



The Hurricane of 1921



Downtown St. Petersburg after the Hurricane of 1921. Photo courtesy of the St. Petersburg Historical Society

In late October of 1921, towards the end of hurricane season, although no one called it a season then, the storm made landfall. There were no televisions to issue weather warnings. Early radio stations only reported the news of the day, after it happened. The area residents were surprised by the area's first hurricane since the 'Gale of 1848'.

The storm took a typical late fall storm course. It formed in the western Caribbean, moved west of Cuba and curved toward the Florida peninsula. By October 24th, the storm had strengthened to a category 4 with winds of 140 MPH. Fortunately, when it made landfall between Clearwater Beach and Tarpon Springs, a day later, it had weakened to a category 2, with winds between 80 and 90 MPH.

A Clearwater eye witness recalled experiencing the high winds, when suddenly, the winds stopped. "I went outside and there were no winds. The sky was blue. Then, all of a sudden, they started again, from the other direction." The eye of the hurricane had passed over north Clearwater. The hurricane created near-tidal-like waves from the Gulf. Because the circulation is counterclockwise, when passing over Clearwater, the winds pushed most of the tidal surge onto lower Pinellas, before it entered Tampa Bay.

"I was only three, but I had experienced my first hurricane," recalls resident, Lloyd Phillips. "The roof blew off our house and many of our neighbors' houses were badly damaged. Older people said that it was the worst storm they had experienced since 1848."

The storm caused \$10 million dollars in damage, which is the equivalent to \$122 million today. Agricultural alone lost over \$1 million. There were 10 deaths, 7 of which were people never found. Every bridge in the area, except for the smaller, turn-style bridge located in Indian Rocks Beach,

was damaged or destroyed. The newly built Clearwater Beach bridge, just four years old, was severely damaged.

Before the storm, Caladesi Island and Honeymoon Island were connected. The hurricane cut the island in half, creating today's 'Hurricane Pass'. To the south, it also created a pass at Passage Key and another at the north end of Longboat Key.

The next morning the St Petersburg Times' headline read, "Tropical Storm Sweeps City...Pass-A-Grille Wiped Out." The paper reported the island was flooded and up to 150 people were dead. Actually, the bridge connecting them to the mainland had been destroyed, the island up to 8 feet of water, but no one died. The newspaper later corrected their report with the headline "No Lives Lost At Pass-A-Grille."

The damage in downtown St Petersburg was extensive. The city's waterfront was littered with the remains of disabled boats. All four piers that had extended from the waterfront were destroyed, including the Steamship Pier and the Recreation Pier, one of the city's main attractions.

Back then, the county was covered with citrus groves. When the storm hit, the mature fruit was just about to be picked. It was estimated that 50 to 60% of the crop was destroyed

With rainfall in nearby Tampa measuring 8 to 9 inches and a storm surge of 10 to 12 feet, there was massive flooding. Three people there died from drowning or flying debris.

1921 was also the beginning of a major land boom in Florida. Speculators and developers were afraid the hurricane news would spread to the north, stopping the housing momentum. Because of that, developers and business owners immediately began the clean up. A campaign to rebuild a new 'million dollar pier' started quickly. The pier reopened in 1926. They did not start naming hurricanes until 1950, so residents began to refer to this hurricane by its year, 1921, which continues today.

There have been other hurricanes since 1921. We had near misses in 1944, 1946, 1950, Donna (1960), Betsy (1965), Alma (1966), Gladys (1968), Agnes (1972), Elena (1985) and in 2004 with Frances and Jeanne. The hurricane of 1921 though, was the last major hurricane to directly hit Pinellas County. That was 89 years ago.

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

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BeachNewsletters.com

We'd like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Tell us what you think at

bob@griffindirectories.com

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CLEARWATER BEACH

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER.

This is our fourth issue of the Clearwater Beach Neighborhood Newsletter. This newsletter has been warmly received by our readers and our advertisers. Notice this issue has expanded from 24 to 32 pages. We produce similar newsletters in four other cities, but this is the only one with 32 pages. With the addition of 8 new pages comes the opportunity to provide more information and stories.

Beginning with this issue, we are now publishing this newsletter six times a year, instead of four. Look for it again in mid-October.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Our goal is to bring you fun information, with local news, special events and a touch of history. We call it a "Neighborhood Newsletter" because it is about Clearwater Beach, your neighborhood. It is mailed to about 5,000 households and includes Island Estates and Sand Key.

We want your input. How do you like this issue? Do you have suggestions or ideas for future issues?

Call or email us,
Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!

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2010 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

AUGUST

Trim Notices Mailed 10
Public School Begins 24
Primary Elections 24

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day 6
Poker Run Indian Rocks 11
Morton Plant 5k Run 11
American Sailing Assn 11-16
Buc's First Game 12
Grandparents Day 12
Yom Kippur 18
Columbia Restaurant Anniversary 19
Sand Key Triathlon 19
Autumn Begins 23
Taste of Clearwater 23

OCTOBER

Off Shore Power Boat Races 1-3

Fire Prevention Week 3-9
Fire Prevention Open House (Sat) 9
Hispanic Heritage Fest - Coachman 10
Columbus Day 11
Clearwater Jazz 14-17
Stone Crab Season Begins 15
Coastal Clean Up 16
Clearwater Jazz Art N Walk 16-17
Farmer's Market Opens 20
Country Jubilee Heritage Village 23
Breast Cancer Awareness Walk 28-30
Halloween Carnival Rec Center 28
Johns Pass Seafood Fest 30-31
Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31
Halloween - Sunday 31
Boo Bash at Brighthouse Field 31
Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

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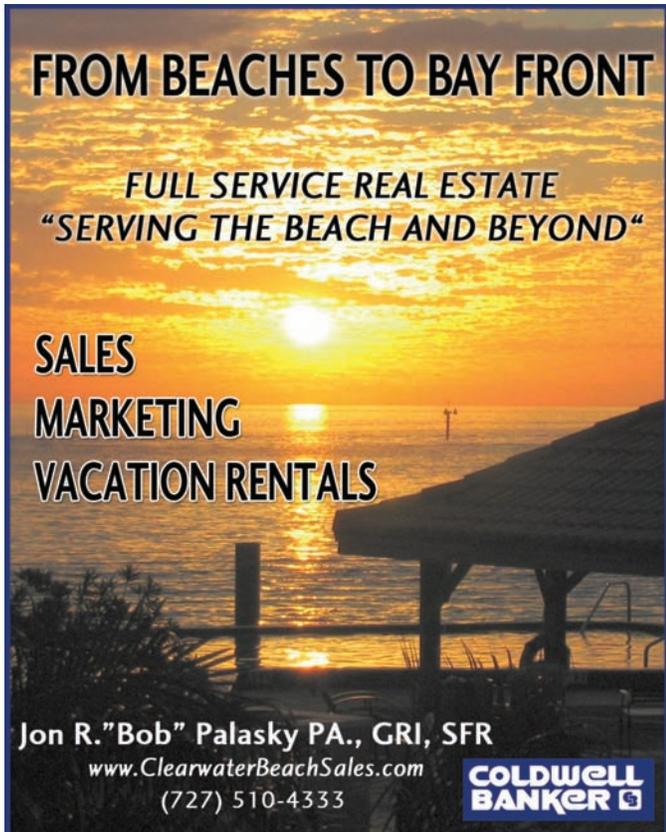
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Did You Know...



Photo by Bob Griffin

OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACES RETURN

Frank Chivas, owner of Bay Star Restaurants including Island Way Grill, is once again planning the Oct. 1 - 3 racing week-end. Enjoy a concert and see the boats up close in Coachman Park on Friday. There will be

two races on Sunday. The smaller boats race at 11am, and the larger boats at 1pm. The starting and ending point is opposite the Sand Pearl Resort. The Pier is a great place to see the south turn. The Beach Chamber will be selling VIP tickets, for \$100, for use during the festival, such as VIP seating at the Concert, VIP viewing stations, and entrance to all parties. For information visit ClearwaterSuperBoat.com.

LIGHTED BUOYS The City is installing three lighted buoys, adjacent to the Clearwater Pass Jetty. The 14-inch buoys costing \$1,500 each, will have quick flashing, white lights. In the past, several citizens have suggested this, but interest in the project heightened after a boat hit a similar jetty near Albert Whitted airport, and a young girl died. It has to be state permitted before installation.

ID IS NEEDED TO RETURN AFTER EVACUATION To re-enter Clearwater Beach, after a mandatory evacuation, each resident is required to show a Florida Driver's license or ID with a Clearwater Beach address. If you are a part-time resident, and your ID lists a different address, you won't be allowed back on the island until the emergency is past. This is to help keep damaged homes secure and prevent looting. For more information on what you need to do, call Rick Carnley, City Emergency Coordinator at 562-4891.

NEWS WANTED If you have news or ideas for this newsletter, send them to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com, call 517-1997.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

is October 3rd-9th. This year's theme is smoke alarm importance. Everyone should maintain their smoke alarm systems. If your alarm is more than 10 years old, it needs to be replaced. Clearwater Fire and Rescue offers free smoke alarms for Clearwater residents. Call 562-4327 for more information on that. An open House is being held at two beach fire stations (#44 and #46), Saturday, October 9th. This is a great opportunity to meet the Clearwater Fire and Rescue workers.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS OCTOBER Read this, as well as other issues, online at BeachNewsletters.com. This publication survives on local advertising. Please support the people advertising here.



CHapel BY-THE-SEA
 Clearwater Beach Community Church

Traditional Service

10:30am - More Traditional Services in the sanctuary with special music by the choir.

Coach Pick-up Service available for 10:30am service. Call to make arrangements.

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CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY Now in its 31st year, this year's event is October 14 - 17. Once again it will showcase some of jazz's finest talents. This year's poster, shown here, was designed by artist Lorraine Potocki. It will be on sale during the event. In conjunction with the Jazz Holiday there will be the Jazz 'N Art Sale Oct. 16-17 held on Cleveland Street, 10am-5pm. The art show will feature fine art of different mediums. JazzArtWalk.com



FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT Clearwater Community Sailing Center's Carlisle room and veranda, with some of best views of Clearwater Harbor, are available to rent for your next function. All areas are ADA accessible. Weekend and holiday rates are \$1400, plus tax. Weekday rates are \$950, plus tax. Rates includes up to six hours of rental use, table and chair setup/teardown and cleaning fee. You can also rent by the hour.

CUT-A-THON TO SUPPORT CITY OF HOPE Thursday, September 30th from 3-8pm, Sharmaines Salon and Day Spa, on Mandalay Ave. in the Pelican Walk Plaza, will be offering clients a \$30 Shampoo, Haircut and Style along with a gift bag and chance to win a raffle plus a drawing for prizes. This national event is part of Redken's 50th Anniversary celebration. All proceeds will benefit City of Hope, a biomedical research and treatment center dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. For information, call owner Lori Fudens, 447-2025.

GULF BLVD BEAUTIFICATION CONFIRMED In June, the County Commissioners confirmed the long awaited \$35 million beautification project. Possibly, as soon as 2011, the beach communities will begin receiving money to improve their parts of Gulf Blvd by undergrounding utility lines, adding pedestrian crosswalks, new signs and landscaping.

NEED ANOTHER COPY? Pick up an extra copy of this newsletter at the Beach Chamber Office, area banks, real estate offices, Sand Key EZ Mart & Island Estates UPS Store.

FARMER'S MARKET RETURNS
The popular downtown Clearwater Farmer's Market, in the 500 block of Cleveland, reopens Wednesday, October 20th and will continue every Wednesday until Spring. Get farm fresh produce, gourmet foods and cheeses, fresh seafood and baked goods, plants & herbs, organic products, jewelry, crafts and more. There is free parking in Station Square Park. ClearwaterFarmersMarket.com.



BEACH CHAMBER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Most of the people working in the Beach Walk office are actually volunteers, and they need more. If you can help, please call the Chamber office at 447-7600 for more information.

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THE OIL SPILL'S EFFECT ON CLEARWATER BEACH ACCOMMODATIONS

Visit Florida, the state's tourism department, received \$28 million dollars from BP to promote our state's clean beaches, to offset the financial damage the oil spill is causing to Florida's tourism industry.

The Pinellas Convention & Visitors Bureau received \$1.15 million in June, which doubled their summer marketing budget. "We have not had any oil within hundreds of miles of our beaches," says D.T. Minich, Director of the Visit St Petersburg / Clearwater tourism authority. "But the perceptions are the problem. Several conventions and a major volleyball tournament, scheduled for this fall, canceled over fears that the beaches will be polluted then. They are concerned about buying non-refundable plane tickets to a place where there may have a problem."

How is the threat of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico affecting Clearwater Beach accommodations? We asked some of them:

The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce receives calls daily from people looking for accommodations, restaurants and things to do. Executive Director Darlene Kole, says, "Lately, there have been less calls asking about oil on our beach. We tell them our beach is oil free and encourage them to look our web site, www.BeachChamber.com." On the web site, there is a link to an underwater video taken near Clearwater Beach, showing clear water. The video, filmed by a USF professor, is updated every 3 to 4 days.

Sheraton Sand Key has 340 rooms in Sand Key. "We have really felt the effects in our convention bookings," says Jack Guy, Director of Sales. "There has been a noticeable fall off in future group business activity. Planners are looking elsewhere. They may be going to Atlanta, San Antonio or San Diego, we don't know. When we talk to them, they say they will talk to us in 2012, after we see what happens."



Belloise Realty who owns Florida Vacation Rentals, on Baymont Street, manages about 50 beach condos, town homes and houses. Owner Pat Belloise says, "everyone who calls asks about the oil, but we have had no cancellations. The farther away the caller is, the more misinformed they are. We have no cancellation policy. You are not entitled to a refund if you cancel. However, we tell everyone if oil is here while they are, we will give them a full refund."

Florida Beach Rentals, located on Mandalay Avenue, manages over 180 Pinellas vacation rentals, many of which are on Clearwater Beach. "Most of our guests booked their vacations before the April 20th explosion," says Mark Keinath, office manager. "Many pre-booked guests are calling and asking about their deposits. We had to offer an oil spill guarantee. If the beaches are closed, they will get their money back. If oil arrives while they are here, they will get part of your money back. Our June sales were way up. Labor Day is usually a local holiday with people coming from Tampa or Lakeland, and only staying 3-4 days. Those people know the true condition of our beaches. We are basically doing three things - educating, reassuring and holding their hands."

THE OIL SPILL'S EFFECT Continued

Ebb Tide Suites, located on Bay Esplanade, has 29 rooms. Owner Marysia Coats says "We felt the effects by the third week of May. Now, we are not seeing many cancellations, but we are seeing less bookings. We don't know how many people going somewhere else. A Kentucky couple's best friends told them they were crazy to go to Clearwater Beach since the beach was covered in oil. Our Labor day looks terrible. Who knows how fall and winter will be."

The Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort opened in February on Beach Walk, with 250 rooms. "The oil spill has not really affected us," says Nancy Longstreth, Director of Sales. "But since we just opened, we do not have last year to compare to. We do not cater to the convention market, so we are not losing that business. We have experienced a few guest, previously planning to go to the panhandle, who changed their plans and came here instead, but it is a small percentage. Management is very happy with Clearwater Beach. We are way ahead of our projections here."

Belleair Beach Resort Macari Bishara, owner/manager of the 43 room resort, says they definitely have felt the Gulf oil spill effects. "We had some long-term rental cancellations, mostly in the 2-3 week duration. People who booked 2 to 3 months in advance canceled because the future was unknown," Bishara says. Many Europeans heard oil hit the Florida coast. They do not know Pensacola is a long way away. Many US citizens are misinformed, too. They think tar-balls are on our beaches. Bishara said, "Tourists flying here are the most concerned. Flights cannot be canceled or change without a penalty. We have not changed our cancellation policy, which requires a 3 week notice. I am concerned about our winter season. Labor Day week-end is only half-full. We are getting more next-day reservations. People call Thursday for the weekend. People, are already booked, are calling to ask about the condition of the beach."

This is an e-mail from a long time area vacationer: "We were scheduled to visit the week before Labor Day. But in light of the oil contamination, which is sure to hit that part of Florida in the next few weeks, we have decided not to come this year. It is very upsetting on all levels, about the sheer destruction of what this will do for years to come to the gulf coast and now maybe the east coast. On a personal level, I have never in 45 summers not walked that beautiful white sand and swam in that wonderful clear warm water. The thought of going elsewhere, has no appeal to me. I am sure I am not the only one." (Melissa Lakey, May 5, 2010.)

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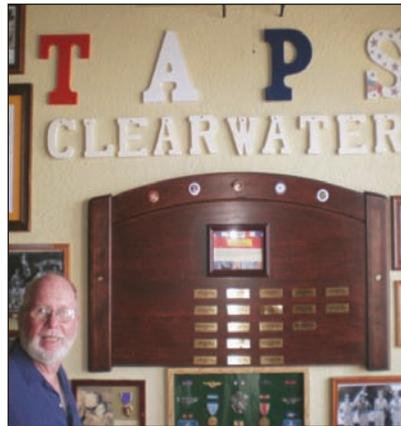
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Restaurant News...



TOMMY DUFF'S MEMORIAL TAPS standing for The American Patriot Salute is a new memorial recently installed near the front door of the Island Estates pub, Tommy Duff's, 126 Island Way, near Publix. The memorial honors Clearwater residents who have lost their lives in America's wars.

The idea began years ago when a woman asked Tommy to display a photo of her grandfather, a Royal Air Force bomber pilot, who was killed in World War II. The memorial includes several small brass plaques bearing the names of Clearwater residents who perished in past wars. It includes 20 Vietnam Veterans and 2 Iraq war veterans. Duff is developing a list World War II and Korea residents, now. Tommy Duff also encourages locals to bring in photos of service men and women prior to military holidays, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day.

GUPPY'S IN INDIAN ROCKS CLOSING FOR REMODELING They will be closed Tuesday September 7th through Sunday September 12th for painting and a few other things. They reopen Monday September 13th.

THE BROWN BOXER PUB & GRILL, a new sports bar, has opened in Clearwater Beach at 483 Mandalay Avenue, in the Pelican Plaza's old Outback Steak House location. Wonder why they named it Brown Boxer? It is in honor of owner Jay's dog, Hoot, a brown boxer. In addition to a full bar and complete menu, they have 20 flat screen TV's, all DirecTV sports packages, pool tables, and inside or patio dining. Enjoy their daily Happy Hour specials and more than 50 bottled beers. visit TheBrownBoxer.com or call 441-6000 or for more information.

CEVICHE TAPAS BAR recently opened at 2930 Gulf-to-Bay in Clearwater. They moved into Tio Pepe's location. There are several other Ceviche Tapas Restaurants in the Tampa Bay area, including one in downtown St Petersburg

BREWMASTER'S NAME CHANGE The owners have changed the name of Indian Rocks Beach's Brewmasters Steakhouse Restaurant to Marker 34 Grill. With that came a full remodel and a completely new menu

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Shephard's Waterfront Restaurant brings together a memorable dining experience with the relaxing sunsets of Clearwater Beach. From the raw bar to hand rolled sushi and all the dishes in between, it is considered one of Tampa Bay's best buffets with the largest selection of fresh seasonal fish, succulent prime rib and delectable crab legs.

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More Restaurant News...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, THE COLUMBIA RESTAURANT IS 105 YEARS OLD

The Columbia Restaurant will be 105 years old September 19th. Of course the Sand Key restaurant is not that old, it is the anniversary of their original Tampa location. To celebrate, on that Sunday they will charge the 1905 prices. They are planning a special menu for that day only, including 5¢ coffee, \$2.95 chicken and yellow rice, \$1.95 for the Columbia Original 1905 salad and 95¢ Sangria. The celebration is from noon until 7pm and reservations will not be accepted. Call 596-8400 for information.



CLOSED:

FIVE FIVE ONE, Clearwater Beach, opened in January, has already closed.

BELLEAIR GRILL & WINE BAR, at 1575 So Ft Harrison

DIVINO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, at 22 North Ft Harrison.

TIO PEPE'S, at 2930 Gulf to Bay, after 20 years

JORGES RESTAURANT at 800 Clearwater Largo Road.

MY PLACE, 213 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach

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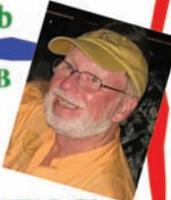
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Business Briefs...

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER,

In June, Darlene Kole replaced Sheila Cole at the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. With a small office on Beach Walk between McDonalds and Crabby Bill's Seafood, the Beach Chamber represents businesses and residents on or near Clearwater Beach. Darlene has a staff of four and a handful of volunteers.

Darlene grew up in Pinellas County and since 1971, has lived in Clearwater. She has a second home in Cashiers, NC, where she lived for a few years, when she owned an Antique Mall, and

managed special area events. She has been involved in the tourism industry, her entire adult life. For 14 years, she was the area sales person for See Magazine. In addition, she created the Taste of Clearwater and managed it for many years. "I love the tourism industry and look forward to working with the people and businesses of Clearwater Beach," Kole says. You can reach her at 447-7600.



BEACON WINS AWARDS In June, Tampa Bay Newspapers, who owns the Clearwater Beacon, won 11 awards in the Florida Press Association's 2009 Better Weekly Newspaper Contest. In an addition to an award for an article by Editor Alexandra Caldwell, the staff won an award for their annual "Welcome Back" section. Dan Smith, a local cartoonist, also won an award for his editorial cartoons.

DECKER ROSS INTERIORS

Marilyn Gambino recently joined the team at Decker Ross Interiors, as a lead design consultant. Marilyn's experience includes over nine years with JC White Office Interiors, as a commercial designer. Most recently she was with Robb & Stucky as a residential design consultant. Her expertise includes design and overall space planning for new construction as well as existing homes and buildings. When she's not creating beautiful surroundings for her clients, Marilyn enjoys faux finishing, floral design and art projects. Decker Ross is located at 1445 Court Street. Call 442-9996.



PINK POWER RANKS 3 Betty Furniss, a local Mary Kay Cosmetics rep, manages the annual Pink Power Walk. This year's event, held in April, raised \$11,000 and ranked third nationwide among all Mary Kay Foundation events. The proceeds benefit cancer research. This helped her receive the Humanitarian of the Year award in May by the CWB Chamber of Commerce. Next year's Pink Power Walk is April 16th.

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More Business Briefs...

BP OWNER FEELING THE PINCH TOO

Over the years, Steve Collins, and wife Lee, owners of the BP Station on Island Estates, have been through some trying business times. "I am just an independent businessman, who currently sells gas marketed by BP," says Collins. Since buying the service station in 1990, it has been a Chevron, Texaco, and Amaco. In 2000, it became a BP Station.



"It is a shame what has happened with BP and the oil in the Gulf of Mexico, but that has nothing to do with me and my business," says Collins. "We provide service to the people of Island Estates, Clearwater Beach and Sand Key. We service their cars. We sell tires, snacks, drinks and gas. Most of our clientele are smart enough to know we had nothing to do with the spill. They are sympathetic to our situation. "Yes, business is down, but it is more related to the economy, than any kind of boycott. Many of the condos in Clearwater Beach are empty. People are simply not here, thus there are fewer cars. I appreciate that my customers understand my situation with BP," Collins adds. "We are all in this together." Collins says he services about 20 cars daily. He is one of the only service stations near the beach.



SAVE TIME AND MONEY USING MY SHOPPING GENIE!!

I discovered this on line shopping application almost a year ago. Once I installed it (absolutely FREE!) on my computer, I began to SAVE TIME and MONEY. I just go to GOOGLE (or any major search engine), type in what I want to find, click on "Search", and in just a matter of seconds the Genie searches the entire internet, and brings up the the lowest price! I don't need to spend hours looking for the best deals on personal items, furniture, appliances, coupons in my zip code (there are millions of coupons on the internet!), or anything I might want to find.

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"WINTER" & CLEARWATER TO APPEAR ON THE BIG SCREEN

Clearwater Marine Aquarium has announced Warner Bros. based Alcon Entertainment has given the green light to Dolphin Tale. Inspired by the true story of "Winter" the dolphin, Dolphin Tale is about a young boy who befriends an injured dolphin who lost her tail after it was entangled in a crab trap line. Through their bond and friendship, the boy motivates everyone around him to help save the dolphin by creating a prosthetic tail to replace the dolphin's missing tail.



The rewards to Pinellas County and its residents will be felt, immediately. Filming on location will provide employment for local skilled workers. Restaurants, hotels and many other retail outlets will see increases in business as the cast and crew stay locally. After the film hits the theaters, Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Winter, the famous dolphin, will be known worldwide. As Winter's awareness grows, so will visitors to Clearwater Beach to meet her.

Casting is currently underway. Academy Award Winner Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick Jr. and Ashley Judd are in negotiations to star in "Dolphin Tale." However, two cast members have been announced. Winter, of course will play herself in the 3-D movie, and Abby Stone, Winter's head trainer. Abby will remain by Winter's side during the filming to direct her actions, reassure her and oversee her care. Winter's well-being will remain CMA's number one focus.

Co-founders and co-CEO's Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will produce the film with Richard Ingber, Alcon's President of Worldwide Marketing, who brought the project to the company. Steve Wegner and Robert Engelman will be executive producers. Charles Martin Smith (Air Bud and The Snow Walker) will direct from a script by Karen Janszen (A Walk to Remember) with revisions from Smith and Jordan Roberts (March of the Penguins). The script is based on an original treatment by Noam Dromi.

"We are very excited about doing this project and bringing Winter's extraordinary story to the big screen. We are committed to only filming wild dolphins in their natural habitat and the dolphins at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, whose motto is 'Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release'" stated Johnson and Kosove. Alcon's latest releases The Blind Side, starring Sandra Bullock, and The Book of Eli, starring Denzel Washington, have both been worldwide successes.

"We are excited to see Winter's inspiring story reach the big screen," said CMA CEO David Yates. "Alcon Entertainment and Warner Bros. are the perfect partner for this story, and we look forward to continuing to inspire millions of people around the world. Having someone with the experience and talents of Charles Martin Smith completes the team."

Visit www.SeeWinter.com for updates about Winter and Dolphin Tale filming, which is scheduled to begin by the end of September. Winter's story has become the most-watched animal story in recent years and we are excited to bring her story to life on the big screen.



FISHING AT ITS BEST!

WHAT IS SALTWATER INSHORE FLATS FISHING?

Here in Florida and many other coastal states, we have what is called, **inshore flats fishing**. This is generally saltwater fishing from smaller boats, 15 to 24 feet in length, with usually 1 to 4 fishermen onboard. Most of the fishing is done in protected waters along the shore, the passes, on inshore shallow water flats and back bays.



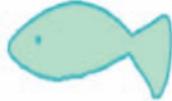
Clearwater inshore fishing areas, like others around the state, afford anglers the opportunity to catch big fish in shallow water. This can be done using all light tackle. The most popularly caught inshore flats fish are redfish, snook, tarpon and trout. If you catch all four kinds in the same day, that's considered a **Grand Slam**.

Now what's hot? Anchor up just outside the sand bar along both Clearwater and Dunedin beaches. You want to be able to cast into the swash channel. Snook, spotted in good numbers, in numerous areas, will be there until late September. What I do is, first toss out some chummers, then cast my baits in behind it. I have had good success with this method with several 30 inch fish caught by my customers.

That was my plan when Terry, a client of mine, joined me when we headed out to Dunedin beach. We caught a haft dozen trout, all around 15 inches, and several nice mackerel.

At the top of the tide, we set up on a shallow water flat inside the bay. Terry boated a nice 31 inch snook and two redfish up to 27 inches. We took a couple of pictures then quickly released them.

Thanks and Great Fishing!
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Inshore Flats Fishing Guide

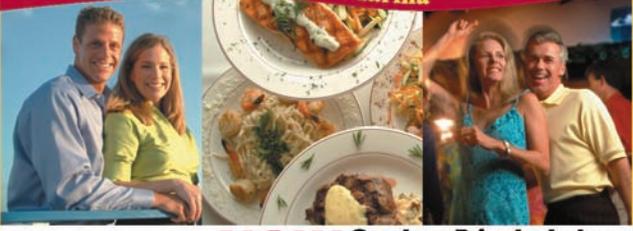
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HANDS ACROSS THE SANDS

On June 26, for the second time, thousands of people gathered along Clearwater Beach to stand along the water's edge, hold hands and protest off shore drilling. Everyone began arriving to Clearwater Beach around 11am, then right at noon, they and other people all over the world, joined hands for 15 minutes forming a line in the sand against oil drilling in our coastal waters. During the first event, in February, thousands of Floridians representing 60 towns and cities and over 90 beaches joined hands to protest the efforts by the Florida Legislature and the US Congress to lift the ban on oil drilling in the near and off Florida's shores. It was the largest gathering in the history of Florida united against oil drilling. While the movement started in Florida, by June it had gone international and had participants in over 30 countries. Since the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, more people have become aware of the offshore drilling's potential problems and want to get involved. Demonstrations were held in 860 locations worldwide. There will be another event next year, but the date has not been announced yet. Visit handsacrossthesand.com for more information.



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SKIES ARE ALWAYS BLUE AT CLEAR SKY BEACHSIDE CAFE

Restaurant Review by The Love Chef

On North Beach in front of the Sand Pearl Resort is a great addition to the beach restaurant scene. Your Love Chef wishes to tell all neighbors and locals that this fun, casual café, boasting an indoor and outdoor patio, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, is just too good to be enjoyed only by visitors to one of the world's most prestigious beaches. As an added attraction, there is free parking right outside.



Boys and girls, everything my well-trained neighbors say about Clear Sky Beachside Café is on the mark – GREAT FOOD! GREAT PRICES! A casual atmosphere and more!! The menu is one of the most diverse I have seen, and the owner Dan the driving force, retools things as needed.

Our appetizers started with crisp Calamari at \$9.95, which as my "Principessa" said, and I agreed, was some of the best we have eaten worldwide; trust me, she's tougher than me. The Mushroom Ravioli topped with Alfredo sauce, sun-dried tomatoes and basil pesto at \$8.95 and the Chicken Satay at \$8.95 per dish, rivals many I have had. A nice twist on scallops – Mojito Scallops at \$13.95, with rum, lime, mint sauce and sesame seaweed salad, were the freshest of fresh and great to share. Black and Bleu Fries at \$4.95, is a killer; blackened fries tossed with melted blue cheese drizzled with balsamic. Hello!

Let me share a SECRET! They have organic grass fed beef. A 12 oz. Rib Eye Steak at \$19.95 or an 8 oz. Sirloin Steak at \$15.95, are bargains. If you haven't experienced a cut

of beef from grass fed cattle, hop the trolley or drive on over. I recently enjoyed such a fabulous steak in Argentina and here's the same taste, and include two sides.

Yes, yes, they have Sesame Chicken at \$14.95; generous pieces of sautéed chicken served over stir fried veges. Drunken Shrimp Penne, a great combo of pasta was served with a rich vodka cream sauce at \$15.95. It was very satisfying and had great flavor.

You won't believe it, but they have a 12" pizza at \$10-\$12.95, not the make believe kind, but a real home-made crust, and also a variety of flat breads at \$6.99-\$9.95.

The "Principessa" loved the specially made Key Lime Pie at \$5.95. Their Apple Cinnamon Crumb Pie at \$5.95 that reminded me of my Aunt Ida's – soo delicious.

Weekends the line is out the door for breakfast/brunch, and after you have enjoyed Chef's home-made (not canned) Corned Beef Hash you'll see why.

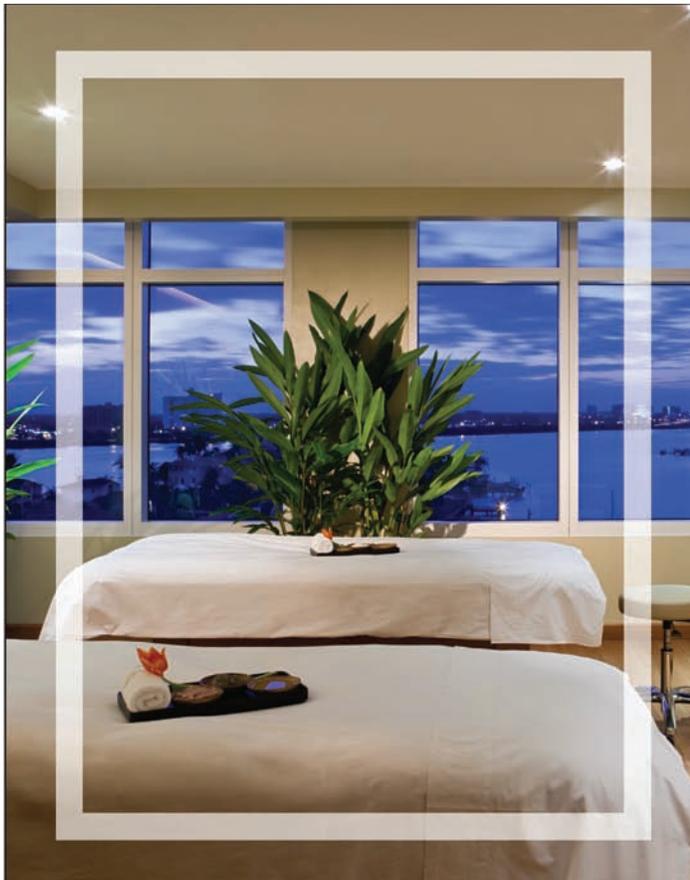
They have a GREAT BAR with seating indoors or out, a large selection of wines by the glass, and on Wednesdays ALL bottles are half off. Happy hour is 7 nights 2:30-6:30 pm and 11 pm - 1 am with most drinks are half price. Plus Monday - Friday pizzas, flat bread, bruschettas are 1/2 off. What a fab deal.

Clear Sky Beachside Café,
790 Mandalay Avenue,
Clearwater Beach, 442-3684
Open 7 days 8am to 1am.
Entertainment nightly.



Love Chef & owner Dan Shouvlín

Mr Anthony, a Sand Key Resident, is the author of many cookbooks and has appeared on local and national TV. You can find his books on Amazon.com. Visit his web site TheLoveChef.com. "Cooking With Love" and "The Love Chef" are registered trademarks.



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CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS WINNERS OF THE YEAR

At their annual awards banquet, The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce honored the following people. The event was held June 10th at the Sand Pearl Resort. Congratulations to all of this year's winners.

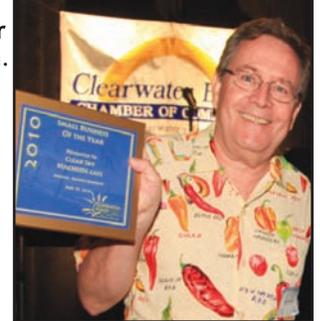
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Deborah Pauley, CEA Marketing
"I was so surprised when I heard my name called that I could hardly speak." Deborah has only been a member of the chamber for two years. The first year, she chaired the Special Events committee. This year she served on the Restaurant Week committee and is the Chairman of Membership. She is an account executive with CEA Marketing Group, a local advertising agency.



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**Clear Sky Beachside Cafe
Dan Shouvin, Managing Partner**
"I was very surprised that I won. When they called my name, I was in the hallway. Someone had to come and get me. I did not even know what I had won until I reached the podium. I took the plaque back to the restaurant and put it in a display cabinet near the front door. We were also honored to win 'Best Overall Experience' during the Chamber's Restaurant Week in May. We love being here in Clearwater Beach and being part of the Beach Chamber."



HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Betty Furniss, Mary Kay Cosmetics Representative
"Tommy Duff and I received this award last year, so getting it again in 2010 was very unexpected. On a whim, in 2007, we created the Pink Power Walk. Mary Kay Corp. did not even know we were doing it. The first year we only had 100 people. This year we raised over \$11,000 and were the third ranked #3 in fundraising for all of Mary Kay, nationwide. I want to thank everyone who participated this year."



LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium
David Yates, Executive Director**
"This award is awesome. We were surprised because there were so many other worthy organizations in the room. Of course, we could not do what we do without our team, our dedicated staff and our base of over 900 area volunteers. They are the ones who deserve this award."



SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Janet Mathews and John Cagle, Office Ambassadors at the Chamber of Commerce

An Ambassador for the Beach Chamber since October 2009, **Janet Mathews** lives at Clearwater's On Top of the World. A former office manager, she is also well traveled having visited Europe several times. Janet answered an ad to be an Ambassador because she wanted to volunteer her time with a worthwhile organization. The Chamber is proud and thankful to have Janet, with her knowledge, experience, personality and smile.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Bob Longenecker, Jolley Trolley
"The award was absolutely a big surprise. But there are other people who deserve most of this credit including my board of directors who have met weekly over the past year. I also appreciate my drivers who are the face of the trolley daily, plus my wife, Rose Mary. Together we all worked seven days a week to try and save the Jolley Trolley for Clearwater Beach. This award should have been called 'Citizens' of the year. We are truly touched by this award."



TOURISM PERSON OF THE YEAR

Russ Kimball, Sheraton Sand Key
"It was a great honor, to be recognized by my fellow peers in the tourism industry. But it is my staff that really deserves the credit." Kimball has been managing the Sheraton since it opened 35 years ago, and has served on the Pinellas Tourism Council for over 20 years.



John Cagle has been a Chamber Ambassador since December. A native of Florida, he lives on Clearwater Beach. As a dentist, he spent 22 years in the Navy's Dental Corp, before practicing locally for 25 years. Retired, he still donates his dental skills at a Clearwater homeless clinic. He likes volunteering with the Chamber because it lets him serve the community he loves. The Beach Chamber is privileged to have John's background, skills, personality and dedication.





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BUDGET DEFICIT Of a Different Kind

by Mary Campbell, Urban Sustainability Agent, Pinellas County Extension

Deficit spending is the amount of spending that exceeds income over a particular period of time. It is a term we hear all too often these days. Nature also has a budget. It can only produce so many resources and absorb so much waste every year.



So far this year, humanity has consumed about 40% more resources than nature can regenerate. This suggests that "business as usual" will not continue to work for us and the focus on a sustainable future is increasingly important.

When you overspend your budget, what do you do? You borrow on future income to offset that deficit. To offset nature's deficit we are liquidating the planet's resources, which will impact future generations. We now require 1.4 planets to support our global lifestyle, with countries like America exceeding 4 planets to support our current lifestyle. The result is our supply of natural resources continues to shrink, while our waste, primarily carbon dioxide, accumulates.

The world first went into a deficit in 1986. Before that, we

only consumed what the planet could regenerate in a year. The depletion of natural resources has been largely impacted by population growth and the changes in lifestyles worldwide. The more we understand the impacts due to our lifestyles, the better our decision-making can be about how we impact the planet.

Ways to reduce this deficit spending can be as simple as energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, and recycling. When we have the information to make better choices, the power of many people shifting to sustainable choices will have a huge impact.

Examples of this include the new technology of compact fluorescent bulbs that use 75% less energy, low-flow toilets and shower heads, solar water heaters, reusable water bottles and any way to make a smaller footprint.

Some changes will be easy and make good common sense and others will require improved technologies like alternative fuels and renewable energy. Our ability to reduce nature's budget deficit will rely on our will to be innovative and create a more sustainable future for the next generation.

If you would like to calculate your own footprint, there are on-line calculators available that also offer alternatives on shrinking your footprint. Your footprint is based on how you live: the size of your home, energy used, how you travel, the food you eat and the waste you create. Your footprint is broken down into four consumption categories: carbon (home energy use and transportation), food, housing, and goods and services

Ecological Footprint Calculators:
Earth Day Footprint Quiz <http://www.ecofoot.org/>
Redefining Progress <http://www.myfootprint.org/>

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SPECIAL EVENTS

August:

Sunset Cinema at Pier 60 Free Family Movies Fri & Sat.

August 20: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Black Pearl

August 21: Miracle

August 27: How to Train Your Dragon

August 28: The Creature from the Black Lagoon (3D)

Movies start at dark. Visit www.SunsetsatPier60.com or call 449-1036

September:

Taste of Clearwater Thursday, Sept. 23, 5 – 8 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall, 461-0011, x 223 clearwaterflorida.org
Tickets can be purchased at the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Beach Visitor Center and clearwaterflorida.org. All food and beverage samples are included with the price of admission.

October:

Clearwater Super Boat National Championship and Festival, Oct. 1 – 3, Various locations, Free, 480-6704, clearwatersuperboat.com. Some of the fastest powerboats in the world compete offshore.

Hispanic Heritage Festival, Oct. 10, Coachman Park, 562-4550, myclearwater.com. Featuring music by international performing artists, food and drink concessions, inflatable rides, exhibitors and more.

Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Oct. 14 – 17, Coachman Park, Free, 461-5200, clearwaterjazz.com. Featuring national performing artists.

Clearwater Jazz 'N Art Walk, Oct. 16 & 17, 10 am – 5 pm, 500 and 600 blocks Cleveland St. between Ft. Harrison and East Aves., Free, 461-5200, jazzartwalk.com. Fine art of different mediums for sale.

Boo Bash, Oct. 31, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, Bright House Field, Free, 467-4457, www.threshersbaseball.com. A safe community Halloween event including games, hayrides and a Haunted House.

HURRICANE NAMES & CATEGORIES

Beginning in 1954, hurricanes were given women's names. The first named storm was Alice. In 1979, a permanent six-year list of names was created alternating men and women's names. If a hurricane has a major impact, any country affected can request that the name be retired, meaning it cannot be reused for at least 10 years. We have 73 retired names.

This year we are reusing the name list we used in 2004, although four names are missing because they were retired after that devastating hurricane season. On this year's list Charley was replaced by Colin, Frances was replaced by Fiona, Ivan was replaced by Igor, and Jeanne was replaced by Julia.

Today, we compare hurricanes by their Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale Category, developed in 1967. Each Category is defined by a hurricane's intensity, and estimates the potential property damage and flooding expected during landfall. Wind speed is the primary factor, because storm surge is dependent on the shape and height of the coastline. There has been talk of adding a Category 6. Here are the Category Ratings:

Category	Wind Speed	Expected Surge
1	74-95	4-5 Feet
2	96-110	6-8 Feet
3	111-130	9-12 Feet
4	131-155	13-18 Feet
5	155+	18 Feet

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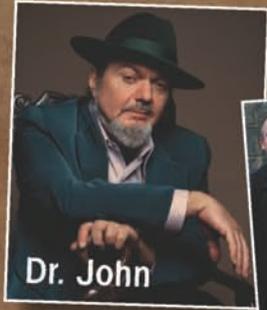
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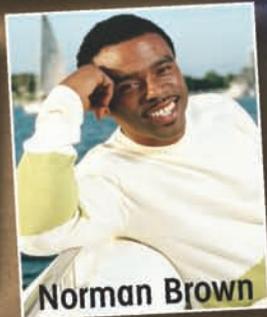
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This project was funded in part by the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department/Cultural Development Grant Program. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Do you remember...
THE OIL SPILL OF 1993?**

The oil disaster unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico is not the first one to threaten Pinellas Beaches. On August 10, 1993, around 6 am, three ships collided in the Gulf, west of the Skyway Bridge, leaving over 300,000 gallons of heavy oil and 33,000 gallons of jet fuel in the water. One ship caught fire and burned for 18 hours, adding a complexity to the rescue efforts.

Fortunately for Pinellas, the winds and tides cooperated for four days by pushing the oil temporarily northwest of our beaches. But that did not last. It did, however, give planners and responders, time to prepare.

When the oil finally came ashore, the black goo landed on a 13-mile stretch of our coastline. It resulted in oil on birds, sea turtles, mangroves, salt marshes, sea grasses, mud flats, oyster beds, bayside seawalls, miles of shoreline, and our sandy recreational beaches. Some of the oil sank, forming mats of submerged sediments in offshore depressions, and in Boca Ciega Bay.

Unfortunately, this happened when the Sea Turtles were ready to hatch. Luckily, only two sea turtles were reported dead, but over 2,000 were at risk. Volunteers worked around the clock to protect 96 threatened loggerhead nests. Over 1,500 hatchlings were intercepted and released at alternative sites. Two area nests were discovered covered in oil for a short period.

366 birds were reported to be oiled, injured or killed in the spill. Some died from ingestion and stress. Bulldozers removed over 40,000 cubic yards of sand from public beaches. Many St. Pete Beach hotels had to replace their carpeting when people left oily footprints in their lobbies

Oddly enough, the Tampa Bay area had just finalized the region's first Area Spill Contingency Plan (ACP) a month before, spelling out response protocols, equipment and personnel, while identifying natural resources and public areas needing protection. "We were better prepared than we thought, and we did a pretty darn good job responding," said Chris Rossbach, an environmental manager with the DEP, Bureau of Emergency response.

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IT'S TIME TO RECYCLE**

Summertime is phone book time! Thousands of phone books will be delivered to Pinellas County residents' doorsteps. Please recycle your old phone books, instead of throwing them in the trash. They can be placed in your weekly recycling container, or dropped into a



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Real Estate News...

COMPARING 2009 TO 2010 JAN. 1 TO AUG. 1

ISLAND ESTATES

Homes Sold		
2009	22	\$450,000 - \$1,480,000
2010	11	\$499,900 - \$2,150,000
Condos Sold		
2009	32	\$104,000 - \$680,000
2010	55	\$104,900 - \$715,000

CLEARWATER BEACH

Homes Sold		
2009	8	\$233,100 - \$1,600,000
2010	16	\$190,000 - \$2,150,000
Condos Sold		
2009	57	\$110,000 - \$1,710,000
2010	69	\$80,000 - \$1,825,000

SAND KEY

Homes Sold		
2009	19	\$217,500 - \$2,550,000
2010	22	\$235,000 - \$2,100,000
Condos Sold		
2009	88	\$169,000 - \$1,100,000
2010	85	\$160,000 - \$1,825,000

As you can see, in Island Estates and Clearwater Beach, 2010's highest sales price for homes and condos is higher than 2009's. The 2010 volume was also up, except for Island Estates home sales. On Sand Key, the highest home price in 2010 was lower than 2009, while the volume was slightly up. The highest condo price was up in 2010, with the volume slightly down.

What does all this mean? Real estate markets and their values are local in nature. When the media recently reported real estate sales volume had declined over the previous period, they were reflecting the national volume, not our local markets. Our country's economic recovery depends heavily on the recovery of the real estate industry, and although it is going to be a long, difficult recovery, our local markets have shown signs of strengthening.

Our area's pulse began to quicken in 2010, as the news of recovery spread, and buyers were in their comfort zone again. They felt confident about taking advantage of the low, low prices and interest rates. Then, we experienced a disaster of historic proportions with the Gulf of Mexico's BP oil well blow-out. We are very fortunate that our waters and beaches were not affected, however, when the media generalized news of Florida's beaches having oil, buyers hit the pause button again. Coincidence or not, since the well was capped, we are again seeing buyers returning to the market.

Over my past 32 years in the real estate profession, we have navigated many market cycles. Our area always has, and always will, rebound because it has so much to offer. Our beach community is a self-contained neighborhood with shopping, banking, restaurants and one of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Who wouldn't want to live here?

Joanne Hiller is the Broker/Owner of Island Estates Realty and Joanne Hiller & Associates. Visit her on the web at IslandEstatesRealty.com or call 727 460-5721.



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CHOOSING THE RIGHT FISH FOR DINNER

REEF FISH

Reef fish are made up of many different species of fish that live in or on a reef environment. These fish do not swim long distances, therefore their muscles are not constantly strained. The meat of these fish is always white in color, flaky and mild in flavor—in other words, not fishy tasting. Some common reef fish are:

Black Grouper — considered the “Best of the Groupers.” The filets are thicker than the more common Red Grouper and the meat is white, flaky and mild in flavor. They can commonly grow to 40 pounds.

Red Snapper — called the “Jewel of Reef Fish.” It is found mostly in deep water and is more plentiful off the Florida Panhandle than in south or middle Florida. The meat is similar to Black Grouper.

Hog Snapper — the most delicate of the reef fish, it is widely recognized as the best tasting seafood of all the reef species. It cannot be caught by hook and line and, as they only eat coral, fisherman must dive for them. They average from two to four pounds.

GAME FISH

Game fish are made up of many different species living in the open, deep water. They are constantly swimming in search of food, which causes their muscles to be strained. These fish are larger in size, therefore we are able to make steaks out of the filets. The color of the meat can vary from white to red depending on the species. Game fish have a fishier taste and a firmer consistency than reef fish. This is due to their overused muscles.

Some of the common game fish served in our area are:

Amberjack — sometimes called Gulf Tuna, is actually in the jack family. It is usually cut as a thick filet. Amberjack has tan flesh that is off-white when cooked. It is semi-mild in flavor and quite tender.

Cobia — looks like a big cat fish. It will usually be cut as a thick filet like Amberjack. It has off-white flesh that is white when cooked. Its consistency is like Amberjack but more mild in flavor. They commonly grow to 30 pounds.

Kingfish and Mackerel — a common name applied to a number of different species. They are an oily fish prized for their meat because it is quite tender and flavorful. Usually



cut as a filet, it has a gray flesh that is off-white to gray when cooked. Kingfish fillets may be quite thick.

Mahi Mahi — is a Hawaiian word that means “strong-strong” for dolphin fish. It is an exceptionally versatile fish, having firm, white meat and a delicate flavor, but because it is a skinny fish it will always be cut as a filet. Mahi has tan flesh that is off-white when cooked. It is not too firm, but is a very flavorful fish.

Salmon — is king when it comes to netting the health benefits of fish oil. They are born and bred in fresh water, but spend their life in saltwater. Salmon may be served as a steak or filet and has a flavorful, orange flesh.

Swordfish — is a highly recognized game fish. This is usually cut as a thick steak. The flesh is off-white to white when cooked and is tender and very flavorful.

Wahoo — a lean fish, it has very little fat, therefore it is firm and the flavor is not too strong (flavor comes from fat in any kind of fish or meat). It has off-white flesh that is white when cooked and is always cut in a steak.

Yellow Fin Tuna — one of the premier tunas is the “Black Angus of Tuna.” It will always be a steak cut. The flesh has a deep red color, which becomes brown when cooked. Tuna is eaten at cooking temperatures the same as a beef steak — medium, medium rare and rare.

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- 2 - 1 1/2 pound lobsters
- 2 shallots - diced
- 1/2 small onion
- 1 celery stalk
- 1 small carrot
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cups white wine
- 1/8 cup tomato paste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 4 ounces Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry
- 2 ounces brandy
- Chives or parsley to garnish



To cook the lobster and shrimp — Fill a large pot with enough water to cover the lobsters. Bring the water to a rapid boil. Grab the lobster behind the claws and drop into the boiling water head first. There is no need to remove the rubber bands from around the claws. They will not melt and will keep you safe from an angry lobster. Keep heat on high. Return to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer. Cook the lobster 8 to 10 minutes or until done (the shells will be bright red). Add the shrimp during the last 5 minutes. Remove from heat and plunge lobster and shrimp into cold water to stop the cooking process. DO NOT DISCARD THE BOILING WATER!

Making the shrimp lobster stock — Remove the meat from the shrimp and lobster (claws and tail), cut into bite-sized pieces and set aside. Break the lobster shells into smaller pieces. Cover the bottom of another stockpot with olive oil. Add shrimp and lobster shells, shallots, onion, celery and carrots to the olive oil. Sauté. Do not burn the shells. When vegetables begin to soften, add wine. Reduce the wine by leaving the pan on high. The alcohol will cook out and leave the flavor of the grape behind. During this process, the amount of the wine will evaporate slightly. After reduction is complete, add 5 cups of the reserved lobster water and tomato paste. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove large shells and strain the broth. Once the mixture is well strained, puree it in a blender or food processor to ensure smoothness.

Make the bisque — Return the strained, pureed stock to the stockpot. Add cream, sherry and brandy. Heat to a low simmer. Add salt and pepper to taste. To serve, ladle the bisque into a serving bowl. Add a few pieces of cooked lobster and shrimp, garnish with chopped chives or parsley.



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TURTLE SEASON CONTINUES

Loggerhead turtle season began May 1st. That means female turtles are appearing on our beaches to lay their eggs, nightly. The year's first nest was found May 23rd on Sunset Beach in Treasure Island. By the beginning of August, 111 nests had been found. In our area, who has the most?

Belleair Beach	4	Belleair Shores	18
Clearwater Beach	13	Sand Key Beach	7
Indian Rocks	14	Indian Shores	9

The Sunset Beach nest was also the first to hatch on July 21st with 86 Hatchlings making their way to the Gulf. By the beginning of August, 12 nests had hatched yielding 1108 hatchlings.

When the nests are ready to hatch, the nest is covered with a cage. Volunteers sit with the nest from 10 pm until 2 am. The cages are essential because we have so much beach development. The turtles emerge from the nest at night and head toward bright lights. The cage makes sure they do not head in the wrong direction, but make it to the water safely.

Our last nest will usually hatch by the end of October. Our area averages about 120 nests each year, with about 100 to 110 eggs in each nest. You can see a list of the nests, with the dates of their discovery and hatching, at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Web site, www.seewinter.com

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Pinellas County's Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center is located at 2855 109th Ave. N., off 28th Street North in St. Petersburg. For information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities or call (727) 464-7500.

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HELP WITH FACING FORECLOSURE

by Commission Vice-Chair Susan Latvala

You may have one in your neighborhood. They're popping up everywhere, adversely affecting property values, our tax base and the condition of our neighborhoods.

Abandoned foreclosed homes.

Currently there are more than 33,000 active foreclosures in the Pinellas-Pasco court system. As the trend continues, we are seeing more empty neighborhood homes, as lenders become burdened with a glut of homes they are unprepared to maintain and cannot sell in this economy.

A new program, the Foreclosure Mediation Program (www.jud6.org), was mandated by the Florida Supreme Court, and instituted locally by the Sixth Judicial Circuit, may help to reverse this downward spiral. It is a new service that will require lenders to sit down with homesteaded property owners facing foreclosure to discuss financial options.

When a lending institution files foreclosure papers with the courts, it will be required to pay an additional \$750 fee, which will provide for financial counseling for the homeowner and fund a mediator certified in mortgage foreclosure. Lenders will be required to meet with homeowners in good faith and sit down to discuss foreclosure alternatives, such as a modified loan payment schedule or a short sale of the property.

At best, both sides reach a compromise arrangement; homeowners stay in their homes and litigation is avoided. Should the lender's only option be to foreclosure, at least all



options will have been considered.

The Foreclosure Mediation Program is being coordinated locally by Mediation Managers Inc., a local nonprofit agency. Homeowners in foreclosure get a lot of unsolicited letters, phone calls and e-mails offering advice and foreclosure solutions. However, the letter or phone call from Mediation Managers offers legitimate help at no cost to the homeowner.

Be mindful about the amount of foreclosure fraud that is out. Mediation Managers Inc. offers a legitimate foreclosure prevention option, but other agencies may promise relief (in exchange for hefty, up-front fees) with no tangible results. Our Department of Justice and Consumer Services is conducting another Foreclosure Fraud Prevention Workshop Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Largo Library in Largo from 10 am to 2 pm to discuss foreclosure options. Learn about foreclosure fraud at the Department of Justice and Consumer Services website pinellascounty.org/foreclosure or (727) 464-6200.

The First Time Homebuyer's Program offered by Pinellas County is helping to fill empty or distressed properties by offering buyers low-interest home loans and down payment assistance in the form of a second mortgage. First time homebuyers, who meet income criteria, can get down payment assistance at 0 percent interest, deferred until the property is sold, transferred or refinanced. Details are available at pinellascounty.org/community/hfa or by calling (727) 464-8210.

As home values keep declining, foreclosures keep looming. As much as possible, our Florida courts and Pinellas County are trying to keep homeowners where they belong, and that's in their own homes

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Do you remember the first day of school each year? Picture yourself. You probably had new clothes, new shoes and you were proud. You looked in the mirror and you felt good about yourself. You fit in. This is not the case for many children in our community. Many families struggling to provide food and shelter cannot afford clothing for their children. Teachers tell us hundreds of children come to school wearing soiled or ripped clothes, clothes that don't fit and shoes that are too tight or too large. Some wear the same outfit every day.

Last year, based on Pinellas School's data, out of 108,086 students, 45% were considered at or below poverty level. Research indicates that many children without adequate clothing and shoes suffer from low self esteem, poor social skills and lack of concentration in school. The Clothes To Kids is eager to serve these students with a Back to School shopping experience.

In 2009, Clothes To Kids (CTK) provided 8,740 wardrobes to Pinellas school children, free of charge. In 2010, nearly 5,000 needy children have received wardrobes. From July until November, CTK will distribute 500 more wardrobes. To be eligible for free clothing, a child must be Kindergarten

- 12th grade, reside in Pinellas County and be considered to be in financial need. Children receiving free or reduced lunch through the school system automatically qualify.

Shopping at Clothes To Kids is a special experience. CTK is like a department store, designed to be bright and cheery with private dressing rooms. Clothes are arranged by size and type and mannequins are dressed in school appropriate clothing, creating a positive shopping experience. Each child selects a wardrobe that consists of 5 new underwear, 5 pairs of new socks, 4 bottoms, 1 dress, 1 pair of shoes and a jacket in season.

Listen carefully and you can hear the heartwarming comments of some of our student shoppers:

"I haven't gotten a new pair of shoes in so long. Thank you Clothes To Kids!" - Little Shopper

"You know why I look so handsome? I got this shirt at Clothes to Kids " - High School Shopper

"My mom doesn't have to pay any money here!" - Middle School Girl

CTK appreciates donations of new or gently used clothing. Donations can be dropped off between 9 am and 5 pm Monday-Friday at 1059 N. Hercules Ave., Clearwater. Cash donations are needed to purchase underwear and clothing in short supply. Currently, our greatest need is boys pants and jeans, school uniforms, khaki or navy pants & shorts plus white, light blue or navy uniform polo shirts.

Volunteers are always needed. High School Service Learning Hours are available in the summer and every afternoon. Clothes To Kids is open Monday - Friday and alternate Saturdays. Please help us serve our Pinellas children and donate your time, clothing and money. Call 441-5050 or see ClothesToKids.org for more details.



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ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS:

Island Estates Civic Association - Their next meeting is in September. The IECA pays more than \$10,000 a year to maintain the Island Estates entry way, including electrical service, fixtures, shrubbery, planting, trimming, spraying, weeding and the American Flag. Get more information at MyIslandEstates.org. Membership dues are \$40 per year. Contact Wally Pope, President, 461-1818 or Mary Reinhart, 813-335-6770 to get involved.

Island Estates Woman's Club - Their next meeting, at the Clearwater Yacht Club, is Sept. 21st. Captain Frank Dame will be speaking. The Annual Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon, being held at the Island Way Grill is October 19. The Club meets at area restaurants, September to May, the third Tuesday each month. Dues are \$15 for Island Estates residents and \$20 for non-residents. Call President Barbara Blakely, 449-8453 or Membership Chairperson Joan Landreth at 812-8078.

Clearwater Beach Association promotes civic, recreational and entertainment projects. Meetings are held at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center on Bay Esplanade, the first Tuesday of each month, at 6pm. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 7. Plans are underway for an October Fest. They are also working to re-establishing the Neighborhood Watch Program in the North Beach area. Call Sue Johnson, President, 447-1896 or visit clearwaterBeachAssociation.net.

Chapel By the Sea, held a Sunday morning Boat to Church Day. Located on Bay Esplanade, adjacent to the new Mandalay Boat Slips, on June 27th the sponsored the Chapel-Rilla. Boats, up to 40 feet, joined the Pirate Welcoming Committee for coffee, cookies and orange juice on the docks. Most of the boaters were from Island Estates and North Clearwater Beach. Reverend Freitag's sermon had a water and boat theme.

Friends of the Library Clearwater Beach Library has one-on-one computer instruction Mondays, from 2 to 4pm. Drop by and let the instructor know what you want to learn -- Email, Internet searches, Facebook, photos, etc. More Seashell Craft Programs are planned for the fall. People who want to be notified when these are scheduled, should call the Library at 562-4970.

Clearwater Beach Rotary has a new president, Sulaman Hermani, Manager of the Clearwater Beach Sun Trust Bank. The club sponsored a high school student for the Tomorrow's Leaders Seminar. This great program allows leading high school seniors to meet for a week with motivational speakers and discussions sessions. The Rotary of Clearwater Beach meets at noon every Thursday at the Shephard's Beach Resort. Call Sulaman 447-0058 to join.



Clearwater Community Sailing Center

August 21st is the Summer Camp Challenge Regatta – for all of the summer campers.

October 2nd Sailing Center Water Festival – featuring the KaiAniani Canoe Club outrigger sprint races, standup paddle races, and an open water swim, in conjunction with the Superboat Race.

November 20th Carlisle Classic Regatta – the Sailing Center's main regatta of the year.

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AN EXPLOSIVE COMBINATION

By State Representative Jim Frishe, District 54

We are a nation of cell phone users. The cell phone has become almost an extension of our ears. There is much to be said (both pro and con) regarding cell phones and their usefulness. However, this article is about a dangerous (life threatening) use of cell phones.



Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which cell phones were the cause of igniting fumes during fueling operations. In one instance, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid while the driver was pumping gasoline into his automobile's gas tank. The phone rang and caused a fire destroying the automobile as well as the gasoline pump.

In another instance, an individual answered an incoming call while refueling their car. When the fumes ignited, the person suffered facial severe burns. In a third instance, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin area when their cell phone (which was in their pocket) rang and ignited fumes while they were pumping gasoline into the automobile.

Mobile Phones CAN ignite fuel or fumes. Phones that light up when switched on or when they ring, release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition. Do not have your cell phones turned on when you fueling your car or even your lawn mower.

Cell phones should not be used (or should be turned off) around flammable or explosive fumes or dust such as solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.

Four safety tips for refueling:

1. Turn off engine.
2. Don't smoke.
3. Don't use your cell phone – leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off.
4. Don't EVER re-enter your vehicle during fueling. If you MUST get back in the car while the gas is pumping, when you get out and close the door TOUCH THE METAL, BEFORE you remove the gas nozzle from the tank. This way, the static from your body will be discharged before you remove the nozzle.

Please share this information with family and friends, especially those who have children in the car while pumping gas. If a fire were to happen with the children in the car, there may not be time to get the children out.

Using a cell phone while refueling IS NOT WORTH THE RISK!

Next event
Island
Party
September 18

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For information, call Bob Griffin, 727-517-1997 or visit IRBhome.com

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Treasure Island: Lowest price direct Gulf front lot. \$999,900. Charlene Sears 727-543-7110



Belleair: Stunning home on gated Bellevue Island. \$1,498,000. Ian Ross-Johnson 727-459-8008.



Indian Rocks Beach: Custom 4/4 Mediterranean home. \$2,499,990. Bob Linderman 312-933-5777.



Clearwater Beach: 2/2 condo hotel at the Sandpearl Resort. \$899,000. Carol Pellechio 727-433-1054



Clearwater Beach: Elegant 5,412 sq.ft. estate. \$5,900,000. Charlene Sears 727-453-7110.



Island Estates: 1.5 acres (mol) CG Zoned lot. \$3,600,000. Kristin Madaffer 727-642-7985.



Tarpon Springs: Stately 28,000 sq.ft. mansion. \$9,995,000. Steve Kepler 727-647-6696.



Indian Shores: 3-story Gulf front townhome. \$1,195,000. Steve Kepler 727-647-6696.

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