgore Manor. A larger family home was later built on the site at 2401 West Bay, behind the Raymond James building.

When each son married, Henry gave them 40 acres of his land. "My father Barnard was given 40 acres north of West Bay Drive, just east of Indian Rocks Road. He cleared that land and gradually planted more citrus. As he grew more successful, he purchased more of the surrounding area." says Elsie Kilgore Lerch, Barnard's daughter. Barnard married Gussie Belcher, daughter of William Belcher and Kate McMullen, two well known Pinellas families.

One of Henry's other sons James Franklin (Frank) Kilgore married Mamie Ramage. Their home and citrus grove was on Indian Rocks Road, just south of Eighth Avenue SW.

Rev. Jimmy's other children stayed in the area, too. Daughter Keziah married Arthur Turner, son of Pinellas's first postmaster. They had seven children. Amanda married William Meares, from another frontier family, and planted citrus groves in south Pinellas. Benjamin and wife Mattie Whitehurst, also from a local family, lived with their three children in a cabin on the corner of West Bay and Indian Rocks Road, where the Plaza 100 Shopping Center is now.

Rev. Jimmy is thought to be one of the first people buried in the Anona Cemetery. His wife Rhoda is buried next to him.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher
Photo courtesy of Heritage Village Archives

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NEXT ISSUE FEBRUARY

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This newsletter is printed every other month and survives on local advertising. Please support the people advertising here. If you are a Belleair resident you receive a discount when you advertise. We also offer advertising discounts in our other issues, Madeira Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater Beach and Downtown St. Petersburg.

Call me for the next issue. For more information, or to read our other issues online, visit BeachNewsletters.com

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BELLEAIR BRIDGE GROUP 669-5283

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Meets at Belleair Country Club every Thur. for lunch; Karen Crown 449-2470

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Meets at Belleair Country Club. First Friday at Noon Corrine Schlising 596-5025

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9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

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2011 - 2012 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 2011

Christmas Event at The Plaza
Market on the Mall Belleair
Miracle On Cleveland Street Clearwater
Largo's First Friday Winter WonderlandFest
Holiday Home Tour at Heritage Village
Post Office Toys for Tots Drive
Largo's Holiday Stoll Largo Central Park
Belleair Bluffs City Holiday Event
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer
Belleair's Holiday Tree Lighting
Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade
Largo's Christmas Spectacular Concert
Market on the Mall in Belleair
Indian Rocks Lighted Boat Parade
Public School Out for Holidays
Hanukkah Begins
Winter Begins

JANUARY 2012

1 Public School Starts 3
2 Largo's First Friday - Pirate Invasion 6
Little League Sign Up Begins 7
Qualifying Period March Elections 9-13
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 12
Martin Luther King Day 16
Heritage Village Folk Festival 28

FEBRUARY 2012

5 Super Bowl Sunday 5
8 Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 9
9 Florida State Fair Opens 9
11 Little League Opening Day 11
Final Day to Register to Vote 13
Valentine's Day 14
17 WinterFest in Indian Rocks Beach 18
Belleair Sunset Run / 5K Run 18
19 IRB Boat Club Brunch - Island Way Grill 19
20 President's Day 20
25 Fire Prevent Week Open House 25

ERIC WAHLBECK, THE NEW REC DIRECTOR

Eric Wahlbeck is the Dimmitt Recreation Center's new Recreation Director and Parks Director. He replaces John Yevich and Chip Zimmerman, both of whom retired.

Eric was born in Chicago but moved to Pinellas when he was 2. While growing up, his mother worked in the administrative office of the Town Hall. When he was young, Eric was there every day after school, playing.

Wahlbeck went to Largo High School where he excelled in football. He played college ball at Jacksonville University, then transferred to FSU, where he majored in Education and for three years worked in the recruiting department under Bobby Bowden.

When Eric moved back to Pinellas, he took a job with the City of Largo, followed by Clearwater's Parks and Rec. John Yevich offered him a job in Belleair, in 2006. "I was the number two man in a three man department," he says with a laugh. Today, a five person staff operates the Rec. Dept., three full-time and two part-time. But, hundreds of volunteers help!

John Yevich retired the same week the longtime Parks Director Chip Zimmerman retired. Eric felt there should be more of a connection between the two departments, thus Eric asked for and was given both jobs.

The Dimmitt Rec. Center opened in 2007. "The old Rec. Center was very small, about the size of our existing game room. Our office was also used for ping pong. The new Rec. Center was a major step up," says Eric. There was a lot of concern that it would cost the taxpayers of Belleair too much money after it was open. John, and now Eric, put a lot of focus on cost recovery. Most of the eight different organized sports at the center have user and/or team fees.

You pay to play. Eric is proud that over the six years it has been open, that while the cost of running the Rec. Center has increased 250%, the cost to taxpayers has decreased 28%. "Cost recovery is at 76% in the 2010-11 budget," Eric proudly states.

In addition to the Rec. Department, Eric oversees 19 area parks. "Basically, I am in charge of everything green," he says. "This includes entrance ways, trees, sports fields and more." He is currently submitting plans to improve and beautify the city. "Well maintained cityscapes and parks increase real estate values for everyone living here. Parks and open spaces enhance everyone's mind, body and spirit," continues Eric. "We have a goal to make this one of the best communities in Florida to live in. This is a very well established city. The residents here are very involved. "This city is so small; you can actually talk to the residents. The people here get involved. Our department's relationship with the Mayor, Town Council and City Manager is great. They are all very supportive. Most of the councilman's kids play here," Eric says. "We have an Advisory Board plus a Parks and Tree Boards. Those board members get involved, too. The Belleair Civic Association is our number one partner. They help fund a lot of our special events," concludes Eric.

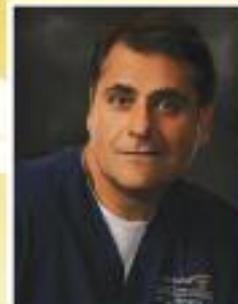
So whether playing basketball or visiting a park, you now have Eric Wahlbeck and his staff to thank for most of it.



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Did You Know...

SANTA DOLLARS

This holiday season, Publix in partnership with the Abilities Foundation, is offering Santa Dollars. The holiday card includes a real US dollar bill, but it has a Santa sticker covering George Washington. Each year the sticker is a different design. The dollar and card costs \$2.50. The extra \$1.50 goes directly to The Abilities Foundation, who helps Floridians with all types of disabilities. Recipients can remove the Santa sticker or keep the dollar as a novelty. The dollars are being sold at area Publix stores through December 26th. Since 1985, Santa dollars has raised tens of millions of dollars for charity. For more information about the dollars, visit SantaDollars.com. Learn more about Abilities at AbilitiesFoundation.com.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT Chapel By The Sea in Clearwater Beach is offering a Parents Night Out on the third Friday of each month. The Chapel will watch your young child from 7:30 to 11pm for only \$6 per child. You can have a date night or go shopping, while your children are supervised and entertained in the Church social hall.

IT IS ALMOST FLU SEASON That means time for your annual flu shot. It is a good idea to get one if you older or have immune problems. Once again, you can get your shot at CVS or Walgreens, or you can call your doctor.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE The Daughters of Italy, Clearwater Chapter Lodge #2825, is offering two \$1,000 college scholarships and The Grand Lodge of Florida, Order of the Sons of Italy, is offering a \$1,000 college scholarship. To be eligible, you must be a Florida resident and of Italian descent. High school students, as well as returning college students, are eligible. You must submit your application by March 26th, 2012. Visit DaughtersofItaly.com or call Floretta Guanciale at 787-1432 for additional information.

PET SANTA PHOTOS

Century21 Beggins is offering a Christmas present to everyone again this year by sponsoring photos with Santa at their office 1511 Gulf Blvd, from 11am until 4pm Dec 10th. This year's photographer will be IRB City Commissioner Phil Hanna. Bring your kids and pets. Pictures are FREE! Donations of money plus people or pet food will be greatly appreciated and donated to the Beach Pantry Food Bank!



and More...

GREEN TEAM St. Cecelia Catholic School students were busy planting trees, shrubs and plants in conjunction with a grant the school received from Tampa Bay Water. Students many of which belong to the school's Green Team enjoyed the hands on experience and are looking forward to utilizing the garden area. Future plans for the garden include picnic benches, an art sculpture and class garden. Shown here are students Lilly Kudelko, Seminole and Kara Franks, Palm Harbor.



LOTS OF GARBAGE Floridians throw away about eight pounds of garbage per person each day, double the national average. There are a number of ways to tackle the garbage problem. One way starts with you and the products you buy. Shop with the environment in mind. Try to buy products that use of energy resources best, don't pollute our air and water, are reusable or recyclable, are made from plentiful resources or from recycled material and use a minimum of materials in the packaging.

TAX VOLUNTEERS The AARP Tax-Aide program is looking for volunteers to help prepare Federal taxes. Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation service for low to middle income senior tax payers. Volunteers receive IRS-certified training (5-6 day program in January), reimbursement for mileage and the camaraderie of a great team. Computer knowledge is required. A minimum commitment of four hours a week is required from February to early April. Email VolunteerAARP@Yahoo.com or call Sylvia Scoble 595-7408.

TENNIS LESSONS Belleair Beach and Jim Rudolph, local tennis coach, are offering free introductory tennis lessons on December 13th at 10am or the 14th at 6:30pm and January 10th at 10am or the 11th at 6:30pm. Adults and juniors are taught in separate sessions on the same nights. For information, call Jim Rudolph at 458-6727.

POSTAGE INCREASE Stamps are going up another penny in January - 45 cents in all. It is projected the penny increase will generate \$800,000,000.

COMING HOME On December 17th parishioners and friends of St. Jerome Catholic Church will be welcomed "home" to the recently renovated pyramid structure which makes its distinctive presence on Hamlin Boulevard in Largo.



The Most Reverend Robert Lynch, Bishop of the diocese of St. Petersburg, will celebrate the 4 pm mass of blessing and dedication of the new altar, the holy table where the community comes to celebrate and be nourished at the banquet of the Lord. Accompanying the Bishop will be Msgr. Brendan Muldoon, pastor of the parish, his fellow priests who have served at the parish, diocesan and civic officials, community ministers, parishioners, and friends.

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AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE SHERIFF COATS RETIRES

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

14 months earlier than planned, Jim Coats stepped down as head of the Pinellas County's largest law enforcement agency. His wife of 38 years, Cat (Cathy) was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and Jim wanted to be there for her while spending more time with his family.

Jim Coats grew up in upstate New York in Corning, near Syracuse. The summer after his high school graduation, he enlisted in the Air Force for four years, working in maintenance and refueling. Part of his assignment was in Hawaii. After leaving the Air Force, he worked for Pan American Airlines loading planes. He bought a new Dodge Charger in Reno, Nevada and drove east to Florida. "The one place I didn't want to end up was back in New York," he tells me.

Still interested in flying, Coats took courses in Lakeland and at the Clearwater/St Pete Airport. He started to take flying seriously and concentrated on getting certified in larger planes. One day, his roommate suggested he look into the Pinellas Sheriff's office. "The last thing I wanted to do was be a cop," he says. But, they had openings in their Flight Unit which consisted of a military-surplus helicopter. They leased other airplanes when needed, used mainly to transfer prisoners state to state.

He was first a patrol man. Then in 1978, he was a sergeant in charge of Narcotics working midnight shifts. He slowly worked his way up the ranks, until Sheriff Rice promoted him to Major. In 1994 he became Chief Deputy, the Sheriff's right-hand man, in charge of day-to-day operations. "That was a tough job," Coats adds. "It lasted for 10 years."

He was the interim Police Chief in Indian Rocks Beach in 1993. Lawton Chiles appointed him interim sheriff in both Gulf and Santa Rosa Counties. He said, "I didn't even know where those counties were." Governor Jeb Bush asked him to serve as interim sheriff in Pinellas when eight years ago, Everett Rice stepped down to run for the House of Representatives. He was elected to Sheriff in 2004 and served for seven years.

He met his wife Cat in 1972. He had a patrol duty near Palm Harbor. A fellow deputy told him about a nice looking waitress working at The Charcoal Den, so he went there to eat. "Actually, I went back several times," he adds. We dated for about a year before we were married on December 1, 1973, 38 years ago this month.

They have lived on Sand Key for the past eight years. "We were looking for a place with a nearby dock for our 42 foot Hatteras. But with my job, we have not had much time to use it," he laments. His boat is named *Cat N the Hat*, after Cathy.

"When I met Jim, I had no desire to date a cop. It was apparently love at first date, since we met in January and married that December (1973). We have one son, Jay, who lives in Tampa. It was not easy being so young and being married to a cop; he was a very dedicated one at that. Sometimes life was very scary, but it was also very challenging, exciting and rewarding. Our love for each other has always been there," Cat says.

"My life really did not change when Jim became the Sheriff. We have been part of this community for so long; his job has always been about serving the citizens of this county, no matter his rank. I have watched Jim move up

through the ranks and he just does not change. It is never been about him and who he is. It has always been about making a difference. Jim is a dedicated man and a man of honor and his word. That's what I love about him. Some people only see the face value. But to know Jim is to love and trust him. That is why we are still best friends after all these years. I am very proud to be called *The Sheriff's Wife*" Cat continues.

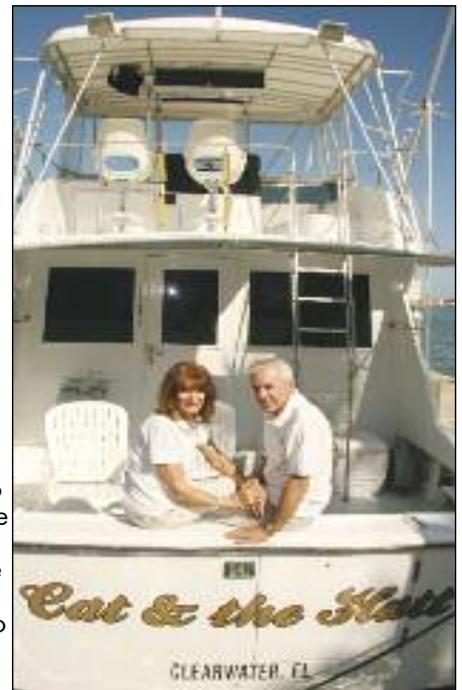
Cat has been actively involved with many of the charities the Sheriff's Department supports, such as PACE, Boys and Girls Club, the Sheriff's PAL and the Beth Dilenger Foundation. In June, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment. Now that cancer has come to the forefront of their lives, Cat is supporting Breast Cancer Awareness, too. She walked in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in Vinoy Park, October 22. "A group of her close friends formed 'Team Cat' and signed up 100 walkers," Jim boasts. "They raised over \$15,000."

"The ACS Walk was an incredible experience for me. It had over 3,000 walkers and was my first. The fun and frivolity of the decorated bras was one thing. But the seriousness of seeing all these people, and to know each one was affected by breast cancer in some way was heartache for me," Cat explains. "The fact that this disease affects one in eight women is just astounding. I, like my husband, wanted to make a difference and we did. My goal was to raise \$2,500. My friends got involved, formed Team Cat, and raised \$15,300."

"The same community that Jim has served for 40 years, and I have been a part of for 38, wanted to give back. And when we reached out for support for this breast cancer awareness walk, our friends and community were right there! Our son Jay was a great help, too, in getting support in Tampa for Team Cat. He worked tirelessly and created a web site in my honor, organized bra decorating parties and hosted a kickoff party at the Island Way Grill. We all took this walk very seriously. It was my first but not my last," Cat promises.

Cat Coats' cancer was discovered at Stage 1 and she is undergoing chemotherapy. Her prognosis has a 96% survival rate because it was discovered early. "Thanks to the many women who have been there before me, my treatment is tried and true," adds Mrs. Coats.

Now that Jim has retired, they plan to spend as much time together as they can. They both love living in Sand Key and look forward to many days out on the water.



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HOLIDAY DECORATING

Protecting Your Landscape in Cold Weather

by Randy Lee

The Holidays are here and so is the threat of cold weather. We will discuss both topics.



The holidays are an exciting time of year - decorating your property is part of the fun. Three areas I focus on when decorating the yard are the exterior of the house and the entryway. A well executed plan involves an overall concept (design) and a color scheme.

There are many options when decorating the yard. I like to create symmetry with several focal trees and shrubs. Focus on a few landscape pieces and decorate them well, instead of decorating haphazardly. Lights can be clear, one color or mixed colors depending upon preference. I like to use many lights on palms, trees and shrubs- it is very dramatic to wrap the trunks of trees and palms. Small trees around the house entry can be decorated with ornaments. If you have landscape lighting be sure your decorating compliments it.

The exterior of the house and the yard should have a consistent flow. Keep the lights consistent and not too busy. Lights can have different shapes and colors. Outlining the roof lines or architectural features with lights can be dramatic.

The doorway and front porch should hint at what is inside - a transition from outside to inside. Wreaths, greenery and poinsettias are favorites of mine. Lit trees whether live or fake can be used. Keep your lighting scheme similar to the exterior of the house. I am big on color schemes such as red and white, gold and silver and purple for the holidays. Have fun and decorate in a way that pleases you.

Every winter we run the risk of freezing temperatures. November through February are usually our coldest months. The last two winters have been very damaging to landscapes in Pinellas County. Several factors are important when dealing with cold weather. Wind, exposure (north v. south), duration (how long), precipitation and actual temperature all effect the landscape. A rule of thumb, begin to worry at around 35 degrees. A landscape always reacts better to cold when irrigated prior to cold temperatures- not during. It is not beneficial to water during temperatures between 38 and 32 degrees. This can burn tropical plants and flowers. When temperatures fall below freezing, especially for many hours, watering may actually help by adding a layer of ice to plants and keep them warmer. If a frost is setting, water since it is frost that kills tender plants. after a very cold night, irrigate once the sun comes up.

Cold wind can also be very damaging. North and west exposures are the coldest and can bring the damaging winds. Never cover plants with clear plastic since plastic burns- use blankets, sheets or frost blankets to keep trees, palms and plants warm. It is time consuming to wrap small trees and palms, but is well worth the trouble. Container plantings should be brought inside or into the garage.

December/January checklist:

Good time to install cold tolerant trees, shrubs and lawns
Little lawn and plant maintenance is required at this time
Fertilize winter annuals

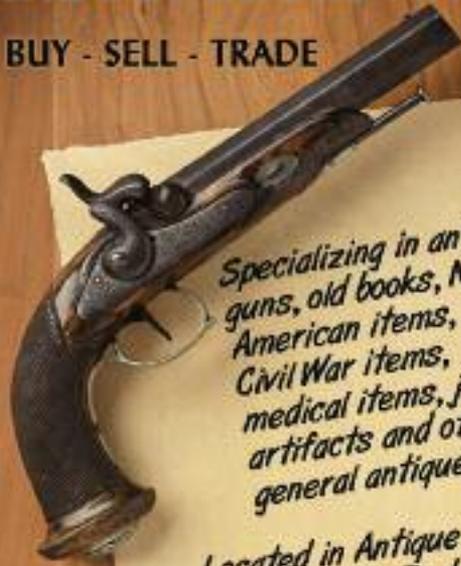
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SUNCOAST SEABIRD SANCTUARY - SAVING THE BIRDS FOR 40 YEARS

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Indian Shores' Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary is 40 years old this month, while its cofounder, Helen Heath will be 102 this month, also. The sanctuary began when her son, Ralph, brought home a small bird for his father, who was also a doctor, to heal. That was December 3, 1971.

Helen Heath was born December 27, 1909 in Macon, Georgia. This was about the same time the Wright Brothers were starting to fly. She met her husband, Dr. Ralph Heath, Sr. in Georgia, but after he served in World War II, they moved to Tampa's South Bayshore area.

In 1952, when Ralph Jr. was 7, they bought a small home on Sunset Blvd. where Indian Shores and Redington Shores meet. "We lived in Tampa most of the time, and came to the beach to get away from all those doctor calls," says Helen. "We loved the beach. Almost no one lived here in the 1950s," Helen continues. "Ralph Jr. would play on the beach and in the Intracoastal Waterway. Ralph Sr. was practically the only doctor in this area of the beach," Mrs Heath goes on. "Although we did not have a phone, the police and beach neighbors knew about Doctor Heath and would knock on their door for help."

Ralph Jr. credits a local teenager and fisherman, Damon Kennedy, for teaching him many life lessons. He taught him the importance of protecting the environment and nature and to never back down from a fight. Ralph Jr. majored in zoology at St. Pete Junior College (now SPC) and USF.

When he was 25, Ralph brought home that first injured bird. It was a small cormorant. "He asked his dad to take care of him," says Helen. "Word got around. Beach neighbors started leaving sick and injured birds in boxes at

our front door. Ralph and his dad tried to help as much as possible because there were no veterinarians on the beach in the '70s. My husband switched from being a people doctor to a bird doctor when he was at the beach."



"In the old days, if you called the police to help a bird, they would act like they were helping, but actually they took the bird to the police station and killed it behind the building," say Ralph Jr. "The police and fire departments are what made the Sanctuary really take off. They brought birds here every day. They had no help or other place to take the birds."

Today, the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary attends to over 10,000 birds each year. Based on the number of birds serviced, it is the largest bird sanctuary in the United States. There are about 25 people on the payroll and over 100 volunteers. Some volunteers are snowbirds, only helping when they are here for the winter. "We have people who are on call to go get injured birds," says Helen. "They use their personal cars. But, we try to reimburse their gas."

Ralph says they hope to get a grant and expand. One plan is to buy property in the mid-Pinellas and move the hospital, keeping the facility in Indian Shores / Redington Shores open as a tourist attraction and for educational purposes. Learn more about the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary by visiting www.SuncoastSeabirdSanctuary.com.

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CASSI & CO CELEBRATES 23 YEARS!

by Sandee Shaw, owner Cassi & Co

My family was one of the founding merchants of Chicago, Charles A. Stevens & Co. along with Marshall Fields and Carson Pirie Scott were on State Street. Since I was 14, I had dreamed of owning my own store, and during college breaks worked with my Father in Highland Park, Il. I graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor degree in Fine Arts-painting. But, I soon realized I liked clothes too much, and starving artists cannot afford clothes. So, I returned to retail which I loved. I worked for my father, then Chas. A. Stevens for several years. Later, I worked for other companies in management or buying including Saks Fifth Ave. in Southampton, NY/Palm Beach, Ann Taylor in Southampton and Ivey's of Florida. In 1988, I left Ivey's to open Cassi & Co. The idea for the name came from my Great Aunt Cassandra, who wanted it named after the initials of Chas. A Stevens. I named my store with the CAS and added IS for my husband, Ike Shaw.

We have now celebrated 23 years and are moving into 24! Our success is based on carrying clothes that lend themselves to the Florida lifestyle, but still represent current fashion trends. We do not carry "fad" merchandise with a very short life. My customers can buy things they can build on for some years. Many times they say, "I hate to tell you, but I still have clothes from you that are over 10 years old, that are still good." That is what I want, to give my customers good quality, ageless fashion clothing.

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LIGHTED BOAT PARADES

The Holiday Lighted Boat Parades schedule is:

December 10 - The Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade starts at 6:30pm near Frenchy's docks. It passes Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater about 7:30pm and the Yacht Club in South Clearwater Beach at about 8pm. The Redington/Indian Shores Parade is also the same night. It begins at 6pm by the Tom Stewart Causeway and ends at the Pub.

December 17 - Indian Rocks Beach Lighted Boat parade begins behind the Holiday Inn Harbourside, the best place to see it, at 7pm and heads north along the neighborhoods of Indian Rocks Beach. Madeira Beach's Festival of Light parade also is the same night.

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THE HISTORY OF PINELLAS COUNTY: AFTER THE SEPARATION

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Pinellas County celebrates its 100th anniversary on January 1, 2012. Many people were involved, and many steps taken to convert our area into a its own county. This is the final part of the story that began in the last issue.

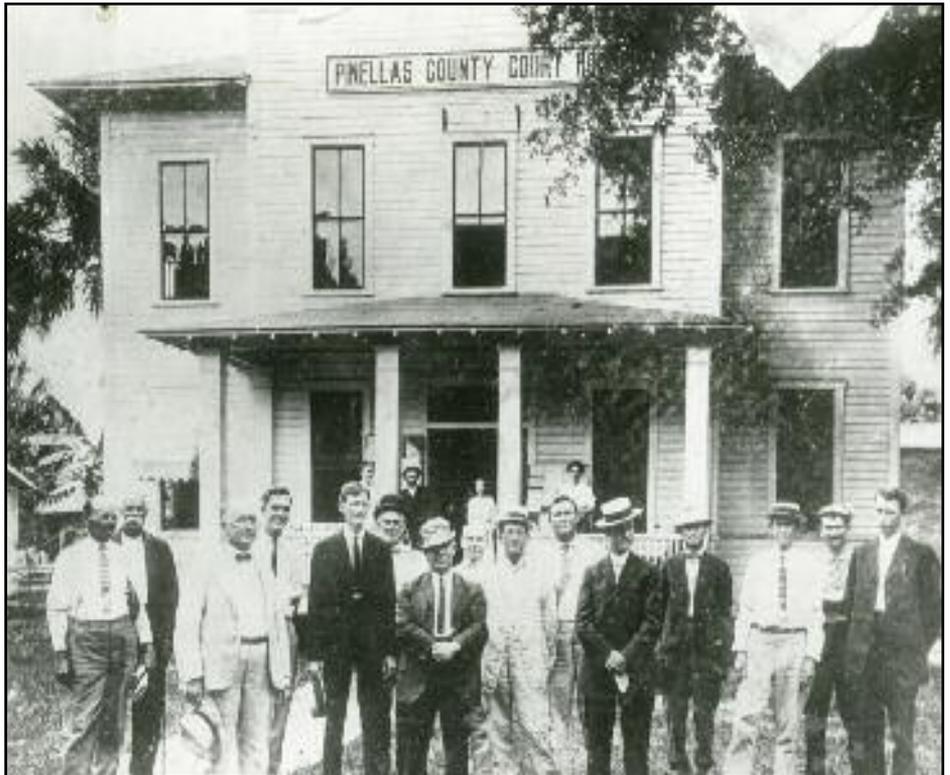
After being a part of Hillsborough County since it was officially formed in 1834, Pinellas County won the right to become a separate county in November 1911. The first Pinellas County election was held on December 15 and the elected county commissioners were: F. A. Wood from St Petersburg, S.S. Coachman from Clearwater, O.T. Raisback from St Petersburg, L.D. Vinson from Tarpon Springs and J. T. Lowe from Ozono. Also elected was a school board, clerk of the circuit court, a sheriff, county judges, a superintendent of schools, a tax assessor, a tax collector, the county treasurer, a superintendent of registrations, and the county surveyor.

Pinellas officially became a county on January 1, 1912. But that was not the end of the struggles. Leaders in St Petersburg were not happy with the results of the county election. They accused Clearwater leaders of playing politics to obtain control of the new county. They claimed Clearwater politicians manipulated the election so that three commissioners were elected from the upper half of the county - they would vote together. As a result, the two St Petersburg commissioners were out voted on almost every important issue because it conflicted with the Clearwater contingent's plans.

The large battles were over the designation of the county seat. The St Petersburg contingent wanted to prevent Clearwater from having the Courthouse. On April 3, 1912, the County Commissioners voted to levy a 5-mill tax to build a courthouse and jail in Clearwater. The St Petersburg commissioners immediately fought against the tax. The three upper county commissioners ignored them and voted to build a wooden building costing \$3,750 (shown above.) The county treasurer, who was not part of the Clearwater group, refused to pay for the building saying there were no funds for that purpose.

Then in 1913 and 1914, the county seat controversy became more heated. Petitions were circulated asking the commissioners to call for an election and allow the voters to decide where they wanted their county seat. Noel Mitchell, an well known real estate developer, and future St. Petersburg mayor, offered to give them an entire city block in his Courthouse Subdivision on First Avenue N.

After years of wrangling, the commissioners finally called for a general election to approve a \$160,000 bond to build a courthouse and jail in Clearwater. On February 3, 1916, even though residents of St Petersburg voted 3 to 1 against it, it was passed 485 to 439. The results ended up at the State Supreme Court, who ruled in March of



Pinellas County's First Courthouse, erected in January 1910 on the site of Clearwater's Peace Memorial Church on South Ft. Harrison Ave. The building cost \$3750. Gathered in front are various County Commissioners and elected officials.

1917 that Clearwater was the site and it would stay there for a minimum of twenty years - 1932.

While arguments went on and on about where to locate the county seat, the commission also had to govern. Needing new roads were an important issue, but there were arguments about that, too. When the St. Petersburg commissioners started pushing to build good roads, the upper Pinellas group voted against it. They finally came to an agreement and started building a system of roads out of a base of marl. They were not good, but it was better than anything they had ever had before. By 1915, after \$715,000 bond issue, the building of brick roads began. Two years later, the 75 mile highway system, that created a network of nine-foot wide brick roads, was completed. It was a rough ride, but the government was proud of their new brick roadway.

The first County Commission started the process of taxing citizens and providing services throughout the county. New schools were built; bridges to the beaches were added, and

a new permanent Courthouse was built in Clearwater, where it stands today. Little by little, the County Government started to transform a frontier into what we have today.





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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

It is an honor and a privilege to begin my service as the newly appointed Sheriff of Pinellas County. I am grateful to Governor Rick Scott for entrusting me and am fully committed to serving the citizens of this County to the very best of my ability. I am extremely proud to serve you alongside the fine men and women of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, who take great pride in providing professional and cost-efficient law enforcement services to everyone in our County.



It will also be my distinct pleasure to address you on a monthly basis through the "Desk of the Sheriff" column - with news, programs, technological advancements, safety tips and innovations at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. It is my hope this message will continue to keep the lines of communication open between you and our office as we provide high quality law enforcement services, and launch new working partnerships in the community.

I have over 20 years experience with the Sheriff's Office, most recently in a dual role as Chief Deputy, second in command to Sheriff Jim Coats and responsible for the annual budget and day-to-day agency operations, and General Counsel, where I supervised the Office's legal staff and provided legal representation to the Sheriff.

In previous years, I served in Patrol Operations, the Sheriff's Investigative Operations and Detention and Corrections Bureaus. For many years, I was assigned to Narcotics investigations conducting international and domestic drug and money laundering investigations and became an expert in electronic surveillance, drug investigations and wiretapping. In 1998, I left the Sheriff's Office to pursue a law degree.

Upon graduating from Stetson University College of Law in 2002, I joined Tampa law firm Ford & Harrison, LLP where I represented employers in labor and employment matters.

In 2006, I returned to the Sheriff's Office as General Counsel, and was appointed Chief Deputy, by Sheriff Jim Coats, in January 2008.

One of the most challenging tasks during my tenure as Chief Deputy was managing the agency's budget in these difficult financial times. Despite the significant reduction of \$108 million and the elimination of over 600 positions during the last four years, we have reduced the crime rate and keep our community safe. We have reengineered the agency to find new ways to fulfill our public safety responsibilities. Among our innovations is Pinellas Safe Harbor, a cost-effective jail diversion program and the county's largest homeless shelter.

The Sheriff's Office is a multifaceted law enforcement agency that provides patrol and investigative services, operates the Pinellas County Jail, provides court security at five courthouses and for over 50 judges, and serves civil process for the courts. Twelve of Pinellas County's 24 cities contract with the Sheriff to provide police services.

The members of the Sheriff's Office remain committed to ensuring the safety of all residents and visitors alike. We invite you to explore our new website at pcsoweb.com to become more familiar with our agency, our services, points of contact, and the various volunteer opportunities available for citizens. Our office is at your service, if we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at 582-6200.

Once again, I am honored and humbled to serve as Sheriff. We remain focused and dedicated to delivering the best public safety service to achieve our mission of "Leading the Way For A Safer Pinellas."

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LARGO CULTURAL CENTER DECEMBER EVENTS

For tickets or information, visit LargoArts.com or call 587-6793.

Santa's Holiday Revue, December 3, 11am

A fast paced, rollicking musical that takes a joyous round-the-world tour of dances, songs and stories from Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and many more. The audience will sing, clap and tap along as they learn new and old traditions, customs and folklore that instills the magic of the season. \$7.50 Adult, \$6.50 Children, \$6 School, \$22 Family 4 pack

Silver Bells & Diamonds Holiday Show, Sunday, Dec. 4, 7pm

The Diamonds are well known for their holiday show as well as their many chart topping hits. See why they are members of The Vocal Group Hall of Fame! Hits include Little Darlin, Why Do Fools Fall In Love, The Stroll, The Church Bells May Ring and many more. \$34 VIP, \$29 Advance, \$34 Day of Show, \$26 Advance Group

B.J. Thomas Holiday Show, Monday, Dec. 5, 3:30 & 7:30pm

He owns one of the most distinctive voices in American pop music. See him live in Largo performing an array of holiday songs as well as his signature hits—the Oscar-winning Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head, Hooked on a Feeling, I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry and more! \$34 VIP, \$29 Advance, \$34 Day of Show, \$26 Advance Group

The Tierney Sutton Band, Friday, December 9, 8pm

During a collaboration that spanned 17 years, Sutton and pianist Christian Jacob, drummer Ray Brinker, and bassists Trey Henry and Kevin Axt, have headlined at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center and have appeared at the Monterey, Marciac and Umbria Jazz Festival. \$35 Advance, \$40 Day of Show. Cabaret Seating Enjoy a pre-show dinner by The Lobster Pot for only \$25

Peace Frog - The Ultimate Tribute to The Doors

Be a part of History as this highly acclaimed California-based Doors Tribute Band performs on the 1 year anniversary of Jim Morrison's pardon in the State of Florida by Governor Charlie Christ. Lead singer Tony Fernandez lives out every move of Jim Morrison on stage and delivers a powerful rendition of true likeness in presence, vocals, mannerisms and spirit. A must see for all Doors fans! \$24 Advance, \$29 Day of Show

Four Freshmen Holiday Show, Sunday, December 11, 7pm

This multiple Grammy-nominated American male vocal band quartet uses open-harmony vocals which builds on the barbershop tradition. The quartet accompanies itself on guitar, trumpet, bass and drums. See them perform your holiday favorites plus their many hits such as It's a Blue World, Mood Indigo, Day by Day, and Graduation Day. They played to sold out crowds on their last two visits to Largo! \$38 VIP, \$33 Advance, \$38 Day of Show

The Nutcracker, Saturday, December 17, 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, December 18, 1pm & 6pm
\$25 VIP, \$22 Advance, \$18 Group, \$20 Students (12-), \$25 Day of Show

The Pat Travers Band, with special guests Jimmy Griswold & Sean Chambers Saturday, December 31, 8pm

Ring in the New Year with The Classic Rock legend Pat Travers! He is an innovator in the rock and blues genre and his trademark vocal and guitar sound is still heard on Classic Rock radio today. Hits include, Boom Boom (Out Go the Lights), Crash and Burn, Snortin' Whiskey, Born Under a Bad Sign and many more! \$35 Advance, \$40 Day of Show. General Admission.



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Real Estate News

PINELLAS COUNTY CONTINUES TO SEE MARKET MOVEMENT

Residential property sales in Pinellas County continue to look up with amazing movement. Comparing August 2010 to August 2011, the total property sales have increased 23.77% causing the inventory to significantly decreased by 31.05%. During that time we have also seen an 87% increase in pending transactions and a 2.4% increase in average sales price. According to the Pinellas Realtor Association (PRO) "Distressed property (bank owned and short sales) listings have been steadily declining since January this year. Comparing to August 2010, they are down 43%."

PRO also mentioned that "Properties in the areas of \$30k- \$40k, \$100k to \$140k and \$200k to \$250k continue to be the strongest market price segments in the county," yet the Pinellas luxury market of properties over \$1M has had a 9% increase over this time last year with prices continuing to rise slowly. Smith & Associates Real Estate President/CEO, Robert Glaser stated, "The market is finding a balance which provides for prices to begin to see some appreciation in value from one quarter to the next."

In planning for the last quarter of 2011, we expect to see the market to continue to make upward strides due to the limited inventory and historic low mortgage rates as St. Petersburg continues to capture the attention of homebuyers nationwide.

Contact Smith and Associates Real Estate, located at 716 N. Indian Rocks Rd., Belleair Bluffs, at 282.1788.

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Harbor Bluffs Waterfront 2937 square foot home, with three bedrooms, two baths and a two car garage, at the end of a Cul-de-sac location. It has 206 feet of seawall which was newly built in 2007. Two boat dock piers with two lifts, 20K lb and 10K lb, are included on its deep water access. The roof is new in 2011 and it has been freshly painted inside and out. Enjoy the beautiful wide harbor water view. Rent it for \$3,000 per month or buy for \$1.2 million. Possible Rent to own or Owner Financing. 301buttonwoodlane.com. Call 585-1700.

IRB BOAT CLUB NEWS

Michelle Lindsey of Belleair Beach (shown here with other volunteers) was one of many people who joined the IRB Boat Club in their fall clean-up of the islands in the Intracoastal Waterway south of the causeway along Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair Beach. During the morning, the club filled a dumpster with trash and rescued a juvenile blue heron that was trapped in monofilament fishing line. The bird was saved and taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary thanks to the quick work of two club members.



The club meets inside Jimmy Guana's at the Holiday Inn Harborside at 6pm on the third Thursday of the month. The next meetings are December 15 and January 19. You do not have to live in Indian Rocks Beach to be a member. E-mail BoatClub@IRBhome.com, or call Bob Griffin, 517-1997. See pictures and event dates at IRBhome.com.

MASSAGE ENVY LARGO RAISES \$1000 DURING HEALING HANDS FOR ARTHRITIS

Massage Envy, the pioneer and national leader of professional, affordable and convenient massage and spa services, and the Largo community came together on World Arthritis Day, October 12th, to raise \$1000 during their Healing Hands for Arthritis event benefiting the Arthritis Foundation's mission to prevent, control and cure arthritis. Massage Envy Largo, and more than 700 other Massage Envy clinics around the country, donated \$10 from every one-hour massage and facial to the Arthritis Foundation and collectively raised nearly \$500,000 across the nation.

"We were overwhelmed by the community's strong support for Healing Hands for Arthritis," said Kim Potts, Largo Massage Envy owner. "The event was truly a team effort and we are very thankful for our wonderful members and guests, as well as our therapists, estheticians and clinic staff, who helped make it a huge success."

With consumers visiting massage therapists at least 150 million times a year, it is evident that more Americans are turning to therapeutic massage to relieve the painful symptoms of arthritis and fibromyalgia, while improving circulation, joint flexibility, sleep patterns and an overall sense of well-being.

The experienced, professional therapists at the Massage Envy Largo clinic can design effective and customized massage treatments to address the individual needs of any member or guest. For more information, call 727-581-6500 or visit MassageEnvy.com.

YEAR END FINANCIAL REVIEW

by James M. Clark, Downstate Securities Group, Inc.

The end of the year is fast approaching and for most of us that means looking forward to being with friends and family for the holidays. However, it is also a good time to review your investment plan. Here are a few things you should consider before the New Year is upon us:

- Rebalance your portfolio back to your target asset allocation to ensure that your portfolio remains consistent with your goals.
 - Consider whether you have any losses in your portfolio that could be used to reduce your taxes for the year. Losses would first reduce any gains that have been taken this year, and if there are more losses than gains, you may benefit by being able to write-off up to \$3,000 against your other income.
 - Research any planned mutual fund purchases for pending distributions that would increase your taxable income.
 - Review all of your accounts to ensure that you have the proper beneficiaries listed.
- Even though most people have several investments in their portfolios, few have a disciplined investment and financial plan. Priorities tend to change with each passing year, so it is important make the time to review all of your investment accounts, retirement plans, insurance policies and annuities to determine whether or not your assets are best positioned for the next year.

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Business Briefs...

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

If you are considering receiving social security benefits soon, or have begun benefits within the past 12 months, you will want to attend this educational seminar.



Maximizing your benefits involves planning and may include a rarely used option that most people are not aware of today. Attend these complementary, educational seminar on one of the following dates: Tuesday, Dec. 13 or Jan. 10 (at 6:30pm) at Largo Community Ctr., 400 Alt. Keene Rd. Largo, or Wednesday, Dec. 14 or Jan. 18 (at 5:30pm) at Clearwater Rec Ctr. 69 Bay Esplanade Clearwater Beach. These seminars are sponsored by P3 Financial and hosted by Sylvester Thomas and Dan DeMarco. RSVP to info@P3Financial.com or call (813) 829-8472 and leave name, number in your party and which date you will be attending.

BELLA VINO WINE TASTING Brian And Cheryl Franzese are celebrating 6 years in Belleair Bluffs with a special wine tasting, Friday, December 9 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The event costs \$25 per person and includes food with 25 champagnes and other wine. You must RSVP, but all are invited. Call 584-5552 to reserve.

JEWELER DONATES TIME

Belleair Bluffs' Jewelry designer Robert Young is volunteering as an art teacher at the Belleair Montessori School. Young works with the 4 and 5 year olds once a week. This week they made masks out of paper bags. Are diamond rings in their future? The Belleair Montessori School is turning 60 years old in 2012.



NEW SALON A new hair salon, Sharp Image Salon opened at 2080 West Bay Drive. But, owner Susan Bowie and the salon are not new to the business, she has 30 years experience. Sharp Image, established in 1987, moved to Largo in 1999 before moving to the new West Bay location. Bowie specializes in hair styling and coloring and has placed first on two occasions in Florida hair cutting competitions. She prides herself on staying educated and keeping in touch with the latest trends. Susan is joined by nail technician and licensed esthetician Blair Schrader offering full body waxing, manicures, pedicures and shellac. Sharp Image also has a boutique with jewelry, purses, belts, hats, scarfs and gift items. December 10th from 2-6pm, Susan and Blair are having an Open House. Drop by and see the new shop. Call 586-0200 for an appointment.

LAURA IS BACK Laura Robinson, who previously owned a framing and art restoration shop on Jewel Road has opened a shop at the west end of Antique Alley at 596 Indian Rocks Road N. Call Laura at 631-1997

ALL IN THE FAMILY AT POST CORNER PIZZA

In 1952, when he was 16 years old, James Sofronas came to the U.S. from Greece. At that time, sixty years ago, he did not even know where Florida was, much less Clearwater Beach.

He began working in restaurants while still a teenager in Boston, and he has been cooking ever since. He and his wife Christina were married in Greece in 1961.



They eventually moved to the Connecticut area, where he and his brother developed and operated two restaurants.

In 1978, he discovered Clearwater Beach and bought three lots on South Gulfview Blvd. He built Post Corner Pizza himself and opened it there 32 years ago - on Thanksgiving Day in 1979. But, he didn't live here full time, opting instead to continue traveling back and forth to Connecticut. Finally in 2000, when he sold his half of the Connecticut business to his brother, Jimmy and Christina became full time Clearwater Beach residents. They live upstairs over the restaurant.

When Jimmy and Christina opened the restaurant, the beach area was different. The Adams Mark Hotel was called the Caribbean Gulf Motel. There were many small houses facing the Gulf. "Back in 1979 you could buy one of those little houses for about \$45,000. Now high rise condos have replaced many of those little houses," Jimmy says.

"The people have not changed much, but the bathing suits and tattoos sure have," he says. "We have never had any damage from storms but the water has reached our front steps before. We have had to evacuate three or four times."

"During the season, we make between 200 and 300 pizzas a day," Jimmy says. "That goes down to about 100 per day out of season." The restaurant also serves authentic Greek dishes. They are said to have the best pizza on the beach.

Post Corner Pizza is located at 431 South Gulfview Drive in South Beach. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 8am to about 10 or 11pm. They serve authentic Greek food, but so much more is on the menu. Of course, they are known for the pizzas.

Jimmy is now 76 but is still at the door every day to greet his sunburned guests. His daughter Maria Altikatis, and her husband Robert, both Belleair Beach residents, have taken over day-to-day operations.



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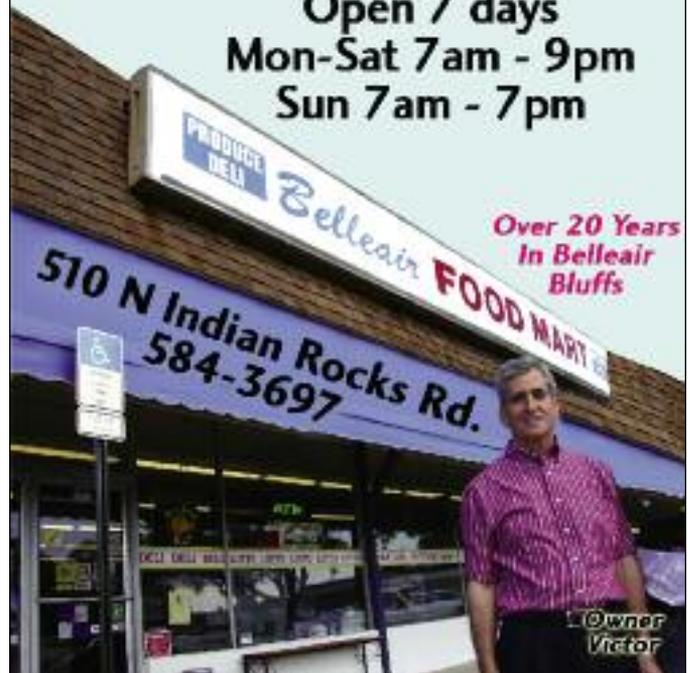
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HOLIDAY EVENTS

December 5 - The City of Belleair Bluffs Holiday Tree Lighting 6-8pm; This annual event includes music by the Salvation Army Band, with songs by the Indian Rocks Christian School Elementary Chorus and the Ladies Ensemble. The tree will be lit heralding the arrival of Santa Claus. The City will provide the tree ornaments and refreshments. Hay rides will be available until 8PM. Residents are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy, video, book or sporting goods appropriate for children from infants to age 16. They will be presented to the Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate Unit for families in need this holiday season. You may drop off toys and gifts at City Hall until December 13th.

December 9 - City of Belleair Holiday Tree Lighting and Concert, 7pm; Belleair Civic Association and the Belleair Recreation Department are hosting this event held at the Dimmitt Center. The festivities begin with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will light the Christmas tree. Children are welcome to visit with Santa and decorate cookies. The Holiday Concert features Miss Victoria, world renowned pianist and Giorgio Aristo, Metropolitan Opera tenor and his wife Melody Kielisch both Belleair residents.

December 10 - Pet Photos with Santa 11am - 4pm; Century21 Beggins is offering photos with Santa at their office 1511 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks. Bring your kids and pets. Pictures are FREE! Donations of money, people or pet food are will donated to the Beach Pantry Food Bank!

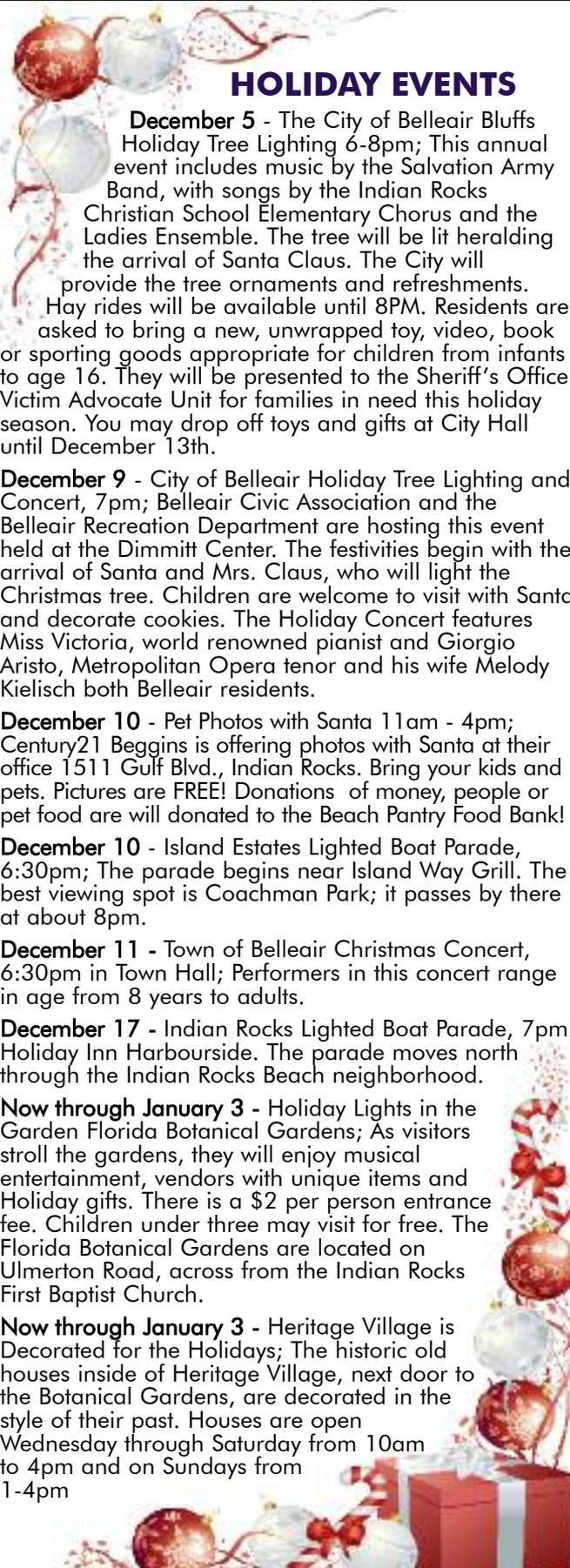
December 10 - Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade, 6:30pm; The parade begins near Island Way Grill. The best viewing spot is Coachman Park; it passes by there at about 8pm.

December 11 - Town of Belleair Christmas Concert, 6:30pm in Town Hall; Performers in this concert range in age from 8 years to adults.

December 17 - Indian Rocks Lighted Boat Parade, 7pm Holiday Inn Harbourside. The parade moves north through the Indian Rocks Beach neighborhood.

Now through January 3 - Holiday Lights in the Garden Florida Botanical Gardens; As visitors stroll the gardens, they will enjoy musical entertainment, vendors with unique items and Holiday gifts. There is a \$2 per person entrance fee. Children under three may visit for free. The Florida Botanical Gardens are located on Ulmerton Road, across from the Indian Rocks First Baptist Church.

Now through January 3 - Heritage Village is Decorated for the Holidays; The historic old houses inside of Heritage Village, next door to the Botanical Gardens, are decorated in the style of their past. Houses are open Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm and on Sundays from 1-4pm



ENJOY THE SPARKLE OF THE SEASON

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel

There are few times of the year as exciting as the holiday season. It's the time when we look forward to celebrations, festivities and spending time with family and friends.

For many of us, those friends and relatives may be escaping the cold of more northern climates, looking to enjoy some of our bright sunshine and award-winning beaches. As far as picture postcard perfect views go, we have plenty.



What happens when night falls and your visitors want a memorable holiday experience? That's a great time to take part in one of our local holiday traditions – Holiday Lights in the Gardens at the Florida Botanical Gardens. It promises to be an event to remember.

The gardens will be open to visitors every evening from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. starting Nov. 25 and running through New Year's Day.

Visitors can stroll through 30 acres of manicured gardens featuring tropical plants, roses, bromeliads and many others. The gardens glow with more than half a million energy-saving LED lights, bringing a touch of festivity to the grounds.

The holiday lights event is so much more than just a stroll through the gardens. Each night, visitors can purchase

food, hot beverages and unique holiday gifts from local vendors. There are also a number of special events planned for certain days during the event.

Nov. 25, 5:30 p.m. – Kick the season off right at the grand opening celebration and formal dedication of the newest work of art – Aquatic Reflections, a breathtaking mosaic now surrounding the Wedding Gardens.

Dec. 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Gift and Plant Sale - The day-long special event in the formal gardens will feature more than 35 vendors selling an assortment of plants including orchids, hibiscus, iris, bromeliads, native plants, herbs and citrus. Specialty vendors will offer a variety of items perfect for gift giving, including unique clothing, outdoor items, select food items, crafts, jewelry, candies and more. The Botanical Bounty Gift shop will also be offering its beautiful products.

Dec. 31, 1:00 p.m. - Dog Parade - Prizes will be awarded in several categories including Best Dressed, Largest, Smallest, and Best Ability to Understand the Owner is Boss. Registration will be \$10 per dog.

This event is made possible through the hard work and dedication of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, a volunteer organization that helps keep our gardens looking their best. Admission is free for children under 12, and a \$2 donation is suggested for adults.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo. For more information, visit www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2100.

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Restaurant News...

BANQUET ROOM

During the recent expansion, The New Hong Kong Restaurant added a banquet room.

Helen Lee expanded her restaurant on West Bay from 1 to 3 rooms and added the private dining room, suitable for parties and business meetings.

It seats up to 60 people. New Hong Kong restaurant is at 1901 West Bay Drive. Call her at 582-9998.



WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES OPENS

The new chocolate store in town is in the Belleair Bluffs Shopping Center. Bill Brown of William Dean Chocolates opened his doors around Thanksgiving. Actually, there are two doors. One is a retail store, and the other is the cappuccino cafe with about 10 chairs on the east end of the shopping center. These are the same Chocolates that are seen on Home Shopping Network and on his web site at www.williamdeanchocolates.com.

WESTSHORE PIZZA MOVING

They been working on it for months, but Westshore Pizza is almost ready to move, about 100 yards to the west in the same center. They are opening a larger restaurant with more seating and will also offer beer and wine. Look for them to open around January 15th. Call them at 585-6974 for home delivery.

CAFE DE PARIS

Now that the south half of their restaurant-cafe is finished, Xavier has started remodeling the other side. It will be used for people to order sandwiches, salads, soups and lunch items to be eaten there or taken home. They are still the only place in town to give you a free coffee

when you purchase a pastry. They are starting to take Christmas orders for logs and pies, which are some of the best around. Please order in advance as the demand will be big again this year. Cafe de Paris is located at 2300 Gulf Blvd and is open seven days a week, at 8am.



ON THE ROCKS...ON THE BLOCK, AGAIN.

The restaurant at 213 Gulf Blvd, formerly known as My Place has been closed since September. It opened as On the Rocks in October of 2010. David Lee purchased it in May of this year, but closed it again in September. Lee says he was losing too much money and receiving complaints from residents about the loud music. He thought about reopening, but now he tells us he is looking for a buyer, and hopes there will be news soon. David Lee also owns a sushi restaurant in Johns Pass Village, Naked Tchopstix, as well as several restaurants in Indianapolis

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WHAT'S GOING ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Most Belleair Bluffs restaurants and the surrounding area will be open on New Year's Eve but will close before midnight. There a few that will be open past midnight with a celebration. Below is a survey of who is open, when.

Bonefish Grill 518-1230

Open 11am until about 12:30am that night.

Cody's 584-8473

Normal Hours until 11pm; free Champagne with entree.

E&E Stakeout 585-6399

Open for dinner at 4pm until 11pm. Special menu by Chef Erwin. Reservations are suggested.

Le Bouchon 585-9777

Three special seatings: 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. RSVP required.

Marlin Darlin's 584-1700

Food until 10pm, closes at 2am Live Music, Drink Specials.

OTHER BELLEAIR BLUFFS RESTAURANTS:

Jewel Cafe - Open until 3pm

Maggie Mae's - Open until 2:30pm

Panera Bread - Normal hours

Venus Restaurant - Open until 3pm only

Westshore Pizza - Open 11am to 11pm

Hungry Howies Pizza - Open and delivering late.

Hong Kong Restaurant - Open for lunch and dinner

NEARBY RESTAURANTS:

Backwaters (Sand Key) 517-7383

A quiet evening among regulars; free champagne and novelties at midnight.

Rusty's / Sheraton (Sand Key) 595-1611

The Grand Ballroom will offer a special dinner, entertainment, and party with an open bar and a midnight champagne toast. The Mainstay Tavern will host a more casual New Years Eve. Rusty's Bistro will be open for fine dining. The Sheraton has Special Saturday room rates.

The Columbia (Sand Key) 596-8400

Open normal hours for lunch and dinner.

Watercolours / Marriott (Sand Key) 953-1661

Open for normal dining, a la carte in Watercolours. Live entertainment in the lounge. No special NYE functions planned. Rooms are available.

Shephard's Restaurant (Clearwater Beach) 441-6875

Shephard's NY Eve Party 9 to 2pm, Las Vegas Style! Two bands, two DJ's, Huge Party. Gambling tables, Champagne at midnight, party favors. Rooms also available. www.Shephards.com

Guppys (Indian Rocks Beach) 593-2032

Open for dinner at 4pm and stay open til about 11pm. Special NYE menu by Chef Scott Bebell. Reservations are suggested.

Stephano's (Indian Rocks Beach) 595-8444

Open for dinner til 10pm. Dinner Special includes Surf and Turf, Bottle of Wine for \$100.

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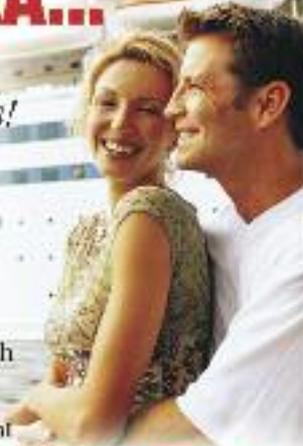
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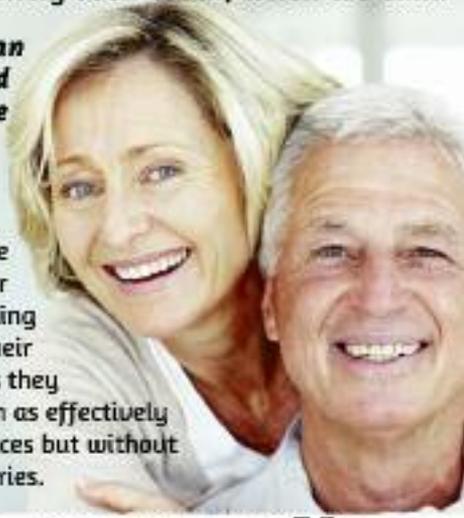
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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Upcoming meetings include:

December 21 is the Annual Holiday Party at the Belleair Country Club. Program, Bob Griffin, Publisher of the Beach Newsletters will speak on: "2012 the Centennial of Pinellas County." 11:15 am Socialize, 12:00 Lunch. For reservations contact Sherrie Morton 581-8313. sherriemorton@tampabay.rr.com

January 18 - "All About Herbs" with Rita Taylor of Briarwood Farms at the Belleair Beach Community Center, 10:30am. Guests \$5.00. RSVP to Ruth Manning 517-8209 or email ruthmanning@hotmail.com. Contact Linda Mintz, President, at 593-2054 for more information.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB They meet on the first and second Wednesday of each month at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in the Town of Belleair. Annual memberships are \$50 per year. Call Barbara Chapman at 581-8929 for more information. Guests are welcome. Upcoming meeting include:

December 7: 11:30am, Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon.

Holiday attire. Members bring a special homemade dish to share and a gift for the gift exchange.

December 14: No Meeting

January 4: 1pm. Topic is the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

January 12: 9:30am. Topic is Organic Plantings and Garden Design.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB meets monthly on the second Tuesday. Meetings include:

Tuesday, December 13th, 11:30am is the Annual Holiday Luncheon at Holiday Inn Gulfview, 521 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach. Members: \$25. And Guests: \$28., plus a glass of house wine. Public is invited, Ladies wear your favorite Holiday Attire. RSVP early, 581-8313 or sherriemorton@tampabay.rr.com

Tuesday, January 10th, 11:30am Meet at Lobster Pot Bistro, 478 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach. Members: \$22. And Guests \$25. Public is invited. Attire: Dressy Casual. Speaker, Dr. Brian W. Cook, will speak on Health Care. RSVP to 581-8313 or sherriemorton@tampabay.rr.com.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB meets on the first Friday of the month for lunch at the Belleair Country Club, at 11:45am with issue related speakers. The cost is normally \$21 each. Upcoming meetings are:

January 6: Speaker Charlotte Smith, trainer of the Pinellas Republican volunteers. RSVP to 595-1791. BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com.

BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY The GBYWS was established in 1979 to promote friendship through social activities and community service. Members of the society must be women, 21 years of age or older and reside in the Belleair / Belleair Bluffs general area. They have many monthly activities including Canasta, Bunko, Scrabble, Book Club, Movie Madness and Duplicate Bridge. New additions include a Theater Group, Dance and weekly Knitting Bee. Call President, Cathy 459-0842.

BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB They meet every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of every month is the general assembly and Board meeting. Meetings in December are on the 1, 8, 15, and 22nd. They have events throughout the year and proceeds benefit many local charities. Call Karen Crown, 449-2470 or Ed Shaughnessy 461-7171 to get involved.

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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB is open to all seniors living in the greater Belleair area. They meet at 9am every Tuesday morning in the back of Panera Bread for coffee and socializing. Sunday evenings, they meet at a restaurant. In between, they plan pot luck suppers, movie nights, and day trips to area attractions and once a month luncheons.

December 4: Their Christmas Dinner at an area restaurant, followed by a bus ride through the Belleair area to see the holiday lights.

December 14: 1pm, is their Christmas luncheon at Beachcomber Restaurant in Clearwater Beach. Call Vi Swift at 586-1691 for information.

BELLEAIR BRIDGE CLUB plays at City Hall Auditorium, twice a week, all year. It is coordinated by the Belleair Recreation Center. Call Betty Grandoff at 669-5283 or the Belleair Rec Center to join.

BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOCIATION would like to thank town residents and community members for making their annual Halloween Party a huge success! A ghoulishly good time was had by all! Now they are looking forward to the Town's annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Holiday Concert with the Stars on Friday, December 9, 2011. Town residents gather to watch the Mayor light the holiday tree in Town Hall. After the tree ceremony, will be the Holiday Concert with the Stars with world renowned performers and Belleair residents Giorgio Aristo, Melody Kielisch, and pianist Miss Victoria who will perform holiday classics. This is a free concert that you will never forget and is great for all ages. If you want to get involved, call Yevich 224-3286.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB is hoping to send three

people to sail in the 2012 Olympics. Brad Funk, Paige Railey and brother Zach Railey were selected to represent the US at the 2011 Portland International Regatta and the London 2012 Olympic Test event. The regatta, designed to replicate the Game's atmosphere, hosted 460 sailors from 66 nations. It is a dress rehearsal for the real Olympics in 2012. Paige Railey came in third in the Laser Class medal race. All three are a product of the Clearwater Yacht Club's Youth Sailing Programs. The Club also offers fun sails and hosts many international regattas right here in Clearwater Beach.



Paige and Zach celebrate Paige's bronze medal at the 2011 Weymouth & Portland International Regatta. Credit USSTAG

Heritage Village is planning to build a boat house for several antique boats and the Clearwater Yacht Club is helping. In conjunction with the Yacht Club's 100th Anniversary, they hosted a fund raiser on November 12th. Heritage Village already has three boats built by local master boat builder Clarke Mills. The boats come with associated trophies, scrapbooks and tools.

Call 447-6000 to join or get involved.

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ST. JEROME CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW

St Jerome Catholic Church started in Indian Rocks Beach in 1951. Monsignor Thomas Colreavy, then pastor of Clearwater's St. Cecelia Church began their first celebrations of mass in Indian Rocks Beach's American Legion Hall which was home to several denominations, because it was available to anyone who wanted to rent the building.

In the beginning, St Jerome's membership was about 25 families. Most of the attendees were retirees, but membership kept growing. By 1954, mass was held in the City's Auditorium and in the nearby Fire Station.

In 1954, Msgr. Colreavy purchased two acres of land north of 5th Avenue (Walsingham Road), at the foot of the Walsingham Bridge, where the old GTE building sits today, in an area is known as Haven Beach.

The campus included a cottage, large garage and a boathouse. The monsignor lived in the cottage and mass was held in the garage in the beginning years. This site became the first official gathering place for the Catholic family first known as the Indian Rocks Parish.

On January 4, 1956, the monsignor announced to Archbishop Hurley, that the Indian Rocks Beach Parish now existed. Father William Carroll, from St Pete Beach, was appointed pastor. By now, over 100 families were attending mass. Within two years, attendance had grown to 740. In 1957, anticipating future growth, the Diocese purchased 20 acres of land on Hamlin Boulevard.

Shortly thereafter, Father Carroll, in failing in health, requested a replacement. Father Roman Gromala became the second pastor for St Jerome Church. He saw the need for a larger building and began to raise money for a new building. The plans called for a building that could seat 600

people, plus a social hall and kitchen that held 250 people. The hall could also be used for classes. The estimated cost of the facilities was \$150,000.

Ground breaking took place on

Pentecost Sunday. The first mass was celebrated in the church at midnight Christmas Eve in 1960. The darkness was illuminated by car headlights and flickering bulbs attached to temporary generators. The church was dedicated by Archbishop Hurley on January 15, 1961. In less than ten years, they had grown from a handful to a church full.

The larger pyramid shaped worship hall, now on the property, opened on July 15, 1982. Farther Gromala served as pastor for 23 years. Monsignor Brendan Muldoon took over for him in May of 1983. Under Monsignor Muldoon's guidance and leadership, the church added space for a new school in the early 1990. New offices were built in 2004. Prior to that, staff operated out of a double-wide trailer.

Today, Jerome is home to almost 3,000 families and 7,000 parishioners. Monsignor Muldoon continues as pastor, living in the small cottage on the north side of the property. "For over fifty years, the people of Indian Rocks Beach and the area have given of their time, talent and treasure to build up the Body of Christ in this part of the Lord's vineyard," says Monsignor Muldoon. "Ultimately, we thank God and His Blessed Mother for having us."

On December 17th, the new entrance will open to the public.



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POLITICAL REDISTRICTING

What is it all about ?

There are two different redistricting efforts underway, State and Federal. We will talk about the State level first:

The State Senate has 40 members, each representing approximately the same number of residents. The State House of Representatives has 120 members, also based on population, and representing approximately the same number of residents. Members of the House and Senate may represent a portion of a county, one county, or even multiple counties.

The House and the Senate districts are reapportioned, or divided up, every 10 years when the federal census information is released. That is where we are now.

The 2010 census determined the population of Florida is 18,801,000 (up 2,871,883). This means each House District must represent 156,678 people (an additional 23,932 people). With 40 Senators, each State Senate District will represent 470,033 people (an additional 71,797 people). Because of these population shifts, it is necessary for political district boundary lines to be redrawn – this is redistricting.

Public hearings have been held to determine where the lines will be drawn. The plan then goes to the Florida Legislature for a vote. The process is under more scrutiny this time due to two Amendments passed last year by Florida voters prohibiting line-drawing that intentionally favors or disfavors a political party or an incumbent. The amendments also require district populations be as nearly equal as possible, compact and follow existing boundaries when possible. In the past it was easy to dilute minority voters by splitting them into multiple districts. The hope is

these amendments will make that more difficult.

While this is happening, the Federal Congressional Districts are being redrawn, too. Each state has 2 Congressional Senators that are elected by their entire state population. That number does not change. However, the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are divided among the states based on population. Due to the 2010 census, 10 states lost enough population to warrant losing representatives. Florida's population increased enough to allow for the addition of two more U.S. House of Representative seats for a total of 29. Florida's Congressional Districts will have to be redrawn to accommodate these two new districts.

The US Constitution states district populations must be as nearly equal as practical. In addition, race may not be the predominant factor in drawing line. But the Voting Rights Act of 1965 requires the creation of a district that performs for racial minorities. To ensure compliance, the redistricting plan must be submitted to a federal court or the US Department of Justice before it is enforced.

So what is all the fuss about? "Successful elections are based on clarity and the ease of running," said Debra Clark, Supervisor of elections in Pinellas County. "This process is taking too long and is making it difficult for the people who want to run for office, because they do not know where the district lines are drawn, and whether they live in the districts in which they want to represent."

The Legislature has until March 9 to approve the new districts. Candidates must qualify for state and federal offices, by June 4-8. The Primary Election is August 14, and the General Election November 6, 2012.

Get more information at www.FloridaRedistricting.org and or www.FLSenate.gov/redistricting.

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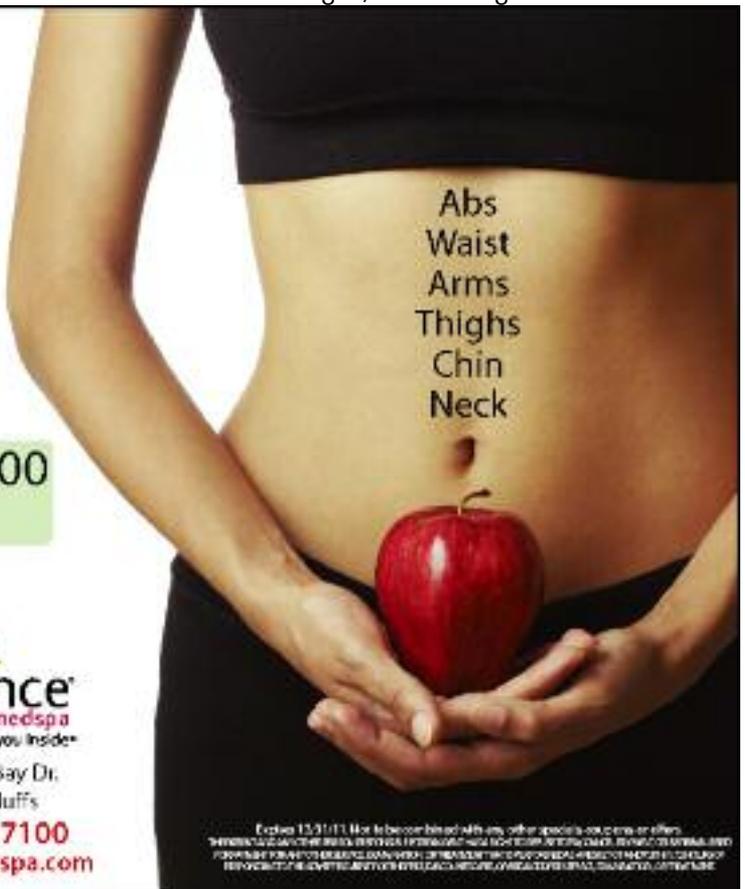


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