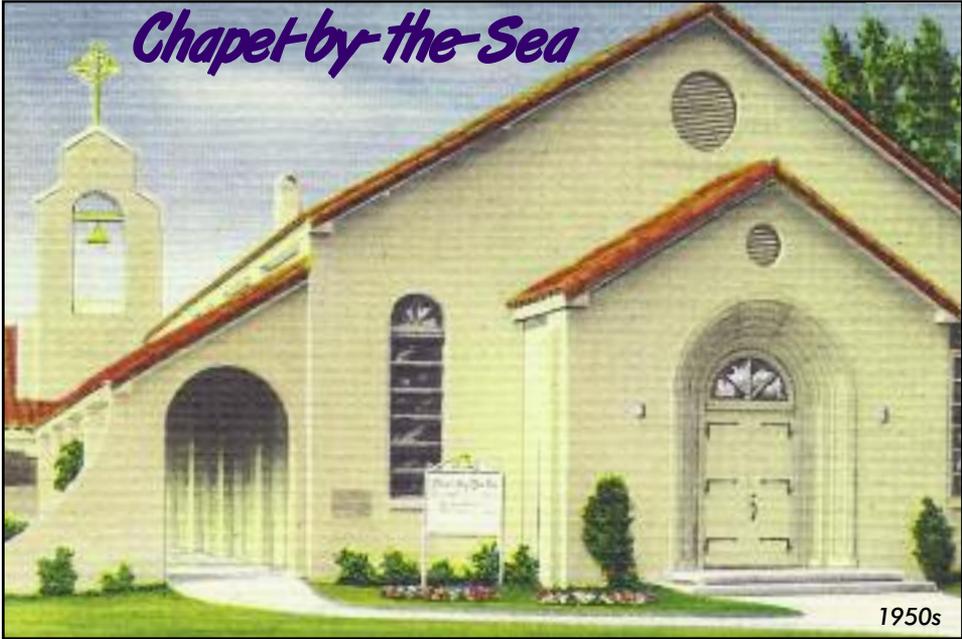


# CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Newsletter 20-25



## 64 YEARS OF SERVICE

In 1949, Clearwater Beach was a sparsely settled island community. The highest building was the three-story Clearwater Beach Hotel. Most of the tourist accommodations were in groups of one-story tourist cottages or garage apartments beside residences. Island Estates was a row of mangrove islands surrounded by bounteous scallop beds in Clearwater Bay. Sand Key, called Dan's Island, was populated only with birds and turtles and crabs.

At the end of a Clearwater Beach Association meeting on January 11, 1949, the association president asked, "Does anyone have any further business they want to discuss?"

winter resident, rose to speak. "I have watched the children running around the beach," she said, "and many folk who have no way of attending church. It seems we need a Community Church on Clearwater Beach." Without comment, discussion, or a vote, the president declared the meeting adjourned, saying, "Everyone interested in having church services on the beach see Mrs. Atkins."

A small group gathered, all were mature Christians experienced in church leadership. Three days later, a committee met at Mrs. Atkins' home and agreed there was a need for a Sunday School for those living on Clearwater Beach, as well as the visitors. They made careful plans to proceed. By the February Beach Association meeting, the committee reported they had the enthusiastic approval of the Clearwater Ministerial Association to start a new church. They had received permission to hold church services at the Junior Chamber of Commerce's Club House plus hymnals and \$800 left over from earlier collections at a Sunday School program on the Beach, conducted by Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church,

The first meeting of the Chapel-By-The-Sea was held at the Jaycee Club House on March 6, 1949. The Jaycees Club House was on the beachfront north of where Pier 60 is now. It had an office and one large L-shaped room, with a juke box, pool table and other necessities for Jaycee's parties. A portable pulpit was set up beside the juke box and chairs collected by volunteers from a Clearwater funeral home each Sunday morning, surrounded the pool table. They did this for the three years they met at this location. The Reverend J. Shackelford Dauerty, a former lecturer at the General Seminary in New York City, was the part time minister.

There was even a "daily vacation Bible school" held there in the summer of '49. It was staffed by the members of the "College Class" at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

"Even though we were serious about teaching Bible School, it was great fun," reports one of the teachers. "The juke box and pool table were off limits to the little kids, of course, but after they left we locked the door and relaxed from our teaching duties by playing pool and dancing to music from the juke box."

The church had great support from Clearwater churches, residents and businesses. One newspaper advertisement was sponsored by the Beachcomber Restaurant on Mandalay Avenue. Another advertisement boasted a long list of business supporters. With no Greek Church closer than Tarpon Springs the Greek residents of Clearwater Beach were urged by the leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church in Tarpon Springs to worship at Chapel-By-The-Sea.

The committee began looking for a permanent home. They picked five lots on Bay Esplanade, across Mandalay and east of the Palm Pavilion. Mrs. Atkins and another member called on Mr. Francis L. Skinner of Dunedin, whose family owned the property. Presented with their request, Mr. Skinner protested, "But that's the prime location in the sub-division. I was going to build a shopping center there."

*continued on page 3...*

story by Anne Garris, photos courtesy of Chapel-by-the-Sea

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This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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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](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

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**CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

This is our 19th Clearwater Beach Neighborhood Newsletter. We started this publication in December of 2009.

You will find articles and local information about the Beach area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire zip code of 33767 including Island Estates and Sand Key.

We want your input. How did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future issues and articles? 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.

Call or email us, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997 [bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL!**

**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL 562-4250**  
112 S. Osceola Avenue  
[www.clearwater-fl.com](http://www.clearwater-fl.com)

**MAYOR OFFICE** . . . . . 562-4050

**MAYOR** - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1

**CITY COUNCIL** . . . . . 562-4042

Doreen Hock-DiPolito - Seat 2

Jay Polglaze - Seat 3 Bill Jonson - Seat 4

Paul F. Gibson (Vice-Mayor) - Seat 5

**CITY MANAGER** . . . . . 562-4040

William Horne

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER** . . 562-4040

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**NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON** . . 562-4554

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** . . . 447-7600

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**POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES** 449-8732

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249 Windward Passage, Island Estates

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**CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB** . . 447-6000

830 Bayway Blvd South

**CARLOUÉ HOMEOWNERS ASSN**

Kris Hampsey, President . . . . . 441-4188

**LITTLE LEAGUE**

John Murphy . . . . . 813-486-4430

**ROTARY**, Clearwater Beach meets every

Thursday, 12:15pm at Shephard's lunch

Adam Bottie, President . . . . . 466-8692

**CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION**

Wendy Hutkin, President . . . . . 216-3274

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

Cathy Foley . . . . . 443-7032

**SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Meets first Wednesdays each month at the

Clearwater Community Sailing Center

Arlene Musselwhite, President 644-7524

**ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Mary Lau, President . . . 813-335-6770

[www.MylslandEstates.org](http://www.MylslandEstates.org)

**ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB**

Mary Wadsworth, President . . 447-7182

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Anne Garris . . . . . 446-4410

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David Allbritton, President . . 481-5102

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**COMMISSION OFFICES** . . . . . 464-3000

Susan Latvala, CWB/Island Estates 464-3276

Karen Seel, Sand Key . . . . . 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Jack Latvala . . . . . 727-545-9566

Republican, District 20

2050 Tall Pines Drive, Suite A, Largo

Jack@JackLatvala.com

Representative Larry Ahern 727-545-6421

Republican, District 66

5511 Park Street N. St. Petersburg

larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov

Governor Rick Scott

Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**

Marco Rubio . . . . . 202-224-3041

[www.Rubio.Senate.gov](http://www.Rubio.Senate.gov)

Bill Nelson . . . . . 202-224-5274

[www.BillNelson.Senate.gov](http://www.BillNelson.Senate.gov)

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Rep Bill Young . . . . . 727-394-6950

9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

[www.house.gov/young](http://www.house.gov/young)

**CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY:**

- Presidents Day . . . . . 18
- Clearwater International Regatta 20-24
- Blast Friday Cleveland Street . . . . . 22
- Sand Key Triathlon . . . . . 23

**MARCH**

- Wild Splash / Coachman Park . . . . . 9
- Daylight Savings Time Begins . . . . . 10
- St Patrick's Day . . . . . 17
- Bomber Day History Museum . . . . . 16
- Great American Clean Up . . . . . 16
- Quilting Day Heritage Village . . . . . 16
- Spring Fest / Sand Key . . . . . 17
- Joe Calio Day at Spring Fest . . . . . 17
- Pinellas County Fair . . . . . 20-24
- Honda Grand Prix . . . . . 22-24
- Safari Camp City of Clearwater . . . . . 25-29

- Good Friday . . . . . 29
- Blast Friday Rick Derringe . . . . . 29
- Easter Egg Hunt Bch Rec Center . . . . . 29
- Easter Sunday . . . . . 31

**APRIL**

- April Fool's Day . . . . . 1
- YMCA Auction Carlouel . . . . . 4-5
- Guppy's Gulfside Gallop . . . . . 6
- CBA Spring Picnic . . . . . 13
- Clearwater Beach Neighborhood Day . . . . . 13
- Kids Fishing Rodeo / Pier 60 . . . . . 13
- Fun N Sun Fest . . . . . 19-28
- Frenchy's Sugar Sand Festival . . . . . 19-28
- Iron Girl Clearwater Pier 60 . . . . . 21
- Arbor Day . . . . . 26
- Blast Friday . . . . . 26
- Music Series Coachman Park . . . . . 27-28

## CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA, continued

"But, Mr. Skinner," Mrs. Atkins urged gently, "surely you would not want to give anything but your best to the Lord."

The Skinner Family donated the land, with the condition that the congregation have a \$35,000 building fund by July of 1951. There was hesitation until one woman said, "If God wants us to have a church on Clearwater Beach, He will give us the money. Let's pray about it."

Beach residents and businesses gave generously, regardless of religious affiliation. The owners of the Sea View Hotel gave their opening day receipts and promised the same on each anniversary. Walton Peabody, son of a founding member, volunteered to do the architectural work. Leonard Brown volunteered to supervise the construction work.

Being the only church on Clearwater Beach, it was agreed the Chapel should have no denominational affiliation. The purpose stated in the by-laws is to "bring persons of all ages into continuing life-changing experiences through the mind and spirit of Jesus Christ."

The first services in the new building was February 10, 1952. The sanctuary seated 300 people, but during a ceremony, on February 24, 1952, 403 persons attended. Some were seated on the lawn with the service broadcast through open doors. There was no choir loft; those who led the singing sat at the front of the sanctuary beside the piano.

A major emphasis was the Sunday School. Children came with, or without their parents. One elderly lady in a motorized wheelchair, arrived with children perched around her. Every Sunday, she gathered them on her way to Sunday School.

From the beginning there was a Woman's Auxiliary, a Men's Club, a Youth Group and a Service League. Bible study, fellowship and fundraising were the organization's objects.

Sunday School picnics and a Living Nativity Scene put on by the Sunday School department became an early tradition. For a few years, this included live animals, but when neighbors objected to the noise and smell, the animals were banned. The neighbors also objected to the chimes played too often by an enthusiastic musician, so they were reduced in number but the chimes still ring frequently, reminding all the Christian God is in their midst.

In 1971, a Sunday School building was added. Designed with excellent acoustics, the Chapel has always attracted outstanding musicians in the choir. One director was an opera singer who had been disabled by a stroke. The choir supported and encouraged her return to health and sponsored her come-back recital. Currently there is a scholarship program for college voice students.

The Chapel, with its romantic name and beautiful setting, has always been a favorite place for weddings. Because it is non-denominational, couples who belong to different churches can marry there with the blessing of the Christian church, without having to choose "his or her denomination."

From the beginning, the Chapel has been a supporter of Religious Community Services in Clearwater, often being the top donor. Recently, a new tradition of a fundraising walk for RCS has been added.

Probably in 1949, all the small Clearwater Beach Assn. committee dreamed of doing was to provide a small place of worship for residents and visitors. Although their faith was large, it is doubtful they imagined what a loving, caring presence the Chapel-By-The-Sea would become, and the enhancement it would be to the Clearwater Beach community.

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## Did You Know...

### COUNTY FAIR

The Pinellas County Fair is March 20-24. Since 1917, it has been a popular annual event, but ten years ago the fair fell on hard times and was cancelled. Now it is back and coming to Tropicana Field. There is still time for you to participate as a vendor or as a volunteer. It takes hundreds of volunteers for an event this size. Call 346-8032 or visit [PinellasCountyFair.com](http://PinellasCountyFair.com).



**CLOWN ALLEY** Registration Open for 2013 Clown Alley! This popular community program is open to students of all ages. Christine Davison, a graduate of the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Clown School, teaches character definition, make-up, costuming and performance techniques during the one day class. All participants will be invited to show off their new skills in the Illuminated Night Parade on Thursday, March 21st and again in the Santa Parade in December. The class will be held on Saturday, March 9th from 10am to 2pm at the All Children's Hospital Education Conference Center, 701 4th Street South, St. Petersburg. The cost is \$20 per person and \$10 for each additional family member. The fee includes instruction, a Clown Alley t-shirt and a box lunch. Make up and supplies will be available for sale.

**GET YOUR CAPTAIN'S LICENSE** Clearwater Yacht Club, in Clearwater Beach is looking for a few good boaters who want to get their Captain's License. They need at least 10 people to start the class hopefully in March. If you are interested, call 447-6000 to register or get more information. You can also call Scott Sanders at 215-5730.

**NEED ANOTHER COPY?** Pick up another copy of this newsletter at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli & the Island Estates UPS store.

**NEW MARKET** There is a new Saturday Farmer's Market on Cleveland Street near Missouri. It is managed by Howard Warshauer. Opening day saw over 40 vendors. Downtown Clearwater already has two other Farmer's Markets, one during the day on Wednesday and another Friday evenings. Warshauer seems to think there is a need for one on the weekend.



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**ART IN THE MARINA**

A unique art design from Cliff Garten of Laguna Beach, California, named "Midden" was chosen to be installed at the Clearwater Marina. Over fifty entries were submitted, but Garten's design was preferred as it blended the natural and human elements of Clearwater Harbor.



Shell middens (mounds) were commonly found in Florida. They were created by the native Tocobaga Indians who inhabited our area between 900 and 1500 AD. The sculpture combines the oceanic elements of the sea scallop shell and a ship's sail. The monument will be lit at night. The city says it will be installed early in 2014. The cost of the project, including a fee to the artist, is estimated at \$215,000. It will feature two sails, one measuring 6 x 8 feet and the other 7x7, positioned on a shell midden.

**YMCA FISHING EVENTS AND MORE** The 12th Annual YMCA Clearwater Benefit Auction and Captain's Party at the Carlouel Yacht Club is April 4 with the Adult Fishing Tournament on April 5th. It is followed by the Kids Fishing Rodeo held on Pier 60 April 13th. These events raise money for the kids and families of the Clearwater YMCA. If you want to fish, or attend the events, or donate to the auction, call Laura Hudson at 461-4976.

**SPRING BREAK SHORT, BUT BIGGER** Spring Break will feel bigger than normal this year. Not due to the weather, or our favorable publicity; it is because Easter is March 31st. Normally spring break spreads over six or eight weeks, but this year most Florida schools have a March break.

**SAND KEY TRIATHLON CANCELED** The long running Sand Key Triathlon, previously scheduled in February, will not happen. The Iron Girl Triathlon is still on for April 21st at Pier 60.

**TURN IN YOUR DRUGS** If you have unused, unwanted and expired prescriptions do not put them in your trash or down the toilet. Drop them off at the Clearwater Police station in the Drop Box located in the police lobby. Just bring your prescription medications to the front desk of the CPD headwaters at 645 Pierce Street during



normal hours (7:30am to midnight) and police personnel will assist you with the drop box. This is an expansion of 'Operation Medicine Cabinet (OMC), a county wide multi-agency effort to safely collect unwanted prescription medications from Pinellas County Citizens at no charge.

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

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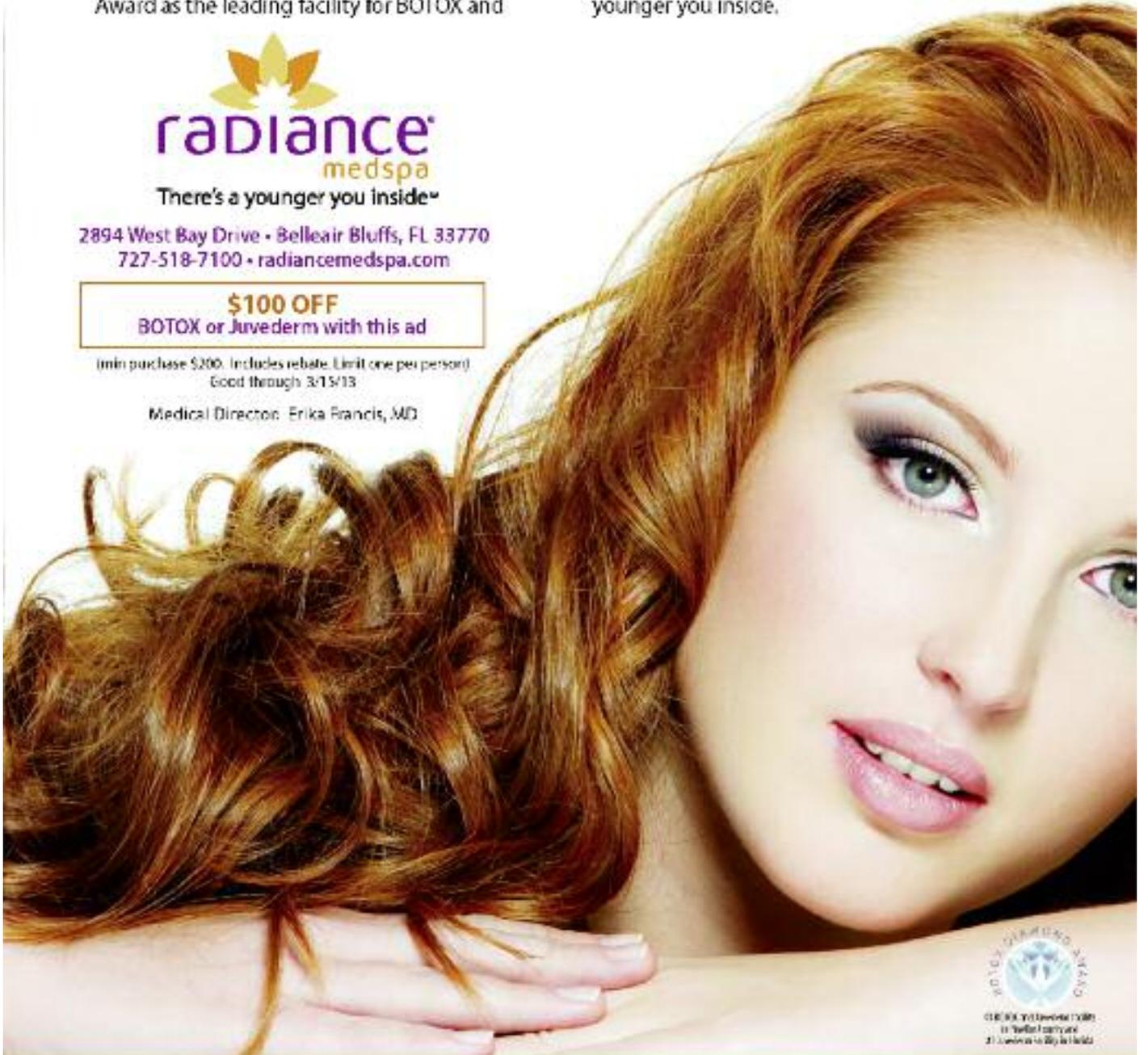
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## CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA TODAY

The Chapel-By-The-Sea held its first formal worship service on March 6, 1949. The first service was held in the newly built church on February 10, 1952. There were 403 people in attendance.

The first pastor was Reverend Walter McMullen in 1964. McMullen was succeeded by the Reverend Wilton Moffit in 1969. In 1981, the Reverend Herbert Freitag replaced the retiring Moffit. Reverend Freitag has been the Chapel's leader for 32 years, more than half of its existence.

Rev Herb was born in the New Jersey area. He previously pastored in churches in New York and Ohio. In the first 17 years at the Chapel, he conducted 1,750 weddings. He has served the International Council of Community Churches as a member of the board of Trustees, editor of the newspaper, and is that group's Past-President.

He represents the Chapel ecumenically by serving on boards in such organizations as The Florida Fellowship of Community Churches, Morton Plant/Mease Hospitals and the Suncoast Hospice.

The Chapel is many things today. Membership is a moving target but about 300 to 400 attend service every week. There were 20 weddings held in the chapel last year, down from previous years of about 35 per year. Some members come from outside the Clearwater Beach area. In addition to nearby Island Estates and Sand Key, they have members from Dunedin, Belleair, Largo and Palm Harbor.

The church operates with a paid staff of only 7, most of

whom are part-timers. There is only one full time staff employee. It is managed by a Board of Directors; Eleanor Holmes is the President, John Doran is Vice President and many others including 8 subcommittee chairmen.

The Chapel sponsors many activities throughout the week. Sunday school is available for both adults and children. Youth is important so they sponsor a Teen Youth Group of mostly high school students. There is a nursery for small children. A Bible study group meets Thursday mornings and their "Souper" Book Club, on Wednesday nights which includes dinner. Alcohol Anonymous meetings are held Tuesday and Thursdays. A "Non-Trivial Pursuit" group meets every other Monday evening with guest speakers on a variety of area subjects and happenings.

The church is very proud of their Out Reach programs. They donate money and help to area families and are one of the largest annual contributors to the Religions Community Services (RCS). In addition, the Church provides scholarships to members, mostly in the musical arena.

To find out more about Chapel-by-the-Sea, visit their web site at [ChapelByTheSea.net](http://ChapelByTheSea.net) or call them at 446-0430.



**Reverend Herb Freitag**

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## Restaurant News...

### BUTCH O'BRIEN WINS BACKWATER'S 8TH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

Five judges spent almost an hour tasting 32 entries. A standing room only crowd watched with anticipation as the votes were tallied. The crowd got to taste all the various chili concoctions until the winners were announced about 5 PM. First place honors, and bragging rights, went to Butch and his "Irish Chili". Alex Zak took second place and Becki Kamberos won third place. Becky and Alex have placed before in previous years, but this was the first winning entry submitted by Butch. Backwaters holds the Annual Sand Key Chili Cookoff every year the week before the Super Bowl. For more information visit [www.BackwatersonSandKey.com](http://www.BackwatersonSandKey.com).



**NEW CEO AT FRENCHY'S** Dan Shoumlin, operating partner of Clearsky Café on Mandalay Ave. is doing double duty. In addition to running Clearsky, he is the CEO of Frenchy's five Clearwater Beach restaurants. The company also owns a hotel and a fishing operation.

**RESTAURANT WEEK** The 4th Annual Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week is starting Mother's Day, May 12th. Last year 32 area restaurants participated. They hope for even more this year. Everything kicks off with a pre-party on BeachWalk on Friday, May 10th with a concert featuring award winner Nick Colonne. Get more information at [www.ClearwaterBeachRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.ClearwaterBeachRestaurantWeek.com).



**TEQUILA'S MEXICAN GRILL OPENS** This new Mexican restaurant, near the Court House recently opened at 401 South Ft Harrison. The location has been vacant for about a year. It may be remembered as the site of Harrison's Grill.

### CELEBRATE AT O'KEEFE'S FOR 3 DAYS

St Patrick's Day is only a few weeks. Since there are no Irish Pubs on Clearwater Beach, you may want to go inland to O'Keefe's Irish Pub. It is their biggest day (week) of the year. Since St Patty's Day falls on a Sunday this year, they will start celebrating the Friday before at 5pm. There will be a big tent in their north parking lot with bands, dancers, bagpipe, corned beef and cabbage, games, activities, an arts and crafts show and of course, lots of green beer. Visit [www.KeefeTavernOnline.com](http://www.KeefeTavernOnline.com) for all the happenings on those three days. O'Keefe's, now in their 37th year, is located at 1219 South Ft Harrison. Call 442-9034.



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## CORK-N-BREW BISTRO - A REVIEW

by The Love Chef

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a handsome new beach comer who has brought to the beach, Craft Beer (two dozen taps) and wines by the glass (about two dozen.) You can buy a prepaid card to activate and use the automated wine dispenser and choose the pour size you want – very convenient for tastings. The card is charged accordingly.



But wait, don't they have hot lava rocks? Yes, really HOT 800 degrees and brought to your table for you to cook your small steak, scallops and or tuna plates. We are talking high quality ingredients, that since you are the chef cook as little or as long as you want. Or forget about all that and just chill and enjoy the flat breads, pate, hummus and panini's and let the kitchen do it ALL!

My Principessa went crazy over the Cuban flat bread that was on Special the evening we were there and believe it or not, the pan-seared Brussel Sprouts (me too).

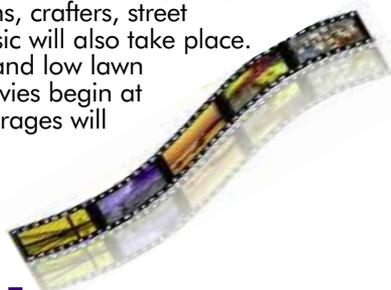
The desserts offered are Cappuccino Panna Cotta or warm Baked Cookies and Fresh Whipped Cream and all are worth the calories. The sidewalk patio is great for people watching or puffing on a cigar from Cork-N-Brew's well stocked humidor. And, oh yes, there's live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

All this fun happens on Clearwater Beach starting at 4 PM seven days a week, and we are all the better for it!

*Francis Anthony "The Love Chef" is an author, TV celebrity chef. You can find his "Cooking With Love" cookbooks on amazon.com or visit his website [www.thelovechef.com](http://www.thelovechef.com). "Cooking With Love" and "The Love Chef" are registered trademarks.*

## SUNSET CINEMA AT PIER 60

Sunset Cinema is celebrating two years of free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. That is over 200 free movies and a lot of popcorn. Occasionally other days are added for special occasions. All the regular pier activities, such as artisans, crafters, street performers and live music will also take place. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages will be available on site.



### FEBRUARY:

- 22 GOOD BURGER
- 23 LEAN ON ME

### MARCH SCHEDULE:

- 1 THE IRON GIANT
- 2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
- 8 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
- 9 BECAUSE I SAID SO
- 15 CAT IN THE HAT
- 16 ANCHORMAN
- 22 HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS
- 23 THE LORD OF THE RINGS, RETURN OF THE KING
- 29 HOOT
- 30 SKY FALL EDITED (2012)

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## Business Briefs...

### NEW MANAGER

Armel Santens is the new manager of the Clearwater Beach Hilton, the largest Clearwater Beach hotel. Stantens comes here from Miami where he was manager of the 424-room Miami Beach Resort and Spa, an LXR property. He has 45 years experience in the hospitality and hotel business and started as a food and beverage manager. He is a graduate of the Hotel School of Paris and speaks French fluently. Over the years, he has worked for Hilton, Meridien, Four Seasons, Ritz Carlton, Quorum, Sheraton and Millennium. "We have owned a condo in St. Petersburg over looking Boca Ciega Bay for over 10 years," Armel says. "We just love this part of Florida."



### SHEPHARD'S BEACH RESORT RENOVATIONS

Shephard's has begun an eleven month expansion. The project includes: 90 new hotel rooms, additional parking garage, new 7000 square foot pool with 10 VIP cabanas and pool bar, tequila bar & tap room and a remodeled of 10,000 square foot waterfront restaurant & meeting space. Demolition of the older two story section of the hotel and pool area has begun and will be the location of the new hotel tower and pool. During the construction Shephard's will open with the remaining 40 hotel rooms, restaurant, tiki bar and Wave nightclub. Shephard's is family owned and operated and has been a popular destination for over 36 years.



### SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

Griffin Productions, the publisher of this newsletter, was awarded Small Business of the Year by the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce at a January ceremony. That Chamber represents beach businesses from St Pete Beach to Sand Key. Griffin Productions produces newsletters in four Pinellas communities, as well as The Beach Directory in 6 tourist areas around the state and two Best Restaurants Magazines including one on the Pinellas Beaches. We have been publishing about 25 years and have produced Neighborhood Newsletters for over 7 years. The Clearwater Beach Newsletter is 4 years old. Get more information about us at BeachNewsletters.com.



## More Business Briefs...



**RADIANCE MEDSPA WINS AWARD** The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Radiance was awarded Medium Sized Business of the Year . They were thrilled to be recognized by the business community with this special distinction as they enter their seventh year of business in Belleair Bluffs. They would like to extend their sincere thanks to all of their clients who have made these past seven years such a wonderful success!

### YOU CAN STILL GET YOUR MAIL ON THE BEACH

You don't have to go to Cleveland Street to check your PO Box. Beach Mailboxes is a mailbox rental center located at 61 Baymont Street, a block off Mandalay Ave. Rates are low. Call 239-7700 for information.



**SUPS MOVES** Tampa Bay SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) has moved. They used to be a Shephard's Resort, but moved to Barefoot Bay Resort at 401 East Shore Drive, north of the Causeway. SUP is the fastest growing water sport in the world. Tampa Bay SUP rents and sells paddleboards and kayaks. Call them at 474-5018.

### CLEARWATER BEACH FITNESS

Luke Williams, aka WWE Legend Bushwacker Luke, is the new owner of the gym located in Pelican Plaza, on North Beach. Besides a new name, the gym is now open 24/7 with updated equipment to make the facility more user friendly. They offer circuit training, free weights and cross fit training. It is still the only gym on the beach! Check it out upstairs at 483 Mandalay Ave., or call 286-8918.



### CLEARWATER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS BUSINESSES

At their 91st Annual Meeting they presented their annual business awards, which included: Large Business of the Year – Clearwater Gas System Small Not for Profit Business of the Year – Clearwater Community Sailing Center

**NEW HAMPTON INN** A new hotel has been approved on South Beach overlooking Clearwater Pass at 635 S. Gulfview. Proposed to be a Hampton Inn and Suites, west of the Quality Inn, it will be have 116 rooms, on five levels, plus a parking garage that will service both the Quality Inn as well as the new Hampton Inn.

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## YOU PAY FOR CAR INSURANCE - YOU JUST MAY NOT BE ABLE TO USE IT



Nickolas C. Ekonomides, P.A.

I was talking to a local Clearwater business owner who wanted to sue a competitor in Tampa for hiring away his lead salesman when he mentioned his new year started off with him getting into a car accident. Nothing big but he was hit from behind pretty hard while in traffic.

I asked him how he felt and he said in the past few days the pain started. Not surprising. Many times it takes a while after you think you're fine to realize you're not. When he told me it happened about 10 days ago, I told him he was just about out of time to make a claim for his Personal Injury Protection ("PIP") benefits.

PIP is in every auto policy and pays up to \$10,000 of your medical bills when you're injured in an auto accident. At least it did...

Enter Florida HB 119, which went into full effect on January 1, 2013. You may not have heard about the new law because it does NOT require your insurance company to tell you of the changes in your coverage.

You'll now have to make your PIP claim and seek medical treatment within 14 days of your auto accident just to get \$2500. If you wait longer, you'll get NO PIP coverage.

With the average MRI being \$1,400, that only leaves \$1,100 left for treatment. If your injury is serious such as a disc herniation, it is only worse; and massage, which

helps so much, is not covered.

Your options are to use your health insurance (if you have any), hire an attorney to seek compensation (which isn't immediate), or be diagnosed with an Emergency Medical Condition (God forbid) to get your full \$10,000 in PIP.

This diagnosis must be within the same 14 day period (and be made only by a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, dentist, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner) and show you require "Immediate Medical Attention" without which you would suffer:

- serious jeopardy to health
- serious impairment of bodily functions, or
- serious dysfunction of bodily organs or parts

So if you don't seek treatment within 14 days after your auto accident, you'll get NO benefits. If you do seek treatment but don't have an Emergency Medical Condition, you are limited to \$2,500 of PIP benefits.

If you're in this situation and wish to discuss your options, please let me know. The new law is stacked against those who have truly suffered and you should know your rights.

Nickolas C. Ekonomides is an attorney in Clearwater. In 1994 he was admitted to The Florida Bar and the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. He was admitted to the United States Supreme Court in 2004. His practice includes Business Litigation, Real Estate matters, and Personal Injury. Visit [www.eko-law.com](http://www.eko-law.com) or call him at 727-447-1075.

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## PIER 60 IMPROVEMENTS BEGINS

The City of Clearwater began construction on Clearwater Beach's Pier 60 on Feb. 11. Construction includes repair of the concrete wearing surface along the walkway and the edges, replacement of all of the wood railings with composite material, and addition of a catwalk around the bait shop. "While there is no structural damage to the pier, several areas appear to have been hit by lightning and have pieces of concrete missing," says Gordon Wills, Operations Manager for the Marine and Aviation Department. "The wood has been rotated to extend its life, but now it's time to be replaced. The new material to be installed is guaranteed to last for 50 years and requires very little maintenance."

The pier will remain open during construction, and the Sunsets at Pier 60 daily and nightly festival will continue. The city is planning the construction work so it will impact the residents who attend the festival, as well as the vendors, as little as possible. Construction is expected to last approximately six months, and current improvements are anticipated to cost \$500,000.

Pier 60, a Clearwater Beach icon, is a city-owned pier and provides a great place for people to fish. The pier was rebuilt in 1994 at a cost of more than \$2.2-million with a bait house and six covered pavilions. Pier 60 is open all year long. Hours are 6am to 9:30pm from Oct. 1 to April 1, and 24 hours a day the rest of the year. Last year, more than 183,000 visitors used the fishing pier at the end of Pier 60. To learn more, call Gordon Wills at (727) 462-6954.

## CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA BEACH WALK

The 4th Annual Chapel-by-the-Sea Beach Walk/Walk shot off to a fast start on Saturday January 19. Under bright skies and balmy weather, over 240 walkers, supporters and breakfast participants met at the Palm Pavilion for an 8:30



AM start. Accompanied by calypso tunes from Island Vibz, the walkers struck out South on Clearwater Beach for a turn-around at Surf-Style and ended at Chapel-by-the-Sea. At the Chapel, walkers and participants were greeted by the sounds of the Florida Band and a superb pancake breakfast sponsored by Island Way Grill followed by a silent auction.

The Beach Walk/Walk is dedicated to raising funds for Religious Community Services Food Bank (RCS) located in Clearwater. Last year, the RCS Food Bank provided nutritious meals and assistance to over 65,000 Pinellas County residents. Race Director Rick Owens stated "This is the largest activity the Chapel conducts during the year. This year's Beach Walk/Walk raised nearly \$11,000 as well as providing food donations to needy families - the most successful event yet in the history of the Walk."

Chapel-by-the-Sea and RCS would like to acknowledge its Sustaining Partners who all contributed to make the 2013 Beach Walk/Walk a huge success. They also wish to thank the individuals, sponsors and particularly the volunteers, who worked long hours to help make this year's Walk a success. Chapel-by-the-Sea looks forward to the support of the Sustaining Partners in 2014 for an even bigger and better event.



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## HERITAGE VILLAGE CLEARS LAND FOR NEW EXHIBIT

*New boat shop to display historic sailboats*

Pine trees are coming down on a patch of land behind Heritage Village's Greenwood House near McKay Creek to make room for a new boat shop to be built to display vintage sail boats such as the Optimist Pram, Windmill, Sun Cat and Snipe boats, vessels that are a large part of Pinellas County's nautical history. Afterwards the ground will be "grubbed" and leveled in preparation for the laying of the building's concrete slab foundation.

Construction of the new boat shop is made possible through a unique public-private partnership with Pinellas County government, the Pinellas County Historical Society, the Clearwater Yacht Club, Hoffman Architects, P.A. and Proefke Construction. Donated funds will be used for permits and supplies; volunteer labor will be used to actually build the facility.

The structure will feature a 24'x40' display area for the boats, plus a smaller, air-conditioned 12'x40' display room. This boat shop will profile an important chapter of coastal living in Pinellas County and will include trophies, tools and other nautical memorabilia from the museum's collections. An oral history project featuring early Pinellas boat builders and others in the industry is another important component of the boat shop project.

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo. This living history museum brings more than 150 years of local history to life. Tour 28 authentic buildings and structures, and experience historical Pinellas County through hands-on exploration. Paths wind through 21 acres and connect with the Florida Botanical Gardens and the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum.

Heritage Village is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. It is closed all Pinellas County holidays. For more information about Heritage Village visit [www.pinellascounty.org/heritage](http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage), or call (727) 582-2123.

For more information about Pinellas County services and programs, visit [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org), with LiveChat, or create a shortcut to [www.pinellascounty.org/mobile](http://www.pinellascounty.org/mobile) on any smartphone. Pinellas County government is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



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 Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm  
[www.ChapelByTheSea.net](http://www.ChapelByTheSea.net)

## EN GARDE'S BROWN BOX LUNCH DELIVERY IS BACK

Due to customer requests, starting February 1st En Garde will again be delivering brown box lunches.



"People really seemed to miss it," explains owner Robb Schoonmaker, "though we have made some changes to make it more cost effective. This time around, we have developed a monthly menu and are asking that customers pre-order lunches on a weekly basis. Hopefully by streamlining this process, we can more efficiently plan and provide tasty meals for a great price. As an incentive, we have started the Brown Box Club, which with a prepaid punch card gives customers a free lunch."

En Garde retail shop is now stocking soups and salads, along with its usual array of entrées and side dishes. "We have a great menu available either on-line or in our retail store. Customers can pre-order dinners, appetizers or desserts for a special occasion and we will have everything ready for them for pick-up," says co-owner Bill Munette.

En Garde's shop is located at 432 North Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs under the black and white awning. Call 727-216-6718 or email [info@engarderetail.com](mailto:info@engarderetail.com). Daily and weekly specials are also listed on their website [engarderetail.com](http://engarderetail.com).

Catering inquiries may be made by phone 727-489-9297 or email [info@engardecatering.com](mailto:info@engardecatering.com). To learn more or see images from past events, go to [engardecatering.com](http://engardecatering.com).

## BEST BEACH IN FLORIDA

Clearwater is proud to announce it has won top honors in the 2013 USA Today poll of Best Beach Towns in Florida.

The online contest chose one out of ten popular beach towns selected by Florida International University professor Dr. Stephen Leatherman. Results were announced in the USA Today.

Of the more than 30,000 votes cast, Clearwater Beach received more than 25 percent, making it the clear winner. Clearwater Beach beat Florida destinations including Siesta Key, Sanibel Island and Miami's South Beach.

More than 140,000 viewed the poll announcement on the Clearwater/St. Petersburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau official Facebook page, generating approximately 8,000 likes and 1,600 shares, making it the single most-viewed post ever for that organization's page.

Clearwater has been recognized by Leatherman, also known as Dr. Beach, before. A coastal expert who travels the globe to identify the best beaches in the world, Leatherman picked Clearwater Beach as the Best Beach on the Gulf of Mexico in 1999.

## LIBRARY BOOKS NEEDED

Friends of the Library desperately need donations of used paperback books in good condition for resale in their store. Please bring donations to the Main Library or call Bill Murray at 531-0667 for a pick up. Proceeds are used to enhance the Library system.

Volunteers are needed to work certain days and hours at the Friends Book & Gift store there. People are especially needed for late afternoon shifts. The work times are normally two to four hour shifts. If you can help please call Rosalie Murray at 531-0667 or Rita Garvey at 446-3845.

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## THE PASSING OF STAN MUSIAL

By G. David Howard

Stan Musial was a famous, record setting baseball player from the 1950s and 60s. He also owned the Clearwater Hotel. G. David Howard, a well known local comedian, who used to perform there.

When I first started performing at The Clearwater Beach Hilton in 1976, it was owned by Stan Musial. I worked for Stan until he sold the hotel. It was then that I fully understood his nickname, "Stan The Man". He wasn't "Stan The Man" solely because he was a baseball great, but he was "The Man" off the field, as well. He loved his fans and no matter what he was doing, or who he was with, when a fan approached him for an autograph, or a photo, they were greeted with an enthusiastic smile, and made to feel very comfortable with "The Man". There was always a supply of Stan's 8x10 glossy photos at the front desk and they were given to anyone who wanted an autographed photo. I used to watch him having dinner in the Hilton dining room, with people lined up at his table to get their photo signed. He would greet them with the happiest smile, and a big "Whadda ya say".

One afternoon, I went to the Hilton's beachside Tiki Bar and Stan was there with friends. Two 6 or 7 year old boys were playing in the grassy area next to the pool. Stan walked over and began to play toss with them. He threw some grounders and little lob fly balls to them before asking the boys where their parents were. The boys took Stan to meet Mom and Dad. Dad was agape when Stan said, "Would the boys like an autographed baseball?" Stan went to his office, a good distance from the Tiki bar, and came back with two signed baseballs, one for each of the young lads. That was the kind of man he was.

Stan loved to laugh. He liked hearing jokes and loved to tell them. He was so funny, because when he would tell a joke, he would get so tickled and would be laughing so hard he would have great difficulty in getting out the punch line. One morning Stan called my room and asked me if I could I meet him in the dining room for lunch. I didn't know if I was in trouble, or what, but of course I said, "I'll be there". When I got to the dining room, I went to Stan's table and he introduced me to his friend, George. George was trying to market a device that measured your hand squeezing strength. It was a gadget that you squeezed and a thermometer type of gauge would pop up showing the PSI of your squeeze. Well, we passed that around the table and then Stan wanted to hear some jokes. I would tell one and that would remind Stan of one, and so it went. Our food arrived, and I casually looked at Stan's friend, and asked, "So, what kind of business are you in, George?" Stan almost choked on his sandwich, and when he recovered, he told me he was George Blanda, famous football quarterback and placekicker. I felt like an idiot, I had watched the great George Blanda for years, but I hadn't really seen him without his helmet. He and Stan both got a great laugh out of that faux pas.

There are many more stories and anecdotes that I could tell, but suffice it to say, Stan Musial was a great person, a great man, one of a kind, and truly, "Stan The Man". I am so fortunate to have had that experience. RIP, Stan.

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## GOOD TO KNOW!

by Tom Iovino, Pinellas County Communications Specialist

Did you know that Pinellas County Animal Services offers a senior-to-senior program where older pets are matched with more experienced residents? How about the county's office of Consumer Protection offering a free and easy way to check on a charity's finances before you make a contribution? Or, maybe you have heard about the program where veterans can qualify to purchase low-cost homes through Pinellas County's Community Development department?

You didn't? Well, if you did, that would be good to know. And, that's exactly what Pinellas County Connection Television's new show "Good to Know" is all about – letting residents know about the many programs and services offered by their county government.

The first episode of "Good to Know" featured Doug Templeton, senior investigator with the county's Consumer Protection department, talking about how the county is fighting to help keep consumers safe when dealing with less-than-scrupulous merchants and contractors. Additional episodes will tackle housing programs for veterans, responsible pet ownership, parks and preserves, how to digitally connect with your county and so much more.

"Good to Know" allows Pinellas County to focus on a particular item of interest. The topics for the programs

have been indirectly selected by Pinellas County residents. Every week, dozens of citizens send emails to the county asking about specific county issues. As the slate of topics was selected, these emails served as a starting point for episodes of "Good to Know."

Plans are to create a new "Good to Know" each month through May, then take some time off during the summer to evaluate the success of the program. Changes to the format or topics will be considered to continually improve the offerings.

The idea was born of a similar show called Prepare to Survive. That 15-minute long program helps residents get prepared for the threat posed by hurricanes and other natural disasters. With two years worth of programming, it provides a convenient, easy to digest way to get information on disaster preparedness. Look for that show to begin production again in time for the start of the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

These programs can be seen on PCC-TV Bright House channel 622, Knology channel 18 or Verizon channel 44. They can also be seen online at your convenience at [www.pinellascounty.org/eseries](http://www.pinellascounty.org/eseries). And, if you are a fan of the video sharing website YouTube, be sure to visit [www.youtube.com/pccvtv1](http://www.youtube.com/pccvtv1) to see "Good to Know" and the many other videos offered.

Now that's good to know!



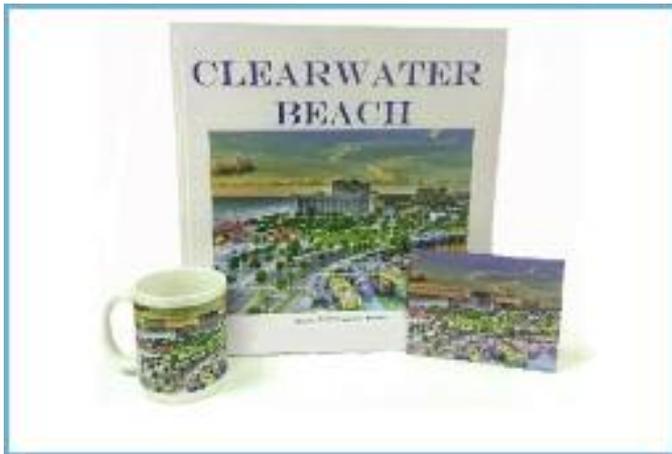
*All the agents in our new office are very experienced - several of them even live in Sand Key.*

**CENTURY 21 Coast to Coast** now has two offices serving the Clearwater Beach area, our newest office is located in the Shoppes on Sand Key next to Backwaters restaurant.

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Beach Chamber office located at:  
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Clearwater Beach - 447-7600

Discounts available for Beach Chamber members

## Organizational News...

### ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Their Underground Utilities Committee is exploring the possibility of moving all above ground power and utility lines underground. This is a matter of safety, reliability and beautification. The committee will be communicating with residents over the next 60-90 days to see if there is interest and support for this program.

They will hold their annual Spring Social at Island Way Grill on Tuesday May 14, at 5:30pm. Potential new members are welcome and can join at the door.

Membership is \$50 per year per family and is used to pay more than \$10,000 per year to maintain the entry way to Island Estates. For additional information, call President Wally Pope, 461-1818. They meet on the second Monday of each month in the new Classroom Building in the Clearwater Marine Aquarium

### ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

On March 19th, they will host their Annual Scholarship Fundraiser - the 2013 Spring Fashion Show. It will be held at the Belleair Country Club at 11am and includes lunch. There will be a raffle for gift baskets and getaways at area resorts. To RSVP, please call Helen Frain at 445-9290. The Woman's Club has awarded scholarships throughout their 50 year history. Scholarship will be awarded in May.

This is the 50th year of the Island Estates Woman's Club. They meet regularly September - May, on the third Tuesday of each month at nearby area restaurants. Members enjoy activities that include luncheons, book groups, bowling and bridge. The group encourages a spirit of goodwill and cooperation in all affairs pertaining to the welfare and betterment of the community.

Membership is open to all women residents of Island Estates, even if you are not a resident. Membership dues are \$20. Guests are welcome.

To join or RSVP for luncheons, please call Joan Landreth at 812-8078. For more information, call President Marie Wadsworth at 447-7182.

### CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm at the Clearwater Beach Rec Center.

The March speaker is Sarah Josuns, City of Clearwater, Dept of Environmental Engineering. She will update everyone on the planned Mandalay Storm Water Project scheduled to begin in April. After the meeting, members are invited to an after party at the new Cork and Brew Wine Bar at 524 Mandalay Ave.

The April meeting will be on the 9th at the Rec Center. Caitland Higgins-Joy, President of Religious Community Services will be the speaker.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - March 29th, The CBA will assist with an Easter Egg Hunt at the Clearwater Beach Rec Center at 6pm. Call them at 462-6138 for details.

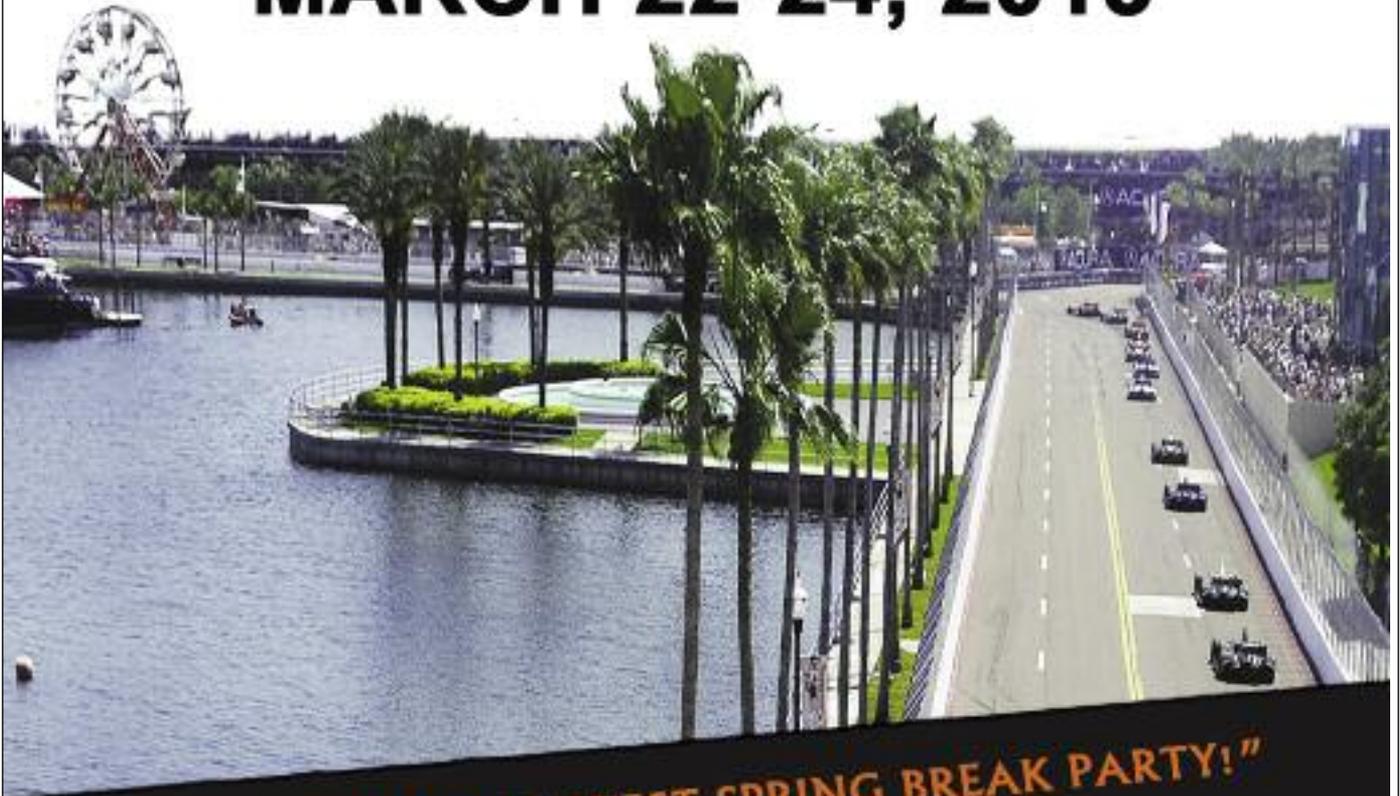
**Spring Picnic** - April 13, The annual Spring Picnic will be held at Triangle Park (Mango at Bay Esplanade) in North Beach. Meet your neighbors and members of the police, fire, EMS, and local government. BBQ and drinks will be provided. Bring a dessert or side dish to share, plus a chair or blanket. Free to paying members, others \$5 each.

For more information, call Wendy Hutkin's phone number is 216-3274.



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## NEW YEAR - NEW HEALTH

by Dr. Stacey Robinson

As the New Year is here, it is again time to assess our health and set goals for the coming year. Stress, lack of exercise and poor nutrition are killing us, slowly. There is no magic pill or potion for health. Spend your time, money and energy focusing on the following eight essentials of health - you will feel better and live longer.

1. Breathe properly: it is one of the most powerful tools to counteract the body's reaction to stress, decrease muscle tension, lower blood pressure, increase good hormones like Human Growth Hormone and lower stress hormones.
2. Drink more water. Your body is 60% water so replenish it. Water helps to cleanse and filter toxins out of your system. Drink water throughout the day and eliminate sodas, colored water (Gatorade, etc.) and energy drinks.
3. We literally become what we eat. Eat whole foods. Eat foods in their natural state. Avoid foods in a box or a bag.
4. Sleep 7-8 hours per night. Lack of sleep accelerates the aging process and is associated with cancer, heart disease, obesity, osteoporosis and diabetes.
5. Move more: exercise is one of the best and most simple tools for health. Lack of exercise increases risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and dementia.
6. Get 10 minutes of sunshine per day: sunshine is our primary source of vitamin D, essential to our health.
7. Relax: Daily take time for an activity such as meditation, deep breathing, yoga, Tai Chi, music, laughter, or prayer. It decrease stress hormones, which cause high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, obesity, and osteoporosis.
8. Attitude is everything: Strive to have a positive attitude. Be grateful, forgive, love and let go of things you can't control.

This 30-minute daily routine addresses 7 of the 8 essentials of health and is a way to multitask for better health. It is a great way to start the day.

Take a walk in the sunshine while listening to music and/or praying. When done, perform four controlled breaths (below) while focusing on positive thoughts and/or prayer. Follow this by a big glass of water and a high protein, breakfast (below). These elements of health when practiced regularly are more powerful than any medication. I guarantee this routine will transform your health and your life.

Controlled breathing (the 4-7-8 breath): Exhale completely through your mouth - make a whoosh sound. Close your mouth and inhale quietly through your nose to a mental count of four. Hold your breath for a count of seven. Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound to a count of eight. This is one breath. Now repeat the cycle three more times for a total of four breaths.

Healthy breakfast ideas: ditch the cereal, bagels, and breakfast bars. Processed breakfast foods are devoid of the protein and nutrients that we need to maintain optimal health. Instead, start your day with protein, healthy fats, whole grains, and fruits or veggies.

- Greek style yogurt with organic seeds, nuts, and fruit
- Ezekial bread toasted with peanut or almond butter topped with thinly sliced apple and a drizzle of raw honey
- Hard or soft boiled or poached eggs with fruit
- Omelet with veggies topped with a little feta or goat cheese with or without a slice of Ezekial bread
- Steel cut oatmeal topped with nuts (pecans, almonds, or walnuts), berries, and honey
- Smoothie (high in protein with fruits and veggies)

To read more tips from Dr. Robinson, read her blogs at [RobinsonMed.com](http://RobinsonMed.com).

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## More Organizational News

### CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Join them St. Patrick's Day for a fun afternoon to honor Joe Calio with beer, raffles, free boat rides, and the presentation of the annual Joe Calio Award! Admission is \$5. They are still in need of volunteers for the event. If you would like to help contact Kelly 727-517-7776

For those unfamiliar with the name Joe Calio, he was notably one of the most influential residents of Sand Key. Joe became a founding member of the Sand Key Civic Association and even served a term as president. He was also a driving force behind building a fire station for Sand Key and developing a volunteer Beach Patrol.

Calio also participated in Environmental Advisory Board of the City of Clearwater, as a member of the Jolley Trolley Board of Directors and on the Clearwater Fire Task Force.

Joe Calio was crucial to The Clearwater Community Sailing Center's success. When the Center was struggling to become self-supporting, he put together a 501(c)3 organization and contracted with the city to operate the center. Additionally, Joe helped provide a base for another 501(c)3 organization, Sailability of Greater Tampa Bay. We cannot thank Joe enough for what he has done for the Sand Key and Clearwater communities.

### GREATER CLEARWATER WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's Club of Clearwater presented Mary Jane Robbins with the Volunteer of the Year award at their annual holiday luncheon. Mary Jane joined GFWC in 2000 and has been the club's publicity chair for eight years, winning the 2011 award from the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. She also created the association's Website, [www.Clearwater.org](http://www.Clearwater.org). Jane serves as 1st VP in charge of projects such as "Evening with the Authors" and helps raise funds for the new Clearwater Main Library.

Their Daisy Grant Fashion Show, is March 21st at the Belleair Country Club. For more information, contact Margo Tarr at 772-3596. See their web site at [www.Clearwater.org](http://www.Clearwater.org).

### CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

They announced new officers for the year 2013. Nickolas Ekonoides, PA, was elected President. The other officers are Adam Bottie, VP, Aleandra Everest, Secretary, Vi Nguyen, Treasure. Board members are: Hilmer Beckers, Skip Katz, Darlene Kole and Hoyt Hamilton.

The Rotary parks cars in downtown Clearwater at all major events. The lot is at the corner of Osceola and Drew. Please park there when going to Coachman events.

The Rotary of Clearwater Beach meets every Thursday at noon at the Shephard's Beach Resort. Call Skip Katz, at 581-5600 for more information. [www.ClearwaterBeachRotary.com](http://www.ClearwaterBeachRotary.com).

### CLEARWATER ALL AMERICAN SERTOMA CLUB

The club held its first luncheon of the year in January. Past City Council member John Doran introduced present city council member Bill Jonson, who spoke on the city's priorities for the upcoming year.

SERTOMA is an acronym for SERvice TO MAnkind. Sertomans dedicate their efforts to helping the less fortunate among us, specifically those with speech and hearing difficulties. Their main fundraiser is Bingo, played twice a week at Alternate 19 at Curlew Road. They meet the first and third Thursdays for lunch. For information, call Sand Key resident Charles Fazio at 593-8322.

## More Organizational News

### CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

They received permission from the Pinellas County School Board to lease the South Ward Elementary School site for a museum. David Allbritton, CHS President is putting a committee together to work out a lease. "We've been looking at this site for years. It has real history going back to the 1880s. This was the first school site in Clearwater; we are excited to make this the home of the Clearwater Historical Society. Our Museum is currently located in the Plumb House, circa 1896, at 1380 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. We have so many historical items we are bursting at the seams and need a larger area to display them properly." The Plumb House will still operate as a satellite museum. The 10 times world Champion Clearwater Bombers fast pitch softball team will also have room for their historic mementos. The Clearwater Historical Society will be promoting fundraisers in the near future to help raise money for the move. Memberships are \$5 students, \$10 individuals, \$20 family, \$150 corporate. If anyone has an interest in being involved with CHS, call David Allbritton at (727) 481-5102, Bill Wallace at (727) 446-2676 or Mike Sanders at (727) 434-1684.

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association (SKCA) has a 21-year history of helping its members protect and preserve their unique island. When it was discovered the Cabana Restaurant was purchased, SKCA got involved in the early stages to work with developer Brian Taub, to make it a successful event both for the developer and the community. The board appointed a volunteer Project Review Committee, including a professional planner and a consultant to developers. Committee chair Cynthia Remley, an attorney and tireless volunteer, helped develop a process to be used as a template in future redevelopments. The committee met with Brian Taub and the Clearwater City Planners to have a better understanding of the development process.

The SKCA meets the first Wednesday of the month, at the Clearwater Sailing Center at 7pm. The Members dues are paid through their respective HOAs or COAs. Future speakers include the City Council, State Representatives and Sand Key business owners. The next meeting will be March 6th. For information, call Arlene Musselwhite, President - 727-644-7524

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They meet the third Wednesday of each month (October through April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach. Their next meeting is February 20th. The guest speaker is Brett Uleryo of Accent Orchids in St Petersburg. He will discuss orchid repotting and deciduous dendrobium orchids. Orchids will be available for purchase. Call Sherrie Morton Tetric to RSVP at 581-8113. Contact Lois O'Donnel, President, 595-1349 for information.

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The IE Yacht Club is also a Social Club with functions almost every month. On New Year's Day, 65 members and guests gathered at the Belleair Country Club to celebrate the beginning of the New Year and enjoyed a Brunch Buffet. Commodore Scott Sanders and Social Chair Marie Bard welcomed the attendees. The highlight of the day was a clever video by Fay Nicholson, of all the activities of the previous year. To become a member of the IEYC, call Scott Sanders at 461-3949, Laura Lee Bernard at 442-1978 or Sue Speck at 446-0682.

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## More Organizational News

### BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They meet monthly on the second Tuesday. Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. To join, call Barbara Chapman 581-8929. Meetings include:

February 12, 11:30am: The Living Room, Main Street Dunedin, Heather from Salon West Hair Studio will talk about what's new in hair, color, make-up, updos and eye color. Members - \$25, Guests - \$28.

March 12, 11:30am: Middle Grounds Grill in Treasure Island. The Speaker is Middle Ground's Top Bartender, who will demonstrate how to prepare three delicious Irish Drinks. Members are \$25 and Guests \$28.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

This organization works to sustain our Beach Library and Recreation Facilities as a viable part of our community. They meet the third Monday of each month at 10am at the Beach Rec Center. New members are always welcome to attend. You are welcome to join them and share your ideas on how to improve things. Call Ron Delp at 412-2566 or Anne Garris at 446-4410 for more information

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They were formed in 1947 and celebrated their 66 anniversary this month. They meet on the first and second Wednesday of each month at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd. in the Town of Belleair from October to May. Membership is \$50 per year.

March 15 and 16th: Annual Junk and Jewels Sale, at the clubhouse. Proceeds go toward their Scholarship and BGC general funds. They are still collecting donations.

April 10th: Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Belleair Garden Club building. Lunch is \$35 and includes lunch, libations, prizes and a live and Chinese auction. Start making your crazy hats now.

Guests are welcome. Call Barbara Chapman, 581-8929 or E-mail BChapman1234@Gmail.com to RSVP.

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

February 22, 5pm is Lasagna Night. It is \$15 per person. Meat and vegetable lasagna will be available.

March 8, 11:30am is their Annual Meeting and a flower show. It is also a Pot Luck Dinner.

April 12 9:45am Apollo O'Neil, an arborist, will be the guest speaker.

Located at 405 Seminole Street, they meet monthly on the second Friday, October through May. Membership dues are \$30 for one or \$35 for two from the same family. President Cathy Foley may be reached at 443-7032, or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, POST 7

March 19th is the Annual Fashion Show - Picnic at the Post. Clothes will be presented by All That Glitters and other selected clothing stores. Plans include a Chinese Auction, party favors and a scrumptious lunch for \$12. Doors open at 11:30am. Call ahead for advanced reservations or purchase tickets at the door. All proceeds go to our veterans and their families.

You can join the American Legion Auxiliary in Clearwater. It's located at 1760 Turner Street. Call Gig Janesik at 799-4216 or Jackie Leach 461-6698.



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## COOKING FOR LOVE

By Dawn Bause, Sand Key Resident

How about cooking up some "love" in the kitchen this month? I believe one of the easiest paths to someone's heart is to share a home cooked meal. And, with just a little preparation and some teamwork you can turn a home-cooked meal into something extraordinary.



As a cooking instructor, and author of the cookbook "Romance Begins in the Kitchen, Romantic Italian Recipes and their Complementary Wines" I learned long ago that cooking is a whole lot more fun if the tasks are shared. Working together in the kitchen just makes you feel good, and research has even proven that couples (and families) that cook together, and sit down and share a home-cooked meal stay together, besides the fact that they're happier and healthier!

I have worked with thousands of students over the years, and find that even when someone tells me they don't like to cook, nine times out of ten, once I get them into an apron with a few other people in the kitchen, their attitude changes.

The Italians claim we eat first with our eyes, then with our nose, and finally with our mouth or palate. It's the ultimate sensory experience no doubt about it! Julia Child once wrote "Cooking like love should be entered

into with abandon or not at all" which is why I tell my students to go for the gusto, and to enjoy and share all the steps involved with preparing, presenting and enjoying a meal.

Selecting your menu, shopping for ingredients, unpacking and prepping are steps that can and should be done in advance. Then, when it's time to prepare the meal the actual cooking process is the easy part.

So go ahead, be creative, have fun, and invite someone into your kitchen to help you prepare a meal you can share. "Buon Appetito" as they say in Italy.

Dawn Bause, a new Sand Key resident, is a chef, food writer and owner of "Cooking with Dawn Tours" She conducts In-Home Cooking Parties, and Corporate Teambuilding Cooking Events. She also accompanies

small groups to Italy and France for her "Culinary Tours and Tastings" combining the joys of local food, wine and art into one unforgettable travel experience. Looking for a recipe, want to set up a cooking



event, or join Dawn and husband Fred on a foodie tour? Contact Dawn by phone (313) 618-6559 Email: AskDawnNow@aol.com. Or, check out her website at [www.CookingwithDawn.com](http://www.CookingwithDawn.com).



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## WHY WE ARE OPTIMISTS

by Michael Rogan, of Rogan and Associates

Despite the potential for additional ongoing dysfunction as our elected officials deal with our fiscal issues, we are optimistic over the long-term!

We invest our clients' money for when they need it; therefore, they have money set aside for the very near term, other money invested for the short to intermediate term, and the rest of their money invested appropriately for longer term goals. So, whatever happens in the "market" in the near term should really have little or no bearing on their long term financial outcomes.

Despite European debt issues, fiscal cliffs, domestic spending debt ceiling debates, relatively high unemployment, and our own growing national debt, and any number of other issues that were certain – according to the media – to plummet us into recession, our economy continues to plug along. Housing is starting to show resurgence, manufacturing is picking up, employment is picking up, and so on.

What really makes us optimistic though, is thinking about the progress we've made over the last century. In that time, we have faced a number of challenges, some of which are eerily similar to the challenges we face today. The following list is intended to provide some perspective; it is clearly not a list of all the historically relevant events during that period:

- The Great Depression
- World Wars I & II
- Kennedy Assassination
- Watergate
- Oil Crises
- Vietnam
- Housing Collapse
- Iran Hostage Crisis
- Savings & Loan Crisis
- Gulf Wars I, II, & III
- Dot.Com Collapse
- 9/11 Terrorist Attack
- Financial Crisis
- The "Great Recession"

Moreover, the ability (or inability) of the President and Congress to play well together has had little impact on our progress. During the last century, the country has had a pretty even mix of Democratic and Republican Presidents (12 Democratic and 13 Republican terms since 1913).

Part of why it's so easy to believe that the "good old days" were better than today is we are constantly raising our societal standards of what's acceptable. Consider that today the average person living in poverty has electricity, water, indoor plumbing, a refrigerator, at least one TV, at least one mobile phone, a car, and air conditioning. Less than a century ago, the top 1% (to borrow a term from recent politics) could not have dreamed of such luxuries.

In that time, the average life expectancy nearly doubled; per capita income more than tripled; infant mortality rates declined by nearly 90%; and the cost of electricity, transportation and communication declined drastically. The standard of living has improved significantly for everyone. This occurred despite which country was the most powerful (the U.S. became a super power in the middle of the last century).

In the coming decade, with technological breakthroughs, experts predict the U.S. will be the world's largest oil producer and a net energy exporter. Medical advances promise to continue the upward trend in life expectancy. Manufacturing advances are already leading jobs back to the U.S. from overseas. We remain convinced the best is yet to come.

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## CHAMBER INTERN PROGRAM

The Clearwater Beach Chamber is proud to continue their relationship with the University Bordeaux, in Bordeaux France. Through a program started in the summer of 2011 by Dr. Philippe Beau and Darlene Kole, they receive, sponsor and support a Beach Chamber Internship Program. The program has been extremely successful and has expanded from one to three seasons out of four. The interns are studying International Business and Marketing and are a great help to the Chamber office and Visitor Center who enjoys working with the ambassadors. Here is what the interns have to say:

Hello, my name is Wendy Duvignau, I am 19 years old. I am one of the new interns from Bordeaux, France. I am highly excited to be here in Clearwater Beach and to be part of this extraordinary opportunity as an intern at the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. I hope I will have the opportunity to meet the members of the Chamber and make this adventure as enriching as possible.

I used to live in Ghana before moving to France 9 years ago. That experience was one of the most sensational and terrifying periods of my young life. It gave me the desire to travel and to discover and meet people from all over the world. I have been in France for 10 years now. I had the opportunity to travel in some European countries such as Germany, England, Netherland, Spain and Belgium. Now I am happy to be in America and especially Clearwater Beach to add to my list of places! I hope I will have the chance to go to Asia. This continent is my absolute dream.

*Aurevoir, Wendy Duvignau*

Bonjour everybody, my name is Romain Couture and I am one of the interns at the Chamber of Commerce. I come from Pau, a little town south from Bordeaux, close to Spain and the mountains. That's why I was not really used to see the sea everyday before coming here, but I am getting used to it quite easily!

I traveled to a lot of countries a year ago across Europe (Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Croatia...) but it is the first the time that I have been to the US and I am really excited about that. I hope I will get to meet a lot of people here (members of the chamber or not). I am also going to write an essay about how the ecosystem and the economic development in Clearwater Beach are linked together and I look forward to interviewing some of you.

*A bientot! Romain Couture*

Hi everybody! I am Lucie and I am the third French intern at the Chamber of Commerce of Clearwater Beach. I was born in North France but my family and I moved a lot. One of the best experiences of my life was our exploration in Montreal, Canada. This melting pot of different nationalities and cultures opened my mind and gave me the will to travel all around the world. So I did, I traveled to Egypt, Morocco, Greece, Denmark, Amsterdam, Cuba, Mexico and once to Miami, USA. I am not sure what it is I want to do after school but, I most definitely want a job that allows me to travel and meet different people.

I love jogging, sunbathing on the beach, shopping, and communicating with people so this internship at the Chamber of Clearwater Beach is perfect for me and I am so glad to be part of it!

I hope I will see you around. *Au revoir, Lucie Lefevre*

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## SAND DUNES ARE PROTECTED

by George Cretkos, Mayor of Clearwater

Recently, the City of Clearwater was named by USA TODAY as having the best beach in Florida. Regretfully, about the same time, a property owner on the beach believed that he had the right to destroy a sand dune which was blocking a view from the residence. Sand dunes can be altered by property owners, but a permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is needed before any work is done. Consequently, the property owner has been cited, and appropriate action is being taken.



Sand dunes and sea oats are protected by Florida law, and they act as a natural barricade against coastal erosion. They protect lives and property, and together they stabilize the beach. There are laws in place and protocols to follow. But, just as in other types of crime, one is innocent until proven guilty. So, it is especially bothersome that there are some who believe that this is can be stopped by destroying the property of the landowner.

This is wrong -- and to those who believe they have the right to take the law into their own hands, it is hoped that they, too, will be apprehended and punished. If you see a sand dune being destroyed or sea oats being picked, call the Clearwater Police Department so it can investigate. If possible, take a photograph to document what is being reported, but do not confront the individual, and please do not stoop to egging his home or to destroying his property. It is important for all of Clearwater's beachgoers and property owners to be responsible citizens and stewards of the environment so that Florida's best beach can be preserved for generations to come.

## TEN DAY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CLEARWATER BEACH

The City of Clearwater's Fun N Sun Festival and Sunsets at Pier 60 Daily Festival have joined together to showcase its award-winning beaches during ten days of Frenchy's Sugar Sand Festival from April 19-28, 2013.

South of Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach, 1,000 tons of sugar sand will come to life in the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibition, an artistic walk-through display in a 14,000-square-foot tent with a small admission fee. Additional free highlights include Frenchy's Master Sand Sculpting Competition, sand sculpting clinics, speed sand demonstrations and a children's Sandbox play area.



The Fun N Sun Festival is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The festival was originally created to enhance the visitor experience by providing a reason to extend vacation stays after the traditional season's end. This year the festival taps into its original roots with the debut of Frenchy's Sugar Sand Festival.

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## NO NAME STORM 20 YEARS AGO THIS MARCH

Do you remember March 1993, 20 years ago? If you lived near a beach in Pinellas, you probably do. That was when a big storm hit after most people went to sleep. It was not a hurricane, but it sure felt 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 the '93 No Name Storm.

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 largest, 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; a freighter sank in the Gulf.

Area temperatures were typical for early March. The weather forecast models seemed too extreme, and the predictions too unbelievable, causing many local television stations to be reluctant to 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. 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 up to 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.

is 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.*

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## HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

In our December issue, we announced our Valentine's Contest. Below are a few of the entries we received. Every story was special and very heartwarming. However, after much thought and some debate, we selected these as our winners.

The winning couple received a prize package including dinner on the Starlight Majesty, a limo ride to the ship, 12 long stemmed roses, a ride from the ship to the hotel, and one evening in a Hyatt Regency suite valued at \$700. The other entries received a \$50 gift certificate to Island Way Grill.

### ABOUT MY "HONEY"

This is about my "honey" Rudy. We'll be married 45 years, surviving several "sticky" challenges, recently my breast cancer, 18 months of chemo and radiation. Throughout it all, Rudy was at every consult, treatment, ugly side effect, chemical reaction! However, his "sweetest" gift was this. Knowing I'd lose my hair, I decided to get shaved immediately. Rudy was on business travel, did not see the shave, coming home late at night. The next morning, crying I said: "Look at me!" He hugged me, replied: "You're beautiful, as always." He left for errands later, returning with a surprise: "bald" just like me!

*Christine (Chris) Michalek, Clearwater Beach*



*Rudy and Chris Michalek*



*Marc and Toni Friedman*

### THIS VALENTINE'S DAY TREAT COULD DOUBLE AS OUR HONEYMOON

My Valentine is my new husband Marc who I married on Christmas. Marc has an auto-immune skin deficiency and since October, his condition started to deteriorate. However, he worked hard to prepare our home for the wedding and coordinate out-of-towners. Our wedding day was fabulous. To spend time with visitors, we opted to pass on a honeymoon.

This last Thurs. at the doctor, we stressed action to improve his condition. That day he was admitted into Tampa General for IVIG therapy. Now home, I pray he will heal from this treatment.

*Toni Friedman, Clearwater Beach*

### MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE DESERVES THE VALENTINE'S DAY PACKAGE!!!

We moved to Clearwater Beach from Nashville, TN a year ago for my job. I talked Anne into leaving all of our friends to end up laid off 5 months later. I am still searching for employment, which made for a challenging Christmas minus gifts. She has since been excepted to a Clinical Psychology Doctorate program at Argosy in Tampa earning a 4.0 her first semester. We have two toddlers and most people on Clearwater Beach know us as the couple with the strollers because we walk everywhere. You would make me a rock star if I could surprise her!

*Brett Jackson, Clearwater Beach*



*Anne and Brett Jackson*

### OUR WINNING ENTREE . . .



*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Liberti*

We imagine a perfect girl in our minds. My girl's way of loving isn't finding someone perfect, it's loving someone imperfect, perfectly. She is perfect in my eye and the mirror tells she is no lie. She cooks, cleans, saves money when she buys. Prefect in simplicity and authenticity with no thought of self-gain. When I do things that break her heart, she still loves me with her broken parts. Keeping her chin high, her only complaint, an infrequent sigh. When she kisses me, says she loves me, looks me in my eye, I know everything will be alright.

Thank you very much Bob for hosting this contest. Bob, I spent more time editing it down to 100 words...yikes - that was the hardest part. I am very fortunate and I know it. When I first learned of your contest, I was outside and it was night time. I began thinking about it. Why her? What makes her so special? How can I write about it? Anyway - I then looked up at the stars and began to match every one I saw with the ways I love her. The only problem was I ran out of stars. And you want it in 100 words? Do you know how many stars there are Bob? Well, here are version # 44 - 100 words, exactly.

Thank you again for this contest and the opportunity and your publication.

*Frank Liberti, Clearwater Beach*



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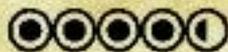
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