

NEIGHBORHOOD



Newsletter

Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997



105 12th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach, the stone house O.G. Creel lived in. Inset to the right is Creel in 1970.

THE GIFTED BUILDER BEHIND IRB'S STONE HOUSES

IRB's unique stone houses, which appear to be transplanted from the English or Irish countryside, are a homegrown product. Clustered mostly along 10th and 12th Avenues, the homes and cottages have been a subject of curiosity since they were constructed during the World War II era.

They are the creation of Oscar G. "O.G." Creel, a gifted builder who enjoyed working with rocks. Creel built his first stone house, at 105 12th Avenue, as a residence for his family, said his granddaughter Sherry Creel Jones. The house, which is still standing, became a headquarters for Creel's building enterprise. His construction vehicles and equipment were scattered over the grounds, and that displeased his wife, Nona.

"My grandmother was kind of proud," said Sherry Jones. "Construction equipment was dirty and she was not going to have it visible." So Creel constructed a long narrow building to cover up all the trucks. A garage was built next to it, with Creel's office next to the garage space. The entire Creel complex still stands on the property.

Material for the stone houses was rock quarried from the Withlacoochee River near Crystal River, Florida.

Creel built a variety of structures throughout Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, including conventional homes and cottages, post offices, a hotel, and local piers and seawalls, according to his grandson Linton G. Creel Jr.

The IRB Historical Museum, once a beach cottage owned by prominent attorney Carl Moseley, is a Creel creation.

Local IRB piers built by Creel were Dr. Myers' pier (south of Walsingham), and Dr. Gibson's pier, for a local dentist. Linton Creel said his grandfather used quality construction

methods and materials throughout. "He was not one to cut corners," Linton said. The Creel home on 12th Avenue, where Linton Creel grew up, "was complete with a slate roof and copper ventilator, gutters and downspouts. Inside, all the interior doors were red cypress, as were the interior window and doorway trims."

"O.G." was an expert bricklayer, stonemason, tile layer and master in the use of concrete in building construction, says grandson Linton. But Creel's favorite homes to build, according to Linton, were the storied stone houses made with Withlacoochee River rock. "He thoroughly enjoyed working with the rocks," Linton said of his grandfather.

O.G. Creel believed the stone houses, and his methods, were an ideal fit for Florida's climate. "That was part of his thinking," Linton said. Creel constructed his stone houses with very thick walls – rock on the outside with concrete behind it to hold the rock in place. On the inside were smooth concrete walls.

This manner of construction would be more comfortable in summer and provided added strength in storms, Creel reasoned. He would not evacuate for hurricanes because he believed his stone house was the safest place to be.

Creel lived in his original stone house on 12th Avenue until his death in 1971. His wife Nona resided there until 1980.

Linton Creel describes his grandfather as "a very complex man, great family man, loved his God and his church, gifted craftsman, successful fisherman, and gardener extraordinaire." Born into poverty in Slocomb, Alabama, O.G. Creel was stricken with polio as a child. "O.G. was always an over-achiever," Linton Creel said. "He overcame the disabilities of polio and became a very strong and powerful man."

More than a dozen of O.G. Creel's stone houses are still in use. IRB's are located at 72 & 420 Gulf Blvd; 105, 117, 119, & 121 12th Ave.; 302, 304, 308 & 324 10th Ave.; and 728, 1100, 1102 & 2018 Beach Trail. (Locations provided by Shera Bie.)

Story by Wayne Ayers, Indian Rocks Historical Society
Photos courtesy of the Indian Rocks Historical Society

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Residents of Indian Rocks Beach

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Becky Griffin

SALES

727-517-1997

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Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Please send all comments to bob@griffindirectories.com

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CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL 595-2517
1507 Bay Palm Blvd
www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com

CITY MANAGER - Chuck Coward
MAYOR/CITY COMMISSION . 517-0204

MAYOR - R.B. Johnson
COMMISSIONERS —
Daniel Torres Vice Mayor • Cookie Kennedy
Terry Wollin • Phil Hanna

City Manager, 595-2517
Chuck Coward

Building Department: 517-0404
Don Weigner

Planning & Zoning: 517-0404
Danny Taylor, Dir.

Public Services: 595-6889
Dean Scharmen, Dir.

IRB LIBRARY 596-1822
Next to City Hall

M-F 10-5pm, Tu-Th 7-8:30pm, Sat 10-1pm
IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM . . . 593-3861

Across from the Post Office
IRB HOMEOWNER ASSOC. . . . 517-3131

Becky Griffin, President - IRBHome.com
Bob Griffin - Boat Club 517-1997

BEACH ART CENTER 596-4331
Next to City Hall, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd

POST OFFICE / IRB 596-2894
204 4th Avenue 33785, Near Crabby Bill's

Mon-Fri 8:30A-4:30P; Sat 9A-12:00P
IRB ROTARY

www.Indian-Rocks-Rotary.org
Meets at Jimmy Guana's every Wed. 7:15AM

Bruce Sobut, Past President . . . 403-4060
ACTION 2000

John Todia 595-2369
Meets 2nd Monday Each Month Beach Art Ctr

BEACH FOOD PANTRY 517-2534
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4H CLUB 582-2597

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Clearwater Beach 447-7600

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ELECTRICITY 443-2641

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PHONE (Business). 800-483-5000

WATER 464-4000
CABLE (Bright House) 329-5020

SEWER / IRB 595-6889
TRASH / IRB / Pick Up 595-6889

EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1

SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES 582-6200
SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177

IRB FIRE STATION 595-1117

COUNTY INFORMATION 464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278
STATE:

Senator Dennis Jones 727-549-6411
Republican, District 13

8940 Seminole Blvd, Seminole 33772
Jones.Dennis.web@flsenate.gov

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125 Indian Rocks Rd, Belleair Bluffs
Jim.Frishe@MyFloridaHouse.gov

Governor Rick Scott
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FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:

Marco Rubio 202-224-3041
www.Rubio.Senate.gov

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950
9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772
www.house.gov/young

2011 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH

- Spring Luncheon Historical Society 5
- Beach Art Center Watercolor 4-6
- Election Day 8
- Homeowner's Happy Hour 10
- Beach Art Center Still Life 11-13
- Boat Club Island Clean Up 12
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 13
- St Patrick's Day 17
- IRB Boat Club Meeting 17
- Green Fest at COTI 19
- Heritage Village Quilting Day 19
- Great America Clean Up 19
- Spring Begins 20
- Beach Art Center Collecting Craft 25
- Spring Break at the Art Center 28-1

APRIL

- April Fool's Day (Friday) 1
- Guppy's Gulfside Gallop/5K Run 2
- Pancake Festival by Rotary 2
- Beauty and The Beach & Art Show 2
- Beach Activities (11am-7pm) 2
- Homeowner's Happy Hour 14

- Market in the Park / Last Day 16
- IRB Garage Sale 16-17
- Federal Taxes Due 17
- Boat Club Trip to Bait House 18
- Boat Club Meeting 21
- Beach Art Center All Media 22
- Earth Day 2011 22
- Good Friday 22
- Easter Egg Hunt Nature's Park 23
- Easter Sunday 24
- Action 2000 Arbor Day Event 28
- Anona Elementary Annual Picnic 30
- Biggest Beach Party Ever 30

MAY

- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
- Cinco de Mayo (Thurs) 5
- Postal Workers / Food Drive (Sat) 7
- Mother's Day 8
- Homeowners Happy Hour 12
- IRB's Household Chemical Cleanup 14
- MADD Beach Walk (IRB) 14
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15

NEXT ISSUE IS MAY

Do you need another copy of this newsletter? Ask for them at USA Grocers or any IRB realtor's office.

This newsletter is printed every other month and survives on local advertising. Please support the people advertising here. If you are an IRB resident wanting to advertise, you get a discount. We also offer discounts for advertising in our other issues, Madeira Beach, Belleair Area Downtown St. Petersburg and our Clearwater Beach.

Call me to advertise in the next issue. For more information, or to read our other issues online, visit BeachNewsletters.com

TAMPA BAY SEAGRASSES SHOW RECORD INCREASE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Did You Know....

WHO FREED JR? In January, JR, the resident owl at McGough Park, escaped from his cage. Park rangers think he had some help from someone who opened his cage. JR is still not back, but he has been seen on the park grounds. Park rangers have seen him among the branches of the tall pines in the park. They were concerned that after being raised in captivity he wouldn't be able to feed himself, but apparently he is doing fine. At least, he isn't hungry enough to come home. The city adopted the owl 10 years ago and he has been very popular ever since.



ANONA ELEMENTARY REUNION PICNIC If you went to Anona Elementary a long time ago, join your classmates at their annual reunion and covered dish picnic at Bonner Park, April 30th. Bring something to share. Dishes, cups, silverware and drinks will be provided. Call Billie and Shera Bie at 593-7999 for more details.

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

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

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

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



MORE ROAD CONSTRUCTION DOT

officials recently announced they will begin three major construction projects on Ulmerton Road simultaneously. The projects will last about two years. The remaining areas with only 4 lanes will be widened to 6 lanes with a bike lane. This includes the area before and after Largo Mall. Work is expected to begin this summer. We suggest you start using 102nd Ave. or West Bay during the project.



ARTISTS WANTED The Beach Art Center is seeking artists and sponsors for the Chalk Walk, a key component of the Beauty & The Beach art festival. Artists decorate the street with 8'x8' chalk and pastel paintings. The "artists" may be children from local schools, friends, families, professional artists, or anyone who would like to undertake the challenge of creating public art. People throng the streets to watch art come alive before their eyes. The Chalk Walk is sponsored by local individuals and businesses. To participate in the Chalk Walk, please call 596-4331 and ask to be placed on the Chalk Walk mailing list. There is no charge to the artist.

EASTER SERVICES - The Church of the Isles, 200 24th Avenue invites you to Special March and April services, including Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 9th at 7pm and a Maundy Thursday on Thursday, April 21st at 7pm. Easter Services include a Sunrise Service on the beach at 7am on April 24th at 25th Avenue. A light breakfast is served afterward in Pilgrim Hall. The traditional Easter service is held at 10am in the sanctuary. Their worship style is classic but the dress code is relaxed.

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

FESTIVAL The Beach Art Center is hosting a Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, May 21 in Kolb Park. It is still in the planning stage, but it will include live Bluegrass music, food, beer and other beverages plus children's activities including painting a car.

NO PETS ALLOWED! Our local sheriff deputies want to remind you that the only pets allowed on the beach are service animals. Violation of this city ordinance can result in a fine of \$143 for the first offense and can double for repeated offenses.

TIME FOR NEW PARKING PERMITS Permits are good for two years and everyone's expired December 31st. The new ones are available at City Hall. The permits identify you as a resident and give you the right to park in certain spots at the beach access areas. Proof of residency and your car's registration are required. If your car is registered in another area, you must show some type of proof that you are a part time resident such as a phone or power bill.



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Real Estate News

FORECLOSURE LULL BEFORE THE STORM

By Gordon Obarski, Broker Associate
Doiron Realty Services on the Beach

December 2010's foreclosure statistics were, at first glance, encouraging. Foreclosures across the nation dipped to a 30-month low in December, showing a 26% drop from the previous December.

So why are foreclosures predicted to increase by 20% this year (2011) and reach their peak later this summer?

Many foreclosures slated for 2010 have been delayed. Some lenders, under closer government scrutiny, temporarily closed up shop to revisit potentially flawed internal procedures. Moratoriums and modification programs have also kept foreclosures in check. Lenders, afraid of driving prices down even further, were reluctant to unleash too much discounted inventory too quickly.

Florida, one state most affected by end-of-year delays, saw a 54% decrease in foreclosures from Dec. '09 to Dec. '10—the lowest level in over three years! Without the significant drop in the final quarter, however, foreclosures last year would have hit a record high.

So, the proverbial can has been kicked down the street. Foreclosures sit impatiently in a bulging pipeline with even more households in serious default yet to enter the system. Florida's high jobless rate provides little hope that those in line will be able to avoid the inevitable. Meanwhile, investors stand by licking their chops... awaiting the floodgates to open.

In 2009, 31% of all Indian Rocks Beach/Indian Shores residential real estate sales involved distressed property. Last year, that percentage grew to 37%. But, because the average foreclosure sale price increased by almost 20% [up from \$224,715 ('09) to \$268,857 ('10)], the average sale price of all homes/condos in IRB/IS remained fairly constant, going from \$332,354 ('09) to \$330,983 ('10). In mid-February, 42 distressed homes/condos were listed for sale in 33785; 10 were new listings added in January.

In July, Florida courts received \$10 million to hire judges, etc. to relieve the foreclosure bottleneck. Since then, about 110,000 have moved through the system with more than triple that number yet to come. Due to lag time between foreclosure and listing the property for sale, the sales/listing activity in 33785 will not reflect December's foreclosure drop until second quarter. And after that, look out!

The foreclosure backlog, once it breaks loose, has the potential to double the housing supply by December 31. Sellers of non-distressed properties may find themselves competing with the "deals" well into 2013, when the bulk of the foreclosures are expected to have been absorbed into the system and true recovery begins.

Source: Pinellas County Multiple Listing Service

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For more information contact Anita at Tampa Personal Concierge, 727-599-7902 or check out their website at www.tampaypc.com.



SCHOOL AGRICULTURE QUILT

Every year, the fourth graders at Indian Rocks Christian School have made a quilt showing Florida agriculture.



They received a \$250 grant from Farm Bureau to cover the expenses. Each student made a square showing a Florida county and its agricultural commodity. In art class, the students added pictures of their commodity as well as the Florida bird, flag, flower and outline of state. Our church's senior sewing/quilting group quilt the piece for them. Last year two quilts were submitted to the Florida State Fair and they received first and second place.

The first quilt was presented to Jon Paul Perea missionaries to Kazakhstan- where it is VERY cold. The family has children at the school. They left for Kazakhstan in January.

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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE MOLLY BLOOM?

by Marie Shine

Brrrrrrrr.....I thought the cruising lifestyle was being surrounded by warm blue waters and gentle tropical breezes!?!?...NOT scraping ice off the decks!

Living aboard the sailing vessel Molly Bloom continues to be a learning experience for her crew - Ron and Marie, who left Indian Rocks aboard the Molly Bloom on December 28th (after scraping the ice off her decks) and headed for her temporary new home at the Vinoy Marina in downtown St. Petersburg. There, her owners continued to fix and provision before heading south to the Bahamas and beyond. Molly Bloom's heat is warm and toasty, even if her watermaker stopped working, her fresh water pump developed a mysterious 'air' leak, and her new bimini top and sails came weeks later than promised. Such is a schedule aboard a sailboat!

Since surviving at sea and being away from the USA and easily available provisions, requires a huge amount of cargo to be carried, all the extra gear, such as the increased number of batteries, extra fuel, full water tanks, multiple anchors and chain, provisions, tools, spares, books, and more will make the boat float lower. Molly Bloom has one more stop before heading out into the warm waters. She has to make sure her antifouling bottom paint is well above her new waterline and her bottom stripe raised. Since she is wider than most boats, she cannot be lifted out of the water in very many marinas - so, on her way south, she will be stopping in Ft. Meyers to get her new paint and stripe.

It's a slow process but she WILL be in the warm blue waters soon and there will be no need for heat, and little need for jackets and long pants - Bring on the SUNBLOCK and keep up to date with her sailings on www.svMollyBloom.com - a work in progress.... after all, just like everyday life on land, life on the sea is more about the journey than the destination.



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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF JIM COATS
 Operation Medicine Cabinet

Great news! You no longer have to wait for Operation Medicine Cabinet's twice-a-year drop off event to dispose of your unused or expired prescription medications. You can now come to the lobby of the Sheriff's Administration Building located at 10750 Ulmerton Road in Largo; or the North District Station at 737 Louden Avenue in Dunedin to turn in their unwanted medications for disposal.



Drop-off containers are available at each of the locations and a desk deputy will be on hand to assist you from 7 am to 11 pm seven days a week. The deputy will examine the items you bring to ensure that we can accept them. Deputies will not open pill containers or packaging. We do, however, ask that you securely seal liquid medications. Duct tape may be used if necessary.

Please note that the Sheriff's Office will not accept syringes, bio hazards or medical equipment. For disposal of these items, visit the 'How do I get rid of it?' page of the Pinellas County Utilities website at www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit/. Resource handouts from this site are available at our front lobbies.

The deputy will place the accepted and secured items into an evidence bag marked "For Destruction" with a case number; and drop the sealed evidence bag into the locked drop-off container. The medications will be collected by our Property and Evidence Division members for future destruction through incineration.

No questions will be asked and no information will be required from citizens for the drop-off. You are encouraged to remove any labels from your medications.

For over two years our office has been committed to raising public awareness about prescription drug abuse; as well as targeting illegal prescription sales. Our Narcotics Strategic Diversion Unit formed in 2009 as a result of the increase of pharmaceutical overdose deaths.

According to the Pinellas Medical Examiner's Office, prescription overdose deaths continue to rise. Prescription drugs are now the abused drug of choice. Sadly, the abuse of prescription drugs and overdose deaths of prescription drugs either alone or in combination with alcohol have far outdistanced cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, GHB and heroin.

Our office, is working with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to arrest dealers, close pill mills and stop prescription fraud. We have developed partnerships with organizations like the Pinellas Chapter of NOPE Task Force to educate youth and their parents about the dangers of abuse. We have also repeatedly urged citizens who need assistance for a prescription drug abuse problem for themselves or a loved one - to do so through the 211 Tampa Bay Information and Referral Line or to visit their website at www.211connects.org.

The establishment of drop-off containers at the Sheriff's Administration Building and at our North District Station is one more extension of our Operation Medicine Cabinet initiative. It was created in response to the many citizens who have called our office, since the inception of OMC, inquiring about the disposal of medications and seeking a permanent and safe place for drop off. We greatly appreciate your input and your participation in our efforts to raise awareness in our fight against prescription drug abuse.

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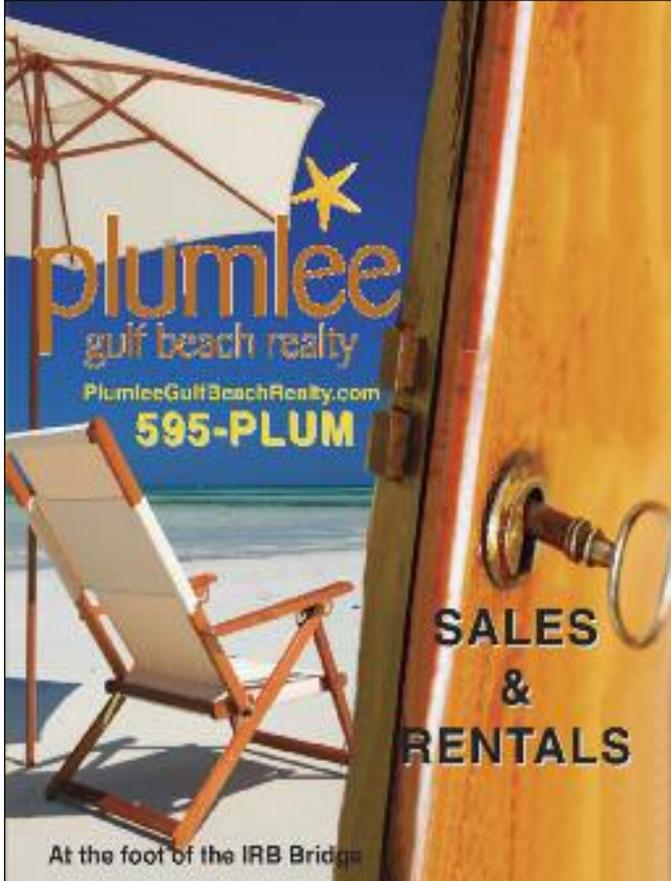
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At the foot of the IRB Bridge

Restaurant News....

NEW OWNER OF LE BOUCHON RESTAURANT

J. M. Collot de Grasper (Jean Michele) is the new owner of Belleair's Le Bouchon Restaurant. He is from Dijon, France and plans to keep the cuisine authentically French. Jean Michele has been in the US for five years and most recently operated a Miami restaurant. He lives in Indian Rocks Beach near the GTE building.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

May is our restaurant issue, so this is the issue we ask you to vote for your favorite restaurants in Indian Rocks Beach. There is a flyer inserted in this newsletter for you to use. Fill it out and mail or fax it to us by March 31st. One family will win a \$50 Gift Certificate to the IRB restaurant of their choice. Vote and the choice is yours. If you did not get a ballot, please call 517-1997. Voting open to IRB Residents Only!

MIKE'S PIZZA ADDS A DECK

Mike's Pizza, which opened in Largo, has added new outside dining on their patio. This is the place to enjoy sunshine, TV's, pizza and a cold beer. Mike's also offers free delivery to Indian Rocks Beach. Call them at 724-4100.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Beef-O-Brady's opening has been delayed until May. They are still working on the new restaurant located on Walsingham, in the Wal-Mart Neighborhood shopping center, behind McDonalds. They hope to open in May.

LOCAL'S NEW VENTURE

Stacy and Bill Dillion, previous owners of Cafe Solei and IRB Ale House, are part owners of new Clearwater restaurant, the Clearwater City Grill. It is located at 401 South Ft Harrison Blvd., directly across from the County Courthouse and opened in February.

BACKWATER CHILI CONTEST WINNERS

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

28 YEARS

Crabby Bill's Seafood has been serving grouper sandwiches since April, 1983, making it the second oldest operating IRB restaurant. They expanded their presence over the years by opening the Loading Dock, IRB Sushi and Jake's Sandwich Shop. They also have two locations in Clearwater. The City of Clearwater and Crabby Bill's recently negotiated a new 4 year lease at the City Marina. Crabby agreed to spend \$190,000 on improvements to the building plus their monthly rent.

CLOSED

Marker 34, the last incarnation of Brewmasters, closed.

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YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2011 WHEN...

- You accidentally enter your PIN number on a microwave.
- You email the person working at the desk next to you.
- Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is they don't have email.
- You pull up in your driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help unload the groceries.
- Every commercial on TV has a web site at the end.
- Leaving the house without your cell phone is cause to return home and get it.
- You get up in the morning and go online before getting your first cup of coffee.
- You have at least 6 remote controls on the coffee table, and you're not sure which one works what.
- You spend 15 minutes looking for the TV remote instead of walking to the TV and pushing the "on" button.
- You have discover an "app" is no longer something you fill out to get a job.
- A "hard drive" is no longer a road trip of over 2 hours with your spouse complaining, or to sing with the radio.
- Your Facebook life is way more exciting than real life.
- Typing 100 words a minute makes you a fantastic conversationist, but not at parties.
- Every other TV commerical is for male enhancement pills.
- Your video library consists mostly of tutorials for outdated gadgets you're still learning to operate.
- You discover a flu shot doesn't provide virus protection.
- You start dressing better, from the waist up, while at your computer, just in case someone Skypes or Vids you.
- You are surprised to when you get a "busy" signal on a phone.
- You say "Go Home" to your car's GPS and it racks up a Grateful Dead CD on the MP3.
- You increase the number of text messages you can send on your cell phone and decrease the number of minutes you actually talk on it.
- You're having lunch at a restaurant when you receive an important text message, from your daughter, who is sitting right next to you.
- When your grandchildren are teaching you how to use the new electronic gifts you got for Christmas.
- Your computer screen is larger than your first TV...and your TV screen is a wide as your first car.
- You have no idea what the cost of a First Class stamp is when they all say "Forever".
- You can't remember when you actually wrote a check, since most bills are paid on line.
- Your phone is a better camera than a phone.
- You consider giving up your land line for a cell phone.
- You are surprised when you hear some people actually pay for long distance calls.
- When your 6 year old teaches you how to use the apps on your iPad.
- You have so many passwords you can no longer log into anything on your first try.

.....
Contributing Writers: Nancy Orbarski-IRB, Jerry Newton-IRB, Mark Mann-Musician, Father Bob-Calvary Episcopal, Eric Meyer-IRB, Charles Parker-Guppys Marketing



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THE NO NAME STORM

How It Happened...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information supplied by the National Weather Service in Ruskin.

As we remember it...

At the time, I lived on Indian Rocks Beach 's Windrush Cove. On the 11pm news the weatherman said to be prepared for high winds and possible hail. I moved my car under someone else's carport for the night. When I woke up, the water was over the seawall and halfway to my condo's back door. Luckily, it did not reach the condo, however, across the canal over half the homes on Bahia Vista had water inside.

Bob Griffin, now on La Hacienda Dr. Indian Rocks Beach

18th Ave. & Bay Blvd. IRB



I lived on Bay Boulevard near 18th Avenue. When I woke up, all the streets east of Gulf Blvd were flooded. I needed to go to work at 8am and I could not get out of my driveway.

Rosine Wilson, Bay Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach

On Friday night, there was no forecast of a storm brewing nearby. We went to bed only to be awakened by very strong winds blowing off the Gulf. They were so strong, you could feel the house and walls move. That next morning, Tony tried to go to work but was unable to exit Harbor Drive because the water was covering the road and no vehicles could get through. By the next day, for us, everything was back to normal.

Joan Johnstone, IRB Resident and City Employee



Bay Blvd. IRB

At the time, Cris and I lived on Second Street, near the old GTE building. We had gone to the Red Lion that night with an out of town friend. He stayed in the guest room. He woke us up yelling "flood!" By this time, I was standing in 3 feet of water. The water was cresting over our mattress. All the power outlets were under water and the electricity was still on. I quickly turned off the main breaker. Everything was floating, including the carpets. My wife's car, parked by the street was completely submerged and the headlights came on under the water. Anything we could find that was not ruined was placed in our canoe. We held the front door open with a lounge chair as the water receded and so it could run out of our house. Pretty much everything was lost or ruined.

Todd Plumlee, now on North Harbor Drive

RM OF MARCH 1993

I was living in a small apartment at the end of 27th Avenue in Indian Bay Apartments. The late news said a big thunderstorm was coming. I told my mom not to worry and we went to bed. About 6am, we heard something that sounded like a freight train, which we later found out was a tornado hitting the park area next door. I jumped out of bed into shin-deep water in my bedroom. We started throwing things into the bathtub and putting stuff up on tables and kitchen counters. We noticed water flowing under the door and when we looked outside, the water was about four feet deep. The Intracoastal was in my house! Water from the Gulf was meeting water from the Intracoastal. All of 27th Avenue was underwater. By noon, the water started to go down, and you could see the water leaving the house. We started pulling carpet out of the house. Wow, what a smell. Our cars were trashed; Salt water had gotten into the car as high as the center console. The tornado that hit the park went on to hit the Belleair Bluffs' Pizza Hut. That was one day I will never forget.

Linda Gowen, 27th Avenue Indian Rocks Beach

At the time, I lived in an apartment on Bay Boulevard. I woke with my neighbor pounding on my door. When I got out of bed, I heard 'squish'. My carpets were soaked. I thought I had a broken pipe. My neighbor said "look out your door!" The yard was underwater. I was a flight attendant and was supposed to fly that day, but I could not get out of my driveway. When I called, my boss did not believe me. Later that day, all the flights along the east coast were shut down. When the tide receded, I found telephone poles in my yard, seahorses in my house and the mud was everywhere. Due to the salt water, I had to get a new car and over \$30,000 in renovations. We did not complete the renovations until August, five months later.

Madonna Steinlage, now on 20th Avenue.

At the time, I lived in a condo in Indian Shores. I like a good storm, but the No Name Storm scared the wits out of me. It was not even forecasted. Hurricane Elena of 1985 did not affect us as much as that storm. It roared ashore about 4am. I was awakened when our marbled glass patio table was lifted off the second story balcony and crashed onto the parking lot below. I remember trying to get to the lowest room in the condo, because our whole building was swaying. I could see the glass doors bowing in and out. When the sun rose, I saw tiles that had blown off the roof and live electrical wires sparking in puddles on the ground. When it was over, the neighbors came out to help each other clean up.

Tracy Garrett, now on 14th Avenue

The city manager, and I drove around that morning. I remember most of Harbor Drive North and South being okay. Most of the damage was between 10th and 27th. The Mermaid Motel's cottages near 28th Avenue on the Gulf had flooding. Lots of ongoing construction projects were underwater and the building department had to reinspect them.

Mayor Bob DiNicola, Harbor Drive N. Now in The Villages

We had already had our a business in IRB for 21 years when the storm hit. We owned rentals on and off the beach, but flooding had never been a problem. That morning in March, the bay began to empty onto Indian Rocks Beach. Our elderly guests were still sleeping. We knocked on their doors and they stepped out of bed into saltwater. They were stunned and we scrambled for solutions. We waited for the tide to recede, then our friends arrived with shop vacs and we sucked the saltwater out of the carpets and from under the appliances. We even assigned our guests jobs. Using our guest towels, they made like 'Lucy and Ethel' and stomped on them to blot the carpets dry. We ran from room to room picking up wet towels and distributing new ones. By bedtime, the carpets were somewhat dry, the guests were back in their formerly flooded apartments and we were exhausted.

Carol and Mike McGlaughlin, 21st Avenue



1802 Bay Blvd. IRB

About 11pm on March 12th, as I 'channel surfed' my way through the late news shows, Betsy and I caught a brief mention of a storm moving across the gulf at about 50 MPH. We were surprised so little attention was given to a storm moving so rapidly toward our coast. Down to the dock we went, to double-line the boats and to secure the bimini tops and sail covers. About 3am, it was calm, no rain, no wind and a normal tide. At 6:30 am, the phone awakening us. Neighbor Steve Miller called to ask if we needed any help. "No problem," we replied. "We checked everything at 3am." "Better look at it now!" he said.

The water was up to the seawall cap and waves were being blown into the yard. Our dock lights had shorted out. Since Harbor Drive South is one of the highest fingers on the beach, we were lucky. Some of our neighbors to the south had water inside their houses. As a resident since 1977, we have never seen water this high before or after this storm. It was not a fun day for most of the people in our city.

Kurt McKenna, Harbor Drive South

My son and I both remember the storm. He was a senior in high school and I took him and two of his friends to a concert at Tampa's Ice Palace. The ride over was a little rainy, but the ride back was very different. On the Courtney Campbell Causeway, the waves were crashing across the causeway reaching the median in the middle. The waves were hitting the car so hard that I had to follow the median to the end just to stay in my lane. We did not realize the extent of the storm until we arrived home and saw the news. That was one of the scariest drives I have every encountered. My son still talks about it.

Suzanne Thayer, 12th Avenue



After the storm
18 Ave & Bay Blvd. IRB

On the evening of the storm, my husband and I were attending a party on the east side of Pinellas County. Driving home, the wind and rain were frightening. The traffic signals along Park Blvd were out and were swinging violently overhead. We were afraid they would fly off the lines onto our car. We saw signs down and trees stripped off their branches. But, we made it home OK.

Ginger Lyle, Secretary, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue, IRB

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, GLORIOUS MARCH

By State Representative Jim Frishe, District 54,



The month of March is known for several happenings – St. Patrick's Day, blustery winds, up north – some spring flowers beginning to peak through the ground, the beginning of lent, return to daylight savings time and in Florida – the beginning of the Legislative Session.

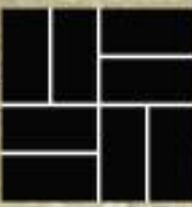
This year, the Legislative Session begins Tuesday, March 8, 2011 and end on Friday, May 6, 2011. It should be a very arduous session this year. With a newly elected Governor and Cabinet, Senate President & House Speaker, some of the issues we will be addressing are:

- A constitutional mandate to produce an annual balanced budget while facing a budget deficit estimated to be as much as 4.6 billion dollars.
- A slow economy
- A large number of unemployed

Even with these challenges, I firmly believe that the State of Florida can continue on a path to recovery and to even greater success and prosperity than we have experienced in the past.

We know session is when our elected state officials go to Tallahassee for a couple of months and make decisions that affect each of our lives in one way or another. However, do you know that Session is an opportunity for you to visit Tallahassee and actually see your government in action? The gallery in the House and Senate is generally open to visitors during actual sessions. You can make appointments to visit with your Representatives and Senators in their Tallahassee offices and share your thoughts and concerns regarding issues that will be coming before them for a vote. Of course, you can also make appointments to visit them in their District Offices.

I encourage each of you to take an interest in your government. Remember, we have a participatory democracy. It won't work if you don't participate. Participate, get involved!



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Historical Museum News

New addition moves ahead - The City Commission approved the final design for the historical museum's expansion, clearing the way for the project's construction phase. Museum board members had already expressed their enthusiasm for the concept, proposed by local architects Dwight and Scott Holmes. The addition is expected to be completed later this year.

Railroading in Pinellas County is potluck topic - The Historical Museum's potluck luncheon will be Saturday, March 5 and feature a visual presentation on "Railroading in Pinellas County" by Dunedin Historical Museum director Vinnie Luisi.

Vinnie will celebrate the county's upcoming centennial with a fascinating tale of how the railroad transformed the Pinellas peninsula from a frontier backwater into a

powerhouse of growth and development.

The free potluck lunch begins at noon, followed by Vinnie's presentation. All are welcome – just bring a dish to share. Beverages and utensils are provided.

Beauty and the Beach April 2- Stop by the museum's booth at Beauty and the Beach. Signed copies of the new Indian Rocks Beach history book will be available. The book features never before published photos of IRB as well as historical commentary by authors Jan Ockunzzi and Wayne and Nancy Ayers. The museum's booth will also highlight historical displays and design drawings of the new addition.

Wine sales at Beauty and the Beach will be used to help furnish the addition.

BEFORE THE NO NAME STORM

There was a freak storm in March of 1932 as well. The following is a recollection by Bill Brandon, born in IRB in 1928. His father owned the Brandon Pavilion in the 50 block of Gulf Blvd.

"The storm of 1932 is one of my first and most vivid IRB memories. The March storm did as much damage as most hurricanes, as far as erosion was concerned.

The night it struck, my mother, dad and I had been to the movies at the old Capital Theater in downtown Clearwater. As we came out of the movie, it was raining and very blustery. Dad remarked that the Gulf had probably washed away the picnic tables he had on the beach. When we got home, the wind and waves were high. My father stayed up all night to keep watch. He said the water washed away the seawall in less than 15 minutes.

This was at the height of the depression. Nobody had any money. My dad, with the help of his brother Kenneth, and an ancient concrete mixer, began rebuilding the seawall. A fisherman named Joe Pearson, who had been fishing behind the Pavilion, waded ashore and asked my dad for a job. My dad said he could not pay him anything. So Joe said he would work for some 'ham and eggs'. And so he did. Those were hard times.

One of the things I learned about living all those years at the Pavilion is that a high wind and strong tide from the southwest was a 'cutting tide' and eroded the beaches. High winds and a strong tide from the northwest tended to be a 'filling tide' and built up the beaches.

FUN IN THE WATER BEGINS WITH SAFETY!

By Marshall R. Eiss, Fire Inspector Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue
With warm weather approaching, we're thinking about the why we moved near the beach – the water! We really want to spend time in the water, not just walking along beside it. To enhance the enjoyment and prevent injuries, it is recommended that you follow a few simple rules:

Never Swim Alone! Always use the buddy system and teach children to use it as well!

Make sure an adult is constantly watching while young children are swimming, playing, or bathing in water. Do not read, play cards, talk or text on the phone. Do not engage in other distracting activities while supervising children in and around water.

Learn to swim. Conditions in the water can and do change quickly and knowing what to do is extremely important. Teach children above the age of four how to swim. This is highly recommended.

DO NOT use air filled swimming aids (such as water wings or "floties") with children in place of life jackets or life preservers. It can lead to a false sense of security increasing the risk of drowning. These devices are not designed to be personal floatation devices. Air filled plastic tubes can deflate due to punctures or being unplugged.

Prevent choking. Do not chew gum or eat while swimming, diving or playing in water.

Do Not Drink Alcohol! Don't drink alcohol before or during swimming, boating, or water skiing. Never drink alcohol while supervising children around water. Teach teenagers about the dangers of drinking alcohol while being in or around water.

LEARN CPR. If something bad should happen, be prepared to help until emergency personnel arrive!

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 run totally by beach residents and volunteers.



FOOD DRIVE BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Anny Tarrant, Public Awareness & Response Beach
 Community Food Pantry, 813-245-6758

Recently I was approached by a resident of IRB, Andrea Harms, asking if her daughter, Morgan, could do a school project using the Beach Community Food Pantry as a platform. Morgan a second grader at Anona Elementary was required to do a community project for her gifted class. Her teacher, Ms. Gorgo encouraged her students to reach out beyond traditional projects and consider the needs in their local community.

It didn't take me more than a second to accept this young ladies help and her parents encouragement. Mother and daughter created a plan of action. At Kolb Park, on Wednesday, January 12th (a VERY chilly day) , friends, family, and IRB citizens could drop off non-perishable food between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 pm. Morgan made fliers with all the proper information and distributed them at school and in her neighborhood. The day of the food drive Morgan and mom arrived with boxes, posters as well as snacks and refreshments for those that stopped by with donations. By the end of the evening, 8 boxes of food were loaded in my car and taken to the food pantry to be stocked the next morning by volunteers. A successful outcome indeed!

As if this wasn't enough generosity, I met two students from Oakhurst who had similar goals of helping the Beach Community Food Pantry. Kai Krause and his mom stopped by on Sunday with several boxes of food that Kai had collected at school. Jacob Alford and his mom volunteered Friday working alongside pantry volunteers stocking shelves, carrying boxes and bringing smiles to volunteers and patrons alike.

While observing these acts of kindness and civic responsibility, I cannot help but reflect on Christina Taylor Green, the young girl that lost her life on that horrible day in Phoenix. Christina's desire to learn, to be involved, and to care about community is alive and well in these young people. The beauty in their action is the message. Dreams and goals for the future continue to be realized by these children.

Thank-you Morgan, Kai, and Jacob for all your hard work. Thank-you parents and teachers for inspiring our children to be aware of opportunities to do good things. The Beach Community Food Pantry thanks you; the community thanks you.

UPCOMING FILM SERIES

The Church of the Isles invites you to join them on a spiritual journey to discover the meaning of human destiny as portrayed in four films during the Lenten season.

March 16 – 7 pm, USF Religion Department Head Dr. Mozella Mitchell will begin the free film series with a lecture on "Film and Culture," followed by discussion. For the next four Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to view the following films:

March 23 – GRAND CANYON - Question: Is the cosmos we live in impervious to human meaning and human destiny?

March 30 – GROUNDHOG DAY - Question: Is their reincarnation illustrated by the life of Buddha?

April 6 – THE CHOSEN - Question: Is the leap of faith sacred or secular?

April 13 – THE LONG WALK HOME - Question: What does Martin Luther King, Jr.'s use of Gandhi (nonviolence) teach us about sharing spiritual visions across cultures?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, come join them on a religious quest in contemporary films. The Church of the Isles is located at 200 24th Avenue in Indian Rocks Beach. For more information, call the church office at 595-1038.

ACTION 2000 NEWS



IRB ACTION 2000 SWING PROJECT COMING SOON.

Soon an eye-catching swing and landscaping project will enhance the view along the intercostal on Gulf Blvd in the Narrows. The new swing will offer an aesthetically pleasing view for everyone driving along Gulf Blvd.



HAVE YOU NOTICED THE NEW CIGARETTE RECEPTICLES?

Action 2000 has completed installing new cigarette receptacles at most of our beach accesses. We hope these receptacles encourage smokers to dispose of their cigarette butts there and use them to keep our beaches clean.



VALENTINE DANCE CELEBRATES ITS 5th ANNIVERSARY.

Action 2000 volunteers once again transformed our City Hall Auditorium into a glamorous Banquet Hall where residents enjoyed an evening of music, dinner and dancing. To help benefit Action 2000, once again this year, the Plein Aire Cottage Artists donated one of their cherished pieces of artwork that was sold in our live auction conducted by our famous auctioneer Jim Labadie. Always a sellout, this popular event was a huge success and enjoyed by all. All proceeds from this event are put to good use in our community.



YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK. Yes, become a friend of IRB Action 2000 and view our beautification projects, photos of events, upcoming projects and more.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED. Our IRB Action 2000 meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month. We meet at the Beach Art Center at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Thank You,
Eric Meyer, President of Action 2000
727-744-0123
IRBaction2000.com

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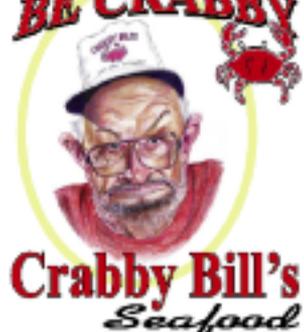
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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWS



2011 HAPPY HOURS

Homeowners Happy Hours continue at the following restaurants:

March 10: Tapas Gardens

April 14: Red Lion

These FREE Happy Hours are 6-7:30 pm the second Thursday of the month. Visit IRBhome.com for info.

UPCOMING EVENTS Things are busy for the Homeowners as April approaches with three great events planned.

GUPPY'S GULFSIDE GALLOP, 5k Run and 1 Mile fun Walk is April 2 at 8am at the Indian Rocks Beach County Park. The Race is directly on the BEACH! Early Registration, now through Sunday, March 27th - \$15.00, includes a Race T-Shirt; Monday, March 28th - Race Day \$20.00. Early registration suggests this will be their largest run ever! Look for an application in this newsletter or visit www.irbhome.com to register online or for additional registration forms.

EASTER EGG HUNT April 23 10am, Nature Park, Gulf Blvd. Held in conjunction with the City of Indian Rocks Beach, the event is open to kids 10 and under.

BIGGEST BEACH PARTY EVER! April 30, Plans are underway for another great Beach party. Enjoy Music, Food from Crabby Bills, Red Lion and Pajanos, Beer sponsored



Sunset at last year's Beach Party by Crabby Bills and great Wines from Global Wines directly on the beach at the County Park, from 6 - 11pm. Volunteer sign-ups are underway. Email info@IRBhome.com to help.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK - get all the news, see photos, read what your neighbors have to say, find out about events and more at Facebook.com/IRBHomeowners

IRB BOAT CLUB NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dinner at Salt Rock Saturday, March 26

Intracoastal Clean-up Saturday March 12

Lunch at Clearwater

Beach's Bait House

Sunday, April 17

ISLAND WAY GRILL

- Over 70 people turned out on a beautiful spring day to the Boat to



Brunch event at the Island Way Grill in February.

ADOPTED ISLAND - The Club adopted the island at the north end of Indian Rocks, south of the Belleair Causeway. Member have volunteered to clean it twice a month.

INTRACOASTAL CLEAN UP DAY - March 12, This is the Club's biannual clean up. Be at the IRB Boat Ramp at 8am to help. Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997.

MEETINGS - Join them at Jimmy Guana's, the third Thursday each month. Everyone is welcome and there are no dues. Next meetings: March 17th and April 21st.

RIDE THE TROLLEY

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel

Who doesn't love Pinellas County's beaches? The gorgeous white sandy beaches washed by the blue-green Gulf of Mexico waters. The restaurants. The attractions. The only problem you might run into is finding a parking spot.

What if you could hop on a clean, convenient trolley to visit your favorite spots? You can. The Suncoast Beach Trolley is one of the most popular routes in the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority system. Operating between downtown Clearwater and Pass-a-Grille, the tourist friendly line carries more than 750,000 riders every year. The trolley runs from 5 am to 10:30 pm during the week and until 12:30 am on Friday and Saturday nights, which makes it PSTA's latest running service. This way, you can also enjoy all of the night life out on the beaches at your leisure.

With so many shopping, dining and entertainment spots available along the beaches, from Pass-A-Grille to Clearwater Beach, the trolley gives you the opportunity to get to these amenities more quickly and spend more time enjoying yourself instead of looking for parking.

The Suncoast Beach Trolley is proving to be a working demonstration of how a transit system can benefit all of us here in Pinellas County. It's not just popular with visitors, many businesses encourage their employees to commute to work on the trolley as well. With tourism as one of the most important engines in our local economy,



it's critical that we plan for transportation options for employees who may not have their own vehicles. And with fewer employee vehicles in the lots, that means more spaces for customers.

The trolley isn't just convenient, it's clean and fuel efficient as well. In 2008, PSTA purchased seven new, diesel-electric hybrid trolleys to take advantage of the fuel efficiency and environmental benefits of the specialized hybrid technology. Since their deployment in the summer of 2009, the hybrid trolleys are enjoying a 65% improvement in fuel efficiency over PSTA's standard diesel vehicles. Thanks to the increased fuel efficiency and a specialized exhaust system, the hybrid trolleys also produce significantly fewer emissions than standard buses and even run cleaner than many cars on the road.

The fare is \$2.00 one way or \$4.50 for unlimited rides all day long, which includes unlimited transfers throughout the entire PSTA bus system. Plus, riders can now use the Suncoast Beach Trolley to transfer to the Jolley Trolley in Clearwater for transportation to the attractions in Dunedin and the Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The Suncoast Beach Trolley runs every 30 minutes and you can find maps, schedules and information on how to ride at psta.net or by calling the PSTA InfoLine at (727)540-1900. For people who've never ridden before, PSTA offers a free "Show Me" service where a volunteer will meet with prospective rider or riders, show them how to use PSTA's maps and schedules and then escort them on a round-trip ride to teach them how to use the system. Just call (727)540-1900 and ask for a "Show Me."

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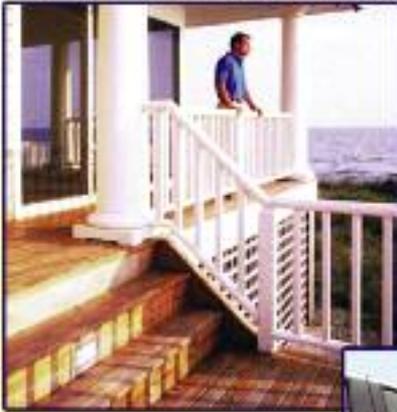
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Business Briefs....

MY PET'S DREAM is a new dog and cat grooming shop in IRB. They opened in February next to Pinky's Ice Cream, at 1401 Gulf Blvd. Owned by Harold Feathers (pictured here) and Eugene Thomas, they offer more than just grooming. Stop by and see their complete pet boutique featuring clothes, food, treats and toys. Call 216-6484.



GET A FREE MONTH OF BOAT STORAGE Largo Intercoastal Marine is offering readers of this newsletter a free month of high and dry storage, when you sign a one year storage agreement. In addition, every time you fill your boat there, you will get a 10 cent a gallon discount on their ethanol free gasoline. Located on the east side of the Intracoastal, across from Indian Rocks, they are 2.5 miles from Clearwater Pass and centrally located to many restaurants and islands. To receive this offer, you must mention this newsletter and not already be storing your boat there. Call 595-3592, for more information.

25 YEARS OLD Hale's Air Conditioning has been in business in Pinellas County since 1986. Hales's grew from a one-man start-up, operating out of their garage, to 16 employees who provide all aspects of residential and commercial air conditioning and heating. "We have grown in many ways since our start. I feel privileged to have served our customers these 25 years," says owner Steve Hale. "We look forward to the next 25 years."



NEW MARINE SERVICES COMPANY IRB resident, Jeremiah Carmody recently opened Carmody Marine, LLC, a dockside marine repair business. His philosophy is - be on time and fix it right the first time for a reasonable rate. Some of you may remember him when he was a City Commissioner. Get your boat running for spring, call him at 480-1048.



50TH ANNIVERSARY STORY CONTEST the Bluffs Animal Hospital opened January 1, 1961. As part of their 50th celebration, they are sponsoring a story contest. Send them your favorite funny or interesting story about a past visit or a memory of Bluffs Animal Hospital. Each month, a winner will be chosen to receive 6 months of Heartgard and Frontline for 1 pet! Applications are available at www.bluffsanimal.com or at their front desk.

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ROTARY NEWS

"SERVICE ON THE ROCKS"



Pancake Breakfast Time! The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach will again be sponsoring the Annual Pancake Breakfast on April 2 from 7 to 11 am. The event will be held in conjunction with Beauty and the Beach at the Beach Art Center, next door to Indian Rocks Beach City Hall. The cost is \$4 in advance or at the door. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Beach Community Food Pantry located in Calvary Episcopal Church. Last year the Food Pantry received \$2500 from this event, thanks to the support of our community.

During the Breakfast, the Club will be collecting clothing for CASA and personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) for Pinellas Hope. Collection boxes, for items you wish donate, will be available at the Breakfast.

Oktoberfest on the Beach Once again, the Club is partnering with Action 2000 to host Oktoberfest on the Beach in 2011. Planning meetings are held monthly and we need your help as a sponsor or volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer for these events, or just want to know more about Rotary, The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach invites you to visit any Wednesday morning at 7:15 am. Meetings are held at Jimmy Guana's inside Holiday Inn Harbourside. For more information, call (727) 403-4060 or check our website at www.irbrc.com. "Your first breakfast is on us!"

GREENFEST

Saturday, March 19th from 10am to 5pm is the annual Greenfest being held at The Church of the Isles. The day will include live music, beer & wine, local food, a raffle eco-friendly vendors and activities for the little ones, including a "bouncy house". The Clearwater Bait House, Keegan's Seafood Grille, and Pajano's Pizza and Subs will be serving great food, too.

Local nonprofit organizations including The Seabird Sanctuary, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, WMNF, and the Surfrider Foundation will provide eco-friendly education and information. Green-minded businesses will be in attendance providing all-natural products, organic produce, and green construction services, plus Sweetwater Organic Community Farm, Skinny Water Culture Clothing, Plantopia Botanical Gifts, and FertiGreen Turf Systems.

The Church of the Isles is located at 200 24th Avenue in Indian Rocks Beach, two blocks east of Gulf Blvd. For festival information, contact Christy Ward at 727.667.0019 or crunchymama@live.com.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING UNDERWAY

Finally, IRB has curbside recycling. The program started in January and officials with the City and Waste Services Incorporated (WSI) say it is going great.

All of the single-family homes in Indian Rocks Beach should have received an 8 gallon blue tub for your recyclables. The pick ups are every Wednesday morning. In the tub, you can place plastics (1-7 grade), aluminum cans, steel cans, glass (all colors), paper, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and cardboard.

They are asking you to wash out any food in the containers, such as catsup and peanut butter. Food contaminated containers will be taken to the dump, and not recycled, thus defeating the purpose of recycling.

Phase 2 (Condos with over 10 units) coming later will be coordinated by the IRB Public Works Dept. They will receive a larger, common container.

IRB has now been approved for 'Class C and D' trash recycling for remodeling construction debris. This includes, among other things, wood, drywall and cement. If you have any questions, please call IRB Public Works at 595-6889.

Guppy's Gulfside Gallop
 ANNUAL 5K RUN - 1 MILE WALK/FUN RUN
SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2011 AT 8 AM
 Presented By The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association
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 Plan to stay for BEAUTY & THE BEACH Indian Rocks' Annual Beach Festival & Arts & Crafts Show
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SURREALLY GOT TO SEE THIS!

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

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

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

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

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

That show was so successful Dali repeated the concept the following year in his hometown of Figueras, Spain,

using his own personal Cadillac. But technology wasn't what it is today and the water-logged cars were ultimately ruined.

The Dali folks asked car collector Alain A. Cerf, owner of the Tampa Bay Auto Museum, to provide a more substantial and water-proof version for an exhibit in their new digs.

The Tampa Bay Automobile Museum, located in Pinellas Park, features a unique collection of about 50 vintage vehicles that demonstrate special creativity and engineering imagination – a perfect choice for the Dali inspired creation.

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

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



Photo Courtesy of Dirk Armstrong, The Dali Museum

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DALÍ MUSEUM - HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Becky Griffin

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

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

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

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

In 1971, with Dalí present, the Morses opened a museum adjacent to their Beachwood, Ohio office building. By the end of the decade, an overwhelming number of visitors had

viewed the collection of 94 oil paintings, 150 watercolors and drawings and more than 1,000 prints. In total, the objects were valued at about \$50 million. Afraid the collection would have to be dismantled and sold to pay estate taxes, they began to look for a museum to accept the collection with a promise of not breaking it up. No existing museum was will to make that commitment.

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

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

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

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

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

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