

CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

including Sand Key and Island Estates

JUNE / 2010 ISSUE 3



Newsletter

20-25

"Old Rickety"



The First Bridges to Clearwater Beach

In 1916, uninhabited and pristine Clearwater Beach Island was familiar only to fisherman and day boaters. The fishermen's "ranchettes" were the only permanent structures that existed on the sandy shores of the beach at this time.

With the invention of electricity, telephones and automobiles during the first part of the 20th Century, the face of America and Clearwater Beach transformed forever. In 1986, the Pinellas Planning Council stated that: "Few people could have predicted the impact of this machine (automobile) on the peninsula, or the vast expenses to which local government would be subjected by it."

In 1916, realizing if they built a bridge the tourists would come, the City of Clearwater held an election for a \$10,000 bond to construct a bridge linking Clearwater to the beach. The bond was approved with the support of the city's earliest suffragettes who were voting for the first time.

Completed in 1917, the Seminole Bridge now joined the automobile to the sand. The bridge commenced at Seminole Street in Clearwater and terminated at the brick road in front of Clearwater's Palm Pavilion. The turnstile bridge allowed boats to pass through when opened by the bridge tender. The bridge tender, Dan Stoutamire, lived a peaceful life in the two-story structure that was built at the halfway point on the bridge.

The narrow bridge also had "pull-offs" to allow passage for on-coming cars. Daily, the wood planks baked relentlessly in the scorching Florida sun. Eventually, the planks began to curl at each end, popping the embedded nails as they dislocated from the frame. As Model T's drove up and down the bridge, the "clippity-cloppity" sound of hard rubber tires against unstable dry wood gave the bridge its nickname: "Old Rickety." Another accessory was a bucket of water available in case someone carelessly flicked a cigarette onto the dry wooden boards.

Mother Nature continued to play havoc on Old Rickety and in 1921 a major hurricane hit Clearwater Beach and caused considerable damage to the four-year-old bridge. The hurricane widened "Little Pass," known as Clearwater Pass, to over ½ mile wide at the beach's south end.

Work on a second causeway bridge began in 1926 and on Veteran's Day, November 11, 1927, the \$1,000,000 Memorial Causeway Bridge opened.

The old drawbridge of 1926 eventually became obsolete, and a new drawbridge was built in 1960. Two years later, the first bridge to Sand Key was built at Clearwater Pass. The Sand Key Bridge tied Clearwater Beach to the largest barrier island in Pinellas County; 14 miles long.

In 2005, the Clearwater Beach drawbridge was replaced by the modern bridge with 74 ft. of vertical clearance over the Intracoastal at the cost of \$45 million. Today, the only physical proof that the 1917 "Rickety Bridge" ever existed is a part of the turnstile, located approximately "100 yards west" from the filled-in parking lot of the Seminole Boat Ramp in Clearwater, stated local historian Michael Sanders.

"If you look out westerly from the boat ramp, you may see the remnant of the old turnstile at extreme low tide."

By Donna Kay Malloy, resident and local writer

CLEARWATER BEACH NEWSLETTER

CREDITS



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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BeachNewsletter.com

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

bob@griffindirectories.com

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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER.

This is our third issue of Clearwater Beach's Neighborhood newsletter.

Needless to say, everyone has their eyes on the big oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and hurricane season. In this issue, we have several comments by people in the know (city, county, state), who are preparing for whatever comes our way.

Written by local resident and writer Donna Kay Malloy, our front page story is about the bridges that connected Clearwater Beach, since 1917. Donna lives in North Clearwater Beach.

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!

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112 S. Osceola Avenue

www.clearwater-fl.com

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562-4050

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562-4042

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Bill Jonson - Seat 4

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

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562-4040

William Horne

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

562-4040

BUILDING PERMITS

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HUMAN RESOURCES

562-4870

PLANNING & ZONING

562-4567

PUBLIC SERVICES

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PUBLIC UTILITIES

562-4600

PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY

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SOLID WASTE

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PIER 60

462-6466

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462-6954

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442-3604

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562-4080

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

447-7600

333 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach

Sheila Cole, Executive Director

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441-3931

POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES

449-8732

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588-4852

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CARLOUEN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Kris Hampsey, President 441-4188

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

Sue Johnson, President 447-1896

Ann Garris 446-4410

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Meets first Wednesdays each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center Jerry Koneig, President 595-5008

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Wally Pope, President 461-1818

www.IECivicAssociation.com

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ISLAND INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE

Jo Ellen Farham 421-4160

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CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mike Sanders, President 434-1684

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO

464-3000

COMMISSION OFFICES

464-3000

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Karen Seel, Sand Key 464-3278

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Republican, District 13

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Jones.Dennis.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Jim Friske 727-518-3902

Republican, District 54

125 Indian Rocks Rd, Belleair Bluffs

Jim.Friske@MyFloridaHouse.gov

Governor Charlie Crist 850-488-4441

Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com

FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:

George Lemieux 202-224-3041

www.Lemieux.Senate.gov

Bill Nelson 202-224-5274

www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950

9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

www.house.gov/young

2010 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE

Hurricane Season Begins	1
Last Day Public School	9
Flag Day	14
Antique Appraisal Fair Heritage Village	19
Father's Day	20
Summer Begins	21
Morton Plant/Mease Triathlon	27
4th Friday on Cleveland Street	25

JULY

Independence Day	4
Fire Works in Clearwater Harbor	4

Banks and Government Closed 5

AUGUST

Trim Notices Mailed	10
Public School Begins	24
Primary Elections	24

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day	6
Poker Run Indian Rocks	11
Buc's First Game	12
Grandparents Day	12
Yom Kippur	18
Sand Key Triathlon	19
Autumn Begins	23
Taste of Clearwater	23

OCTOBER

Off Shore Power Boat Races	1-3
Columbus Day	11

Clearwater Jazz	14-17
Stone Crab Season Begins	15

Coastal Clean Up	16
Farmer's Market Opens	20

Johns Pass Seafood Fest	22-24
Breast Cancer Awareness Walk	28-30

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends	31
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Buon Appetito!

Both born and raised in Italy, our founders, Cesare and Carlo, know what an authentic Italian meal means. Family and friends gathering around to enjoy each others company with a glass of wine and the perfect dish.

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Did You Know...



FIREWORKS Plan to attend the city's July 4th fireworks spectacular, including a free patriotic concert in Coachman Park with Dave and Mary Kay Wilson. The concert begins at 4pm, followed by one of the best fireworks shows in Pinellas County, 30 minutes after sunset. That Sunday, the Memorial Causeway Bridge will be closed to all bridge traffic from approximately 9 to 10pm.

FOURTH FRIDAY The next monthly party on Cleveland Street will be on June 25th.

However, there will not be one in July or August due to the heat and summer storms. Things return to normal in September. Get details at www.4thFridayClearwater.com

CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL 1970 Did you, or someone you know, graduate from Clearwater High School in 1970? If so, your High School Reunion is scheduled for October 8-10 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort. If you have not already been contacted, visit www.CHS70.org, call Ginger Darling at 727-444-3911 or Bill Welbon at 813-662-6565.

TAMPA BAY RAYS GULF BEACHES APPRECIATION DAY On June 27 the Rays will be facing the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Rays have reserved section 127 for Gulf Beach residents. Tickets are \$35 each and available through the Beach Chamber, 447-7600. For an additional \$20 per person, you can take the Jolly Trolley from Tommy Duffs on Island Estates.

PSTA FOR KIDS PSTA is offering children's discounted summer passes. For only \$35, kids 18 and under get unlimited transportation on PSTA all summer. That is less than \$2.40 per week, for unlimited rides. The Summer Youth Haul Pass program lasts through August 31. Kids need a school or government issued ID showing their age, or they can get a PSTA Youth ID, with proof of age, at any PSTA terminal. Visit www.PSTA.net, for info.

FUN FEST CANCELLED They hope to return next year, but with the poor economy, no sponsor and the possibility of oil on the beach they decided not to have it this year.

NEW MANDALAY BOAT SLIPS There are new boat slips at the Clearwater Rec Center & Library. The 15 slips, available for public use, were paid for by the Sandpearl Resort. Now you can go to Frenchy's and the Palm Pavilion by boat



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER Read this, as well as other issues, online at BeachNewsletters.com. This publication survives on local advertising. Please support the people advertising here. Send comments to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com

BUDGET CUTS HIT THE WATER

The Sheriff's department has been forced to make departmental cut backs. They have eliminated three deputies from the water patrol department. That leaves a Sergeant and 4 deputies positions on our waterways. The Environmental Lands Unit was also cut by 3 deputies, leaving only 2 deputies reporting to the Marine Unit Sergeant, patrolling our land areas.



KEEP PINELLAS BEAUTIFUL Is looking for 2000 volunteers to be on standby in case the oil lands on our beaches. Within 48 hours of an expected oil landfall, they plan to remove as much litter as possible which will help speed oil cleanup, and reduce the amount of potentially contaminated material, remediation time, cost, and human exposure to harmful materials. To register for the Special Beach Cleanup, visit PinVol.org.

POKER RUN BAR CRAWL SEPT. 11th ON INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Never done one before? The goal is to visit at least 5 of the 10 participating bars and restaurants, where you will receive a playing card. Make your best poker hand at the big party at Crabby Bill's Loading Dock at 8pm. Last year over 250 people participated in this fun event. For information or to register online, visit www.IRBhome.com, or you can register the day of. Everyone is encouraged not to DRINK & DRIVE! Cost - \$5 in advance, \$10 day of.

NO NAME STORM Did you live here during March 1993's No Name Storms? Did you have damage or do you a story to tell? Email bob@grieffdirectories.com or call 517.1997. We are planning a future story.

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

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS? It costs money to count people. This year it is estimated that it cost \$110 per housing unit. It was \$69 per unit in 2000. A lot of people didn't respond. The average participation rate in the US and also in Florida is only 72%. The breakdown of our area's participation: Clearwater Beach - 54%, Sand Key - 67% & Island Estates - 70%.

FAMILY DONATED BENCH

On April 22 the family of Scott Kennedy donated a memorial bench in his honor to Heilman's Beachcomber. A fixture at the Heilman's Beachcomber since the fifties, his wife Beverly knew Scott would be so happy to have something in his memory at the Beachcomber. He called the Beachcomber his second home for many years. She also stated this is where they met 20 years ago. Engraved on the bench is "Gone But Not Forgotten." Pictured on the bench L/R: Kelly Kennedy (daughter), Jack Herr (GM-Beachcomber), Edie Capen and Beverly Kennedy (wife). Susan (daughter) is not pictured.



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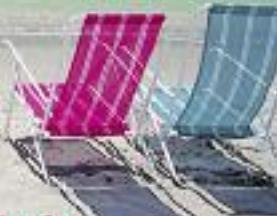
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VACATION CONDO OWNERS NOT PAYING TAXES

Some owners of Clearwater Beach vacation rental condos and beach houses may be in for some tax problems. The Pinellas Tax Collector's office is turning up the pressure on individual owners who may not be collecting and/or paying the 5% bed tax and the 7% state sales tax. These people are not contributing to the tax funds used by the county to promote tourism and provide services. Often these units are rented directly through their own personal Web site. It under cuts legitimate owners by 12%.

Recognizing that we are in a difficult economic time, the tax collector is aggressively pursuing all revenue sources and searching the internet looking for vacation rental owners who may not be paying. If you have questions about how to pay your taxes, call Diane Nelson's office at 464-7777, before they call you

TURTLE NESTS

Loggerhead turtle season began May 1st. That means female turtles may appear on our beaches to lay their eggs, at any time. This year's first nest was found May 23rd on Sunset Beach in Treasure Island. By the end of May, there were already 4 nests on Sand Key Beach.

It varies year to year, but in 2009 there were 10,402 turtle hatchlings from 129 nests. Here is the numbers from last year's nest hatching on each beach:

Clearwater Beach	23	Belleair Beach	13
Indian Rocks Beach	19	Indian Shores	14
Redington Beaches	12	Madeira Beach	17
Treasure Island	21	St Pete Beach	10

OUR BEACHES ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Jon R. "Bob" Palasky, Coldwell Banker

Misinformation is raising its ugly head again from major news outlets. They are indicating that beaches along the Florida's Gulf coast are closed, and that there is oil on them as a result of the explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon Rig over two months ago off the coast of Louisiana. Albeit it is a major catastrophe, it seems this is a repeat of the misinformation that followed the Florida's 2004 hurricanes, when the media had everyone thinking the entire state of Florida was closed.

Beach Vacation property owners and hoteliers want tourists to know that OUR BEACHES ARE OPEN AND OPERATING NORMALLY. Beaches would only be closed if oil washes on shore and some very credible experts say that may never happen here, due to the strong loop current 100 plus miles off shore.

We all need to get the word out globally that the Florida Gulf coast is open for business. A recent survey found some Northern Panhandle Vacation property owners as well as hoteliers are receiving cancellations. 40% of the properties surveyed in the panhandle said that the oil spill has affected their ability to make new reservations. But they are calling on tourists to keep their vacation plans intact as they are still open for business.

The good news is Florida has 1,200 miles of coastline, more than enough for all the tourists that desire to vacation in our beautiful state.

Jon R. "Bob" Palasky PA., GRI, SFR
Sales and Vacation Rental, Coldwell Banker
468 Mandalay Ave., www.ClearwaterBeachSales.com

TRUE ITALIAN ARTISANAL FOOD IS ALIVE AND WELL AT CESARE AT THE BEACH

Restaurant Review by The Love Chef

Cesare on the beach is a great escape to European style dining on South Clearwater Beach next to Sandkey Bridge. Guys, take off those shorts and flip-flops, put on a pair of slacks; gals put on your red dress and discover what locals discovered the last six years – “romantic dining”.

Your host Cesare, hails from a family of Northern Italian restauranteurs and has brought his family recipes to several successful area restaurants. With partner Carlo, he operates meticulously behind the scene to exceed your expectations.

Dine on the huge outdoor patio or the intimate airy dining room. Select from a decent wine list of labels, including the prized Andretti vineyards, or from the large beer selection.

After months of my ‘foodie’ friends visiting Cesare at the Beach and reporting back, it was time for your Love Chef to validate their “gastronomic findings”. So I tucked my napkin in my shirt and my “Principessa” and I were ready to dine.

The Eggplant Rollatini, at \$12 per plate, had a nice twist with the addition of mascapone (Italian cheese) with ricotta.

Mozzarella Capresse, \$10 a plate, Cesare uses local ripened Florida tomatoes and true Buffalo Mozzarella with a splash of balsamic – this was absolutely delicious.

Our variety of Pastas included the evening specials of Sacchettini (small packets of fresh pasta filled with ricotta/prosciutto/peas) in a tomato vodka sauce - \$20.



Now my “Principessa”, who has had bolognese around the world, was in “Bolognese Heaven” (she’s going to kill me) with Cesare’s **Fettuccine Alla Bolognese** at \$18 per plate.

The **Lasagne Verdi** was a symphony of layers of crafted spinach pasta with a harmonious smattering of meat sauce, bechamel sauce, topped with real Parmesan cheese - \$18. You must try the **Ossobuco Milanese**, a thick cut of the veal shank, slow cooked and served with capellini pasta at \$30.

The **Grouper Francese-style** was a generous 10 ounce filet of fresh grouper, flour dusting and lightly sauteed with some lemon, capers and you’re in “Fish Heaven” at \$26.

Beef lovers will be totally satisfied with the **Medaglioni Con Gorgonzola e Funghi**. Tender beef tenderloin sauteed with mushroom and a blended Gorgonzola cheese sauce - \$26.

The **Pollo Siciliana**, a breast of fresh chicken sauteed in olive oil with mushrooms, peppers, capers and olives in a spicy tomato sauce at \$18, is a great fusion of flavor.

Yes, we had room for dessert (not really), and at \$5 each, what do you think my “Principessa” did? Ordered all 6 on the menu and worth the calories! Cesare’s **Cannoli** is a ‘gem’, a crispy shell with fluffy ricotta chocolate chip filling. Patrons rave about the **Tiramisu**, Lady fingers dipped in espresso, and covered in mascarpone cream. I took one home. All Cesare’s dishes can be prepared to take home.

Cesare on the Beach is open 7 days 5:30 - 10pm. (727) 449-8797. Accepts Major credit cards.



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

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Restaurant News...



RESTAURANT WEEK The first annual Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week was May 9 - May 16th. It was a big success, plus it raised money for the Clearwater Beach Chamber and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Event organizer Fran Bartlett, owner of South Beach Grill and her committee

coordinated this first time event. Plans are already underway for next year with the possibility of adding a concert on the beach.

TASTE MOVING, The Taste of Clearwater is moving. The popular Taste will be held on the other side of Clearwater in Ruth Eckerd Hall, on Thursday, September 23rd. The times remain the same, 5 - 7:30pm.

THE BROWN BOXER PUB & GRILL is now under construction at 483 Mandalay Avenue, in Pelican Plaza, where Outback Steak House was. They are making lots of changes, including large windows facing the street that will have a walk-up bar. They plan to have two pool tables and 25 TVs throughout. Food will be served until 2am. Owner Jay Thomas hopes to be open by July 4th.

LEO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT This new pizza pub is on Island Estates at 282 Windward Passage. They are open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, and offer free delivery. Call 781-3456.

CLEARWATER BEACH'S RESTAURANT WEEK WINNERS

During Clearwater Beach's inaugural Restaurant Week, everyone was encouraged to visit as many restaurants as they could. With each visit, customers were given a ballot and encouraged to vote for their favorites. More than 14,000 ballots were cast.

The 2010 People's Favorites are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BEST APPETIZER | Frenchy's Rockaway Grill |
| BEST ENTREE | Rusty's Bistro |
| BEST DESSERT | Shephard's Waterfront Rest. |
| BEST PIZZA | Tommy Duff's |
| BEST OVERALL | Clear Sky Beachside Cafe |
| BEST PRESENTATION | Clearwater Wine Bar & Bistro |
| MOST ENTHUSIASTIC CHEF | Scott Megna,
South Beach Grill |
| CHAIRMAN'S AWARD | Cooter's Restaurant |

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UPDATE ON SAND KEY BEACH RENOURISHMENT

Clearwater City Councilman George Cretekos

Beach renourishment is one of the most important public works project in Pinellas County. Years ago, the City of Clearwater's Sand Key was first renourished, in part, by the residents who lived there. Now, through the efforts of Congressman Bill Young, local state legislators, the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners, and a special Sand Key Civic Association task force, periodic renourishment has helped stabilize the shoreline and protect properties through federal and state tax dollars and the Pinellas "bed tax."

Earlier this year, the Army Corps of Engineers presented an initial plan to renourish Sand Key, the island from Clearwater's Sand Key south through North Redington Beach, in the next fiscal year. The present cost of this work is anticipated to be in the \$35-million range. State Senator Dennis Jones and State Representative Jim Friske have insured that the state dollars would be provided, even though the governor had not initially included the project in his state budget request to the Florida Legislature. However, the total shared costs still may not be available in time to complete the project, so it may be spread over two fiscal years.

To lower costs, the Corps is also considering a borrow area 11 miles offshore of Sand Key. During the last renourishment, the sand was barged from the mouth of Tampa Bay to the project area. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is reviewing these plans.

As the local sponsor, Pinellas County has staff that monitors the program and works with the barrier island communities, Congressman Young, and Florida State Senator Jones and State Representative Friske. Citizens should take every opportunity not only to encourage these officials to fund beach renourishment, but also to thank them for their past efforts.

Together, the residents and elected officials have made a difference. By doing so again in 2010, each of us can continue to enjoy Pinellas' premier beaches and businesses such as Rusty's, Crabby Bill's, The Pub, and The Lobster Pot, all of which help define the character of our beach.

Clearwater City Councilman George Cretekos can be reached at george.cretekos@mclearwater.com or at (727) 562-4050.

BRIDGE OFFICIALLY OPEN

Even though the new bridge opened to traffic in May of 2009, the County held an official grand opening party on April 26. The event was held inside the new boat ramp area at the northeast end.



Karen Williams Seel, Chairperson of the Pinellas County Commission was the official host. Also speaking at the opening was Chris Arbutine, Mayor of Belleair Bluffs and Lynn Rives, Mayor of Belleair Beach.

Not everyone was happy with the finished bridge. A group protested various aspects of the project, including the loss of parking and the windsurfing beach that was previously located at the northwest end of the old bridge.



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Business Briefs...

TWO NEW SURF SHOPS, Daytona Beach's Maui Nix has opened two new surf shops in Clearwater Beach. One in the Pelican Plaza on North Beach is located at 483 Mandalay Avenue, and the other is across from Shephards at 642 South Beach.



FREE LIFEWORKS DIET SEMINAR Since its launch in January, every patient on the LifeWorks Wellness Center diet has seen a significant drop in weight. Patients report a lack of hunger and cravings, and many patients have been able to reduce, or completely cease their blood pressure and diabetic medications. This medically-supervised diet offers a very special blend of amino acids that are nearly calorie free, to ensure that lean body tissue is preserved. The food consumed is natural and healthy and weight-loss is fast, with an average continual loss of 1/2-2lb per day. Call 727-466-6789 to reserve a place.

ROCK & SOUL

OPENS A new men and women's clothing store opened nearby in Belleair Bluffs in the Belleair Bazaar Shopping Center, near Bonefish Grill. "There is no other store like this in the Tampa Bay area," says owner Chris Jewel. "We carry a unique mix of the hottest brands and pull it all together in an atmosphere that is fun and comfortable." They carry a hand-selected line of designer apparel for men and women, as well as a gorgeous array of women's jewelry. Call them at 585-3438.



BELLEVUE BILTMORE STATUS Latitude Management Real Estate Investors cleared two roadblocks, but others are coming. They bought the 113-year-old resort in June, 2007, for over \$30 million dollars. The renovations are another \$100 million. But two groups initiated lawsuits that stopped the project, and increased costs. The lawsuits have been resolved, but now the challenge is finding financing. The economic downturn and a tough credit market weren't a factor three years ago when the project started.

OLD HARBOR BANK RATED ZERO One in four Florida banks is considered in trouble. Bauer Financial rates banks on a scale with 5 stars being the highest and zero the lowest. Old Harbor Bank of Clearwater, with branches in Belleair Bluffs and on Drew Street, recently had their ranking lowered from two stars to zero. Bauer Financial gave 47 banks in Florida a zero-star rating for 2009's fourth quarter. Of them, six are in the Tampa Bay area. Find your bank's rating Money.TampaBay.com.

More Business Briefs...

NEW CONCIERGE

The new Hyatt Regency Resort has appointed Gary Hidu Head Concierge to help guests enjoy their visit to our beach. Gary is active in the Pinellas County Chapter of the Bay Area Concierge Association. You don't have to be a guest at the hotel to call him for advice. His number is 373-1234.



ONEIR REALTY opened in the space formerly owned by Realty Resources at 490 Mandalay Avenue. Bob Porter is the new broker. Call him at 724-4186.

NEW BRITTS RESTAURANT PARKING GARAGE

STATUS A building permit has been submitted for construction of the building for the retail / restaurant / parking garage project. They have until September 30 to start construction. There is no permit yet for the demolition of the existing building.

NEW BANK MANAGERS Two Island Estates area banks have new managers. Monique Rust is the new manager at the Island Estates Wachovia and Ekatrina Richards is now managing the Fifth Third Bank.

LA BOUTIQUE IS 33 Kathy Voutsinas opened La Boutique Shop on Island Estates in August of 1977, 33 years ago. Stop by and wish her Happy Anniversary!



NEW SALON Tommy and David's Salon recently opened at 662 Mandalay on Clearwater Beach, next to Chase Realty. Call them at 520-4808.

A SECOND NEW SALON Create You Salon also recently opened at 601 Mandalay, on Clearwater Beach, across from Hess.

CLEARWATER GAS EXPANDING For a limited time, Clearwater Gas System will extend natural gas lines to both homeowners and business owners within their service territory if they desire to convert from electric to natural gas energy. Homeowners may also be eligible to receive a 30% federal tax credit on the purchase and installation of a gas tankless water heater in addition to Clearwater Gas System's energy allowance rebates. This could add up to more than \$1,800 in savings when converting certain residential appliances from electric to gas energy. Visit www.clearwatergas.com or call 298-3540 for details.

OUT OF BUSINESS

DANA'S BOUTIQUE in Sand Key. Dana decided to retire, after 12 years in Sand Key. They closed May 31st. **SEASIDE SALON**, Clearwater Beach, across from Hess.

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SHEILA COLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETIRES

Sheila Cole, Executive Director of the Clearwater Beach Chamber Commerce since it began 15 years ago, has decided it is time to retire.

Past President Craig West remembers, "My first meeting with Sheila occurred in 1995 when I came to work for a bank on Island Estates. Sheila was one of the first to contact me to ask about becoming involved in joining and growing the newly established Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. Her enthusiasm and concern for the businesses located on the beach convinced me to join in efforts to market this great area. From that humble beginning, to how the chamber has evolved, is mostly due to Sheila's dedication to make Clearwater Beach the number one tourist destination for many all over the world. She often spoke for others who had felt were not being heard in efforts to improve the area for businesses and residents alike."

Today's Chamber President Tommy Duff said, "Since my business opened fifteen years ago, the only chamber I have known is "Sheila's Chamber". Her ever presence at functions, meetings, social events, charitable events and fundraisers is storied and sometimes I believed there must be two of her. The hard work and dedication she put into the chamber has been tireless and is the reason for the strength of our existence. As we move to a new era, the face at the chamber's door and the voice on the chamber's phone may be different, but it will always be Sheila's Chamber."

Sheila retired to Florida, from Ohio, 21 years ago. She had never been here before, and came for a three day party in January 1989. She walked out onto the white sand beach and fell in love! That spot on the beach is directly in front of today's Chamber office. Her sister-in-law, who lives here, drove them through Island Estates telling her if she lived here, this where she would live. She returned home, sold house and she and her husband Al moved to Clearwater Beach that September. Her husband commuted back and forth to Ohio, until their business sold. They bought a house in Island Estates and have lived there ever since. At the time, she kept raving to everyone about what a gorgeous, wonderful area this was and someone said "Gee, you should work for the Chamber of Commerce," little did she know...

18 years ago Sheila and her husband bought the Mom & Pop motel, The Sea Cloud on Bayway. It sounded like a fun thing to do and she met some wonderful people from around the world. In January 1996 she was asked to attend a meeting at the Beach Diner, and to bring her checkbook. There were 19 of people there and the rest is history! She was elected as Program Chairman, then President, then Membership Chairman and then asked to become the Executive Director. Sheila says "This was a 'dream' job'. It has never been 'work', it became an avocation. I am constantly amazed at the wealth of knowledge this position has accorded me, and the wonderful relationships I have made."

Sheila also owns a Graphic Design & Marketing Business with her youngest daughter. She will be devoting her time to growing the business, doing volunteer work in the community and spending time with her family. She has been happily married for 46 years to husband Al. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandkids!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL PREPARATION

There is no imminent threat of oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill making landfall in Pinellas County. However, volunteers are needed to prepare in case there is a future landfall. If oil reaches the Pinellas coastline, it is expected to be highly weathered in the form of tar balls or mats. Although weathered material is not as toxic as fresh oil, it could still affect birds and wildlife coming in contact with it. If oil or tar balls wash up on area beaches, the materials would be removed by trained contractors, not volunteers.

Local environmental organizations are seeking volunteers for coastal watches, preventative beach cleanups and bird monitoring. Also, local wildlife rehabilitation agencies are requesting trained assistance and donations. Volunteers are needed as follows:

- **Coastline watchers:** To report oil on the shoreline, call (866) 448-5816, or dial #DEP from a cell phone. To report oiled wildlife, call (866) 557-1401.
- **Pre-oil landfall beach cleanup:** Sign up online with Keep Pinellas Beautiful at www.pinvol.org for a Special Beach Cleanup. Volunteers who register will be contacted for a beach cleanup event, if necessary, prior to oil making landfall. For information, call 533-0402.
- **Local bird survey:** Assist Audubon with counting local bird populations by using the eBird checklist at www.ebird.org or call the Clearwater Audubon Society at (727) 431-2856.
- **Beach and wildlife monitoring:** Volunteers can contact Tampa Bay Watch at www.tampabaywatch.org or call (727) 867-8166.
- **Office work or seabird rehabilitation:** Volunteers are needed at the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary for tasks such as feeding birds, which will free up trained staff for emergency work. Also, veterinarians and wildlife paraprofessionals are needed for an Emergency Call List. Visit seabirdsanctuary.com, or call (727) 391-2473.
- **Aquarium work:** Volunteers are needed to assist the Clearwater Marine Aquarium with daily duties. Training classes and long-term weekly shifts are required. Volunteers will not necessarily treat oiled wildlife directly, as marine animal needs will be determined by federal wildlife officials and facility staff. Visit seewinter.com or call (727) 441-1790, ext. 230.

Donations:

- **Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary** is requesting donations of items such as towels to treat oiled birds. Visit www.seabirdsanctuary.com, or call (727) 391-2473 for a current list of needed supplies.
- **Clearwater Marine Aquarium** has set up an Oil Spill Emergency Fund. Donations can be made by calling the aquarium at (727) 441-1790 or visiting [www.seewinter.com](http://seewinter.com).

In terms of local preparations, after the 1993 Tampa Bay Oil Spill, the U.S. Coast Guard drafted a detailed Area Contingency Plan to prepare for a future oil spill in the area. The plan has been recently updated by local environmental officials and wildlife organizations. The plan identifies environmentally sensitive areas in Pinellas County (such as mangroves, estuaries, bird rookeries and marshes) with specific strategies for protecting each area. Floating booms would be deployed to protect passes and inlets. However, booms are not efficient for beach areas because they are difficult to secure in open water areas due to wave action.



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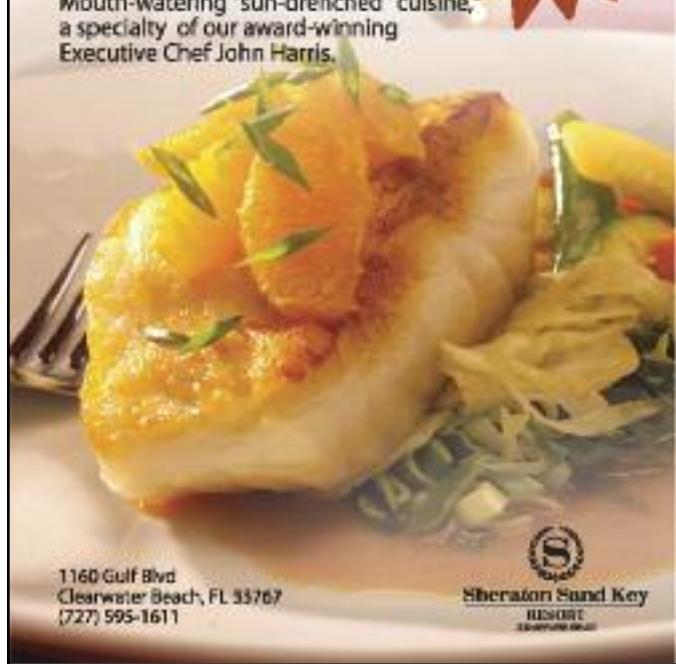
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by Phil Compton, Sierra Club working for cleaner water & lower taxes on the Gulf Coast



Remember the Red Tide 5 years ago?

Scientists have linked Red Tide and other harmful algae blooms in canals and lakes to fertilizer running off in summer rainstorms.

Most of Pinellas County's waters are sick and must be cleaned up. How do we solve this problem without raising taxes? It's easy: change how we use lawn fertilizer.

When you apply quick release fertilizer in rainy season months (June - September), you lose a lot to runoff. New slow release fertilizer stays on your lawn, instead of running off into the water. You save time and money and prevent algae blooms.

Pinellas County's new fertilizer ordinance, like those now in effect from Sarasota to Naples, says:

- Take phosphorus out of fertilizer - your yard naturally has plenty.
- Only apply nitrogen October - May. 50% of nitrogen is in slow release form and lasts through the rainy season.
- No nitrogen will be sold June-Sept. "Summer-safe" products with iron make grass greener without helping algae bloom.

Using fertilizer with personal responsibility saves you time, the county tens of millions in taxes for clean up, and helps lakes, canals and the Gulf get clearer and healthier.

CLEARWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Give back to your community and become a volunteer for the Clearwater Public Library System. Flexible hours are available and training is provided. Share your interests and skills with others. Make a difference and volunteer for the library today. To learn more, call Diane McKeever at (727) 562-4970, ext. 5037 or visit www.myclearwater.com/cpl

STINGRAY SAFETY IN THE SURF

Last month, purple flags were flown at Clearwater Beach to warn beachgoers about an increased number of stingrays in the water. Lifeguards and firefighters treated dozens of people who suffered stingray stings the last week in May. While the number of stings has appeared to decline, people should remain aware of potentially dangerous marine life.

Stingrays, not normally an aggressive fish, will defend themselves if they feel that they are threatened, such as being stepped on. Stingrays use the stinger in their tails to sting a predator (this includes unintentional beachgoer) usually in the ankle or foot. The stinger is covered in a protein similar to a bee sting, which adds to the pain of the sting.

To avoid stings, shuffle or slide your feet slowly through the sand to warn the stingrays of your presence and they will move out of your way. Do the "stingray shuffle" from the time you get in the water until you get out.

For most stings, the basic first-aid treatment is to soak the area in hot water to help breakdown the toxins. This will help relieve the pain. However, some people may develop a severe allergic reaction since the protein on the stinger is very similar to that of a bee sting. In this case, you should seek immediate medical assistance. If you get stung, see a lifeguard or go to a nearby fire station for an assessment of your injury.



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Real Estate News...

CLEARWATER BEACH

Waterfront Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	25	\$ 575,000	\$ 5,999,000
Under Contract	1	\$ 2,499,000	\$ 2,499,000
Sold	5	\$ 520,000	\$ 2,150,000

Non-Waterfront Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	30	\$ 294,900	\$ 1,969,000
Under Contract	9	\$ 219,000	\$ 599,000
Sold	5	\$ 300,000	\$ 515,000

Condominiums & Town Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	164	\$ 90,000	\$ 3,650,000
Under Contract	38	\$ 148,000	\$ 1,450,000
Sold	64	\$ 80,000	\$ 1,825,000

SAND KEY

Waterfront Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	4	\$ 509,000	\$ 1,250,000
Under Contract	2	\$ 575,000	\$ 595,000
Sold	4	\$ 665,000	\$ 742,500

Condominiums

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	133	\$ 179,000	\$ 2,700,000
Under Contract	26	\$ 199,000	\$ 1,950,000
Sold	55	\$ 160,000	\$ 1,030,000

ISLAND ESTATES

Waterfront Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	32	\$ 499,000	\$ 1,995,000
Under Contract	4	\$ 510,000	\$ 1,000,000
Sold	7	\$ 373,000	\$ 2,150,000

Non-Waterfront Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	2	\$ 278,900	\$ 519,000
Under Contract	1	\$ 299,900	\$ 299,900
Sold	0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Condominiums & Town Homes

	Total	Lowest	Highest
Active	103	\$ 79,900	\$ 1,300,000
Under Contract	26	\$ 125,000	\$ 995,000
Sold	48	\$ 92,000	\$ 555,000

Information provided by Multiple Listing Service deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Information provided by Tara Beheshti, Keller Williams Gulfside Realty, Clearwater Beach, 727-417-6620

4TH OF JULY BOAT CLUB ISLAND PARTY

The IRB Boat Club plans to meet around 4pm, on One Tree Island, in the Intracoastal, east of the Marriot, for a cookout. Bring your own food and beverage. At dusk, you can move your boat towards the Memorial Causeway for a closer look at the fireworks, or watch from the island. The IRB Boat Club is open to anyone with a boat. There are no fees. Many of our events are in the Clearwater Beach area call 727-517-1997 or email boatclub@irbhome.com to get involved

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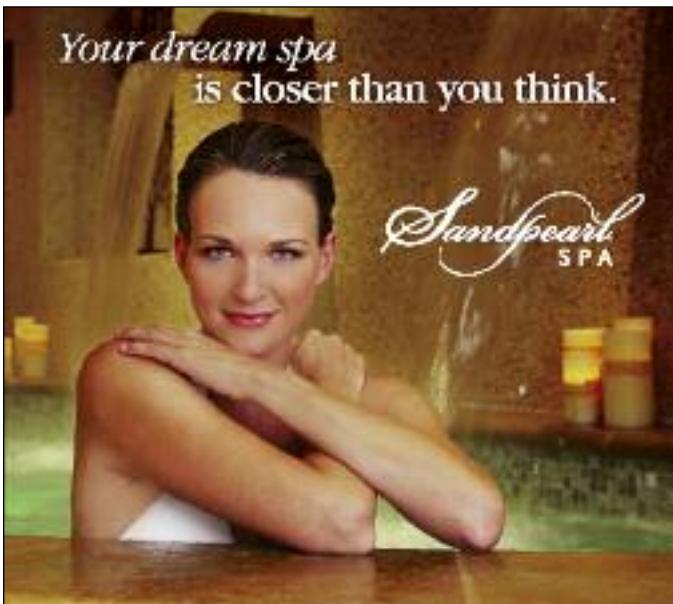
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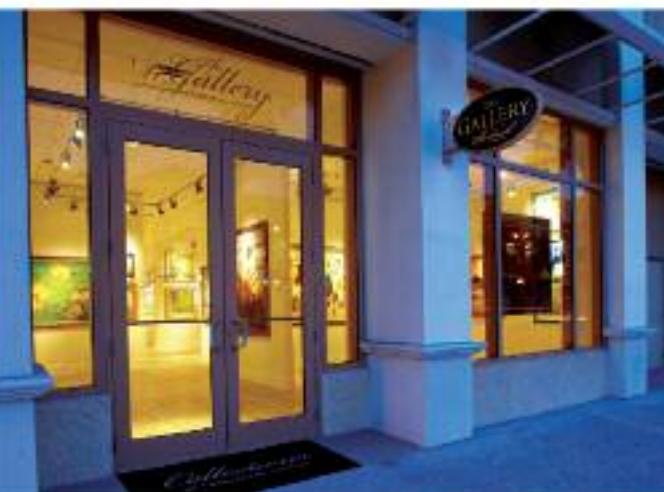


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THE BIRTH OF THE CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Until 1995, there was only one Chamber of Commerce which represented Clearwater and Clearwater Beach, and it was located on the mainland. A group of beach business owners and civic leaders felt they were not adequately represented by the existing Chamber and decided to start their own.

David Little, a local real estate broker, John Doran, president of the Clearwater Beach Civic Association, and Dr. Ken Rosenow, beach motel owner, organized to create a new Chamber of Commerce for Clearwater Beach. They hammered out a Mission Statement, filed Articles of Incorporation with the state and scheduled their first meeting. The Chamber officially was incorporated November 28, 1995.

An organizational meeting was held December 4th, followed by its first public meeting January 1996 at the Beach Diner, near the Clearwater Marina. Eighteen people were there. Most wrote checks and signed up that first day. Paul Kelley was elected the first Chamber President. Sheila Cole, future Executive Director was among the first members.

At that time, there was a local Clearwater Beach Merchants Association. After the chamber organized, they disbanded and donated their bank savings, around \$5,000, to the newly formed chamber.

Not everyone was happy. The larger Regional Chamber wanted those businesses under their umbrella. Then Mayor Rita Garvey called the new chamber organizers "a splinter group lacking widespread backing from even beach merchants."

"Our focus will be on nothing but tourism and redevelopment," said David Little, who started the idea for the new chamber. The new chamber's charter said it will not be political. But when you are competing for tourism tax dollars, and better city and county support, it is hard to remain nonpolitical.

"The best feature of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce is that it is a beach organization, made up of beach businesses solving beach problems," states one of their first press releases.

Today, the chamber is a healthy, nonprofit organization with over 200 members, a professional Executive Director, and represents over 100 beach accommodations, hundreds of area businesses and all the residents of Clearwater Beach, Island Estates and Sand Key.

The Chamber celebrated its 15th anniversary with its annual awards dinner at the Sandpearl Resort, June 10th. At that event, Sheila Cole stepped down as longtime Executive Director and Darlene Kole began her reign as the new Executive Director. Darlene comes to the chamber with a strong background in the tourism industry. She has been a public relations specialist, both in Pinellas County and in North Carolina. Darlene was the former publisher-sales person for SEE Magazine in Clearwater and the Gulf Beaches, as well as the creator of The Taste of Clearwater for the regional chamber.

Information for this article supplied by David Little, and various newspaper clippings.

ORGANIZATION NEWS & THINGS TO DO

BEACH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Frog Fridays At the Clearwater Beach Pool, with food, music, pool games and fun are scheduled for June 25, July 23 and August 20. Cost is less than \$6 a person and free for those with a Play Pass.

Yoga is offered Mon, Tues & Thurs, \$3.75 each

Group Tennis Lessons - Monday evenings. \$4.50 each
Call for reservations.

Swimming lessons - at the Beach Rec Center Pool. Join the Swim Team, too. Call 462-6020 for details.

The Recreation Center is located on Clearwater Beach, 69 Bay Esplanade. It has an exercise room, tennis courts, basketball courts and a large swimming pool. They are open Mon - Sat, and closed on Sundays and holidays. Call 462-6138 for more information. See the city's web site at www.MyClearwater.com

THE CLEARWATER LIBRARY The Adult Summer Reading Program continues with author of *Not Without Hope*, Nick Schuyler, Tues, June 15, 2pm at the Clearwater Main Library. Schuyler was the lone survivor of last year's boating tragedy that claimed the lives of three others, two were NFL football players. Children: Beginning June 15th is a 6 week program of Youth Story Time & Crafts, Tues at 10am. June 22 it will be Shell Crafts and June 29, children's books author, John Hanna will read his book "Vincent J. Muggs What If?"

First and third Wednesday each month a Writer's Encouragement Group meets for writers to work on their writing skills and share their endeavors.

Adults play Nintendo Wii Wed 1 - 3pm. Children, 10 and up play Nintendo Wii Tues, Wed and Thurs 3 - 5pm.

Free Films On The Beach featuring SUMMER RENTAL Tues, July 6, at 2pm and APOLLO 13 on Tuesday, August 3, at 2pm.

Visit myclearwater.com/cpl or call 562-4970 for info.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY Wednesday June 30th is the Annual Induction of new officers. They will meet at Carrouel Yacht Club for cocktails at 6pm, with a buffet dinner at 7pm. The cost is \$25 per person, with a cash bar. Dress is dressy/casual. This meeting is in lieu of the Thursday, July 1st meeting. Please call Angie Monteith at 451-3160 if you plan to attend.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB awarded two scholarships to outstanding Clearwater High School students, Melissa Dohme and Sarah Kadis. They are both excellent scholars with clear cut goals for their future education. Melissa will be attending St. Petersburg College and Sarah will be going to the University of Florida. In their application essays, both girls wrote about the most admired person in their lives and in each case it was her mother. Both mothers proudly accompanied them for the presentation of the \$1500 scholarships. Save The Date- January 18, 2011 for the Scholarship Fashion Show. If you would like to remember someone in a special way while helping build our scholarship fund, please contact Dee Bucklew, 727 946-4172. The club doesn't meet during the summer and will start again in September.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB donated \$7,500 to UPARC during their annual Fun Day, where over 200 UPARC clients were treated to lunch, music and waterside fun. See photos at www.CLWYC.org.



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NEW HURRICANE SEASON BRINGS CHANGES

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel

It may be the last thing on the minds of many beach residents, but the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season is here.

Forecasters around the country are also calling for a more active season than last year, which will certainly have us watching the forecasts more carefully.

Even though the high wind, storm surge and heavy rains of hurricanes won't be different, there will be a few notable changes this season.

First, the hurricane watch and warning times issued by the National Hurricane Center are increasing beginning this year. Now, a hurricane watch will be issued 48 hours in advance of the arrival of tropical storm force winds and a warning will be issued 36 hours in advance. The extra 12 hours will provide additional time to prepare for residents in low-lying areas, but shelters may not open immediately following warning being issued. Please check news reports or visit Pinellas County Emergency Management's website pinellascounty.org/emergency for the latest information.

A number of changes also have been made to the evacuation map. More accurate data and faster computers have improved the storm surge models used by the National Hurricane Center. All residents who live



on the beaches in Pinellas will still have to move away from the water during all mandatory evacuation orders, and it's also a good idea to check to see if your evacuation destination may have changed evacuation levels. Again, you can check the Pinellas County Emergency Management website to determine your evacuation level.

You will also note that the evacuation level colors for the maps have changed. For example, beach areas are no longer purple. Those areas are now red. This was done to make the evacuation maps more closely resemble other color-coded scales such as the homeland security level.

What hasn't changed for the 2010 season is the importance of being ready for the worst that nature can bring us. The last time Pinellas County took a direct hurricane landfall was in October 1921. Very few structures remain from that time, and those built since have not yet experienced the full fury of a hurricane. Storm surge also remains a killer, and the only safe place to be when the water rises is away from low-lying areas.

The key to survival is to plan now. Develop an evacuation plan for yourself and your family – including your pets. Bring important papers and a supply of medications, nonperishable food and water. Know where you will go should an evacuation order be given.

When it comes to hurricanes, preparing for the storm is everyone's responsibility. The steps you take now may save your life later.

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TAX PLANNING FOR THE NEXT TIME

From the Desk of Elizabeth (Liza)
Camp-Flanagan, CFP®, CIMA®,
Registered Principal

Now that April 15 has come and gone, what could be done to make the day happier next year?

Avoid owing at the end of the year by increasing your withholding. More money will be taken out of your paycheck throughout the year, but you will get a bigger refund (or not owe money) when you file your taxes. Check with your tax advisor.

Tax planning works to minimize your taxes. There are three ways to do just that - reduce your income, increase your deductions, and take available tax credits.

1. Reduce Your Taxable Income. The best way to reduce income is to save for retirement, either through a 401(k) or deferred compensation plan at work or through a traditional IRA plan. Contributions to these retirement plans will lower your taxable income, and thus lower your taxes.

Adjustments can reduce your income and are deductions that you don't have to itemize on Schedule A. Instead, you take them on page 1 of your 1040 to reduce your Adjusted Gross Income. Adjustments include contributions to a traditional IRA, student loan interest paid, alimony paid, and classroom-related expenses. A full list of adjustments can be found on Form 1040, page 1, lines 23 through 34.



2. Increase Your Tax Deductions. Most filers take the standard deduction, and some are able to itemize their deductions to take a larger deduction. Mortgage interest and gifts to charity are usually the biggest items but other potential deductions include expenses for health care, state and local taxes, personal property taxes (such as car registration fees), job-related expenses, tax preparation fees, and investment-related expenses.

One key tax planning strategy is to keep track of your itemized expenses throughout the year using a personal finance program. Compare your itemized expenses with your standard deduction and take the higher amount.

3. Take Available Tax Credits. Examples of tax credits that directly reduce your tax are adoption and college expenses. Another one is the Earned Income Credit (EIC) that, unlike other tax credits, is credited to your account as a payment, and that means the EIC often results in a tax refund even if the total tax has been reduced to zero. You may be eligible to claim the earned income credit if you earn less than a certain amount. For 2009 special stimulus credits were offered such as new home buyers, energy efficiency, new vehicle purchase and Making Work Pay tax credits.

Please consult with your tax advisor. Year round planning might help make tax planning less taxing!

Liza can be reached at 727-585-1212

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OIL AND SAND

By State Representative Jim Friske, District 54

We all have heard that Oil and Water don't mix. I would like to put forth that Oil and Sand do not mix either. We, here in Florida and particularly those of us in beach communities, have been challenged as never before regarding the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. Florida is possibly facing an economic and environmental disaster.



I have long been an opponent to off shore drilling and firmly believe that we have alternatives to solving our dependence on oil. Many have felt we have the oil, let's use it and not rely on foreign oil to fuel our country. We are now experiencing the results of such drilling and the dangers our coastal communities are facing because of this one oil "leak". (I think of it more as a "gusher").

Florida's beaches play a vital part in the prosperity of the State of Florida. The beaches are also our first line of defense in reducing damages due to storms and/or hurricanes. We cannot logically provide funding for beach re-nourishment and then turn around and drill for oil right off the Coast of Florida.

I, along with Senator Jones, was instrumental in making certain that the Florida Legislature allocated the needed \$3,816,624 for the Sand Key Beach Re-nourishment

Program, which along with the federal and local allocations, provides the necessary funds to complete this project. We also provided \$339,600 for the Long Key Beach (St. Pete Beach) Re-nourishment Program, which will get this project underway. These are just two of the beach re-nourishment projects for which the legislature has allocated funding in the 2010-2011 budget. This shows how very vital we believe clean, pristine beaches are to Floridians and our 65 billion dollar tourism economy.

I urge us to all work together to keep our beaches and all of our natural resources clean and free from oil as they are meant to be.

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THE GULF OIL SPILL*From the Clearwater Marine Aquarium*

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana. The rig, owned by Transocean Ltd, was under contract to BP. Submerged at the bottom of the Gulf, the well has released an estimated 48 million gallons plus of oil as of June 5th and the flow is still not contained. BP, the US Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service are the lead response agencies on the oil spill.

Since the spill occurred, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) has been preparing to respond by training its staff and volunteers. Ongoing talks with FWC officials are occurring to determine requirements for CMA to be a first responder, second responder or both. We are standing by to respond as soon as government officials request our assistance. Whatever is asked of our organization, we are ready to assist as a world leader in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine animals. Many citizens inquire as to how to help the Aquarium. Those who want to volunteer, may pre-register on our website: www.seewinter.com. We have also created an emergency fund to raise money for animals that need to be cared for, whether at CMA or other facilities. To donate go to the link: <http://www.seewinter.com/help-cma-prepare-for-potential-oil-spill-impact-on-marine-life>.

No one knows the overall impact of this colossal disaster. What is known, is it will affect many areas in and surrounding the Gulf of Mexico for years to come. This spill is already significantly impacting tourism, fishermen and those that depend on the water to make a living.



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