CLEARWATER BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD Newsletter
including Sand Key and Island Estates
FEBRUARY / 2011 ISSUE 7



Commissioning the former Clubhouse on Mandalay Avenue in 1935

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB CELEBRATES A CENTURY

On February 14, 1911, five members of Clearwater's "Wealthy Winter Gentry" met to sign the Articles of Incorporation that brought the Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) into the world. According to this document, "the general object of the association shall be to promote social intercourse among its members, and to encourage and promote sailing and yachting." A century later, after weathering many squalls and several very dangerous storms, CYC is still going strong, and is a more vibrant club with a far more diverse membership than the founding fathers would probably have predicted or desired.

Yacht clubs in the United States were originally patterned after those in the British Isles. In 1844, the New York Yacht Club (generally considered to be the oldest in the U.S.) was founded aboard the schooner Gimcrack. Florida did not lag far behind New York in the race to establish yacht clubs. The St. Augustine Yacht Club was formed in 1873. In 1876, The Florida Yacht Club was established in Jacksonville and is considered the oldest club in the state because the St. Augustine club ceased operation for a number of years. Clubs were founded in Miami in 1887 (Biscayne Bay) and in Daytona Beach in 1896 (Halifax River). The three original clubs in the Tampa Bay area (Tampa Yacht and Country Club – 1904, St. Petersburg Yacht Club – 1909, and Clearwater Yacht Club – 1911) were next in line.

Since setting sail in 1911, the Clearwater Yacht Club has had many "ports of call." In fact, she has led a rather vagabond life. In her first century, CYC has had seven "official" homes including: 1. the top story of the pavilion at the end of the public pier (end of WWI to 1920); 2. the ballroom of Lester Dicus' Sunset Point Hotel (early 1920s); 3. the mainland's Oesterle House (1929 - 1932); 4. the "Little Clubhouse" on Mandalay Avenue (1932-1935); 5. the Mandalay Clubhouse (1935 – 1973); 6. the "Downtown Station" (1973 – 1976); and 7. the current clubhouse at 830 S. Bayway Avenue (1976 – present). The current site is the only ground that has ever been owned by the club.

Story Continued on page 3



Miss Ann Bayly Christens "The Good Ship Jack Snipe" 1935

By Sara Green, Clearwater Yacht Club Historian, Photos courtesy of the Clearwater Yacht Club

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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.

The Clearwater Yacht Club is 100 years old this month, so we have featured them on the front cover of this issue of the Neighborhood Newsletter. 100 Years! That's a long time. Pinellas was not even a county then, and there was not even a bridge to Clearwater Beach. The population in the area was only 13,000 people.

The No Name Storm is also in this issue. It hit here in 1993. Over half the people we talked to about the No Name Storm did not live here then, just 17 years ago. That is a lot of people who have not experience those powerful winds and high tides in the middle of the night - and this one wasn't even a hurricane.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. 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 publish this edition six times a year.

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 APRIL!

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CLEARWATER SAILING CTR . . 517-7776
1001 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key
JOLLEY TROLLEY 445-1200
483 Mandalay Avenue, Suite 213
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB . . . 447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd South

ROTARY, Clearwater Beach meets every Thursday, 12:15pm at Shephard's lunch
Sulaman Hemani, President 447-0058

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Kris Hampsey, President 441-4188

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION
Patrick Gallagher, President 447-1033
Ann Garris 446-4410

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Meets first Wednesdays each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center
Gene Gillespie, President 596-0993

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Wally Pope, President 461-1818
www.MyIslandEstates.org

ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB
Barbara Blakely 449-8453

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John Murphy 813-486-4430

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2011 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH

Mardi Gras St Brendan's Carlouel	5
Wild Splash / Coachman Park	12
Daylight Savings Time Begins	13
St Patrick's Day	17
Great American Clean Up	19
National Quilting Day Heritage Village	19
Meet the Bombers Historical	19
Spring Fest - Sand Key	20
Blast Friday - Cleveland Street	25
Spring Break Begins	28
Safari Camp City of Clearwater	28

APRIL

Guppy's Gulfside Gallop 5K Run	2
PawFest Largo Central Park	2
Iron Girl Clearwater	10
CBA Neighborhood Picnic	16
Family Fun Fest	16
Clearwater Neighborhoods Day	17
Postage Rates Going Up	17
Federal Taxes Due	18
Earth Day 2011	22
Good Friday	22
Easter (Sunday)	24
Fun N Sun Fest Begins	29
Biggest Beach Party - Indian Rocks	30
Smooth Jazz Fest	30

MAY

Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins	1
Fun N Sun Festival (continues)	1-8
QFest Concert (Coachman Park)	1
Restaurant Week Kick Off Event	6
Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival	6-7
Fish Fry Historical Society	7
Postal Workers / Food Drive	7
Country Concert Coachman Park	8
Mother's Day	8
Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week	8-15
Stone Crab Season Ends	15
Winter's Family Beach Day	20-21
Safe Boating Week	23-29
Memorial Day	30

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB, CONTINUED

It was in the 1920s, that the Clearwater Yacht Club really came into her own. During the Florida Land Boom, speculation was rampant and everyone wanted in on the action. Speedboat racing became hugely popular as well as a way for developers to promote land sales. In 1923, J. Buford Edgar, Esq. (CYC Commodore 1928-'30), returned to Clearwater at the helm of a forty five and a half foot ocean racing schooner, Haligonian. With an ocean racing sailboat in port and lots of interest in speedboat racing in the waters off of Clearwater, CYC roared along with the times. Eventually, that bubble of irrational exuberance burst. Remarkably, Clearwater Yacht Club was back on its feet again by the early 1930s. In 1934, the club decided to adopt the affordable Snipe as its main racing sailboat, and to build a fleet that could represent CYC in local, regional, national and international regattas. The first boat in what was to become CYC's famous Snipe fleet was launched in 1935. In 1936, the club held its first annually scheduled regatta – the International Snipe Midwinter Championship. In March of 2011, along with the hundredth anniversary of the club's founding, Clearwater Yacht Club will celebrate the 75th anniversary of this internationally known regatta.

Clearwater Yacht Club has had the honor of being home to some outstanding sailing champions throughout her history. In the 1930s and 1940s, Guy Roberts (CYC Commodore 1947 – 1948), Don Cochran, Sr., and Ted Kamensky (Commodore 1932 – 1933) were known as the trio to beat in Snipe sailing circles. Kamensky was also legendary for his contributions to the winning record of the Haligonian in the St. Pete to Habana races of the 1930s. In the 1950s and 1960s, Francis Seavy accumulated a stellar record in Snipe sailing. Today, CYC members and Youth Sailing Program graduates continue to excel in both big and small boat racing. Michael Carroll, for example, is campaigning his Melges 32, New Wave in some of the most competitive one-design big boat regattas in the country. CYC Youth Sailing Program graduate Emil y Billing is now attending, and sailing for, Yale University. In 2006, Paige Railey was the youngest athlete and the only American ever to receive the honor of being chosen as the US Sailing Rolex World Yachtswoman of the Year. Zach Railey won the silver medal in the 2008 Olympics. Paige, Zach, and Brad Funk are currently training hard for the 2012 Olympics. A fourth CYC Youth Sailing Program graduate Brad Kendell and his crew are training for the 2012 Paralympics.

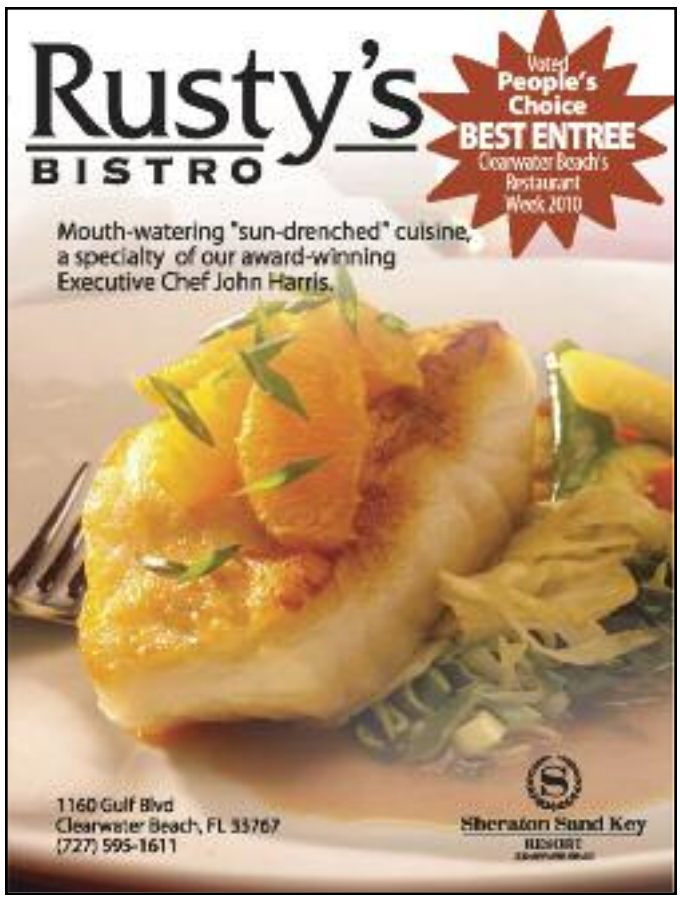
Clearwater Yacht club has come a long way from the ultra-exclusive men's sailing club of 1911. One hundred years later, with Commodore Sandie Ramsden at the helm, Clearwater Yacht Club is an organization in which people with a wide range of interests (on and off the water) and from a wide variety of geographic and social backgrounds are proud to be celebrating a century of camaraderie, cruising and competitive sailing.

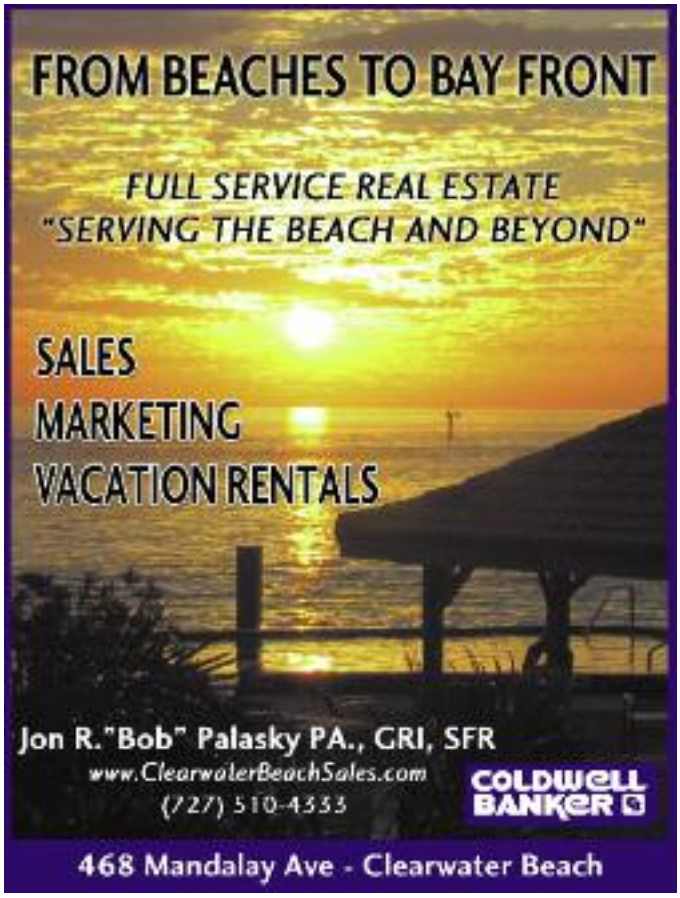
For information contact: Clearwater Yacht Club, 830 S. Bayway Boulevard, Clearwater, FL 33767; (727) 447-6000; www.clwyc.org



This article contains excerpts from: Sara E. Green (2011) The First Hundred Years: Clearwater Yacht Club 1911 – 2011. Virginia Beach (VA): The Donning Company Publishers (Available May, 2011).









Did You Know...



NEW LIFEGUARD TOWERS New towers are scheduled to be built on south beach between the Pier 60 and Clearwater Pass. The new headquarters building, called "Tower 0", is scheduled to be complete by the end of February. with the three new towers within 60 days. There will be a total of 5 individual towers with plans to replace the remaining 2 towers next year. The city currently has 4 full time guards, 1 part time guard, and 5 seasonal lifeguards on staff.

SOLAR POWER The parking meters at the Rockaway, in North Beach, are now powered by the sun. All meters in the lot are controlled by a few centrally located, solar-powered pay stations. The pay stations offer three ways to pay - coins, bills and credit cards. The pay stations are simple to use and after paying the parking receipt is placed on your car's dashboard. Call 562-4704 to get information or visit www.MyClearwater.com.

POSTAGE GOING UP AGAIN April 17th the cost of postage on anything weighing over one ounce will go from 17¢ to 20¢ per extra ounce, including this newsletter. Regular letters remain the same, bu if you mail large or heavy letters or packages, take note.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The City of Clearwater is seeking volunteers to help during the NCAA Division 1 Fast Pitch Softball tournament series. This is the largest such event in the US. The tournament will take place over three different weekends: March 3-6, 11-13 and 18-20. Volunteers receive a meal, T-shirt and free admission to all the games the day they volunteer. To sign up, learn more about the games or view the schedule, visit www.USFSeries.com.

DO YOU VOTE BY MAIL? Rules have changed regarding early voting by mail. A request to receive a Vote by Mail ballot will only last one election cycle, then you have to reapply. To request a mail ballot, visit www.VotePinellas.com or call 464-6788.



THE BEACH WALK/WALK RAISES $7,500 190 participants departed the Palm Pavilion and walked along Clearwater Beach to the Hyatt hotel were they made the turn-around and headed back to Chapel by-the-Sea where they were treated to a pancake breakfast. In addition to the money, 460 pounds of non-perishable food was collected and donated to Religious Community Services (RCS); a 50% increase over last year. RCS provides meals to over 6,000 Clearwater individuals monthly.

FUN N SUN FESTIVAL This year's festival will last 10 days. Enjoy a variety of concerts, including the 16th Annual Smooth Jazz Fest on Saturday, April 30th, QFest on May 1, the Sea-Blues Festival on May 6 & 7 and Fun N Sun Country Concert on May 8th. For more information, call 562-4700 or visit MyClearwater.com/FunNSun.

SAFARI SPRING BREAK CAMP The City of Clearwater is offering a special camp March 28th to April 1st, 8am to 5:30pm. Held at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, children will explore the wonders of nature and science through hands-on discoveries and adventures using games, crafts, animal encounters and other activities. Cost is $100 for Clearwater residence and $125 for non-residents. Registration begins March 1. See the city's web site at www.MyClearwater.com.

BOATING ACCESS AWARD The city's downtown boat slip project, Clearwater Harbor Marina, received a 2010 BoatUS Recreational Boating Access Award in recognition of the city's ability to bring much needed boating access to Clearwater which includes 126 permanent slips, more than 1,500 feet of side-tie docks for overnight stays and 650 feet of free side-tie dockage for day use. BoatUS created the award program in 2007 to highlight successes in protecting water access, as boaters and communities were losing marina slips, service yards and boat launching areas. Call D. Scott Croft at (703) 461-2864, or visit BoatUS.com/AccessAwardWinner for more information.

NEED ANOTHER COPY? Pick up an extra copy of this newsletter at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Sand Key EZ Mart & Island Estates UPS Store.

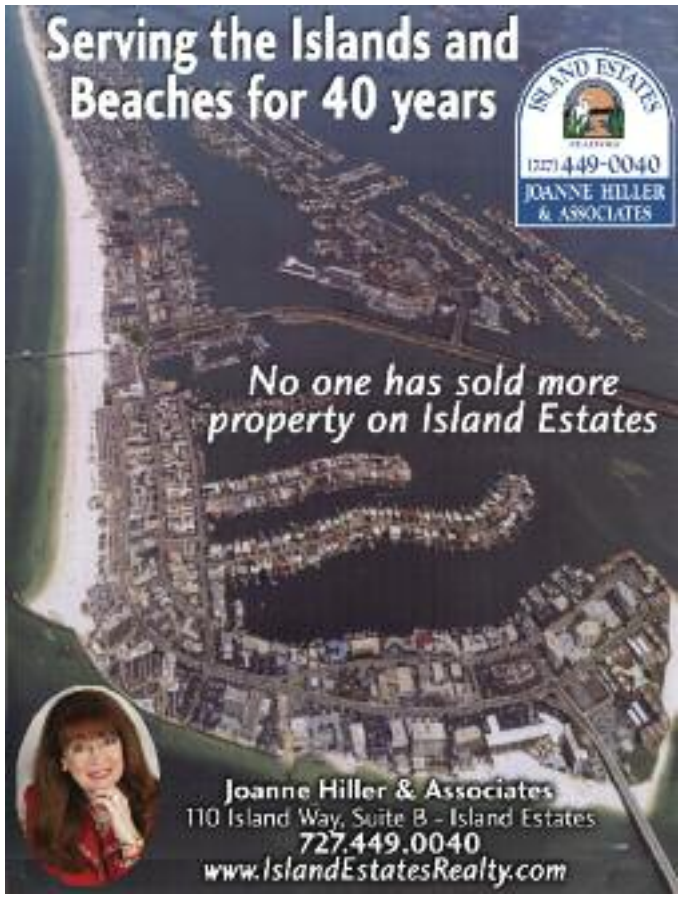
LICENSE PLATE READERS The City of Clearwater recently installed License Plate Readers in two patrol cars. These camera-like devices can read up to 1,500 license plates per minute. It can identify suspended or revoked licenses and arrest warrants. In the first two weeks of use, Police arrested a person for grand theft and another person for a stolen license plate.

NUMBER 1 AGAIN! Honeymoon Island, just north of Clearwater Beach, earned the distinction of "The Most Visited State Park" in Florida. In 2010, 1,043,336 people visited the park according to figures provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Honeymoon Island, a state park since 1984, hosts over 25 osprey nests each year. This is the fourth consecutive year the park has had the state's top attendance.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, who teaches safe boating classes in the area, has moved to a new location on Clearwater Beach. In conjunction with the City of Clearwater, they are holding classes in the Police Sub Station on Bayway Blvd. The first class of 2011 included eleven area residents. The course is 10 hours. For more information on these and other safety courses, call 786-0959.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL Read this, as well as other issues, online at BeachNewsletters.com.





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YACHT CLUB MEMBERSHIP
IS IT FOR ME?

by Miles Curry

Growing up a "baby boomer", considerations of membership in a private yacht club always included visions of pipe smoking geezers replete in blue blazers, and ascots, spinning tall tales of yachting adventures while stiff wait staff fidget quietly in the background. Hollywood helped complete the profile with the Gilligan's Island characters, "Thurston Howell the third"; and his wife,"Lovey". And who could forget the scene from the movie, Caddy Shack, when Rodney Dangerfield drove his mega-yacht through the Commodore's Regatta, then dropped his anchor through the Commodore's sailboat!

With these scenes replaying in my mind, I found myself looking over my shoulder, searching for similar characters during my first visit, many years ago, to Clearwater Yacht Club on Clearwater Beach. Their foyer opens to engraved silver regatta trophies filling the display cases, then black and white photos of past commodores lining the walls, some depicting a few pipe smokers in blue blazers! However, these hints of the past faded fast as I noticed their tastefully decorated dining room filled with a contemporary mix of couples, and families, enjoying light-hearted fellowship, and a cocktail…all without an ascot in site! Private dining, always having a reserved table, and weekly entertainment & dancing, make Clearwater Yacht Club a welcomed retreat from the beach bars and tourist-centric restaurants in the area.

With a respect for the traditions of the past, Clearwater Yacht Club provides a friendly, private-club dining experience, and family-friendly activities that include Youth Sailing Programs, and Florida Safe Boating Courses. Stodgy, men-only, over-stuffed leather chairs have given way to family friendly, heated swimming pools, "kids night at the movies", and Chili Cook-Offs. The Commodores Ball, Change of Watch, & Blessing Of The Fleet ceremony fulfill a more formal venue, and help preserve its heritage and yachting traditions. Membership is also the gateway to reciprocal privileges to many yacht clubs throughout Florida and the nation. Many non-boating members enjoy club groups organized around golf, bridge, RV outings, crafts, and the book club. Boaters enjoy weekend getaways to other clubs in Pinellas County, Tampa, Bradenton, and Sarasota. Other longer cruises visit yacht clubs in Venice, Naples, the Keys, Miami, and Florida's east coast. Since joining, we've visited 32 other Florida clubs, where your first nights marina stay is complimentary. We've still not seen Thurston or Lovey, and still don't own an ascot!

Membership applications are being accepted for a limited time. Call 727 447 6000 for additional information.

Miles Curry is an active boater, holds a USCG Master Captains License, and has been a member since 2003.

TAMPA BAY SEAGRASSES SHOW RECORD INCREASE



Tampa Bay gained 3,250 acres of seagrass between 2008 and 2010 – an 11% increase - the largest 2-year expansion of seagrasses since scientists began regular surveys of this critical underwater habitat.

The bay now supports 32,897 acres of seagrasses – more than at any time measured since the 1950s, according to data presented this week to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and other members of the Southwest Florida Seagrass Working Group.

The data was collected by scientists with the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program. They assess seagrass coverage in the bay approximately every two years, using a combination of maps produced from aerial photographs followed by ground-truthing to verify accuracy. The aerial photographs are taken in winter months when the water is clearer. Results of this effort have been used to track trends in seagrass extent in estuaries throughout Southwest Florida since 1988.

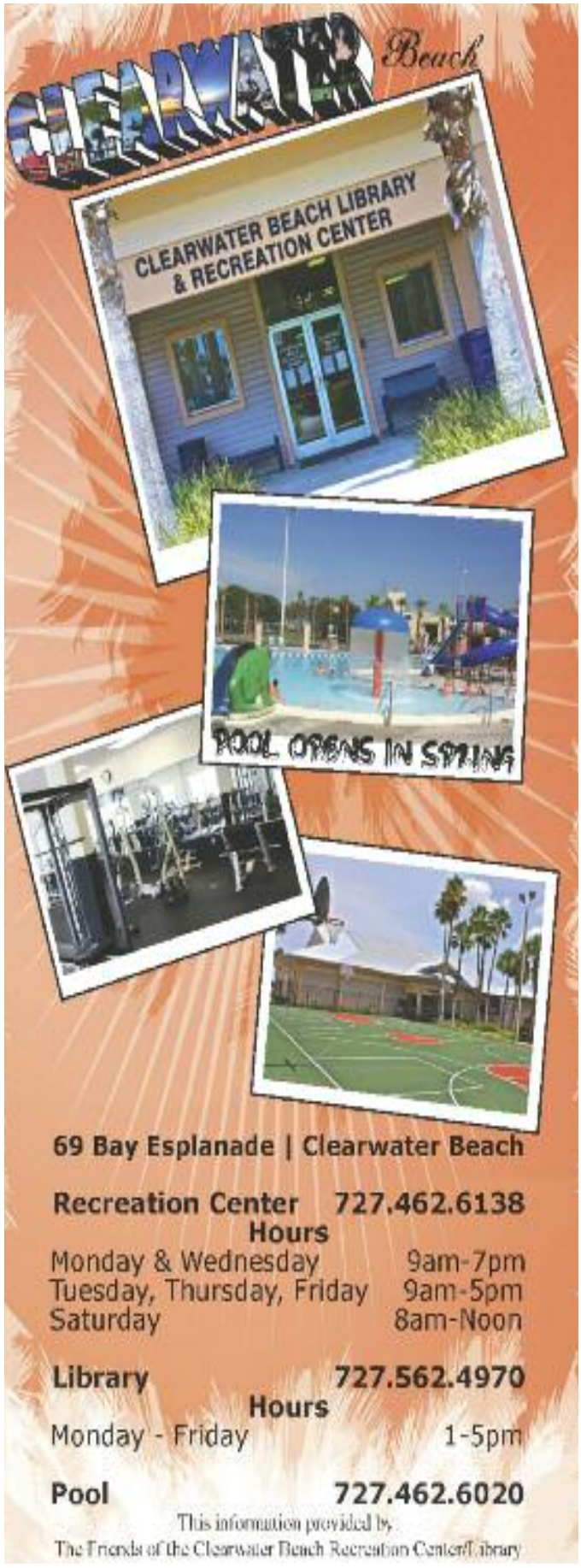
All major bay segments showed seagrass gains, according to the SWIM data, including the troubled Old Tampa Bay segment in the northern part of the bay, which has been plagued by algae blooms and an expanding layer of thick, soupy muck near Safety Harbor in recent years. Seagrasses in Old Tampa Bay expanded by 858 acres over 2008 levels, or nearly 15%. Seagrasses in Middle Tampa Bay increased by 1,549 acres, or 23.3%.

The increases could be a result of improving water quality overall. In fact, preliminary results from 2010 monitoring indicates that all bay segments met TBEP's adopted water clarity goals. Recent low-rainfall years, with less runoff entering the bay, may have contributed to the improvements. And some gains also may be a function of constantly improving seagrass mapping techniques.

Seagrasses are an important barometer of the bay's health because they require relatively clean water to flourish. They also provide vital habitat for sportfish such as sea trout, snook, and redfish.

Despite the impressive gains, the bay is still 5,103 acres short of the target goal of 38,000 acres of seagrass set by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and its local government partners. Reaching that goal will require a continued commitment by the region to reducing excess nitrogen that remains the bay's primary pollutant of concern, said Holly Greening, Executive Director of the Estuary Program. Too much nitrogen fuels algae growth that turns the water cloudy and depletes oxygen.

"The seagrass increases are great news, especially as we mark the 20-year anniversary of the Estuary Program partnership this year," Greening said. "But we still need to manage nitrogen loadings, and to assess and address problem areas in the bay.



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Restaurant News...



THE BOARDWALK ON ISLAND ESTATES Soon Coney Island is coming to Island Estates in the Publix Shopping. Called The Original Boardwalk Grill and Sports Bar it will be a full sized restaurant as well as a sports bar. The new owners are Stuart Saltzman, an Island Estates resident with roots in New Jersey, and Joe Listorti. They purchased over 3,000 SF of lumber from the original Coney Island boardwalk to use as flooring throughout the restaurant. There will be 22 TVs, a Wurlitzer juke box, an old fashioned amusement arcade and more. The menu has food you would expect at Coney Island including NY style pizza, wings, sandwiches, seafood, chowder and salads. There will be 16 beers on tap, 50 bottled beers, and a full liquor bar. They plan to be open for lunch and dinner, 11am to 3am and will offer take-out and delivery, including to Sand Key. They hope to be open by late March. They are located at 126 Island Way, 445-1111.

SIDEWALK CAFE Frenchy's on BeachWalk received permission to open a sidewalk cafe between their restaurant and BeachWalk. They plan to add 8 to 10 tables with umbrellas and additional landscaping. The restaurant is located at 351 South Gulfview Blvd.



NEW THAI RESTAURANT Chang Bistro has replaced Bua Luang Thai restaurant in North Beach. They will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 6:30am to 9pm. Breakfast will be offered American, as well as Asian, style including Duck Feta Cheese Omelets, Crab Cake Benedict and Southwest cuisine. They offer authentic Thai cuisine and sushi for lunch and dinner. Visit them at 608 Mandalay Ave., North Beach or call 408-5200. Chang Bistro owners also own Thai Coconut on Missouri Avenue.

LEO'S PIZZA Leo's on Island Estates expanded into the storefront next door. In doing so he added 35 more seats. Leo's is located at 282 Windward Passage.

SECOND ANNUAL RESTAURANT WEEK will be May 8-15. This year the event may kick off with a Taste of Clearwater Beach on Beach Walk Friday, May 6. There are discussions of a concert on the beach in conjunction with that. This fund-raiser is planned by the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce and their members.

CLOSED
ALEX FAMILY RESTAURANT, 305 Coronado,
THAI COCONUT, 608 Mandalay,
THE DONUT SHACK, 325 Coronado

More Restaurant News...



BACKWATER CHILI CONTEST WINNERS This year's contest was the largest ever with over 30 people participating. All the winners are local. First place Alex Zak, Sand Key - his second time winning, Second place Gillian Willard, Island Estates and Third Place Lowell Nickerson, Belleair Beach.

YAPPY HOUR Join Island Dog Outfitters on the last Saturday of every month for Yappy Hour at the Clearwater Wine Bar and Bistro. Each month, they host a different animal rescue organization. Fall in love with a new best friend who may need a home. They are located at 483 Mandalay Avenue, Suite 113 in Pelican Plaza in North Beach. Bring your island dog out for a night on the town. Enjoy great food and wine, live music and good times with your dog. Yappy Hour begins at 5pm.



MR KABOB's recently opened on Island Estates by owner Hannibal Mourad. Their cuisine is Middle Eastern and includes a blend of Greek, Lebanese, Turkish and Israeli food. Mourad, who moved here from Sweden with his wife and 3 children, who previously owned the Kabob House on Dunedin's Main Street. They opened for lunch and dinner,11am to 10pm, 7 days a week. There are lots of vegetarian dishes on his menu, plus beer and wine. They cater events up to 300 people. Find them at 288 Windward Passage, 446-1795.

THE OLIVE TREE is a new Mediterranean restaurant opening in Downtown Clearwater at 528 Cleveland Street, near the Sun Trust Bank building. Mike DiMitratos and his son, Mike Jr., are the owners and operators.

CRABBY BILL'S STAYS The city and Crabby Bill's negotiated a new 4 year lease extension at the City Marina. Crabby agreed to spend $190,000 on improvements to the building plus their monthly rent.

DUTCHY'S SPORTS BAR Dutch's has been under construction for over a year. They stopped building for awhile but now they are back in gear. They say they planning to be open in March. They are located at 431 Mandalay Avenue in North Beach.

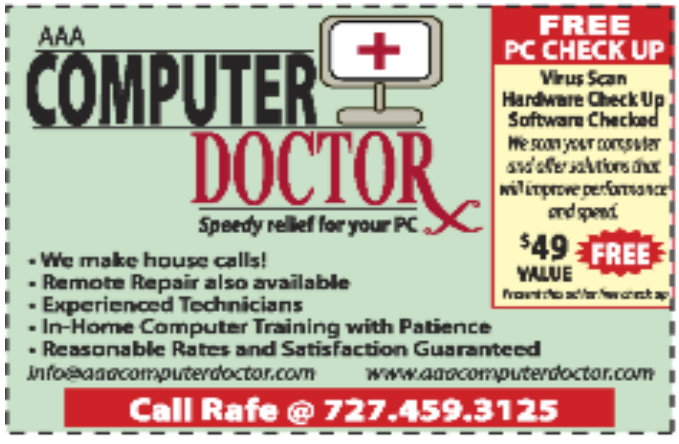
ANNIVERSARIES
Cesare's On The Beach is celebrating 7 Years in March
Shor Restaurant Hyatt Regency just completed their First year.
Pickles Plus has been open 10 Years in February.
Starlite Cruises is beginning their 16th Year.



Cesars on the Beach owners Carlo & Cesare







Best Happy Hour on the Beach!

#1 Best Overall Experience
Restaurant Week 2010

#1 Small Business
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Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

The Clear Sky Beachside Café is the perfect place to eat any time, with great food served up with a smile all day long.

Breakfast is served with an upscale twist *(by the way, you can get great Mimosas and Bloody Marys with your breakfast)*. Lunch and Dinner menus offer an extensive mix of Tapas Appetizers, Gourmet Pizzas, Signature Paninis, Burgers and Salads. Enjoy the Freshest Seafood on the beach, including "en papillote." Our award winning menu offers a culinary tour of the world's best flavors all in one friendly café!

"#1 Restaurant in Clearwater"
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We have a full bar and boast an impressive wine list. One of the best happy hours on the beach can be had here daily from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm, and 11pm to 1am. And don't miss Wino Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., with 1/2 off bottles of wine! So stop in and enjoy live music every night with steel drums, acoustic guitars, or light jazz.

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"Best Restaurant any time of Day"
- Tampa Bay Magazine, 2009/2010

Call: 727.442.3684
490 Mandalay Avenue, Clearwater Beach
www.ClearSkyBeachsideCafe.com

Business Briefs...



THE TURTLE IS BACK The popular turtle on the Boardwalk, in front of Crabby Bill's and the Chamber of Commerce received a total makeover. He has returned dressed for the beach. His outfit includes a Crabby's T-shirt, flip flops, sunglasses and a headset plus all the standard beach gear. Now it is easier to tell people where Crabby's and the Chamber's office is - it is right next to Crabby the Turtle.

CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER EVENTS:
March 31: Mingle at Connelly, Carlisle, Fields and Nichols Insurance
April 28: Mingle at the Clearwater Beach Spa
May 6: Restaurant Week Kickoff Event on BeachWalk
May 8-14: Restaurant Week

To join the Beach Chamber call 447-7600 and ask for Darlene Kole, Executive Director. The Chamber is located at 333 South Gulfview Blvd, between Crabby Bill's and McDonalds. See the Chamber's web site at www.BeachChamber.com.



HYATT REGENCY The Hyatt is one year old. Instead of having a big birthday bash, they contributed the $15,000 the party would have cost to the Homeless Emergency Project, an organization committed to providing housing, food, clothing and support services to Pinellas County's homeless and low-income families. The Hyatt's inaugural year included higher than projected occupancy in our down economy even with the Gulf oil spill. In addition, the resort has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Four Diamond Award from AAA and the Three Green Keys Award by the Green Key Eco-rating program. Their restaurant, Shor American Seafood Grill earned the 2010 People's Choice Best Taste award at A Taste of Clearwater. Visit ClearwaterBeach.Hyatt.com.

PARKING GARAGE Work on the 8 story parking garage is continuing next to the Hyatt Regency between Coronado and BeachWalk. A new surf shop and Britt's Restaurant will be facing the beach on the first level. Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

FARMER'S MARKET CONTINUES downtown in Clearwater's 500 block of Cleveland Street. every Wednesday morning through May. Get farm fresh produce, gourmet foods and cheeses, fresh seafood and baked goods, plants & herbs, organic products, jewelry, crafts and more.

More Business Briefs...



BELLEAIR JEWELRY ARTIST DESIGNS FOR DALI
Commissioned by The Dali Museum, Belleair jewelry artist Robert Young, is designing jewelry for the Museum store. The helical spiral staircase at The Dali is the inspiration for these earrings and they are currently available for purchase at the Museum. Architect Yann Weymouth, the designer of the dynamic new building, bought the first pair. Robert is in the process of designing more items for the Dali and hopes to have them available in a few months.

MARKETING BENEFITS THE BEACH The Pinellas CVB just began a marketing campaign targeting people in New York City, the No. 1 winter market for us. With the opening of the new Dali Museum and the forth coming release of the movie "Dolphin Tale", we should get quite a bump from all this attention. On a related subject, the county's 'bed tax' revenue is up between 7 - 8% over a year ago, which indicates increased tourism.

SMITH & ASSOCIATES OPENS The new Belleair office opened last month. This is their third location, with others in South Tampa, which opened 43 years ago, and St. Petersburg, opened in 2002. They already have 8 agents affiliated with their Belleair office and plan to add 17 more. Jenny Lee will be the office administrator. Very active in the community, they look forward to bringing that commitment to the area. Clearwater Beach's Jerry and Bobby Rendell are now part of this office.

MORE TOURISTS The City of Clearwater has hired Imagine Communications, a travel and tourism public relations and marketing company, based in New York, to further develop their tourism industry by promoting the area as a perfect vacation spot. One of their focuses will be increased exposure in the social media world. Their goal is to bring more visitors to our shores, and to increase the economic impact of tourism in the area.

RADIANCE MEDSPA is celebrating their Fifth Anniversary. Radiance has established a reputation as a first class provider of all the latest non-surgical medical technologies and services including BOTOX, Juvederm, Fraxel Laser Treatments, Thermage Skin Tightening, Laser Hair Removal and SlimLipo Laser Liposuction. Radiance Medspa holds numerous titles and awards including the Black Diamond Award for Fraxel & Thermage treatments. They are the #1 injector of Juvederm in the Florida and is a platinum plus provider of BOTOX. Radiance Medspa's Medical Director, Dr. Erika Francis, is a national trainer for the SlimLipo Laser procedure and performs this service in Belleair Bluffs at Radiance Medspa. To celebrate, they are offering great packages and specials. Visit radiancetampabay.com or call 727-518-7100 for more information.

MORE NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions that you think is appropriate for this newsletter, send it in. E-mail Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 517-1997.









THE NON-SURGICAL EYELIFT:
THE EVOLUTION OF FACIAL REJUVENATION

"New Fillers Make it Possible to Look Naturally Younger Without Surgery" - Erika Francis, M.D.

by Stephanie Schlageter

Until now, eliminating under eye bags and hollows meant undergoing eyelid surgery, or "blepharoplasty." Patients now have a new alternative that provides natural-looking, lasting results with no downtime and without the risks or downtime of surgery. Recent breakthroughs in facial aesthetics have allowed cosmetic medical specialists to use a new generation of soft tissue fillers to eliminate the appearance of baggy, sunken eyes- with no incisions and no sutures. "There has been an incredible proliferation of soft tissue fillers over the last few years," said Stephanie, Medspa Director of Radiance Medspa in Belleair Bluffs, FL. One such example is Juvederm, the leading FDA-approved soft tissue filler. The procedure itself is performed with topical numbing cream and only takes minutes to perform. According to Donna Gosine, ARNP, "the injections may cause some temporary swelling and redness, which is usually gone in just a few days." For many people, this procedure can provide remarkably natural results.

The evolution of facial rejuvenation is not limited solely to non-surgical eye lifts. Botox is now the most common non-surgical facial rejuvenation procedure performed in the US. Botox is used to smooth out frown lines, crows feet and other facial wrinkles. It works by temporarily relaxing targeted muscles, resulting in smoother skin. According to Cristy Marks, ARNP, "Botox is safe and effective" But, she strongly recommends Botox procedures be administered by a qualified practitioner with proper training and experience.

The area's leading injector of Juvederm, Radiance Medspa, is right here in our own backyard. Radiance Medspa is a fully licensed medical facility that performs literally thousands of Juvederm and other non-surgical cosmetic procedures each year. Thier Medical treatments are performed by Erika Francis, M.D., Cristy Marks, ARNP, and Donna Gosine, ARNP, all highly trained healthcare professionals who have many years of experience in this very specialized field of medicine. According to Dr. Francis you should always inquire as to the qualifications of the person who will be administering any medical treatments, "Whether you elect to have Botox, Juvederm, Fraxel, Laser Hair Removal or any other medical treatment or skin care procedure, I strongly urge that these treatments and procedures be performed only by highly qualified and experienced health care professionals."

To learn more about the evolution of facial rejuvenation, you can contact the experts at Radiance Medspa at 727-518-7100 or visit www.radiancetampabay.com. You may attend one of Radiance Medspa's popular FREE informational seminars, many with LIVE demonstrations:
SlimLipo Seminar, Thurs, February 24th, 5:30-6:30pm Laser Liposuction for permanent removal of unwanted fat and skin tightening
Laser Hair Removal Seminar, Thurs, March 3rd, 5:30-6:30pm - Get rid of unwanted hair once and for all - on almost any part of the body
BOTOX and Juvederm Seminar, Thurs, March 10th, 5:30-6:30pm - These revolutionary treatments can take 10 years off your appearance instantly
Thermage and Fraxel, Thurs March 24th, 5:30-6:30 pm - Tighten loose skin on the neck, jowls, or upper lids with Thermage. Remove brown spots, acne scars, large pores, stretch marks, and fine lines with Fraxel

FISHING IN THE CLEARWATER AREA

by Captain Gary Burch, All Catch Charters, 458-6335

What Is Saltwater Inshore Flats Fishing? March and April brings in warmer temperatures and a greater opportunity for catching some of Clearwater's sought after saltwater inshore flats fish. Ask your northern friends what saltwater fishing means. You will probably get an answer like, fishing from big charter and party boats. Also they will tell you Tampa Bay saltwater fishing is for offshore grouper, snapper, sailfish and other deep sea species.

On the other hand, here in Florida and many other coastal states, there is inshore flats fishing. This is generally saltwater fishing from smaller boats, 15 to 24 feet in length, and usually 1 to 4 fishermen. Most all of the fishing is done in protected waters along the shore, in passes, inshore flats, shallow water and back bays.

Clearwater inshore flats fishing areas affords anglers the opportunity to catch big fish in shallow water. Many of the world record and state record catches come from Florida's most famous flats fishing location - The Florida Keys.

Most all of the Tampa Bay and Clearwater fishing equipment, rods and reels, are considered light tackle. This includes 6-1/2 to 7-1/2 foot rods, spinning reels with 10 to 20 lb. test line and leaders from 20 to 30 lb. test. When targeting bigger species like tarpon and sharks, heavier equipment is necessary. Fly rods can be used in catching many types of fish in less than three feet of water.

The most popular of the inshore flats fish caught are redfish, snook, tarpon and trout. Others will include ladyfish, mackerel, cobia, shark, pompano and jacks. All of these fish can be stalked in Clearwater's inshore shallow water. Most of the fish you can see first before you cast a bait to them. This is called sight fishing.

So, if the big offshore fishing boats, with long rides out and back and lots of fishermen on board is not your thing, then take a look at Clearwater inshore flats fishing in shallow protected waters. It may be just what you are looking for the next time you want to go saltwater fishing.

What's biting? In March, I will be fishing for trout and redfish. They should still be in their winter locations throughout Clearwater Bay and Dunedin waters. It's not warm enough for them to move on to spring areas, so keep casting artificials and using live shrimp. The water will warm up more in April and this should start the spring run on lots of different species. These will include snook, mackerel, king fish and tarpon to name a few. White bait should be in the bays for netting and is the bait of choice.
So clean up those rods and reels and get ready for spring time saltwater inshore flats fishing. As the weather and water warms up, grab your gear and head out.

Booking spring charters, call and reserve now:







SURREALLY GOT TO SEE THIS!

By Nevin Sitler, St. Petersburg Museum of History's Director of Education, and Ric Sitler, freelance writer and retired Army Public Affairs Officer

At last, the Salvador Dali Museum opened its new $36 million facility overlooking Albert Whitted Park to the awe of many. Nearly as bizarre as the artist for which it is named, the new Dali structure is a work of art unto itself. The 66,450 sq foot museum, double in size from its previous location near USF-St. Petersburg, sports a one-of-a-kind geodesic dome facade nicknamed the "Glass Enigma," a DNA strand inspired Helical Staircase, and a mind-tripping Avant-Garden.

Quite a change from the decades-old former St. Petersburg municipal warehouse located at 10th and 3rd Street South, and one that Salvador Dali would surely have admired for its use of mathematics, nature, and hidden meanings. More importantly, states Assistant Curator Dirk Armstrong, the new facility provides more display space for Dali's work, a theater, a café, classrooms, and a student gallery for budding artisans.

And if that wasn't enough…. visitors will be greeted by a rain-filled vintage limo.

The "Rainy Taxi" is a 1933 Rolls Royce Sedanca Limousine, specially restored and outfitted by the Tampa Bay Automobile Museum to recreate a 1938 Paris exhibit by the master surrealist. As one might expect with Dali, the artist had it raining inside the taxi.

That show was so successful Dali repeated the concept the following year in his hometown of Figueras, Spain, using his own personal Cadillac. But technology wasn't what it is today and the water-logged cars were ultimately ruined.



Photo Courtesy of Dirk Armstrong, The Dali Museum

The Dali folks asked car collector Alain A. Cerf, owner of the Tampa Bay Auto Museum, to provide a more substantial and water-proof version for an exhibit in their new digs. The Tampa Bay Automobile Museum, located in Pinellas Park, features a unique collection of about 50 vintage vehicles that demonstrate special creativity and engineering imagination – a perfect choice for the Dali inspired creation.

According to Cerf, the simulated rain will have spectators believing that the mannequins inside the vintage taxi are being soaked, "but not a drop of water will get inside the car." Cerf said the 1933 Rolls was selected from his personal collection because the windows of the pre-war limo are nearly vertical making the rain effect very visible; plus, "the driver is outside basking in the Florida sun."

From raining cars and melting clocks, to lobster phones and imported rocks, there is much to experience at St. Petersburg's latest landmark. The new Dali Museum, featuring the world's most comprehensive collection of works by the late Spanish surrealist, is located at One Dali Boulevard SE and can be found online at to www.thedali.org.





DALI MUSEUM - HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Becky Griffin

Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dali I Domenech was born May 11, 1904 in the small town of Figueres, Spain. He grew up there and when he married, he and his wife lived in the same area. Many of his paintings reflect his love for Spain.

In 1928, Dali became internationally known when three of his paintings were shown in the Pittsburgh Carnegie International Exhibition. He soon became a leader of the Surrealist Movement but it didn't last long. With the political climate in Europe, he soon became unpopular for his apolitical stance. During World War II, Dali left Europe, moving to the United States.

In 1942, the same year they married, A. Reynolds and Eleanor Morse attended a Dalí retrospective at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Intrigued by the artist's subject matter, and impressed by his technique, they bought their first painting, *Daddy Longlegs of the Evening...Hope!,* a year later for about $1,200. They met Dali in 1943 and began a 40-year relationship as patrons and friends. Over the years they joined the artist and his wife in New York, Paris and the Dalis' home in northeastern Spain. "They were wonderful fun," said Mrs. Morse. "but we knew also that Dali wanted us to buy his paintings. He would become irritated if we bought older ones from a gallery instead of a new one from him." Their relationship resulted in a comprehensive collection of original Dalí work.

The Morses displayed their collection in their Cleveland, Ohio home. In 1965, they loaned over 200 pieces to a Dalí retrospective. That is when they realized that the results of their 25 years of collecting needed a permanent home.

In 1971, with Dalí present, the Morses opened a museum adjacent to their Beachwood, Ohio office building. By the end of the decade, an overwhelming number of visitors had viewed the collection of 94 oil paintings, 150 watercolors and drawings and more than 1,000 prints. In total, the objects were valued at about $50 million. Afraid the collection would have to be dismantled and sold to pay estate taxes, they began to look for a museum to accept the collection with a promise of not breaking it up. No existing museum was will to make that commitment.

After reading a story about their dilemma in the New York Times, Jim Martin a St. Petersburg lawyer contacted them. He encouraged them to look at a location in St. Petersburg. The Morses agreed to visit. They saw a downtown marine warehouse that reminded them of Dali's childhood home in Spain. They decided it would be perfect and rehabilitated it.

Founded primarily by the Morses, The Salvador Dali Museum opened March 7, 1982 in that downtown waterfront building. Reynolds Morse died in 2000, but his wife Eleanor stayed actively involved in the running of the museum until shortly before her death last year.

In mid 2008, a new location for the Dali museum was announced. It was built on the waterfront next to the Mahaffey Theater, featuring a large glass entryway and skylight. The new, larger and more storm-secure museum opened on 1-11-11 at 11:11 am. The museum's collection of 2140 pieces of Dalí's work and an extensive archival library and displays are being periodically rotated.

The museum, a respected member of the international museum community, has become a destination for about 200,000 tourists a year and an important research facility for scholars. Find more information about the Dali Museum on their Web site, to www.thedali.org or visit their new location at One Dali Blvd. SE, downtown St. Petersburg.

Photo courtesy of Tom Hurley of BiPlane Rides and Aerial Photography, 727-895-6266 BiPlaneRides.com.

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THE NO NAME STORM

How It Happened...

In 1993, a storm hit the West Coast of Florida that was not a hurricane, but it acted like one. It put seven to nine feet of flood waters into low lying neighborhoods from Tarpon Springs to Pass-A-Grille. Since it was not a hurricane, it had no official name, but locally it is called *1993's No Name Storm*. In other areas of the country the storm has come to be known as *The Storm of the Century*, the *'93 Super Storm*, *The White Hurricane* and *The Great Blizzard of 1993*. The last big storm to earn a similar name was *The Great Blizzard* in 1899.

Officially the storm was a Subtropical Derecho or Cyclonic Blizzard. Laymen called it a Nor'easter. It formed in Canada on March 11th when a northern arctic high collided with low pressure moving north out of the Gulf of Mexico. At its height, the storm stretched from Canada to Central America causing a massive storm over the Central United States.

Thousands of people were stranded by record snowfalls. For the first time ever, all the major airports on the eastern seaboard were shut down. All interstate highways north of Atlanta were closed. The Coast Guard rescued 160 people in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean and a freighter sank in the Gulf.

Area temperatures were typical for early March. The storm's weather service forecast models seemed too extreme, and the predictions too unbelievable, causing many local television stations to be reluctant to even broadcast them. But the computers were right.

Besides producing record low barometric pressure and one of the nation's biggest snowstorms, the front produced a strong squall line that moved through Florida around midnight of March 13th. It produced straight line wind gusts up to 100 MPH across Florida.

A substantial storm surge was generated from the Panhandle's Appalachia to south of Tampa Bay. Storm surges north of Pinellas County were six to twelve feet above normal. With little advanced notice, coastal residents woke to the sound of water lapping at their doors and the Gulf of Mexico rushing into their homes. Northern cities had higher levels. From Apalachee Bay down most of Nature's Coast, tides were reported to be eleven feet above normal. Cedar Key had nine and a half foot tides, while Hudson had nine. Tarpon Springs recorded six and a half feet above normal and Madeira Beach recorded seven.

Following the front, six inches of snow fell in the Florida panhandle. Temperatures in Tampa Bay immediately plummeted almost 30 degrees to record levels. With the wind damage and increased demand, the local power companies experienced outages leaving thousands of homes without power for days.

Nationwide, the storm killed 270 people with nearly 50 people reported missing or lost at sea. The death toll in Florida was 44, seven of which were due to storm surge. 15 tornadoes struck Florida cities that day, including Treasure Island, Largo and Tampa. The tornadoes killed seven and injured another 80 people.

This storm affected 26 states and approximately 50% of the nation's population. Total damage costs (both insured and uninsured) exceeded $6 billion, making the *No Name Storm* the fourth costliest storm in US history, and by far the most costly extra-tropical storm in history.

Information supplied by the National Weather Service in Ruskin.


Indian Rocks Beach

As we remember it...

In 1993, we bought at house at 844 Bruce Avenue.We had not moved into it, but instead rented it. We happened to be on the beach that night staying in a hotel on South Beach. We enjoyed watching the high winds blowing the palm trees nearby. The next morning we went to visit our new investment in Clearwater Beach. As we drove down Gardenia, towards Bruce, we were shocked to see our house under 2-3 feet of water. All of our poor tenants furniture was soaked, and their car was flooded. We lost the appliances, carpeting, and the walls needed repairing. Since then, we discovered the corner of Bruce and Gardenia is the lowest point on the island. Lucky us!
Dawn & Dave Barrett, Clearwater Beach (North Beach)

During the storm, we were living on the Intracoastal on Bay Esplanade. It was on March 14th, my husband's birthday. What a surprise to wake up and find about a foot of water on the ground floor of our apartment, see our dock under water and find water halfway up the side of our car. We lost everything on the first floor. We had not even made the first payment on our brand new Toyota. It was totaled. There was no warning.
Flo and Orville Bickel, Bay Esplanade (North Beach)

The storm woke me up around 6am. I stepped out of bed into about two inches of cold water. As I opened the garage to turn off the power, I could see our items floating in about two feet of water. When I went outside, the water in the front yard was about knee deep. A fire truck driving by pushed a wave of water on to my 1985 Bonneville and 1984 Fiero. I walked to my dad's house on Mandalay and he was high and dry. I suffered damage to two cars and the interior of my house.
Ken Maxwell, Lantana Avenue (North Beach)

The storm was more than we could have imagined. I spent the night hunkered down in the hallway with the dog. I went for a walk during night and saw water coming up through the storm drains and out into the road. I later saw water covering the roads and creeping into my yard. The horns of cars parked throughout the neighborhood began to call our attention to the water that was overcoming their electronics. I called 9-1-1. They told me to turn the house's power off, which was in the flooded garage. When the water receded, we discovered one car was ruined and the hot tub in the backyard had popped out of the ground. We lost many electric tools stored in the garage. Later, our insurance rep gave us an even bigger disappointment.
Tuni Hensler, Lantana Avenue (North Beach)

In 1993, my shop, Lou's Spot Hair Salon was on Mandalay across from the Pelican Restaurant. My receptionist lived at 880 Mandalay now the Regatta Club. She phoned to say, "don't come to work today. The beach is flooded. Water is everywhere and I can't even see streets." Upon entering the beach, every car was stopped and checked for proof of residency or business ownership. The water had run through the entire shop. In the clean up I replaced all the carpets, drywall and electrical. There was damage to many cars, too. It was just another bump in the road and we were open the next day. Many years later my business is still going strong."
Linda Lou Jackson, owner of Lou's Spot Hair Salon

M OF MARCH 1993


Clearwater Beach

My husband and I woke abruptly at 5:15am. The water had just started rising up through the drainage gates, and filling the streets. Within 15 minutes, a wave rolled down the street high. Soon the yard was covered with water. We later measured the water marks on our new fence and it was about three feet. Both cars parked below our stilt house were flooded. Our dog needed to go to the bathroom but was afraid to go outside in the flooded yard. My husband got his video camera and started filming me running around acting crazy. He said he planned to send it into "Funniest Home Videos." The elderly couple across the street had to be rescued by the water department, who sent a huge truck and some tall men to carry them out. We saw our unmanned boat sail out of the yard and down the street. Several days later, we found it in a yard three blocks away. The water subsided that evening. We figured we were a cinch to win the $10,000 grand prize on Funniest Home Videos, but we lost the tape. I've never gotten over that.
Sandy Bax, Bruce Avenue (North Beach)

My wife and I were living on the water in Skiff Point. Our neighbor Jim, across the way on Dolphin Point called about 5 am to see if we were OK. I said, "of course, why?" He said, "Go outside." I went out the back door and saw waves hitting the bottom of the doorway. Everything was underwater. In the front yard, water was halfway up the tires on the cars. I told my wife we had better get out of there. She said, "and go where?" I said maybe on the roof. We spent the rest of the morning watching our large dock get torn apart, board by board. The water receded about 2 or 3pm. It was scary.
Les Novak, owner of The Print Shack, Island Estates

Around 5am, I wandered into the kitchen. Upon glancing out the kitchen window, I noticed the street light's reflection wiggling in the yard. I realized my lawn had become part of Clearwater Bay. Waves crested in the wind, bouncing off my house, eighteen inches above ground level. Transfixed, I found myself singing, 'The winds and the waves will obey His will, peace be still...'.

I smelled something burning in the living room. My panic was quickly reduced by the sight of two fire fighters in front of my house urging my neighbor and young son not to kayak down the street. I asked the firemen to check out the burning smell in my house. "Lady," one said to me, "we are a mess. We would do more damage to your house than some little fire." I asked them what I should do. They suggested I pull the main electric circuit breaker to the house and then left muttering something about the kayaker giving his son the adventure of a lifetime.

Although my car was badly damaged, the flood never really entered our house. Some hanging electrical lines caused the burning smell. Our garage flooded and looked like it had been stirred with a giant stick.

Later, we discovered there was no flooding west of Mandalay Avenue. The strong westerly winds blowing at high tide kept the water in the bay from flowing back into the Gulf of Mexico before the next high tide. So the water piled up in the bay with no place to go. The No Name Storm of 1993 may not have a name, but it surely made a lasting impression at our house.
Anne Garris, Acacia Street (North Beach)

We live in South Beach II condos. About 4:30 in the morning my wife called me out on the balcony of our condo. When I looked down, all I could see was dirty brown water. The Gulf had flowed over the beach and parking lot, across the street and into the intracoastal. My wife had been awaken by the sound of the parked cars bumping into each other. Twenty cars were floating together like toys. Gulf Boulevard was flooded and our guard shack had three feet of water in it. We turned on the TV to hear what was happening. There was no news of any flooding. We began alerting neighbors. One of our first concerns was our dog and his early morning routine. The elevators were not working so we walked down five flights of stairs to find three feet of water in the parking area and 10 feet of water in the elevator shafts. My wife heard a woman screaming and she found a woman trapped in her car in a building nearby. She had tried to drive through the high water to escape and her airbag exploded. Her face was covered with white powder and she was hysterical. We waved down an approaching fire truck. They got her out and took her to a nearby ambulance. The power was out and remained so for about three days. People in our building began sharing food and supplies because we could not get out. We checked on widows and several handicapped people in our building.

When the water receded, it took our beach with it. There was a 10-12 foot drop off from our seawall to the beach. The trees and tiki huts were demolished. One hut was found in the pool. The pool was full of debris and the fence was gone. We had two relatively new cars that were a total loss. For several months, we saw lots of tow trucks hauling cars from our lot. In just our two buildings, 95 cars were lost. Our condo had to spend thousands of dollars on landscaping to make the property presentable. Our pool, elevator shafts, mail room and the office lobby all had to be cleaned and repaired. The lights along the seawall were not replaced.

After the storm, Nick Fritsch, myself and the Sand Key Civic Association formed the Beach Renourishment Committee to raise funds to bring sand back to the damaged beaches. It took us until 1997 to get the required $47 million through three governments, Federal, State, and County, so that replacement of our beaches could begin. The sand was brought up from Egmont Key and pumped onto our beach. Although the grade of sand was not what we were used to, we were very thankful to have a beach once again. *Dick and Nan Ruben, 1430 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key*

"I remember the Harbor Oaks dock and pavilion was destroyed during the storm. Then it was called the Magnolia Street Dock. For years, this was the historic centerpiece of Harbor Oaks and served as a place for weddings, fishing, socializing, and sunset watching. After the storm, the city would not allow us to build back its historic roof and wide promenade because of new zoning laws. After much controversy and lobbying, the historic pier was saved and remains one of Clearwater's two surviving piers, representing a time when the focus was on the mainland and the beach was just an island.
Michael Sanders, President, Clearwater Historical Society

We were returning to our condo in Sand Key that night, dodging trash, trees, chairs, beach umbrellas and other debris in the road. We watched transformers blow up like fireworks. Our condo was dark with no power. Our unit was cold and the building shuddered. Enormous waves threw themselves against the seawall. The next morning we could see that the tiki huts were gone, the pool was filled with beach stuff, and the remains of the fishing pier were scattered throughout the parking garage. The water reached the rims of the parked cars. When we left the beach, the police stopped us. We had to prove that we lived there and were not gawkers or looters. The power was restored later that day. We will never ignore the strength of mother nature.
G.E. Konold, 1480 Gulf Blvd., Sand Key

THE NO NAME STORM, AS I LIVED IT

by John Schmalzbauer, a 22 year veteran with the Clearwater Police Department who was on duty that night.

On March 13, 1993, I was assigned to the midnight relief squad on Clearwater Beach with Officer Ed Walther and Sergeant Joe Rinaldi. It began to rain heavily. I remember being at the 7-11 store by the fire house and seeing the rising water coming in through the door. The water had come over the beach and crossed Mandalay.

Ed and I advised our Sergeant the water was rising rapidly. Sgt. Rinaldi asked us to drive through the north end to assess the situation. As we drove, water started coming over the top of the rocker panels and into our jeep.

Sgt. Rinaldi decided to observe the situation personally. While we waited, Sgt. Rinaldi drove further north. Shortly, he came wading back in thigh-deep water, without his vehicle, which became disabled in the flood waters. Even though the situation was becoming serious, I found the sight of the Sergeant wading through the water without his jeep to be rather humorous. Somehow "I told you so" just wasn't appropriate but I did laugh out loud. Perhaps Ofc. Walther did not laugh as loud as I did because he was assigned to divert traffic from the area on higher ground, while I stayed with the Sgt. Rinaldi in the flooded area.

We received word several citizens needed help. We solicited the help of a beach maintenance worker. He drove a truck up and down the street while we helped citizens from their homes and loaded them onto the truck to safety. We had to remove our duty belts and equipment so it would not be ruined by the salt water.

By this time, the water was about chest high. In one home, a family was in the attic trying to escape the rising waters. One elderly woman begged me to not let go because she couldn't swim. I reassured her although I, wasn't exactly an Olympic swimmer. Although our shift had ended, we stayed. More help arrived as it became available.

As the water began to recede, we went from house to house checking for stranded people. In one home with the entire back side missing, I found an older woman sitting in the kitchen with her feet propped up. The water was just below her chair. I asked her if she was okay and she replied she was and had been waiting for help.

Another woman I helped to the truck remembered she did not have her medications with her. I went back and retrieved them. Then she spoke of a cat. I found a cat and asked her if it was hers. She replied she did not have a cat but was worried about the neighborhood stray cat.

I believe we filled up the truck several times with citizens before we were relieved. It was surely the longest shift I have ever worked for CPD. However, it was one of the most rewarding, if not the most rewarding, experience of my career as a police officer. This was evidence that a person rises to the occasion, despite any perceived danger involved and responds to the need for service.

The uniform I was wearing had to be washed several times to get all of the salt stains out. Our equipment was spared since we had removed it. I am not sure what happened to the jeep. I still remember seeing it sinking with the light bar lit up and the headlights under water. And laughing, I still remember laughing.

Sgt. Rinaldi and I were awarded a medal for our efforts that night. It was without a doubt one of the proudest days of my life. Sgt. Rinaldi has since passed away, but I am sure it was probably one of his proudest moments also.





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NEW HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

by Commission Chair Susan Latvala



It opened in January, Pinellas County's latest resource in the battle against homelessness. It's called Pinellas Safe Harbor, the county's newest homeless refuge.

I was there before it opened, with other county and community leaders who came out for a preopening tour of this new facility.

Pinellas Safe Harbor represents a great opportunity for people living on the streets to get control of their lives again. They can come to Pinellas Safe Harbor, shower up and get clean, enjoy regular meals and most importantly, find a safe place to sleep.



The amenities at Pinellas Safe Harbor are spartan to be sure. Guests clean up in communal toilet facilities. They sleep on thin mats placed very close together on bare, concrete floors. Guests will be served three meals a day, but only one of them will be a hot meal. These are life's bare necessities, reduced to the minimum requirements.

But what makes Pinellas Safe Harbor different from other homeless shelters is its connection to the Pinellas County Jail and the criminal justice system. A primary objective is to provide an alternative to those whose lives in the open may lead them to commit "social" crimes that are, nonetheless, punishable offenses.



Those homeless people who use a sidewalk as their toilet, or are caught with an open alcoholic beverage container, exhibit public intoxication, engage in disorderly conduct or otherwise violate a municipal code or commit a state law misdemeanor can be diverted to Pinellas Safe Harbor instead of being booked into the Pinellas County Jail.

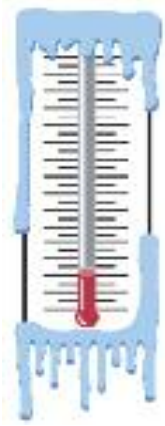
It's a chance at a brighter future, instead of bleak incarceration. Everybody who checks in to Pinellas Safe Harbor will be assigned a case counselor and be assessed and evaluated. Employment services will be available on site. Some people might need alcohol or substance abuse rehabilitation, or need help dealing with mental health issues. The goal is to offer guests the resources need to quit life on the streets and get back on their feet again.

The facility opened with nearly 30 guests. That number will be increased to a maximum cap of 250. Funding comes from a variety of grants, as well as contributions from the city of St. Petersburg and some of the other municipalities. Costs associated with caring for a guest at Pinellas Safe Harbor are estimated to be approximately $20 a day, which compares very favorably with the $126 a day it costs to house an inmate in the Pinellas County Jail.

The program will save money, relieve overcrowding at the Pinellas County Jail and provide a more effective and humane way of dealing with homeless chronic offenders. Pinellas Safe Harbor is a big step in the right direction in the effort to help the homeless in Pinellas County.



ANOTHER COLD WINTER!



Do you remember last year's winter? Most of us have dead or damaged palm trees to remind us. The fish kill in the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal was worse than one of our summer red tides. Hundreds of sea turtles found stunned and almost dead were rushed to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to be rehabilitated. Manatees across the state died in record numbers. Even some dolphins struggled.

Records show that of the 700 manatees who died in 2010, 244 were from cold water stress. The previous year, only 56 died from the cold. That is an increase of over 300%.

In January, the below normal cold air lasted 13 days, without a break with Pinellas temperatures regularly reaching as low as 33 degrees. From January 2 to 14, we had consecutive lows at or below 45 degrees. From January 9 to 12, the lows were at or below 37. On January 11th, the low in St Petersburg registered 33. Temperatures are collected at the St Petersburg station.

Last year's winter season (December 22, 2009 to March 19, 2010), was either the coldest or second coldest on record, depending the area. According to the National Weather Service's Tampa office, who have been keeping records since 1890, the winter of 2009-10 was one of the coldest on record.

The average in Brooksville was 55.3 degrees, which broke a record set in 1920. In Plant City, the average was 56.1, which is the lowest ever. In Tampa, it was 55.6, which was the second lowest since 1979. In St Petersburg, the average was 56.9, the lowest ever, beating a mark going back to 1940. Pinellas temperatures are much higher than the rest of the Tampa Bay area, due the warmer surrounding water.

The cold readings have been attributed to the "Arctic Oscillation". When it happens, the cold arctic air plunges farther south, which is why we had a seemingly unending train of cold fronts sweeping through the state every few days. Forecasters said this year with a La Niña weather pattern in place, which usually means warmer drier winters, it would not happen again. Unfortunately, December and January picked up where last winter left off. The Arctic Oscillation turned out to be much stronger than the La Niña. Things seem to be warming up now. Let's hope we have finally seen the end of it!

Information supplied to us by the National Weather Service

Guppy's ON THE BEACH

Guppy's Gulfside Gallop

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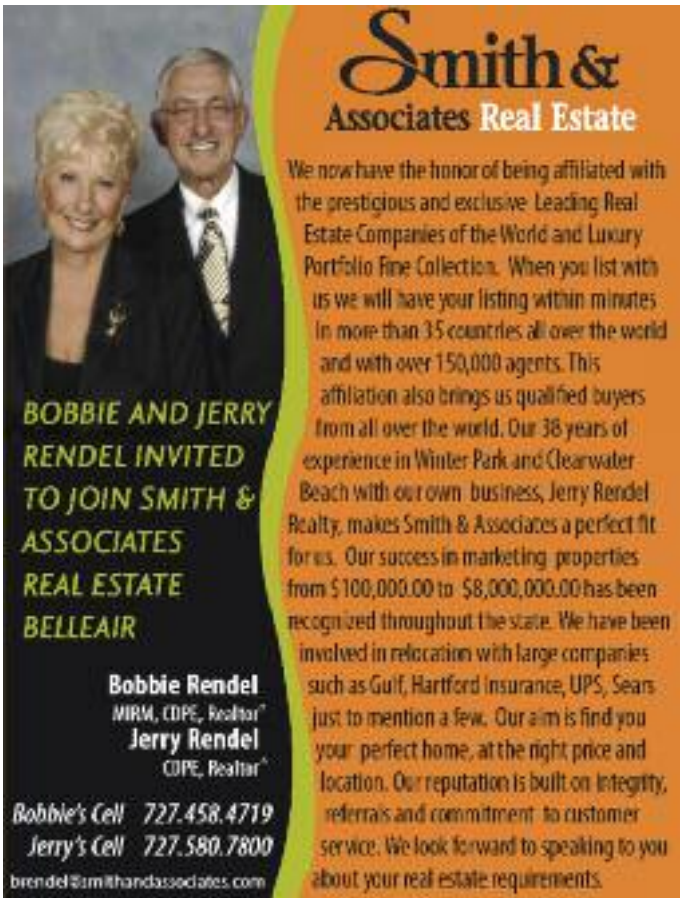
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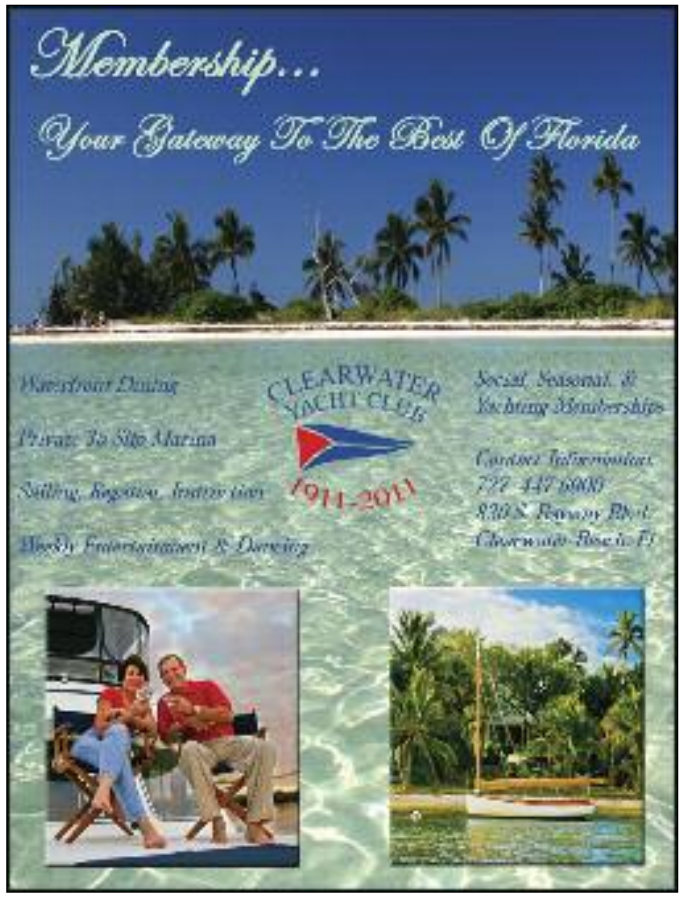
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LANDSCAPE NEWS

by Randy Lee



Everything is brown! You have seen the brown lawns, palms and flowers. Several freezes have hit the bay area early this year. Rain and warm temperatures will make us green again but that will not happen for a few months. Most lawns and shrubs are dormant at this time and require little maintenance.

What can be done about cold damage? Wait to trim, fertilize, and replant tropicals. Winter may last into mid March. If March is warm, trimming and fertilizing can be done. A good rule of thumb, is wait until we hit eighty degrees for a few consecutive days. Always keep sod and shrubs watered during this time. Dry lawns and plants take longer to recover.

Planting cold tolerant flowers (annuals) add color to our otherwise brown landscape. Geranium, snapdragon, pansy, petunia, and alyssum are great choices and will last into May. Impatiens and begonia are good choices as well but much less cold tolerant. Beds should first be cleared of leaves and debris and a fresh layer of mulch should be added. Mulch will keep weeds out and moisture in. You might try a "layered" effect with taller flowers in the background and shorter flowers in the foreground. Geraniums in the background and petunias in the foreground is one example. A mix of colors or one main color can create the desired effect. Keep pastels and strong, vivid colors separate.

Hardy trees and shrubs can be planted at this time. Trees include Oak, crape myrtle, camphor and holly. Most shrubs can be included here if cold tolerant. Trees and shrubs can acclimate during these cooler months before the heat of summer sets in. A great time to install a new lawn is February or March as well. Newly planted trees, shrubs and lawns need watering about twice a week during this time.

Containerized gardens thrive during this time of year. Terra cotta, concrete, plastic or fiberglass/resin type of pots can be used. They vary in size, weight and cost. Herbs can be grown successfully in containers. These might include rosemary, basil, parsley, fennel or oregano. Vegetables can be grown in containers as well. These might include tomatoes, onions or peppers. The most common container gardens would include a variety of flowers. In the cooler months, excellent choices would include geranium, salvia, begonia, petunia, alyssum and pansy. Be sure to keep pots watered one or two times a week depending on temperature and location. Containers are an easy way to garden, add color in the winter and are easy to replace each season.

March checklist:
Trim roses back to one half size
Plant hardy, winter annuals
Fertilize trees, palms, shrubs and flowers in March
Fertilize sod in mid February
Check and repair irrigation systems in March
Plant spring vegetables

Landscapes by Randy Lee, Inc. is a full service landscape design company. Randy Lee, a Belleair Bluffs resident for twenty years, has created award winning designs in the Bay area. His company specializes in landscape design, lighting and irrigation systems and seasonal color. Contact him at (727) 421-2715 or view online at www.landscapesbyrl.com.











BEACH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Clearwater Beach Recreation Center is located at 69 Bay Esplanade on Clearwater Beach. It contains an exercise room, tennis courts, basketball courts and a large swimming pool. They are open Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays and holidays. Note prices vary with memberships and residency. Call 462-6138 for more information or see the city's web site at www.MyClearwater.com

Here are some of the things going on there:

TAI CHI - A new class in Tai Chi has been added on Monday & Wednesdays 11:30am to 12:30pm. The cost is $3.75 members, $5 non-member residents, and $6.25 non-member, non- residents.

POOL - The Aquatic Center will reopen March 21st. Pool hours will be 12 to 5pm through May 1st. A new larger water slide is scheduled to open by April 1st.

BRIDGE - Started recently, Mondays 1-4pm, $1 residents

DANCING: BALLROOM, LATIN and GREEK - Thursdays, 1-2pm, $15 Residents ($11.25 members)

ZUMBA CLASSES - Tuesdays 11am to Noon
$3.75 Play Pass, $5 Recreation Card, $6.25 without card

PILATES CLASSES - Mondays 9:15-10:15am
$3.75 Play Pass, $5 Recreation Card, $6.25 no card

BUTTS AND GUTS - Wednesdays 10-11am
$3.75 Play Pass, $5 Recreation Card, $6.25 no card

YOGA - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, $3.75 per person

PERSON TRAINING - By Appointment Only. $165 per person

TENNIS LESSONS - Group Lessons, Monday evenings. $4.50 per person, $50 a hour for private lessons; $25 for two people. You must be 15 years or older. Call for reservations.

BEACH LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Beach Library is open Monday-Friday 1-5pm. It is closed Saturday and Sunday. Located inside the Beach Recreation Center at 69 Bay Esplanade, near Mile Marker 24, they can be reached at 562-4970.

COMPUTER TRAINING - Mondays 2-4pm (Free)

WRITER'S SUPPORT GROUP - held the first and third Wednesdays each month at 1pm, this workshop is for would be writers. Anne Garris leads this program.

VIDEO GAMING, ADULTS - Every Wednesday 1-3pm, play the library's Nintendo Wii and bring your friends.

VIDEO GAMING FOR TEENS - For all ages 10 and up, Tuesday from 4-5pm. Wednesdays & Thursdays from 3-5pm. Have fun with their Wii.

FILMS ON THE BEACH - Held at the Beach Library, 2pm, the first Tuesdays of each month.

TEXT THE LIBRARY - If you have a question, any kind of questions, text it to 66746 and begin your message with 'cpls' (Clearwater Public Library System). A librarian will text the answer back to you.

COMPUTER TRAINING - They offer drop-in computer Training Mondays only from 2-4pm. Appointments are not required, but space is limited. They cover e-mail, the internet, Facebook, Twitter, using the library's catalog and other electronic resources, printing photos, documents and more. Call 562-4970.

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2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS



By State Representative Jim Frishe, District 54,

The 2011 Legislative Session, beginning March 8, 2011, will be quite fiscally challenging for the Florida legislature. We will have two very clear, overarching principles: keep taxes low and encourage private sector economic activity.

During our Special Session, we were able to put money back in the hands of thousands of Floridians through the Solar Rebate and Septic Tanks bills and the Medicaid Memorial made clear our intent to continue reforming our state's health care system.

Even though the current year holds a large amount of federal funds for SPECIFIC appropriations, they will not be available next year and it is imperative that we address the absence of these appropriations.

Florida will experience a large budget shortfall. Our goal is to find solutions, in line with our priorities, to keep taxes low and encourage private sector economic activity.

We have limited general mechanisms for budget solutions such as reducing the budget, re-evaluating our funding needs, looking at Trust Funds for excess balances and potential revenue re-directions or revenue enhancements.

In order to address these shortfalls, we need to look at what the primary functions of government are and use those principles to re-evaluate how and where we are spending government revenues. Presently, state laws prescribe how Trust Funds can be spent and there is limited discretion as the Legislature must make a law change to alter the intended spending of these funds. We are disinclined to revenue enhancements, and will work hard to exhaust all other shortfall solutions.

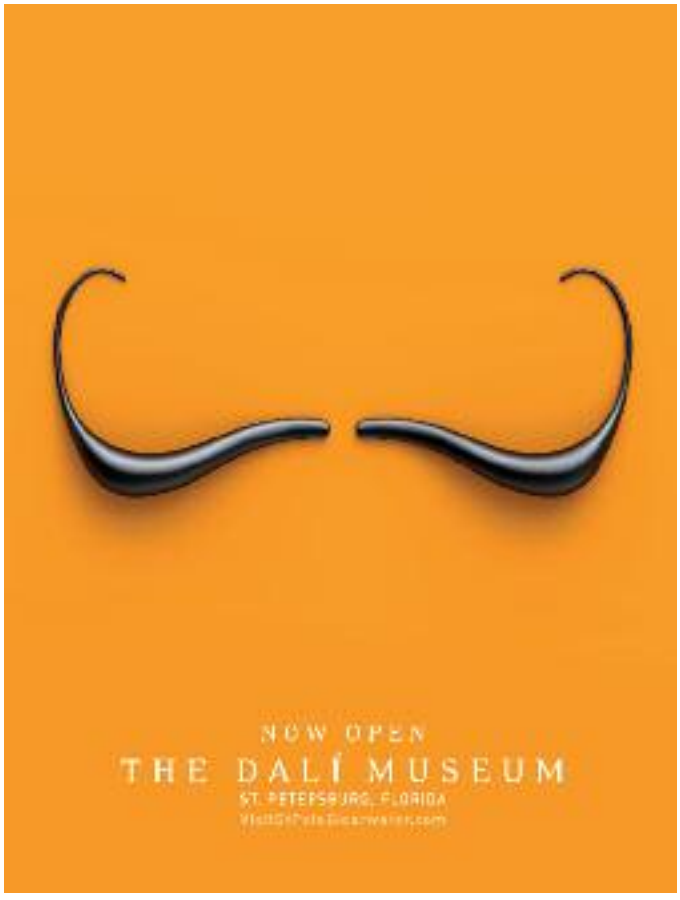
The severity of the current economic downturn has overwhelmed the state's Unemployment Compensation system. The dramatic rise in payments to unemployed workers has been driving large, automatic increases in the employer-paid taxes that fund the system. These increases are happening at a time of great vulnerability in Florida's economy. We will be exploring options to ease the burden on businesses while maintaining the long-run solvency of the system.

Once education, health care and justice funds are accounted for, the rest of the budget is about 5% of GR. That 5% is Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation, General Government & Economic Development combined.

While public safety, health care and education are the priorities of government, we must be diligent in holding government accountable for the way we spend our citizens' tax dollars.

The road ahead is going to be steep but I truly believe it is a road we can travel and a road that will lead in the right direction for the future of our state. TOGETHER we can and will make it better.





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Optimist Prams - The Mighty Midgets Of Clearwater Bay

by Anne McKay Garris

You often see them dancing across the waves of Clearwater Bay. If you look closely, you'll notice the agile skippers at the helms are children, some only nine years old. These are the Clearwater Optimist Prams, a small sample of the 300,000 strong fleet scattered throughout the world. They got their start here on Clearwater Beach.

In 1947, the Clearwater Optimist Club, dedicated to fighting juvenile delinquency, had just finished the annual Orange Crate Derby on the only hill in Clearwater. They wanted to do more and listened carefully as guest speaker, Major Clifford A. McKay suggested that a youngster out sailing had little time for juvenile delinquency. He recommended the Optimists sponsor a waterborne derby, active all year round. He pictured child-sized sailboats, purchased by local businesses but owned by the Optimist Club to provide youngsters an opportunity to learn to sail.

The Optimists promptly voted to ask Major McKay to proceed with implementing his plan. The Major contacted a talented Clearwater boat builder named Clark Mills, asking if Mr. Mills would create a small inexpensive boat, safe and easy for children to sail. He wanted a simple design that a man and his son could build.

The final design of the boat was snub-nosed, built from a single sheet of plywood, to keep the cost down. The boom was a small stick of wood, which could not damage young heads as it whipped across the wind. The tiller, rudder and center board were all wood, partially so they would float if they were lost overboard in a capsize.

"Ugliest boat I ever designed," said Mr. Mills, "and the most popular."

Once the prototype of the boat was built, and tested by young Clifford McKay, Jr., Major McKay persuaded businesses to buy the boats. The City of Clearwater provided an old shed at the end of Bay Esplanade for Pram storage. Optimist Ernie Green was assigned to put together a program and soon the weekly Optimist Pram races began in Clearwater Bay.

Sunday afternoons were exciting with youngsters scurrying to get their Prams ready to sail and the race committee setting up the buoys in the bay. When the races started, Mothers and Daddies stood on the seawall shouting instructions and encouragement to their young skippers. If a boats flipped over the crash boat rushed to the rescue, righting the boat and reinstalling the skipper to try again.

Major McKay and Ernie Green took the Prams on the road, attending nearby regattas where they showed off the midget boats and their young skippers. New fleets were established all over Florida and eventually other states, then other countries. A delegation from Sweden asked permission to enhance the design of the Pram so that it could be used in the stronger seas of Northern Europe. They called the new design the Optimist Dinghy.

Today, the Optimist Pram/Dinghy not only races regularly in Clearwater, but throughout the waters of the world. Most Olympic sailors learned to sail in an Optimist Pram. And, if you stop by the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key, you will not only see one of the original Prams (wooden, not fiberglass as they are today) but you will find three special working Prams -- the Clarkie Mills, the Ernie Green and the Clifford McKay, a tribute to the three men who made sailing available for the children of the world.

Photo courtesy of the State of Florida Archives

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Organizational News...

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION On Saturday, April 16th, they will host the first ever Family Fun Fest and Doggy Daze. This family day held next to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, will feature a dog contest, a pet parade, and a pet fashion photo shoot coordinated by Fluffy Puppies. There will be music and special events for the children and teens. Beer will be available for sale. For more information, call 517-5446.

Their next meetings are March 14th and April 11th. Dues are $40 per year. The IECA pays over $10,000 per year to maintain the entry way into Island Estates including landscape maintenance such as planting, trimming, spraying and weeding plus electricity, fixtures, and maintaining the American Flag. The IECA plans many events throughout the year. Call Wally Pope, President, at 461-1818 or visit www.MyIslandEstates.org.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB



In January they held their Annual Scholarship Fashion Show at the Belleair Country Club. The Woman's Club meets regularly September through May, on the third Tuesday of each month at nearby restaurants. The next meetings:
March 15: Alfano's Restaurant *The Promise of Spring*
April 19: on the Calypso Queen Cruise *Island Musical*
May 17: Bob Heilman's Beachcomber, Installation of new officers.
Call Muriel Mangas at 446-2060 to RSVP. Membership is open to all women residents of Island Estates. The dues are $15 for Island Estates residents and $20 for associate members who are not residents. For information, call President Barbara Blakely, 449-8453 or Membership Chairperson Joan Landreth, 812-8078.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB Unfortunately, the 2010 Holiday Boat parade was canceled at the last minute because of heavy sea fog. The club wants to apologize to the hundreds of homeowners who plan their Christmas parties around this event. Save the date for this year: Saturday, December 10th. To become a member of the IEYC, call Scott Sanders 461-3949

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION invites everyone to their Second Annual Spring Fest being held in the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sunday, March 20th. Attending the event is free. They are planning music, entertainment, arts and crafts, beer and wine.

Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard addressed the February monthly meeting of the Sand Key Civic Association last evening to discuss numerous issues interest including the City' efforts to increase efficiencies and to negotiate new labor contracts with the police and other city workers. Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coates was also present at the meeting discussing the opening of Safe Harbor, a new county wide homeless shelter.

The Sand Key Civic Association meets once a month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. Contact president is Gene Gillispie at 596-0993.

More Organizational News

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY is sponsoring Meet the Bombers on Saturday, March 19th. Many of the original Clearwater Bombers fast-pitch softball team , who were very popular in the 1960s and '70s and won the World Championship ten times, will be there. The event is open to the public with free refreshments and prizes from 10am to 1pm at the Plumb House Museum on South MLK Jr Blvd. Their big annual fish fry is May 7th. The Historical Society meets the first Monday of each month. Their museum, located on South MLK Jr Blvd, south of Lakeview is open every Saturday (November thru May) and on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Membership is $5 students, $10 individuals, $20 family, $150 corporate, $250 life and $500 patron. Call Bill Wallace at 446-2676 or Michael Sanders at 434-1684 for more information.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION will hold a Neighborhood Picnic at Triangle Park on Bay Esplanade April 16. Hot dogs, hamburgers and side dishes provided by members of the association will be available. It is a good chance to meet your neighbors, visit with old friends and get to know new ones. Business owners in the area are invited to attend, also. The CBA is a Neighborhood Association organized to promote projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature. Meetings are held at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center on Bay Esplanade, the first Tuesday of each month, at 6pm. The next meetings are March 1 and April 5. For more information on the CBA, call Patrick Gallagher, President at 447-1033, ClearwaterBeachAssociation.net.



IRB BOAT CLUB Started in 2008, they have a lot planned this year, including monthly meetings at Jimmy Guana's, two intracoastal cleanups, participation in area boat parades, several island parties and lots of trips to nearby restaurants. Saturday, March 26 they will boat to an early dinner at Salt Rock Grill. On Sunday, April 17 there will be a visit to Clearwater Beach's Bait House. In May, when the water has warmed up enough, they are planning an island party at Caladesi. They meet at Jimmy Guana's, the third Thursday of the month at 6pm for happy hour, with the meeting at 7pm. Email BoatClub@IRBHome.com or call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 to get involved. See event pictures and get more info at IRBhome.com

THE BELLEAIR REC. DEPARTMENT, in conjunction with teacher Betsy Schoeph, is offering beginner and intermediate oil painting classes. The three hour classes run on a continuous basis throughout the year. Students can start anytime and learn about paint and brushes, color mixing, composition and all the basics that form a foundation in traditional oil painting methods. the class fee is $80 for four weeks of instruction, and no membership is required. Call Betsy at 595-1083.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LARGO & MID-PINELLAS, will host the Fifth Annual Pawfest in Largo Central Park, on April 2, from 10am to 3pm. Audition for Pawfest's 'Dancing with the Dogs' Talent show. The event is a festival for everyone and their favorite canine. All ages are welcome to dance with their dogs. For audition dates and rules, contact Michelle Simmons at 776-7250 or email her at mmtarantino@Yahoo.com.





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