

# NEIGHBORHOOD



Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997

Newsletter



Crabby Bill's Seafood Restaurant may not be the oldest restaurant operating in Indian Rocks Beach, but it is certainly the best known and not just because of their food. The Loder family, owners of Crabby Bill's, have become as much a part of Indian Rocks Beach as families that were born and raised here.

In April, Crabby Bill's Seafood celebrated its 30th anniversary in Indian Rocks Beach. But Bill Loder, the restaurant's patriarch, did not start his career here. His restaurant roots start in New Jersey. Loder moved his family including wife, Dolores, and kids, Ellie, Dolores (Cookie), George, Matt and Johnny to Pinellas County in 1968.

Crabby Bill's Restaurant started as "Captain Bill's". But he sold that name with one of his restaurants. He owned restaurants in Redington Shores, Madeira Beach, Bay Pines and Tyrone before moving to Indian Rocks Beach in April of 1983,

They first occupied the small building on Gulf Blvd. that eventually became Crabby's Fish Market. The building previously was known as Wolfie's; it had been a hot dog stand. They severed their hot dogs out of the front window on Gulf Blvd.

"When Dad bought that place, we all thought he was

crazy," says Matt Loder, who now runs the Crabby Bill's empire. "We did not even have a sign. We used to park a truck out near the road with had our name on it."

Six months later, Bill bought a second building from Joe Carbonaro that was on the same block. It was being used as office building for a group of doctors. Loder opened a second restaurant in it.

"Then in February of 1987, Jim Sparks, who owned The Blue Lagoon on the southwest corner, asked Dad if he wanted to buy his bar," said Matt. The building had been many other businesses. Before the Blue Lagoon, it was an ice cream business called Scoop's, the Mamba Club and Blue Hawaii.

"By then, Dad was in his 50s. All he wanted was a business that supported his family and one his family could pass down to their kids. Indian Rocks was different," reflects Matt. "There were more Ma-and-Pa type motels. Lots of Tampa people had second homes and cottages here, and would come to the beach for the weekends. Of course they brought their family and friends."

Crabby Bill's is one of the largest employers and one of the largest sales tax contributors in Indian Rocks Beach. It has grown from a small 800 square foot building on Gulf Blvd to include a gift shop, Jake's Cantina, Loading Dock, IRB Sushi in the brick building on Walsingham Rd., and Seabreeze Seafood Restaurant down the road in Redington Beach. Plus, there are a handful of franchised Crabby Bill's around Pinellas and central Florida.

Story by By Bob Griffin, Publisher

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**CREDITS**



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence and business in Indian Rocks Beach. We are not officially associated with the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

**PUBLISHERS**

Bob & Becky Griffin  
Residents of Indian Rocks Beach

**ART DIRECTION**

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](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

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**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL** . . . . . 595-2517  
1507 Bay Palm Blvd  
[www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com](http://www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com)

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

**MAYOR** - R.B. Johnson  
**COMMISSIONERS** —  
Cookie Kennedy Vice Mayor • Terry Wollin  
Phil Hanna • Jim Labadie

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

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**IRB HOMEOWNER ASSOC.** . . . 517-3131

Becky Griffin, President - IRBHome.com  
**IRB BOAT CLUB**

Bob Griffin . . . . . 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**  
Meets at Jimmy Guana's every Wed. 7:15AM  
Bruce Sobut, Past President . . . 403-4060

**ACTION 2000**  
Eric Meyer . . . . . 744-0123

Meets 2nd Monday Each Month Beach Art Ctr  
**BEACH FOOD PANTRY** . . . . . 517-2534

1615 First St. M-W-F 10 am-12 pm

**LITTLE LEAGUE** . . . . . 735-4574  
**IRB WELCOME CENTER** . . . . . 595-4575

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
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Clearwater Beach . . . . . 447-7600  
**AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS** . . 595-1038

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**PHONE (Business)** . . . . . 800-483-5000  
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**TRASH / IRB / Pick Up** . . . . . 595-6889

**EMERGENCIES:** . . . . . 9-1-1  
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**SHERIFF DISPATCH** . . . . . 582-6177  
**IRB FIRE STATION** . . . . . 595-1117

**COUNTY INFORMATION** . . . . 464-3000  
**COMMISSION OFFICES** . . . . 464-3377

Karen Seel . . . . . 464-3278  
**STATE:**

Senator Jeff Brandes . . . . . 727-552-2573  
Republican, District 22

3637 Fourth St. N., Suite 101 St. Petersburg  
[jeff.brandes@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:jeff.brandes@myfloridahouse.gov)

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Governor Rick Scott  
[Rick.Scott@myflorida.com](mailto:Rick.Scott@myflorida.com)

**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**  
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Bill Nelson . . . . . 202-224-5274

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**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Rep Bill Young . . . . . 727-394-6950  
9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

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

**NEXT ISSUE IS JULY**

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.

To advertise in the next issue, call us. Read this or our other issues online, at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com)



**CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS**

**MAY**

- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
- IRB Docks Grand Opening Event 4
- Cinco de Mayo 5
- Homeowners Happy Hour 9
- Diggin' The Arts Botanical Gardens 5
- Homeowners Happy Hour 9
- Postal Workers / Food Drive 11
- Art Now Event by the Rotary 11
- Mother's Day 12
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15
- HOA Annual Meeting & Elections 15
- Community Clean Up IRB 13-15
- Boat Club Meeting 16
- Blue Grass Folk Fest 18
- Safe Boating Week 18-24
- Memorial Day 27
- Beach Art Ctr Surf-Skate-Skim opens 31

**JUNE**

- Hurricane Season Begins 1
- Last Day Public School 6
- Boat Club to Caladesi Island 9
- Beach Art Ctr Camp for Kids opens 10
- Homeowners Happy Hour 13
- Flag Day 14
- Flag Retirement Ceremony 14
- Heritage Village Antique Appraisal 15
- Father's Day 16
- First Day of Summer 21
- Boat Club Meeting 20
- IRB's Birthday Party Red Lion 25

**JULY**

- Independence Day 4
- Boat Club Island Party 4
- Homeowners Happy Hour 11
- Blood Drive at the IRB Post Office 12

## RESTAURANT WINNERS!

Here are the winners of our 6th Annual Reader's Choice Awards. Thank you to everyone that participated. For the 6th year in a row, Guppy's on the Beach won top honors as Indian Rock's Best Overall Restaurant. Plus, they also won the Best Dinner category.



**BEST OVERALL & BEST DINNER**  
Guppy's on the Beach

**BEST BREAKFAST** Cafe de Paris  
second year in a row.

**BEST LUNCH** Keegans Seafood Grille  
second time they have won.

**BEST LIVE MUSIC** JD's Restaurant & Lounge  
4th year in a row

**BEST WINGS & BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR** Red Lion Pub  
They have won 6 years in a row for wings and 5 years in a row for best bar.

A large variety of places received votes. Seven different places received votes for best breakfast, fifteen for best lunch, and eleven for best dinner. This shows how many fine restaurants the residents of our beach have to choose from and of course that our tastes vary. The winning restaurants will receive a plaque from the Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood Newsletter to hang in their restaurant.



### BEST PIZZA & BEST SPORTS BAR

Slyce Pizza - Two years in a row they have won for pizza and first year for sports bar

### WINNING BALLOT

Ray and Lucy Berger's ballot was chosen as the winner of the voting contest. The Bergers, who live on 13th Ave., won dinner at the IRB Restaurant of their choice. They chose TJ's Gourmet Pizza.



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*Did You Know....*



**REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE** To teach the importance of recycling, students at Anona Elementary have been collecting paper. In March, the school was one of the top three paper recycling schools in the county, recycling 2,280 pounds of paper - five and a half pounds per student, for a total of 12,932 pounds since the first of the year. In March alone, they saved enough electricity to power a home for six months, 7,000 gallons of water - enough for 350 showers, and 17 trees. To recognize their efforts, Mary Yeargan, District Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, presented an award to the school on Earth Day (April 22). Principal Gaye Lively and Mr. Wayne Hefty accepted the award for the school. Last year, Pinellas County Schools recycled over 1,000 TONS of paper, over two million pounds.

**WEIGHT LOSS WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP** Through a combination of proven medical weight loss programs and weight management hypnosis, patients learn techniques to help with a variety of life's issues, including the obstacles that may inhibit successful weight loss. This group is held every Tuesday in the Clearwater office from 3-4pm, 1217 Ewing Avenue Clearwater. Call 1-800-WEIGHTLOSS or Visit [bestmedicineforweightloss.com](http://bestmedicineforweightloss.com) to RSVP.

**THEATER CAMP** This summer's theatre camp at Largo Cultural Center has three programs. Ages 8-13 can register for Disney's Aladdin Jr., June 10-29. Teens 12-18 are invited to sign up for Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr., scheduled from July 22 to August 10. Campers for both programs will spend three weeks developing audition skills, solo and ensemble voice development, choreography, and prop design, culminating in a final performance. For those interested in working behind the scenes, Technical Theater Production Camp is for ages 12-18, focusing on scenery, rigging, audio, video and lighting equipment. It is scheduled from July 22-26. Registration for all are now open. Sign up at [SouthwestRecreation.com](http://SouthwestRecreation.com), visit [LargoArts.com](http://LargoArts.com) or call (727)587-6751.



**FIX DRIPPY FAUCETS** A one-drip-per-second leak can waste up to seven gallons of water in one day, so take time this month to fix your leaky faucets. Also, when possible, take a shower instead of a bath. A typical five minute shower uses about 28 gallons less water than a bath.

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**NEW STAMPS** The post office is livening things up with their Forever stamps. For Spring, they have this grouping of spring flowers. What you are seeing is actually 4 stamps making up the clump of flowers. This forever stamp costs 46¢ and it can be used forever, even when the price of postage increases.



**TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Heritage Village is looking for teens, ages 12 to 17, for their summer Junior Docent Program.

Teens will learn how to provide historical house tours, demonstrate living history activities and play historical games. Applications are now being accepted. Email [heritagevillage@pinellascounty.org](mailto:heritagevillage@pinellascounty.org) or call (727) 582-2125 for an application. Orientation will be Saturday, June 8, from 10 am to noon at Heritage Village. A parent must attend. Heritage Village is approved as a Bright Futures Scholarship volunteer location.

**NEW GARBAGE CANS** Soon, you can throw away your old trash cans. The city has ordered a new one for you. A new system is being implemented that uses an attachment on existing garbage trucks to lift the new cans and empty them directly into the truck. Public Works ordered 2,600 of the 64-gallon, plastic trash cans on wheels at a cost of \$126,000. The containers have a handle and the truck's motorized crank on the back lifts the can into the truck. The cans are on wheels so residents can easily move them. For residents who want a smaller can, the city ordered a few 48 gallon containers. Look for them to arrive next month.

**WINDMILL MIDWINTER REGATTA**

In March the Clearwater Community Sailing Center hosted the Windmill Midwinter Regatta for the



second time. 19 boats from around the country showed up for a perfect weekend of racing with winds were from the east north east at 10 to 15 knots the first day with a westerly sea breeze coming in around 2 PM. The Windmill Class sailboat is part of Clearwater sailing history. The responsive two person boat was designed by Clark Mills designer of the world famous Opti Pram. Clark's vision was for a boat that people would be able to move into after they out grew the Opti. What he came up with was a lively two person boat that was easy to sail and performed well in a wide range of sailing conditions. The Center's goal for 2014 is to have 40 boats travel here.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JULY** Read this, as well as other issues, online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

**VOTED BEST WINGS! 2008-2013\***

*Voted 2010-2013 People's Favorite Local Bar*  
\*by the IRB Neighborhood Newsletter Readers

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**Red Lion Pub**

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**Thursday** Mahi Tacos - \$3  
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~~LISTED~~ SOLD  
~~LISTED~~ SOLD  
~~LISTED~~ SOLD

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*(Gordon Obarski, 2012 Average  
 My Florida Regional MLS)*

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## Real Estate News

### THE NEW REAL ESTATE NORMAL Battling Bubble Mentality



By Gordon Obarski, Broker Associate  
 Doiron Realty on the Beach

Warren Buffett got a few sideways glances when he claimed a housing recovery was already underway back in 2011. His assessment came just as real estate's bar graph plunged to a new low. In reality, Warren was probably correct—more so than the gloom-and-doomers who projected no recovery until 2014.

Stop to realize that, for the last 15 years, real estate has been either "boom" or "bust"—nothing in between. The increased activity in the last half of 2012 and so far in 2013 is better termed as a "return to normalcy." It's something we don't recognize, especially when we can feel the "bubble mentality" wheedling its way back in, attempting to remake "normal" into much more than it actually is.

Currently, every real estate trend in Indian Rocks Beach/Indian Shores, both positive and negative, is tied to one factor: A LACK OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

#### TOTAL SALES

Closed transactions in Pinellas County were up about 11% in First Quarter 2013 from the same period a year ago. Locally, sales transactions in zip code 33785 were flatter, increasing only 3% year to year through March 31. County stats tell us that if more properties were available, transactions would likely increase proportionally. Listings are expected to rise as potential sellers see their values increase.

#### MEDIAN SALES PRICE

On the flip side, the lack of listings has positively impacted median sales prices in 33785—up 34% from \$260,850 (2012) to \$350,000 so far this year.

#### FORECLOSURES

Investors with wheelbarrows of cash continue to fight over foreclosure inventory, further reducing the number of available properties and lessening the drag that distressed properties usually put on sales prices.

Also at work is the strong correlation between real estate sales and tourism. During the 2009 housing downturn, tourism was way off. Florida tourism last year was very strong (89 million visitors) and was up another 10% in the first two months of 2013. Real estate seems to follow suit so let this be a reason to smile while inching your way up Gulf Blvd. in semi-gridlock. (The slower your speed, the faster the value of your home improves...LOL.)

Our real estate recovery, in general, may seem s-l-o-w but it is outpacing the period following the Great Depression, when the market stood totally still for a few years. Our crawl out of the cellar began the minute our sandy toes felt the bottom and our trek to normalcy and beyond continues at a sure-but-steady pace

Source: My Florida Regional (MFR) MLS

## ROTARY IN THE COMMUNITY

by Bruce Sobut

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach works locally to improve the community through the Indian Rocks Rotary Foundation. A few examples of the Foundation's works include donating over \$4000 per year to the Beach Community Food Pantry, providing dictionaries to all 3rd grade students in 6 local elementary schools through the Dictionary Project, and remodeling an old unit located at RCS Grace House, formerly used for storage, back into a 2 bedroom apartment for use by homeless families with children. This single apartment will increase housing for homeless families by 4% in Pinellas County!

The Foundation awards scholarships to local college bound high school students majoring in Art or Music through the John J. Todia Scholarship Fund. The Foundation provides grants to Ridgecrest, Oakhurst, Bauder, and Anona elementary schools to support their Arts & Music programs.

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks will be holding its inaugural Art and Ale event on May 11 to raise money for its educational projects. There will be a sale of the donated artwork helping to fund the John J. Todia III Scholarship Fund.

The event will take place at The Center for Fishing at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo, the former site of the Gulf Coast Art Museum. In addition to the sale of the artwork, food and entertainment will be provided, along with the sale of wines and craft beers from Largo's Barley Mow Brewing Company.

The Foundation also provides financial support to several local charities including Ridgecrest YMCA, CASA, American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Pinellas Education Foundation.

Every holiday season the club provides carefully screened needy children and their families with Christmas gifts and meals to put some cheer in their lives during difficult times.

The recent projects club members are participating in are sprucing up the Rotary Centennial Pavilion and providing a new computer system for the Historic Museum, both located in Chief Chic-A-Si Park across from the Post Office. The Club is also partnering with the Museum for its Grand Reopening Celebration tentatively scheduled for mid-June.

If you would like to be part of a fun and friendly organization that serves the local community, the nation and the world, The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach invites you to visit us at Jimmy Guana's in the Holiday Harbourside any Wednesday morning beginning at 7:15 AM. For information, call (727) 403-4060 or visit [www.irbrc.com](http://www.irbrc.com). Help us make a difference. "Your first breakfast is on us!"

## JAN OCKUNZZI

We are sad to report the passing of Jan Ockunzzi, owner of Indian Rocks Beach's Wabi Sabi Gallery, on April 25th, after an unbelievably courageous battle with cancer. An artist, author, mother, grandmother, business woman, teacher, community activist and past president of the IRB Historical Society, she will be missed by all. Read more about Jan's accomplishments and her many, many contributions to IRB in our next issue.



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## TODAY'S MOTHER HUBBARD

*The Beach Community Food Pantry Prose*

Dear Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard  
To get her children their dinner.

The cupboard was bare with nothing to spare,  
And her children were growing much thinner.

She went to the Beach Community Food Pantry,  
To register for help that same day,  
Friendly folks helped her choose and shop,  
And it was OK that she was unable to pay!

She got spaghetti and sauce,  
She selected canned soups, veggies and beans,  
Fruit, cereal, and peanut butter,  
Bread, meat, cheese and a few in-betweens.

Please share with your neighbors,  
Check to see what foods you can find,  
And donate to the Food Pantry,  
So the less fortunate may dine.

Until these folks get on their feet,  
And while donors like you provide both money and vittles,  
People visit the food pantry every other week,  
And the Hubbard kids? They now have more in their middles!

*In loving memory of Dette Hunter, who wrote in rhythm and rhyme. The Moving Writers (2013)*

Donations of food and monetary gifts are gratefully accepted at The Beach Community Food Pantry located at 1615 1st Ave in Indian Rocks Beach. Monetary gifts are used to purchase food in bulk for people in need. The pantry is opened Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 until Noon.

## IT'S A GARDEN

Indian Rocks Beach recently opened the IRB Community Garden.

Established with support from Action 2000, this garden is in the Nature Preserve, between 9th and 10th Avenues on Gulf Blvd. It is designed to be a place for IRB residents to join with family, friends, and neighbors to grow fresh herbs, vegetables and flowers, while learning about gardening.



The garden uses Earth Boxes ([www.earthbox.com](http://www.earthbox.com)), a compact growing system that controls soil and water conditions and requires no digging or weeding. Earth Boxes can be placed on stands to eliminate bending or kneeling. Automatic watering for Earth Boxes will be provided by the City. The garden will be open to members from 8am until 9pm, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

The City Commission appointed a volunteer community garden coordinator, Trish Burch, who will distribute Earth Boxes to members and provide assistance to help them get started. Trish is a life-long gardener, who with her husband, recently transplanted, , to here from New Jersey. She has seen first-hand the power gardening has to bring people together and hopes the Community Garden will be a place where people of all ages will come to experience the joys of gardening. To that end, she will be organizing workshops and other events for members to learn and share gardening techniques and practices.

Residents interested in becoming a Community Garden member can sign the membership agreement at City Hall and purchase at least one Earth Box for \$50 each; an optional stand is an additional \$40.

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Walsingham at Uilmerton Rd - Across from the Pie Factory  
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## A DIFFERENT BEACH FRONT GARDEN

by Kay A Smith

Gardens are always evolving. When we purchased our 1917 beach front home in 1969, the yard was shells with sandspurs, Spanish bayonets, sea grapes, and Australian pines. As I am next to the 3rd Ave beach access, I found that people kept removing the Spanish bayonets to get under the shade of the pine trees.



My first attempt at gardening was to care for the natural plants growing on the beach: the morning glories and railroad vines. There were no sea oats at that time. Then in 1976, a neighbor who had sea oats in their yard said I could have any that grew past a certain point. I dug up a large clump and planted it below the seawall on the beach. When that took hold and grew, I dug and planted more.

Above the seawall, I tried every plant that was said to be salt tolerant. Many that are salt-tolerant are not wind tolerant and would be torn apart during our Gulf winds. It was several years before I noticed that the picture on the front of the "Southwest Florida Water Management District Plant Guide" was of a yellow *Hemerocallis* spp., also known as a daylily.

My husband Ivan, and I noticed daylilies blooming happily during strong winds. Since each bloom lasts for only one

day, if any lose petals during a storm, there is a whole new set of blooms the next day. Finally, a plant that was wind-tolerant!

I attended "Compost Happens" seminars at the Pinellas Extension Center, to learn how to amend my sand and shells.

When I started gardening, I saw no earthworms. I borrowed earthworms from gardening friends and now, with the addition of compost, have earthworms everywhere. I start a new bed by piling eight or more inches of finished compost on top of the sand. The daylilies are planted in the compost, then top-dressed with more compost several times a year as a mulch.

I probably have 250 different cultivars now. Each plant, called a fan, has many buds on many scapes, giving blooms for many days. In my garden, daylilies bloom mid March into September, with one cultivar that continues blooming into November.

With each bloom lasting a day, each day we wake up to a different garden. New flowers each day draws us into the garden to see what is blooming.

After seeing a hummingbird feeding on my neighbor's red daylily, I am now adding plants that would attract hummingbirds: cape honeysuckle, cross vine, trumpet vine, coral honeysuckle, firecracker-plant, and salvias. Amaryllis give showy blooms in pots on the sea-wall. Canna lilies grow in the beach access flower bed, along with rain lilies. Confederate jasmine and sweet alyssum give heavenly smells.

The best part of gardening on a beach access, is to be able to talk with all the people admiring my garden. So many say they come to the 3rd Ave beach access just to see our flowers.

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## Restaurant News....

### CAFÉ DE PARIS OUTDOOR SEATING REMOVED

You can no longer sit outside Café de Paris eating your pastries and enjoying our weather. But, it is okay to eat outside next door at Sandy's Café. Why? "Outside seating is not permitted in the CT zone district which is where Cafe de Paris is. It is only permitted in the B zoned district," says City Manager Chuck Coward.



Sandy's Café has been there over 20 years, although current owner Christine Madelaine has only owned it for 4 years, and their outdoor seating is permitted because it was grand-fathered in.

Xavier and Valerie de Marchi, who have owned Cafe de Paris 10 years, recently doubled the size of the café and added the outdoor seating for a dozen people in front of his restaurant. The city cited him stating that the business zoning did not allow outside seating and forced them to remove the seats. Xavier is talking to Danny Taylor, the city's Zoning Director trying to get the zoning altered.

**SLYCE'S NEW OUTDOOR SPACE** Slyce Pizza Bar has added a new outdoor bar with all the amenities that the inside has, plus live music. It is a great place to catch a Rays game.

### DOLLAR BURGERS AT JD'S

JD's will be selling hamburgers for only \$1, but not until June. Normally, their burgers range from \$5 to \$9.50. But starting in June, on Wednesdays you can get one for a dollar, however, you will be charged extra for cheese and French fries.



### WINE CELLAR CLOSES

The Wine Cellar Restaurant in Redington Beach closed April 30th after 38 years on the beach. Liesel (76) and Ted Sonnerschein (79) decided to retire and sold their building. The restaurant, known for its Old World charm and continental cuisine employed 45 people who hopefully will end up in nearby restaurants. Bay Area Auctions will conduct an on site auction of most of the interior things. "One of the original partners was an antique dealer," says son Kai Sonnerschein. "The place is full of antiques, stained glass, lamps and a lot of architectural salvage bought in Ybor City." The auction is Wednesday, May 15th.

### HUNGRY HOWIE'S FOUNDER DIES

Jim Hearn (71), the founder of Hungry Howies Pizza and Subs died in April. He started his business in Michigan, but moved to Palm Harbor in 1982. Hungry Howie's, the 11th largest US pizza company has over 550 stores, with 200 in Florida. Kevin Green, who co-owns the Hungry Howie's on Walsingham, knew Jim personally. "Jim insisted that all his franchise owners work in the stores", says Green. "Making pizzas and exceeding customer expectations is not done from behind a desk. Jim reminded us of that by his example."

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## AS I REMEMBER IT Crabby Bill's

By Pauly Jenkins

When I first went to work for Grandad Bill's Crabby Bill's in 1983, it was in the little building, now known as The Fish Market. I was only 7.



It had about 45 seats inside and a very small kitchen. At times, we had lines that went all the way to the street. In the beginning we did not even have a beer and wine license, so we gave it away for free.

All of the family members worked here. I used to bus tables for free. They did not pay me anything. Apparently there were no child labor laws - at least, not in my family.

Later, Grandad bought another small building next door, just to the north. I worked there, too, still bussing tables. Later he bought The Blue Lagoon building and the rest is Crabby Bill's history.

## The Blue Lagoon

By Chris Dawson, Indian Rocks Resident

I lived in Indian Rocks Beach, in 1976. I was barely 20 and a jack-of-all-trades, but also an up-and-coming musician.



Back then, Crabby Bill's building was a bar called "The Blue Lagoon. Next door, where today's CVS store is, was another bar called Dale's Beach Bar. At the front of the building, near the street was a liquor store and behind it was a Dale's Bar. There were only four bars in Indian Rock then - Dales, Blue Lagoon, AJ's (just north of the Red Lion) and The Dutchman (Cuso's).

Dale's had live music and I used to play there. The Blue Lagoon catered to an older, local crowd, who wanted to talk, not listen to music. When the music at Dale's started, the older guys would leave and go to The Blue Lagoon.

The Blue Lagoon was just a bar. There was no food. Inside it was dark, very dark. In fact, the walls were painted black, with edges rimmed in black lights. There were fluorescent photos on the walls and puffer-fish hanging from the ceiling. The tables had cheap desk lamps on them. It was very smoky. You could hardly see any one at all. Women had to wear white blouses, just so they would stand out and be seen.

It was more of a pick-up-joint. The women were looking for young men, or maybe it was the other way around.

## CRABBY BILL'S - COMING SOON

Changes are being planned for the next generation of Crabby Bill's. The Loder family has met with an architect and city leaders and are planning some major changes.

The main building will be modified to include an inside and outside bar on the southwest corner, with outside deck seating and landscaping. Some of their buildings may be removed to expand existing parking areas.

"This is just part of our plans to give Crabby Bill's new life over the next 20 years," says owner Matt Loder.

Bill Loder, aka Crabby Bill, has seen the plans wants to be there for all 20 of those years.

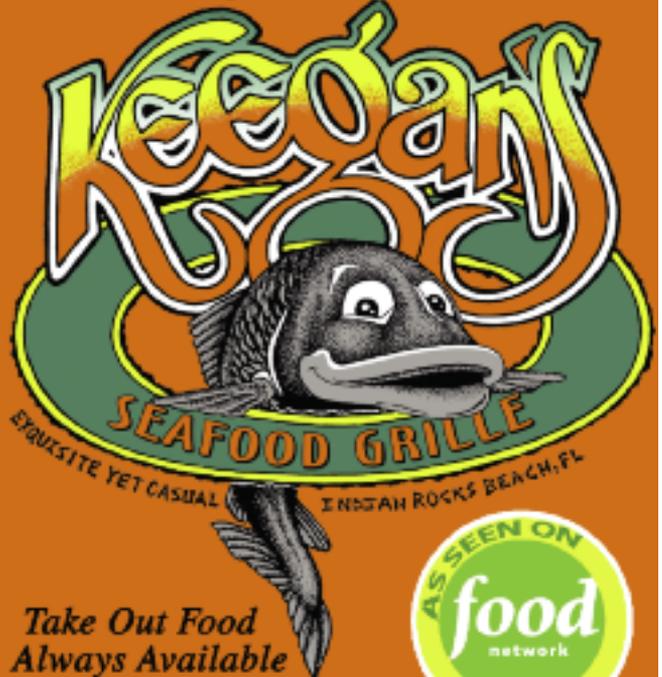


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## Business News....



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

**CENTURY 21 BEGGINS PLAZA** Bay Life is a new men and women's clothing and accessory store coming soon to the plaza, where the IRB Ale House was. Look for construction to start soon with plans to open this summer. Donnie's Coastal Café, which closed recently, is for sale for \$29,900. Most of the equipment is new and Donnie's invested a lot in renovations and improvements. It could be reopened quickly.

**B&B ONE OF ONLY 13 STATEWIDE WITH PERFECT INSPECTIONS** Laughing Lizard, at 2211 Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach, is one of only 13 food service establishments in the state to pass their Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation inspection with no safety or sanitation violations in the past year. After the most recent inspections, they received a letter from Governor Scott where he congratulated them saying, "I applaud you and your employees for demonstrating such a high level of attention to detail and commitment to excellence."



**SHEPARD'S BEACH RESORT RENOVATIONS** Shephard's started their eleven month expansion that includes: 90 new hotel rooms, an additional parking garage, a new 7000 square foot pool with 10 VIP cabanas with a pool bar, tequila bar & tap room and the remodeling of the 10,000 square foot waterfront restaurant & meeting space. Demolition of the older two story section of the hotel and pool area is done and will be the location of the new hotel tower and pool. During the construction, Shephard's will be open with the remaining 40 hotel rooms, restaurant, tiki bar and Wave nightclub. Shephard's has been family owned and operated is 36 years.

**MORE NEWS** If you have news or suggestions appropriate for this newsletter, Let us know. Our email is [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com) or can call us at 517-1997.

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## More Business News....

### CURIOSITY SATISFIED!

Finally, the old Belleair Flooring building between Marlin' Darlin' Restaurant and US AmeriBank has a new sign and a new tenant. Belleair Wealth Management moved from its original office of over 12 years to its "new digs" at the corner of West Bay Drive and Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs. The new office is open and available to help with investment advice and portfolio management. Belleair Wealth is an independent Registered Investment Advisor with two Investment Advisor Representatives and four Registered Representatives. They offer securities through Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc. although they are not affiliated with TFA.



**BEACH ART CENTER DIRECTOR RESIGNS** David Shankeiler, Director of the Beach Art Center, resigned in April. He took a job outside the art arena. The Beach Art Center is a non-profit organization located in Indian Rocks Beach, run by one paid director, a board of directors and many volunteers. They are currently searching for a new Director. If you are interested, call them at 596-4331.

**EXECUTIVE REALTY MOVES** Executive Realty, owned by Liz Seither, has relocated to 13th Avenue, right next to USA Grocers. Liz, a resident of Indian Rocks, represents the beaches and manages many vacation rentals.

**CLEARWATER GAZETTE SOLD** The weekly community newspaper, The Clearwater Gazette, was sold in April to the new owners of the Tampa Tribune. The paper, owned by Belleair Beach residents Sandy and C.J. Pollick started in 1950 as the Beach Views. The name was later changed to the Clearwater Gazette. It was bought by the Tampa Tribune's new owner, Tampa Media Group (TMG), a California investment group. They already own the new St Petersburg Tribune, TBO.com, Highlands Today, Hernando Today, and Centro Tampa (a hispanic publication and web site). They also own the Suncoast News and Sunbelt Publications covering areas of Hillsborough County.

**CREATIVE DESIGN TEAM OPENS ITS SECOND DESIGN STUDIO** Owners Ron and Marya Flurnoy and Team have been designing interiors for Belleair and Clearwater Beach residents for over 24 years. In their newest studio Creative Window, located at 231 Indian Rocks Road N., they specialize in custom draperies, window coverings, and home creations as well as shutters, motorized shades and Hunter Douglas window products. Every person on the team gives their talent and love to each residential or commercial project. For complete interior design and decorating, stop at either location and receive a complementary Design Tool Kit. It any new window treatment order will receive a gift card to E&E Stakeout Grill. Visit [www.CreativeDesignTeam.com](http://www.CreativeDesignTeam.com) or call 727-539-1971 for an interior that feels good inside.

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## VICTOR WOOD, IN MEMORIAM

By Nancy Obarski

I met Victor Wood head-on-- on the opposite side of an issue at an IRB City Commission Meeting. I soon discovered this wasn't a place one ever wanted to be. When he passed away on March 30, I was proud to call him my friend. It was only after getting to know Victor Wood, the community leader, the true patriot, the gentleman and all-around good guy that I changed my mind.

Born in Bryn Mawr, PA, Victor held a B.A. in Economics at Washington & Jefferson College. He spent 20 years in the Navy, flying dangerous

barrier patrol missions over Newfoundland on active duty and then serving in the Reserves. Victor retired as a Commander and was the Past President of the Clearwater Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Most of us come to Indian Rocks Beach from elsewhere. We leave behind noteworthy careers that even our closest neighbors never suspect. That is true of Wood's career in

corporate real estate. It spanned some 30 years and included positions such as President/CEO of Burger King Canada, Sr. VP of Payless ShoeSource and Director of McDonald's International Real Estate, where Victor negotiated the purchase of the site for the first McDonald's in Japan.

Victor's last 19 years in IRB have left us better off as a community. He was a Past President of IRB Action 2000 and founder of the Indian Rocks Beach Flag Retirement Ceremony, held annually in Chic-a-Si Park on Flag Day. There are two things he probably wouldn't want me to mention: his age (79) and his 2007 run for mayor. While he didn't consider the election one of his proudest moments, his percentage of the vote in a hotly contested, four-way race was certainly nothing to sneeze at.

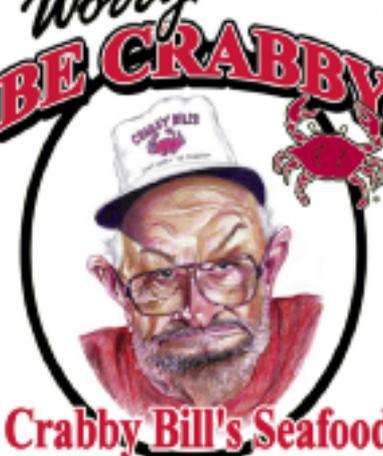
Next to his wife of 34 years, Beryl, and his two sons, Jason and Rurik, his art, his antiques, and his flowers were his joys. In his autobiography, Polishing the Old Brown Shoes, published four years ago, Victor draws this correlation between his life and his cactus flowers that bloom for only a half day, "Perhaps the exquisiteness of the cactus flower is enhanced by the reality that it won't last forever. Life doesn't last forever either but what one makes of it determines whether the beauty lasts a day or a lifetime."

Victor's lifetime of personal and professional successes would have allowed him to settle anywhere in the world but he and Beryl chose Indian Rocks Beach. We, as a community, are so much richer for their choice. A celebration of Victor's life with military honors was held at Calvary Episcopal Church on April 7.

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## BEACH ART CENTER NEWS

### BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Get ready for their Third Annual Bluegrass Festival being held in Indian Rocks Beach's Kolb Park on Saturday, May 18th from 3 to 8pm. Three great bands sponsored by Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty are scheduled: SKYWAY BLUEGRASS, WHOLE TONES and SCHODELLIC POSSUMS. Food and beverages will be for sale. This event is also sponsored by the Tampa Bay Times, Crabby Bill's and the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

### SURF SKATE SKIM COMPETITION & EXHIBITION

Their First Annual West Coast of Florida Surf Skate and Skim design competition and exhibition will be this May 31 - Aug 16th. The competition will be open to all ages with ribbons and cash prizes for all age categories. Contact the Art Center at 727-596-4331 for information, or visit [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org).

### BEACH ART CENTER'S "KREATIVE KIDS KAMP"

Exciting summer camp classes for children ages 5 and up begin June 10th and runs through July 26th. Classes will feature hand building with clay, throwing on the wheel, fashion illustration, beginning engineering, study of mythology and art of native people through drawing, painting and sculpting. For registration information, contact the Beach Art center at 727-596-4331 or visit online at [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org).

## INDIAN ROCKS ARTIST

In five short years, Hot Metal Designs owner Mark Wabol has become a household name in the Indian Rocks Beach community with his metal sculptures. Specializing in sea life, Mark has designed sea turtles, marlin, tarpon, snook and hogfish for both private residences and local businesses. Each sculpture is custom-made, and always a collaboration between owner and artist. What starts as a client's idea or photo sent to Mark in the mail can result in something as large as a 7ft stainless steel alligator or a copper turtle mailbox.



Although he does not have a formal education in art, Mark is a trained welder and fabricator whose passion for metal work was passed down by his father, a machinist of over twenty years. One of Mark's first functional projects was the Nekton Surf Shop sign on 14th Ave., and soon after that came a commission from the Frog Pond. What began as a late night hobby, quickly garnered high demand and Hot Metal Designs was formed. Mark is now an anchor artist at the Clearwater Free Clinic's Martinis and Matisse charity event and his sculptures can be found at local shows such as Oktoberfest and Dunedin Art Harvest. To view artwork, visit [www.hotmetaldesigns.com](http://www.hotmetaldesigns.com) or call Mark Wabol at 727-452-4523 for project inquiries

## SOCCER CAMP

Celtic FC International Development Academy is providing the opportunity for players of all abilities from ages 5-15 to attend their Summer Soccer Schools through Celtic FC Florida in Seminole, July 8-12th from 9am - 3pm. They will concentrate on skill development, player feedback & advice, skills testing and small sided games. Visit [Celticfl.net](http://Celticfl.net) for more information. Early registration before May 31 is \$249. Standard cost after that is \$274.



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# HAMBURGERS

The Love Chef recently reviewed the hamburgers served



Crabby's Bills

**CRABBY BILL'S SEAFOOD - Sirloin Burger** It is a half pound mix of 75% Angus beef and 25% ground brisket, char-grilled and served with fries or coleslaw. Top it with your choice of American, Cheddar Jack, or Pepper Jack cheese for 75¢ or Hickory smoked bacon for 99¢. They recently added guacamole to the available toppings. \$8.00  
Love Chef says, "We all love fish, but what about their burgers? Crabby Bill's has a tasty succulent burger made with 'Choice Beef'. I recommend you order it with fresh guacamole and French fries."



Guppy's

**GUPPY'S ON THE BEACH - Scott's Burger** A 1/2 pound of ground beef, char-grilled with lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle and your choice of cheese. \$8.50  
Love Chef's thoughts are, "Guppy's guests hail the Scott's Burger, named after its long-time resident chef, Scott Bebell. It has a scrumptious flavor, and Guppy's great fries. Add the coleslaw and it's an upscale dinner. Embrace it!"



JDs

**JD'S RESTAURANT - JD's Half-Pound Burger** The burgers are 1/2 pound sirloin. You can build a doozie with over 15 toppings to chose from on their menu. Start with \$5. Make it deluxe for \$2.50 more. Add fries or homemade slaw. \$7.50  
"JD's burger is very moist, and has a good feel in one's mouth. My choice was the Blue Cheese burger with a juicy ripe tomato as a relish," Love Chef stated.



Keegan's

**KEEGAN'S SEAFOOD GRILL - Ultimate Beach Burger** It is served on an onion roll with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles and comes with your choice of fries, coleslaw or pasta salad. \$7.00  
What did Love Chef think? "Keegan's normally serves delicious seafood to its regulars. Who knew they also serve a prime beef burger with a mix of ground 'wham' in it? That makes it a WOW burger. It is thick, juicy and cooked to your preference. That makes it true to its name, a ham-burger."

## KOOKY COCONUT EATS AND SWEETS

**The Kooky Cheese Burger** This is a 5 oz all-beef burger on a fresh Kaiser roll with your choice of cheese for \$5.00. They have a Double Cheeseburger for \$6.25.  
"The Kooky-est thing about this cheeseburger is the price. Ben Franklin would be proud of this burger served on a Kaiser bun with sesame seeds. Comes with chips. Add a soda and walk to down to the beach to eat it. Magnificent!" or so Love Chef says.



Kooky Coconut

**PJ'S OYSTER BAR - PJ's Super Burger** Grilled to perfection and topped with cheese, sauteed onions, mushrooms and peppers, it is served with fries or slaw. Lettuce, tomatoes and onions are served on the side. \$7.00  
"Listen to the Blues Brothers," Love Chef advises. "Go to PJ's for a great burger. The old menu used to say "Best Burger In The World". You'll like their unpedestrian burger served on an over-sized bun. Get the cole slaw, too. Make sure to speak Jake and Elwood out front, as you leave."



PJ's Oyster Bar



Francis Anthony is The cooking books and TV co Key. You can find his cookbooks on Ar www.TheLo

Jimmy Guana's and TJ's Italian Restaurant serve hamburgers but they elected to participate in this story

# IN PARADISE!

in IRB's restaurants. Which is the best? You to decide.

**RED LION PUB - The Banquet Burger** This half pound beef patty with bacon, lettuce, tomato and cheese is served with a pickle and cole slaw. You can add fries for \$1.00 or onion rings for \$2.00. \$8.00

*"This one is for the Queen, Love Chef exclaimed. "It is a hamburger that lives up to the tradition of a British Pub. It goes down better of course with an ice-cold pint. Make sure you order their awesome steak fries. Skip the ketchup on the burger; use mustard or vinegar."*

**THE SANDBAR - Olympic Burger Two** This seasoned and flame grilled burger is 100% Angus beef, topped with sauteed onions and bell peppers, smothered in Imported Feta cheese and served with fries and pepperoncinis. \$8.00

*"Forget about it," Love Chef exclaimed, " Their burger has a fantastic look and feel. You will savor every minute. There are two patties served on specially warmed Cuban bread, shaped like a small football. The garnish is very upscale. Marcel the new partner and Chef at SandBar knows how to cook a burger."*

**SANDY'S RESTAURANT - Sandy's Deluxe**

**Cheeseburger** They have four different hamburgers on the menu ranging from \$7.00 to \$8.00. Sandy's Deluxe is served with your choice of Swiss or American Cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion. It comes with fries and coleslaw. \$7.00

*"Sandy's has recently installed a new grill and char-grills all its burgers. This creates a flavorful beef patty that is even better with cheese. No beer or wine here, so get yours with an ice cold Coke," Love Chef commented.*

**STEFANO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - Zach Burger**

Made with black Angus sirloin, it is served on a bun with lettuce, onion, and tomato. Add cheese for 50¢. Served with French Fries. \$8.50

*"Stefano's Restaurant is famous for great Italian food. But yes, they also have a hamburger on the menu. Chef Stefan admits it is only on their menu for parents with small children who are looking for a Happy Meal on the beach. Even still, this burger goes good with a little red wine...if you are old enough. Otherwise, stick with the ice tea," Chef exclaims.*

**TAPAS GARDEN & WINE BAR - Mushroom Swiss**

**Burger** Grilled hamburger topped with portabella mushrooms, bacon and Swiss cheese. Served from 11am to 4pm only. \$9.95

*"Seems like there is always a garden party going on here," Love Chef notes. "Their burger is good for a quick bite when you are hungry, but is oh so much better if you order it with the 'Spanish Chips' instead of fries."*

**THE PUB WATERFRONT RESTAURANT - The Pub**

**Burger** Made with the finest fresh ground beef, you can add American, Swiss or mozzarella cheese, bacon, grilled onions or mushrooms for 50¢ each. \$9.95

*"If it was any closer to the water, it would get wet. The Pub has a burger combination that fills the plate. There is no need for ketchup on this flavor-filled, tasty treat and their fries are great too. But watch out for the seagulls," Love Chef cautions.*



Love Chef, author of  
celebrity. He lives in Sand  
'Cooking with Love'  
amazon.com or at  
veChef.com



The Pub



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Tapas  
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Photos by Bob Griffin



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## DR. LARA SAYS

Q & A with Cesar A. Lara, M.D.,  
Voted Best Weight Loss Practitioner in Tampa Bay

A reader asked, "Dr. Lara, I have weight I want to lose, but how can I tell if I am at risk of Diabetes as well?"

A: This is a great question. Here are a few ways to identify your relative risk of Diabetes:

- **Waist Circumference <sub>1</sub> (Relative Risk of Diabetes)**
  - 28" – 29" : times is GREATER RISK of having Diabetes
  - 30" – 31" : 4.6 times
  - 31" – 33" : 8.7 times
  - 34" – 35" : 12.1 times
  - 36" – 37" : 16.7 times
  - > 38" : 22.4 times
- **BMI <sub>2</sub> (Relative Risk of Diabetes)**
  - < 21 : 1 times
  - 21 – 22.9 : 1.2 times
  - 23 – 24.9 : 3.1 times
  - 25 – 28.9 : 9.6 times
  - 29 – 30.9 : 12.7 times
  - > 32.9 : 18.1 times
- **Excess Weight <sub>3</sub>**
  - o For every 2.2lbs of excess weight, the risk of Diabetes increases by 9%

Want the Best Weight Loss Practitioner to answer your question? Submit them to [info@cearlaramd.com](mailto:info@cearlaramd.com) and visit us online for more valuable information at [BestMedicineforWeightLoss.com](http://BestMedicineforWeightLoss.com)

1 Carey et al. American J. of Epidemiol. 1997

2 Carey et al. American J. of Epidemiol. 1997

3 Mokdad DH. Diabetes Care. 2000

## ANNUAL ABILITIES WINE TASTING & AUCTION

The 24th annual Abilities Wine Tasting is Saturday, May 25 at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo, FL. The event features premium wines, restaurants, and auction items. Abilities' is Florida's longest-running and most prosperous one-night tasting, netting \$3.54 million to date.

"Museum officials were gracious hosts last year, and we are delighted to be back," said Foundation CEO Frank De Lucia. "Our guests were fascinated with the museum's authentic re-creation of the military defense of our nation."

The tasting begins with a VIP Officer's Club Reception from 6-9 p.m., followed by the Grand Tasting from 7-9 p.m. Restaurants scheduled to attend are Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Drive, O'Bistro, Ricky P's New Orleans Bistro and Vincenzo's Grill.

Grand Tasting tickets cost \$50 in advance; \$75 after May 13; and \$85 at the door. Tickets for the VIP Reception include entry to the Grand Tasting and cost \$100 in advance; \$150 after May 13; and \$175 at the door. Buy tickets online at [www.abilitiesfoundation.com](http://www.abilitiesfoundation.com) or call 727-600-8911. Designated driver tickets cost \$40 and can only be purchased by calling 727-600-8911.

Proceeds benefit the Abilities Foundation, the 501c3 support organization for the Service Source Regional Office, a 501c3 nonprofit that has helped thousands of Floridians and military veterans with disabilities obtain jobs and affordable housing. For information visit [www.abilitiesfoundation.com](http://www.abilitiesfoundation.com).

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## HAMBURGERS, Where did they come from?

Researched by Bob Griffin

A hamburger is defined as a sandwich with a cooked patty of ground meat, normally placed inside a sliced bread roll. It can be garnished with a variety of things including lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, cheese, bacon and condiments such as mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup or relish.

Commonly associated with ground beef, it may contain different meats such as a buffalo, venison, kangaroo, turkey, elk, lamb, salmon or even just ground veggies.

The word hamburger is derived from the city of Hamburg, Germany. Hamburger is also the term used to describe people who live in that city. Some say the hamburger was actually invented in Hamburg, Germany, but the Library of Congress says it was created in America around the year 1900 by Louis Lassen, owner of Louis' Lunch in New Haven, CT. He operated a small lunch wagon there. A customer ordered a quick hot meal and Louis was out of steaks. He took the trimmings from the beef, made a patty and grilled it. Then, he put it on two slices of toast. The sandwich had no name until some rowdy Hamburg sailors named the meat on a bun after themselves.

Between 1871 and 1884, a hamburger beefsteak was on the menu at San Fernando's Clipper Restaurant. It cost 10¢, the same price as mutton chops, pig's feet and stewed veal.

According to oral histories, in 1880 Fletcher Davis claimed to invent the hamburger at his Athens, Texas lunch counter. He served his fried ground beef patty with mustard and a Bermuda onion, between two slices of bread, and a pickle on the side.

Charlie Nagreen sold a meatball between two slices of bread at the Seymour Fair in 1885. Reported, he did that so customers could eat them while walking. Nagreen, only 15 at the time, eventually became known as Hamburger Charlie. That same year, Frank and Charles Menches, reportedly sold a ground beef sandwich at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York when they ran out of pork sausage and substituted beef.

Otto Kause, in 1891, reportedly created a beef patty cooked in butter and topped with a fried egg. German sailors later omitted the egg. That same year, Oscar Weber Bilby, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is said to have invented the hamburger on the Fourth of July. It was served on a yeast bun.

White Castle of Wichita, Kansas began selling hamburgers. But in 1921, with the US's anti-German sentiment during World War I, they changed the name to sliders which were small 2.5 inch square hamburgers.

Brothers Richard and Maurice McDonald's opened a restaurant in 1940s in San Bernadino, California. Ray Kroc bought their company in 1961 and the rest is burger history. They invented the still popular "Big Mac" and over 600 million have been sold in the US alone.

### UNUSUAL HAMBURGERS

Mallie's Sports Grill in Southgate, Michigan serves the world's largest commercially available burger. It weighs 185 pounds and sells for \$499.

In Las Vegas the Heart Attack Grill offers a "Quadruple Bypass Burger." It weighs over 3 pounds and is the most caloric burger served in the world at 9982 calories. While eating it, you must wear a hospital gown over your clothes.

Last September, Black Bear Casino Resort near Carlton, Minnesota, made the Guinness World bacon cheeseburger weighing 2,014 pounds.

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**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH  
HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION NEWS**



**2013 HAPPY HOURS**

Homeowners Happy Hours continue at the following restaurants:

May 9: Slyce Pizza Bar June 13: SandBar  
These FREE Happy Hours are 6 - 7:30 pm the second Thursday of the month. Visit [IRBhome.com](http://IRBhome.com) for info.

**THANK YOU!**

The Homeowners Association is winding down for the summer after sponsoring three events in April. While a lot goes on behind the scenes planning these events, we absolutely could not do it without our fabulous group of volunteers who time and time again step up to hang banners, pitch tents, serve beer and wine, sell tickets at events and happy hours, and then stay until the end to help clean it all up. We are so grateful for your help. Also, our events wouldn't be nearly as successful without the continued support of our business sponsors - Crabby Bill's who provides insurance coverage for EVERY event that serves beer in IRB, Century 21 who sponsors our Beach Party, Taste of IRB and hosts our Toy Drive, Guppy's who has sponsored our 5K run for years and Plumlee Realty who has sponsored both our 5K and Poker Run. Finally I want to thank the City employees, who set up the infrastructure for not only our event, but for all the events in the city. They work very hard hauling picnic tables, stringing wiring, installing lighting and keep the power running, all while doing their regular job.

We will be having our annual meeting on May 15th in the City Hall Auditorium at 7pm. If you would like to get involved and have fun while working with a great group of people, I invite you to join us.

*Becky Griffin, President*

**EASTER EGG HUNT** - Close to 250 children attended our annual Easter Egg hunt co-sponsored with the City of Indian Rocks Beach. In addition to the egg hunt, the children enjoyed the water balloon toss, sack race, face painting, animal balloons and of course the Easter Bunny!

**GUPPY'S GULFSIDE GALLOP** - Over 350 runners participated in this annual kick off event of Beauty and the Beach. We kicked it up a notch by adding ankle transponder chips to record race times. We appreciate Guppy's and Plumlee Realty, who graciously supports this event year after year. We also welcomed Chase Bank who joined the event this year and sponsored the Chase Bank Finish Line and provided other goodies as well. Publix participated again providing cookies and bagels. A huge thanks goes to our team of volunteers! Without this group of talent and energy, this event would never be possible!

**BIGGEST BEACH PARTY EVER!** - The city really turned out to enjoy our annual beach party at the Indian Rocks County Park. A huge thanks to Century 21 Beggins for sponsoring the event, Florida Best Quote and Safeco Insurance, for sponsoring the band The Black Honkeys, Crabby Bill's for sponsoring our beer truck and Watersports West for sponsoring our raffle of a Pelican Flow 106 Stand-Up Paddleboard. Of course the biggest THANK YOU goes to the over 100 volunteers that helped serve beer and wine and sell tickets through out the evening!

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** get all the news, photos, see what your neighbors have to say, find out about events at [Facebook.com/IRBHomeowners](http://Facebook.com/IRBHomeowners) or [www.IRBhome.com](http://www.IRBhome.com).

**PREPARING FOR THE SEASON**

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel



June 1, the first day of the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season, is right around the corner. As it gets closer, it's important to remember it has been a long time since Pinellas County has seen the full impact of a hurricane.

Some residents might believe the last time we had one was in 1985 when Hurricane Elena stalled off the Gulf Coast and sent bad weather our way, but certainly not hurricane force winds. Maybe people remember the 2004 storm season with threats from Jeanne, Francis and Category 4 Charlie. Remember, all four of those storms missed Pinellas.

Maybe you remember last year's brush with Tropical Storm Debby, with 10 to 15 inches of rain to Pinellas County and sustained winds of 40 mph. County residents experienced flooding, power outages, road closures, bridge detours, downed trees, storm surge, severe beach erosion and structural damage to their homes and businesses. But at its closest point, Debby was 89 miles away and a tropical storm.

The truth of the matter is that Pinellas County residents have not experienced the full fury of a hurricane since 1921, the last time the county was hit by such a storm dead on. And, for residents of Indian Rocks Beach, evacuation should be first priority at the start of hurricane season each June 1. Remember, storm surge – the rising of water from a storm – is what kills the most people during hurricanes. And, no shuttering system will prevent that damage from happening to your home. The only safe option is to evacuate.

This year, we're asking residents to review their insurance policies while preparing for hurricane season. Take note of deductibles, exclusions and special endorsements. You may have additional windstorm damage deductibles, which could

leave you on the hook for thousands of dollars if hurricane force winds damage your home. Make sure your flood insurance covers storm surge as well as fresh water flooding. Don't forget the damage that could occur inside your home if a sanitary sewer backs up because of a flood.

If you have an older house that sustains damage, you'll need to have it rebuilt according to today's more stringent building codes. Make sure your insurance has law and ordinance coverage, which will cover the extra expense to rebuild to today's codes.

Don't forget your automobiles. They are particularly vulnerable to high water, falling trees and wind-blown debris. Renters and condo owners will want to make sure everything inside their units is protected by insurance.

Of course, the more you do to protect your home, the less you will need to dependent on insurance. Sturdy protection for windows, exterior doors and garage doors can increase your home's ability to withstand a hurricane's onslaught.

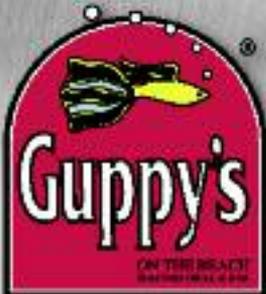
A special note to horse owners. Due to staffing considerations, the large animal release program previously offered at Walsingham Park is no longer in operation. This means horse owners will need to find accommodations for their animals in the event of a hurricane. The Sunshine State Horse Council has a Web page that provides guidance on how to prepare your horse to weather the storm. Visit [www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane.html](http://www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane.html). Also, sandbags will not be available through Pinellas County this season as they have been shown to be ineffective in protecting property from storm surge.

For complete information on how to protect your property and keep your family safe, check the hurricane information at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) or call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800

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- IRB NEWSLETTER

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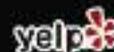


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## CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER LUAU

Located on Sand Key, they will be holding a Summer Luau on Saturday, June 1 to raise money to support their operations. The event will run from noon to 5pm and includes food and spirits, arts and crafts vendors, fun games for kids, sailboat and outrigger canoe rides, music, raffles, and a silent auction. Last bids for the silent auction will be at 4pm. In 2012, the auction raised over \$10,000 and they are looking to top that number. The day will offer something for everyone whether you are a sailor or a "land lubber". Bring the family and enjoy!

Proceeds will be used to support operations, spring and summer children's camps and other award winning programs offered at the CCSC. CCSC's Camp Awesome is dedicated to teaching sailing to high functioning children with special needs, such as Autism and Downs's syndrome. It recently received the award for "Outstanding Program for Disabled Sailors". The Clearwater Community Sailing Center serves as the base for Sailability, a non-profit corporation that provides access to sailing for the disabled including military veterans. Clearwater Community Sailing relies on donations from businesses and the community to replace equipment and help keep the fleet and facilities operational. If you would like to donate to the auction, volunteer, or have any questions please call Kelly at 727-517-7776 or email [kelly@clearwatercommunitysailing.org](mailto:kelly@clearwatercommunitysailing.org).

## THE NEGATIVES OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, it's against Florida law to throw away nickel-cadmium or lead acid rechargeable batteries (or products containing such batteries) in the trash. These batteries are considered a hazardous electronic and must be recycled or sent to a facility for proper disposal. Clearwater residents can bring old rechargeable batteries to the Household Electronics Collections Center, or HEC2 facility, located at 2855 109th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Fla. on Mondays to Fridays (6 am to 6 pm) or on Saturdays (7 am to 5 pm).



Florida lawmakers passed this law due to growing concerns about the impact of toxic heavy metals on public health and the environment. Cadmium and lead in rechargeable batteries can enter the environment from several sources including landfills and waste combustors. Once in the environment, they can accumulate in food crops, edible fish, or even the air we breathe. In humans and animals, long-term exposure to these metals can result in brain, lung, and kidney damage and is suspected to cause cancer. Lead exposure is especially harmful to unborn and very young children and can result in premature birth, slow growth, and development problems.

This law applies to all Florida residents, businesses, institutions, governments, industrial and commercial companies, and medical facilities. Visit FDEP's website at [dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/batteries](http://dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/batteries) or call (850) 245-2118.

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## FIREFIIGHTERS COOKBOOK Benefiting the 9-11 Memorial

By Marshall Eiss, Life Safety Technician

The 9-11 Memorial in front of Pinellas Suncoast Fire Station 27 at 304 1st Street is nearing the ground breaking stage as the final plans are being submitted to the city of Indian Rocks Beach for approval.

As this issue of the IRB newsletter is focusing on restaurants and food, we are publishing one of the recipes from the cookbook that was featured at the Taste of Indian Rocks Beach in November. The book is still available for a \$12 donation at the fire station. All proceeds will go toward financing the Memorial.

Gulf Coast Construction is the General Contractor for the design of the base and pools supporting the monument art work done by Vince Anthony of Madeira Beach.

"We are very excited to have Rod Karcher, Gulf Coast's President as our General Contractor and are moving forward with our plans to have the monument completed by September 11th of this year," stated Robert Hill, Co-Chairman of the monument project.

The cookbook is divided into eight sections from appetizers to desserts and a final chapter on "this and that" covering sauces, marinades and seasonings for different dishes. All recipes were submitted by career and volunteer firefighters, members of the Community Emergency Response Team, administrative personnel and their families as well as friends of the fire department.

"We are also entering the cookbook in an annual contest sponsored by the company we used to produce the book which could put a national spotlight on our cookbook," stated Hill.

### BLACK BOTTOM BANANA CREAM PIE

From Gary Thaxton,

- 1 pie crust, readymade
- 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 1 pkg. vanilla instant pudding
- 2 medium bananas, sliced
- ½ cup of milk
- Strawberries
- 12 oz. pkg. of thawed whipped cream

Bake crust at 425 degrees till browned, cool completely. Whisk pudding with milk until thick and add ½ of whipped cream, fold together. On high heat for 30-40 seconds in the microwave, melt the other ½ of whipped cream and the 6 oz. of chocolates. Put this mixture on the bottom of pie crust and top with sliced bananas. Pour in the pudding mix and garnish with strawberries.

## Beach Art Center Bluegrass Folk Festival 2013

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## INSURANCE - THERE ARE OPTIONS ON THE BEACH

By Phil Wrobel

When it comes to house insurance on the barrier islands, did you know you now most likely have a choice besides Citizens for your home/condo insurance? We have A+ companies writing complete HO3 for single family homes and HO6 condominium policies. As another option, you can get an x-wind policy with a standard A+ insurance company and a wind policy with Citizens. The advantages are:

- 1) You will be able to have liability limits back up to \$300,000, (Citizens has drop to \$100,000)
- 2) You will get increased contents coverage back to 50% (Citizens dropped to 25%)

3) You will be now getting the bulk of your coverage with an A+ rated standard carrier

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## HISTORY MUSEUM GRAND REOPENING

They have set the date for the museum reopening: Saturday, June 29. It is timed to coincide with the anniversary of the city's founding in June 1955. Of course there will be a big party to celebrate the unveiling of the great new displays.

It has been a long wait, with the construction of the new addition taking longer than expected because of the need to elevate the old cottage portion of the museum. But, it will be well worth the wait.

They are now focused on totally renovating the displays. There's a definite "wow" factor, with the selective use of oversize photos to bring history to life. It will be a fun and interesting place, where everyone can learn something new about our fascinating past.

The cost of creating the new exhibits is coming from the historical society budget. They have had numerous fundraising activities over the years, including home tours, sales of our pictorial history books and their recent "garage sale" of unneeded items.

They are encouraging members of the community to become a part of this exciting project. Your help is needed and would be greatly appreciated!



A donor recognition wall in the new addition features a large historical photo of a local area orange grove. Donors giving \$50 will get an "orange" on the tree with their name on it, while a \$250 donation gets a name on an orange crate. We also have a list of specific exhibit sponsorships that are available.

For more information visit [IRBmuseum.com](http://IRBmuseum.com), E-mail [info@IRBmuseum.com](mailto:info@IRBmuseum.com), or call 593-3861.

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**COMING SOON**

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<b>May 29 - June 30</b> <b>7 HOMELESS WANDERERS IN NEW ENGLAND</b> by Madeline George	<b>July 27 - Aug 25</b> <b>ASHER LEV</b> by Aaron Posner
<b>Aug 7 - Sept 8</b> <b>ART</b> by Yasmina Reza	

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In March, members gathered at Salt Rock Grill for a day of food, drinks and fun .

## IRB BOAT CLUB

The IRB Boat Club was proud to once again donate a Saturday morning to clean the Intracoastal Waterway. Over a dozen members participated in Keep Pinellas Beautiful, by using their boats to clean up a section of the Intracoastal Waterway from the Belleair Causeway to the Narrows.

When the water is too cold to swim, the IRB Boat Club's events are trips to restaurants. But, now as the water is warming up, events will shift to island partys. Here are some of the upcoming events:

May 16: Monthly Meeting Jimmy Guana's, 7pm

May 18-24: Safe Boating Week

June 9: Caladesi Island Party

TBA: Trip to Egmont Key



The IRB Boat Club, part of the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association, is free to join. They meet at Jimmy Guana's on the third Thursday of the month, sponsor environmental projects, go to restaurants as a group and hold island parties. See a complete list of upcoming events and pictures at [IRBhome.com](http://IRBhome.com) on the Boat Club page or follow them on Facebook. Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or email [BoatClub@IRBhome.com](mailto:BoatClub@IRBhome.com) for info.

## 10 THINGS YOU WILL LEARN IN A SAFE BOATING COURSE

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary offers safe boating classes the first Saturday of each month. Boating is enjoyed by many every day, but with the pleasure comes responsibility. It is the law that anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, MUST have a valid boating certificate and a photo ID while operating a vessel of 10 HP or more. Here are some of the rules and regulations you will learn in a safe boating class.

- 1) Safety equipment - learn what is required to have on your boat. This is very important because what you don't have could make the difference between being able to handle a situation or not. Also, if authorities stop you, you can be fined for not having the required safety equipment for your specific boat. Life jackets are number one! The US Coast Guard Auxiliary gives free vessel safety checks!
- 2) Driving a boat is vastly different from driving a car. You are dealing with air and water currents. Docking a boat is not as easy as you may think. It can be difficult, especially if the current is pulling you in the opposite direction. Understanding air, water currents and tides will help you learn to dock your boat properly. Boats don't have brakes!
- 3) Knowing how to work with lines and tying knots is part of boating. You have to secure a boat properly. If your boat gets away, the current or wind will quickly take it out of your reach and you will require the assistance of another boater to retrieve your vessel. So learn your knots.
- 4) You will learn what the red and green channel markers mean. Understanding the markers and lights can keep you from going aground in the shallows or running in to another boat because you were in the wrong area.

5) The speed limits on certain water ways may or may not be posted. Ignorance may not be enough to get you out of a ticket. Obey "No Wake" zones!

6) Using charts for coastal navigation can be a life saver. Charts are your road maps, in the water, that help you stay away from the shallows and show where all the markers and bridges are. You should always file a float plan with someone on shore!

7) You sometimes have to give way to the other guy. In a boating course you will learn who does that, why and how.

8) Every boat should have a horn. You'll learn what one long blast or 2 short and so on mean. You should also have a radio on board for emergency situations and know how to use it. You'll learn which channel to use, which not to use and why, plus who monitors them.

9) Some boating regulations/laws must be followed by all boaters, for example, you are not to sit on the bow of the boat with your legs hanging over board. There are other regulations to learn and not knowing them can cost you.

10) Anchoring a boat is not just plopping a big chunk of iron into the sand. There is a mathematical technique applied to anchoring involving the size and length of your boat. Knowing how to do this gives you confidence of knowing your boat is going nowhere until you want it to.

There are different types of boating - the fast pace of ski boating or the slow pace of a trawler, kayak, canoe or family pleasure craft. Whichever you choose, it is a good idea to know the rules of the road. Learn the safety rules to avoid potential dangers. Be safe on the water and get on with the fun of being out there with all that sky, sun, water, family and friends. Safe boating is NO accident.

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## FROM DEBATE TEAM TO RAYS ANNOUNCER

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Dewayne Staats, television play-by-play commentator for the Tampa Bay Rays since they began in 1998, learned to love baseball as a child while listening to the St Louis Cardinals games on TV and the radio. By the time he was 8, he was playing little league. As a teenager, he was a pitcher. But, then an 8th grade teacher introduced him to the debate team. That is when he knew he'd rather talk than play ball and his desire to be a broadcaster was born.

Staats is the first and only TV announcer the Rays have ever had. This season begins his 37th year in professional sports broadcasting, and his 16th year with the Rays.

While a student, Dewayne had a reporting and broadcasting job Southern Illinois University's radio station. He also covered high school games for several nearby small town stations, before interning at KMOX in St Louis.

In 1973, while still a student at SIUE, Dewayne began his professional broadcasting career with the minor league baseball team Oklahoma City 89ers. He moved to Major League Baseball, when he joined the Houston Astros in 1976, moved to the Chicago Cubs in 1985, then the NY Yankees in 1990.

By then, Staats had moved to West Palm Beach to be closer to his family. He commuted to the Yankees' games. Only two players have hit a home run for their 3,000th hit, and Staats was lucky enough to have been in the booth for both - Derrick Jeter and Wade Boggs.

From 1995 to 1997 he worked for ESPN. Then, when the Rays got their franchise in 1998, they hired Staats. He moved to Pinellas County.

Dewayne has been married to Carla, his second wife, for 6 years. They met while he was working for the Astros in Houston. They live in Sand Key in "The Grand" condominiums.

"We love this area of Florida," Staats says, "We really wanted to live on the water. The Grand was under construction when we were looking for a place, and we were impressed with that JMC project."

Dewayne's daughter, Stephanie Wheeler is married to former Ray's pitcher Dan Wheeler. They live nearby in Belleair Beach and have 3 children, two of which play little league in Indian Rocks Beach.

Stephanie and Carla co-own the new IN2 Nutrition store in Belleair Bluffs, next to Bonefish Grill. They opened the store in October with a little help from Dewayne and Dan. They enjoy working together while also meeting people in the area. Carla has a background in addiction counseling and that training helps her understand people and health. Dewayne says he is really the stock boy.



The Rays play 162 games per year, although occasionally when there is a national broadcast, Staats doesn't work. He has been known to broadcast a spring season game or two and once in awhile will broadcast a college basketball or football game, just for the fun of it. Dewayne reached a major milestone by broadcasting his 5,000th MLB game in June of 2010.

Staats has been nominated for many awards in Sports Broadcasting. Recently, he was in the Final Ten for the Ford C. Frick Award. "Tom Cheek won, but I was honored to be part of the group that was nominated." This is the beginning of his path to Baseball's Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In 2006, the Rays gave away Staats bobblehead dolls at the Seattle Mariners game.

"I do not go to all the games," Carla says. "But I do watch most of them on TV. I have so many other personal interests it is hard to do it all. I do go on a few road trips, though."

Carla is very involved in two local organizations. One is Quantum Leap Farm, in Odessa where they practice Equine Therapy which involves using horses to work with disabled people. They received a military grant to work with military veterans and their families including Wounded Warriors and their children. Get more information on this group at [www.QuantumLeapFarm.org](http://www.QuantumLeapFarm.org). The other organization Carla works with is PACE, a Pinellas Park center for girls having trouble in school.

### What Staats has to say about -

**Joe Maddon** "I first met Joe when I worked for the Yankees and he coached for the Angels. I think he was the first coach I knew to use a computer to help him coach. He is very creative and analytical."

**Andy Freedman** "He must know what he is doing. He brought Maddon here. There are only 3 teams with 5 consecutive winning seasons in a row and the Rays are one of them."

**A New Stadium** "That decision is way beyond my pay grade. I will go wherever they play."

They enjoy their baseball off-season, October through March. They take in some Spring Training in Port Charlotte. But mainly they enjoy their time off in Sand Key. Their favorite restaurant? "We love Salt Rock, Island Way Grill, Palm Pavilion and Bonefish," says Carla. "It's hard to pick just one."

You can see Dewayne calling the Rays games play-by-play almost nightly during baseball season on the Sunshine Network, available through your cable provider.

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# ACTION 2000 NEWS



Action 2000, since its inception in 1999, has been able to give back to the community through projects that strive to beautify and make Indian Rocks Beach and the adjacent areas a better place to work, vacation, and enjoy our wonderful Gulf Beaches. This happens thanks to many spirited volunteers, that give their time and energy to helping the organization raise monies through fundraiser events such as Oktoberfest on the Beach, which is now in our 12th year of planning. Businesses show their support by contributing as sponsors, vendors and donating to our Silent Auction. Residents are encouraged to become involved, make a donation, and volunteer during the event.

**SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBERFEST ON THE BEACH  
OCTOBER 12, 2013 11-7pm**



Co-Chairs Rebecca Sacra and Diane Flagg have started planning this year's Oktoberfest and expect another banner year. Members on the Committees are Don Bishop Chairing Sponsorships along with Diane Flagg, Jim Labadie, Bill Dotson, Bob and Sara Linderman and Margaret Faulkner. Our Vendor Chairs are Ron and Rebecca Sacra, with Treasurer Chair Stella Alea, Silent Auction Chair Jo Nocera with Co Chairs Elaine Brier and Jo Mulling, Advertising and Marketing Tricia Priest, Melissa Dotson, Julie Folden, Kinderfest Chair Terry Hamilton Wollin, Volunteer Chair Anne Todia, Day of Event Chair Eric Meyer, Bill Dotson, & Volker Mulling. A special thank you to these members and to all the committee members who will be working diligently to make sure this year's event is another huge success. New member Julie Hoofnagle is handling our event website, visit oktoberfestonthebeach for details. For additional info you may also contact Rebecca Sacra at 727-642-4880 or Diane Flagg at 727-612-9454.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE COMPANIES THAT SUPPORT OUR GREAT COMMUNITY OF IRB !**  
 HOMEBANC our 2013 Oktoberfest Event Sponsor  
 TAMPA BAY NEWSPAPER - 2013 Oktoberfest Media Sponsor

### TIME TO REMEMBER A PAST PRESIDENT



Resident Victor Wood, retired Navy Commander, President of Wood Commercial Real Estate Consulting, and past president of IRB Action 2000 passed away on 3-30-13. Victor was very active in community affairs here in IRB and committed himself as member and President of Action 2000 to make a

difference by overseeing beautification projects that benefited our entire community. Victor was also the founder of the IRB Flag Retirement Ceremony, which is an annual event to properly dispose of well worn flags. We thank him for all his contributions and on behalf of our Board Members and membership of Action 2000 we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Beryl, and to his family.

**Celebrating 30 years!**

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## CHUCK COWARD, OUR CITY MANAGER RETIRING

Our city manager, Chuck Coward, has announced he plans to leave his job in Indian Rocks at the end of May. He gave notice, but agreed to stay until the 2014 proposed budget is prepared.

Chuck was hired in March, 2009 and has been our City Manager for four years. He was previously City Manager of Treasure Island, where he and his wife Carol live. Carol is currently a Treasure Island City



Commissioner with one year left in her third term.

When Chuck came to IRB, the city was in a state of chaos, both financially and with city staff. He was our third City Manager in as many years, and we had no Finance Director.

He sees his greatest accomplishments as:

- 1) Getting the financial situation under control, with the help of a new finance director, Sandy Sanders.
- 2) Managed the disorganization among the staff and helped to smooth those relations,
- 3) Completed many of the long desired capital projects and set the groundwork for future projects.

Some of the recent projects he is proud to have managed are the new floating docks at Keegan-Clair Park, the Historical Museum addition and the purchase of the Schmidt house for the pocket park entrance to the city. The facelift for City Hall is underway and the undergrounding of utilities project on Gulf Blvd has been scheduled.

"This is a great community to work with and live in," say Coward. "It is amazing the number of community associations that exist here and actually do good things. There must be six or eight and they all seem to work well together."

"Our community groups produce somewhere around 25 events per year," he says. "That is a lot for a city this size. That is what makes IRB special."

The City Commission has begun a search for a new City Manager. The internally managed search will be nationwide and will use a number of associations, media and web sites. Over a dozen people have already applied. The application process will continue until May 10th. After that, the City Commission will review the applications, interview the top prospects and hire a new city manager.

Chuck and Carol have kids and grandkids in Nashville, Kansas City and Denver. They plan to spend time traveling and visiting them. We wish them both the best in the next phase of their life.

### Summer HAPPENS

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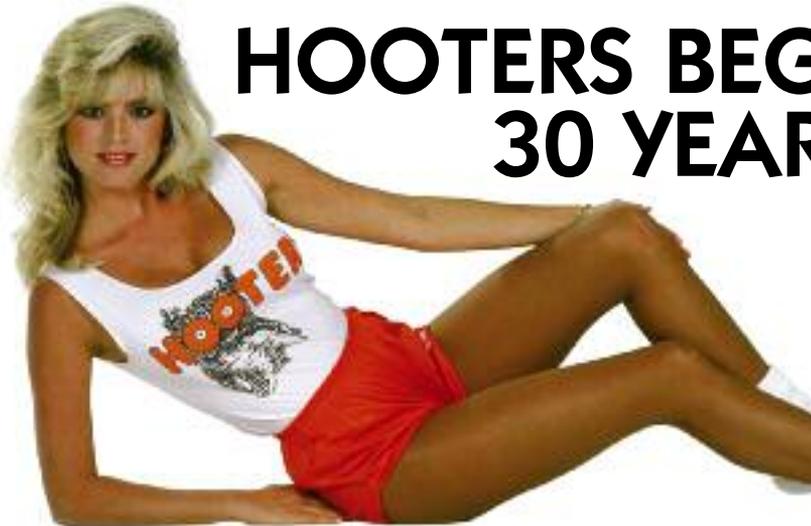
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[ClearwaterBeachRestaurantWeek.com](http://ClearwaterBeachRestaurantWeek.com)

727.447.7600 [BeachChamber.com](http://BeachChamber.com)

# HOOTERS BEGAN HERE... 30 YEARS AGO



An Interview by  
**Bob Griffin,**  
Publisher

Hooters Restaurants got its start right here in Pinellas County. You will find two relatively new stores on the beach, in Madeira Beach (Johns Pass Village) and their newest one in Clearwater Beach near the Roundabout.

Their first ever store is located at 2800 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, just east of US 19.

It all started with six guys known the "Hooters Six." They all loved to eat and watch girls. Most of them were from the mid-West and were contractors. None of them had anything to do with the restaurant business.

They each had a certain kind of food they liked. One liked shrimp, one liked oysters and they all loved wings. "Why don't we open a place with all that here," said one of the guys, "and give it that Florida beachy atmosphere."

They searched for a location - any location. They found an old dilapidated building on Gulf to Bay. Many other restaurants had started and failed in there but they wanted to give it a go, so on April 1st, 1983, the six incorporated the concept called Hooters.

Yes, "Hooters" is related to the "owl" they use in their logo. And yes, it is also a term lovingly used when referring to a certain part of a female.

"Actually the name came from a popular sketch in the '80s by comedian, Steve Martin," says Ed Droste, one of the original six and resident of Island Estates. "What else brings a gleam to a

man's eye besides beer, chicken wings and an occasional winning football season? Hence the name, Hooters."

"The Hooters idea started in Clearwater Beach. While we were under construction on Gulf-To-Bay, I had the idea that we needed a goodlooking girl to represent us and use in our advertising," Droste went on. "In the summer of 1983, we heard that there was a major volleyball tournament being held on

Clearwater Beach, behind the Holiday Inn (now the Hilton) and Hawaiian Tropic was holding a bikini contest with it. I told the other guys that I was going to go to that event and hire whomever wins the contest."

"Lynne Austin, won the contest. I approached her with my business card. She told me she already had a job with GTE as a customer service person. The next day, she quit that job and called me. Lynne was our very first Hooters employee."

"We put Lynn on billboards, in our ads and later our Hooters calendar. Playboy Magazine saw the calendar and called to get in touch with her. She became a playmate of the month and later playmate of the year. Every time anyone talked about Lynne, they talked about Hooters."



"Hooters Six" in 1983 in front of the first Hooters Restaurant located on Gulf-to-Bay.

In 1986, they produced their first edition of the now annual Hooters Calendar. Hundreds of girls have used their job at Hooters as a springboard to successful modeling and acting careers.

In 2003, Hooters celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a big, free concert on the beach, directly behind the Hilton in Clearwater Beach. They hired Three Dog Night to play. Thousands attended.

"Its amazing that our roots are here in Clearwater Beach, and now we have a store in Clearwater Beach, which opened just last year. When you stand on the roof of that store, called 'The Lookout,' it's hard to imagine that it all started here."

Today, there are over 450 Hooters in 44 states and in 24 other countries. Out of the original "Hooters Six," four are still owners of the franchise that owns and operates all the stores in the Tampa Bay area. There are now 12 in the Tampa Bay region.

Tampa Bay Hooters sponsors many events and local charities, such as Moffit Cancer Center, the Morton Plant Mease Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the V Foundation for Cancer Research, Operation Homefront, and the Kelly Jo Dowd Breast Cancer Research.

For more information on Hooters Restaurants, visit their official web site [www.OriginalHooters.com](http://www.OriginalHooters.com). Or simply visit their closest store.



Ed Droste, one of the present owners.

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