

NEIGHBORHOOD



Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997

Newsletter

BUILDING THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST DOME



With talk of a new baseball stadium, we thought it might be a good time to review how today's stadium was built. The story starts many years before the Devil Rays played their first Major League Baseball game on March 31, 1998.

The road to baseball began in 1977, when Corinne Freeman, St. Petersburg's first and only female mayor, was elected. The economy was stagnant and depressed. Several leaders started a campaign to bring major league baseball to St. Petersburg. Freeman not only jumped on the baseball bandwagon, she led the charge. To help, the Florida legislature created the Pinellas Sports Authority (PSA) and in 1980, funded it with \$125,000 to conduct feasibility

studies and to start a site selection process.

In 1981, the PSA proposed three sites for a stadium: Gandy Boulevard east of 4th Street, the Carillon Parkway Area, and the Sod Farm (an area north of Gandy and west of I-275.)

"Freeman knew a project like this was big and would have its distractors," said David Fischer, Mayor from 1991 to 2001. "But she also knew a project like this had to be built with municipal bonds, and the laws concerning bonds to build stadiums were changing and actually would be coming to an end soon."

In February 1982, the City Council adopted an Intown Redevelopment Plan that established financing for the revitalization of four downtown areas including an area known as The Gas Plant. It was named for two huge cylinders that held the city's natural gas supply, remnants of the municipally owned gas system built in 1914. Because the chosen locations didn't fit their revitalization efforts, The City offered the Gas Plant site for the stadium. The PSA approved and by November agreed to lease the Gas Plant site for 30 years at \$1 per year. The site, originally 66 acres, was expanded to 86 acres to add additional parking as suggested by Major League Baseball.

"The ultimate site selection really had more to do with urban redevelopment than where was the best location for baseball fans," said Bob Stewart, former Chairman of the Pinellas County Commission and former St Pete City Councilman. "It was not where the stadium could draw the most fans, but where politicians hoped the downtown urban area would be redeveloped—or continue to grow. Looking back, the ultimate site selection really had more to do with urban redevelopment than what was the best location for baseball fans," Stewart adds.

Within a year, the County Commission voted 3 to 2 to pledge a portion of the county's tourism bed tax to help build a baseball stadium. On December 31st, 1983, \$61 million in short-term bond anticipation notes were sold. The proceeds were earmarked for the construction of a future baseball stadium.

In early 1984, the City began to acquire the Gas Plant site, a long-established African American neighborhood. 285 buildings were demolished, 522 households were relocated and more than 30 businesses moved or closed to make room for the new stadium. Later, the Laurel Park Housing Project on 16th Street S. was acquired from the St Pete Housing Authority and demolished.

In November, the project financing hit a roadblock. George Greer, who was against the stadium, defeated incumbent County Commissioner Gabe Cazares, who supported the stadium. Two weeks later, the new County Commission voted to abandon their interlocal agreement to finance the stadium. The City of St Petersburg and the PSA sued Pinellas County. The next year, the courts forced the county to honor its agreement and help fund the stadium.





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SALES

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is about your neighborhood. It is mailed to the entire Belleair Area - a total of about 8,000 households - six times a year.

Do you need another copy of this newsletter. You may pick up additional copies of this newsletter at all City Halls, Wildfield Marketplace, Panara Bread, most Banks and the Belleair Market. Need a lot? Call 517-1997.

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997

bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN DECEMBER!

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Sheriff: 582-6200
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COMMISSIONERS — Ray Piscitelli
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Steve Bloom

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Police Dept: 588-3769
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Michael Wilkinson • Karla Rettstatt

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Roz White, President 462-2674

CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377
Karen Seel 464-3278

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Governor Rick Scott
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274
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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:
David Jolly 727-392-4100

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

OktoberFest Indian Rocks 8
Blessing Of Animals Calvary Church 8
SPCA Pet Walk St Petersburg 8
Hispanic Heritage Concert Coachman 9
Blessing Of Animals Clearwater Yacht Club 9
Columbus Day 10
Yom Kipper 11-12
Public Schools Closed 12
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 13
Clearwater Jazz Coachman Park 13-16
Stone Crab Season Begins 15
Fire Prevention Event Day Largo 15
Coastal Clean Up 15
St Patrick's School Fun Fair 20-23
Pirate Camp Sailing Center 21-23
Clearwater Stone Crab Festivals 21-23
Beachwalk Chalk Walk 21-23
Country Jubilee 22
Honor The Blue Tribute 22
RCS Spies & Black Ties Fundraiser 22
Halloween Party Belleair Rec Center 23
Blast Friday Clearwater 28

Johns Pass Seafood Fest 29-30
Fall Festival - Belleair Market 30
Halloween 31
Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

NOVEMBER

Property Tax Bills Mailed 1
Food Collection Belleair Rec Ctr 1-16
City Garage Sale Town Of Belleair 5
City Garage Sale Belleair Bluffs 5
City Garage Sale Belleair Beach 5
Veterans Boat Parade Madeira Beach 5
Farm City Day Heritage Village 5
Antique Alley Fall Event 6
Daylight Savings Time Ends 6
Presidential Election 8
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 10
Veterans Day 11
RibFest St. Pete 11-13
Dixieland Jazz Classic 11-13
Veteran's Day Event Town Of Belleair 12
Taste Of IRB Indian Rocks 12
Visit Egmont Key Days 12-13
Christmas Under The Oaks 13

Standing by Your Family for 100 Years

At Morton Plant Hospital, generations of physicians have cared for generations of families.



Dr. Julia Cosma, family medicine, practicing since 1999

Dr. John Kilgore, orthopedic surgeon, practicing since 1994

Dr. John Sourbeer, general practice, practiced from 1958 to 2000

Dr. Robert F. Bialas, plastic surgeon, practiced from 1979 to 2014

Dr. Guillermo Cosma, psychiatrist, practiced from 1973 to 2002

Dr. William Kilgore, orthopedic surgeon, practiced from 1963 to 2000

Dr. Jeff Sourbeer, family medicine, practicing since 1984

Dr. Ryan Bialas, anesthesiologist, practicing since 2015

From our family to your family

Morton Plant Hospital got its start in 1914 when several local women asked railroad magnate Morton E. Plant to fund a hospital. He agreed, if the community would also make a substantial contribution. They took the challenge and the hospital opened in 1916. Throughout the years, the hospital and its physicians served the community, and the community gave back, ensuring that generations of families would be able to count on the compassionate, quality care provided by Morton Plant Hospital.

One of the most noteworthy hospitals in the nation, Morton Plant Hospital was founded because a community cared. And 100 years later, one thing remains the same — our commitment to caring for your family.



The new Doyle Tower at Morton Plant Hospital, scheduled to be completed in 2017. Another example of how the community gave back.



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Did You Know



GARAGE SALES It's time for the fall garage sale season. This year, you get three in one day. Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs and the Town of Belleair all have their City Wide Garage Sale on the same Saturday, November 5. As usual, the sale begins when you get there and is normally over by 2pm. Indian Rocks Beach will be holding their two day sale, November 26 & 27. Belleair Beach has a rain date of November 12.

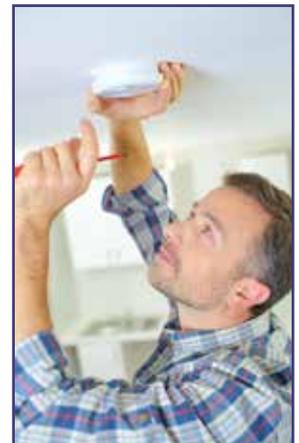
BELLEAIR BRIDGE CLUB Do you play bridge or duplicate bridge? The Belleair Bridge Club plays at the Town of Belleair's City Hall Auditorium Thursdays and Saturdays, 12 Noon to 4pm. The cost is \$5 per chair. It is coordinated by the Belleair Recreation Center. Call them Belleair Rec Center at 518-3728 to play.

TENNIS ANYONE? Belleair Beach and local tennis coach Jim Rudolph are offering FREE introductory tennis lessons in October and November. Adults and juniors are taught in separate sessions on the same nights. Call Jim at 458-6727 for information on times and dates.

Largo also offers tennis lessons, for a fee, at the Largo Tennis Center at 13120 Vonn Road. There are classes for beginners and the experienced. They also offer private lessons. For more information about the Largo classes, call 692-8378.

TAMPA BAY CARES SEEKING VOLUNTEERS The local non-profit that runs the 2-1-1 information line is in need of volunteers. 2-1-1 Texting Ambassador provides information and referrals to people who text into the contact center for help or updates on their pending cases. To apply, visit www.211TampaBay.org, click on the "How You Can Help", then click on "Volunteer."

HOW OLD IS YOUR SMOKE ALARM? Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 9-15) is just around the corner, and the Fire Department wants to make sure your smoke alarm is current and functional. They should be replaced every 10 years, and smoke alarm batteries should be changed each time you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Times which is coming up next month. To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the manufacturer's date on the back of the alarm. Smoke alarms provide early warning should a fire break out in your home or business.



During Fire Prevention Week, Largo Fire Rescue will again host an Open House/ Chili Cook Off at Fire Station 41, 180 4th Street SW Largo, on Saturday October 15, from 1 until 4pm. There will be fire engine rides, a landing by the Bay Flight helicopter, a vehicle extrication demonstration, and tours of the fire station

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U.S. WINS SILVER MEDAL
 Congratulations to Clearwater Yacht Club and the Clearwater Sailing Center's own in 2016 Paralympics SILVER MEDALIST Brad Kendall, along with

teammates Rick Doerr and Hugh Freund and coach Mike Ingham. All the competing boats in the Rio Paralympics were crewed by athletes with physical, motor and or visual impairments. They were required to navigate the designated course faster than their opponents. In total, the Rio Paralympics included 528 events over the course of 11 days of competition.

BOAT INSPECTIONS The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers free vessel safety checks at Clearwater's Seminole Boat Ramp and Belleair Beach's Causeway Boat Ramp on the first Saturday of every month. For more information, call 469-8895.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR The Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society, Inc. and The Suncoast Jazz Classic, Inc. will co-sponsor this year's Halloween "Spooktacular", October 16. Held at Banquet Masters, 13355 49th Street N. in Clearwater, the party will feature a Spook-a-licious dinner buffet and dancing to the music of Dave Tatrow and his All Star Band. No one will be admitted for the concert only. Reservations MUST be made by Wed, Oct 12. Don't forget to wear your best Halloween costume for a chance to win awesome prizes. Visit suncoastjazzclassic.com.

COFFEE IS BETTER IN REUSABLE CUPS

Each year, Americans throw away 25 billion Styrofoam cups. Even 500 years from now, the foam coffee cup you used this morning will be sitting in a landfill. So are paper cups better? 16 billion paper cups are used for coffee each year, which are made from 6.5 million trees using 4 billion gallons of water and enough energy to power 54,000 homes for a year. Most paper cups are covered with polyethylene, a plastic paste that helps keep your coffee warm, but also prevents the cup from being recycled. The solutions is to bring your own reusable coffee mug or cup when you stop for coffee. Besides saving our landfills, many coffee shops offer small discounts for using your own container. Even though the discount rates are not significant, what is important is that you will help save paper, eliminate chlorine used to bleach the cups and you reduce your contribution to our landfills.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN DECEMBER Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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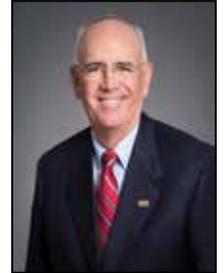


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WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR 401K?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



When you leave an employer and move to another or retire, what do you do with your 401k? You generally have four choices: 1) rollover to an IRA; 2) stay with your former company plan; 3) move to your new employer plan; or 4) take a lump sum. Each choice has pluses and minuses so you should consult with your financial and tax advisor. There is no rule of thumb nor general guideline about which is best. Every situation is different and needs to be carefully analyzed.

What are some of the variables that must be considered? They include: 1) costs; 2) investment choices; 3) services provided; 4) your age; 5) whether you are still working or retiring; 6) creditor protection; 7) Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs); 8) estate planning issues; 9) marital status; and, 10) the advisor.

The decision between staying with the old plan or rolling to a new plan or IRA is often one of convenience and simplicity. Be aware, however, that if you are separated from service and age 55 or older, you can take money from your 401k without incurring the 10% non-deductible penalty usually associated with distributing retirement assets prior to 59 ½.

The advantages of an IRA rollover can include: 1) more investment choices; 2) use of a stretch IRA; 3) consolidation of funds; 4) RMD flexibility; 5) use for charitable donations; and, 6) estate planning is generally easier. The negatives to the rollover include: 1) possible higher fees/commissions; 2) potential inappropriate products being utilized by an advisor who is not acting as a fiduciary; and 3) potential lack of creditor protection (not an issue in Florida).

Taking a lump sum is generally discouraged since you will have automatic withholding for income taxes at a 20% rate. Unfortunately, some take a lump sum to pay off debts. A good reason to consider a lump sum is when you have highly appreciated company stock in the 401k. In taking a lump sum of company stock, you will pay ordinary income tax only on the original cost of the shares, and then if you hold the shares for one year or more, the gain will be taxed at a capital gains rate.

If you find yourself facing this type of a decision, why not give us a call for a consultation from a fiduciary (one required to put your interests first)?

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Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.



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DISCOVER THE ISLAND NOVEMBER 12-13

This event is the best way to learn about Egmont Key and the history it has to offer its visitors! On this weekend, experts will be on the islands detailing the rich history from the 1800s to the present time. If you are a lighthouse enthusiast, the one on the island was built in 1858 and will be open allowing visitors to view the spiral staircase and to ask questions of the Lighthouse Keeper re-enactor.

If nature is your interest, they will have experts on migratory and shorebirds, gopher tortoises and sea turtles. They will also have experts on the native plants found on Egmont Key.

Civil War re-enactors, both Union and Confederate with uniforms and equipment from that time will participate. Also, people knowledgeable on the part that the island played in the Spanish American War in 1898 will be available.

Other activities include a Silent Auction, kids' games, local artists, music, souvenirs, self-guided walking tours and the best hotdogs on the island!

If you want to learn about Egmont Key and what it means to the Tampa Bay Area's history, mark November 12th and 13th on your calendar and plan to spend the day!

Exhibitors include:

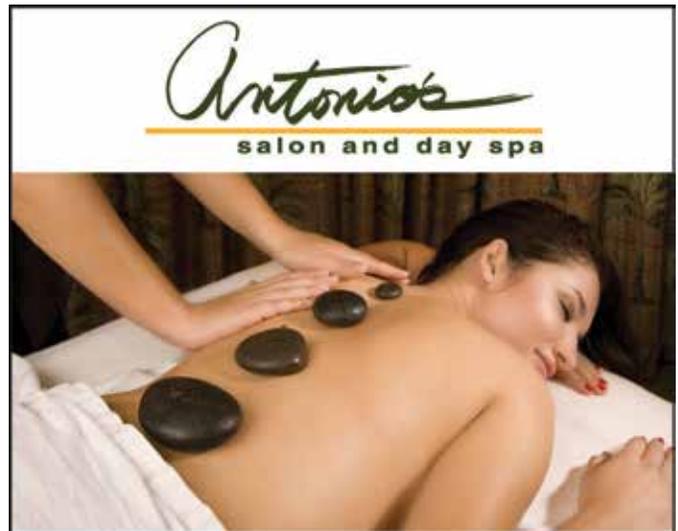
- Bay Area Reef Runner Dive Club with exhibits on the U.S.S. Narcissus
- Boyd Hill Nature Preserve live birds of prey both days!
- Union and Confederate Civil War Re-enactors
- St. Pete Shell Club
- Tampa Rough Riders
- Photographic Artist Lyle Polyack (Saturday Only)
- History Presentations by Author Don Thompson
- Egmont Key Birds Presentation by Tom and Lindsay Bell
- Laser cut contour maps from Island Laser Designs
- Florida History told with the 24 flags flown over the state
- Civil War reenactors

Events and Activities:

- Folk music by the Egmont Key Shanty Singers
- Self-guided walking tours of the island
- Guided group walking tours 10:30am and 2:30pm
- Lighthouse open (no climbing) with Lighthouse Keeper Re-enactor
- Silent Auction each day
- Souvenir sales
- Presentations on military history, island history and birds in the Guardhouse
- Kids games and activities
- Presentations on gopher tortoises at Battery Howard

Ferry boarding will be at the Bay Pier this year. When you arrive at Fort DeSoto simply follow the brown park signs to the usual place that the ferry departs. Look for the green trailer near the parking lot. Sales and boarding info will be at that location. Overflow parking is available across the road from the paved parking lot. They accept cash, major credit cards and check as payment. Ticket prices includes ferry service to/from island: \$18 for Adults, ages 12 and up, \$15 for Active Duty/Retired Military with proper I.D., \$9 for Children, ages 6 to 11 years, Children under 6 are free. Saturday, Tickets go on sale at 8:30am, boarding starts at 9am.

Ferry Service Departure Times (two ferries will be on site if needed. Saturday & Sunday, the first ferry leaves Ft. DeSoto at 9am and will continue shuttle service as they fill with passengers. The last boats will depart Ft. DeSoto at 2pm. The last ferries will leave Egmont Key at 4pm. This allows at least two hours to enjoy the event for later arrivals."



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DOME, continued



In 1985, Ed Cole replaced Freeman as Mayor and had to lead the baseball effort, although he was never a big supporter of the endeavor.

With construction scheduled to start in a year, Florida Progress, Florida Power's parent company (now Duke Energy), announced it would lead a group of investors seeking a St Petersburg Major League Baseball team. Several others were integral in that search, including Alan Harvey (City Manager), Rick Dodge (Leisure Services Administrator), Rick Mussett (City Planning Director), Bob Stewart (BCC) Bill Bond (City Commissioner) and various elected officials.

The building was designed by HOK Sports of Kansas City with help from two local architect / engineering firms. The City Council voted to award the construction contract to Huber, Hunt & Nichols on November 21, 1986, with a completion date of May 1989. The next day, they broke ground with 9,034 people in attendance. The celebration included a parade, concert, and fireworks.

Much to the City's surprise, then Major League Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth sent Mayor Cole a telegram stating St Petersburg was not among the top candidates for an expansion Major League Baseball team.

Construction on the unusually shaped dome officially began on January 5th, 1987. It had a projected cost of \$85 million. The design, with the fixed roof, was chosen as the only viable option given our hot, humid summers and thunderstorms. The most recognizable exterior feature was the fabric covered dome, made of Teflon-coated fiberglass from Owens Corning Birdair. The dome is supported by 24 concrete columns ranging in height from 30 to 53 meters and gives it a 6.258-degree slope which reduces its square footage and cooling costs while protecting fans from Florida's weather.

With the help of the St Petersburg Times, the city conducted a "Name the Dome" contest. Almost 20,000 entries were submitted. Two finalists were chosen: The Suncoast Dome and the Florida Suncoast Dome. On May 1st, it was officially named the "Florida Suncoast Dome."

In 1987, Bob Ulrich becomes the new Mayor of St Petersburg. He was a major supporter of the stadium project, now under construction.

That summer, the city was told serious environmental contamination had been discovered at the site. Original estimates for the clean-up were between \$2 and \$3.5 million but it quickly rose to almost \$8 million.

The Major League Baseball team The Chicago White Sox had been threatening to leave Chicago and St Pete Promoters began selling them on the idea of move here as the Florida White Sox.

Tampa began to take an interested in getting a baseball team of their own and The Tampa Tribune with the support of the Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Sports Authority also started courting the Chicago White Sox. The Tribune wrote a long, derogatory editorial proclaiming St Petersburg a sleepy little village that was only pursuing a baseball team to jump start their downtown redevelopment efforts.

At the final hour, the Illinois General Assembly voted on a spending bill to keep their White Sox in Chicago. "As I recall, some local area TV stations broadcast the Illinois legislative session live," says Rick Mussett, City Planning Director. "As the session unfolded, it appeared the Illinois Assembly was not going to approve the financial package that the White Sox wanted and the session was about to close. It was the last day of the last hour of the session. However, the Speaker of the Assembly literally stopped the clock a few minutes before midnight, and suddenly no-votes began to switch to yes-votes, after midnight."

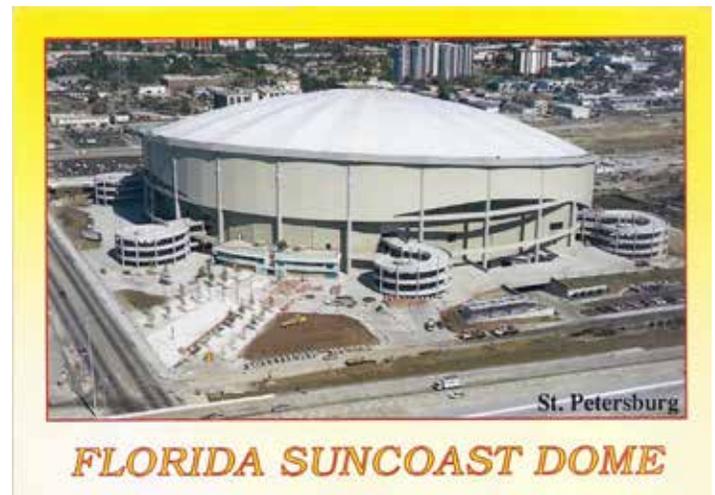
"We died a slow death watching the events unfold on our TVs," Mussett remembers. "We watched as no votes slowly changed from red-to-green until 51% of the votes were "yes"--at which time the Speaker gavelled the session to a close, thereby ending it and our hopes of the team moving to St. Petersburg. This was 28 years ago - cable TV was not what it is today."

Later they learned the White Sox had two press releases prepared and ready to go -- one indicating they were moving to St. Pete and one indicating they would remain in Chicago.

"It was a difficult night for us in St Petersburg," remembers Russ Cline, whose firm originally managed the 43,000 seat stadium. "We had a deal and then we didn't."

While still under construction, it was announced that the Florida Suncoast Dome would cost nearly \$50 million more than the City Council had planned - a total of \$200 million. The additional expenses included furniture, fixtures, equipment—as well as the environmental clean-up.

On February 28, 1990, the Florida Suncoast Dome opened to the public with a gala celebration. Among the opening events were parties, marching bands, dinners, an open house, and a concert by country music artist Kenny Rogers. The only thing missing was a baseball team. We will continue with that next time, in part two of the story.



Thanks to Mayor Bob Ulrich, Mayor David Fischer and Rick Mussett, Former City Planning Director for their contributions to this story. Photos courtesy of the City of St. Petersburg, Heritage Village and St Petersburg Museum of History

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BLUFFS COMMUNITY CENTER CITY HALL CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

By Wayne Ayers

As 2016 ends, the city of Belleair Bluffs completes its 15th year of municipal operations in the city hall/ community center at 2747 Sunset Boulevard.

Most residents today see the complex and the playground alongside as a given and an accepted part of civic life in the city. But some longtime residents may recall the municipal center's long, fitful journey to become a reality. It wasn't an easy process.

The whole idea of a civic center for the city actually began in the late 1970s. Pat Arbutine, local resident and business owner, said Belleair Bluffs had "just about everything you would want in a place to live," but one item was missing. Her three active boys and other neighborhood children had no place to play but the street.

She joined with June Reed, wife of longtime mayor Wilson Reed, and a group of citizens and business owners to push for a community center and playground. The group raised over \$135,000 for that effort. Land was acquired on Sunset Boulevard, and a city park was established in the mid-'80s. Conflict arose over whether to build the community center or leave the land as strictly a park. More land was needed for the center and the cost had risen to over \$1 million.

As a result, the project stalled for a long while. It got a restart in the early 1990s when resident Dorothy Howard left \$200,000 in her will to be used to build a community center. In the mid-1990s, the city bought the additional land needed, but still had not built a community center.

Then another controversy arose. Some said the community center should include a new city hall. They felt the old city hall at 115 Florence Drive was badly deteriorated. Others said a new city hall was too expensive and unneeded.

While heated arguments swirled on both sides, supporters made donations to the city hall/ community center project. Their names are in the foyer today. Penny for Pinellas tax money and proceeds from the sale of the old city hall completed the funding.

In 1999, ground was broken for the project. On November 3, 2001, Mayor Chris Arbutine, son of the original founder of the effort, Pat Arbutine, cut the ribbon for the new community center/ city hall.

More stories on the history of Belleair Bluffs can be found in the book "Belleair Bluffs from the Beginning" by R. Wayne Ayers with the 50th Anniversary Committee. Signed copies are available for \$10, tax included, at city hall.

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VIGILANCE IS KEY IN STORM SEASON

By Commissioner Karen Williams Seel

We hear it all the time – prepare to survive – but what does that really mean? Hurricane season is still upon us and unfortunately so many of us in Pinellas County are not prepared to survive a major storm. Maybe this lack of preparedness is because of being a new resident or maybe it’s because of complacency; the last major storm to directly impact our county was the Tampa Bay hurricane of 1921. Yet, as we see time and again, minor brushes from even a tropical storm or weak hurricane can have a big impact and we need to remember that it will only take one storm to have an impactful hurricane season.



Looking at recent history, the county did see some fairly big impacts from Hurricane Hermine and Tropical Storm Colin, including flooding in multiple areas, high winds, power outages and storm surge. There were also impacts to county beaches, effects were so severe at one of our popular beach parks that we were forced to keep it closed.

Sand Key Park in Clearwater was among the hardest hit locations during Hurricane Hermine, with portions of the beach suffering near-total dune loss as the result of storm-caused erosion. Some areas also had high levels of standing water for about a week, resulting in the park remaining closed due to public safety concerns.

According to the National Weather Service, Largo and Redington Shores were pummeled with heavy rains from Hurricane Hermine, so much so, that by the end of the week the rain totals could easily be measured in feet, not inches. These high levels of rain can come quickly and could result in localized flooding. If you live in an area that is prone to flooding, it is important to pay attention during the rainy season. Your emergency plan will be important then, too.

Pinellas County has resources available to help you prepare for all types of emergency situations. Alert Pinellas is a free notification service that allows the county to contact you with emergency information via email, phone and text, to sign up visit www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas. Other resources to assist in your preparedness efforts are also available online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

So remember to prepare, regardless of how long it’s been since a storm hit our county directly. The last thing any of us would ever want to be faced with is a major hurricane hitting our county when we aren’t prepared to protect our homes and our families. So sign up for Alert Pinellas, make an emergency kit, know where you’ll go if you have to leave and join me and my family in amending these plans every year – just in case.



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HUBBELL FUNERAL HOME - A FAMILY BUSINESS



Growing up, Gerald Hubbell did not know that one day he would open a funeral home--but he did. Today, his Hubbell Funeral Home is the oldest operating business in Belleair Bluffs. Hubbell (85) was born in Takoma Park, MD near Washington in 1931. Prior to college, Hubbell volunteered to serve in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He was assigned to an aircraft carrier. After the Navy, he went to college at Columbia Union college where he met Stella, his wife of 60 years. "He really wanted to date my roommate, but then he started dating me," says Stella, about how they met. "Gerald had one of the only cars on campus and he used to take us out for ice cream." When he and Stella met, she was studying nursing and later received her BSN. Hubbell received a two year Associates degree and went to work as an electrician. They got married in 1956. The Hubbells visited his parents in St. Pete one winter; they soon decided Florida was where they wanted to be.

After they were settled in Florida, a friend asked Hubbell to work his shift at a nearby funeral parlor. That is when he got the idea of opening up a funeral home. "All I had to do was clean up, take out the trash, move caskets around and greet people when they came in for funerals," recalls Hubbell. "There didn't seem to be much to the business."

Not long after, Hubbell was laid off from his electrician job. He began visiting area funeral homes asking for work, but without any experience, there weren't any takers until Osgood Funeral Home in Pinellas Park hired him. It motivated Hubbell to pursue that line of work and he enrolled in Mortuary College.

After he passed the state boards, he was ready to start his own funeral business. He met a Largo Realtor who showed Hubbell a vacant lot on Indian Rocks Road North. "I had no money and no job," he recalls. The Realtor said, "No

problem, we'll get you the money." He then looked at Stella and said, "What do you do?" When she told him she was a nurse at Mound Park Hospital (today it is Bayfront Medical), he exclaimed, "That's good enough!" He got a \$40,000 loan which included the land and building. "It is amazing how easy it was to get a loan back then," Hubbell remembers. Jewel Welch owned most of Belleair Bluffs and the property behind the lot. She agreed to sell them the back half of the lot on Indian Rocks Road. "She just sold it to me and told me to pay her later."

At the time, we lived in Seminole but sold our house to an elderly couple. I negotiated with only the wife because they expected her husband to die soon. After the sale, I got a call from Pasadena Hospital and they told me the 'wife had died--not the husband.' I was speechless. She was our first customer."

"We started small," Stella says. "We even lived in the funeral home for many years." The funeral business has changed a lot over the years. When Hubbell first opened in 1964, he had a funeral coach/ambulance combination.



"We all used to operate all the county ambulances," says Hubbell. "We got paid \$5 per trip." "I remember one lady telling me she was not going to pay her bill since when she died I was going to get her money anyway."

While running the funeral home Hubbell was also involved with the City of Belleair Bluffs, even before it became a city. He was one of the first City Commissioners, serving for five years as Vice Mayor. His primary function on the Council was to oversee the police and fire department. "That was easy seeing how we only had one policeman and one police car," Hubbell chuckles. "I also oversaw the all-volunteer fire department. Whenever there was a fire, it was our job to sound the alarm. The siren was on our property and the switch was inside the funeral home. The siren was tested every Saturday at noon. "It was my responsibility for years, you could set your watch by it. The warning

system was eventually replaced by a phone system and now of course the fire department has real paid employees," Hubbell explains. The local funeral directors were involved in creating what has become the Pinellas EMS system. Hubbell convinced the City to own their own ambulance and even got the Rotary to pay for it.

In the 1970s Hubbell was the founding President of the Belleair Bluffs Rotary and his wife Stella was a member of the Rotary Anns. Hubbell moved up to become a District Governor for the State of Florida from 1977-1978. "I had to go to a meeting somewhere in my district virtually every day."

Even today, the Hubbell's live in a house on the property behind the funeral home. They have three grown children (Melissa, Melinda and Jerry) and five grandchildren: Ryan (29), Griffen (25), Stella (10), Ben (10) and Ellie (5).

Gerald has basically retired, son Jerry and his wife Christine oversee the day-to-day operations of the funeral home. Jerry also went to Mortuary College (as well as the University of South Florida) and is a licensed funeral director. Christine is a graduate of the University of Florida. They have another full time funeral director and pre-need sales counselor on staff, and an administrative assistant, plus Stella who still stays involved because she just isn't ready to retire. "We work as a family and take pride in serving our families," says Jerry.

Today, more people are choosing cremation and other alternatives, but there are still families who prefer a traditional service. Hubbell offers a variety of unique ways to personalize your service. Their large selection room has over a dozen caskets, urns and accessories on display.

Gerald and Stella celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 19. Hubbell Funeral Home, now 52 years old is located at 499 Indian Rocks Road N. Call them at 727-584-7671 or just stop by.



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Business Briefs

9 YEARS OF THE LATEST STYLES

Time flies when you are selling shoes, handbags and accessories. Beverly Halliwell opened Shoes by Beverly in The Plaza 100 in 2007. The shop is small, but her customer base isn't.



It has grown and grown and she wants to thank all her loyal customers and employees for supporting her over the years.

NEW AT NORTHSTAR Christina Dickson, former manager of the West Bay USAmerica Bank, which she helped open in 2011, is now the manager of the Belleair Bluffs' NorthStar Bank. She replaced Robert Shaw, now a Senior Vice President based in Tampa. Christina lives in Clearwater with her husband and twin daughters—with another one on the way.

RADIANCE OPEN HOUSE Their Glamour and Giving Gala, the gala event of the season, is Thursday, October 20. The \$25 admission goes straight to HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program). Dress in your most glamorous early Hollywood finery. There will be VIP Swag Bags, wine and hors d'oeuvres, raffles, free glamour photos, and demonstrations of Radiance services. Explore Radiance's newly remodeled facility, located in the Bluffs Shopping Center at 2894 West Bay Drive. Reservations are required, call 518-7100.

BELLE'S OLIVE BRANCH NOW OPEN

This new specialty store, now open in Belleair Bluffs, is owned by Belleair Bluffs' resident Michelle Orvis. The store specializes in Ultra Premium extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegars from all over the world. There are 58 varietals and 6 Ultra-premium Olive Oils, all on tap in large stainless steel fustis.



They also carry pastas, sauce mixes, olive wood products, breads, salts and specialty items to compliment the oils and vinegars. The staff will help educate new shoppers. Stop in for samples, recipes, and olive oil tastings so you can taste the variety of oils for themselves. "I hope to make your visit fun as well as educational," says Michelle. Belle's is located on the north side of The Plaza 100 facing City Hall. Visit BellesOliveBranch.com or call Michelle at 330-6724.

PUBLIX DONATES TO FOOD BANKS The Publix Corporation recently announced they will donate \$5 million to the Feeding America Network, including 28 member food banks and to 38 other agencies in the area. Feeding Tampa Bay will get \$175,000 for their agency. Other local partners include \$10,000 for HELP ministries of Largo.

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Business Briefs

NEW OWNER There is a new owner making headlines in Belleair Bluff, Tasha Johnson bought Headlines Salon located in the Plaza 100 from Melinda Hubbell Ferm September 1st. Ferm and her husband are moving to San Francisco. Tasha comes from Dr. K's Med Spa in Largo Mall where she was the Medical Esthetician and looks forward to meeting all of Headline's customers and making new friends in Belleair Bluffs.



NEW AREA GROCERY STORE Earth Fare is opening its first Florida store in Seminole on Sept 28th. Opening in the new Seminole City Center (formerly Seminole Mall) they pledge their food is free of hormones, antibiotics, high fructose corn syrup and artificial sweeteners, preservatives, colors or flavors. In addition to the standard departments, they will feature grab and go prepared foods, a deli and a large buy in bulk section. Their grand opening celebration and giveaways will continue through October 12.

FALL FESTIVAL Celebrate the unveiling of the new wall mural at the Belleair Market on Sunday, October 30. There will be live music, local craft beer, free food, ice cream, giveaways, games and a pet costume contest. The Bucs Game will be on while you enjoy a round of corn-hole. The unveiling is at noon, but the fun continues until 4pm. The Belleair Market is located in the 'Heart of Belleair Bluffs' at 510 Indian Rocks Road N., just south of Antique Alley. Call 584-3697 for more information.

OBARSKI DOES HIS OWN THING Licensed real estate broker Gordon Obarski recently opened Gordon Realty House. His new brokerage is located at 2211 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach. "We are thrilled to be in the lower level suite of such a wonderful building as the Laughing Lizard, thanks to our old friend, former Indian Rocks Mayor Bill Ockunzzi," said Obarski.

After many years as an associate with Doiron Realty and posting the most single-family transactions in Indian Rocks for the last four years, Obarski's long-range plan is to grow the brokerage, yet keep it friendly and local.

Gordon Obarski, certified in probate real estate, is a 20-year resident of Indian Rocks Beach and served on the City's Planning & Zoning Board from 2012-2014. He attended the University of Toledo (OH) and Xavier University in Cincinnati and worked in radio sales, marketing and management from 1972-2001. "Helping others find a home they love as much as I love mine on Beach Trail is the best second career ever!" says Obarski. (Source: My Florida MLS/Single family home transaction segments).

JUICE HABIT You are going to have to wait a little longer for your Belleair juice fix. Juice Habit, owned by Belleair area resident Erin Fitzgerald is still in the permitting process, it has been a longer process than she anticipated. They plan to offer Acai Bowls, green vegetable and cold pressed juices, and fruit smoothies made to order. The cold pressed juices will be bottled on site. Erin and her husband have been residents for over 14 years and "juicers" for many years. Look for them at 760 Indian Rocks Road N.

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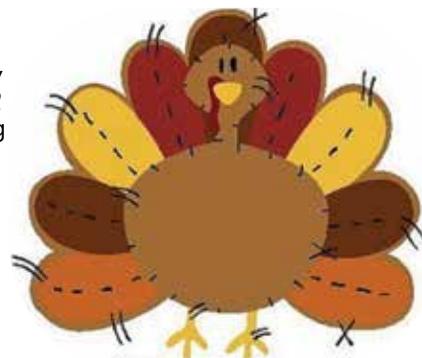
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THANKSGIVING CAMP

The Belleair Parks & Rec Department is offering a three-day camp for ages 6-12 during Thanksgiving break that includes fun, games, sports and field trips. Open November 21 - November 23 from 8 am to 4 pm the cost to members is \$85 for all 3 days or \$35



per day. The non-member rate is: \$100 for 3 days or \$40 per day. Camp is at the Dimitt Community Center, 918 Osceola Road in Belleair. Call 727-518-3728 or visit belleairrec.com for information.

BELLEAIR REC CENTER

Belleair's Halloween Party & Haunted House is Sunday, October 23, 4:30 - 8pm at the Dimitt Community Center. Enjoy a haunted house, bounce house, costume contest, trick or treat trail, food and more. Volunteers, ages 13 and up, are still needed. The Haunted House Sneak Peek is Friday, October 21 from 6 - 7:15pm.

ADOPT A FAMILY THANKSGIVING

The Belleair Parks & Recreation Department is partnering with 2 local elementary schools again this year to adopt 40 families in need. They will be providing the families with a complete Thanksgiving meal, various essentials, toiletries, and other items. You can donate 1 item or adopt an entire family for \$100! Every little bit helps. They will accept donations from November 1 to November 16, at 918 Osceola Road, Belleair. If you'd like to participate or have questions, please contact Rachel Hobbs at rhobbs@townofbelleair.net or call 727-518-3728.

FIRST NIGHT ST. PETE BUTTON SALES HAVE BEGUN!

First Night St. Petersburg has already sold its first admission button for their New Year's Eve Celebration! This year's first First buttons were sold to a group coming from Germany. First Night has seen an increase in buttons purchased early from people outside of Florida and the U.S. as St. Petersburg, becomes known as a great place to experience art and music!

The advance discount sales price has encouraged participants to buy their buttons earlier each year. In past years, the majority of advance button sales have been in November.

Buttons can be purchased at firstnightstpete.com. Advance cost is 10 adults, \$5 children 6-12, Children 5 and under are free.

LIBRARY CHANGES

Belleair Shore has decided not to renew the cooperative agreement that allows residents to use the services of any Pinellas County public library. The co-op agreement costs the city \$3,500 and Mayor Schmidt feels no one is using it, as everyone gets all their information online today. The money will be used for other expenditures in the general budget.

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LOCAL ARTISTS CREATE PUBLIC ART IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS

While there has been an explosion of murals all over St Petersburg, many cities have little or no Public art. But, the excitement and interest in this art form has increased in our area. About 5 months ago, Heather Richardson started the Public Art Intervention. Its mission is to help introduce public art to local communities and help artist receive payment for their public art.

Through the Safety Harbor Art and Music Center, a non-profit 501-3c, Greg Brewer of First Choice Paints, grants, private donations, city funds and donations through a Gofundme account, the Intervention project has completed five projects one in Historic Kenwood, three in Safety Harbor and one in Belleair Bluffs.

The process to create an art project is quite extensive. First a location must be found. Then, a theme that best fits the space, while taking into consideration the building owner likes and dislikes, is developed. In some cases, city permission is required. Once a theme is decided upon, Richardson tries to pair an artist with the project based on their style of work. Once everything is agreed upon, and funding is secured, the project begins. Sometime the process moves quickly, but sometimes it can take months for everything to fall into place.



Getting the community involved in the process is essential. Richardson has found when people participate in a project it gives them a sense of ownership and pride that they created something for their community. In July, a four panel mini-mural was created at the Safety Harbor Sunday market. People were encouraged to help paint it and about 40 people, both adults and children, helped. It will be installed in the Safety Harbor Public Library in the children’s reading area. She hopes to recreate this project in other communities.

One great thing about public art is many people view and interact with it, daily. The completed Belleair Bluffs’ project is a mural at City Hall. It was designed by Annette Gloomis and depicts endangered and threatened wildlife and plant life of Florida. The mural, while beautiful is also educational. Each of the mural’s animal and plant images was created in coloring book form with facts about each one. While at the park, pick up a page and learn a little bit about each.

Now Richardson is beginning a project for the Belleair Market on Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs. The mural will be painted in the style of a vintage postcard/poster on panels that will be attached to the wall on the side of the market. The images will represent Belleair Bluffs, Belleair and our beach communities. Created by local artist Beth Warmath, it should be completed by the end of October. The Belleair Market is sponsoring a Fall Festival, Oct 30 for the grand unveiling of the mural from noon to 4pm with music, food and fun.

Richardson has lived and worked in this community for 24 years. She worked at E&E Stakeout Grille for 20 years and as a gardener and artist locally as well. She is on the Board of Directors of the Safety Harbor Art and Music Center. She hopes to expand her focus and install sculptural pieces in local parks in the future.

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MEET LAURA JOLLY, THE WIFE OF A CONGRESSMAN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Laura and David Jolly moved from Indian Shores to Harbor Bluffs, next to Belleair Bluffs, last June. They still own their Indian Shores condo, but now they call Belleair Bluffs their home. "We just love that neighborhood," Laura exclaims. "Shortly after moving in, a neighbor threw a welcome party for us. No politics--just food, wine and friendly neighbors."

Earlier in his career, Rep. David Jolly (R) was an aide to Rep. Bill Young. Later, he worked as a lobbyist for a Washington firm, which is where Laura first met him.

"After Bill's death, David was trying to recruit someone to run for the seat, but when former St. Pete Mayor Rick Baker decided not to run, people convinced David he would be best to represent the people of Pinellas," Laura explains. "David is an attorney. In the beginning, he did not want to run, but others convinced him he was perfect for the Washington job."

In 2014, David was elected to finish Young's term and Laura continued working in Washington for a defense firm. That led to the Jollys having a long distance relationship for about 9 months, each flying back and forth between Washington and Tampa Bay. In July of 2015, David and Laura married.

Laura does not try to manage David's busy career life. She does however, manage their free time. "I keep in touch with the office and try to keep our days off for ourselves. Our personal time is ours. We don't let the calendar run our lives."

Laura only goes to Washington occasionally. "I have my job here," Laura says. She is Vice President of Business Development for Boston Holding Company, a private local equity firm. "When I do go to Washington, I have my girlfriends from the past that I try to socialize with, while

David does his Washington-stuff."

The Jolly's recently adopted two fur babies - Huck and June Bug, both young Dobermans. "They are definitely 'people' dogs."

So where do they like to go when they dine out? It depends on the part of town they are going to. "We love Villa Gallace and Crabby Bill's in Indian Rocks, the new Marina Cantina in Clearwater Beach and the Belleair Bluffs' Maggie Mae's because they let us bring our dogs and sit outside."

Presently, David is running for re-election against Charlie Crist (D). In Washington, he is also trying to limit the amount of fundraising Congressmen are required to do, fighting for Zika funding and working on hundreds of other issues important to our area.

"David has a saying about his work," adds Laura. "He wants his work in Washington to pass the 'Sleep Well at Night' test. Normally we get a good night's rest."

"It is so heart-warming to drive down the streets of our new neighborhood and see all the 'Vote of Jolly' yard signs. That gives us another reason to love Belleair Bluffs, Laura adds.

"If you see us out and about, feel free to say hello. We love talking to our Pinellas neighbors."



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Ray Ferrara, founder of ProVise Management Group in Clearwater, compares investing to a person walking up a flight of stairs with a yo-yo. "It goes up and it goes down. But as that person walks up the stairs, the yo-yo goes up as well."

Ferrara has been giving and also taking advice for over 45 years. Today, he may be an expert on financial matters but he wasn't always the case. He went to the University of Maryland and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelors Degree in Zoology. After graduation, he went to work for IBM in Riverdale, MD, selling computers.

About that same time, a friend asked Ferrara to invest \$500 in a start-up business. It was not a good concept and he lost his investment. It taught him a good lesson though at a very early age – be an intelligent, informed investor.

After that negative experience, Ferrara decided to become more informed and took investing courses which lead him to getting his securities and insurance license. He worked part-time, but within 6 months, he quit IBM and started working full time in the investment industry.

Ferrara's first full time investment job was for Pioneer Western, a Mutual Funds and Life Insurance company. He quickly moved up to be a Regional Vice President in the Houston area, then two years later, they relocated him to their Clearwater home office. He continued to work there for about eight years.

Around 1986, he created ProVise in a small Clearwater office. His staff quickly grew from one to three. By 1990, Ferrara became a Certified Financial Planner™. In 2000, ProVise merged with Personal Resource Management, owned by Bruce Fyfe, CFP®. They have been together for 16 years.

"In 1932, the Dow Jones was about 40. That is four-zero!" says Ferrara. "In 1970, when I finished college,

the Dow was 800. It was between 900 and 1000 when I got into this business. Look at it now—over 18,000!"

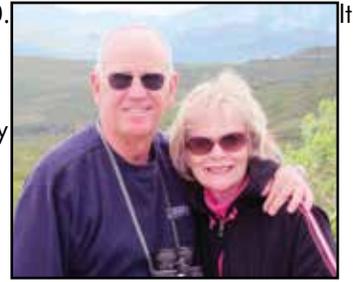
"Over the years, I have certainly experienced the stock market's ups and downs," says Ferrara. "I have seen the market go down over 40% four different times, but it has always recovered. "I was in business when gold was just \$35 an ounce. I have also seen it top \$1,800 an ounce. Today, it is about \$1380. I remember when there were no IRAs, no money market funds and only 400 mutual funds to consider buying," Ferrara continues.

"At ProVise we stress financial planning," Ferrara emphasizes. "Investing, retirement, estate planning, insurance, asset protection, charitable giving, etc. are all subsets of planning. It is like building a home. You start with a plan—and then you follow that plan. It increases your chance of success.

Today, ProVise Management has 1100 clients in 38 states service by 32 employees, including 13 Financial Advisors. As of this month, they manage over \$1.2 billion dollars.

In 1970, Ferrara married Kim, his wife of 46 years. They live in Belleair, where he enjoys golf, traveling and boating. He is also a member of the Belleair Country Club.

ProVise is located at 611 Druid Road East #105 in Clearwater. Call Ferrara at 441-9022. You can find more information about ProVise Management Group at ProVise.com.



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Something Fun To Do Nearby

BOK TOWER GARDENS - A HOLIDAY WONDERLAND

by Becky Griffin

Lake Wales's Bok Tower Gardens, one of the area's first attractions, showcases the real Florida, untouched by time. This breathtaking gem, only one hour east of Tampa, has been enchanting visitors for over 80 years but is still one of our best-kept secrets. It was established by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and philanthropist Edward W. Bok, who spent his winters in Lake Wales. He bought the highest hill - 298 feet above sea level - to create a bird sanctuary and garden. Today, it is the Bok Tower Gardens, a National Historic Landmark.

The original 50-acre garden was designed by noted landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead Jr. with 1,000 live oaks, 10,000 azaleas, 100 sabal palms, 300 magnolia trees and 500 gardenias. It took five years to design and plant. Today, it is a refuge for more than 100 bird species. Over the years, with the addition of more property, it is over 250-acres.

After he bought the garden, almost as an after thought, Bok decided to add a "singing tower." Made of pink marble and coquina, the 205-foot neo-Gothic and art deco tower houses a 60-bell carillon, one of the finest in the world. Bok died within sight of the Tower in 1930 and is buried at its base.

Although not regularly open to the public, the tower consists of eight levels, each used for a different purpose. A 211-step wrought-iron and steel staircase begins on the first level but there is also an original Otis electric elevator still used by the carillonist. Level 5 is a library, Level 6 offices and Level 7 houses the carillon.

A carillon's cast bronze bells are precisely tuned and arranged so that any key can be played, but unlike most bells, carillon bells are fixed in a frame and do not move. Instead, the clapper inside strikes the bell. Because of the bells' weight and size, a carillon is one of the largest instruments in the world. Bok Tower's 60 bells range in weight from 16 pounds to nearly 12 tons. A carillon has a keyboard, with keys connected by wires to the clappers. Keys are depressed by the player's fists and feet.

30-minute Carillon concerts are held at 1 and 3 pm daily, with short selections played on the hour and half-hour. They can be heard from many parts of the gardens. Live concerts are played mid-October through mid-May. Afterward, you can meet and talk to the carillonist.

Shortly after Bok's death, Charles Austin Buck, a Bethlehem Steel vice president built a winter home next to the gardens. The 20-room Mediterranean-style mansion, originally named "El Retiro," ("retreat" in Spanish) was completed in the mid-1930s. In an effort led by Bok's daughter-in-law Nellie Lee Holt Bok, the estate was acquired by the gardens in 1970 and renamed Pinewood Estate.

Visitors to Bok Tower Gardens may tour the historic estate throughout the year. Visitors receive a program when they enter the estate and docents are available throughout the home to answer questions. Due to its historic nature, it is not fully accessible by a wheelchair or stroller.

The acres of ferns, palms, oaks and pines create unique beauty all year. February and March are considered the peak bloom season with irises, azaleas, camellias and others in full bloom. During the summer, they offer a summer concert series, but buy tickets early because they always sell out. During October, enjoy their Rootstock featuring plant vendors, music, food and a spectacular display of seasonal foliage, marking the start of Florida's gardening season.

But it is during the holiday season when Bok Tower Gardens really decks their halls. Each year, a new theme is used for their celebration, and a visit has become a tradition for many Holiday lovers. Decorations and poinsettia displays are scattered throughout the property. Christmas music from the carillon can be heard throughout.

The highlight of any holiday visit is the Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate. As you move from room to room a story unfolds bringing history and the Buck family to life. Each room is individually decorated by volunteers and sponsored designers following the annual theme.

Seeing all that Bok Tower Gardens has to offer is easily done in a day. Guided tours are offered. The historical museum has changing art exhibits and an up-close look at how a carillon is made and played. You can enjoy lunch or a snack in their Café and don't forget to stop in their gift shop for a plant to take home to your own garden.

Bok Tower Gardens, located at 151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales, is open every day of the year from 8 am to 6 pm. Find more information at boktowergardens.org or call them at 863-676-1408.

Finest Real Estate in Belleair & Harbor Bluffs



Belleair: Located on one of the most desirable streets in Belleair is this stunning 5/4.5 4,541 sq. ft. pool home with breathtaking water views. \$2,750,000. Bill Munette, 727-415-5983.



Harbor Bluffs: Custom built 6/6 5,001 sq. ft. residence boasting countless fine features plus open intracoastal water views, dock, lagoon style pool and spa and a 6 car garage. \$2,295,000. Ian Ross-Johnson, 727-459-8008.



Belleair: This beautiful two story 4/3.5 2,906 sq. ft. Mediterranean home is situated on two lots; perfect for the family and entertaining. \$625,000. Ian Ross-Johnson, 727-459-8008.



Harbor Bluffs: Inviting 3/2.5 2,139 sq. ft. open floor plan home featuring large and bright living spaces, split bedroom plan, beautiful pool and spa and a 2 car garage. \$469,000. Ian Ross-Johnson, 727-459-8008.



Belleair: Ideally located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this updated 3/2 2,130 sq. ft. home boasts an open floor plan, chef's kitchen and an outdoor entertaining space. \$449,000. Steve Kepler, 727-647-6696.



Belleair: Enjoy views to the north and northwest from this 7th floor 2/2 1,395 sq. ft. Belleview Biltmore condo. This unit is fully furnished and move-in ready. \$279,000. Ian Ross-Johnson, 727-459-8008.

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IRENE COPLEY - VOLUNTEERING FOR 36 YEARS

She's been a Bay Area fixture longer than the Tampa Bay Rays have been playing baseball, longer than USF has been fielding a football team, and almost as long as show tunes have been belted from the stage of the Straz Center. Probably even longer than people have been stuck on US 19. Four presidents, three popes, two cities, and one lifetime later, and Irene Copley is still at it. But unless you've spent time at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH), you've probably never heard of her.

"Since 1988, every family that stayed at St. Petersburg East or West RMH has been touched by Irene," Alison Barrick, marketing and communications manager for RMH, said. "That her work has been with such little fanfare speaks volumes."

A perennial RMH volunteer, Irene came to Florida in 1967 and owned and operated nine rental properties in Treasure Island.

She came into contact with RMH in 1980, two years after her son Paul was diagnosed with leukemia. Paul had been expected to climb the corporate ladder of the Ford Motor Company in Kansas City before his diagnosis in 1978. RMH was Paul's favorite charity, so Irene began donating in 1980. Paul passed away in 1982, followed six years later by her husband.

Now alone, Irene moved into an apartment where she discovered her calling. A couple

living below her were regular volunteers at RMH. One night, Irene asked if she could tag along. They agreed and almost immediately, Irene jumped into the task. "It's the same as running apartments," she said.

36 years, seven major surgeries, one tornado and a life threatening car accident later, Irene is one of RMH's most trusted volunteers. Throughout the years she has been responsible for: bank deposits, meal planning, and overseeing day-to-day operations during the absences of full-time staff. She now handles filing and rolling the coins from the Coke machine every Friday. It's estimated she's clocked more than 20,000 hours with RMH, although no count was kept during her early years, so the number could be much higher.

Irene became a fixture at both houses, renowned for her unbounded enthusiasm and her lightning-fast ability to wrap coins for bank deposits. She earned a solid trust from former House Director Donna Young and former Family Coordinator Lynn Lippincott, who put so much faith in her expertise that Irene covered the office when they were on vacation.

Now 92 and legally blind, Copley still feels like she's 40. "People who volunteer are happier and live longer. Keep busy for a clear mind. Use it or lose it," she explains. Irene received several volunteer

recognition awards, donating the funds to RMH. A grocery store chain once named her Queen for the Day. Students wrote essays about her. Families adopted her as a surrogate grandmother. She prayed, cried, and laughed with so many families. Her presence, Barrick said, has become so vital to RMH that many families come back to visit her.

Good health helps, too. A nurse friend once expressed amazement, and a little jealousy, over her blood pressure. She stays active with her church, assists with holiday meals at the house, and helps out as much as she can.

"Irene's legacy is one of sustained effort over a long period of time," Barrick said. "Her service to others cannot be overstressed, and never will be by those who had the pleasure of being cared for while she was volunteering."

Ronald McDonald House has provided her with a purpose and work family, something she passes on to those in her care.



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RETIRE? NOT ON YOUR LIFE!

It's Time to Reinvent & Rewire

by Shary Hauer, Master Certified Executive Coach

Many baby boomers---and I'm one of them---don't believe in retirement. In fact, we abhor the word. No executive I know wants to retreat, withdraw, abandon, cancel, exit, or for heaven's sake, expire! (These words are from the thesaurus!)

Successful executives are embracing SECOND ADULTHOOD (or second childhood!) and re-architecting lives of deeper enjoyment, meaning, and passion.

For many of us the call for "What's Next?" speaks most loudly at midlife after we've spent decades building a successful career, family, reputation, wealth. It's a time when we yearn for MORE: more freedom, more time with family and friends, more fulfillment, more purpose, more happiness, more engagement in ALL aspects of a rich and vivid life.

What's Next?: The Rest and Best of Your Life

With 10,000 Boomers turning 60 every day, a profoundly different portrait of "What's Next?" has emerged. Rather than buying into the 1950s version of a golf retirement, many boomers are seeking to re-architect their second half by staying engaged. According to a Lou Harris poll, 80% of Boomers expect to work well into their retirement years. Many are looking to leverage their well-earned skills, wisdom and time to contribute to society in more meaningful ways. The age-old question of "when am I going to retire?" is being replaced by "how will I make the most out of the rest of my life?"

Personal strategic planning is essential for a successful transition to a vibrant second half, yet many executives fail to plan their lives as effectively as they managed their businesses. I hear it all the time from my clients---this from a CEO last week: "I've run businesses. I've built hundreds of strategic plans. But, I've never had life goals." How about you? Are you like most of us who spend more time researching vacations or car buying than planning our future life?

Anchor, Don't Drift to Your Next Chapter

Proactively developing strategic plans is what successful executives do. When it comes to designing the second half of your life, a smart strategic plan will follow these basic steps:

Step 1: Reimagine What's Possible; Create a Clear Vision of

Where and WHO You Want to BE in Your Next Chapter

Step 2: Take Stock of Where You Are Now: Inventory Your

Values, Drivers, Motivators and Points of Power

Step 3: Clear the Way: Free Yourself from Real or Imagined

Obstacles

Step 4: Develop a Personal Strategic Plan that Propels You

With Energizing Possibilities, Actions and Milestones

For some executives their next chapter vision may entail a move from full-time career to full-time fun. Others want to transition to another corporate role, or a completely new career of consulting, teaching, board service, starting a new business or volunteering. Many others prefer to go ala carte and build a portfolio life that includes the ideal combination of work, family time, service, wellness, and leisure. No matter the direction your next chapter takes, being proactive, reflecting, thinking through and creating a written plan insures you:

- Are in the driver's seat in designing a compelling life
- Gain clarity and peace of mind about what's next
- Access your rich reservoir of dreams, passions and potential
- Magnify your thinking about what's possible for the next 10, 20, 30 years
- Experience renewal & transformation for your second half

Shary Hauer, is founder of Clearwater Beach-based The Hauer Group, www.thehauergroup.com. Schedule a Complimentary Consultation by contacting her at Shary@thehauergroup.com or 727.298.8894.

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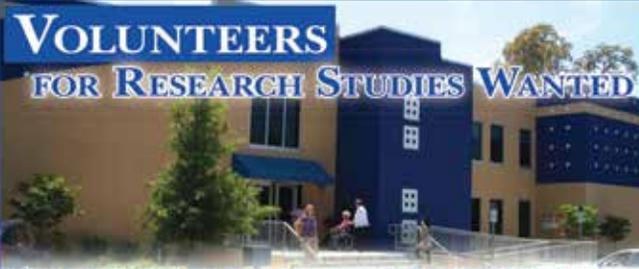
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Bar & Restaurant News

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND PIZZA October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and Hungry Howie's Pizza is once again donating a portion of every pizza to the cause. Their annual campaign, called "Our Love, Hope and Pizza" starts October 1st and continues the whole month. Now, while you are enjoying their great pizza, you are also contributing to the cause. Thank them when you call in your order, 596-1400.



CRABBY'S OFFERS BANQUET SPACE IRB Sushi is gone, but the Brick Building, owned by Crabby Bill's at the corner of 1st St. and Walsingham Rd. in Indian Rocks Beach is ready for a new use. Matt Loder, owner of Crabby Bills, says the building is available to be rented by large groups - parties, anniversaries, and almost anything. They can supply food and a full bar with support staff. For details, call Crabby Bill's at 595-0041.



BACKWATERS WINS AWARDS Readers of the Tampa Bay Newspapers voted Backwaters on Sand Key two awards: Best Happy Hour in Pinellas County, and Second Best Place for Waterfront Dining in Pinellas County. Owner Larry and his staff want to thank all that voted for Backwaters and everyone that attended their Big Birthday Bash. They had a Southern Boil to celebrate their 16th Anniversary.

KEEGAN'S STONE CRAB FESTIVAL Stone Crab season opens October 15. Keegan's will be hosting their 9th annual Stone Crab Feast October 21 - 23, while supplies last. They will have special pricing and live music all weekend. Get information at KeegansSeafood.com.



10 YEARS AND COUNTING Happy 10th Anniversary to Marlin Darlin's Grill in Belleair Bluffs. The restaurant opened November of 2006 as Key West Grill. In 2008, the name was changed to Marlin Darlin's Key West Grill. Marlin Darlin is the name of one of Frank Chivas, boats. Chivas is the primary partner in Baystar Restaurant Group, owner of Marlin Darlin's. Their claim to fame is they offer a large variety of some of the freshest fish available, direct from their own fleet of dayboats, or flown in fresh daily. Help celebrate this anniversary at one of their Happy Hours followed by a yummy dinner.

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BELLEVIEW PLACE 50% OF FIRST PHASE SOLD STARTING WAITING LIST

JMC Communities is transforming a section of the Bellevue Biltmore Hotel into the centerpiece of its newest development, Belleview Place in Belleair, featuring mid-rise condominium residences and carriage homes with unique, luxurious amenities.

The historic Bellevue Biltmore Hotel's celebrated elegance and prestige, along with a 38,000-square-foot section of the original hotel, will be preserved and sets the tone for Belleview Place in Belleair. Flanked by the Belleair Country Club, Belleview Place's sales center which opened in June and is selling the first mid-rise building, the Allamanda, which is now 50 percent sold.

The community will feature 28 carriage homes and 104 mid-rise condos. Each of the four buildings, six-stories over two floors of parking, will feature 26 spacious residences ranging from 1,724 to 3,676 square feet with two or three bedrooms. Two-story carriage homes will offer 2,153 to 3,274 square feet of living space and will include elevators and two-car garages. Pre-construction pricing starts in the mid-\$600,000s and the initiation fee for a golf and social membership at the Belleair Golf & Country Club is included. Groundbreaking is anticipated in October with completion of the first building within 16 months.

"The penthouses and larger corner residences were the first ones that sold and we have started a waiting list for the next building," stated Sales Director Claudia Emery. "Our buyers love our convenient location and the fact that we offer a combination of new construction residences with all the benefits of an established country club lifestyle." The Belleair Country Club includes two Donald Ross-designed championship golf courses, a full-service restaurant and bar, a resort pool, a full fitness center, a marina and variety of social activities.

Graceful residence features will include high ceilings, gas water heaters and cooktops, quartz or granite counters, wood floors and cabinet doors, insulated windows, high-efficiency heating/cooling system, large covered terraces and one or two master suites. Each home will come with a double car garage or dedicated under-building parking spaces. The mid-rise buildings' garages will be inside the limited-access parking garage.

In addition to access to the Belleair Country Club, Belleview Place will have its own amenity center at the signature Bellevue Inn which will feature 35 hotel guest rooms, a resort-style pool, a fitness center and social event spaces as well as a grand lawn for outdoor events. "We are dedicated to reimagining the spirit and ambiance of the original hotel in the Bellevue Inn which will regain its status as a social centerpiece for our community," said JMC CEO J. Michael Cheezem. The Inn will reflect its famous heritage in several historical displays and preserved details such as original stained glass, 118-year-old heart pine planks, fireplaces and grand staircase, as well as a contemporary interpretation of the original Maisie's Ice Cream Parlor and the Tiffany Room.

"The historic significance of the original hotel is preserved, but also the architectural details and color scheme of our surrounding residences. We're thrilled with the positive response we have received from the community. Several prospects know us from our other developments including Ovation, Rowland Place and Victoria Place, and quite a few are considering downsizing from single family homes in Belleair and Clearwater," added Cheezem.

For sales information contact the Belleview Place Sales Center, 275 Belleview Boulevard, Belleair, call 727-469-7070 or visit BelleviewPlace.com. Sales Center hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday noon until 5 pm, or by appointment.

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WILL WE SEE A SKYTRAN™ IN CLEARWATER?

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

For those that would like to park their car and ride an overhead shuttle from the beach to the Mainland—a five-minute ride – it might just happen. There is a serious proposal to install a multi-million dollar SkyTran™ system from the mainland of Clearwater to the area around Pier 60 and The Marina. Since traffic and parking are two of the beach's biggest problems, City Officials are reviewing the proposal.

A SkyTran™ is similar to a monorail, like those you see at Disney World. The proposal calls for enclosed pods that can carry up to four people and are capable of speeds higher than 60 miles per hour. Each pod runs point to point and only stops at the rider's destination for un-boarding. It would be handicapped accessible. An app is already developed allowing riders to make a reservation from a smartphone.

The system would have safety systems for winds over 50 mph and will be lightning proof. Overweight pods would trigger an alarm as weight is a key consideration. It would require a hanger facility and master control room designed to withstand hurricane force winds.

The cost to ride the BeachTran is not set

yet. The developers have said that the price would be competitive with other means of travel and parking. Maybe around \$5 per ride.

The SkyTran,™ to be built in stages, is expected to cost around \$10 million per mile and travel two to three miles in both directions. The first stage would link Myrtle Street to the park at Pier 60. A later phase could encircle the downtown area and deliver people to the bluff and Coachman Park. Another phase might loop around the north end of the beach, and another heading south. It would not travel over the water, instead it would travel above the bike path next to Hwy 60 across Memorial Bridge and along Court Street between 45-55 MPH.

There are no existing examples of a SkyTran™ system, but a SkyTran™ system is being built in Dubai for the Island of Yaz. The new concept was developed by Israeli Aerospace Industries using NASA technology. Clearwater would be the first U.S. city to have one and it in itself could be a new tourist attraction.

BeachTran is the locally-owned, private company that is interested in bringing the SkyTran™ system to Clearwater. Funded by private investments, it would cost an estimated \$30 million. One early investor is Eric Schmidt,



Executive Chairman of Alphabet, Inc. owner of Google and other well-known companies.

Locally, the person pushing the project is longtime resident Tom Nocera (67) a graduate of Largo High School. He worked for NASA at Kennedy Space Center during the manned moon landings and most recently was an agency spokesperson for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

This is not the proposed gondola concept talked about recently. A gondola car hangs from a cable system like you see at ski resorts and mountain attractions. They normally move at a slower speed, can only go in straight lines and normally cannot turn corners.

The City has hired outside consultants to review both concepts. If the SkyTran™ is approved, the target date to open is December 23, 2018 - barely more than two years away. Learn more about this exciting concept at BeachTran.com.

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SIBLINGS GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

Zoe Leousis, 12 and Aris Leousis, 11, could have done anything this past year with their Saturday afternoons or time off this summer. Instead, these two middle school students decided to put their knowledge and passion for local history to good use and applied for leadership positions as Junior Docents Volunteers at Heritage Village.

Heritage Village is a 21-acre open-air living history museum located in the heart of Pinellas County. The natural pine and palmetto landscape is home to some of Pinellas County's most historic buildings.



Zoe Leousis

"I enjoy teaching people about local history. Watching adults and kids learn about how things were back in the 19th century during my tours is always nice", explains Zoe, a student at Plato Academy Clearwater and an Indian Rocks Beach resident.

A little nervous at first, Zoe says after a while everything just seemed to fall into place. "The program really helped me out by giving me more confidence and helping me speak in front of a large group of people, even if they are only kids. The other day a parent told me I was a good role model to her kids and that felt really great."

The more than 31 historic structures and features include a school, church, railroad depot, sponge warehouse, sugar mill and general store as well as a range of historic homes, including the McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin, the oldest existing structure in the county, and the Queen Anne-style House of Seven Gables.

"My favorite part is teaching living history activities", explains Aris who is also a student at Plato Academy Clearwater, " For example, I teach kids how Floridians did laundry and maintained their gardens in the 1800s. Once I give visitors a demonstration, they also get to try it and it is a lot of fun!"

As volunteers, Zoe and Aris donate their time at Heritage Village by learning about local and Florida history and researching and presenting guided tours. Their compassion, patience and generosity truly makes them exemplary role models to other children and young adults.

"Our parents have always told us that volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart," says Zoe. Both siblings agree that giving back to their community is "important and makes you a better person!"

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th Street, Largo. Call 582-2123 for more information.

In addition to Docents, Heritage Village has other volunteer opportunities in the 21-acre history museum, including guest experiences (reception, tours and demonstrations) grounds, safety, maintenance, historic preservation activities, conservation, housekeeping, office and administrative functions, fundraising, programs, festivals exhibits and unique undertakings like the McKay Creek Boat Shop and the 1967 Caboose restoration.



Aris Leousis

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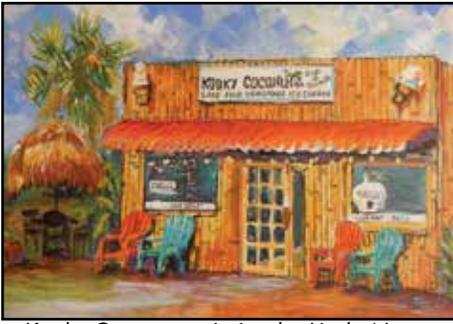
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Photos Courtesy of G. Joseph Fitzgerald, DO

KOOKY COCONUT CONTINUES A 70 YEAR TRADITION

by Bob Griffin



Kooky Coconut painting by Linda Newton

Still going strong after all these years, the popular little café at the corner of Gulf Blvd and 8th Avenue has had a few different names over the last 72 years. First known as the Little Food Basket, it became International Café, followed by Elena '85 and Tacky Turtle, before becoming Kooky Coconut ten years ago. Each has had its own personality.

Indian Rocks Beach resident Joanne Cicmanec, bought it in October of 2006. She, along with family and a loyal small staff, run the restaurant seven days a week. They are known - and have always been known - for their Cuban sandwiches and homemade ice cream.



Joanne Cicmanec

"The building was built in 1944 and opened as a small neighborhood grocery," says Cicmanec, the current owner. "The first owner's son stopped in a few years ago, just to see the place. Known as Little Food Basket, he told me they sold simple groceries, bait and tackle. They slept in the back room."

"In the early 1950s, my mother would send me to the neighborhood store to buy bread and milk," says Martha Johnson, Mayor RB Johnson's mother. "Back then, we had two choices Little Food Basket and The Casablanca Cottages store at 15th Avenue — we favored The Food Basket because they sold candy."

In the 1960s, George and Rose Messina bought the property. Rose was known as "Ma" to the regulars, the name was changed to Ma's Food Basket. Her son, George, Jr., was known for his handmade shell and shark teeth necklaces. "We would look for shells on the beach and give them to George so that he could turn them into beach

jewelry. The Food Basket was the only shell shop in IRB," says Martha Johnson. Ma, known for her Italian food, cooked her family's dinner in the store and the next day sold the leftovers at the front counter. The place always smelled like her Italian kitchen. Ma added hoagies to the menu.

The Anona Elementary school bus stopped in front of The Little Food Basket. "On my way to school, I would buy a bag full of candy for about a dollar," says Kevin Dunning, whose family live directly behind the store from 1962 to 1980. "Quite the entrepreneur, even then, I would sell the candy to my schoolmates for a small profit!"

"Ma was the original Neighborhood Watch person," remembers Laura Mears O'Donahue, who grew up a block away. "If she saw kids wandering around at night, she would call their parents!"

Neighborhood kids regularly worked in the store stocking shelves – not for pay – but for something to do. "The Messina's were like family," says Kevin.

"We went to the Little Food Basket when we first moved here, before we opened Pajano's Pizza in 1975," says Monica Faraone, wife of Pajano's Pizza owner, Nick. "Besides food, milk, bread and bait, they sold ice cream—not dipped—but packaged ice cream bars and scooped cones."

"Back in the 1970s, I used to eat there all the time," says Indian Rocks Beach resident Chris Dawson. "Ma and Pa were 'off the boat' Italians. I was a painter and lived from paycheck to paycheck. Ma let me charge big gigantic hoagies until I got paid. They were the nicest people."

George and Mary Britton bought the store in the late 1970s and continued to run it as the Little Food Basket, before selling it to Parisians Jean and Marguerite Gauval in December of 1980 for \$90,000.

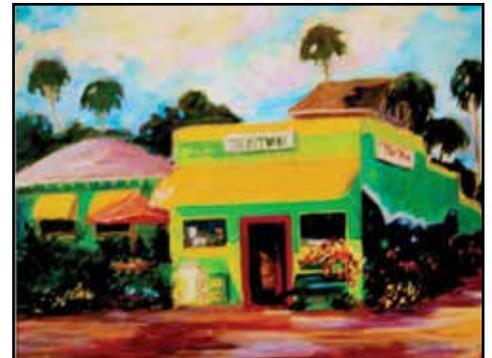
Marguerite primarily ran the store. They acquired the little cottage to the south and rented it for extra income. She was the first to sell the now locally famous Cuban sandwiches along with beer,

wine, sandwiches, and gift items.

In September of 1985, Category 2 Hurricane Elena destroyed much of Pinellas County's beaches and flooded the building. Luckily, it was still standing when the water receded.

To pay their respects for surviving the hurricane, the Guavals changed the café's name to Elena '85. When patrons asked Marguerite about the name, she said, "It just seemed an obvious choice"

The Gauvals sold the property to Louis and Deborah McDermott in 1993. For a short time around 1995, the store was known as the International Café. Decorated with flags of various countries along the roof's line, it did not last long. Donald and Michael Ehlen bought the store in 2000.



Tacky Turtle Painting by Mary Rose Holmes

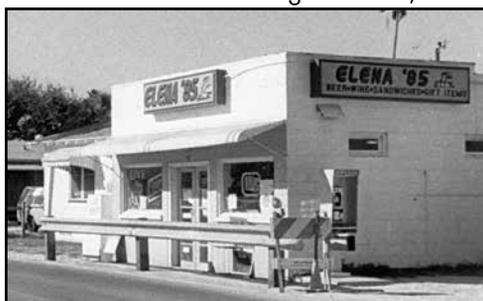
In the fall of 1996, Andy LePage, who lived nearby in a beach cottage, leased the property. "It was still the International Café when I started. After a couple months, I changed the name to Tacky Turtle—something fun."

In 2003, Andy bought the property from the Ehlers. He was well liked by the locals and had an annual party with free food and beer. "I loved the people of IRB—and the tourists, too," Andy says.

"Mostly, I sold beer, cigarettes and beach supplies," Andy remembers. "At first I didn't sell Cuban sandwiches, but people told me about Elena's Cubans and asked me to put them back on the menu. After that, Beach Life Magazine voted Tacky Turtle 'Best Cuban Sandwich on the Beach' for five straight years."

When Andy sold the business after nine-and-a half years to Cicmanec, she changed the name to Kooky Coconut Cafe and repainted the building as it is today. She has continued the tradition of selling great Cuban sandwiches and ice cream.

Find Kooky Coconut Café - where it has been for the past 70 years- at 760 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach





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38TH ANNUAL COUNTRY JUBILEE HERITAGE VILLAGE OCTOBER 22

Heritage Village's Country Jubilee, from 10am to 4pm October 22, is the first place to search for gifts for the upcoming holiday season. A giant flea market and book sale are special features. Handmade holiday crafts, paintings, jewelry, stained glass and wooden treasures are among the offerings as well as musical entertainment, tours of historical homes and demonstrations of traditional crafts. The Jubilee will be comprised of:

- 100 Crafters - will sell home created items, including candles, soap, American Girl Clothing, honey, smoked almonds, paintings, photography, jewelry and more.
- A Giant Flea Market - Harris School will present books, CD's, DVD's. Lowe House will be supplied with holiday items, crafts, decorations. Safety Harbor Church displays and sells Vintage Lines, antiques and collectibles. The Pinellas Room will be stuffed with general items from jewelry to leaf blowers.
- "4 Men and Their Trains" - a big hit, is model trains on the Train Depot, going around and around all day.
- Morse Code demonstrations - inside the Train Station with a Morse Code Machine clicking and a Conductor will show how stations would pick up mail from a moving train.
- Sugar Cane - Grinding/boiling will take place, where you can taste sugar cane and watch the syrup boil. Close by is a smokehouse actually smoking hams, poultry and pork.
- County Departments: Are represented and Justice & Consumer Services are there to aid in your understanding of what they do. Register to vote at the Supervisor of Elections table. Consumer Protection offers explanation on how to help yourself, where to go, and when you can't.

- Pinellas Genealogy Society - will assist in finding out how to trace your ancestry.
- Food Vendors - Enjoy kettle corn, pulled pork sandwiches smoked at our Smoke House, hot dogs, sausage or meat ball sandwiches, corn dogs, pizza, brownie, pie, and smoothies.
- Entertainment - All styles of music will be staged on the Band Stand starting at 10am and will continue all day. "Charlie Bill & His Barnburners" will play traditional bluegrass, "The Mungos" features Florida songs, "Chant the Trees" with two brothers, one on the mandolin and one on guitar, the "Leigh & Steve Humes Duo" together for over 20 years are singers and songwriters, "Rosewood Creek" plays Americana/folk rock music, and "The Crackerbillies" entertain you with Bluegrass, Country, Florida Folk.
- As a special treat between bands the St. Petersburg Ballet Co. will do the "Cake-Walk", between Greenwood House and the Boat Shop. The students between the age of 6 - 16 will make you smile while you enjoy this historic dance.
- Sponsored by The Tampa Bay Ukulele Society, lessons will be given at the McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin. Instructors for beginners and advanced beginners will teach children and adults a few lessons. A number of Ukuleles will be available for use, but if you have a Ukulele and want to participate, please bring it.
- A Bluegrass Jam Session will be set up in front of the Walsingham House.

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th St. N., Largo. FREE Parking is available on 119th Street Parking Area, with a FREE shuttle to Heritage Village. Call (727) 582-2123 for more information.



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SAVE THE DATE

Christmas at the Plaza, December 1

Christmas comes early this year to the merchants of The Plaza Shopping Center. Their big annual Holiday event will be Thursday, December 1st from 6 to 9pm.

Once again, the FREE musical holiday celebration features The Bayside String Quartet, principal Florida Orchestra players, special guest pianist Dr. Scott Behler and strolling carolers from the Indian Rocks Christian School. Refreshments will be sure and be sure to visit the Art Show at the Galleria Mistro. All the merchants will be open with special pricing on their products and services.

The Plaza is located in Belleair Bluffs at 100 Indian Rocks Road North.

ANTIQUe ALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

The merchants of Antique Alley invite you to their little alley on Sunday, November 6 for their Fall Festival. This is their kickoff to the holidays with decorations and all the merchants will have special items for sale. Antique Alley is located at 596 Indian Rocks Road N., next to Petal and Vine.

HERITAGE VILLAGE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES

Ellen Babb, Executive Director of Largo's Heritage Village has worked for Pinellas County since 1988. Now after 28 years, she has announced that November 3rd, right after their big Country Jubilee, will be her last day.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished together, during the leanest of times, when uniting under a shared vision helped to keep our doors open," Ellen says. "We built a boat shop, and took possession of the Turner Bungalow with its contents. We organized a large volunteer program to help us do business in a new way. Most recently, we worked in partnership to bring in a professional curatorial team, who will lead Heritage Village into the future, managing the important collections entrusted to our care."

We all thank Ellen for her years of work at Heritage Village.

PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION

We recently ran a story about Stan Wolneys a Master Carpenter for over 35 years in the Belleair Area. We ran the wrong phone number and a few of our readers called to see if we knew how to contact him. If you need a quote on that something special, call Stan Wolney at 586-1129 or on his cell, 215-4770. (Lic # C-8998.) Estimates are free.

2ND ANNUAL RCS GRAND GALA

Spies and Black Ties - October 22

On Saturday, October 22nd at 007 o'clock, RCS will host its 2nd Annual Grand Gala at Dunedin's Conny Center, presented by the Sharoky Family Foundation. The theme, Spies and Black Ties, lends itself to an exciting and exotic gathering of special "agents" who will dine on wonderful food by Clear Sky Beachside Cafe, signature drinks and be entertained by The Dick Rumore Underground Jazz Cellar Band, and guest vocalist Fred Johnson. With its secret agent theme (think "Bond. James Bond."), remarkable entertainment and intrigue is promised, from "Q's room" to silent and live auctions of extraordinary offerings.

Tickets, tables and sponsorships for the 2nd Annual RCS Grand Gala: Spies and Black Ties can be purchased at rcsgrandgala.com. All proceeds from the RCS Grand Gala will benefit the four RCS programs: RCS Food Bank, RCS Grace House, The Haven of RCS and the RCS Thrift Store.

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LUKE WILLIAMS: FROM BUSHWHACKER TO BUSINESS OWNER



by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Luke Williams started wrestling at age 15 in his home country of New Zealand. Fifty years later, he was inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame. Today, he owns a gym on Mandalay Avenue in Clearwater Beach and, at 69, is still out there signing autographs—and still wrestling.

"My next door neighbor in New Zealand was a bodybuilder," remembers Luke. "He invited me to go to the gym with him and, at 15 and barely 160 pounds, I started bulking up. Before I knew it, I was asked to wrestle. They did not have typical sports in our high schools—just rugby and soccer. No wrestling. We had the NZWA (New Zealand Wrestling Association), but I had to teach myself how to wrestle."

One night, at a local event, they were one wrestler short. "The promoter threw me a pair of boots and told me to fill in. That was my start," said Williams.

In the mid-1960s, Luke Williams (aka Brian Wickens) was half of a wrestling team, known initially as **The Kiwis**. The other half was Butch Miller, a friend with whom Luke developed a long tag-team relationship with and worked with on wrestling circuits in Australia, Singapore and Japan.

In 1972, Luke and Butch came to America, then worked all over Canada. It was at Stu Harris' **Stampede Wrestling** in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, where, billed as **The New Zealand Kiwis**, they won their first-ever recorded International Tag Team Championship.

When Butch Miller left the team and returned to New Zealand, Luke came back to the U.S. and formed a new team, **The Shepherders**, with Lord Boyd. The duo of Williams and Boyd quickly gained a reputation as one of the most violent, hard-hitting teams in the business.

In 1986, after a two-year break, Luke and his old partner, Butch, reunited to pursue new challenges in Florida, like **Championship Wrestling from Florida**, matches televised on Saturday afternoon. "One day we'd wrestle in Tampa, wake up, get on a plane and go to Jacksonville—or Orlando, or Miami, or Tallahassee. Seven days a week!" recalls Luke.

Luke and Butch signed on with the WWF in 1988 in the midst of an aggressive national expansion, giving them national and international exposure. They changed their name to **The Bushwhackers** and also re-tooled their violent style to more of a comedic approach—an instant hit the fans. They made their debut on January 3, 1989 on **WWF Superstars of Wrestling**. Then came **WrestleMania**, a special part of **Saturday Night's Main Event** in 1989 and the 1990s, featuring The Bushwhackers doing wacky things like eating sardines.

Another re-vamp happened in 1996, when The Bushwhackers portrayed Australian stereotypes (both were from New Zealand!), often accompanied in the ring by a giant kangaroo mascot.

In 1999, **The Bushwhackers** participated in a wrestling nostalgia pay-per-view, **Heroes of Wrestling**. One of their last appearances together was in 2001 as part of **WrestleMania X-Seven**. By 2007, Luke, called Bushwhacker Luke, again appeared solo on various TV wrestling programs and in interviews with other wrestlers. Through his career, he was won too many titles to mention here. In 2015, Luke, Butch and The Bushwhackers were introduced into the **World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Hall of Fame**.

Brian Wickens (Luke Williams) has done more than wrestle in the last 50 years. He owned a bar in New Zealand and was a Crabby Bill's franchise owner in Ft. Myers. He also owned Bushwhackers Steak House on S. Dale Mabry in Tampa.



A few years ago, a friend and owner of Pelican Shopping Center in Clearwater Beach, asked Luke if he was interested in taking over the existing gym in their building. He admitted knowing nothing about running a gym but thought—why not! His friend, Clearwater Beach resident, Hulk Hogan, was one of the first members of his Clearwater Beach Fitness Center at 483 Mandalay Avenue.

"I first met Hulk Hogan in 1987 on the wrestling circuit," adds Luke. "Everyone wanted to be on the card with him because it meant bigger payouts."

Brian is married and lives in Dunedin. He has one daughter and now one grandchild. Believe it or not, he still makes surprise appearances and—yes—still wrestles.

For more information on The Bushwhackers and Luke Williams, visit BushwhackerLuke.com.



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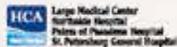
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HURRICANE HERMINE TAKES A TOLL ON OUR BEACHES

by Bob Griffin

When Hurricane Hermine landed in Florida last month, it was the first hurricane to hit Florida in 11 years. Although it was only a Category 1 when it made landfall 200 miles to the north of us, it still caused flooding, torrential rains, power outages and headaches for many.

Some area residents experienced gusts as high as 50 MPH and up to 10" of rain. The barrier islands from John's Pass north saw water over their seawalls, in their streets and in some cases, in their homes and businesses. The major casualties though were our beaches.

"Hurricane Hermine did more damage to the Pinellas Beaches than Tropical Storm Debby did in 2012," says Andy Squires, Pinellas County Director of Coastal Management. "We have asked Professor and Dr. Ping Wang of the University of South Florida Coastal Research Laboratory to put a number on it."

"The storm passed by our coast rather closely and generated very energetic conditions," says Dr. Wang. "Data shows significant dune erosion and sand escarpments on most of the beach areas."

"The beaches are going to need a lot of sand to get back to where we were before the storm," Squires continues. Areas with wider beaches survived better than areas like Belleair Shore, Belleair Beach and Indian Rocks Beach," Squires says.



"The beaches hit the worst were Belleair Shore and Belleair Beach since they had a narrow beach and very little if any dunes to protect them," Squires explains.

With no dunes to provide protection, Belleair Shore had water up to most homes' seawalls in that one and a half mile stretch of beach. Belleair Beach had minor dunes, but during the storm they were scoured off leaving a vertical ledge nearly six feet high.



In Indian Rocks, many beach access bridges had no sand at their western end. "In some cases, there was a 3 or 4 foot drop off at the end," says City Manager Gregg Mims. "It took 30 truckloads of beach sand at a cost of around \$30,000 to temporarily fix the drop offs."

Turtle nests were another big casualty of the storm. The area is still in the middle of turtle nesting season, and most nests are at the edge of the dunes. Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) stakes each of those nests for protection. "All of the stakes have been washed away," says Becca Romzek, CMA representative. "We do not know how many nests were lost, since some of the babies could have hatched and crawled to the Gulf without us."

The county and the state are discussing a \$25 million beach renourishment next Spring, but nothing is confirmed. City and County officials are pledging with Governor Scott, the Army Corps of Engineers and other officials to make it a priority. "It all comes down to federal funding," says John Bishop, Pinellas County Coastal Management Coordinator.

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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR ROTARY

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of the month is the general assembly and Board meeting. Contact Jo Ann Bruner at 544-4433, Ext 222 or via e-mail at JoAnn_Bruner@Yahoo.com. Visit BelleairRotary.org.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. Representative Kathleen Peters will speak October 7.

Meetings are for lunch at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club, and normally cost \$22 (pay at the door; no credit cards). Call Mary Miskin at 453-2630 or Renatta Cochran at 595-6678. Get more information at BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

The Belleair Social Club meets every Tuesday morning at 9am in the back of Panera Bread. They meet for dinner at different restaurants on the first and third Sunday at 6pm, and for lunch on the second and fourth Wednesday.

Membership is open to all seniors and there are no dues. Couples are encouraged to join their fun. They would like more male members. They plan monthly social meetings, potluck get-togethers, dinners, movie nights and visits to area attractions. Call Marilyn Daminato 585-9633.

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 program. Next meetings are October 4 and November 8. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or to join, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Their two major upcoming events during the next two months include: Pirates Camp (October 22-24) and the Carlisle Classic Regatta (November 18-22). Visit ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org.

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They normally meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month (October - April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach, 10:30am. The next meetings will be: October 19 and November 16 which is celebrating their 25th Anniversary at 10:30am in the Belleair Beach City Hall.

A full program is being planned for the celebration including lots of memorabilia and a catered lunch. The guest speaker is Wayne Ayers, local historian and reporter for the Belleair Bee. If you have read any of Wayne's books you'll know he always has a good story to tell and many memories of the area to share. Come and meet past and present members and share in all things gardening.

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Meetings resume in October. Call Mary Carey to RSVP at 596-5981. Contact President Majorie Rose, via email at RoseMarjorie38@Yahoo.com.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

They meet on the third Friday of the month at the Belleair Country Club for lunch at 11:30am. The next meetings are October 21 and November 18. To join, call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.

CAFÉ LARGO'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

It is a long way from Nice, France to Largo, a move Dominique Christini, and his wife Kathy, made 40 years ago.

Both have worked in restaurants as long as they can remember. In the early 1980s, they ran restaurants in Ohio, until in 1986, when they moved to Pinellas County, where they found the closed Unicorn Tea Room restaurant in Largo. Dominique decided to reopen the restaurant and create Café Largo.

"Over the years, I have seen an evolution in the restaurant business," says Dominique. "We have seen more and more franchises springing up. I am happy to operate this small French cafe right here in Largo." And his restaurant is truly special.

Chef Christini specializes in a revival of classic French cuisine with a light touch in the tradition of the Grande Brigade. Using only the freshest ingredients, everything served – from breads and soups through entrées and desserts - is prepared in their kitchen. This is why for the last two years, Tampa Bay Times Food Editor Laura Reiley has named Café Largo one of the 50 Best Restaurants in Tampa Bay.

Dominique loves to teach what he knows. He shares his love for cooking with classes held in his restaurant on every other Saturday. The cost of a class is \$40 and they are almost always sold out. You can register for them on his website.

Chef Dominique Christini was recently given the position of Culinary Advisor for the Chaîne Des Rôtisseurs of Tampa Bay. The Chaîne Des Rôtisseurs is the oldest French guild of amateur and professional gastronomes in the world!!

Cafe Largo was honored to be selected as one of the 1300 restaurants worldwide to participate in "Goût de France", which translates to Good France, in March of 2015. We were one of only three restaurants in Florida to be selected. It was a terrific success. More than 100,000 people around the globe came out in support of French Cuisine.

Find Café Largo at 12551 Indian Rocks Road, Suite #18 (in the back). To view their menu or make reservations, visit CafeLargoRestaurant.com or call 596-6282.



2ND ANNUAL SUPERHERO 5K RUN, WALK & STROLLER ROLL

Benefiting the Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay
Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:30am

Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child by participating in the 2nd annual SuperHero 5K Run, Walk and Stroller Roll. This event will raise awareness for the 3,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties removed from their homes by no fault of their own. Monies raised will make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

The family friendly, all ages, and abilities event will be held on Saturday, October 15th, in Safety Harbor and run along the beautiful Safety Harbor waterway. SuperHero costumes are encouraged but not required. They will kick off at 8:30 am with the 5K Run. Activities afterwards for runners and families. Awards will be given for top qualifiers of the 5K Run.

A school uniform collection drive will be held benefiting children served by the Guardian ad Litem program of Pinellas and Pasco counties. Register at www.thesuperhero5k.com.

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Organizational News...



IRB BOAT CLUB

In September, with near perfect boating conditions, about 50 Boat Clubbers on 18 boats gathered for their 9th Annual End of Summer Island Party. A sea breeze kept temperatures low, while the group celebrated the end of another great summer of boating adventures. The party had a little bit of everything going on: laughing, eating, playing in the water, and a grill and table loaded with more food than they could eat, all followed by a great sunset. Below is a list of some of their upcoming events:

- October 2: Clearwater Super Boat Races
- October 13-16: Clearwater Jazz Holiday
- October 22: Clearwater Beach Stone Crab Festival
- October 29: Intracoastal Waterway Clean Up

The IRB Boat Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) monthly, on the third Thursday. Everyone is welcome, it is not just for Indian Rocks residents. Anyone who has a boat and wants a reason to use it can join, for free. To get involved, call Bob Griffin 517-1997, e-mail Bob@IRBboatclub.com or visit IRBboatclub.com.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They meet twice a month (October through May) in Clearwater at 405 Seminole Street. For more information contact President Maggie Custer at 488-8705, e-mail at mmcuster@outlook.com, or ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

October 14 (10am). Guest speaker is Diane Fecteau, Master Gardener and winner of the 2015 Pinellas County Water Wise Landscaping Award.

November 11. They are honoring Veterans with a small memorial service at the Blue Star Memorial Marker on the Memorial Highway near Island Estates

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSN.

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and meet new business contacts from 5:30 to 6:30 at their monthly mingles. There was an election of new officers: President: Bonnie Trembulak, Tampa Bay Newspapers, VP: Dr Kimberly Bender, Bender Chiropractic, Secretary: Sondra Bober, PartyLite, Treasurer: Suzy Sofer, Cody's Roadhouse.

Upcoming Mingles are:

- Oct. 13: JK Flowers, Belleair Bluffs
 - Nov. 10: Change Points For Living Shepherd's Village
 - Dec. 8: Marlin Darlins Grill (the Christmas Social)
- To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com for more information.

NEW NEWCOMER CLUB

If want to meet new people, this not-for-profit group can help the development of acquaintances and good fellowship. You do not have to be new to the area to join. They meet monthly at local restaurants and area country clubs on the first Tuesday of each month normally for lunch with guest speakers. Call Karen Botsford at 531-0378 or visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

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CAPER TO CUBA

By Captain David Redfering

I set sail from Key West one Thursday in early June aboard a 50-year old Endeavor sloop, bound for Cuba with two pals. Did we achieve our goal of seeing the island? Uh well...

The 70-mile run to the Dry Tortugas was perfect. We arrived around midnight, sailing via instruments, and anchored in 5 ft. of water. On Friday, the tide receded, leaving us firmly aground. Even waiting for the tide and leaving a day later, our plan was to be safe in Havana's Marina Hemingway by noon on Sunday—well in advance of a predicted storm (eventually Tropical Storm Colin) late the following Monday.

Saturday brought sunshine and 1'-2' seas. The forecast called for scattered thunderstorms and conditions to "possibly" worsen the next night. We were afloat by noon, enjoying smooth sailing with favorable 15-20 knot winds and large-but-regular rolling seas (4'-5').

When we hit the Gulf Stream, conditions rapidly deteriorated: West winds ramped up to 30-35 knots against a 3-4 mph current. The seas grew more irregular and unpredictable. Heavy squalls pummeled us as the wind increased to 40-45 knots with 8'-10' foot waves.

The overtaxed autopilot quit. Now manually

steered, the boat heeled 45 degrees with each wave. The 50 knots winds (gusting to 65+) forced us to lower the sails. We crawled on all fours rather than risk standing, but were severely slammed anyway, sustaining minor cuts and bruises. We continued . . . tired and sleepy.

By dawn on Sunday, visibility was near zero. As we motored on, making only 1 mph headway against the wind and seas, we sounded the horn every minute to warn other boats. When only 15 miles from Cuba's shore, a 5-gallon reserve fuel container, was ripped away. Decision time: Do we continue forward or head back across the Florida Straits to the Marquesas and an anchorage? Common sense prevailed and we reluctantly swung around and pointed back north.

The weather did not improve. Wrestling the steering wheel was tiring, but I knew a failed rudder system could spell disaster. Our fuel level was already discouragingly low when we lost the second (and last!) spare fuel tank. With no fuel, the Gulf Stream would carry us out to the Atlantic. With slow, tedious progress we continued and reached the Marquesas about sunset.

By daybreak on Monday, the winds and seas had calmed a bit but the skies remained threatening. During the night, the dingy broke loose so we rigged it for towing. The boat was in disarray. The

floor was littered with debris: items from storage bins and shelves, water bottles, food, cushions, clothes, refrigerator contents, overturned trash cans, shoes, overflow from the head, and a variety of other items were strewn about. We wearily plodded along and arrived at Key West Bight anchorage about 5 pm....and e-x-h-a-l-e-d.

Within cell range, I alerted family we were okay. Our failure to arrive on schedule was about to result in a "search and rescue" involving the Coast Guard, the U.S. Embassy, as well as marinas from the Dry Tortugas to Key West to Havana.

Heading home in my rental car with my belongings in plastic bags, I breathed deeply. Hwy 1's single lane of congestion was, for once, quite pleasant in contrast to the past few days. Grimy, smelly, unshaven, exhausted yet wide awake, I was banged up and bruised yet smiling. Thoughts of brushes with danger, catastrophes averted, mistakes made, and just plain good luck kept me company all the way back to Indian Rocks. My goal of seeing Cuba awaits...for another day.

David Redfering ("Doc"), an IRB resident for almost 30 years, is a power boater "by trade," you can usually find him aboard his Green Flash, a 50 ft. Carver, docked in the Holiday Inn Harbourside Marina.

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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Meetings are normally, the first and second Wednesdays of each month (October through May). The first Wednesday is a tea and general meeting. The second Wednesday meeting usually has horticulture programs. There are also field trips during the year. Meetings are held at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in the Town of Belleair.

The Year kicks off with its first meeting is October 5 at 1pm. Club membership is \$50 per year, couples pay \$55 and seasonal members only \$25. Guests are welcome. For information, contact new President, Laura Katz, 581-4153 or email LBKATZ53@gmail.com for more information.

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

They started a busy new year with 195 members who live and work in the Belleair, Belleair Beach, Clearwater, Clearwater Beach, Sand Key, Largo and the surrounding areas. Each year, they support a local charity. This year it is "Hands Across The Bay".

Their "New Year's Eve" themed General Meeting at the beautiful Villa Bellini in Clearwater was September 8th. Eighty-five members were in attendance all dressed in their "New Year's Eve" attire.

They meet monthly from September through May. Various activities include: Artsy Outing, Bridge, Bunko Babes, Bunko Bunkettes, Canasta, Culinary Critics, Girls' Night Out, Lit Ladies, Lunch Bunch, Movie Madness, Tea & Scrabble, and Theater Patrons.

The date and location may vary so check their web site, www.GBYWS.org. Contact President Devin Pappas, at DevinBPappas@gmail.com for more information.

THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Chartered in 1911, this is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition of yachtsmen the world over. Although, you don't have a boat to join; half of their members don't. Most of their social activities center around regular parties and events in their restaurant or waterside Tiki-Bar. Join now and enjoy the following October event: 7: Commodores Cruise to Marina Jacks in Sarasota, 9: Blessing of the Pets and Parade, 23: OktoberFest, 29: Adults Halloween Party, 30: Kids Halloween Parade and Breakfast.

Call 447-6000 or email office@clearwateryachtclub.org for details.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Pinellas SPCA has been designated as the group's charity for the next year. They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join, membership is \$15 a year. To join, call Lois O'Donnell, 595-1349 or Sue Edmunds, 596-5710.

October 11 (11:30am) Beachcomber Restaurant, Clearwater Beach. Amy Edwards, Director Humane Education with the SPCA is the speaker.

November 8 (11:30am) Clearwater Yacht Club, Clearwater Beach. Robert Young, Master Jeweler, from Belleair Bluffs is the speaker.

December 13 (11:30am) Annual Christmas Luncheon at Clearwater Country Club with a fashion show by La Boutique of Island Estates. Bring items for the SPCA.



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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUN FAIR

Come join in the fun as St. Patrick Catholic School, 1501 Trotter Rd., Largo, celebrates their 50th year of Fun Fair. The fair will take place beginning Thursday October 20th and last through Sunday October 23rd. The Fun Fair has come a long way since the classroom game booths of 50 years ago but the family fun and involvement remains the same!

The fair is a four-day event featuring their famous flea market, carnival rides, games and continuous live entertainment. The Fun Fair is also known for their fabulous food choices made by their own St. Patrick families. They offer sausage with grilled peppers and onions; pork butt smoked all night on the school grounds and served to you fresh each day. They also offer homemade eggrolls and a Mexican food booth where the items are prepared in front of you. During the weekend there will be an adult gaming area where you can catch your favorite sports game on TV or play a game of chance while enjoying an ice cold beer, margarita or glass of wine. The Fun Fair's Haunted House which debut last year, is back by popular demand. There is also a Market Place where tables are available to sell your treasures. The new dessert and gourmet coffee café provides a nice place to relax in the air conditioning while enjoying an ice cream cone or a delectable dessert. Kids Day is Saturday October 22nd from 11 am to 5pm with discounts and special activities. Saturday evening is a special Alumni night in celebration of their 50th year. For more information please visit stspatsfair.com or call Patty Ruppel at 727-455-1976.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS HOLIDAY LIGHTS SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship sites are still available for the 2016 Holiday Lights in the Gardens which will have over a million lights. The event is open every evening between 5:30 and 9:30. Purchasing a sponsorship will give you exposure to over 70,000 people from November 25th to December 31st.

Becoming a Title Sponsor entitles you to acknowledgment on all marketing materials, mention in all press releases, your Logo on all print ads and our website and Facebook, plus your company name and message will be illuminated on the entrance walkway. You will receive benefits to the Florida Botanical Gardens - Two one year Supporting Gardener memberships, 240 free passes to the Holiday Lights, and an engraved Bronze Leaf on the Omega Tree in the Lobby. Cost to become a Title Sponsor is \$10,000.

Other sponsorships available include Light Display Sponsors which range from \$300 to \$5,000. A personalized sign will be placed for the duration of the sponsorship purchased. You can choose to sponsor one of the beautifully lit displays such as the butterflies or the flamingos or an area of the garden and the brilliant light display exhibited.

Sponsorship signs attract the attention of over 70,000 visitors and showcase the sponsor's logo and support of the Florida Botanical Gardens. In addition, all sponsors are listed in the Holiday Lights daily playbill, available to all visitors. This is an incredible amount of exposure in a beautiful display.

Please contact the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation office at 727-582-2117 or email flbgfoundation@gmail.com for more information or visit www.flbgfoundation.org.



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The Thorn Collection of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate knows that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade!

Martha Thorn and her team were joined by many children at their 3rd annual lemonade stand fundraising event for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation at The Thorn Collection office Sept. 13th. The event was attended by Congressman David Jolly's wife Laura, Clearwater Mayor Cretekos and Belleair Mayor Katica as well as the Largo Fire Department and special guest Hulk Hogan. Together they raised more than \$15,000 at the two-hour event! "Cancer strikes 43 children a day, 1 in 285 children. Yet only 4% of the Federal Government Cancer Research funding goes toward Pediatric Cancer. Therefore, this foundation is critical to funding research for Pediatric Cancer." Thorn said. "We are delighted to present over \$15,000 to them this year."

Lots of refreshing lemonade was served and the Pediatric Cancer Foundation received a heart-felt financial boost. The Tampa-based Pediatric Cancer Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to fund research to eliminate childhood cancer.

It's not too late to help. Go to Nationalpcf.org to donate. For more information about what they do, visit marthathorn.com or call 727-432-9019.



Bob Childress, Suzan Decker Ross, Gary Hallas backstage last year

CLEARWATER JAZZ SPONSOR

Decker Ross Interiors is proud to be a 10+ year sponsor of Clearwater Jazz Holiday and will once again be showcasing their amazing, creative design talents in the Backstage VIP/Bistro Area during the upcoming event: October 13-16 in Coachman Park.

Decker Ross' community outreach also includes upcoming fundraisers for ARC and HEP. They are partnering with Radiance Medspa for the ARC event, which will be held at Radiance. The HEP event will be at the Decker Ross studio and will showcase the work of amazing local artists. Watch for details on their website: www.DeckerRoss.com.

Established in 1993, Decker Ross Interiors is an award winning interior design firm located at 1445 Court Street in Clearwater. 727.442.9996



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THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE WATER IN CLEARWATER

By Kirstin Olsen

Clearwater is known for its white soft sandy beaches, warm water and sunshine, but also what many don't know is the Clearwater's Community Sailing Center (CCSC) has produced four Olympic sailors.

Jim Brady, won his first silver medal in the Soling class in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Zach Railey, a three-time Olympian in the Finn class, won a silver medal in London 2012 and was an Olympian in Beijing 2008 and Rio 2016. Zach's sister Paige is a two-time Olympian in London 2012 and Rio 2016 in the laser class.

The CCSC also boasts a medal contender for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio; Brad Kendall in the Sonar class. Kendall and his crew; Rick Doerr and Hugh Freund qualified to represent the U.S. in the Paralympics in Rio by placing 6th at the Para Sailing World Championships in Melbourne, Australia and 3rd the Sailing World Cup in Hyeres, France.

Some may say that the phenomena of quality sailors from Clearwater is from the easy access to the water or the 300 plus days of sunshine. Perhaps it is from the vision at the CCSC that provides

the proper environment for Olympic hopefuls.

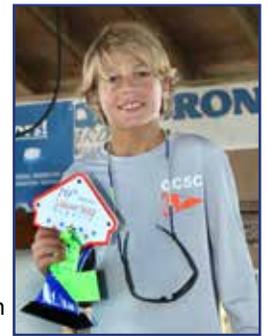
The CCSC continues to pay it forward and invest in opportunities for more young athletes to get involved in sailing. Young sailors like Tanner DeMarzo (11) have been bitten by the sailing bug. After having a great experience at sailing camp this summer, Tanner has since logged over 200 hours sailing.

In his first Regatta at the Sarasota Sailing Squadrons 70th Annual Labor Day Regatta, DeMarzo finished in the top ten in the Optimist class taking 7th place, in a fleet of 60 boats. He came home and threw all his Soccer and BMX trophies in the trash saying, "Mom... I'm starting over," with a huge grin on his face.

DeMarzo is now thinking about being a Boat Captain, which one can interpret as his being ready to be the captain of his destiny when he grows up. He is thinking about switching to virtual school next year so he can spend more time sailing during the week. DeMarzo has received a lot of positive encouragement his parents his Erin McKie and all of the more experienced sailors at CCSC.

The spirit of the CCSC has taught children to "listen to the wind", or to themselves, grow self-confidence and

become capable young adults out on the water and in life. On any typical day at the CCSC, you will see parents and children working on their boats and helping each other - quite a wonderful sight to see.



Tanner DeMarzo

The Mission of the Clearwater Community Sailing Center is to provide safe, enriching and affordable sailing opportunities to local residents and visitors, including youth, seniors and the disabled for our entire community.

Maybe the secret to creating Olympians is more than just talent. Maybe it is about creating a learning environment that inspires and motivates young people to think for themselves and "listen to the wind".

There are year-round sailing and swim programs for children and adults to get them out on the water. For more information visit clearwatercommunitysailing.org and learn more today!

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

The annual Belleair Bluffs' Holiday Event is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm. The Salvation Army Band will be providing music while all gather at the Community Center, 2747 Sunset Blvd. (1 block north of West Bay Drive and ½ block west of Indian Rocks Road). Following a welcome by Mayor Chris Arbutine and the City Commission, the tree will be lit heralding the arrival of Santa. Santa will provide "goodies" to the children. The Bluffs Business Association will donate refreshments.

Guests are asked to bring canned goods, boxed food, baby formula, flour, sugar, peanut butter, rice, pasta, or canned juice or fruit to donate. Anyone bringing a food donation will receive the City's Annual tree ornament.



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BAY WAY AVENUE
NOVEMBER 14, 5PM**

Water Monitoring

Now, I must mention the NPDES, I know, boring. We have again entered into an agreement with Pinellas County to do all of our water monitoring of inlets and outfalls. This measures the toxicity going into and coming out of our drainage systems. Please do your part, don't put anything in an inlet! **NO oil, NO leaves, NO pool water** containing diatomaceous earth or chlorine, please, **nothing but rainwater**. Thanks, and now onto something more pleasant...

Robert David – Director of Public Works

Animal Awareness Day October 22nd

The City of Belleair Bluffs is excited to be hosting an Animal Awareness Day in the Park on Saturday, October 22nd at the playground & park between 9 am and 1pm. It is free to the public. This is in coordination with the unveiling of a threatened and endangered Florida animal and plant mural painted by artist Annette Gloomis. The mural features over 25 animals and plants that are species of special concern.

The City of Belleair Bluffs embraced commissioning a mural after it was suggested by Heather Richardson of SHAMC Public Art Intervention Projects. The mural was funded by the Belleair Bluffs City Hall. SHAMC Art Intervention donated supplies with the support Greg Brewer, owner of First Choice Paints.

Many of Belleair Bluffs neighbors and families have already seen the mural and have been following Annette and her assistant Heather Richardson's progress day by day. It has been a fun development as a different animal or plant appeared on the wall. Annette has said that her favorite part of painting the mural, was the reaction from the community. Children and adults alike, were thrilled and excited to see this beautification process taking place. "It reminds me of old Florida!", exclaimed one resident.

Annette and Heather chose this theme to create awareness of Florida's animals and plants. It is encouraging Annette says, that after an explanation of the mural, everyone she meets is more concerned for the plight of our natural Florida.

This fun filled day will include light refreshments. Special representatives include:

- Jennifer Korn, panther biologist from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Pinellas County Animal Services, will have pet adoptions
- Artists Beth Warmouth & Natty Moss Bond, and will be face and t shirt printing - bring a shirt!

The city hall park is located at 2747 Sunset Blvd., Belleair Bluffs. For more information call: 727-584-2151.

NEW RECREATION PROGRAM

The City of Belleair Bluffs and the City of Largo have arranged for **ALL** residents living in Belleair Bluffs to have total access to all the recreation facilities and programs that the Largo Recreation Program offers. Any Belleair Bluffs resident can enroll in any program at any facility at resident membership rates.

Identification reflecting your address will have to be shown upon enrollment.

Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave
Phone: (727) 518-3016

Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Rd
Phone: (727) 518-3125

Largo Community Center, 400 Alt Keene Rd
Phone: (727) 518-3131

Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Dr.
Phone: (727) 587-6793


 Presented by: 
 City of Indian Rocks Beach
 IRB Action 2000

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH



Oktoberfest
on the beach

**KOLB PARK,
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
OCTOBER 8th, 2016
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

**FREE ADMISSION
ARTS & CRAFTS • VENDORS
NO PETS PLEASE!**

Continuous Live Music All Day
Sponsored by Engel & Volkers
Erica DiCeglie Band & MC - Mark Ralston
All Day Food & Fun
Kinderfest 11:00 am to 2pm
Sponsored by Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty
CONTEST START TIMES 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm
Stein Carrying Contest • Keg Throwing Contest
Silent Auction 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

2016 Event Sponsors

TAMPA BAY
NEWSPAPERS
BEACON • LEADER • BEE • CITIZEN



Grand Prize! Large 50/50 Drawing

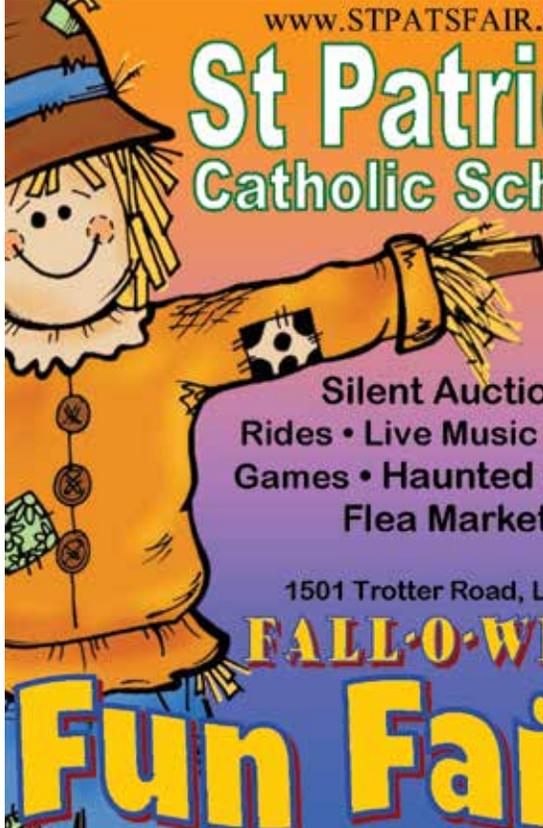
For more information, visit
OktoberfestOnTheBeach.com

All Proceeds go back to the community through IRB Action 2000

BEER & WINE BEING SERVED
** Please bring I.D. for alcoholic beverage consumption*

www.STPATSFAIR.com

St Patrick Catholic School



**Silent Auction
Rides • Live Music • Food
Games • Haunted House
Flea Market**

1501 Trotter Road, Largo
**FALL-O-WEEN
Fun Fair**

Thursday October 20 thru Sunday October 23

INVENTION OF **FOOD**



FERRAN ADRIÀ
Special Exhibit & Immersion Dinners

September 25 - November 27, 2016

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