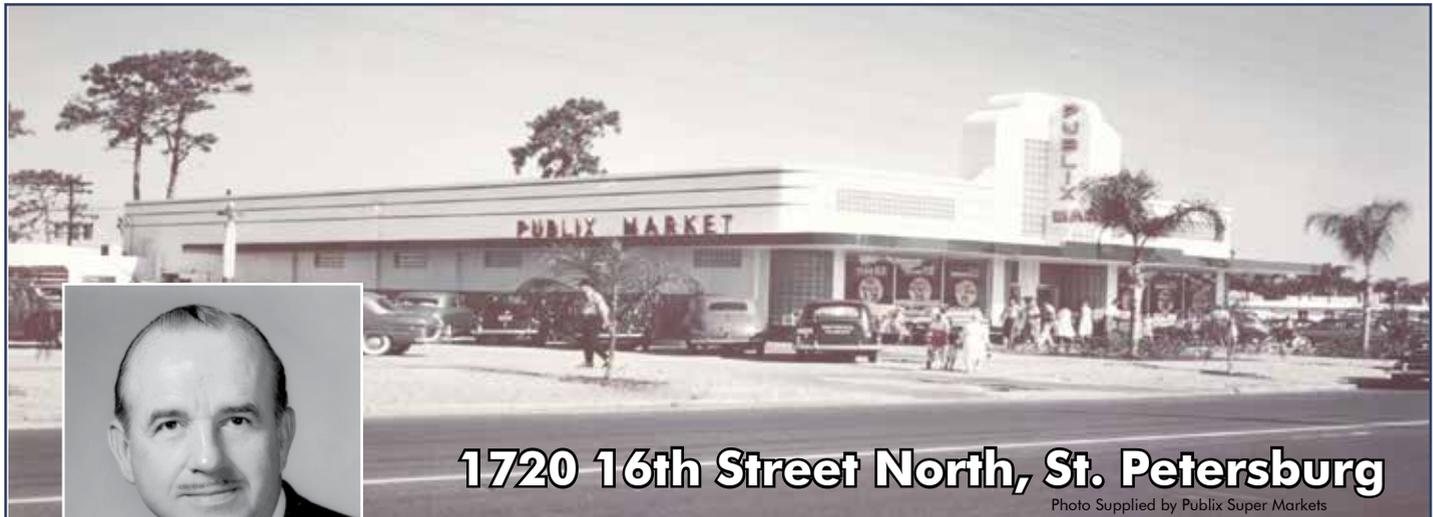


# NEIGHBORHOOD



Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997

Newsletter



**1720 16th Street North, St. Petersburg**

Photo Supplied by Publix Super Markets

## PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS' EARLY BEGINNINGS

In today's world, grocery stores are an integral part of our lives. As a child, depending on where you grew up, you may remember visiting A&P, Winn-Dixie, Albertsons, Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion, Food City and a host of others, including Publix. Publix Super Markets has been operating in Florida since 1930, its first Pinellas County store opened in 1945.

The Publix brand was founded in Winter Haven by George Jenkins, when he was just 23. George grew up in a small Georgia town where he worked for his father, who owned a small general store. After struggling to make a living, his father eventually moved his business to Atlanta. When he was 17, Jenkins enrolled in night classes at Georgia Tech while simultaneously working a day job. He was a hard worker, driving a cab, selling shoes, delivering groceries for his dad's store and selling candy at a consignment shop. He never actually worked in his dad's Atlanta store. Instead, he took a clerk job at a nearby Piggly Wiggly. Within eight weeks, while still in his teens, he became the store's manager.

Unsure of his grocery business future, Jenkins accepted a job selling Atlanta real estate where he learned of a major Florida land boom. He promptly moved south and in Tampa, met the owner of several local Piggly Wiggly stores. The store owner became so impressed with Jenkins that he hired him and soon promoted him to manage his St. Petersburg store. When that store's sales quadrupled, Jenkins was transferred to Winter Haven, and managed the chain's largest store for four years.

In 1930, all the area stores were sold to an Atlanta based franchise. Jenkins drove to Atlanta to introduce himself to his new boss, but the owner refused to meet with him. Disgusted, Jenkins drove back to Winter Haven, decided to open his own grocery store and resigned.

With very little money, Jenkins, now only 23, incorporated as Publix Food Stores. He created 30 shares in his future company for \$100 each. He sold four shares to close friends; two Piggly Wiggly employees each purchased four shares. He kept 13 shares for himself. This raised nearly \$1,200. George added \$1,300 of his own money and opened the first Publix Food Store Sept. 6, 1930 in Winter Haven.

Jenkins, with the help of five employees, opened that first store practically next door to the Piggly Wiggly. The two stores competed with price cutting and special deals; the Piggly Wiggly eventually closed.

In 1935, only five years after opening the first Publix, Jenkins opened a second discount grocery store called The Economy Store, also in Winter Haven.



*That same store today, as a Walgreens*



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to occupied residence and business in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Harbor Bluffs, and part of Largo. We are not officially associated with any city government.

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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 FEBRUARY**

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2747 Sunset Blvd City Hall: 584-2151  
Fire Dept: 587-6714  
Sheriff: 582-6200  
MAYOR - Chris Arbutine, Sr  
COMMISSIONERS —  
Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer  
Jack Nazario • Tylour Shimkus

**CITY OF BELLEAIR BEACH**

www.cityofbelleairbeach.com  
444 Causeway Blvd City Hall: 595-4646  
Fire Dept: 595-1117  
Sheriff: 582-6200  
MAYOR - Leslie Notaro  
COMMISSIONERS — Julie Chandler  
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Mitchell Krach • Pamela Gunn  
John Pietrowski

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Fire Dept: 595-1117  
Sheriff: 582-6200  
Mayor: Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.  
COMMISSIONERS — Ray Piscitelli  
Dorothy Niewlarowski • Deborah  
Roseman, Vice Mayor • Ray Piscitelli  
Steve Bloom

**Town of Belleair TownofBelleair.com**

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair 588-3769  
Fire Dept: 588-8392  
Police Dept: 588-3769  
MAYOR - Gary H. Katika  
COMMISSIONERS — Kevin Piccarreto  
Deputy Mayor • Tom Shelly  
Michael Wilkinson • Karla Rettstatt

City of Largo Largo.com  
201 Highland Ave, Info: 587-6700  
Fire Dept: 587-6714  
Police: 586-7427

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VICE MAYOR - James Robinson  
COMMISSIONERS — Michael Smith  
John Carroll • Curtis Holmes  
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**SHERIFF DISPATCH** 582-6177

**ELECTRICITY** 443-2641

**PHONE (RESIDENTIAL)** 800-483-4000

**BRIGHT HOUSE CABLE** 329-5020

**BELLEAIR REC CENTER** 518-3728

**BELLEAIR FINE ARTS SOCIETY** 934-4304

**BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB** 585-9633

**BELLEAIR BRIDGE GROUP** 669-5283

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**BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB**

President 595-1791

**BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB**

Marjorie Rose 238-8691

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Claire Whitaker, President 724-4645

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Lois O'Donnell 595-1349

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Bonnie Trembulak 686-8797

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

Maggie Cluster 488-8705

**TOWN OF BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOC.**

Roz White, President 462-2674

**CLEARWATER SAILING**

-----  
PINELLAS COUNTY INFO 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

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Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

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Governor Rick Scott

Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov

Bill Nelson . . . . . 202-224-5274

www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

David Jolly 727-392-4100

9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

www.house.gov/jolly

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER**

St Pete Boat Show	1-4	Hanukkah Begins	24
Christmas At The Plaza	1	Christmas	25
Miracle On Cleveland Street	2	Kwanzaa Begins	26
Death By Chocolate Largo	2	Boxing Day	26
Post Office Toys For Tots	3	St Pete Bowl Game	26
Heritage Village Holiday Tour	3	New Year's Eve	31
Holiday Stroll Largo Central Park	3		
Sail For The Hungry	3	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	
Change Of Watch Clearwater Yacht Club	3	<b>JANUARY</b>	
Train Weekend Largo Central Park	3-4	Little League Sign Up Begins	1
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7	Outback Bowl	2
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	8	Public School Reopens	3
Belleair Bluffs Tree Lighting & Holiday Event	9	Epiphany	6
Deadline Holiday Gift Reservations (TOB)	9	NCAA Football Final Game Tampa!	9
Island Estates Boat Parade	10	Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	12
Belleair Holiday Parade & Party	11	MLK Day Pubic Schools Closed	16
Bluffs Fire Station Ground Breaking	12	Florida's Arbor Day	21
Gift Delivery Town of Belleair	14-16	Belleair Sunset Run 5k Run	21
Indian Rocks Boat Parade	17	Martinis & Matisse Clearwater	21
Largo Christmas Parade	17	Blast Friday Clearwater	27
Public School Close for Holidays	19	Beach Walk Walk	28
Winter Begins	21	Gasparilla Invasion	28
		Chinese New Year	29
		Backwater's Chili Cook Off	29

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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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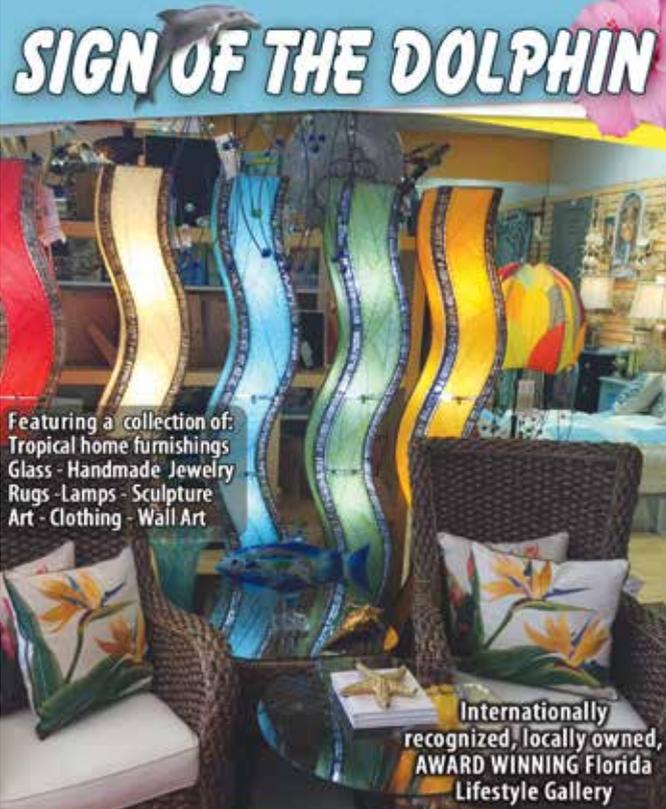



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# Did You Know



## #1 IN RECYCLING

Pinellas County was recently recognized as the Florida county with the highest recycling rate in 2015. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection determined Pinellas County has a 89% recycling rate, which is ahead of Palm Beach and Hillsborough Counties, both at 72%. The state averaged 54% overall in 2015. The State Legislature has a set a goal of 75% by the year

2020. Pinellas was 63% the year before and rose 26% partially due to an increase in recycled construction and demolition debris including concrete.

**CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS** The Fifth Annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs will be held at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg in the University Student Center located downtown, on February 15-17. Join them for three stimulating days of listening and learning as multiple panels of distinguished experts discuss critical international issues of the day.

**TOY DRIVE** Help the Post Office and Marine Corp provide toys for needy children this Christmas season by leaving new, unwrapped toys by your mailbox, Saturday, December 3rd. The local mail carrier will pick up and deliver them to the Marine Corp, for needy families in the Tampa Bay area, making thousands of children happy.

**TAKE A FERRY TO CLEARWATER?** There is a proposal to start a ferry service from the Belleair Causeway Boat Ramp to the Clearwater Beach Marina. The idea was unveiled in October on the proposal. Tropical Boat Trips owner Trish Rodriguez met with the City to discuss the feasibility of the project. One of Rodriguez's ferries provides service to and from the Clearwater mainland and to the beach. The scheduled service would probably cost about \$5 each way. That beats the cost of Clearwater Beach's parking at about \$30 a day. Parking at the Causeway is \$2. If approved, the ferry service may begin by the first of the year



## HOLIDAYS AT THE VILLAGE

Enjoy holiday decorations in Heritage Village's House of Seven Gables (shown here), Union Academy, Walsingham House, Plant-Sumner House, McMullen House, and H.C. Smith

Store. Garland and greenery adorn buildings throughout the Village to create a festive experience through December 31.

# and More...



**COMMUNITY LOSES OF A LONG TIME FRIEND** Belleair Beach resident and lifetime Rotarian, Thomas Hafner passed away October 15th. Tom, retired USAF, was very involved in the local community. He was active in Toastmaster, a Past President and active member of the Indian Rocks Rotary and for eleven years, served as a Fire Commissioner for the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District. Tom and his

wife Barbara, married 55 years, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

**NEW TO THE AREA** Did you or one of your neighbors move to the Belleair area in the past two months? If so, the Bluffs Business Association wants to give you a formal welcome and a gift basket. If you are a new resident, please call JK Flowers (588-4583) or BBA President Bonnie Trembulak, (686-8797) and tell them when you moved in and give them your address. Someone from the organization will visit you with a welcome basket full of candy, wine and presents from area merchants.

**2017 FOOTBALL COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP** The College Football National Championship game is being played in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium on January 9th. This bowl game determines the national champion of the 2016 NCAA Division I college football season. The winners of the Fiesta Bowl and the Peach Bowl, both of which are played on New Year's Eve, will battle it out to determine who is the best of the best.

**FREE MOVIES** Each Friday and Saturday evening, Clearwater Beach shows free movies, next to Pier 60. Called Sunset Cinema the movie listings are available on their web site, [SunsetCinema.com](http://SunsetCinema.com).

**ENERGY VAMPIRES**

Leaving cell phone chargers, laptops, printers, and coffee makers plugged in allows them to continue drawing energy and running up your electric bill. If it has a light to tell you that it's off, it is probably an energy vampire. If you often forget to pull the plug, smart power strips can be a great alternative. These strips cut power to devices when you turn off a main device. Good uses for these include computers, printers, televisions, DVD players, and DVRs.



**ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS** Now, residents can earn an accredited private high school diploma online and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School, a program brought to the Largo Library by the state of Florida and Gale, part of Cengage Learning. Classes are supported by board certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Students are able to graduate in six to 18 months. Learn more at any St. Petersburg library or by visiting [www.careeronlinehs.gale.com](http://www.careeronlinehs.gale.com).

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN FEBRUARY** Read this issue, and others, online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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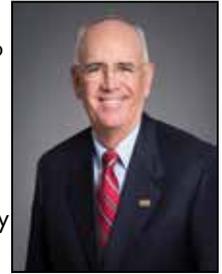
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**YOUR 401K COSTS MORE THAN YOU THINK**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



There has been a lot of news about lawsuits against employers who sponsor retirement plans because they have not monitored the fees and investment options. When you are responsible for other people's money, you are a fiduciary and it is your duty to have a process in place to monitor your retirement plan. Here are four reasons why creating a process and conducting a fiduciary audit should be a top priority.

First, we offer the audit to you with this guarantee: if the audit doesn't find enough annual savings to pay for the audit, we will refund the audit fee in full.

Next, as a fiduciary to your company's retirement plan you are personally liable. You must monitor service providers to ensure fees are reasonable. One of the best ways to demonstrate you are monitoring your plan is to complete a third-party detailed plan audit that benchmarks all aspects of your retirement plan.

Thirdly, many companies implement a retirement plan with the purpose of helping their employees retire. Sometimes, record keeping, custodial and investment fees can make it more difficult for an employee to retire with sufficient savings if their fees are eating away at their savings. The law requires employers ensure that all fees are reasonable, and a third-party plan audit helps.

Finally, a third-party plan audit will also analyze the services that are being delivered by the various service providers. Not all providers are created equal. Some have extremely high service models, some have advanced technology, others simply get the job done and even some just don't show up.

Many employers don't even know what to expect from service providers. A third-party plan audit, will measure typical services that each service provider should be providing so that you know what you should expect from the service provider. It will also see if there are any overlaps in services so that you can negotiate reduced fees from the service provider.

Reducing your personal liability, saving your company and participants money plus improving the services you are receiving should be a top priority. If you are ever questioned about your fiduciary process through a lawsuit or DOL/IRS Audit there is no better way to demonstrate a fiduciary process than through a third-party plan audit. You have our guarantee that the audit will find savings that pay for the audit. Why wait?

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 The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

## THE JAMES MUSEUM INSPIRATION

Tom & Mary James' are providing a \$50 million personal investment to transform a downtown St. Petersburg city block into the home to The Tom & Mary James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017. Tom James is executive chairman of Raymond James Financial, Inc. For 40 years, he was CEO of the company before relinquishing his role in May 2010.

The James Museum has its roots in Tom and Mary's undivided love both for culture and the city of St. Petersburg that has been their home. Tom began collecting while a student and when their travels took them west, they were captivated by the art, landscape, and wildlife of the West. They began to collect what moved them — an art of action and attention to place made by contemporary artists. They collected for their pleasure, though with an aim to help living artists to live by their art alone. Many of the artists became personal friends.

A collection of art can stay a private collection. As such, it may be shown or not shown, traded or sold. But a museum open to the public is another thing entirely. It is a kind of gift, a public trust. Built entirely from the James' private funds, The James Museum is being constructed in downtown St. Petersburg to spur the cultural and economic life of their City: in short, to build community in a manner parallel to their contributions to every other aspect of our civic infrastructure. Through exhibitions and education programs, The James Museum will emphasize core values of the art that moved Tom and Mary during their collecting: action, fortitude, heritage, and integrity.

At 80,000 square feet and incorporating an event space large enough for 500 people, The Tom and Mary James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art will display six hundred of the nearly three thousand works in their collection at a time. The James Museum will welcome the local community and visitors with ease.

We plan to open The James Museum in the fall of 2017. The Museum will come to life in stages that will be shared with the community each step of the way.

We appreciate the help of the City of St. Petersburg in enhancing the streetscape and in enabling regular access to parking. We celebrate today the thoughtful action of the City Council in approving these accommodations that will make the James Museum more attractive and accessible. Today we are also pleased to show the look of the building as envisioned by the St. Pete Design Group, Yann Weymouth, lead architect. The architecture reveals aspects of the collection it will hold through carefully chosen materials and a façade and foyer that projects the grandeur of the west.

The reconstruction of 100 Central Avenue has begun. They plan to open in the fall of 2017. Next spring, the stone monolith that symbolizes and brings the pedestrian eye to this building will be installed. In the coming year-and-a-half, they will be designing the exhibition concepts and prepare an opening exhibition. The Museum will come to life in stages that will be shared with the community each step of the way.



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<sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Yield. The stated APY is accurate as of 10/31/2016.

<sup>2</sup>Minimum deposit to open is \$2,500. Maximum \$500,000 per household (limit one CD special per person and/or persons that occupy the same dwelling).

<sup>3</sup>A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Fees may reduce earnings.

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## PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, Continued



During a Florida recession in 1940, Jenkins purchased a local orange grove. That land deal allowed him to secure a \$70,000 bank loan to build the store of his dreams—Florida’s first “supermarket”, which opened November 8, 1940. He referred to it as his “food palace.” It had a lot of glass and marble, stucco exterior, a paved parking lot, automatic opening doors, air conditioning, fluorescent lights, wide aisles, open dairy cases, many large freezers and music was played overhead. These features were unheard of in a grocery store in the 1940s.

He soon decided to close his two original Winter Haven stores and moved forward building his modern supermarket concept.

At the end of World War II, thousands of veterans and their families were moving to Florida. Money and building materials though were scarce, so in 1945, Jenkins purchased the Lakeland Grocery Company, a chain of 19 grocery stores called the All American Food Stores based in nearby Lakeland. With stores in Clearwater, St Petersburg, Tarpon Springs and Largo, the acquisition brought Jenkins’ back to Pinellas County for the first time since he managed the St. Petersburg Piggly Wiggly store all those years before.

The All American stores did not meet the high standards held by Jenkins and his new Publix super markets. During the 1950s and ‘60s, each of the buildings was eventually sold or torn down and rebuilt in the using the Publix design.

There were two Clearwater stores. The North Ft. Harrison location was abandoned for a new one on Cleveland, which today is Nature’s Food Patch. The original store went on to be many things since including an Arthur Murray Dance Studio. It is now an Islamic Mosque. An acquired store in St. Petersburg at 1720 16th Street N. is a Walgreens, but still has the old Publix façade.

In 1951, Jenkins moved his corporate offices to Lakeland and built his first distribution center. He continued to expand and enhance his chain of grocery stores. In the 1950s, they added bakeries and flower shops. Delicatessen were added in the 1960s. In the 1980s pharmacies and ATMs called Presto! were added. Today pharmacies are in 90% of all the Publix stores. Liquor store sales were added in the late 1980s and became standard in 2003.

In 1991, for the first time, Publix built a store outside Florida. The chain expanded first into Georgia, Jenkin’s birth state. By 1995 there were over 500 Super Markets in three states. They hit the 100,000-employee mark about the same time. In 2009, a St. Augustine store became its 1,000th.

By 2014, Publix operated in six southern states, that being: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. There are plans to expand into Virginia in next year.

Today, Publix is the largest, employee owned company in the world, ranking #67 on the 2016 Fortune’s list of the 100 Best Companies to work for. It is the largest privately owned company in Florida. In 86 years, Publix has never had an employee layoff.

In addition to over 1,100 grocery stores it has eight distribution centers and ten manufacturing facilities where they produce dairy, deli, bakery and other food products. 70% of all Publix Super Markets are in Florida.

“Mr. George,” as his employees affectionately called him, had two brothers, Charlie and John. Charlie worked in the grocery business alongside his brother. John was an attorney who became involved with real estate development and banking—two businesses that led to a partnership with Jenkins in many Pinellas shopping centers.



One of the original All American stores in Clearwater, now a mosque.

Jenkins was married twice; his first wife Lee Savings Jenkins died in 1947. After her death, he married Anne MacGregor. They divorced in 1974. He had seven children.

At the age of 82, Jenkins suffered a stroke in 1989, but continued to work, visiting stores in his wheelchair. He died in 1996 at the age of 88.

Jenkin’s grandson Ed Crenshaw, retired this year as the company’s CEO. Todd Jones, a Publix veteran for 36 years who started as a bagger and Front Service Clerk, is currently the company’s CEO.

One of Jenkin’s greatest legacies was the creation of the George Jenkins Foundation. It supports Special Olympics, the March of Dimes, Children’s Miracle Network, the United Way, various local food banks and soup kitchens and more.

Close friend Governor Lawton Chiles once stated “George Jenkins made a tremendous contribution to our business climate, but perhaps more importantly, he was a true civic leader who had a deep dedication to improving our communities.”

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

By Commissioner Karen Williams Seel



The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word holiday as “a special day of celebration.” The Oxford Dictionary’s British-derived definition of holiday is “an extended period of leisure and recreation.” Both sound good to me! And, I’m sure they both sound good to you and your family.

Our busy lives—especially around the holiday season—can make the notion of a one-day celebration, much less, an extended period of relaxation seem beyond reach with all that needs to be done. Holidays typically have us stuffing a bird for the big family dinner or stuffing our stockings with precious gifts for our loved ones.

But, maybe, the most precious gift we can give ourselves and our families is time—time to slow down and truly enjoy the beauty and pageantry that herald the holiday season in Pinellas County. So, I have some suggestions to help you slow down and spend some quality time with your family.

Rekindle the magic of the season at the Florida Botanical Gardens’ Holiday Lights in the Gardens. The 35-acre gardens in Largo will glow with more than one million environmentally friendly LED lights and Florida-themed displays, from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., nightly, through December 31. For more information and a listing of nightly entertainment, visit [www.flbg.org](http://www.flbg.org).

Be sure to stake out your spot along the Intracoastal to cheer on the flotillas of flamboyantly decorated boats, yachts and other seaworthy vessels competing in the many annual holiday boat parades all around our beautiful county. And, speaking of parades, landlubbers will enjoy the many community parades, holiday home tours and festivals throughout the season. Visit [www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/list/holiday-events](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/list/holiday-events) for a complete listing.

Everywhere you turn, there’s a chance to slow down and indulge your childlike wonder during the holiday season in Pinellas County. Enjoy!

Wishing you and your family the happiest and time filled holiday season. If you see me out and about, slow down and take the time to say hello. It would truly be a gift to me.

## NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Almost all cities have trouble enforcing city codes. It takes time and effort to review the city, find violations, educate citizens and enforce the rules. To help, the City of Belleair Bluffs hired a new Community Policing and Code Enforcement officer to handle it. A designated police officer with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s office, he will spend 12 hours a week on the job at the rate of \$42 an hour.

“Our new officer, Deputy Tony DeAngelo, will be focused specifically on Code Enforcement,” says Debra Sullivan, the City Clerk. “His duties and hours are flexible and can vary as the need determines.”

Enforcement may include illegal parking of cars and boats, unkempt yards and properties, and rental violations. He may also do some community policing, which may include visiting the area businesses and helping with house watches.

This is a test period for only three months. The city has budgeted \$26,000 annually for the service. DeAngelo started work in late October.

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## CLEARWATER BEACH AUTHOR PENS CHILDREN'S BOOK ON HANDLING BULLY BEHAVIOR

In January 2015, Tracey Sullivan adopted a purebred flashy fawn boxer puppy from Ohio that was already named Tebow. "I have to write a book through the eyes of this dog," Sullivan thought.

Sullivan's inspiration for "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" (published by Lulu) emerged from her unbridled joy of children's picture books. The unconditional love from dogs, who she imagined with human traits, in an adventure while living in a beachside community became the basis of the story. She is grateful for the opportunity to pay it forward while enlightening both children and adults with life lessons.

"TEBOW TAILS: Caspar's Conquest" is based on a group of dogs that are best friends and live in the beachside community Barkington Bluffs. When they band together, there is always spontaneous fun and adventure. This juvenile fiction book leads to a life lesson about how to handle or respond to bully behavior and treating friends the way one would like to be treated.

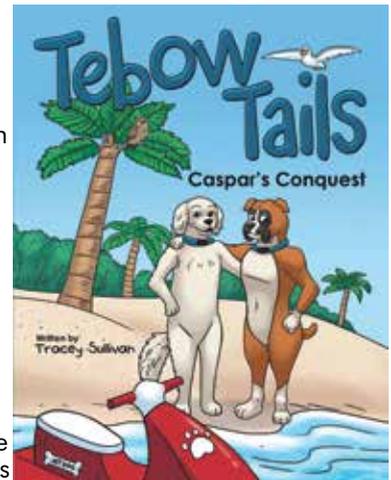
"I believe this book will appeal to children and adults of all ages because MOST of us can relate to the unconditional love of dogs/pets, imagining them with human type traits, and the delight and adventure of living in a beachside community," Sullivan tells. An excerpt from this book:

*Bailey growls, "That brother of mine needs to be taught a lesson on how to treat his friends kindly. Hunter would not be a happy camper if we treated him poorly." Caspar chimes in, "Maybe Hunter just needs a hug."*

*Tebow smiles inside and thinks, That is exactly why Caspar is my best friend.*

Founder and author of the "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" series, Sullivan graduated from the University of Florida and has a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and Accounting from the University of South Florida. She was previously a mathematics professor at St. Petersburg College. She and her husband, Bob, have two grown children, Scott and Jessica, and live with Tebow and Caspar in Clearwater Beach. "Tebow Tails: Caspar's Conquest" is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. For more information, readers may check [www.tebowtails.com](http://www.tebowtails.com).

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, Sullivan is having a TEBOW TAILS Book Launch Party from 1pm – 4pm at The Reef Steak & Seafood Company, 725 South Gulfview Boulevard, Clearwater Beach. Since the two main characters in the book are real dogs, both Tebow and Caspar will be at the Book Signing for the kids and adults to meet. The Reef Restaurant is dog friendly.



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## PUBLIX AND ITS LARGO CONNECTION

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

John Jenkins, youngest brother to Publix founder George Jenkins, was an attorney working in Atlanta for Coca Cola when his brother founded Publix. George and John had a third brother, Charlie who worked in the stores before eventually becoming the President of Publix.

In the 1950s, with the design of his new "Super Markets," George wanted to build "shopping centers"—a new concept at the time. His first shopping center was St. Petersburg's Central Plaza.

Publix had acquired a grocery store chain in 1945, and one of its stores was in Largo's downtown area on West Bay Drive between 1st and 3rd Streets NW. The old style store had no parking except along the street. George wanted to replace it by building Florida's second shopping center to be located in Largo. He felt on the edge of town where there was plenty of parking would be the best place.

"Largo was different in 1956," said Joe Blanton, George's partner in Pinellas' real estate and development. "A shopping center would have been a great economical boost to the city. It seemed logical to George that Largo Central Bank, the town's only bank, would want to be part of that new shopping center. He asked the bank to loan him some of the money."

The Largo Cental banker remarked, "Largo would never amount to anything." This struck a nerve with George. He told the banker, "a person should be more positive about his community, especially the president of a bank. You should have faith in the community you serve."

"Alright," the banker told him. "If you have so much faith in Largo, why don't you buy this bank?" And so, George did just that, in a roundabout way. Actually, his brother John bought the bank, moved from Atlanta and became its President. Under his guidance, the bank prospered.



**The first Largo store that was replaced**



**Largo's first shopping center with its newest Publix**

In 1953, John and partners formed the Pinellas Central Bank planning to include it in George's new shopping center at West Bay Drive and Clearwater-Largo Road. When the new Pinellas Shopping Center opened the following year, Publix closed its old store and reopened it there. Since 1954, three Publix stores have been built on that same site.

The Pinellas Central Bank was the second in a chain of five banks including the Bank of Indian Rocks Beach (in the Indian Rocks Shopping Center), The Mid-County Commercial Bank (in the Tri City Plaza) and others. Each shared their shopping centers with a Publix Super Market.

John and his wife Rosalie, lived first in Clearwater, and later moved to Harbor Bluffs. They were married for 35 years and had three children - all girls.

John always wanted to be an actor. He quit high school (as it turned out only temporarily), and with some friends, hopped on a train to Hollywood. It didn't work out though and he returned home, finished school and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts and Law degree from the University of Georgia, where he met his wife. He once ushered at a Broadway theater, but that was as close to acting as he would get. He fancied he could sing, but his family laughingly disagreed, and dance...which he definitely could.

The Jenkins family spent as much time together as possible, given his demanding job. He taught his daughters to play golf at an early age and they still enjoy the game, today. He also taught them how to shoot. While serving in the Army during WWII, he instructed soldiers in marksmanship skill while at Ft. Benning, Ga. and shared that skill with his daughters.

While living in Atlanta, he belonged to a horseback riding club where he rode with his daughters.

John and Rosalie were close friends with Jack and Ruth Eckerd. Over the years, John loaned Jack money to build some of his Eckerd Drug stores. John and George included Eckerd Drug Stores in many of the shopping centers they built.

John, who become President of the Florida Independent Bankers Association and the Florida Bankers Association, died from a stroke in 1978. His group of five banks was sold to Miami's Southeast Banks.



**George and Rosalie Jenkins with their three daughters and a friend**

Information for the article was supplied by Kay Jenkins - John Jenkins daughter, Charlie Harper - Largo Historical Society and "Publix, 50 Years of Pleasure" by Pat Watters. Photos supplied by Publix Super Markets.

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# Business Briefs



**MURAL UNVEILING** The Belleair Market hosted a neighborhood festival the last Sunday in October as a celebration for the unveiling of their new mural that welcomes people to Belleair and Belleair Bluffs. The festivities included wine, craft beer, cigar tastings, a chili cook off, live music, a pet costume contest and much more. It was a tremendous event for the community and the mural is sure to become a landmark in the Belleair area. Stop by the Belleair Market at 510 Indian Rocks Rd N in Belleair Bluffs to check out the beautiful new mural. Many thanks to local artists Beth Warmath and Heather Richardson for a job well done!

**MORTON PLANT EXPANSION CONTINUES** The hospital is undergoing a \$200 million transformation that will add 200,000 square feet of space. The primary project, The Doyle Tower, is a four story patient and surgical tower that includes operating suites and clinics. The Emergency Center will also be expanded. Construction, which started in March of 2015 is expected continue through late 2017.

**TURKEY OF A DEAL** Once again this year, with each new order, Budget Blinds will donate a turkey to the Salvation Army who will distribute it to a needy family during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. This is



part of their Giving Back promotion created by owner Carolyn Tricoli. "Our goal is to donate 100 turkeys," says Carolyn. "We also have a goal to donating 5,000 pounds of nonperishable food." You can drop off food items at their new showroom at 1496 S. Missouri Avenue. Carolyn also had exciting news about her expanding business, "I am proud to announce my son Billy Tricoli has joined me as a commercial and residential consultant." For information, call 400-6870.

**PARKING PLAZA** The new Clearwater Beach high rise parking garage at 400 Poinsettia Avenue, under construction since the Fall of 2015, is almost done with a hopeful opening date in the next couple of weeks. It has seven stories of parking that will provide 700 spaces. This is a public/private partnership with the City and Paradise Ventures Inc. The first floor will have retail space on the east side of the building. It may include two small restaurants.

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# Business Briefs

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION** Work has started on developing Indian Rock's new Beach Zone store south of Walsingham Road on Gulf Blvd. This space is owned by Steve Luper, who owns several Beach Zone stores, including one in John's Pass and another in St Pete Beach. The new strip shopping center will have up to five businesses, one of course will be the Beach Zone. The other spaces are for lease now and may be combined into larger spaces. One may be a small restaurant or deli. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-Spring.



**NO JUICE HABIT** This business is no longer opening at 760 block of Indian Rocks Road. They are looking for a new location hopefully in Belleair Bluffs.



**BELLEAIR MONTESSORI 65 YEARS OLD** Belleair Montessori Academy, formerly Tiny Tots in the 1950s, is celebrating their 65th year of operation, all in the same location. Since opening, thousands of families have attended the school and now Oliver Hernandez,

the great, great grandson of founder Evelyn Twedt, is in the pre-kindergarten class. Oliver the fifth generation of his family at Montessori, is 4 years old and has been at Belleair Montessori for over a year. His grandmother, Cathie Hernandez, has been working at the school for over 30 years. Her mother, Joan Kirk, retired 5 years ago after 35 years of running the school. Cathie has three grown children; two of them are teachers. Cathie's daughter Sara Moses is an 8th grade teacher at Pinellas Preparatory Academy in Largo. Her oldest son lives in Asheville, NC and is an English teacher. Hopefully next June, Cathie will also have Sara's daughter at the school when she turns one. Belleair Montessori Academy is located in the Town of Belleair. Call them at 584-2867. Get more information at [www.BMAKIDS.com](http://www.BMAKIDS.com).

**STORM DAMAGE** Not all Hurricane Hermine's damage was on the beach. The Sunoco Gas Station at 27th Avenue lost the awning over its gas pumps. The entire canopy had to quickly be removed for safety's sake. Owner Naz says he is taking steps to replace the awning and turn the pumps on an angle for easier navigation and parking. This will take some time. Look for it to happen early next year.



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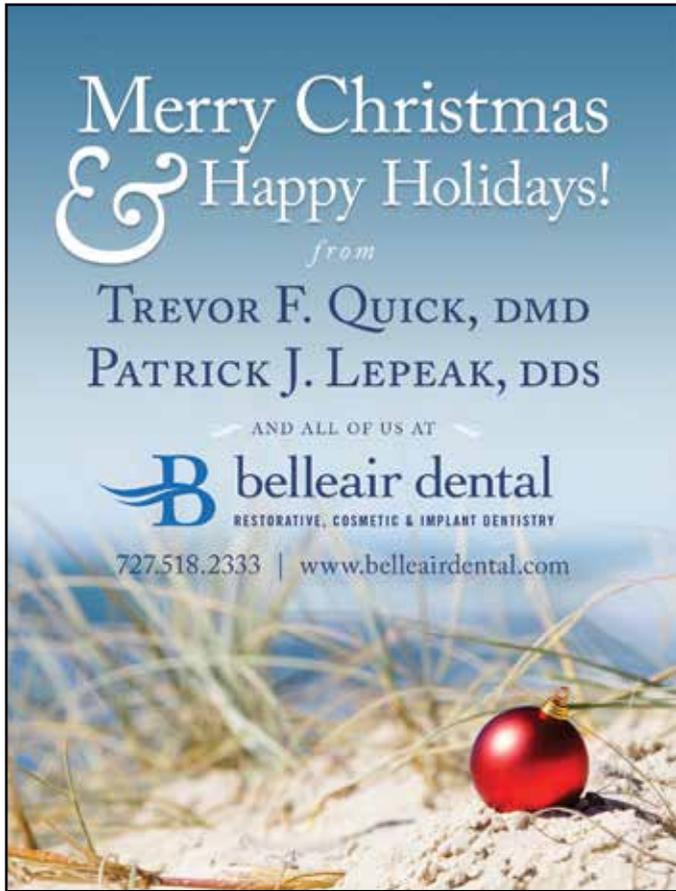
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# Business Briefs



## BELLEAIR BARRE OPENS

This new fitness studio opened in Belleair Bluffs at 760 Indian Rocks Road. Owner and trainer Corrine Argenziano is a trained ballet dancer, nationally certified dance instructor and a certified personal trainer. "I have been teaching dance for over 20 years," Corrine says. "I have been teaching Barre Fitness classes for the past 6 years. I reopened this shop with the plan to provide more than just barre classes," she continues. "I plan to offer classes in dance fitness, Barre, adult ballet, butts and guts, stretch and yoga. We plan to offer wellness seminars and weightloss classes in the near future." Belleair Barre will hold an official grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 19 at 5:30pm. Refreshments will be served. There will be a special class schedule during the holidays, December 19 through 31. Stop by the studio to try your first Barre class for free. For more information, call her at 336-2376. Check them out at [www.BelleairBarre.com](http://www.BelleairBarre.com).

**CASSI GIVES BACK** Once again, Cassis & Company is donating turkeys to the RCS Food Bank. For every \$100 spent in Cassis, they will donate a Christmas turkey. Help someone in need while you buy your Christmas gifts and apparel. Cassis is located in the Plaza 100 Shopping Center. Call them at 585-2011.

**BELLE'S OLIVE FOR CHRISTMAS** This new holiday shopping spot wants to remind you they have many great Holiday gifts. They will custom make a gift baskets to go or they will ship it for you, with an array of items such as flavored olive oils, balsamic vinegars, fresh olives, homemade Italian pasta, condiments...You pick! They also sell the perfect size pairings for hostess gifts packaged by hand and wrapped ready to go. It is the perfect place for unique gifts for those hard to buy for. Their items aren't just for cooks but those who love to eat healthy! Why not give a gift everyone can enjoy! Belle's Olive Branch is located on the north side of the Plaza 100 facing City Hall. Call them at 330-6724.



**MOSTON'S APPAREL** This month, Mark Moston moved his Moston's Custom Apparel company to 520 Indian Rocks Road. They specialize in all kinds of apparel screen printing and embroidery, on shirts, hats and other forms of advertising. They work with large and small businesses, groups, and clubs, as well as individuals. Moston's is not a new company, it has been in business for 19 years. Mark grew up in Largo. Find Moston's in the shopping center with Belleair Market. Call him at 445-1802.

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# Business Briefs

**BOUTIQUE TURNS 30** On December 8, longtime Nicole's Boutique owner, Wanda Matusk will be celebrating 30 years of fashion in Belleair Bluffs. Matusk has always been interested in clothes. When she was a little girl she designed clothes for her paper dolls. Her passion eventually led her to the world of fashion and sales. Matusk opened Nicole's Boutique in 1986, the year her daughter Nicole was born—hence the name. Nicole's continues to be a pillar of fashion in the heart of the Bluffs.



Nicole's Boutique's anniversary celebration is Thursday, December 8 from 6-8pm. Everyone is welcome to stop by for food and drinks to help her celebrate 30 years as she thanks her customers—new and old. Nicole's Boutique is located at 2892 West Bay, in the Bluffs Shopping Center next to Cody's Roadhouse Grill. Call them at 585-1544 for more information.

**DYNAMIC DUO** Sue Thibeault and Kristine Shaw are teaming up to bring their passion for hair & skin care to Sydney & Co., The New Beginning Salon. Sue has over 35 years of experience in the hair industry, the last 2 years in Belleair Bluffs, and is a Master Colorist & Stylist. After 22 years in the U.S. Air Force, Kris is pursuing her passion as a Licensed Clinical Esthetician offering customized facials, biostimulation facial massage, collagen therapy, and peels. Find them at 205 Indian Rocks Rd. N, just north of the Bank of America building. Sue can be reached at 401-480-6823 and Kris at 860-818-3870. They offer gift certificates for the holidays along with introductory discounts for new clients!



**PIECE OF HISTORY AT STEFANEC'S** The Bellevue Biltmore has been a constant topic of discussion among customers at Stefanec's Barbershop in Belleair Bluffs. So much so that owner Irena bought a piece of it and mounted it on her wall. Then she asked the Belleair Area Newsletter, to enlarge one of the Bellevue Biltmore featured stories, which she framed. Find both on the back wall of her barbershop at 772 Indian Rocks Road North.

**NEW AESTHETICIAN AT RADIANCE** Radiance Medspa, is proud to have Linda Rhodes, Medical Aesthetician join their award winning staff. She brings over 10 years experience to Radiance Medspa and will be providing patients HydraFacials, Microdermabrasions, Chemical Peels, SkinMedica Consultations and Ultherapy treatments. Get more information on Radiance at [www.RadianceMedSpa.com](http://www.RadianceMedSpa.com).



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## BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB TENNIS

By Hal Bodley

When Belleair Country Club president Mark Goldman helped cut the ribbon during the “grand re-opening” celebration of the club’s tennis courts, he saw five years of planning and “pushing” came to fruition.

“To accomplish something like this took quite a lot of time and planning” said Goldman. “The tennis committee has been working and pushing for it at least five years. We had to convince a lot of folks we needed this type of facility.

Goldman praised the club’s board of directors and general manager and chief operating officer Ed Shaughnessy for “bringing this project to reality.”

The state-of-the-art renovation of the seven tennis courts and the creation of two pickleball courts to accommodate the popular, fast-growing sport is complete.

Five of the club’s seven tennis courts were renovated and expanded by 36 feet, conforming to the 60 feet by 120 feet recommended by the U. S. Professional Tennis Association.

Additionally, Hartru clay surfaces with the latest available HydroGrid® Sub-Surface Irrigation System were added and LED lighting was installed.

“I don’t know of any other facility with this of state-of-the-art lighting,” commented Shaughnessy.

Shade structures with fans and ice-cold water fountains have been placed between courts.

“The final element was the new fencing, wind screens with our logo and netting to protect tennis players from errant golf balls,” added Shaughnessy.

For Drew Wager, the club’s director of tennis, completion of the long-awaited project is a dream come true.

“These projects and improvements enhance our racquet sports play enormously,” Wager said. “We can get much more night play and with the courts being spread out we can accommodate more league competition and tournaments. These courts are perfect, the surfaces are like a pool table.”

Wager said Belleair is the only private club “with pickleball courts and ours have the same state-of-the-art lighting as the tennis courts. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.”

Charlotte Mason, longtime member and tennis player, said with a chuckle, “I’m not certain these courts are going to help my game, but there’s certainly a good feeling when you walk onto them. We’re very proud of what the club has done for racquet sports. We now have a tremendous facility.”

Shaughnessy pointed out that Courts 1 and 2 were renovated five years ago, but were enhanced with new lighting and other improvements during this extensive six-month project.

Goldman explained that under the leadership of member Harry Sload the Belleair Country Club Tennis and Pickleball Association has been created to “recognize the importance of what we’re doing with racquet sports.”

“We want to enhance and promote the tennis and pickleball programs here at Belleair,” said Sload during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “We have a lot of great events planned. Over 80 members are playing pickleball.”

Pickleball, invented near Seattle in 1965, is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It’s played with a paddle and plastic ball with holes on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net.

*Belleair Country Club member Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is senior correspondent for MLB Advanced Media. He’s been covering Major League Baseball since 1958 and was a founder of USA Today, retiring after 25 years in 2007.*

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## ENGAGING NEW INSTALLATIONS AT THE DALÍ

The Dalí is well known for its slate of temporary exhibitions featuring works of important artists such as Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso and, coming December 17, 2016, the world's most celebrated female artist of all time – Frida Kahlo. Today, the Museum announces two new permanent installations for the public to enjoy beginning November 30, 2016: a breathtaking new outdoor sculpture of Salvador Dalí's memorable mustache, and, inside its galleries, the awe-inspiring and globally award-winning Dreams of Dalí virtual reality (VR) experience.

First introduced as a component of the special exhibition Disney & Dalí: Architects of the Imagination (January-June 2016), Dreams of Dalí allows users to go inside – and beyond – Dalí's 1935 painting Archeological Reminiscence of Millet's "Angelus" and explore the world of the Surrealist master like never before. The VR experience and its component 360-degree video received visitor acclaim, online praise and international recognition through a multitude of industry awards, including the prestigious 2016 Cannes Cyber Lion GOLD; a 2016 Webby People's Voice award; Facebook Silver award for Innovation, among many others.

"With such high visitor and viewer demand, this breakthrough VR experience now has a permanent home within our permanent collection gallery," said Dr. Hank Hine, Executive Director of The Dalí. "Dreams of Dalí is an immersive art experience, compelling visitors to contemplate reality and inspiring them to examine their dreams, like Dalí did, using state-of-the-art technology."

Visitors to the Museum are engulfed by art in every form – from the magnificent works of the talented Salvador Dalí on display, to the spellbinding architecture of the venue itself, to the distinguished design, plantings and installations in the outdoor Avant-garden. The Garden was inspired by local flora and Dalí's fascination with duality in art and nature,

and is home to a tree where visitors can share their wishes, a meandering labyrinth, a tranquil "melting clock" bench, and myriad mathematical environmental elements. One of the most popular attractions in the Garden, known as the ideal spot to take photos and share via social media was a colossal 3-dimensional mustache that over time began to deteriorate.

For a permanent interpretation of Dalí's dramatic mustache, the Museum turned to local artist Donald Gialanella to create a new 17-foot long landmark sculpture. To ensure it longevity, Gialanella used CorTEN steel, a special alloy that forms a thin oxidized patina that protects the material from corrosion. He designed around the principle of parallax, featuring a series of parallel profile plates, so that the appearance of the sculpture changes, based on the viewer's vantage point. Tampa Steel & Supply, sponsored the installation.

"The previous mustache was placed in the Avant-garden as happenstance, having been removed from an outdoor-billboard ad, but it quickly became an integral part of the visitor experience, inspiring countless selfies," said Kathy Greif, Chief Marketing Officer at The Dalí. "We are thrilled to have a permanent, artistic tribute to what may be the world's most famous mustache."

The Dalí is on the cutting edge of art and culture, consistently delivering exciting new exhibitions, thoughtful programming and engaging events. These two new installations further demonstrate the Museum's commitment to sharing important and engaging art with the local community. The Museum's next addition, Frida Kahlo at The Dalí, opens its doors on December 17, as Florida's first solo exhibition showcasing the extraordinary career and life of the acclaimed 20th century artist. The special exhibit will feature a collection of more than 60 Kahlo pieces including 15 paintings, seven drawings and a host of personal photographs from the celebrated female artist and influential icon.

*Robert Young*  
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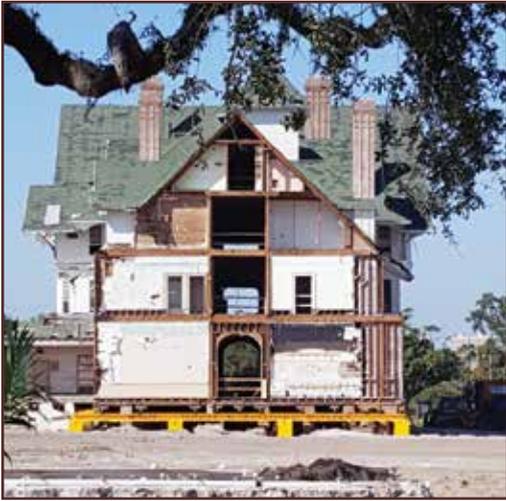


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## MOVING THE BILTMORE LEADS TO THE BELLEVIEW INN

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Bellevue Place's groundbreaking, at the site of the Bellevue Biltmore, was Thursday, November 17th. Developer Michael Cheezem, Belleair Mayor Gary Katica and several dignitaries used gold-plated shovels to provide the customary first shovel photo for the newest development in the Town of Belleair.

The groundbreaking was the end of an era and the end of a decade of fighting over the Bellevue Biltmore Hotel's future. The hotel is now almost demolished, after a year of "deconstruction" work.

"Because so much wood and many of the doors and windows were salvaged, the demolition process has been very time-consuming," says Jeff Parker, President of Biltmore Construction. "We are now 90% done."

Now it is time for "the big move." The original five story lobby, once located on the west end of the hotel, has been saved. It will be moved and refurbished to be part of the new Bellevue Inn included in the project Bellevue Place.

The company hired to execute the 120-year old structure's move has already started. They are jacking up the building and placing computer controlled hydraulic carts under it. There are 27 of them, similar to dollies, that will automatically adjust up and down, as the building is moved.

The plan is to lift the building, turn it 90 degrees and move it 320 feet to the east. The foundation where the building will eventually be relocated is already being prepared.

If things stay on schedule, the move will happen the week before Christmas and be completed by Christmas Day. New construction should start shortly thereafter with a totally remodeled and reimagined Bellevue Inn.

The Inn, which will be a small boutique hotel, will be the centerpiece of the Bellevue Place community, and features a unique collection of amenities, including the community's resort-style pool, Tiffany room for smaller functions, Masie's Market, a History Room with artifacts and information about the hotel's history, and a Grand Lawn.

JMC has committed \$13 million to move and renovate the 38,000 square foot structure. The Queen Anne style Victorian Inn will be available to Bellevue Place residents as well as the hotel guests. It will set the stage for a new age of elegance in Belleair.

The first residences, expected to be ready for occupancy May of 2018 will be in the section of the development called The Alamanda. The six story condominium building will have four resident floors over two levels of parking. Units vary from 1,724 to 3,676 square feet. Prices begin in the mid-\$600,000s.



"Public sales of the condominiums and the carriage homes have already begun. In fact, over 50% of the first phase units, in The Alamanda, are already sold. No other new home community in Florida boasts such a fascinating and treasured history with such a unique combination of amenities," stated Michael Cheezem, CEO, JMC Communities.

For sales information visit [www.BelleviewPlace.com](http://www.BelleviewPlace.com), the sales center at 275 Bellevue Boulevard or call 469-7070 to speak to a sales associate.

Much of the heart of pine flooring is available through South End Reclaimed and Anderson Lumber. Visit these web sites for more details: [www.SouthEndReclaimed.com](http://www.SouthEndReclaimed.com) or [HCAndersonLumber.com](http://HCAndersonLumber.com). Architectural Salvage is still available at Schiller's Salvage in Tampa [www.SchillersSalvage.com](http://www.SchillersSalvage.com).

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## Bar & Restaurant News

### CRABBY BILL'S VOTED FAVORITE

The big winner at this year's Taste of IRB was Crabby Bill's. For the first time, they allowed festival goers to vote via text message for their favorite booth. With over 25% of the votes, Crabby Bill's all Fresh from Florida menu wowed attendees. Their 100% local seafood Taste of IRB menu included: Grilled Gulf Octopus, Stone Crab Sliders, Port Canaveral Royal Red Shrimp, Baja Grouper Tacos and Buffalo Oysters. The competition was fierce and tasty with incredible dishes from all the local restaurants.



**BON APPETIT EARNS AWARD** Open Table named Bon Appetit one of the 100 Most Scenic Restaurants in America. "Our waterfront location has made Bon Appetit Restaurant a favorite dining and wedding destination for Tampa Bay locals and visitors for the last 40 years," says Mr. Peter Kreuziger, owner. Bon Appetit, located at 150 Marina Plaza in Dunedin, was chosen by users of Open Table in competition with over 20,000 other restaurants. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week and a popular Sunday brunch spot. See pictures and get more information at [BonAppetitRestaurant.com](http://BonAppetitRestaurant.com).

### SWEET IRB NOW THE BAKERY

With their updated menu, which includes Breakfast, Coffees, Lunch, savory items including pie pockets, breads, bagels and more, plus their wedding and special events catering, owner Melissa Dotson felt it was time to update the name to The Bakery Coffee Shop. They still offer their delicious and beautiful cakes and traditional pies. The Bakery is open 6 days a week, Tuesday – Sunday at 8:30 am with breakfast daily until 1pm. They are closed on Monday. Look for their new baking class schedule soon. The Bakery finished 1st with a Triple Layer Key Lime Pie and 2nd place with a Nutella Chocolate Pretzel Cream Pie in the Florida Traveling Pie Festival in Largo.



**GROUPERS TO OPEN IN JANUARY** The newest Indian Rocks restaurant, Groupers is owned by resident Adam McLean. The beer and wine license has been approved and the city is finalizing their permitting. Located in the strip center at 14th Avenue between The Red Lion and Sandbar, it should open early next year.

**15 YEARS AND COUNTING** Belleair Bluffs Westshore Pizza is 15 years old. In the beginning, they were located in the middle of the Bonefish shopping center, but moved to the west end and expanded a few years ago. Cedric and Isabelle Leyniers bought the business last year. Celebrate with a pizza and a pitcher of beer from Westshore Pizza.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



**HAVANA HARRY'S OPEN SECOND LOCATION** Their second location, at 1999 Starkey Road, is much larger and better equipped for parties and large dine-in groups and has festive Cuban decor. "Currently we are focusing on expanding our banquet & meeting facilities as well as our menu," says owner George Haber. "We can offer catering to fit anyone's needs, even if you want something besides Cuban food."



**CK'S CLEARWATER BEACH'S NEWEST RESTAURANT**  
First, Crawford Ker was a NFL player, then he was in the wing business. Now, he is in the hotel and restaurant

business on Clearwater Beach.

While Ker attended Dunedin High School, he worked as a busboy at the sports restaurant his father managed. He went on to play college football for the University of Florida, before the Dallas Cowboy's chose him as their third round pick. He played guard for six seasons. After his football career, he founded the restaurant chain Ker's WingHouse Bar & Grill. He sold the restaurants in 2014.

Now, Ker is moving on and purchased the Beachview Hotel in May 2015. Since that time, the property, which once was a Howard Johnson's, has been upgraded. "The rooms have new beds, furniture, flat screen TVs and WiFi," says Ker. "We repaved the parking lot, added a continental breakfast, a state of the art fitness center, movies on demand and HBO Channels in every room, but the hotel didn't have a restaurant." So, Ker decided to build one.

His new casual beach view restaurant - CK's Eats & Drinks, opened in November. CK's will feature handmade pizzas, cooked in a 600-degree stone oven, made to order before of your eyes. The menu features appetizers, soups & salads, tacos and sandwiches all with beer, wine and a full liquor bar. "Our draft beer system will be unique to Clearwater Beach, and everyone will want to see how the Bottoms Up beer system works," Ker says proudly.

CK's will have seating indoors, on the outside patio and by the second story pool deck. Visit CK's Eats & Drinks website: [www.ckseatndrinks.com](http://www.ckseatndrinks.com) for the menu and exciting new details, also follow them on Facebook: CK's eats n drinks.

They are accepting application at the Beachview Hotel, 325 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater.

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### RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF: BRINGING HELP AND HOPE

When Hurricane Matthew barreled up the East Coast in October, the American Red Cross was on the ground and ready to respond. Whether it was providing a safe place to stay, a hot meal, a warm blanket, or a shoulder to lean on, the Red Cross was there.

Months after the devastating storm, residents from Florida to the Carolinas are still picking up the pieces in the hardest hit areas. It will take time for people to rebuild their lives and homes, but with the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, the work of the Red Cross continues to help.

"Volunteers are the heart of the Red Cross," said Linda Jorge Carbone, CEO of the American Red Cross Central Florida Region and the Tampa Bay Chapter. "They are the hands and feet that deliver our mission every single day. They are neighbors helping neighbors, whether the skies are blue or grey. We couldn't do what we do without them."

More than 35 Red Cross volunteers from Pinellas County answered the call to help fellow Floridians in their time of need. St. Petersburg resident Charles White volunteered at a local Red Cross shelter, then traveled to the East Coast of Florida to help residents of some of the hardest hit communities as they returned home after the storm had passed.

"Time is the most valuable thing a person can give," White said. "Everyone needs help at some point, and people should not have to experience a disaster or recovery alone."

Recovering from a disaster can be a confusing, emotionally draining and complicated process. Safety Harbor residents Lou and Fran Abilock knew they could help. The husband and wife team are Red Cross caseworkers, trained to help people create recovery plans, navigate paperwork, and locate help from other agencies and community resources. The Abilocks

call their efforts "incredibly rewarding" and encourage others to get involved.

Lou explains: "When we turn on the evening news, too often we see natural disasters that affect our neighbors. Our hearts go out to them but what can we do? To change our compassion into meaningful action requires training. This is

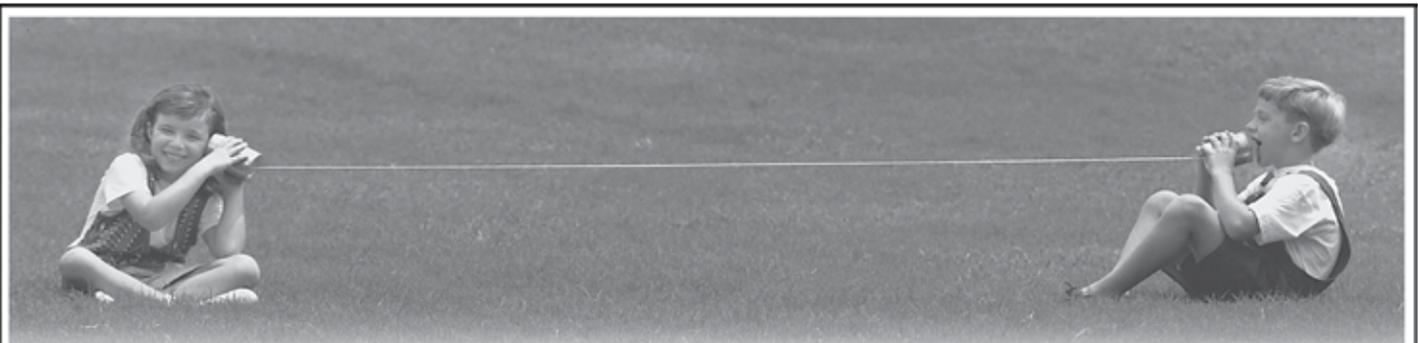


where the Red Cross comes in. If you want to help people recover from disasters, the Red Cross can provide the training and organization for you to make a meaningful contribution."

In Florida alone, the Red Cross mobilized 1,500 disaster relief workers -- over 90 percent of whom were volunteers. These heroes delivered help and hope to thousands of Floridians who needed shelter, food, water, clean-up supplies and emotional support. To learn more about volunteer opportunities in disaster preparedness or recovery, visit [redcross.org/centralflorida](http://redcross.org/centralflorida) and click on "Volunteer" on the left side of the page.

The Red Cross depends on donations to provide immediate relief for disasters. Help Floridians and others in the U.S. affected by Hurricane Matthew by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or texting the word MATTHEW to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

*The American Red Cross, a not-for-profit organization, shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters. They supply about 40% of the nation's blood, teach skills that save lives, provide international humanitarian aid, and support military members and their families. For information, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or follow them on Twitter at @RedCross.*



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## RECYCLING MAKES GOOD SENSE FOR BUSINESSES

Many businesses recognize that recycling is good for their bottom line as well as the environment. A strong recycling program can reduce waste disposal fees and demonstrate that a business is invested in protecting natural resources. Commercial municipal solid waste accounts for nearly 55 percent of the total municipal solid waste stream in Florida. According to 2015 data, about 54 percent of commercial waste is currently being recycled.

In 2008, the Florida Legislature set a statewide recycling goal of 75 percent by 2020. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Recycling Recognition Program honors businesses that help the state move toward that goal. A business wanting to develop an effective recycling plan first must understand its waste stream. Perform a facility walk through and assess all waste generating practices. This will help pinpoint, which materials to collect for recycling and what waste possibly could be prevented in the first place.

The greatest potential for waste reduction can be found by targeting materials that constitute the highest percentage of the waste stream. At the same time, include materials that easily can be recycled regardless of how much of the waste stream they constitute.

A facility walk-through also will help determine what size and type of recycling containers are needed. Containers should be clearly marked and placed near where recyclables are generated for the convenience of participants.

Lowering the volume of trash and frequency of trash collection can cut waste disposal fees. Choosing the right

waste and recycling containers and collection services is an essential part of making a program cost-effective.

Recyclables collection service may be provided by a trash hauler, recycling company or a small collector. County recycling coordinators are a good resource for advice on starting or expanding a recycling program.

A recycling rate of at least 60 percent is necessary for a business to qualify for the DEP Recycling Recognition Program in 2016. The number rises to at least 70 percent in 2017. For 2020 and after, a business must have a recycling rate of at least 75 percent.

The department has an easy, free tool for organizations to track and report their recycling efforts – the Florida DEP Business Recycling Tracking Tool, or Re-TRAC. Through the website, companies can track different types of recycling efforts and produce reports on how those efforts are helping to shrink their environmental footprint. The tracking tool helps the department identify companies that are doing more to go green.

Recycling reclaims valuable materials, lessens the need for more landfills and creates jobs. In Florida, recycling and reuse businesses employ 32,000 people and generate an annual payroll of \$765 million and \$4.4 billion in annual revenues.

To learn more about the Recycling Recognition Program, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/recognition.htm> or call Henry Garrigo with DEP's Waste Reduction section at 850-245-8822.

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### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IMPROVING LIVES EVERY DAY

Every family has its set of day-to-day and long-term challenges, and some families seem to have more on their plate than others. The Wieschowski Family – Mark and Katie and their kids Joshua, Kai, Isaac, and Austin – are one of those families.

When Austin was two months old, he was diagnosed with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and spent two and a half months in the ICU. His family ended up staying at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) for four months. When he was finally sent home, medical staff who were skeptical for Austin’s future, were surprised that he was even able to go home.

Austin, now five, proved them wrong, but has also been diagnosed with hypotonia, macrocephaly, common variable immune deficiency, mitochondrial disease, gastroparesis, brittle asthma, astigmatism, hypogammaglobulinemia, and RSV. At the same time, six-year-old Isaac has been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS), CVID, epilepsy, brittle asthma, and autism. On top of all this, their sister Kai is both bipolar and autistic. Unfortunately, their father Mark having undergone brain surgery is no longer able to work; He has to rely on disability.

The family has been trying to piece together information to determine how best to help the boys. That has meant frequent trips to the Ronald McDonald House, which the boys always consider a treat.

“They love it here. It’s like family to them,” Katie said, adding that she maintains contact with many of the families she meets at RMH through social media. “We get to see some of those friends when we come to RMH.”

The boys return every four weeks for IVIG treatments, arriving Sunday evening and leaving Monday afternoon. Ronald McDonald House takes a huge financial burden off the family’s shoulders. Austin will need these treatments for the rest of his life, allowing him the chance to run and play. Isaac also takes pain meds, has a heart monitor, and will eventually need surgery for his EDS.

Despite these challenges, the boys remain active and happy-go-lucky. They always get excited with the prospect of visiting RMH, jumping up and down and remembering past visits that have included outings to baseball games, movies, and aquariums. Further diagnosis and medication have helped them manage more and more with every visit. While the family continues to help the boys, they rely on the open doors and life opportunities offered by RMH.

“It’s nice for my sons to be comfortable because the hospital visits are not pleasant,” Katie said. “It’s hard to manage our lives because of all the health conditions, but these are happy boys and that makes a big difference.”



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**3<sup>rd</sup> - FLORIDA ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES** - 10am to 3pm

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**3<sup>rd</sup> - POST OFFICE TOY DRIVE**

Leave a new, unwrapped toy by your mailbox, Saturday, December 5th. The local mail carrier will pick it up and get it to the Marine Corp, who deliver them needy families in the Tampa Bay area.

**9<sup>th</sup> - BELLEAIR BLUFFS TREE LIGHTING AND PARTY**

Bring the family; enjoy this 6pm free event.

**10<sup>th</sup> - 42<sup>ND</sup> ISLAND ESTATES HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE**

This is one of the largest and most popular boat parade events in the area. Watch it from Coachman Park. If you are interested in participating contact IEYC Fleet Captain Paul at (727) 744-1728, liteff@msn.com.

**10<sup>th</sup> - INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES**

The neighborhood tour highlights five distinctive homes, each with unique interior design and decked out in festive decor. \$10 in advance; visit IRBhome.com for tickets.

**11<sup>th</sup> - HONNA'S CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES** - 3 to 8pm

Their annual Old Northeast candlelight Tour of Homes is the major fundraiser for Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Assn. Get information on pricing and tickets at www.HONNA.org.

**11<sup>TH</sup> - BELLEAIR HOLIDAY PARADE AND PARTY** - 5PM

The parade ends at Hunter Memorial Park where there will be food, hot chocolate, music, and a visit from Santa. Contact the Belleair Rec Center, 518-3728 if you plan to be in the parade.

**12<sup>th</sup> - HOLIDAY GATHERING AT THE REGENCY** - 6:30pm.

North Suncoast Associates of the Florida Orchestra is holding a musical event featuring the Madrigal Singers at 2701 Regency Oaks Blvd., Clearwater. The cost is \$35 and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a wine bar. Call Johanna, 734-9727.

**16<sup>th</sup> - SANTA DELIVERIES TO BELLEAIR BLUFFS**

Belleair Bluffs helps Santa deliver presents in the Belleair Bluffs community—but parents should make arrangements by December 16th. Presents are delivered by Santa and the local fire department on Christmas eve.

**17<sup>th</sup> - LARGO'S OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY PARADE**

The sixth annual parade starts at noon and features dancers, floats, classic and modern cars, local businesses and residents and of course Santa and Mrs. Claus. The parade begins at 1st Avenue and 4th Street SW and travels south to Ulmer Park where there will be vendors after the parade. Visit Largo.com for information.

**17<sup>th</sup> - INDIAN ROCKS BEACH BOAT PARADE**

Besides someone's backyard, the best place to see it is at the Holiday Inn Harbourside where begins at 7pm. Contact Lorin with Indian Rocks Beach Public Works, at 595-6889 to participate.

**18<sup>th</sup> - INDIAN SHORES REDINGTON BOAT PARADE**

The parade ends at the Pub for the awards and after party.



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## MEET ALLEN LOYD THE MAN BEHIND FIRST NIGHT ST. PETERSBURG

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Allen Loyd has seen many a First Night. This year will be his 29th, 10 have been in St Petersburg. First Night is the annual New Year's Eve Celebration, which has taken place in downtown St Petersburg for the last 24 years. It includes music, dancing, fire, bubbles, stories, games, art, creative fun, and of course fireworks!

An event of this magnitude does not just happen. It takes a full year of organization and planning. That is Allen Loyd's role; it is his fourth year at the helm.

Loyd is originally from Maine. While attending Bates College, he majored in theater and set design, and assisted with the school's theater performances. After graduation, he worked as the technical director for the Albany Mayor's Office of Special Events in New York where in addition to special events, he planned seven First Nights.

In the early 1980s, Loyd moved to St. Petersburg and became involved in a variety of city events including: American Stage, Discover Native America at Eckerd College, Times Festival of Reading, Waterfront Parks Centennial Celebration, Salvador Dali Museum events and other events held in our downtown parks.

Working with American Stage and American Stage in the Park on and off since 1983, Loyd has been the house manager and volunteer coordinator for American Stage in the Park at Demen's Landing the last six years. But this time of the year, his primary focus is First Night. He became First Night's interim Director in 2013, followed by the Executive Director in 2014.

First Night is not a one-man job. It takes dozens of people planning behind the scenes to make this happen. There are huge coordination efforts needed to allow all the activities at each venue to happen on time and not conflict with each other.

While people might think this is a city-sponsored event, it is not. It is hosted by the not-for-profit corporation organization First Night St Petersburg, Inc. Their volunteer Board of Directors is headed by Leslie Curran, former City Council member, as the President. The City of St. Petersburg provides non-departmental funding, which covers the city bill for use of the parks, police, fire, recreation, parking, etc.

First Night has undergone a lot of changes over the years. "In the beginning, there was not enough food. There were only a very few downtown restaurants, not like we have today. We had to bring in food vendors to feed the crowd," Loyd explains. "We added food that reflected the Tampa Bay area, such as Greek and Latin cuisine. Over time, we have increased the quality of our entertainment. All our entertainers are paid professionals. We request performers donate their services. They are all paid, work for tips or receive free admission buttons for themselves and friends."

Of course, there are fireworks. "We pay for the them," states Loyd. "Fireworks cost about \$1,000 per minute and we do two shows—at 8pm for the families and midnight for the partiers."

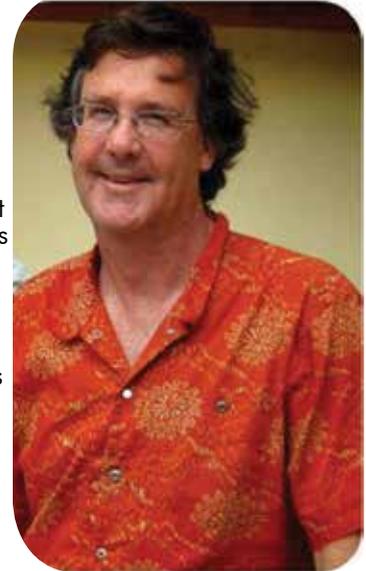
First Night is responsible for all the costs. The event is paid for by a combination of sponsorships and by the sale of buttons. "Last year, button sales covered about half our expenses; sponsorships covered the remainder."

AARP Tampa Bay is this year's primary sponsor. Duke Energy is also a major sponsor. Bright House Networks, Clear Channel Outdoors, Cox Media, and the Tampa Bay Times are media sponsors.

When planning events, weather is usually their biggest fear. "We don't really worry about rain," says Loyd. "We have rain insurance to cover that. My biggest fear is cold, wind and fog. There is no insurance to cover those factors, which will encourage people to stay home."

The event is not entirely free. "About 75% of the venues are gated and require a badge to enter and participate." First Night sells a badge or button for admittance to most of the venues. They are cheaper if you buy the buttons in advance. Adult buttons are \$10 in advance and \$15 on December 31; children (6-12) are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Children under 6 are always free. Buttons are limited and will be a collectors item. When they run out, you will receive a handstamp.

Get more First Night information at [www.FirstNightStPete.com](http://www.FirstNightStPete.com) or on FaceBook at [www.1stNightStPete](http://www.1stNightStPete). Call 727-823-8906 to buy larger numbers of buttons.



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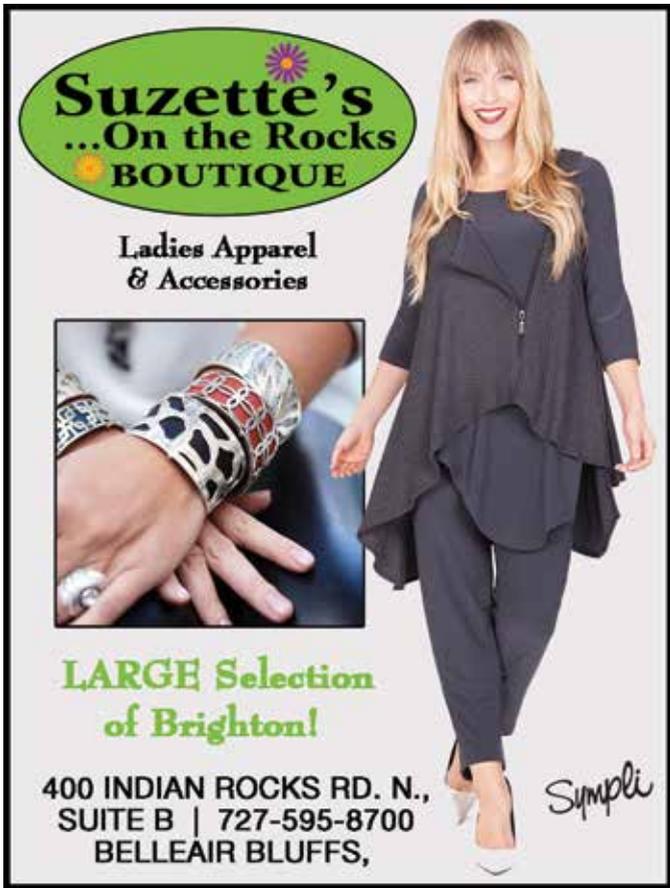
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## HUMANE SOCIETY YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD



Lea Simon first came to the Humane Society of Pinellas in the summer of 2015 for Kids Summer Camps. She returned again this summer and took her passion for animals to a new level when she learned about the Senior Pet Connection program that provides pet food assistance to low income home-bound senior citizens. One of the summer camp lessons taught campers about the service and how giving back to the community is important.

Lea really connected with this idea and when she came to camp the next day, she came bearing donations for Senior Pet Connection. After camp, she had gone to the store and spent her pet sitting money to purchase food for Senior Pet Connection.

It was truly touching to see Lea go above and beyond to help seniors in this program. Lea shines a positive light on her peers and is always asking how she can help. Whether it was picking up supplies in camp or helping the younger kids with the activities, she is always going out of her way for others.

"I love animals and have a passion for wanting to help others. When I grow up, I want to be a service dog trainer. I think this will be a good fit for me because I love animals and want to help those who don't have everything I have. I really want to continue being at the Humane Society because it teaches me so much. I am really honored to win the Youth Volunteer Award," says Lea.

Lea and her parents, Ted and Helene Simon, live in Indian Rocks Beach on 18th Avenue.

## UPCOMING BOAT PARADES

The holidays are getting closer and planning is underway for a few of our area's boat parades.

The Island Estates Holiday Lighted Boat Parade, organized by the Island Estates Yacht Club, and co-sponsored by the City of Clearwater, is Saturday December 10. The Parade is one of the largest and most popular parade events in the area and will be celebrating its 42nd year of Holiday Cheer. There is no entry fee. Monetary Prizes are awarded in several categories. If you are interested in participating or would like further details contact IEYC Fleet Captain Paul at (727) 744-1728, liteff@msn.com.

Indian Rocks Beach's Lighted Boat Parade is scheduled for December 17. Any boat owner interested in entering their boat, should contact Lorin in Indian Rocks Beach's Public Works, at 595-6889. There is no cost to enter and prizes are awarded in several categories.

The Indian Shores/ Redington Lighted Boat Parade is the Sunday after Indian Rocks Beach's on December 18. Call Indian Shores City Hall for registration information.

## SAND DUNES - NATURE'S HURRICANE PROTECTION

by RB Johnson, Mayor Indian Rocks Beach

When Hurricane Hermine moved north through the Gulf this past summer it left in its wake flooded streets and battered beaches, but the damage would have been far worse if the storm had come closer and skimmed the coast as Hurricane Matthew would subsequently do just weeks later along the east side of Florida. As it is, the effects of a mere brushing from a hurricane should be enough to remind us of our constant vulnerability to nature's unpredictable wrath. Investigating how the dunes that line the Pinellas beaches fared as the storm passed by, provides an opportunity to learn and prepare for future storm seasons.

Sand dunes, and the vegetation that anchors them in place, are nature's flexible barriers, the first line of defense between beachfront properties and the relentless pounding of waves generated by tropical systems. But dunes are not static, solidified walls. These reservoirs of sand are part of a natural system that stretches out across the open beach and underwater to submerged sand bars. When tides are high enough for waves to strike directly on the dunes, sand is released into the onslaught and reduces the waves' energy. If the storm is powerful enough, sand can be pushed inland, a process called "topping," where the dunes essentially migrate away from the shoreline. In the case of Hurricane Hermine, what the Pinellas beaches largely experienced was "scarping" of dunes, a carving process that leaves dramatic cliffs on the frontal edge of a dune system. Most of the sand from the escarpment is carried out to an offshore sand bar, from which it gradually moves back onshore as the tides and waves calm down. Once onshore, winds pick up the loose sand and carry it towards the remaining dunes where

it is captured by the sea oats and other dune vegetation, completing the cycle. This illustrates some of the complexity of nature's building process, the continual give and take of water, wind, sand and plants.

Pinellas County beaches are mostly artificial creations, nourished by expensive sand replenishment operations conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers every five to six years. But since the early 1990s these beaches have been stabilized by significant dune planting projects, giving nature a chance to utilize her uniquely efficient processes, and keeping the sand from disappearing prematurely. In Indian Rocks Beach we saw Hurricane Hermine carve ten to twenty foot wide escarpments into the front of our dunes, but the mass of the dune system is far wider, and will be able to slowly rebuild itself because of this thickly vegetated expanse. Yet there are other Pinellas beach towns with few or non-existent dunes, and they suffered waves crashing onto seawalls, and water and debris swept into front yards, all from a storm that came nowhere near us. An ominous cautionary tale.

Local officials are hopeful that the next beach nourishment scheduled for the towns from Sand Key to North Redington Beach will come to fruition in 2017. After it is finished, there will be dune planting projects along this stretch, predominantly in areas with sparse or no vegetation. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing when we will once again have a scare put into us by an approaching tropical system. On the beaches, all we can do is work with nature, and make sure that our dunes are as well-prepared as possible.

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**HELP & HOPE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED**

RCS has helped Pinellas County residents facing hunger, homelessness and domestic violence for nearly 50 years. As we enter this year-end giving season, please support RCS, as it supports our neighbors.

Support the RCS Food Bank! The RCS Food Bank provides nutritious groceries to over 60,000 individuals annually. Food drives will begin around town to assist in the increase of families in need of food. Information about more food drives, including a \$2 off admission at the Dali Museum from November 1 to 23 if you bring a can of food, can be found at [www.RCSpinellas.org](http://www.RCSpinellas.org).

Sponsor a family at the RCS Grace House! RCS Grace House provides dignified apartment-style emergency shelter to homeless families with children for up to two months. Sponsoring a needy family brightens their holiday season. For information, call (727) 446-5964.

Adopt a family at The Haven of RCS! The Haven of RCS provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence including outreach service, injunction support, 911 phones, and emergency shelter. For information on adopting a family at The Haven of RCS, call (727) 441-2029.

The RCS Thrift Store is also always looking for donations. Program participants are able to shop for free and sales from the public go right back to RCS programs. If you find yourself needing to make room this season for new items, please keep the RCS Thrift Store in mind for your donations. Dropped them off at 2960 East Bay Drive Largo, FL 33771.

Thanks to the generosity and support of the community, RCS will be able to continue its mission of providing Help & Help to people in need. As you gather with your family this holiday season, please consider supporting other families in need.

**NEED SCHOOL CLOTHES & UNIFORMS?**

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Attention parents, grandparents, principals, teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, school bus drivers, clergy and first responders. Do you know a child that needs school clothing in PreK4 to 12th grade? Do you see children wearing shoes too small, pants that don't fit and perhaps that are ripped? Children in need of winter jackets? Clothes To Kids can help these children from PreK-4 to 12th grade through high school.

Clothes To Kids mission is to provide new and quality used clothing to low-income or in crisis school-age children in Pinellas County for FREE. Families who are eligible for free or reduced priced lunch may use their lunch letter as a referral and call for an appointment at one of CTK stores. We have two stores conveniently located in St. Pete at 2163 34th Street South and in Clearwater at 1059 N Hercules. Call today at 727-441-5050.

Eligible school children receive a week's wardrobe, which includes: 5 new pairs of socks and underwear, 5 tops and 4 bottoms (including school uniforms), 1 dress (optional), 1 pair of shoes and a jacket in season. Let's get the word out. Let's help these children in need of clothing have quality clothing that fits, keeps them warm and allows them to attend school with confidence and self-esteem needed to be proud and achieve academic success. Clothes To Kids is here for the children. Please encourage families to call us. Call us today! 727-441-5050.

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## SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY NEW PATH FOR SEABIRD REHABILITATION

As of September 1st, the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, formerly Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, is a completely new organization, and is now in operation at the beach front facility, formerly used by the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. The new organization has experienced management, a new board and new leadership from the Busch von Gontard family, who have a long history of wildlife and environmental conservation. The mission of the new organization remains the same: the rescue, rehabilitation and eventual release of sick, injured and orphaned birds.

"For as long as I can remember, my family has been devoted to causes that conserve precious wildlife and the environments where they thrive," said Andrew von Gontard, President of Seaside Seabird Sanctuary. "It is our passion for the wildlife that has moved us to step in to invest significant time and resources into the revitalization of this sanctuary. We look forward to working closely with the staff and volunteers to ensure seabirds have a first class rehabilitation facility working on their behalf."

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary's day-to-day operations will be managed by Eddie Gayton, who has more than six years of experience in wildlife rehabilitation and is the former operations manager at Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. Brian Tharp, a retired United States Air Force officer, will serve as the business manager. The two will be supported by staff and volunteers, who have been a part of the sanctuary for years.

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, created by the Busch von Gontard family and an independent Board of Trustees, took over operations from Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, Inc., whose president, Ralph Heath, founded the sanctuary 45 years ago. While Heath and Suncoast are no longer affiliated with the beach front sanctuary, the family plans to

carry on his legacy of caring for the seabirds and respect his contributions to them over the years.

"The staff and I are excited to have this new organization in place so we can continue helping the birds," said Gayton. "For us, our focus has always been on the birds and making sure these animals are getting the care they need so they can return to their natural habitat. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to help these injured seabirds, rehabilitate them and release them back into the wild."

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary will work closely with area veterinarians to provide medical care for the birds and guidance to the staff. They will also maintain strict adherence to all applicable state and federal rules and regulations. They have been working closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to ensure all essential permits are in place and all policies and procedures moving forward are designed with the health and safety of the sanctuary's most treasured assets – the birds – in mind.

Von Gontard said he and his family, along with the new board and staff, are determined not only to restore public confidence in the sanctuary, but to reestablish its recognition as one of the premier avian rehabilitation centers in the nation. Created in 1971, the sanctuary has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of birds, ranging from the Eastern Brown Pelican to the Eastern Screech Owl. It was the first facility to breed Eastern Brown Pelicans in captivity. The birds who cannot be returned to the wild are given a permanent home at the sanctuary, which is open to the public 365 days a year. Admission is free, but visitors are encouraged to donate to support the sanctuary's mission.

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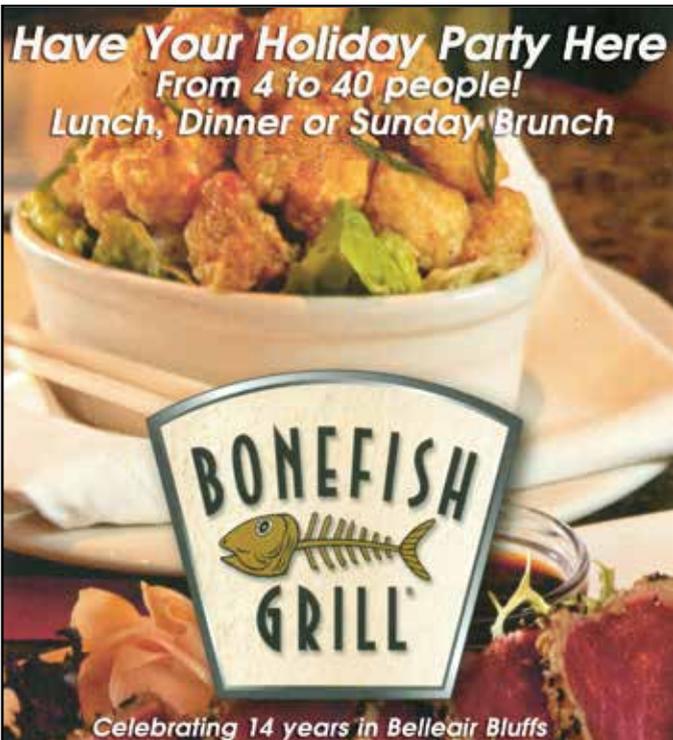


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## NEW HAPPY HOUR CONCERTS

The Florida Orchestra is debuting a new series of Happy Hour Concerts presented by Smith & Associates Real Estate, with a spirited mix of live symphonic music, free select drinks and a meet-and-greet with musicians at the Straz Center in Tampa. Tickets are on sale now online at [floridaorchestra.org](http://floridaorchestra.org), by phone at 727.892.3337 and at the Florida Orchestra box office.

The three concerts are a new way to experience the orchestra in a casual atmosphere. Doors and lobby bars open at 5:30 pm; the hour-long concert with no intermission begins at 6:30 pm. Patrons may linger in the lobby afterward to sip and mingle with the musicians. Each concert features a TFO's premier conductor: Music Director Michael Francis, Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tzyk and Principal Guest Conductor Stuart Malina.

Tickets are \$35 general admission seating. Drinks from sponsors will be complimentary, including Stella Artois beer and Tito's Handmade Vodka. Other drinks, including soda and water, will be available for purchase. The Concerts are:

A Toast to the Classics, Thursday, Feb 2, 2017 - A light and lively night, with Bernstein's Candide Overture, Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and Prokofiev's Summer Day. Stuart Malina conducts.

American Spirit[s], Thursday, Feb 23, 2017 - Music made in the USA, including a Duke Ellington Portrait, Gershwin's An American in Paris, and a real treat: Jeff Tzyk conducting his own work, New York Cityscape.

Scheherazade: A Fantasy in Music, Thursday, Mar 23, 2017 Love. Murder. Deceit. Rimsky-Korsakov's haunting music weaves the tale of Scheherazade, Michael Francis as your guide.

## WALK TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED



Join your neighbors for the  
**8th Annual Chapel-By-The-Sea  
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**January 28, 2017** to benefit the Food Bank  
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## SUNSTAR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Pinellas County continues to offer the Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership Program to assist residents with the out-of-pocket expenses associated with ambulance transportation. Enrollment begins Thursday, Dec. 1, for the 2017-2018 membership period.

"We continue to provide services to ensure a safe and secure community," said Jodie Sechler, director of Ambulance Billing and Financial Services at Pinellas County Safety and Emergency Services. "This program helps our residents avoid unexpected costs associated with ambulance transports."

The Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership Program is not an insurance plan. It is a Pinellas County government program that works with an individual's insurance company to cover 100 percent of eligible expenses associated with deductibles and co-payments. The membership plan will also cover 50 percent of the cost for any trips denied by the insurance company. It is estimated that the average cost of a single transport is \$707. Annual membership fees are \$63 for an individual and \$98 for a family.

If plan members are uninsured, they receive a 20% discount on ambulance transportation services. This is an average savings of \$140 per transport.

The family plan covers those related by blood, marriage or adoption who reside in the same household. For more information, call (727) 582-2008 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/firstcare](http://www.pinellascounty.org/firstcare).

## WISHING YOU A SAFE HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing your family feasts, remember to follow a few simple safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove, they should always stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure the Christmas tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure your Christmas tree or any decorations are not blocking an exit.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Get rid of the Christmas tree after the holiday is over. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage.
- Practice fire escape routes in your home with your family and house guests. This includes the family meeting area outside where everyone will meet should a fire occur in the home.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

## FIRE STATION GROUND BREAKING December 12th (1:30pm)

Belleair Bluff Commissioners are replacing the aging Indian Rocks Road fire station with a new one located a block north of City Hall on Bayway Avenue. Construction is beginning this month and should be completed by October of next year.

The station will have three bays with living space for six firefighters. The project's cost is estimated to be \$3.5 million, \$500,000 more than expected due to increases in costs since the project has been delayed since 2009, when the original bids were received.

The station will serve Belleair Bluffs, the Town of Belleair, some of Largo and the unincorporated area of Pinellas county south of West Bay Drive.

The station's groundbreaking ceremony is December 12th at 1:30pm; all are invited.

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The Great American Teach-In was held November 9th. Since 1990, it has been an opportunity for employers, workers, community leaders, local personalities, retirees, artist, musicians, volunteers, and parents to share what they do or what they are interested in, with the next generation. Participants spend an hour or so talking about their work, career challenges, hobbies and life experiences, in an effort to provide real-life insights and reinforce the importance of education. Bob Griffin, publisher of this newsletter, spoke to a class of fourth graders at Anona Elementary about "Creativity"—Where Do Ideas Come From?" A copy of the one of the most recent Newsletters was used as a visual aide.

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\* Promo runs from Nov. 25 to Dec. 31, 2016. Gift cards have no cash value.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

Do you want to watch fireworks this New Year's Eve? Here are a few local spots to see them.

### CLEARWATER BEACH

This is the closest fireworks show to the area as it they are being shot off at Sand Key Park. However, the park is closed at night, but you can view the show from the south along Sand Key Beach or to the north in Clearwater Beach. The beach just north of the Clearwater Sailing Center has good views too.



### DOWNTOWN ST PETERSBURG

The annual First Night event, hosted downtown in St. Petersburg, has not one but two sets of fireworks. The first is at 8pm for the families with small children and again later at midnight. First Night requires a paid badge to get into many of the venues, but the fireworks are free. Children tickets at \$5 each and adults are \$10 each (in advance). Check out at [www.FirstNightStPetersburg.com](http://www.FirstNightStPetersburg.com).

### TAMPA

Downtown Tampa will have fireworks near Channelside. They normally have live music and a ball drop at midnight.

### BUSCH GARDENS

The park will stay open until 1am on New Year's Eve with fireworks at midnight. However, this requires admission to the park. Visit [www.BuschGardens.com](http://www.BuschGardens.com).

## MORTON PLANT PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Hospital has been celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. As part of that celebration, Morton Plant Hospital opened a photo history exhibit entitled "100 Years of Morton Plant Hospital" at the main branch of the Clearwater Public Library at 100 North Osceola Avenue.

The exhibit is a pictorial history depicting Morton Plant Hospital's 100 years of service to the community. Exhibits include photos of people who have helped shape and nurture the hospital, medical advances over the last century and the new Doyle Tower now under construction on the hospital's campus.

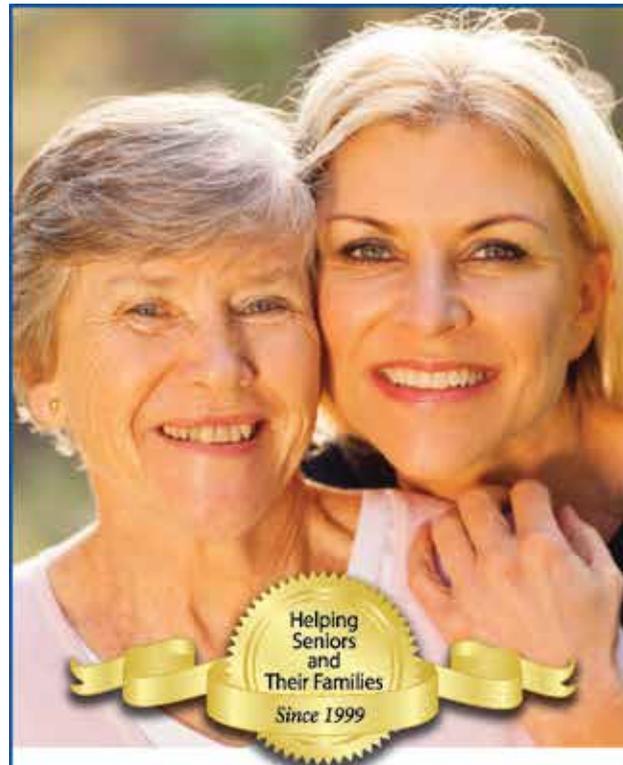
"We are grateful that the Clearwater Public Library has allowed us this public venue to visually convey Morton Plant Hospital's rich history to our community," says Kris Hoce, President of Morton Plant Hospital.

Learn more at [www.MortonPlant100.org](http://www.MortonPlant100.org).

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach is looking for art—a sculpture. This will be a new sculpture placed at the front door in the fountain area. The finished work will sit on a base that is permanently submerged. The finished size will be roughly 12-24" wide and 30" high. The subject should be wildlife with a friendly or humorous look. It must be designed with internal workings for a water as it is to be a working fountain. Preference will be given to current members of the Beach Art Center.

If you are interested in designing it, call the call 596-4331 or email them at [BAC.ArtCommittee@Gmail.com](mailto:BAC.ArtCommittee@Gmail.com).



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## Organizational News...

### BELLEAIR ROTARY

They occupied parts of Belleair's Hunter Park in October for a "Honk to Stamp Out Polio" event. Many passing cars sounded their horns in support. Better yet—they raised over \$250 in a short amount of time. The event was part of Rotary's International Annual World Polio Day designed to help eradicate polio. Pictured left to



right are Rotary members Marc Walker, Joyce Baskin, Bob Bialas, Irene Norberg and club President Jo Ann Bruner.

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 President Jo Ann Bruner at 465-4973 or email her at JoAnn\_Bruner@Yahoo.com. Visit BelleairRotary.org.

### BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. The guest speaker for the December meeting was Dr. Susan McManus, of the University of South Florida. She reviewed the recent election from local races to the Presidency.

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 Misikin 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, pot-luck 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

Give Sailing Lessons for the holidays. Gift certificates for memberships, private sailing lessons, and adult courses may be purchased in the front office.

Fun Racing is held on the third Saturday of the month. If you are new to racing or an old hand at it, this is a fun way to learn, and keep your skills sharp. Skippers meet at noon on the deck; racing is from 1 to 3pm

The CCSC also offers instruction in Stand Up Paddle boarding and Kayaking. They are located on Sand Key, just north of the Marriott Hotel, at 1001 Gulf Blvd. Call 517-7776 or see www.ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org

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## Organizational News...

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They celebrated their 25th Anniversary at their November meeting. Wayne Ayers, Belleair Beach resident and local historical writer was the guest speaker.

The December meeting will be December 14 at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club and will feature holiday floral arranging by Clearwater's Carlson Wildwood Florists.

They normally meet the third Wednesday of the month (October - April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach, 10:30am.

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. To RSVP to events, call Mary Carey, 596-5981. Contact President Majorie Rose, at RoseMarjorie38@Yahoo.com.

### GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

They celebrated the holiday season with flair at their December meeting held at Carlouel Yacht Club.

Each year, the group picks a community service organization that they will raise funds for. This year they have chosen Hands Across the Bay, which was developed in 2010 to positively impact the lives of those "who fall between the cracks" including families in crisis, veterans, and domestic violence survivors. They serve as an advocate for small voices, survivor empowerment, help neglected animals and more.

The group is planning a Carnival Cruise Girl's Getaway out of Tampa, January 26th through the 30th.

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

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

### 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.

On December 9 at 10am, they will present a Holiday Design Workshop at their Seminole Street Club House. It will be taught by CGC members Laura Daniel and Kathy Thomas. This is open to the public and participants will take home their own design. All materials will be provided. The cost is \$20.

There will be the annual Games and Cards Luncheon and Party on January 27 (noon to 3pm) to be held at the Club House. The cost is \$15 each. This is a team event.

Get ready for Valentines Day. The Kids' Valentines Day Design Workshop will be Saturday, February 11 at 10am. This is a Youth Floral Design workshop designed for parents with young families. Each child will be allowed to make a design for a friend or loved one for Valentines Day (3 days later). All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$12 / child. Funds raised from this event will go towards the Wekiva Scholarship Program. To RSVP, send an email to the address below. Space is limited.

For information, contact, Maggie Custer, President, at 488-8705 or email at ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com. Get information at www.ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

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*Organizational News...*



**IRB BOAT CLUB**

In October, members cleaned the islands in the Intracoastal Waterway picking up trash near Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair. This is the ninth year they have provided this service as part of the Keep Pinellas Beautiful program. The Club has adopted the island south of the Belleair Causeway and members clean it regularly.

The boating year is winding down but the 2017 Calendar will be available soon Some upcoming events are :

- December 17: Indian Rocks Lighted Boat Parade
- January 21: Lunch at The Pub in Indian Shore
- February 19: Brunch at Island Way Grill

In addition to events, the 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](mailto:Bob@IRBboatclub.com) or visit [IRBboatclub.com](http://IRBboatclub.com).

**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.

Robert Young Master Jeweler, and owner of Robert Young Jewelers in Belleair Bluffs was the guest speaker at the recent November meeting at the Clearwater Yacht Club.

December 13 (11:30am) is the annual Christmas Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club. This will also be a fashion show presented by La Boutique of Island Estates and a Toy Drive. Please bring an unwrapped toy or make a donation that will be given to the SPCA.

The January 10th meeting will be held at Café Largo with a cooking demonstration by Chef Dominique.

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSN.**

Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and meet new business contacts from 5:30 to 6:30 at their monthly mingles.

Upcoming Mingles are:

- December 8: Christmas Social at Marlin Darlins Grill
- January 12: Kahwa Coffee at 2919 West Bay Drive

To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or visit [BluffsBusinessAssociation.com](http://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](http://WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

# Organizational News...

## 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 December 16 and January 20. To join, call Linda Mintz at 488-1068.

## 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.

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@gmailcom for more information.

## THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

There is a lot going on in December. Here is a partial list:

- December 3: Change of Watch
- December 3: The Ted Irwin Regatta
- December 8: Land Cruisers Holiday Party
- December 10: Watch the Island Estates Parade
- December 13: Marines Pickup Toys For Tots
- December 14: Cruisers Holiday Party
- December 17: Breakfast with Santa

Everyone is welcome to join the Yacht Club. You do not have to own a boat to be a member. Chartered in 1911, this is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition of yachtsmen the world over.

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

## CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They are accepting applications for their 2017 Daisy Grants. Daisy Grants are their annual gift giving program. Last year, they gave away \$11,500 in grants to seven Pinellas County charities. Grants may be as high as \$2,000 each. Applications must be mailed by January 5 and received no later than January 12. Applications and rules are available at www.ClearwaterCWC.org. The awards will be presented at the March Fashion Show and Luncheon March 30th.

Lucile Casey is their new 2017 president. They still meet at the City Main Library but meetings now start at 11am. Women in Belleair are also welcome to join the Clearwater Community Woman's Club.

The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It is a volunteer service club and was established more than 40 years ago. Their motto is *Making A Difference*. General Meetings are held the third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 11am, at the Clearwater Downtown Library. Get more information at www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

## MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE

Over the summer, this group sponsored a special Awareness Day. "We want to remind our residents that over 30,000 people are killed in the U.S. due to violence and guns," says Elizabeth Snedeker, a local leader. There is a local chapter that meets in Largo on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Call Elizabeth at 596-7813 for meeting dates and locations.



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"My specialty is woodworking," Wolney says, "with all kinds of wood. Some people just have a vague idea of what they want. I take their ideas and make it happen."

"Stan built a classy reception desk just outside our front door," says Ed Shaughnessy, Belleair Country Club General Manager. "Despite the Florida weather, it is still in excellent condition. Stan is honest, and delivers on time and on budget."

"My favorite wood is a veneer," says Stan. Veneers are a thin decorative covering of fine wood applied to a coarser wood. "I once built a table with 48 pieces of veneer."

His real talent is restoration. If you have scratched or dented wood, Wolney knows how to make it look like new. Police Chief Jane Castor hired Stan to refinish the Media Room inside the Tampa Police Station. "It was a mess," says Stan. "The 12-foot walls were a rich maple paneling with scratches and marks all over it. Not anymore." Stan and his team did the work in 6 weeks and donated their time. Chief Castor awarded him the Chief's Business Partnership Award for his contribution.

If you have a special project that requires a quality carpenter, new or restoration work, call him at 727-586-1129 or 727-215-4770 Cell. LIC # C-8998. Estimates are free.

### DR. QUICK DDS

For as long as Dr. Trevor Quick can remember, he has wanted to be a dentist. To achieve his goal, he attended Bucknell University in Pennsylvania followed by studying dental science at the Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University in Philadelphia. After graduation in 2006, he moved to Belleair Beach and opened his first office in The Plaza, with a staff of only 2. That was ten years ago.



By 2009, his business had grown to the point that he had to move to a larger facility at 2600 West Bay across from Publix. He recently merged his practice with another dentist Dr. Hemerick, and added three more people to his staff, for a total of ten.

"I love this neighborhood," says Dr. Quick. "Belleair Bluffs is a very health conscious community."

Ten years later, he says he gets most of his business from their existing customers. "A recommendation from one of our patients is the greatest compliment they can give us."

Dr. Quick is married and has two children. For an appointment, call 518-2333. Get more information at BelleairDental.com.

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**HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS IS BRIGHTER THAN EVER BEFORE**  
**More than one million lights this year add extra sparkle to the holiday season**

The Florida Botanical Gardens' Holiday Lights in the Gardens has grown brighter than ever before, this year featuring more than one million lights. The family friendly annual event offers visitors the perfect way to experience the magic of the holiday season. Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be held from Friday, Nov. 25 through Saturday, Dec. 31, every evening from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. A donation of \$4 per person, ages 13 and over, is suggested.

With nearly 70,000 visitors last year, the holiday event continues growing as a perennial favorite for residents and visitors of the Tampa Bay area. Now with more than one million environmentally friendly LED and laser lights, the gardens are transformed into an even more stunning holiday wonderland filled with favorite seasonal and Florida-style displays around every bend of Pinellas County's 35-acre botanical treasure.

Along with the light displays, a wide variety of skilled volunteer entertainers will delight visitors with their talents, including ballet dance troupes, local choral groups, and musicians performing jazz, bluegrass and folk. Visits with Santa Claus will be held every night through Dec. 23.

Food is available for sale each night and the Foundation will have a holiday gift cart in addition to the specialty items for sale at the Botanical Bounty gift shop.

During the event, an up-to-date schedule of nightly entertainment will be available at [www.flbg.org](http://www.flbg.org), or visitors can call the Holiday Lights hotline at (727) 582-5800 for recorded information.

Since 2000, the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation and the Pinellas County Parks Department have brought the magic of the holidays to residents and visitors with the Holiday Lights event. Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation volunteer board members work throughout the year to design and plan this Florida-style holiday wonderland, and hundreds of community volunteers welcome guests at the entrances, plan schedules and provide other invaluable support.

The Holiday Lights is the foundation's largest fundraising event of the year. Every dollar raised goes to maintain and improve the gardens, as well as maintaining and bringing new, exciting displays for next year's Holiday Lights event.

A video of past Holiday Lights can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/pcctv1](http://www.youtube.com/pcctv1).

Other events scheduled during the Holiday Lights include the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation gift and plant sale on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parking for the event is free. Visitors with limited mobility can gain easy access by parking at the east entrance of the gardens. Weeknight visitation is encouraged for a more leisurely experience and ample parking. Large groups traveling together by bus or van are encouraged to call ahead to assure accommodation.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, with an alternate entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. The gardens remain open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day, with free admission during daylight hours. For more information, visit [www.flbg.org](http://www.flbg.org) or call (727) 582-2100.

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## PEACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONCERT SERIES

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (the pink church downtown) is holding a series of concerts that are open to the public. No tickets are needed and seating is first come, first served. An offering will be taken (\$5-10 minimum suggested). Doors open at 2:30.

After each concert, there is a light reception in the fellowship hall so you can meet, greet and thank the musicians.

There are four primary parking areas: 1) west and behind the church off of Pierce 2) directly east across Ft Harrison in large County lot (reserved for Peace church events on Sundays) 3) in lot north of the church fellowship hall and 4) west in the City Hall lot.

Below are four of the remaining six concerts of this season. Each concert features a different group of musicians.

**Dec. 11** "Merry Christmas from St Petersburg (Russia)" Coming to us all the way from Russia, the dramatic ChoRuss Vocal Ensemble will treat us to their rich voices and stir your holiday spirits. Their program will feature Russian classics by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and more, plus delightful folk and Christmas tunes.

**Jan. 15** "Young Voices" The forty young singers of the Bethune-Cookman University Concert Chorale will inspire us with an uplifting and diverse vocal program. With their wonderful renditions of gospel melodies and fine choral selections of all genres, the Singing Wildcats will bring us music that is perfectly suited for a celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

**Feb. 12** "Pipe Organ: Robust Romantics" Peace Memorial's magnificent Cassavant pipe organ will be put through its full paces by Dwight Thomas, Director of Music and Organist at St. Peter's Cathedral. With a Masters in Music from Indiana University, Mr. Thomas will present a lovely and varied program emphasizing works from Romantic composers, including Mendelssohn, Brahms, Widor, and Vierne. The Clearwater Chapter of the American Guild of Organist is co-sponsoring this concert.

**Mar. 12** "Young Genius of the Piano" Just in time to brighten our Spring, award winning teenage concert, pianist Noah Waddell will bring us classical masterworks from Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and more. Noah hales from Ft. Myers and has been wowing audiences since he started performing concerts at the tender age of ten.

For more info, visit [www.peacememorial.org](http://www.peacememorial.org) or call the church office at (727) 446 3001 or Concert Series Chair, Beth Daniels at (727) 461 1818. The church is located at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clearwater, at the corner of Pierce and Ft. Harrison.

## 2017 FOLK FAIR CANCELED

The Annual Folk Festival held at Heritage Village and co-sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society has been cancelled. Not enough people volunteered to provide support for their Country Jubilee and they couldn't risk that happening again. Many volunteers and some anticipated recruit did not show up for the Jubilee and parking on 125th became dangerous for the few over-extended volunteers.

In the past, visitors could listen to dozens of the Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians on traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout the Village.





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