This is the final installment in the four-part story highlighting the City of Clearwater’s history as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. If you missed a previous issue, you can read it online at www.beachnewletters.com.

The beginning of the new century brought many changes and inventions to our area. Clear Water’s first ice making plant was opened by J.N. McClung. It was a hit and led to the birth of the town’s Water Works System, when McClung ran the first water main from the ice plant to the corner of Cleveland and Ft Harrison. McClung maintained the system until the town purchased it in 1910.

By 1903, a Clear Water telephone exchange was created. 1905 brought an electric light franchise also owned by J.N. McClung, who previously brought ice and water to the area. In 1905, another big freeze hit the state’s citrus industry. Luckily for Clearwater and its peninsula, it was not nearly as bad as the 1894 freezes. The area was spared because its close proximity to the water kept it warmer.

In 1906, the town officially changed its name from Clear Water to Clearwater. The Post Office followed suit and officially became the Clearwater Post Office. About this time, Clearwater and St. Petersburg residents began to feel they received no benefits from Hillsborough County. Talk of creating a new county became common. William Straub, editor of the young St Petersburg Times, took up the cause in 1907 and using his newspaper, launched a five year fight to make Pinellas its own stand-alone county. 1910 is known for the Big Fire. Like many developing cities, Clearwater had a major fire June 24, 1910. Starting about 4am, it burned the entire north side of Cleveland Street from Ft Harrison to Osceola Avenue. Soon, the city created a Fire Department and the next year built new buildings for the City Hall and the Fire Department. In 1914, firefighting equipment was purchased “at a very large expense.”

After much debate, the state legislature allowed today’s Pinellas County to break free on January 1, 1912. It was the smallest county in Florida with only 300 square miles. Although small, it immediately became one of Florida’s leading citrus producing counties, shipping approximately a million boxes of oranges and grapefruit a year.

After a power struggle with St. Petersburg, Clearwater established the new county’s government seat when it donated the land for a courthouse. Immediately the County went to work raising taxes for new projects. The first priority was building hard surfaced roads with its first bond issue - $375,000. More followed. A year later, a $40,000 bond issue expanded the water/sewage system. Today’s water works building site was purchased and two 8-inch wells were bored. Pure water became plentiful. More bond issues passed for paving, a pier and Island Park improvements.

In 1914, a second railroad was built through Clearwater. Officially the Tampa & Gulf Coast Railroad, it commonly was referred to as the Tug & Grunt Railroad because it was not plush, fast or smooth riding. Primarily used to transport people to and from Tampa, it gave people access to the beach, and brought a crowd of vacation and retreat seeker.

The Town Council purchased land and built a brick library building with financial help from Andrew Carnegie. A group of Clearwater’s leading citizens had formed a subscription library association in 1911, but it was made free with the new library. The citizens were very proud of their new library, as a symbol of the great city they had become.

By Bob Griffin, Publisher
Photo courtesy of Clearwater Historical Society

Continued inside
CLEARWATER BEACH NEWSLETTER

LITTLE LEAGUE
John Murphy 813-486-4430
ROARY, Clearwater Beach meets every Thursday, 12:15pm at Clearwater Yacht Club
John Funk

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION
Beth Prost, President 859-802-6110
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB
Alice Jones 391-3066

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Meets first Wednesdays each month at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center
AL Zimmerman 727-593-7379

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Mary Lou, President 813-335-7770
www.Islandstates.org

ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB
Lynne McGaskill, President 430-1911

WELCOME TO OCTOBER IN CLEARWATER

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Clearwater Jazz Holiday 15-18
National Boss's Day 16
Coastal Clean Up 16
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR 517-7776
1001 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key

CATHERINE PRODUBTS, Inc. and is mailed to the entire 33767 newsletter because it is primarily
N EIG H BO RH O O D N EW SLETTER
See You Again IN OCTOBER!

This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to the entire 33767 newsletter because it is primarily
about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - a total of about 5,000 households - six times a year.
We pick you up another copy at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorly's Gourmet Deli or the Island Estates UPS store.
We want your input. How did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future issues and articles? We hope you enjoyed this issue. Call or email us with your comments, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1197, bob@griffindirectories.com

Read this issue or others at beachnewsletters.com

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17010 Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767 (Located in South Clearwater Beach - next to Sand Key Bridge)

© 2015 G riffin Productions, Inc.

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MEET LT. MONTE The Clearwater Police Department has a new Supervisor for Clearwater Beach. Lt. Valveri was promoted to Major making way for Lt. Anthony Monte to come to Clearwater Beach. Lt. Monte was born in Tarpon Springs where he worked on their police force. He has been with the Clearwater Police for 19 years, most recently working in Criminal Investigations. In addition to the beach, his territory includes Island Estates and Sand Key. Lt. Monte spent his first month going introducing himself to local businesses. You can reach Lt. Monte online at Anthony.Monte@MyClearwater.com.

BLAST FRIDAYS RETURN NEXT MONTH Blast Fridays will not be held in August due to the heat and the likelihood of rain, but plan for it to resume September 25, in conjunction with the Super Boat Races. For more information visit www.RuthEckerdHall.net.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS St Francis Day, which is also the Blessing of Animals, is October 4. Bring your cat, dog, bird, or whatever to the Clearwater Yacht Club for a blessing. Father Bob, formerly with the Calvary Episcopal Church in Indian Rocks Beach, will be on hand to give the blessings. All pets are welcome. You do not have to be a member of the Yacht Club or any church. Call the Yacht Club for information, 447-6000.

PEAK MONTH FOR TURTLE NESTING More turtles are born on our beaches during August than any other time. It is estimated the county lost 50 nests during this summer’s coastal flooding. Let’s help the remaining turtles get a good start in life, since only one out of a 1,000 survives to adulthood. Keep your night lighting under control and do not touch or shine flashlights near hatchlings. Baby sea turtles normally hatch 53 days after their eggs are laid.

DO YOU PLAY THE HARMONICA? The Gulfport Senior Citizens Harmonica Club practices at the Gulfport Senior Citizens Center from 9 to 11:45 am every Wednesday. They also perform in the center’s cafeteria every third Wednesday, 10:45 to 11:45. Anyone interested in learning how to play the harmonica or in joining the club, call Howard Kattsten at 727-363-8015.

DOG DAYS OF AUGUST Pinellas County Animal Services celebrates the month of August by offering a reduced adoption fee of $25 on large dogs and cats and $40 for puppies (under four months) and small breeds during normal shelter adoption hours. The fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, internal and external parasite control, heartworm testing and feline leukemia testing and micro chipping. Call 582-2600.

CENTENNIAL MONUMENT The City unveiled the new 48-foot tall entryway Centennial Monument on the east end of Gulf to Bay, at the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Constructed in honor of the City’s centennial milestone of incorporation on May 27, 1915, it is inscribed with “Welcome to Clearwater” and features an illuminated centennial logo near the base and a 4-foot sun globe at the top with up-lighting. The project cost $576,000.

“The City is proud to unveil this monument which commemorates Clearwater’s history,” says Mayor George Cretellos. “It will be a beacon welcoming all to our community and our home, today and for years to come.”

NEW FALL FOOD EVENT Billed as Tampa Bay’s ultimate wine and food experience, St. Pete Wine and Food Fest is being planned in St. Pete’s Beach Drive area September 24-27. Tickets are being sold for individual events, or for the entire four days. Visit StPeteWineandFoodFest.com.

PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE We want to know what you think about our Newsletter. What do you like? What would you like us to include? Would you like to see changes? The online survey is posted at www.BeachNewsletters.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL POOL PARTY The Clearwater Beach Aquatic Center will host its final Pool Party of the summer, Friday, August 21 beginning at 7pm. The cost of the party is normal pool admission, which includes refreshments and games. The City Pool will be open with limited hours into October.

RECYCLE ALUMINUM Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames and lawn furniture can also be recycled. There is no limit to the amount of times aluminum can be recycled. We consume the contents of over 80 million aluminum cans every year and over 100,000 aluminum cans are recycled each minute. In 2010 that amounted to 93 billion cans, not even 1%. A used aluminum can, can be recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That’s closed loop recycling at its finest! Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gas.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN OCTOBER Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.
**CLEARWATER HISTORY**, continued

Congress appropriated $29,000 to dredge Clearwater and Boca Ciega bays and when completed in 1915, there was a five-foot deep channel from Cleveland Street to Tampa Bay. After the channel was cut, the Clearwater Golf Club, the first public golf course, opened on three miles from downtown on Safety Harbor Road. It began with only nine holes and a small clubhouse. Plans to build another nine holes once they organized as a local golf club. It soon had 150 members.

In 1914, some of the town leaders and spiritual citizens had begun to envision their small town as a big city. They wrote a new charter, calling a meeting at the town hall and nominated a charter board. "These men labored long and faithfully, and evolved an excellent charter which was submitted to the citizens for a vote," stated Women’s Club writers. A special election was held and the new charter carried by a strong majority, 131 out of 140 men were in favor of forming a new city. The new city officially incorporated on May 27, 1915.

The new charter allowed for "municipal suffrage" for women, meaning women would be allowed to vote for the first time in the next election. October 23, 1916, Miss Sue Barco was the first woman to vote in Clearwater, followed by another twenty-four. That election appropriated $10,000 to build a bridge across Clearwater Bay to the island on the Gulf. It started at the west end of Seminole Street near the Water Works Park.

"The new bridge gives easy access to the gulf beach, which is a pleasure to both residents and tourists," the Women’s Club announced after the election. "The surf is very safe and surf bathing may be indulged in both summer and winter.

For many years, Active Club women have been campaigning for a community hospital and began collecting for a hospital fund. Morton Plant, son of the late Henry Plant who owned the Belleview Hotel, offered to guarantee the project by donating the seed money. A foundation was created with $100,000 and an understanding that the city and the women’s committee would raise the rest. With much fanfare, the first building opened in 1916.

"It is one of the most beautiful and up to date hospitals in Florida," proudly stated the Woman’s Club. "Situated on beautiful grounds, overlooking the bay, it is an ideal place. The only drawback is the people of Clearwater are so healthy, they seldom require the services of a hospital." It was named Morton Plant Hospital after the man who helped get it built.

By 1916, Clearwater’s population was about 3,000 people. But during tourist season, its population almost doubled. "There were five hotels, many boarding houses, two garages and two well-constructed picture shows," says the Woman’s Club writers. The city had "six citrus packing houses, two banks, a cigar factory, two retail stores, a fish warehouse, one bottling company, a novelty works, two lumber yards, an electric shop and many other minor business concerns".

"In regards to healthfulness, nature has done a great deal to make it one of the most sanitary cities in the state. Situated on the bluffs, thirty feet off the water, its elevation affords excellent drainage and makes adequate sewage possible. With the help of Clearwater is now at a standard where it enjoys a state-wide reputation for cleanliness and good health."
Restaurant News…

**BACKWATERS VOTED BEST HAPPY HOUR**
The readers of the Beach Bee voted Backwater’s Grill in Sand Key, as the Best Happy Hour in the area. Happy Hour lasts from 2 to 7pm with lots of food, such as oysters, at happy hour prices. They are also celebrating their 15th year in Sand Key this month and will celebrate Wednesday, August 19 with a Southern Bait from 5-7pm. Backwater’s Grill is located in the Shoppes of Sand Key.

**CRABBY’S ROUNDBOUT**
Crabby Bill’s has had a store on the corner of the marina for 13 years. The city owns the land and two-story building, and plans to tear it down next year. Crabby Bill’s has been granted a new 30-year lease for the property and after demolition, they will build a 3-story building and reopen as one of the two Crabby Bill’s on Clearwater Beach.

**PROINO BREAKFAST CLUB #3**
The newest Proino’s is still under construction on the south side of Clearwater Beach in the strip shopping center between The Reef and Cesar’s on the Beach. Once open, it will be a great breakfast and lunch spot. The owner has two Longo locations, one on West Bay and the other on Walsingham Rd. just east of the Indian Rocks Beach.

**EAT, DRINK AND PAINT**
Cooter’s Restaurant will be hosting a monthly make-it and take-it art class on Thursday nights, beginning September 17. Held in the Sports Bar area, there is only room for 30 painters per session. There will be food, wine and other drink specials. The cost is $35 and painters should arrive by 6:30pm. “I am excited about this new, fun event, says Carol Mears, Cooter’s owner. “I am hoping to do this monthly.” Get more information at www.cooters.com or call 422-2668.

**TASTE OF ITALY**
This new gelato store near Gondolier Plaza is now open. They specialize in gelato, but also offer sandwiches and coffee drinks.

**DAIRY QUEEN OPEN**
The new Dairy Queen at 22 Bay Esplanade, behind the Speedway, is now open. They have more than ice cream and shakes; stop by for a hot dog and more. The new store is owned by John and Lisa Sgro.

**SALTY PROGRESS**
The new Salty’s on the south end of the reef is still under construction. Owned by the same people who own the two Clearwater Beach Crabby Bill’s, it is located across the street from the new Opal Resort. They hope to be open by the time the resort opens. “We already have the menu ready,” the owners say. “We are ready to go as soon as we get our final permits.”

**TASTE OF CLEARWATER CHANGES**
The restaurant event sponsored by the Regional Chamber of Commerce, has moved the date and location of the event. This year, the 26th Annual Taste of Clearwater will be Thursday, October 1, at the Holy Trinity Greek Church located at 409 Coachman Road. Admission is $25 for members or $35 for non-members. Once inside, the food is free. Find more information at www.ClearwaterFlorida.org or call Rachel 461-0011 (x 229).

More Restaurant News…

**BEST BREAKFAST**
Maggie Mae’s wants to thank their customers for voting them “Best Breakfast” in the area by readers of The Belleair Bee. Stop by for one of their great breakfasts or lunches in The Shoppes of Sand Key, next to the Columbia. They open at 7am.

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**MARINA CANTINA PROGRESS**
Everyone is still watching the progress of the new Marina Cantina Restaurant on the roof of the Marina Office Building. The many delays stem from the 30 year old building’s poor condition. All of its plumbing and electrical systems had to be replaced and upgraded while the building was brought up to current standards. Frank Chivas and the B aystar Group are now moving full speed ahead and now they hope to be open by the end of the year.
**Business Briefs...**

**GOOD NEWS FOR PET LOVERS**  
Based in Clearwater, Charlotte Parsons’ All Things Living pet sitting service offers an alternative to boarding your pet. Feel good knowing your pet is in the safest environment - their own home! All it takes is a free half hour interview to create a permanent record of your pet & home. Then, reservations are made with a quick phone call. In addition, Charlotte will bring in your mail and newspaper giving your home an occupied look and even water your house plants. Your pet’s lifestyle will go uninterrupted and you will have peace of mind whether you are planning a vacation, called out of town on business or an emergency, or just have to work late. Charlotte is licensed, bonded and insured. Find out more about her business at www.PetSittingPinellas.com or call her at 727-441-4749.

**THE SPOT MOVED**  
We printed the Spot Salon moved to Belleair Bluffs’ next to Bonetish Grill. That is only half true. The salon moved, but Linda “Lou” Jackson moved to Shear Delight Salon, at 80 Indian Rocks Road S, behind William Dean Chocolates. You can call her at 727-598-6125.

**THE REEL DEAL NEW OWNERS**  
The 36’ deep sea charter boat based in Clearwater Beach’s Municipal Marina, has proud new owners Captain Steve and Heather Hunsucker. Capt. Steve, who grew up on Indian Rocks Beach, has been mating and captaining fishing charters out of Clearwater since 2007. The Reel Deal runs half and full day deep sea private trips of 6 passengers or less, taking everything from red and gag grouper, spanish and king mackerel, hogfish, snapper, amberjack, tuna, sheeps, and more. Visit griffindirectories.com to book a trip or call Steve at (727) 678-0118.

**AWARDS**  
For the second time within a month, ProVise has been recognized as one of the largest independent financial planning organizations in the United States. Based on total assets under management, Financial Advisor magazine ranked ProVise as the 182nd largest Registered Investment Advisor in the country, 7th largest in Florida, and largest on the West Coast of Florida. Last month, Financial Times placed ProVise on its Top 300 list of financial planning firms in the United States. Founded in 1986, the financial planning and investment management firm is located in Clearwater and New Port Richey. They serve almost 1,000 clients in over 36 states. According to the ranking, ProVise’s average client has about $1.24 million invested with the firm, but they accept clients with as little as $25,000.

**NEW CLOTHING STORE**  
Pacific Clothing, a casual men and women’s clothing store recently opened on the north end of the beach at 490 Mandalay, near Clear Sky. They specialize in beachy stuff.

**CLOSED**  
Fashion Cleaners, 132 Island Way, by Public.

**WE WANT YOUR NEWS**  
Are you moving, expanding or planning an event at your business? We want to know. If you have news or story suggestions, email them to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 727-517-1997.

**SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF LIGHTED BEACHES**  
by Rick Hansen, M.S. Biologist and Co-Manager of the Sea Turtle Conservancy’s Lighting Project

There are three species of endangered and threatened sea turtles that commonly nest in Florida and they are all face an uphill battle. In addition to natural threats, there are many human-caused impacts to sea turtles. One of the biggest that occurs on the beach is poorly-managed lighting. Sea turtles are usually on the beach at night and look for the brightest part of the horizon to locate the ocean. In the past, this has always been the moon and star light shining off the water. With a darker dune in one direction and a brighter ocean in the other, finding the water used to be easy. However, the introduction of coastal development has changed our night-time landscape. Landward sources of artificial light confuse adults resulting in lower nesting success and disorient hatchlings causing them to crawl towards buildings and parking lots instead of the ocean. Many of these animals will die from exhaustion or predators. The good news is there are simple solutions to manage artificial light near the beach.

In Florida, most of our local governments on the coast have laws that prohibit lights from shining on the beach. If you are standing on the beach and you can see the source of light coming from a beachside property then it is probably in violation of your code and a problem for sea turtles. Instead of waiting for a warning letter or enforcement of these codes, there are steps property owners can take to keep their lights off the beach while still providing safety for themselves and their guests. The first is to lower the light fixture so that it is blocked by natural or artificial barriers. The second is to shield the light within a fixture so the source of light is no longer visible and the light is aimed downward where it needs to be. And the third is to use longer wavelength bulbs such as amber, orange or red LEDs. These types of lights are minimally disruptive to sea turtles and other wildlife, save money on energy costs and last much longer than standard incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. You can learn more about the effects of artificial light and retrofitting fixtures to make them safe for sea turtles by going to the Sea Turtle Conservancy’s website at www.conserveturtles.org or by visiting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) website at myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/sea-turtles.

Mass and Associates  
Construction has their name on many construction jobs throughout the area. The Opal Hotel and Resort on South Gulf Blvd. is just one of them. It has fully topped out at 15 floors.  
Project Manager Brooke May, has been in construction for since 2003. She has been with Mass for three and a half years and oversees 13 employees and 37 subcontractors. The job has over 300 workers on site. “She is an incredible project manager,” says one of her assistants. The hotel is on schedule for a January 2016 opening.
An Interview by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Sometimes when you play, you get the feeling you are witnessing greatness in the making. I had that feeling the first time I heard The Ries Brothers at a local bar.

The Ries Brothers, young musicians who are clearly moving up the music industry ladder both locally and nationally, live in Belleair Bluffs. The Tampa Bay Times just recently named them one of the Top 10 local bands of 2015.

Charlie (19) and Kevin (16) are brothers. When you meet them, you might even think they are twins. They are the same height with the same hairstyles and act like typical teenagers. Kevin, the front man plays the guitar and provides background vocals. Charlie, plays three instruments, he is usually in the back on the drums, playing bass on the keyboard and singing — all at the same time!

The brothers have music in their blood. Three of their grandparents were musicians in Chicago. “Both the boys started playing the piano at six,” says mom and band manager Jennifer. “The boys picked it up from day one and have since added many other instruments to their repertoire.”

In addition to music, they play a lot of sports, so when you approach their house, you see the typical teenage things — baseball equipment, skateboard, and even a skim board. But inside, the house is like being in a Hard Rock Café. Signed guitars are mounted on the walls. There are framed album covers and photos of famous musicians everywhere. The living room has a grand piano, a dozen guitars, several amps and microphones set to their height.

Their first real performance was at the BeachWalk Crabby Bill’s in Clearwater Beach. Their first paid job was May 27, 2012, at the Crabby Bill’s Loading Dock in Indian Rocks Beach when Kevin was only 13. The boys have played at Call Dawg, Sea breeze Island Grill, Quacker Steak & Lube, Fox Jazz Club, and other local establishments. On a larger level, the Ries performed at the Capitol Theatre, Ruth Eckerd Hall, The Mahaffey, The Coliseum, Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Vinoy Park, Van’s Warped Tour, Tampa’s Hard Rock Cafe, The Stroz Center, Blast Friday, First Friday and The Florida Strawberry Festival.

In 2013, they became the youngest lead-in act to a headliner at the Clearwater Jazz Holiday where they opened for Chicago. When asked which has been their most memorable concert, they both agreed it is Ryman’s Auditorium in Nashville, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry. “To play a place like that, where some of music’s most famous have played, gives you the chills,” says Charlie. “Even Elvis played there.”

What is amazing is their selection of music. It is the music from the 1970s and ’80s including Led Zeppelin, The Who, Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd and even the Beatles. This is music that was popular years before they were born. How did they learn it and why do they perform it?

“My father was a great influence on us in the beginning,” says Kevin. “We listened to whatever he listened to, then we learned to play those songs.” But their versions began to deviate from the originals, as they began adding their own special twists. They have a new album due out soon. A shorter, 3-song mix tape, which will be ready for sale at the August show. After the show, they are off to Asbury, N.J. to play with Vini Lopez, Bruce Springsteen’s original drummer. He is a Rock-N-Roll Hall of Fame drummer and founding member of the E Street Band.

Now, bigger shows and touring have left the brothers with no time for school or the local pub scene. Previously, they attended Shorecrest Preparatory, but as the demands of rehearsing and performances have increased, the brothers enrolled in virtual schooling to finish their education.

“I remember when the brothers first started playing at Crabby’s three years ago,” Paula Jenkins from Crabby Bill’s said. “People would comment on how well they played considering how young they were. Charlie & Kevin are talented beyond their years. It is great to see how they’ve grown as entertainers and performers. I used to hear ‘the Ries brothers are good for how young they are.’ Today, people are more likely to say ‘the Ries Brothers are awesome performers’ without mentioning their age as a qualifier for their talents.”

“We enjoy our relationship with the entire family and we are proud of what they are accomplishing. We hope as their star continues to rise, they will come back and play a few sets at our little venue even if we have to hire crowd control,” Jenkins says smiling.

Learn more about the Ries Brothers on their website, www.RiesBrothers.com. You can also find them on Facebook and YouTube.
E&E Stakeout Grill celebrates 30 years in the Bluffs

By Bob Griffin, Publisher
Owners Eugen Fuhrmann and Chef Erwin Scheuringer opened E&E Stakeout Grill in Belleair Bluffs' Plaza 100 in 1985, but the restaurant started with a different name, originally, it was called Eugen’s Restaurant. Fuhrmann got the restaurant started in Bermuda where he owned The Lobster Pot Restaurant in Hamilton, Bermuda’s capital. Scheuringer was the restaurant’s chef.

In the mid-1970s, Fuhrmann moved to Florida and in 1978 he opened The Lobster Pot Restaurant in Redington Shores. Scheuringer was the Chef there, too.

Fuhrmann and Scheuringer opened a second restaurant in 1985 inside a small space in The Plaza of Belleair Bluffs. It was called Eugen’s Restaurant of Belleair Bluffs. Seven years later, in 1992, the pair reopened Indian Rocks Beach’s La Cave Restaurant as Guppy’s On The Beach. Scott Bebel was brought in as the Sous Chef. Today, he is a partner.

In 1995, the restaurant was remodeled and opened with its new southwestern theme and new name, E&E Stakeout Grill. E&E was derived from the partners names, Eugen and Chef Erwin – E & E. Since then, E&E Stakeout Grill has always been a special part of our local community. In addition to donating gift certificates to area charities, they are regularly support the local charitable organizations, groups, and schools.

Learn more about E&E Stakeout today on their website, www.3bestChefs.com. Find them in The Plaza Shopping Center at 100 Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs. Reservations are recommended by calling 385-6399 or booking online and through Open Table.

Egg - bigger, fresher!

Classic Club Sandwich

Chef Erwin Scheuringer in front of E&E Stakeout Grill

CASA, a leading Tampa Bay area domestic violence center, has opened the doors to their newly constructed 100-bed shelter. This facility will triple their capacity to provide emergency housing and services to families escaping violence.

“Survivors seek shelter for many reasons, the need for safety being top priority,” said CASA’s Acting Executive Director Shandra Riffey. “CASA provides a safe haven, job assistance, children’s programs, information, referrals and so much more. This shelter provides a holistic approach to removing barriers for survivors, their children and their pets.”

Why open a new $12 million dollar facility with $2.5 million in annual operating costs? Overwhelming community need and necessity. Since 2000, 18% of all homicides in Pinellas County were due to domestic violence and over 120 domestic violence offenses are recorded by our local police each week.

While CASA’s previous shelter was a source of refuge for countless families, lack of space and resources forced them to turn away 1,400 survivors of domestic violence each year. This was a statistic CASA’s staff could not carry on their conscience. The decision was made to build a new shelter matching the magnitude of the epidemic of violence. “At first it was a daunting task to take on such a large project, but the community has been stepping up to help open doors to a safer future for survivors of domestic violence,” said Tuesdi Dyer, CASA’s Development Director. “People just get it. This shelter is a necessity and the community is clearly committed to sustaining this vital place of refuge for decades to come.”

Behind the fresh paint and energized volunteers are a mortgage and operating expenses that have grown to match the organization’s expanded services but, many organizations face a drop in new donations immediately after construction of a new facility. One local philanthropic organization is making sure this will not be the case for CASA. How? With a $1 million dollar challenge. Yesterday, the Sonia Raymond Foundation announced that it will match new donations to CASA’s capital campaign, dollar for dollar.

“I know that not everyone can write a check for a million dollars. I happen to be one of the lucky ones,” said Sonia Raymond, Foundation Director. “But CASA needs the money. I ask you to give, and give big, because I am prepared to write a check for up to a million dollars.”

With the newly announced donation matching program, CASA is within reach of completely paying off its remaining construction costs, potentially saving millions of dollars in interest payments over the life of the mortgage. All donations to CASA’s shelter will be doubled automatically under the new program, until the $1 million matching fund is depleted. Please donate at www.casa-stpete.org/shelter, by calling (727) 895-4912, or by mailing a check with “Shelter” written in the memo line to PO. Box 414, St. Petersburg, FL 33731. People seeking information on available naming opportunities are encouraged to contact John Bienziger at jbienziger@casa-stpete.org or (727) 895-4912 x 105.

CASA, Community Action Stops Abuse, has been providing lifesaving services to women, men, and children living with domestic violence since 1977.

Often the slightest changes make the biggest impact.

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We are the only practice to offer the Bodyscopic Sizing System - giving you the ability to try on different sizes and preview your new look.

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CASA'S CAPACITY TO PROTECT SURVIVORS TRIPLES

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER TRIPLES CASA’S CAPACITY TO PROTECT SURVIVORS

CASA, a leading Tampa Bay area domestic violence center, has opened the doors to their newly constructed 100-bed shelter. This facility will triple their capacity to provide emergency housing and services to families escaping violence.

“Survivors seek shelter for many reasons, the need for safety being top priority,” said CASA’s Acting Executive Director Shandra Riffey. “CASA provides a safe haven, job assistance, children’s programs, information, referrals and so much more. This shelter provides a holistic approach to removing barriers for survivors, their children and their pets.”

Why open a new $12 million dollar facility with $2.5 million in annual operating costs? Overwhelming community need and necessity. Since 2000, 18% of all homicides in Pinellas County were due to domestic violence and over 120 domestic violence offenses are recorded by our local police each week.

While CASA’s previous shelter was a source of refuge for countless families, lack of space and resources forced them to turn away 1,400 survivors of domestic violence each year. This was a statistic CASA’s staff could not carry on their conscience. The decision was made to build a new shelter matching the magnitude of the epidemic of violence. “At first it was a daunting task to take on such a large project, but the community has been stepping up to help open doors to a safer future for survivors of domestic violence,” said Tuesdi Dyer, CASA’s Development Director. “People just get it. This shelter is a necessity and the community is clearly committed to sustaining this vital place of refuge for decades to come.”

Behind the fresh paint and energized volunteers are a mortgage and operating expenses that have grown to match the organization’s expanded services but, many organizations face a drop in new donations immediately after construction of a new facility. One local philanthropic organization is making sure this will not be the case for CASA. How? With a $1 million dollar challenge. Yesterday, the Sonia Raymond Foundation announced that it will match new donations to CASA’s capital campaign, dollar for dollar.

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In observance of its 50th anniversary, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), St. Petersburg and the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society plan to publish a collection of 120 recipes from Stuart Society members, staff, doctors, artists, collectors, cultural and civic leaders, as well as chefs and others in the Tampa Bay community. Recipes range from splashy party dishes to vegetarian main dishes to simple weeknight dinners, with chapters that include: Starters, Drinks, Brunch, Soups, Pastas, Salads, Pizza, Meats, Seafood, Vegetables and Sweets. The beautiful book, worthy of the MFA’s aesthetic standards, will also highlight selected works from its collections.

BELLEAIR MEMBER COMES UP BIG IN U.S. AMATEUR GOLF

Belleair Country Club golf member Taylor Hancock finished first in the U.S. Amateur qualifying round. On July 6 and 7, Hancock won the U.S. Amateur Qualifying Tournament at Fox Hollow Golf Club in Trinity, Fla., with a score of 66-67. The U.S. Amateur tournament is open to amateur golfers with a U.S. Golf Association handicap index of 2.4 or lower. All qualifiers are scheduled to play at Olympia Fields in Chicago from August 17 to 23. There is a 36-hole stroke play qualifying round that will advance players to match play. In 2013, Hancock made it to the match play portion, bowing to the number one seeded player that year.

On July 3, Hancock also made it to the semifinals of the North-South Amateur on the coveted Pinehurst number two course, but eventually lost to the number one seed, George Cunningham, by a 2 and 1 margin.

The young Hancock has been a member at BCC since he was a child. He began golf in Belleair Country Club’s Lil Tikes Junior Clinics and Junior Golf Camps as a 3-year old and has been at the game ever since. “He was virtually unbeatable as a young junior,” said Belleair’s PGA Director of Golf, Jim Slattery. “He loved to practice, and he still does now. It certainly is paying off.”

Hancock is headed for Chicago to take on Chicago Golf Club, America’s oldest course, and then to Olympia Fields Golf Club to try to win the world’s most coveted amateur title, the U.S. Amateur Championship.

In other Belleair Country Club news, the Belleair Breakers swim team placed third in the Private Club League PCL championship. The swim team is comprised of more than 60 kids ranging in age from 5-18.

“IT’S GREAT TO SEE THESE TALENTED ATHLETES WHO REPRESENT OUR HOMELESS, HUNGRY OR DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE!”

The 36th Anniversary Clearwater Jazz Holiday, now in its 36th year, brings some of the best live performances in the world presented to the public.

The world’s most famous jazz festival continues its exciting collaboration with Ruth Eckerd Hall to bring an amazing and diverse lineup of headliners to Clearwater in 2015 along with celebrating the 100th Centennial Celebration of the City of Clearwater.

Presented in the 20-acre landscaped Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater overlooking Clearwater Harbor and the majestic Memorial Causeway Bridge, the Jazz Holiday is four days/nights of some of the best live performances in the world presented to the public.

One of the longest-running and best known jazz events in the country, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday has presented in concert multiple luminaries of our generation. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation’s mission is to be the leading proponent of jazz entertainment and education in Florida through the annual presentation of a world-class, live music festival.

The 501c3 organization has been center-stage for numerous scholarship and educational activities benefiting our community’s music students, from blues-loving beginners to piano-playing protégés, and everyone in between.

The magic of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday emanates from its long-time collaboration with the City of Clearwater, Ruth Eckerd Hall, and hundreds of volunteers that orchestrate every chord of the Jazz Holiday, a celebration of the most recognized and emerging national, regional, and local artists. From smooth and straight ahead jazz, rhythm and blues, jam band, folk, Americana, funk, fusion, and Latin, thousands of music lovers always relish in a colorful and diverse musical lineup.

Tickets On-Sale NOW starting at $15 in advance. Children 12 and under are FREE. Limited Reserved Seating and VIP tickets are also available. For more information about the 36th Clearwater Jazz Holiday, call the Clearwater Jazz Holiday office at (727) 461-5200, or visit us online at ClearwaterJazz.com or facebook.com/ClearwaterJazz

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www.ClearwaterBeachRotary.org

36TH ANNIVERSARY CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY

Now in its 36th year, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Presented by HCB Group Inc. is thrilled to present, in concert, between October 15 and 18, 2015: Gladys Knight & The O’Jays, Sheryl Crow, Buddy Guy, The Avett Brothers and more to be announced! The Clearwater Jazz Holiday continues its exciting collaboration with Ruth Eckerd Hall to bring an amazing and diverse lineup of headliners to Clearwater in 2015 along with celebrating the 100th Centennial Celebration of the City of Clearwater.

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RCS GRANDE GALA

Join in the fun during a snazzy fundraiser, RCS Grande Gala! St. Petersburg & Fellas. RCS is a non-profit providing hope and help to Pinellas County neighbors who are homeless, hungry or dealing with domestic abuse! This new fall event joins the annual RCS event roster thanks to the generosity of founding sponsor Alexias Sharoky, Executive Director of the Sharoky Family Foundation.

Mark your calendars now for Oct. 10, 2015! Join Celebrity Hosts 10 News Ashley Baty and Tampa Bay Times Ernest Hooper at RCS’s 1st Annual Grande Gala from 7 - 11 pm. Enjoy a swanky speakeasy, live auction for a Hyundai Elantra, fab raffle items, Charleston dancers, delectable food,ousing spirits and more. The event will be at Banquet Master’s Grand Gatsby Theater Ballroom.

Tickets are on sale now, online, over the phone (727-584-3528) or from the Gala committee. $35/person, $500/2 people includes VIP pre-party 6-7 p.m. Visit www.RCSpinellas.org/GrandeGala or email GrandeGala@RCSpinellas.org.

Want to provide a raffle item? Contact Grande Gala event chair Devin Pappas devinbpappas@gmail.com.
were the two big things.” All of this was going on during the country’s greatest recession in recent history.

Resort. The second ongoing wave includes the new Wyndham Grand, Opal Resort and others still in the planning or early construction phase.

“We have some of the most talented city employees of any U.S. city. They are respectful of the needs and comments of residents, as well as businesses.”

“Contrary to what you may have heard, I have no plans to retire. I serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Council. I enjoy what I am doing and what we are achieving on a daily basis. I look forward to Clearwater’s future as well as my City Manager Bill Horne lives in the east side of Clearwater with his wife Loretta. Horne has served three mayors, Brian Aungst (1999-2004), Frank Hibbard (2005-2011) and now George Cretekos (beginning in 2012). Here is what they have to say about their time with him:

“Bill Horne has devoted himself to serving the citizens of Clearwater and their elected representatives. He is responsive to our requests and thorough in his recommendations. He is a steady helmsman, and as Mayor, I look forward to continuing to work with him.” Mayor George Cretekos.

One of the many groundbreaking ceremonies Horne has attended over the last fifteen years while serving as Clearwater’s City Manager.

“Bill has led with integrity and proved to be a very stable and reliable force in the city for almost two decades, as an assistant City Manager and the City Manager. Clearwater is fortunate because the position can be a revolving door, yet Bill has become a part of the fabric of Clearwater and his fingerprints will be on the City for decades after he has retired, that is a great legacy!”

Frank Hibbard, Former Clearwater Mayor, now Senior Vice President Financial Advisor Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.
Social Security Test
How Much Do You Know?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Several people called after our first article on Social Security with questions. Maybe one of the best ways to help understand Social Security is to ask some questions. The answers are at the end, but please “no peeking”.

1) Full retirement age for Social Security benefits today is: a) 70 b) 66 c) 65 d) 62

2) How many years do you need to be married to receive a spousal (even from an ex-spouse) benefit? a) just get married b) 5 c) 10 d) 20

3) Approximately how much is your Social Security benefit reduced if you start at age 62? a) 50% b) 33.3% c) 25% d) 10%

4) Instead of taking your benefit at full retirement age, how much will your benefit increase each year by waiting (no later than age 70)? a) by cost of living b) 8% c) 5% d) 3%

5) If you keep working past age 70, is it possible for your Social Security benefit to increase? True or False?

6) Under normal circumstances, the earliest you can start Social Security is: a) full retirement age b) 65 c) 62 d) 60

Answers:

1) Age 66. It gradually increases to age 67 in 2027.

2) You qualify after 10 years of marriage. You may receive your benefit, or 50% of your spouse’s benefit, whichever is higher. Suppose your benefit is $1000 monthly and your spouse’s benefit is $2400 monthly. 50% of her/his benefit ($1200) is higher, so you can take the spousal benefit.

3) Each month you start Social Security prior to full retirement age reduces your benefit. At age 62, your benefit is reduced by about 25%.

4) 8%. Suppose that your benefit is $2000 per month at age 66. The benefit increases by $160 per month each year that you delay. Thus, at age 70 the monthly benefit will be $2640 per month.

5) True. Your Social Security benefit is calculated based on the highest 35 years of earnings. If you earn more after age 70 that was greater than one of your previous highest 35 years, the lower number is eliminated and replaced by the higher year.

6) Under normal (retirement) circumstances the earliest age is 62.

How did you do? Options for Social Security are numerous and complicated. Decisions are generally irrevocable. You cannot afford a mistake.

If you would like to discuss your Social Security options, we will prepare a report at no cost or obligation. Ask for Evelyn at extension 204. We are conveniently located at 611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105 in Clearwater. Call 727-441-9022 or email at info@provise.com.

Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE ELENA

By Bob Griffin, Publisher
Friday, August 31st, 1985 was the beginning of Labor Day weekend. If you lived on a barrier island in Pinellas, you were told to evacuate that night, for Hurricane Elena. Hurricane Elena was the first major hurricane of the 1985 season. Moving off Africa on August 23rd, it developed into a tropical depression near Cuba and quickly strengthened. Within five days it became a hurricane and moved toward Pinellas County. As a Category 2 storm, it stalled, going nowhere, and just sat, spining 80 miles off the Pinellas County coast. Pinellas Emergency managers watched it closely since a Category 2 or 3 storm would bring high water, high winds and lots of damage if it came ashore. After about 24 hours an evacuation was ordered. Because it was a holiday weekend, communications were a problem. The Pinellas County Commission issues County Evacuation orders but that night, only two Commissioners could be located. Assistant County Administrator Bob LaSala issued the Emergency Order. On Saturday, at 4:35 am, the Governor activated the National Guard in Pinellas County. Elena’s unpredictable movements forced the largest evacuation in history of the U.S. Half a million people from Sarasota to Louisiana evacuated. 300,000 people in Pinellas are estimated to have evacuated. Additionally, three hospitals and 19 nursing homes with 1,860 nursing residents were evacuated. Because of the massive evacuation, the storm has no documented storm related deaths.

Over 113,000 people went to one of the 70 open shelters which were filled beyond their capacities. Tyrone Square Mall over 113,000 people went to one of the 70 open shelters which were filled beyond their capacities. Tyrone Square Mall expected 3,500 but 3,740 showed up. Which were filled beyond their capacities. Tyrone Square Mall was one of the 70 open shelters which were filled beyond their capacities. Tyrone Square Mall expected 5,000 people but 9,200 showed up.

Seminole Middle School expected 3,500 but 3,740 showed up. The Red Cross managed 6,500 people at their various shelters and admits that they were overwhelmed. The storm caused a total of $1.25 billion in property damage and beach erosion. 256 homes in Pinellas were either destroyed or made inhabitable. Over 7,000 mobile homes were destroyed. At the time, they estimated it would take up to ten years to replenish the beaches.

Besides the homes along our beach being damaged or ruined, what most people in the area remember is losing the Indian Rocks Beach Pier. One of Indian Rocks’ best-known attractions, the storm knocked it down. Flooding was a big problem. In addition to the rain (5.5 inches in Clearwater, the hurricane produced a 6 foot storm surge along the Pinellas Beaches. The tides in Tampa Bay were 7 feet above normal. By the time the storm reached the Florida Panhandle, its storm surge was 10 feet.

The storm eventually moved northwest and made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi as a Category 3 hurricane. Peak winds were 125 MPH. At 5pm on Sunday, Governor Graham lifted the evacuation order. This caused new problems as cities used different re-entry procedures. Evacuees were frustrated by security check-points that would not allow them access to homes in damaged areas.

The name Elena was retired in the spring of 1986 and will never be used again. It is the only Atlantic storm name to be retired without causing any direct casualties.

Elena is still among the costliest Atlantic hurricanes. The damage totals in Pinellas ($1.95 billion) were:  Indian Rocks Beach - $10,305,000, Belleair Shore - $4,980,800, Indian Shores - $4,075,000, Clearwater - $3,835,000, Belleair Beach - $2,520,000.

New Pedestrian Crossings

It has taken a few years, but Sand Key now has eight safer places to cross Gulf Blvd thanks in part, to the efforts of Arlene Musselwhite, former President of the Sand Key Civic Association.

In May, sixteen lighted crosswalk signs were installed at eight designated places in Sand Key. Called pedestrian flashing Beacons, they are pedestrian activated warning signs. People having to push the button for them to work. Cars are required to stop when the lights are blinking and people are in the crosswalks. They were paid for when the County received a $250,000 safety grant in March from DOT covering the cost of the lights. The City of Clearwater installed the new signs while Pinellas County supplied the flashing lights.

“Traffic has been a critical need for greater safety near Gulf Blvd, for our citizens and our tourists,” said Musselwhite, “I knew we needed to do more to make our island safer for everyone.”

Similar devices have been installed north and south of Sand Key, in north Clearwater Beach, Belleair, Indian Shores, Indian Rocks and cities to south.

The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce is trying to add the two-side yellow flashing lighted signs to eight cross walks on Clearwater Beach within the next three years.

Heritage Village Fall Events

Blackpot Gourmet - September 5 and October 3 Learn the fine art of blackpot cooking at Heritage Village, where you will learn to cook a variety of delicious dishes during this three-hour experience. Classes are limited to only ten people and cost $30. Reservations are required at least two weeks prior. Call 582-2123 if you are interested.

34th Country Jubilee - October 24, 10am to 4pm There will be non-stop music performed by local groups and more than 100 craft volunteers lining the walkway in and around the park, plus the grand opening of the McKay Creek Boat Shop! This is a good place to find those unique Christmas gifts. This event is FREE.

Boating Safety Classes

The Coast Guard Auxiliary in Clearwater is offering Safe Boating Classes at Morton Plant Hospital in the Creek-Powell Pavilion building, 453 Pinellas Street, Second Floor. Unlike some internet courses, the ABS Class is taught by certified USCGAUX instructors who can answer your questions and share their experiences about our local waters. Topics include: Boating Emergencies, Know Your Boat, Getting Underway, Navigating, Operating Your Boat Safely and Legal Requirements. All graduates receive a Florida State Certification Card. Classes are held on the second weekend of each month.

All About Boat Safety Course - $35, September 12-13 and October 10-11. Other classes offered through out the year. For more information, call 467-8893.

414 Years of great seafood, steaks and waterfront dining. Join us soon!
Jackson is out of prison now and forgiven the man who falsely accused him and whose recantation set him free. How do you forgive something so wrong? Start small, Fred Luskin, senior consultant in health promotion at Stanford University told PBS, “Forgiveness can start small. Practice on the small things in your life: The next time you get mad at anybody for a triviality, practice forgiving them. Make it a conscious choice to let it go and notice how good it feels. When you’re mad at somebody, ask yourself: ‘Is it worth it to me right now to suffer?’ Ask someone who’s practiced forgiveness. They’ll give you a glowing report about its value in your life. Don’t just take my word for it.”

Recently, the people who spoke at the bond hearing for Dylann Roof,1 accused of killing nine people at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., offered Roof forgiveness, even as they described their pain. Nadine Collier, whose mother was killed, told Roof: “You took something very precious from me. I will never talk to her again. I will never be able to hold her again. I will forgive you.”

When forgiveness seems nearly impossible, I have found prayer can make the difference. Sometimes I think of prayer as a two-step process: a humbling and quieting of the human mind, in which all resentment and hurt reside, and a reaching out to understand the divine as my true source of thought. If you’re like me, when you open that mental door you can literally feel the tension and pain of anger being washed away on an incoming tide of divine love. It’s a powerful and unforgettable feeling. It restores mental and physical health. And best of all, you can come back as often as you need to.

Read Bob Clark’s blog at simplyhealthyflorida.com.

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Guardian Ad Litem Superhero 5K Run cordially invites you to participate in their First SuperHero 5K Run, Walk and Stroller Roll on Saturday, September 26, at War Veteran’s Memorial Park, 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, St. Petersburg. It kicks off at 7am. Awards will be given for top 3,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own. Guardian Ad Litem of Pinellas and Pasco Counties’ mission is to provide advocacy and support for these abused and neglected children. Their goal is for every child to have a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer to be their voice in court and who only has the child’s best interest at heart.

Superhero 5K is great for children with autism, or who are on the spectrum, as it helps in areas of strength, movement, sensory processing, and social interactions. The registration opens March 1, 2015. To register and raise money, please go to www.guardianadlitemsuperhero.com. If you want to participate in the Kids Dash, you can also register there. The top 3,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own. Guardian Ad Litem of Pinellas and Pasco Counties’ mission is to provide advocacy and support for these abused and neglected children. Their goal is for every child to have a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer to be their voice in court and who only has the child’s best interest at heart.

WE ROCK THE SPEcTREUM

Awards will be given to the overall winners and the top three finishers in each age group. In addition, all kids who participate in the Kids Dash will receive an award.

Guardian Ad Litem Superhero 5K Run

Every child needs a hero, but abused children need superheroes. The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay cordially invites you to participate in their First SuperHero 5K Run, Walk and Stroller Roll on Saturday, September 26, at War Veteran’s Memorial Park, 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, St. Petersburg. It kicks off at 7am. Awards will be given for top 3,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own. Guardian Ad Litem of Pinellas and Pasco Counties’ mission is to provide advocacy and support for these abused and neglected children. Their goal is for every child to have a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer to be their voice in court and who only has the child’s best interest at heart.

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We Rock the Spectrum, a play gym specializing in being all-inclusive, is a place parents can take their children, regardless of their developmental level. With specialized therapeutic equipment children love to play with, We Rock the Spectrum is great for children with autism, or who are on the spectrum, as it helps in areas of strength, movement, sensory processing, and social interactions. We Rock the Spectrum is great for children with autism, or who are on the spectrum, as it helps in areas of strength, movement, sensory processing, and social interactions. The gym located at 12505 Starkey Rd, Largo is open to residents and parents traveling with children who have special needs. One service—Open Play—allows parents to bring their kids to the gym, drop them off to play, and enjoy a few hours to themselves. What parent wouldn’t like that? Visit www.werockthespectrumclearwater.com for more information.

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THE RED CROSS NEEDS YOU

Do you know what your American Red Cross does? Is it battling your worst fear? Yes, you think you do. Everyone thinks of the Red Cross as the big disaster people involved with hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes, especially in Florida where we get all three. It is what you see us do on television, when there is a big crisis. We are at every major disaster before the TV cameras and long after they are gone, helping feed and shelter those who have lost everything. We give hugs. We give hope. We help communities endure.

But the biggest disaster we respond to is not a tornado, flood or hurricane. More than 90% of the disasters we respond to are local home fires. Tampa Bay averages a home fire every single night or about 350 per year. To the family that loses their home and has no place to go, the fire department calls the Red Cross 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Red Cross volunteers respond immediately, having committed to be on scene within 2 hours. They take care of the family’s needs by making sure they have a roof over their heads that night, food & clothing and that the kids are ready to go to school the next day. Nurses help replace medication and eyeglasses and they even give a small toy to the child who lost all of their belongings but still needs something soft to cuddle. In the days and weeks that follow, trained Red Cross volunteer caseworkers help the family on their road to recovery, making sure they have access to community resources. Unless you’ve suffered a house fire you probably don’t know that keeps Red Cross volunteers busy every day.

90% of the work the Red Cross does is done by volunteers. These special people make a difference every day. Volunteers like Lisa, who tells the story of a fire she responded to: “I was called to the scene of a burning house at 8:30 one night. The elderly lady who lived there left a space heater too close to a curtain and her wood frame home went up in flames quickly. She called 911 and ran out with nothing but her cat and car keys; she was left with nothing. Nothing. When my team arrived she was in the back of a police car driving. We wrapped her in a Red Cross blanket and hugged her tight. Crying, she was able to give us her daughter’s phone number but her daughter was in Ohio. It would take some time for her to get to Tampa. We put her in a hotel for three nights and helped with her immediate needs until her daughter arrived. Staying in constant touch with her was important. She needed our support. I could only imagine she might have been my mother and how grateful I would have been for Red Cross volunteers. Her relief at knowing she would be safe was palpable. Her hugs and thanks gave more back to us as volunteers than we ever imagined. I love my work with the Red Cross.”

We have hundreds of wonderful volunteer like Lisa who give back through the Red Cross, but we desperately need more. In addition to responding to house fires, we’re helping our community by installing smoke alarms and teaching kids how to be ready for disasters. We are planning for hurricane season and we’re training volunteers in logistics, sheltering, etc. Many volunteer jobs are yet to be filled this season and we need your passion for human services to help make a difference. Whether you have 20 hours a week or 2, won’t you consider joining our group of caring and compassionate people?

Learn more about Red Cross volunteer opportunities, at our open house on Thursdays from 11:30am-1:30pm at our Tampa office, 3310 W. Main St. Tampa or contact Margaret.brown@redcross.org for more information.

LOCAL WRITER PUBLISHES BOOK

Clearwater Beach resident Richard Hillman recently published the book, Tropical Illusion. Hillman, a world traveler, was previously a resident of New York, Maine, Scotland, Spain, Brazil and Venezuela, before moving here. “My wife and I used to vacation here, but decided that buying a condo here, in the Regatta Beach Club, was more economical,” says Hillman. “Part of the reason we relocated from NY was the winter of 2002. Stay no more.”

Tropical Illusion is the story of Manny White Vidal, an expert of an oil-producing Caribbean nation ridiculed with poverty, corruption and drugopoly. It ultimately leads to Vidal’s search for meaning in the midst of an international power struggle.

Hillman is working on the sequel, Finding Rafael. Parts of Tropical Illusion were written on Clearwater Beach.

Tropical Illusion is available at Book Bank in Largo and on-line through Amazon.

7TH ANNUAL CLEARWATER SUPER BOAT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

One of the most thrilling super boat races, the ‘fastest show on water,’ will return to the white sugar sand coast of Clearwater Beach, Sept. 25-27, 2015. The City of Clearwater will be home to the 7th annual Bright House Clearwater Super Boat National Championship and Seafood Festival. This three-day festival includes activities for the entire family such as VIP parties, racers village, seafood vendors, a spectacular fireworks display and the racing of the world’s fastest offshore powerboats.

The premier offshore sporting event takes place just off the shores of Clearwater’s beautiful and award-winning beaches. Superboats equipped with F-16 canopies and traveling at extreme speeds of 180 miles per hour will compete on a 2.5-mile racetrack. To experience all the action, spectators can watch the event from the beach, Pier 60, various VIP viewing areas, and from designated spectator viewing areas.

Events will begin Friday, September 25 at Baystar Resort Race Village in downtown Clearwater, where the superboats will be on display in the annual Super Boat International Parade. On Saturday, the Seafood Festival takes place between 10 am and 10 pm in Coachman Park. Guests can indulge in a variety of seafood specialties, refreshments and souvenirs from vendors and end the night watching the fireworks display hosted by Pier 60 Concessions. Races begin on Sunday with races taking place at noon, 1:30 and 3 pm in Coachman Park.

For more information about the races, visit www.clearwater superb.com. If you are unable to attend the National Championship, the race will be streamed live at https://livestream.com/sb/clearwaterbeach2015.

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SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
They meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. The September meeting has been moved to September 9th due to Labor Day.

They are members of The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association and actively support beach nourishment, shore bird and turtle protection, and responsible development on Sand Key. Over 20 years ago, the organization was instrumental in undergrounding the public utilities, as well as petitioning to have the Fire Station located on Sand Key. They are an issue driven organization and host open public forums at the Clearwater Sailing Center.

All residents of Sand Key condominiums that are members of SKCA are automatically members of the association, too. This year, only 39% of all the individual condo units of SKCA are automatically members of the association.

Clearwater Sailing Center
Wendy Bouffard, at 727-441-8211. Dues are $20.

Amber Davie, at 727-743-2722 and for reservations, call Kay Estock at 536-7737. For more information, contact Alice Janis, President, at 391-3066 or email at bgjala@aol.com. Get more information at www.ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

PINELLAS REPUBLICAN PARTY
The Pinellas County Republican Party meets every month on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is September 14th at 7pm. All meetings are held at Banquet Masters, 13344 49th Street North, Clearwater. New members are invited at 6pm for orientation. Call Charlotte Smith, at 339-6099 for more information. Get more info on www.PinellasRepublicans.com.

SUNCOAST CAMERA CLUB
Make friends with people who share your interests, improve your photography and share your work. The next meeting is August 25 at The Hospice of Florida, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd at 7pm. Visit SuncoastCameraClub.org or call Veronica Serra at 522-4878.

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Thursday Tours are still held on the first and third Thursdays (all year) from 9:30 to 11:30am. Saturday Hours will resume in November.

They were counting on money from Tallahassee to start working on their new museum, inside South Ward School on South Pt Harrison, which was built in 1906. $204,000 was approved by the State Legislature, but it was vetoed by the Governor.

Membership is $10 for individuals, $5 students, $20 family, $150 corporate, $250 life and $500 patron. Call Bill Wallace 446-2676 or Michael Sanderson 434-1684.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSN
This community organization is comprised of Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They strive to promote the interests of the community as an aid and assist and support members. They act as a clearinghouse for matters of community concern and interest, gain consensus and speak as a uniform voice of the community to local government. They meet the second Monday of each month in the new Classroom Building in the Clearwater Aquarium. The next meeting is September 14. October’s meeting has been cancelled due to Columbus Day.

Contact President Mary Lou at 813-335-6770.

GREATER CLEARWATER WOMAN’S CLUB
The Clearwater Community Woman’s Club is a member club of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC), one of the world’s largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. They officially start their new year in September. Members are busy planning the year’s events and meetings. The first official meeting of the club will be September 15 at the Clearwater Main Library beginning at 11am. Ashley Knaus-Cochrane will be the guest speaker where she will tell an interesting story about growing up in the foster care system before being adopted at the age of 12.

They meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 11 am, at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Cleveland Street. For information about any meeting, call Kay Estock at 536-7737. For more information about the club, contact Martha Nickley at 813-765-6219. Visit www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a brief program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. For lunch or to consider joining, call LTC George Smith at 786-5578.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)
They meet on the third Friday of every month at the Belleair Country Club for a Luncheon beginning at 11:30am. To join, please call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY
The Rotary of Clearwater Beach now holds their weekly meetings at the Carlouel Yacht Club every Thursday at noon. The organization will celebrate their 62nd birthday in November. Nick Baniomides, President, can be reached at 447-1075 or visit www.ClearwaterBeachRotary.com.
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They are moving their meeting dates and location to the second Tuesday of each month at the Chapel by the Sea Church. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend. Those wishing to join are welcome, as well.

Membership is only $25 per household. Make checks payable to CBA, and mail to PO Box 3295, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767. Contact President Chip Abrahamson, ChipAbrahamson@Gmail.com or board member Elizabeth Proat at 859-802-6110, ESPHOME@yahoo.com, for information. Visit www.ClearwaterFLBeachAssociation.com

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are holding a Summer Membership program until the end of September. Membership is $100 a month, with no initiation fee. There is no minimum spending. At the end of the summer, you can elect to join as a full member, social or junior member. Many members don’t have a boat. Most of their social activities center around regular parties held at their in-house restaurant or Tiki-Bar out back. To learn more visit www.Clyc.org, email Office@CLWYC.org or call 447-6000.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

Their Ice Cream Socials at the pool Aug 29 & 30 and weekends in September will help raise money to extend the pool’s swimming season. All Ice Cream Social donations will be used exclusively for the pool operation through the extended season. The volunteer non-profit organization raises money to enhance the Clearwater Beach facilities. This year the pool will continue limited operation through October 11 thanks to their sponsorship.

They work to support and encourage use of the library and recreation center, located at 69 Bay Esplanade Street. Membership is FREE. Donations, which help the Friends in provide opportunities for recreation, learning and entertainment, are still welcome. They meet for lunch at Noon on the third Monday of each month at the Beach Recreation Center. Guests are welcome. call Donna Ellisson, 727-442-4184 or Linda Owens 260-894-0270.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

Twelve members and guests of Island Estates Yacht Club braved the elements and met at Café Honeymoon on the Island’s South Beach Pavilion to enjoy the Weekly Fish Fry. The rain stopped long enough for the members and guests to enjoy the gulf views while sipping on adult beverages and enjoying the plentiful fish and chips.

The Island Estates Yacht Club holds monthly meetings, events and parties as well as the December Annual Memorial Boat Parade. Memberships are available and owning a boat is not required. Contact Commodore Paul Lightfoot 727-744-1728 or Rear Commodore Mary O’Connor 727-595-5952 for information.

NEWCOMER’S CLUB

Are you new to our area and just have not been able to meet anyone? Joining this new, organization which is really a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends and acquaintances. You do not really have to be a newcomer to join; many existing members already live in the immediate area. The ladies meet monthly at local restaurants for lunch with guest speakers. Afterwards, many stay and play cards or visit. Call Marie Micheel at 530-5194 or visit www.WelcomeNewComerClub.com for information.
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