

NEIGHBORHOOD



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Newsletter



The Henschen family in Upsala, Sweden in the late 1860s. Josef is standing in the center.

OUR SWEDISH CONNECTION

Little has been known about Swedish immigrants to Florida in the 1800s. But a few of them have actually had a profound impact on our state. One of them, Josef Henschen, played an important part in Pinellas County history – especially for St. Petersburg, but there is also a connection to Belleair and Clearwater.

In 1871, when Josef was a young medical student in Upsala, Sweden, he was asked to recruit and bring over a large group of Swedish workers to Sanford in eastern Florida. Josef decided to take a break from his studies, act as a guide for the group, and see a bit of the world.

The group he brought went to work at the orange groves in Seminole County. The Swedes founded the New Upsala settlement and many Swedish descendants in Florida have their roots in this colony.

Josef never went back to his studies in Sweden. He fell in love with Florida and stayed here for the rest of his long life. He lived in Seminole County, started his own orchards, and made a fair amount of money. Some years later he married a Swedish immigrant girl, Carolina Svensson, and they had five children.

In 1885, Josef was approached by three men – the Russian immigrant Peter Demens, the Englishman Henry Sweetapple, and the American A.M. Taylor. They wanted to build a railroad from Sanford across Florida to Pinellas

County, but had run out of money. Josef became partner with these men and invested all his savings, as well as years of work, into the project. It was named the Orange Belt Railroad.

They planned to take it to the southernmost point of Pinellas County. At that time there was only a small fishing village at that spot. It was called Wardsville, after its postmistress Ella Ward. But Mrs. Ward wanted it to have a different name, now that there was a railroad coming. She felt it should be named after one of its four founders – Demens, Henschen, Sweetapple and Taylor. In 1887 Mrs. Ward traveled to Oakland, where the railroad headquarters were located, to confer with the four men. Only Josef Henschen was there. Mrs. Ward asked him to name the town. Josef told her they had already named a town after Taylor (Taylorville, later renamed Groveland). Sweetapple was not a good name for a town, and neither was Henschen, because nobody could spell it. However, Josef knew that Demens wanted a town somewhere along the railroad to be named St. Petersburg (after his home town in Russia). Josef decided it could just as well be this one. So he told Mrs. Ward to name it St. Petersburg. And that was how the town got its name.

By the summer of 1888 the Orange Belt railroad had several stations in Pinellas County: Tarpon Springs, Ozone, Dunedin, Clearwater, Armour (Largo) and St. Petersburg. The end point was called Demens Landing.

In 1895, Henry Plant bought the Orange Belt Railroad. He was building the Belleview Hotel in Belleair, and the railroad was very useful for him.



Orange Belt Railway depot in Clearwater
(Courtesy of Florida Archives)

This story is by Belleair resident, Rebecca Weiss who is a Swedish artist. A few years ago she found a number of letters written by Josef Henschen, the brother of her great-grandfather, Salomon Henschen.

Many of Josef's letters were addressed to his dear friend Knut Ångström in Sweden, and spanned several decades. Knut was a well known scientist, son of the famous physicist Anders Jonas Ångström, after whom the unit "angstrom" is named. About a hundred years after the letters were written, Knut's grandson found them in his father's attic.

The letters were personal and intimate, but also contained practical, financial and political information that you don't find in the usual Florida history books. They moved Rebecca deeply and she decided to publish them in a book. "A Florida Pioneer – the adventurous life of Josef Henschen, Swedish immigrant in the 1870s" is available in the historical museums in Pinellas, in the Clearwater Main Library, on Amazon.com or www.weiss-gallery.com

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NEXT ISSUE AUGUST

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

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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CABLE (Bright House) 329-5020

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BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB 586-1691

BELLEAIR BRIDGE GROUP 669-5283

BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB

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 Sherrie Morton 581-8313

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Republican, District 54

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Jim.Frishe@MyFloridaHouse.gov

Governor Rick Scott

Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950

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www.house.gov/young

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE

Flag Retirement Ceremony Indian Rocks 14

Heritage Village Antique Appraisal Fair 16

Father's Day / Sunday 17

Summer Begins 20

Morton Plant Mease Triathlon 24

JULY

Belleair Bluffs July 4th Celebration 4

Independence Day 4

IRB Boat Club Island Party 4

AUGUST

Little League

Florida Sales Tax Holiday 3-5

Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed 13

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 9

IRB Boat Club 3 Rooker Party 12

Gracie's Big Splash, Belleair 17

Largo's Indoor Garage Sale 18

Public School Begins 20

Republic National Convention 27-30

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day 3

Household Chemical Cleanup 8

Buc's First Home Game 9

Grandparents Day 9

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 13

Sand Key Triathlon 16

IRB Boat Club Meetings Resume 20

Autumn Begins 22

IRB Boat Club End of Summer Island Party 22

Clearwater Offshore Racing 28-30

OCTOBER

Fire Prevention Month

Blessing of the Animals Indian Rocks 6

Indian Rocks HOA / Poker Run 6

Columbus Day / Holiday 8

Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 11

Oktoberfest Indian Rocks Beach 13

Stone Crab Season Begins 15

Clearwater Jazz Coachman Park 18-21

THE KELLERS, 65 YEARS LATER



Do you remember where you were June 21st 1946? Jack and Jeanne Keller were in Chicago, getting married. Today they live in Belleair Bluffs. During World War II, Jack was a member of a B-17 bomber crew that flew 25 combat missions over Germany and France between 1944 and 45. His crew was attached to the 8th Air Force flying out of England. After the war, he lived in Chicago, working in advertising sales for the Herald-American newspaper. Jeanne was a secretary for the Chek-Chart Corporation. They met at an anniversary party for Jack's aunt and uncle, a meeting that led to their marriage and five children.

Jack and Jeanne have a preference for names that begin with the letter 'J'. Their five children's names are Jack Jr., Jeffrey, James, Jay and finally their daughter, Jane.

Jack and Jeanne moved to Florida in 1970, first living in Largo. They moved to Belleair Bluffs in 1984. Jack started Jack Keller Real Estate in Belleair Bluffs. His son, Jack Jr. (63) now runs the family business.

"Dad has been a salesman all his life," says son Jack Jr. "He was in marketing for the Nestle Company, sold radio for a small radio station and even sold insurance. He started this real estate company in 1975.



Mom was right by his side, helping to run this company, too," says Jack Jr. "In fact, at 85, she still works here, keeping the books."

At his Seminole office, Rep. Bill Young recently honored Jack, now 86, and other WWII veterans for their WWII service. A project is underway to record video interviews of service men serving in WWII. Jack was interviewed and the video will be placed in Congressional Library in Washington.

Today Jack and Jeanne live in the Point Belleair condos overlooking the bay.

Happy 65th Anniversary!

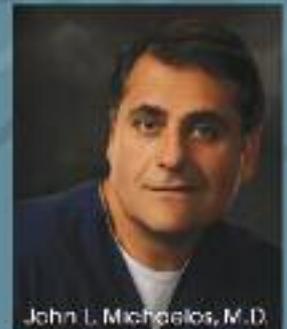
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Did You Know...



JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Belleair Bluffs residents are invited to the July 4th Party in the Park, from 11am to 2pm. There will be free food, a raffle for prizes, a dessert cooking contest, inflatables, live entertainment and a 'Dunk The Mayor' tank. If you plan to enter the dessert contest, call ahead and be there by 10:30am. The city co-sponsors this event with the Bluffs Business Association (BBA). The BBA is looking for volunteers and door prizes. If you can volunteer or donate door prizes, call Liza Campa-Flanagan at 585-1212 or Debra Sullivan, City Clerk at 584-2151.

REEF CLEANUP Reef Monitoring will be returning to Dunedin for their next Reef Clean-Up on Saturday June 23rd. This is an on-going project since they could not get it all the last time! There is always plenty of work to do on the reefs! This clean-up will begin at the new Clearwater Harbor Marina. Divers will meet at the marina at 8am. Boat owners can launch at the Seminole Ramp and then tie up at the outer floating docks of the marina. Visit www.reefmonitoring.org for more information.

DON'T FEED OR HARASS WILD DOLPHINS We all enjoy watching the wild dolphins along our seawalls, in the bay and off our beaches. Feeding and harassing wild dolphins is not only illegal but harmful to both the dolphins and humans. Please help keep the dolphins safe. For information visit www.dontfeedwilddolphins.org.

SUMMER BEACH RUNS The West Coast Y Runners Club has announced their 2012 Beach Series Runs. All races start and end at Pier 60 and are held on Friday at 7pm. The races are 5k and 1 Mile Fun Runs. All runners receive a High Tec Race Shirt with a special graphic of a turtle. Upcoming races are Friday, June 22nd and July 20th. Get more information at www.WFYRC.com.

MAYOR OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS MARRIES Mayor Chris Arbutine married Aisha Hedden on February 12th. They met in July at Marlin Darlin's restaurant and were engaged by October. Chris, Mayor of Belleair Bluffs works with his family at the Silver Queen. Aisha has a degree in microbiology and is in medical sales, selling large testing equipment and supplies to hospitals. The wedding was held at the Sheraton Sand Key. "It was a lovely wedding on the coldest day of the year," says the groom. We are certain that the bride got her choice of jewelry from The Silver Queen.



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PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Students in grades 5 through 8 of St. Cecelia Catholic School recently performed The Phantom of the Opera. The music, set construction, costuming and talent of the students was amazing. The



school held three shows featuring cabaret type seating, with dessert and refreshments served at intermission. The professionalism and dedication of the students was evident in the final product. Parents and guests alike were delighted with the show. St. Cecelia School offers a drama club program after school for students of the school in grades 3 through 8. The 2012/2013 line up will include Peter Pan and Copa Cabana. For ticket information contact the school at (727) 461-1207.

BEACH BOXES FOR TROOPS The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association has an ongoing program to show appreciation and support for servicemen and women stationed overseas with a connection to our beach communities. Periodically, they mail "Beach Boxes" which include items like canned meats/tuna, candies, and books in addition to items of local flavor such letters from local school children, etc. They are preparing another shipment, but need new recipients; all the service people previously receiving the boxes have returned home. They are looking for local parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc. who know of troops stationed overseas with a connection to our beach communities. Please contact President Becky Griffin with recipient names and mailing address at (727) 517-3131 or via e-mail at becky@irbhome.com.

TARPON TAG BENEFITS WALSINGHAM PARK The Tampa Bay Estuary Program awarded \$81,000 to 21 community groups for projects that directly involve restoring and improving Tampa Bay. This year's mini-grant program attracted 31 applicants. Grants issued were between \$500 and \$5,000 each. Funding for this program came from the sale of the local license plate known as the Tarpon Tag.

STINGRAY SHUFFLE

Stingray season is underway and stingrays have been spotted in local waters. Because the water temperature is consistently rising, more may come closer to shore. It is important for all beachgoers to do the stingray shuffle when entering beach waters. By shuffling your feet in the sand, you will scare off any stingrays.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN AUGUST Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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MARRIAGE: ENTERING A NEW INVESTMENT LIFE

By: Noelle Daniel, CFP®

There are a lot of issues that mature couples need to think about when tying the knot — wedding preparations, blending families, and, of course, finances. Addressing personal finance and investment issues before the big day may help improve your odds of being together years later. Whether it is your first marriage, or not, here are some financial issues that you should consider when embarking on a matrimonial journey.

Discuss financial styles before marriage — Start your marriage off on the right foot by having an honest discussion about financial habits and objectives. Are you a saver, but your prospective spouse lives paycheck to paycheck? Do you prefer investing heavily in stocks, but your fiancé's portfolio is filled with bonds? What are each of your short- and long-term financial goals?

Think strategically — Consider each other's investment portfolio as part of a whole. For instance, if both you and your mate contribute to 401(k) plans and IRAs, see how your investment choices match up. Depending on your goals for retirement, one or both of you might want to invest more aggressively. Or you might find that your combined portfolio is more exposed to risk than the two of you can tolerate. Either way, you can rebalance your asset allocation by shifting money from one asset class (stocks, bonds and money market instruments) to another or by adding new money to the underrepresented asset class.

Review documents — Along with other legal documents, remember to update your beneficiaries on life insurance policies, IRAs, employer-sponsored retirement plans and pensions. Also, be sure to create or modify your wills.

Determine your tax status — Once married, you'll need to decide whether it's best to file your taxes jointly or separately. Usually, the "married filing jointly" status results in a lower tax liability, but in some instances — depending on deductions and income earned — "married filing separately" may be more advantageous.

Meet with a professional — Call my office today at 727-408-5209 to discuss your financial goals, such as buying a home or investing for retirement. Then, after making sure that all of your financial bases are covered, relax and enjoy the beginning of your life together!

Noelle Daniel Wealth Management is located at 1201 Gulf Blvd., Suite 101 Indian Rocks Beach or visit www.ndwealthmanagement.com for more information

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MARGOT JOINS WORLD TEAM

Windsurfer Margo Sampson of Belleair has been named to the US Sailing 2012 Youth World team in the RS-X Class. The 17 year old from Palm Harbor High School is one of 11 sailors qualifying for the team representing the United States in July's International Sailing Federation Youth World Championships in Dublin, Ireland. The US Youth World team members were selected based on first place finishes in their classes at US Sailing's two Youth World qualifier events in January.

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SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI ASKS FOR YOUR VOTE

There is nothing more important to Pinellas County than professional, cost efficient public safety. When I became Sheriff, I pledged to provide leadership and the sound fiscal management needed to achieve this goal. I am proud to share that the crime rate has decreased the past 3 years in the areas patrolled by the Sheriff's Office, despite having to cut over \$100 million and more than 600 positions from the Agency.



Just as in the private sector, during these challenging economic times members of the Agency are being asked to work not just harder, but smarter. Duplicity has been eliminated, processes streamlined, and services outsourced to the private sector, where appropriate.

I started my career in law enforcement 30 years ago. In 2006, Sheriff Jim Coats asked me to return to the Sheriff's Office as General Counsel; later, he asked me to serve as Chief Deputy where I managed the Agency's \$200 million budget. When Sheriff Coats retired, he explained to Governor Scott that I was the only person with the leadership ability and current knowledge of the Sheriff's Office to lead it into the future. Governor Scott agreed and I was sworn in as your Sheriff in November 2011.

With the endorsement of retired Sheriff Jim Coats, and several Tampa Bay area Sheriffs, including Sheriff Grady Judd, I am running for my first elected term as your Sheriff and ask for your vote on August 14.

www.bobforsheriff.com - Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bob Gualtieri, Republican for Pinellas County Sheriff

RENOURISHMENT BEGINS

Initial pumping of sand began on May 15th, but due to rough weather, it was suspended until June 7th. This is the fifth time the beaches have been renourished since



Photo by Nancy Ayers

1988. The project is budgeted to cost \$31.5 million. It is paid for by a combination of federal, state and county money. The county's portion is paid for by the Tourist Development Bed Tax (tourists). While expensive, there are several benefits to renourishing our beaches. One is storm protection; more sand means better protection from hurricanes. There is an economic benefit, too. Three-fourths of all tourists to Pinellas County come for our beaches.

Sand Key and Belleair Beach: This phase, 1.9 miles of the project, will get 65% of the sand, about 700,000 cubic yards. They are expected to finish Sand Key by the end of June. Then, work will start in Belleair Beach which is planned to be finished around the end of August.

Indian Rocks Beach: Work will start when Belleair is finished, with plans to end around October 23rd. This part of the project will move faster, since they will only pump 350,000 cubic yards of sand. The main pipeline will come ashore around 15th Avenue and later around Central Avenue at the south end of IRB.

We should all remember, "the plan is always subject to change by the Army Corp or Engineers."

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PALM TREES

by Randy Lee



Palm trees grow in many parts of the world. Most areas where temperatures stay above freezing are ideal habitats for palm trees- tropical and subtropical climates. There are over two thousand species of palm trees in the world. Closer to home, palms can be found as far north as the Carolina coast, however, the Tampa Bay region is ideal for growing many different palms.

Palm trees can be distinguished by their cold tolerance. The most cold tolerant palms include Sable, Pindo, Chinese Fan, Ribbon, Reclinata, Palmetto, Rhapis, Sago, Paurotis, European Fan, Washingtonia, Medjool, Canary Island, Pony Tail and Sylvester. Palms that may show some freeze damage include Roebelenii or Pygmy Date, Bismarkia, Fishtail, Queen, Bamboo Palm and Foxtail. Palms that will show the most cold damage include Thatch, Areca, Alexander, Adonidia or Christmas Palm, Coconut, Royal, Triangle, Bottle and Spindle.

Smaller palms are ideally suited for smaller gardens and homes. These include Roebelenii, Pony Tail, Cardboard, Sago, Pindo, Bamboo and Christmas Palm. These palms usually have a slower growth rate and require less maintenance.

The most expensive palms include Old Man, Lipstick, Latan, Rhapis, Kentia, Medjool and Licuala. These usually have a slow growth rate, have unusual characteristics or color and are not readily available. These palms can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Current trends in palms include native, drought tolerant and slow growing varieties. These include Ribbon, Sable(with boots), Bismarkia, Paurotis, Palmetto and Foxtail. Sables will always be popular since they are native to Florida and represent our state tree. We also plant many Date, Roebelenii and Adonidia Palms.

Summer is an ideal time to plant palms- their root systems are most active in hot weather. When planting, always plant the palm at grade level- never too deep. Water and fertilizer are important in establishing and maintaining palms. Most palms will benefit from periodic hand watering the first year and fertilization twice a year. Best of luck in selecting the right palms for your landscape.

June/July Checklist: Hurricane season begins ● Water restrictions and Fertilizer ban is in effect ● It is a great time to plant palm trees ● Summer rains should begin soon ● Water pots & containers more often, the heat is on!

Landscapes By Randy Lee, Inc. is a full service landscape design company here to help you with all of your needs- Call 727-421-2715 or visit online at www.landscapesbyrl.com.

TWO LOCAL BUSINESSES CELEBRATING FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

BELLEAIR POOLS

David and Jeannie Oxley opened Belleair Pool Supply and Service five years ago in June of 2007. Since then they have sold a lot of pool chemicals and supplies. But the best part of Belleair Pools is their dog Captain. They are located at 1702 West Bay Drive, 483-9671.



COLDSTONE CREAMERY

JD and Vee opened their Belleair Bluffs ice cream parlor 5 years ago. If you have children, you have probably been by. They have more than just cones; try their made or order cakes or take a quart home with you. They are located at 2923 West Bay Drive, next to Bonefish.



2012 LEGISLATIVE BEACH ACTIONS

By State Representative Jim Frishe, District 54



The 2012 Legislative process has been a successful process regarding the permit and regulatory reform process for our beaches and the financial backing for Florida beaches.

House Bill 691 – The Dennis L. Jones Beach and Shore Preservation Act (which I sponsored) focuses solely on the process, timeliness, and improving the cost-effectiveness of projects to repair Florida’s eroding beaches. I believe it to be responsible permit and regulatory reform.

The bill directs DEP to expedite and streamline the permitting process for previously constructed beach and inlet sand bypassing projects. It provides for long-term permits for at least 15 years or two maintenance events, whichever is greater and clarifies what is “reasonable assurance”.

The bill reduces regulatory delays by exempting non-impacting exploratory tasks from permitting and directs DEP to reduce or eliminate the need for variances. It also establishes new reporting requirements to the Governor and Legislature to increase funding transparency and accountability.

If Florida cannot expedite the permit process and reverse escalating regulatory and construction costs, Florida will no longer be able to sustain its 61 existing beach nourishment projects covering 218 miles of beaches, much less consider new projects in areas with critically eroding beaches or continue to preserve inlet sand resources through bypassing to adjacent beaches.

House Bill 691 is important to Florida’s beaches because half of the State’s beaches, almost 400 miles, are critically-eroded. Two hundred eighteen miles are part of a formal beach management project. Over half of these miles of nourished beach are part of a federally authorized project and enjoy up to 65% FEDERAL cost-sharing.

In the 2013 budget, we have spending authority by proviso language for \$20 million, which includes post-construction monitoring for 7 specific beach projects and 10% of the total for inlet management. Locally, Honeymoon Island is ranked #6 on the list requesting virtually the entire cost from the state at \$5,780,000

HB 691 is now on the Governor’s desk for action and the 2013 budget will be going to the Governor for action in the near future.

In closing, we must remember that on the average, every state dollar spent on beaches generates \$8 in return revenues. Florida beaches are as vital to our economy as any other factor in our state. World-wide tourists visit Florida and enhance our economy because of our many beaches. Even before our man-made attraction, our beaches were the draw to our state. They are vital to our livelihood as well as to our up-land protection.

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MARY LOU AMBROSE ASKS FOR YOUR VOTE



My name is Mary Lou Ambrose. I am running for the Florida House District 66.

I am a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an attorney, an insurance agent and a small business owner. All these things make me uniquely qualified to represent the people of this District. I am running because the lack of balanced decision-making in Tallahassee is out of control. There is no discussion or compromise. The result is that special interests win.

The Legislators' dismissal of women's health care needs, and Tallahassee's refusal to fund our schools are two concerns. As a woman, I cannot stand by and see the advances women have made over the last sixty years be lost. As a grandmother, I am concerned about the net loss of school funding over the last two sessions. While we cannot simply throw money at the schools, a strong public school system is essential to Florida's future. How does the Legislature expect to bring businesses to Florida if it cannot offer an educated workforce to meet the needs of the businesses?

Joe Barkley, a Commissioner in Belleair Bluffs, and I have been married for 30 years. We run our insurance agency together as we did in our law practice. I puzzle at the Legislature's belief that cutting taxes will help small businesses. In a time of low profits, tax cuts do not help. Small Businesses need customers who can afford to buy their services. As Insurance agents, we worry about the move toward privatizing Citizens Insurance, but that's a subject for another day.

I would like the opportunity to bring to Tallahassee common sense, a strong work ethic, and a respect for the people of Florida.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mary Lou Ambrose for Florida House District 66.

SUDSY SATURDAY

Saturday, June 2nd, Bluffs Animal Hospital hosted the 2nd Annual "Sudsy Saturday", a car wash to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County. Doctors and staff from Bluffs Animal Hospital, along with "Bigs" (mentors) and "Littles" (children) from Big Brothers Big Sisters worked together to raise nearly \$500.



A suggested donation of \$5 was collected for a car wash, with drinks and snack available for sale. Local pet company Dawgs on the Go sold doggie bags and donated \$5 from each sale. Music was provided by WKID Radio 96.7FM of Clearwater, the only radio station in the world owned and operated entirely by kids.

The event raised essential funds that allow Big Brothers Big Sisters to pay for the costs of "matching" a child facing adversity and a dependable adult mentor. Hundreds of children are on the waiting list in Pinellas County. Bluffs Animal Hospital is committed to raising awareness and support for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thank you to all who stopped by for a \$5 wash and to those who made donations after the event.

THE OLDER WE GET, THE YOUNGER YOU LOOK!

By Stephanie Schlageter, M.S., Medspa Director



Radiance Medspa is currently celebrating 6 years of providing state of the art non-surgical cosmetic medical treatments to residents of the Belleair Bluffs community and beyond. At the same time, another important anniversary is being celebrated across the United States – the Six Year anniversary of Juvederm® Injectable Gel receiving approval by the FDA. Often referred to as “The Liquid Face Lift” Juvederm is one of the most significant and exciting new treatments to be introduced into the cosmetic medical industry in decades. Juvederm is referred to as a dermal filler because it is injected into the dermal layer of the skin for the purpose of correcting lip lines, facial wrinkles, and dark circles under the eyes. It can also be used to add volume to the cheeks and lips to help restore a more youthful face shape. An ideal Juvederm candidate is a man or woman between the ages of 30 and 65 who wants to look as good as they feel inside, but without anyone being able to tell that they had anything done. Juvederm is made of molecules of Hyaluronic Acid (HA), which is a natural component of human skin. HA fillers have been around for decades and have a long established track record of safety and efficacy. In the 6 years since its FDA approval, Juvederm has become the #1 dermal filler in the U.S. and globally as it provides safe, natural looking results that typically last a year or more. A Juvederm treatment takes only about an hour with no downtime and the results can be dramatic. Juvederm helps people look more youthful and refreshed without anyone knowing that they had anything done. It’s for all these reasons that Juvederm has become enormously popular over the last few years – in Belleair Bluffs and beyond. In fact, the nearly billion dollar global dermal filler market is currently growing at an estimated rate of 15% annually, which speaks to the ever increasing popularity of these treatments; the Belleair Bluffs community has contributed significantly to this growth as Radiance Medspa has been the #1 Juvederm business in the entire Southeast United States for the last 2 years. If you’re wondering why your friends around town look so refreshed, it may just be that they got Juvederm at Radiance Medspa! Radiance Medspa is currently offering special pricing on Juvederm to celebrate these important Six year milestones! For information about Juvederm or Radiance Medspa, visit radiancemedspa.com or call 518-7100. Radiance Medspa is located in the Bluffs Shopping Center at the intersection of West Bay Drive and Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs. There’s a Younger You Inside. Let Radiance Medspa help you bring it out!

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HULK HOGAN HOUSE SOLD

The Belleair , formerly owned by Hulk Hogan and his wife Linda was sold in April for \$6.2 million. It was first listed five years ago at the height of the real estate market for \$25 million. The home is 17,000 square feet and overlooks the Intracoastal, north of the Belleview Country Club. Michael Galinski, CEO of America II Electronics in St Petersburg, a global distributors of semiconductor components, paid cash for the house. Hulk Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, bought the land in 1992 for \$2 million and built the house in 1996.

The house was listed by Martha Thorn of Coldwell Banker and the sale was handled by Smith & Associates. “Terry Bollea was wonderful to work with, and so were the agents at Smith & Associates,” says Martha Thorn.

Bollea bought a smaller, 5,000 square foot beachfront home on North Clearwater Beach for \$3.3 million.



POST OFFICE HELPS STAMP OUT HUNGER

By Lee Tong

On May 12th, the Calvary came out! The U.S. Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers worked together in the fight against hunger. While letter carriers delivered and picked up our mail, they also collected bags of much needed groceries which local residents placed in their mailboxes to help "Stamp out Hunger" in our community.



Reinforcements on foot were led by Father Bob of Calvary Episcopal Church, Food Pantry leader Chuck Pond, Fire Chief Robert Polk, and Indian Rocks Beach Mayor R.B. Johnson. Pinellas Suncoast and Fire Rescue workers, members of the Indian Rocks Volunteer Firemen's Association and their affiliated Emergency Response Team, CERT, awaited the arrival of our mounted Calvary to transport postal containers filled with food for hungry families in the beach area.

Behind the lines, inside of the Calvary fort, approximately forty residents, members of Calvary Episcopal Church, friends from the Church of the Isles, and Beach Community Food Pantry volunteers waited as fire fighters, rescue workers and emergency techs moved heavy postal boxes onto tables. These volunteers quickly began to check dates on the incoming food products and then passed the items to other tables for sorting. Food was separated into

categories such as fruit, beans, vegetables, canned meats, rice, pasta, sauces and baking goods. Sorted boxes were then carried into the Food Pantry storage room to await their final destination...distribution to food pantry shelves and then into the hands of hungry patrons.

The Beach Community Food Pantry would like to extend sincere thanks to each person who participated in the war against hunger. Thank you Indian Rocks mail carriers for riding into battle, for taking more time and an extra step to pick up food donations. We know you were hot and tired. Thank you Indian Rocks fire fighters and emergency techs for spending a hot afternoon waiting for mail carriers to arrive with much needed food and for carrying heavy boxes inside to waiting volunteers. We would like to thank each volunteer for every minute you spent checking dates, sorting foods and carrying heavy boxes into our storage room. At the end of the day a hefty 165 postal crates filled with various foods were collected and processed. Thank each and every one of you for taking part in helping us win this battle in the war and for helping to "Stamp Out Hunger".

The postal drive was a huge success, but please remember that the Beach Community Food Pantry still needs help. The number of people shopping at the pantry has increased 27% during the first quarter of this year. Expenses have increased over 40% due to rising food costs and a growing client base. As a result the pantry continuously needs monetary and food donations. The Beach Community Food Pantry located at 1615 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach, is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10AM and Noon. If you miss pantry hours there is a drop-off basket just inside the doors leading into the sanctuary. Convenient drop-offs are located at the Clearwater Beach and St. Pete Beach Chamber of Commerces, and at the Indian Rocks, Indian Shores, and Redington Shores' City Halls.

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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

Our office recently submitted its Fiscal Year 2013 budget of \$213,160,340 to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, meeting the target set forth by the board, despite an increase in operating costs of approximately \$7 million, including increased employer contributions to the Retirement System, health insurance, operating and capital expenses, County Risk Management and computer services assessments; as well as no increases in the Sheriff's Office generated revenue.

Our Non-General Fund Revenue sources include municipal full-service law enforcement contracts, Detention and Corrections inmate contracts, ancillary law enforcement services contracts for many Pinellas County cities and judicial fees and charges. These revenues remained the same as last year, \$31,952,220, bringing our net funding request to the County Commissioners to \$181,218,120.

Our budget breaks down as follows: 48% goes to law enforcement, 45% to detention/corrections and 7% to judicial operations (security at our 5 courthouses). 87% is dedicated to personnel and the remainder to operating expenses.

First and foremost, we have reduced crime in our service area 12% over the last three years, case closures are up and arrests are up over 22%. The Sheriff's Office currently has 2,715 positions. 758 are law enforcement deputies, 730 are detention deputies and the rest are civilians.

According to Florida Department of Law Enforcement data, our deputy to citizen ratio is 1.6 deputies per thousand citizens. This includes deputies assigned to court security, therefore, the actual ratio is less, putting us well below the average state ratio of 2.23 officers per thousand citizens.

Keeping in mind the Sheriff's Office has primary law enforcement responsibility for over 40% of the county's population, and nearly 50% of the county's land area, the

lower deputy ratio is not without consequence. We have 167 fewer deputies today than in 2008. 90 of those positions were eliminated during the 2010 and 2011 budget cuts. Our average response time (from the time a deputy is assigned a call until a deputy arrives on scene) to armed emergency calls increased more than 15% from 3:36 in the first quarter of 2010 to 4:10 in the first quarter of 2011. An additional 5.2% increase was registered in the first quarter of 2012 with the average response time now at 4:23.

The hold times for calls also increased by 28.4% from 2:21 in the first quarter of 2010 to 3:01 in the first quarter of 2011, to 3:05 in the first quarter of 2012. Hold times are from the time the call is received until a deputy is dispatched.

The Detention and Corrections Bureau has been impacted by budget cuts. 1035 beds have been closed at the jail, making the available capacity 3,255. The average daily population typically stays about 3,200 with about 200 inmates sleeping on the floor. Furthermore, detention deputy to inmate ratios have increased. The jail's direct supervision housing units were designed for 1 deputy to 62 inmates. The ratio in most direct supervision units is now 1 to 80.

Pinellas Safe Harbor (PSH), is having a favorable impact on the jail population. Since PSH opened in January 2011, the number of people booked into the jail with only ordinance violations (minor crime) has decreased by 53.5%. Housing an inmate at the jail costs \$106 a day, while housing them at our jail diversion program Safe Harbor is \$13 a day, thereby providing a substantial savings to the taxpayer.

When we analyze all of this and look at the overall picture – the Sheriff's Office continues to provide effective and efficient law enforcement services to its citizens. As we set our sights on preparing responsibly and in a fiscally sound manner for the next fiscal year, we submit the FY 2013 budget with confidence and a commitment to continue our mission of "Leading the Way for a Safer Pinellas."



In June, Anona Elementary School graduated 65 girls and boys from their 5th grade class. Those with their hands in the air live in the Belleair area. Also shown Row 1 Mrs Lively, Mrs Guarino, Ms George and Row 2, Ms Snook. School restarts on August 20th...but these kids will not be at this school again.

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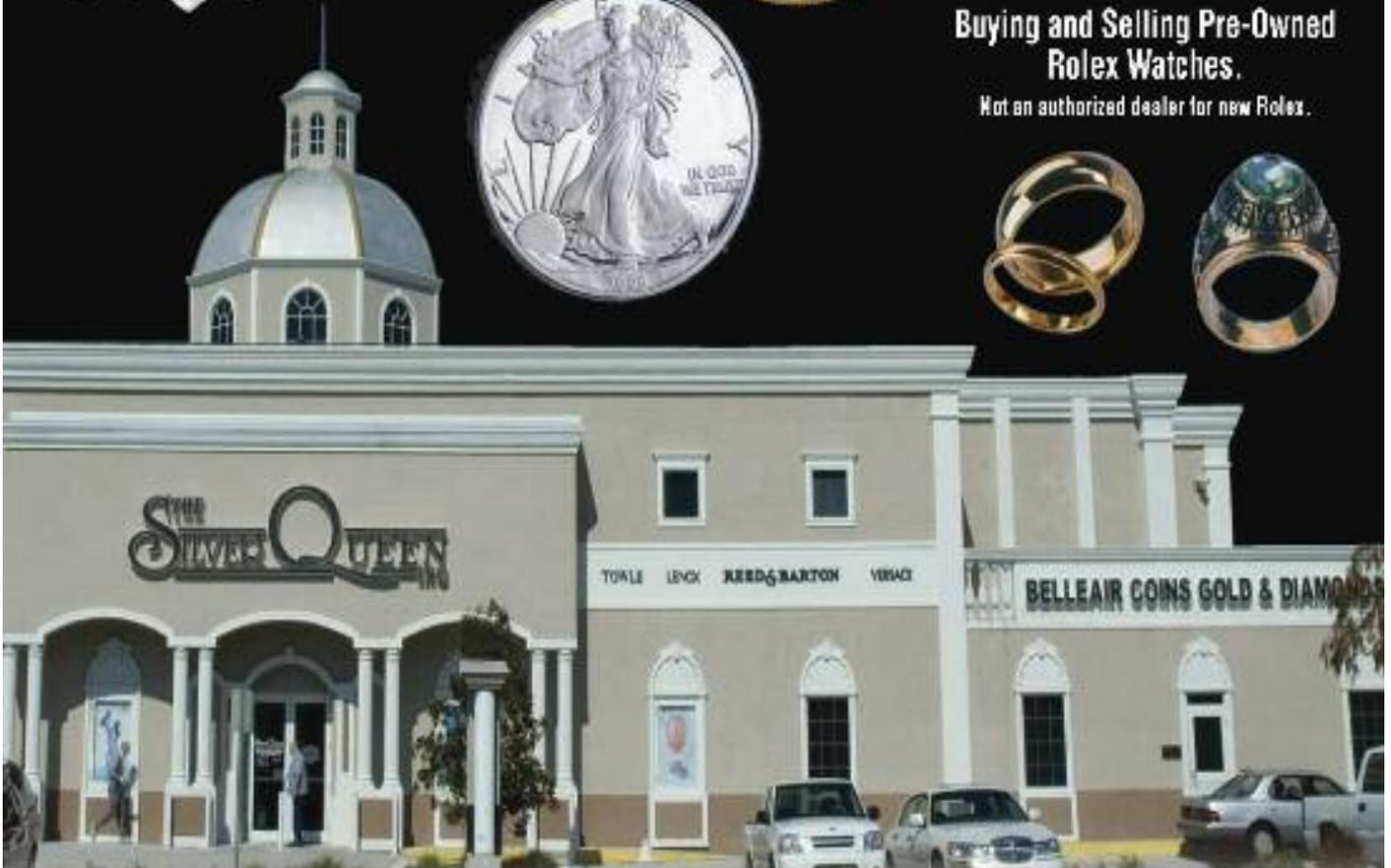
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STARLIGHT CRUISES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Phil Henderson Jr. and his parents, Phil Sr. and Sue, in front of the Capt. Anderson II in June of 1982 beginning operations in Fort Walton Beach their first summer.

Almost like Jimmy Buffet sings, Phil Henderson Jr. is the "son of ...the daughter ...of a sailor man". He and his family own the StarLite Majesty, the large dining yacht moored at the east end of Clearwater Beach's marina. Phil Henderson Jr. says the company is 25 years old this year. But actually, this business was born because his family began working on the water well over 150 years ago.

Phil's great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Anderson and his son, Steven West Anderson, made their living on the water. During the Civil War, Thomas and son Steven caught and supplied fish to the Confederate troops. The fish were preserved with salt and carted off to the battlefields in the other states.

Steven West Anderson's son Charles Steven Anderson was also a fisherman and had four boys: Charles Maxwell, Walter, Lambert and Virgil. Charles Maxwell (Capt.

Max) was Phil Jr.'s Granddad. Together, in 1935, the Andersons started C.S. Anderson & Sons Party Fishing Fleet in Panama City. It grew to be the largest fishing fleet on Florida's Gulf Coast. Capt. Max and his brother Walter, dredged the north lagoon channel in Panama City Beach and also developed the Captain Anderson Marina. They built the original Captain Anderson Restaurant, which today, is one of the largest seafood restaurants in Florida.

By the 1960s, Capt. Max expanded into the sightseeing business and began running sightseeing cruises and a ferry to Shell Island, an undeveloped island near Panama City Beach. He used a 65 foot wooden boat called the C.S. Anderson II, which he actually built in his backyard.

Capt. Max had a real love for boating, as well as for music; he played saxophone in the roaring 20s. In 1974, he and his son, Ken (Phil's uncle), built a large dinner boat and named it the Captain Anderson. The boat had an annual routine of spending summers in Panama City Beach and winters in St Pete Beach. It was a real family affair as Ken's wife, Pamela, was also involved in the operation of the first dinner boat.

Phil Jr. graduated high school in 1978 in Colorado. He then headed off the college at the University of Colorado to pursue a Business degree. Phil Sr., a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and Phil's mother Sue (daughter of Capt. Max), were living in Colorado as empty-nesters. It was about that time that they were asked to move to Florida as Capt. Max wanted to build a second dinner boat and he needed their help to manage it.

In 1980, they moved to St Pete to start working on the Captain Anderson (#1), learn the business and begin building the Capt Anderson II. Phil came to Panama City Beach in the summer between his junior and senior years and helped run the first boat. "I was the first mate," Phil says. "I did a little of everything. I got the boat ready to sail swabbed the decks, stocked the provisions, etc. During the cruise I assisted with food service and I even got a little wheel time." All this helped Phil understand the business from the water-line up. After that summer, he wasn't really interested in joining the family business. The new boat was launched in November 1981. When Phil came back during his Christmas break and saw the new boat, he began to change his mind. Being a finance student, he understood the benefits of good credit. The family business was doing well and he decided to join his parents in spring 1982, hoping there may be future opportunities. The Capt. Anderson II rotated between Clearwater during the winter and Ft Walton Beach during the summer.

Phil Jr. met his future wife Jenny, in Ft. Walton when 250 people applied for only 15 open positions. Jenny was one of them. "If my mother hadn't hired her, I may never have met her" Phil says. At first a waitress, Jenny helped with payroll, accounts payable and most importantly, counting and depositing the receipts. Jenny holds a B.S. in Business. Phil and Jenny married in 1986.



STARLIGHT CRUISES continued

The dinner-cruise concept was simple and low priced. Tables were covered with paper place mats and people drank out of plastic cups. Each guests was served a 10 oz Delmonico steak, baked potato and salad for about \$15.

The concept worked well, but there was a market for conventions, weddings and anniversaries. Phil Jr. was charged with designing and building a third boat in 1986, the StarLite Princess, an authentic Mississippi-style 107 foot riverboat with a real paddle wheel. The boat, seating 240 people for dinner or 300 for cocktail parties, was docked at Indian Rocks Beach's Hamlin's Landing.

The StarLite Princess set a new standard for a dinner cruises and it was the start of what is now the StarLite Cruises. The ceilings in the dining area were 9 1/2 feet tall with large picture windows and crystal chandeliers. People could sit at reserved, individual tables. The menu was expanded and people could order what they wanted. The cost went to \$25 each.

In 1995, the Florida Aquarium asked StarLite to consider a dinner cruise at their back door. Phil moved the StarLite Princess to Tampa and made plans to build a 600 passenger sidewheeler for the location. But, it was not a successful experiment. "In the early years, the Florida Aquarium was not a high traffic attraction," said Henderson.

In 1996, Starlite retired the Capt. Anderson II introducing Clearwater to the StarLite Majesty Dining Yacht. At the same time, the company name changed to StarLite Cruises.

By 1997, Phil Jr. was running the entire business. Later that year, he moved the StarLite Princess from Tampa back to St

Pete Beach. By 1998, they had expanded into other venues and added nature tours in conjunction with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The cruise became known as the Sea Life Safari. It was very popular with the young kids. With the addition of Winter the Dolphin and the movie, they have had to add a second tour boat to handle the demand.

In 2004, StarLite purchased a large speed boat, renaming it the Dolphin Racer. It rotated between John's Pass and St Pete Beach regularly.

In 2006, the company purchased the Show Queen and renamed it the Calypso Queen. Henderson remodeled the vessel making it casual with a tropical island feel. The cost of a Calypso dinner cruise is \$35 and features a tropical style buffet and complimentary beer, wine and rum punch. "A great value for a different type of market" says Phil.

Today, the StarLite Majesty, based in the Clearwater Beach Marina, can carry 400 people and seats 280. 2 hour luncheon/sightseeing cruises are priced at \$34.95 while 3 hour dinner and dance cruises, with a choice of 10 entrees, are \$53.25. The dinner cruise sails 6 days a week.

Phil, now 51, lives in Belleair Beach with his wife Jenny and their three kids. As tradition repeats itself, Phil and Jenny's oldest son, also known as Capt. Max, after Phil's grandfather, is working full time for Starlite Cruises.

Starlite Cruises, is the umbrella brand name for the six vessel operation based in Pinellas County and as Phil says, "We have a cruise for you." Learn more about the StarLite Cruises at StarLiteCruises.com. Call them at 462-2628.



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Business Briefs...

NEW OWNER AT CASSI'S

After 24 years, owner Sandee Shaw sold Cassi's, in the Plaza 100 Building to Darby Witkamp on May 1st and retired. Sandy, a resident of Belleair Beach, is looking forward to working in her yard, painting and spending more time with her husband, Ike. The shop will be a major change in Darby's life and career. For the past 25 years, she has been in Clinical Research, most recently as a director at the Diagnostic Clinic. Most of her family works in high-end retail, and she has always wanted to own a shop, too. The store will be closed all of June and July, reopening August 3rd. There will be a slight remodel and minor changes, including a few new lines of clothing. The name will stay the same and employees Marsha, Mary and Donna will continue to work there. The store's phone number is 585-2011.



NEW MANAGER

There is a new manager at the Belleview Biltmore Golf and Country Club. Chuck Eade, who left, has been replaced by Richard Degree. You may recognize him. He has been the Assistant General Manager of the Club for over 6 months.

YOGA AT THE HISTORIC BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Internationally renowned yoga teacher Daniela Boesshenz offers yoga, for all levels, in a uniquely beautiful setting at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce De Leon Blvd. The studio, called Sramana Yoga, is the only yoga studio in Belleair. Classes focus on movements that stretch, strengthen, and balance your body and mind leaving you in a relaxed yet invigorated state. Sramana Yoga offers first-time students 2 weeks unlimited classes for \$20. To learn more go to sramanayoga.com or call 727-365-2219.

NEW WEIGHT LOSS CENTER OPENS

Physicians Center for Weight Loss is now open at 232-C Indian Rocks Road N., just east of City Hall in Belleair Bluffs. The center features a medically supervised Weight Loss Program, as well as other services to increase activity and vitality. Treatment options include: Prescription HCG, Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement Therapy, Testosterone Therapy, Myers' Cocktail, B12 Injections, MIC Ultra injections, and more. All treatment plans are supervised by their on-site Medical Director, Agnes P. Green, M.D. 216-6632.



CONGRATULATIONS

The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce recognized some local businesses at their Annual Awards Banquet June 5. Of note: Large Business of the Year - Shepherds Beach Resort Small Business of the Year - Crabby Bills BeachWalk Tourism Person of the Year - David Yates of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium

More Business Briefs...

ANTIQUUE ALLEY

UPGRADE Maxie and Patti Quinn, longtime residents of Belleair, are the new owners of Antique Alley. The Quinns used to own Dyco Paints on Ulmerton Road. They sold that business thinking they would retire, but not so. They bought the north side of Antique Alley planning to upgrade the buildings and storage units. They are painting, re-roofing, adding new awnings and more to the 10 shops and 20 storage units. Most of the old tenants have left and they are looking for new quality tenants. Included in the purchase was the larger building up front that previously was a restaurant. It will "Petal and Vine", run by Patti and a friend, featuring gardening supplies, gifts, organics and unique food products. If you are interested in renting space in the Quinns' shops or storage units, call Patti Quinn at 647-8129. Antique Alley is located at 560 Indian Rocks Road, behind the new Coldwell Banker Martha Thorn office.



NEW LOCATION

Jeanne of Slipcovers by Design moved from the Plaza 100 Building to Antique Alley, next to the Belleair Food Mart in the free standing building nearest the road. Jeanne specializes in slipcovers, pillows, upholstery, window treatments and more. Visit the new location at 560 Indian Rocks Rd.



GET HIGH ON HEALTH Belleair Bluffs resident, Paige Clark, is opening a new Holistic Health and Wellness Center at 205 Indian Rocks Road N. Paige is a licensed Pastoral Therapist and Certified Natural Health Practitioner. She employs a comprehensive system to guide the Body-Mind-Spirit to renew, restore and rejuvenate-naturally. The practice is scheduled to open in July. She is now taking reservations. Call her at 614-9777 or E- mail her at Paige@Live.com.

EDWARDS JONES CELEBRATES TWO YEARS

Brenda Ehrke opened her branch of Edward Jones Investments two years ago this month. She is located at 2618 West Bay Drive, across from Publix. Call Brenda at 581-3583.



COASTAL DENTAL A

new full service dental office opened a large operation at 2715 West Bay Drive, across from Publix. Charbel Klaib, DMD, is the dentist and manager. Their phone number is 683-0400.


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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month (October through April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach, 10:30am. At the April Meeting, Lois O'Donnell was elected the new president, replacing Linda Mintz, for the next year. This was their last meeting until October. Contact Lois O'Donnell, President, 595-1349 for 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 from October to May. Annual membership is \$50 per year. Call Barbara Chapman at 581-8929 or E-mail her at BChapman1234@Gmail.com for information or to RSVP. Guests are welcome.

There are no regular meeting until October, but they are hosting Summer Pot Luck events July 11, August 1 and September 5 at 11:30am. Members and guest should bring a dish to share for 8 to 10 people

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They meet monthly on the second Tuesday. At the May meeting, Susan Lordan was elected the 2012-2013 President. There are no meetings scheduled until October. Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. To join, please call Barbara Chapman 581-8929



New Board: Left to right Barbara Eaton-Secretary, Sherrie Morton-Treasurer, Barbara Chapman-2nd V. President, Susan Lordan-President. **Absent:** Alice Tucker-1st V. President

GREATER BELLEAIR

YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY They held their installation of officers in May at their final general meeting of the 2011-2012 society year. New officers for the upcoming 2012-2013 society year are President, Joann (Jodi) Martino; VP, Barbara Hoskinson; Recording Secretary, Gerri Fortino; Treasurer, Debbie Halvorson; Corresponding Secretary, Terri Roberts, and Parliamentarian, Kinnear Smith.

The club is in recess for the summer. However, some ongoing group activities such as Canasta, Bunko, knitting, duplicate bridge and Scrabble will continue to meet at their previously scheduled times. Event planning for the 2012-2013 year has already begun. The "Welcome Back" September general meeting will be held Sept 6 beginning with a 6pm social hour followed by dinner at 7pm. The location will be announced later in the summer. This is always a well-attended meeting with a true social theme and focus as members returning from vacations and trips are anxious to share travel stories and renew friendships with other members. If you would like to attend a meeting, have questions, or would like to know more about the organization, visit our website at www.GBYWS.org or call Ruth Ann, Membership 446-6463.

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. Call Vi Swift at 586-1691 for information.

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Organizational News...

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 They are busy typing their new directory. It will be distributed to all town residents in early 2013. They want all the information to be current and reflect the wishes of residents. Your help is urgently needed. If you were listed in the 2011-2012 directory, please review your information, and send all corrections to: Belleair Civic Association, 901 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756 or email it to belleairdirectory2012@gmail.com. Condo residents and new Belleair residents, they especially need to hear from you. How do you want your information to appear? Do you want your phone number listed or unlisted? Here's a sample of how a listing would appear: Smith, John and Mary, 111 Happy Day Drive.....121-6589. 142 residents have joined the Belleair Civic Association for 2012. They do not need to respond to the information request. This directory is published every two years, but membership dues are paid yearly. Membership applications were included in your January/February water bills. Please send your application and \$15 check to BCA in care of Town of Belleair. If you need an application, they are available at town hall. Or, simply write your name, address, and phone number on a sheet of paper as you would like it written in the new directory, and include your \$15 check written to the Belleair Civic Association, and mail it to the address above. Membership dollars go to support recreational activities which benefit Belleair residents.

BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB The Belleair Rotary is delivering Bicycles for reading. Since 2006, they have been sponsoring a reading contest to encourage kids attending Belleair Elementary School. The Rotary buys books and students check them out of the school Library. They log their reading into a computer and count the words. This year, the kids read over 34 million words. The Rotary awarded five students new bicycles and helmets.



The Rotary also sponsored the Wine and Tapas event at the Largo Cultural Center. It was a huge success with over 250 people in attendance and raising over \$25,000. Anna Marie Schweitzer has been elected the new president for 2012-2013 and will be sworn in at their annual meeting June 30th.

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of every month is the general assembly and Board meeting. The remaining meetings in June are 21st and th. They have events throughout the year and proceeds benefit many local charities.

Proceeds benefit their many charities, including Belleair Elementary (Bicycles for Reading, Adopt a classroom), Upper Pinellas UPARC, the Salvation Army, Polio Eradication, the Rotary Foundation and other local causes.

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CARE WITH THE BUDGET

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel

It's difficult to believe, but Pinellas County is now planning for the 2013 fiscal year budget which will begin October 1 of this year. While 2013 may sound as futuristic as the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey was when it premiered, the financial realities we face are challenging and numerous.

With a population of more than 900,000 residents, your county government has a responsibility to provide critical services to keep residents, commerce and industry running. Law enforcement has to be provided. Smooth roads. Clean drinking water. Emergency medical services. Parks and green space in Florida's most densely populated county.

While providing these services at the best possible value to our residents has always been challenging, the country's recent financial crisis has made this a daunting task.

To help balance the budget, Pinellas County has made significant reductions in staffing over the past five years. The staffing level for departments under the Board of County Commissioners is about the same now as it was in 1985, when the population was nearly 820,000.

Efficiencies are being realized through the consolidation of departments and organizational streamlining, as evidenced by the recent merger of Utilities and Public Works into the Department of Environment and Infrastructure.

Yet, even with these cost-saving measures, the county is still



facing a deficit of nearly \$12 million as we plan for fiscal year 2013. How will we meet this challenge? Your county is taking another hard look at where we can realize further efficiencies.

One example is with the 9-1-1 call center. As it stands now, when someone calls 9-1-1 seeking assistance, their call is taken by an operator in the county's call center. If this call is a request for emergency medical or fire assistance, there is one system in place to dispatch those assets. If the request is for law enforcement, the call needs to be transferred to a separate dispatch center located within each police department or the Sheriff's Office to bring that help to bear. A proposed consolidation of these services would greatly reduce response times and make the process much more streamlined.

While these kinds of initiatives will help reduce spending, we are being hit with additional costs which are being passed on by the state legislature to the county level. A recent change in the way Medicaid is being billed passes nearly \$20 million each year of additional expenses to Pinellas County residents. Additional cost-shifting bills being considered in Tallahassee have the potential to push millions of more dollars to the county's budget ... the same budget that is already strained providing local services.

While these challenges are not insurmountable, Pinellas County is seeking your help. We want to hear your comments and suggestions. Visit pinellascounty.org/budget to find out more about the budget process and to have your say in the county's future. Your suggestions and recommendations will help guide the conversation about how we will meet these challenges.

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Robert Young

AREA SUMMER CAMPS

THE BELLEAIR RECREATION DEPARTMENT For children ages 6-12, morning youth camp is from 9am to noon offering a unique variety of summer camp activities, games, challenges and wacky competitions with the emphasis on safety, relationship building and FUN. In addition to morning camp, they offer afternoon specialty camps that go from 1-4pm including Sandlot, Art, Soccer, Creative Cooking, Girls Only, Football, Wild Boys, Dance, Mad Science, Volleyball, Hoop School and Ninja. For more information, call 518-3728. or visit belleairrec.com.

TENNIS CAMPS FOR KIDS July 16-20 at 9am each morning. Sponsored by Belleair Rec. Call Gail O'Connor at 804-1130 for more information.

RHYTHM OF AFRICA SPECIALTY CAMP at Belleair Rec. Joining them from Tanzania, Africa, Msafiri Zawose will be teaching this culturally rich and unique program July 16- 20, from 1 to 4pm. This hands-on camp will submerge the children in the Tanzanian and Swahili cultures, with music, tribal dances, drumming, instrument making, storytelling and more! They have limited spots available, so register early for this once in a lifetime opportunity! For more information, call 518-3728.

JEWELRY MAKING CAMP (June 25-29) will be offered to ages 8-15 at the Largo Community Center (400 Alternate Keene Rd, Largo 33771). Children will learn how to accessorize outfits using their own handmade jewelry. From bracelets and anklets, to necklaces and earrings, campers will spend the week making one of a kind fashions for themselves or to give as gifts. Cost is \$80 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. (727)518-3125

SUMMER CAMP AT HERITAGE VILLAGE (June 20-29) Heritage Village is offering a Passport Adventures program for children 4-11. The two-hour sessions begin at 10am, Wednesday through Friday, June 20 to 29 and July 11 to August 10. The cost is \$3 per child. Space is limited and reservations are required. The camp will be lead by teenage docents between the ages of 12 and 17. Children will learn how early homesteaders, fishermen and sailors lived and worked. They will learn songs, make toys and have other hands on activities. Other summer camps, recreation centers, church groups and others are invited to reserve space. Call 582-2125 for more information.

CRAFT RECYCLING CAMP (June 18-22) will teach children how to be "green" by making arts and crafts out of everyday, recyclable items. Campers will make a jean purse, stained glass jars, shadow boxes, placemats and more. Cost is \$65 for residents and \$81.25 for non-residents. Camp will be held at the Southwest Recreation Complex (13120 Vonn Rd, Largo (727)518-3125).

FINE ARTS CAMPS for ages 7-11 at the Largo Community Center. Fine Arts Camp I (July 9-13) will explore different methods of using clay to create unique pieces of art. Fine Arts Camp II (July 16-20) will jump into the world of mosaics as campers design creative and colorful works. Cost is \$76 per camp for residents and \$95 per camp for nonresidents. (727)518-3125

KREATIVE KIDS SUMMER CAMP at the Beach Art Center will offer seven weeks of half-day morning and afternoon art camps tailored for children 5 to 18 years. The classes are Monday - Friday 9am to noon and 1 to 4pm. Registration is by the week, for morning or afternoon, one week or all seven. The cost is \$80 for a week of half-day camp session. Call 596-4331 for information.

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IRB BOAT CLUB

Members of the Boat Club went to Caladesi for an afternoon in June, just one of many events planned for 2012. Shown here at a meeting, are members Jerry Newton and Kevin Hall with recent speaker Jim R. Simons, President Florida Gulf Coast Center For Fishing Foundation.



MEETINGS - They meet at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is June 20th at 6pm with speaker Terry Tomalin outdoor writer for the Tampa Bay Times. There will be no meetings July and August, because everyone is too busy boating, but they will still have boating events!

NEXT EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

- July 4th: Island Party prior to Clearwater Fireworks
- August 12: Island Party at Three Rooker
- September 1: Gulfport for Gekofest
- September 22: End of Summer Island Party
- September 30: Clearwater Beach Boat Races



See the complete list of Boat Club events, pictures and more at IRBHome.com or follow us on Facebook.com/IRBhomeowners.

Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or email BoatClub@IRBhome.com.

JOIN THE YACHT CLUB

Even if you don't have a boat, you can join the Clearwater Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach. Half of their members don't have a boat. Most of their social activities center around on land parties. Friday Night is their dance night. June 23rd they have a Reggae Party and July 21st is their Annual Dinghy Poker Run. Many events are held at their in house restaurant or the Tiki Bar out back. Learn more about the Clearwater Yacht Club at www.Clwyc.org. Send an email to Communications@CLWYC.org or call 447-6000.

REDISTRICTING CHANGES

With the recent 2010 Census, Florida had to redraw the lines that define our districts for the State House and Senate plus the U.S. House and Senate. The final lines have been approved, and you will notice some changes.

STATE HOUSE: The area along the beaches, currently represented by Jim Frische, will be cut in half. All the Belleair cities will be in District 66. The district runs from Clearwater Beach to the south end of Indian Shores. It travels inland to Alt 19 (Largo Mall), and includes the west side of Largo. The Redingtons are in another district. Jim Frische has been the State Representative for District 66, but he is running for the Senate.

STATE SENATE: North Pinellas and south Pinellas have been split into two districts. Clearwater, Sand Key, Belleair Bluffs, the Town of Belleair and Largo are in District 17. Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks, all the beaches south and Seminole are in District 22. Dennis Jones has been the Senator for this area, but he is retiring.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE THE SHERIFF'S WIFE?

by Lauralee G. Westine, Esq - Sheriff Bob Gualtieri's wife

When I met Bob in 1994, I had no idea that 18 years later I would be the Sheriff's wife, a full time mom and lawyer, and helping run an election campaign for Sheriff.

Bob and I met during the summer of 1994, while I was a law clerk at the US Attorney's Office and he was a narcotics detective with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) working with the DEA task force. Bob's specialty was wiretaps. He was handsome, smart, and hardworking. After my house was broken into, I decided I was going to buy a gun. Wisely, Bob thought I should learn gun safety and how to shoot first and took me to the firing range at Bill Jackson's. That night he asked me to dinner and we were married on February 28, 1998.



Bob grew up surrounded by a family of attorneys and judges. The question wasn't if he was going to go to law school, but when. Bob and I devised what came to be known as our "five year plan". Bob graduated from Eckerd College with High Honors and then from Stetson College of Law in 2002 Cum Laude.

After graduation, Bob accepted a job with Ford & Harrison, a national employment law firm. Bob excelled at Ford & Harrison, but our family was always Bob's first priority. 2003 through 2005 were rough years for us as a family. I lost several pregnancies and when pregnant again, was placed in Morton Plant on bed rest to protect the baby. In addition to working full time, having two high school girls and two dogs at home, Bob visited me in the hospital every night. As a result, his usual 12 hour days, became 15 plus hour days. He never complained.

Four months after Lauren was born prematurely, but healthy, Bob and I were at the Tampa Airport on the tarmac when his phone rang. Sheriff Jim Coats was on the line and asked if Bob would return to PCSO as General Counsel. Without hesitation, Bob said yes. Bob had essentially grown up within the Sheriff's Office and was still "a cop at heart." Bob started as a detention deputy with the Sheriff's Office. He was then hired by the Dunedin Police Department. In 1984, Bob was hired as a Deputy Sheriff. Upon the Chief Deputy's retirement, Sheriff Coats asked Bob if he would also take on the day to day operations of the Agency as Chief Deputy, in addition to General Counsel. When Sheriff Coats retired early, the Governor appointed Bob to fill the balance of the term.

Bob is an avid sports fan, but we don't have much free time these days. We like to attend Bucs, Rays, and Lightning games. Our 6 year old, Lauren, swims on a team year round, so we spend lots of time pool side. You can also find Bob on weekend nights and holidays working patrol.

I am very proud of Bob and all he has accomplished—personally and professionally. He is not one to brag about himself or his accomplishments. He is too busy moving on to his next challenge.

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