



## ANDREW JACKSON, FLORIDA'S FIRST GOVERNOR

Most people do not know it, but in 1821, Andrew Jackson, became Florida's first governor. They only know him as the President of the United States.

During the War of 1812, Major General Jackson, of the Tennessee Militia, was sent to New Orleans, where he won the Battle of New Orleans, instilled marshal law, and subsequently became a national hero. Afterwards, he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

He returned to his home in Hermitage, Tennessee. But his retirement was short. When the Creek Indian uprisings killed hundreds of settlers in Georgia and Alabama, General Jackson was again called into service. With his Tennessee Militia, that included Sam Houston and Davey Crockett, he chased the Creek Indians into North Florida, which was still Spanish Territory. That is where Jackson's party defeated the Creek Indians in the bloody "Battle of Horseshoe Bend" in 1814.

After battling the Indians, Jackson captured Pensacola and disposed the Spanish Governor who had supported the Indians over the United States. There, Jackson executed two British subjects, which forever dogged his reputation and nearly caused an international incident.

He could not understand why Congress did not simply declare war and force Spain to leave. At the time, Jackson was quoted as saying, "If Congress would simply give the word, authorize the measure, Florida shall be in the possession of the United States within three months—and if allowed—Cuba within six."

When he finally left Florida, Jackson stationed troops in Pensacola. Spanish officials were outraged, and so was President Monroe and others in Washington. His political opponents called his victory over the Indians an "outrageous usurpation of military power and a threat to the supremacy of constitutional government." They worried Jackson had all the makings of a military dictator. Only Congress can declare war, and Jackson's Florida campaign had not been sanctioned.

Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, used Jackson's conquest of Florida and Spain's inability to control the territory to pursue the Adams-Onís Treaty land-trade deal with Spain that obtained the Florida territory. In 1819, Spain and the United States signed the treaty, which officially gave East and West Florida to the U.S. West Florida, included parts of today's Alabama and Mississippi. East Florida was everything east of the Suwannee River. Spain finally ratified the agreement in 1820. The U.S. followed suit on February 19, 1821. Florida was a United States territory.

Jackson, who at 54 years old was in poor health, had again returned home to Tennessee planning to retire and manage his farm, far away from war and politics. Never less, recently re-elected President Monroe, directed Jackson to go to Florida and supervise the change of ownership. Jackson did not want to fight any more battles, but he was a still soldier and a patriot. He also could not resist the call to serve his country, and preside over ceremonies. He wanted to see Spain relinquish all claims to the Florida. It made Jackson feel vindicated; he considered this assignment his victory tour.

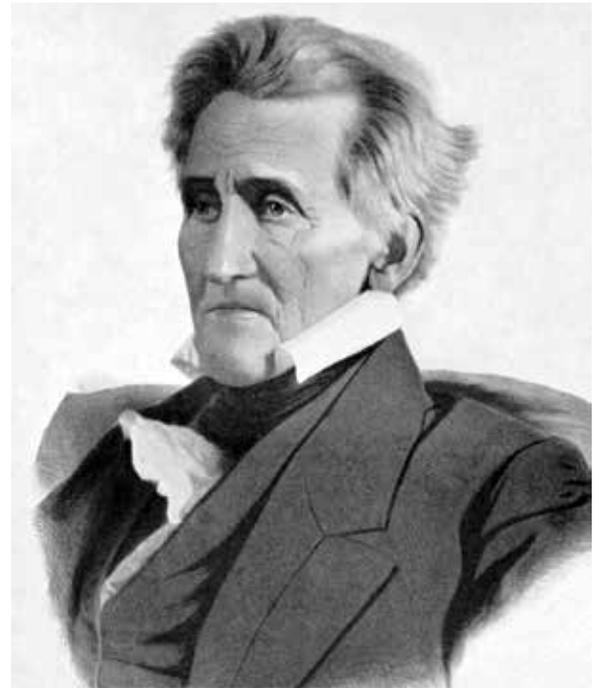
Jackson thought he would simply haul down the Spanish flag, raise the American flag and go quietly home. He took his wife Rachel, traveling by boat from Nashville to New Orleans, and then on to Pensacola. Although it was July, she wrote "We have the finest sea breezes and most beautiful water."

Pensacola at the time was a confusing place. Few residents spoke English; they spoke either Spanish, French, or a half dozen other local dialects. The Jacksons stayed outside Pensacola's city limits, as he refused to enter the city until the transfer was official and the Spanish were gone.

The exchange of flags in St. Augustine for East Florida happened on July 10, 1821. One week later, a similar ceremony occurred in Pensacola. On the designated day, Spanish Governor Jose Maria Callava and General Jackson met to transfer the flags. The Spanish flag was lowered and the American flag hoisted "100 feet." Jackson thus accepted the "surrender" by Governor Callava.

After the transfer of flags, there was still a considerable amount of paperwork to be executed. Jackson distrusted the Spanish to the end, desiring most of the bureaucratic details.

Jackson told his wife and others that this would be the end of his career in the military and public life – but it was not to be. The Florida territory required a governor—a military governor. Monroe knew that Jackson would not want to remain in Florida long, but asked him to fill the position.



**CREDITS**



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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY**

- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
- Teacher Appreciation Week 1-5
- Cinco De Mayo 5
- Derby Day Kentucky Derby 6
- Swim Across America 6
- Belleair Rotary Wine & Tapas 8
- Community Clean Up 8-10
- City Commission Meeting 9
- Action 2000 Mixer 10
- Homeowners Happy Hour 11
- Clearwater Beach Tastefest 12
- Boat Club to Salt Rock Grill 13
- Postal Workers Food Drive 13
- Mother's Day Sunday 14
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15
- Meek Memorial Golf Tournament 15
- Library Open House 17
- Clearwater Yacht Club Fishing Trip 19
- Little League Closing Ceremonies 20
- Hands Across the Sands 20
- Summer Sizzle 20
- Clearwater Yacht Club Fish Fry 19
- Armed Forces Day 21
- Safe Boating Week 22-26
- Public Schools Close 25

- Ramadan Begins 26
- Blast Friday Clearwater 26
- Action 2000 Service Saturday 27
- Memorial Day 29
- JUNE**
- Hurricane Season Begins 1
- Denim & Diamonds Hands Across Bay 3
- Homeowners Happy Hour 9
- Sunset Run #1 9
- City Commission Meeting 13
- Flag Retirement Ceremony 14
- Flag Day 14
- National Garbage Man Day 17
- Father's Day 18
- Summer Begins 21
- Sunset Run #2 23
- Action 2000 Service Saturday 24
- IRB'S Birthday 25
- Boat Club To Tarpon Springs 24-25
- JULY**
- Independence Day 4
- Fireworks Clearwater 4
- City Commission Meeting 11
- Homeowners Happy Hour 13
- Sunset Run #3 14
- Action 2000 Service Saturday 22

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, or any Indian Rocks Real Estate office.

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 JULY!**

## ANDREW JACKSON, Continued

President Monroe selected Jackson for a few reasons. First, Jackson hated the Spanish and would get them out of the territory. Although Spain had given Florida to the U.S., they were slow to leave. Second, Jackson hated the Indians. He led the American army in the first of the three Seminole Wars in Florida. Finally, Jackson was a political threat in future elections. Sending him to Florida removed him from the political arena

After the transfer, a resident asked Jackson for help in a legal land matter. Jackson, a former lawyer specializing in land matters, requested that previous Spanish Governor Callava turn over documents related to the matter. Callava, refused and Jackson, showing his hair-trigger temper, threw the deposed governor in jail, before agreeing to release him the next day. Callava quickly left for Cuba, spreading the story of Jackson's actions and uncontrollable ambition.

Jackson expected to be given wide "powers of patronage" to run his Florida government, such as endorsing his selections to other government positions and even his successor as governor. Instead, President Monroe himself selected all the high-ranking positions, including secretaries, judges and attorneys who were to work under Jackson.

Richard Keith Call was considered Jackson's most important appointee. He volunteered and fought under General Jackson in 1812-14. Call followed Jackson on two campaigns into Florida and at the Battle of New Orleans. Call handled the early negotiations with General Callava. Call later was named to the Pensacola Town Council and continued his law practice near Pensacola. He served in the Florida Legislature from 1822-1823 and was a territorial delegate to Congress in 1824.

Despite the heat, humidity and his poor health, Andrew Jackson established the first effective governing structure in Florida

within the first few weeks of getting control. After the government was adequately set up, he promptly resigned on October 5, 1821 and returned to Tennessee. He only was governor for about 8 months.

Instead of Jackson's recommendation of Richard Call, President Monroe appointed Pensacola U.S. Judge William P. DuVal to succeed Andrew Jackson. DuVal served 12-year (1822-1834), which is the longest term ever served by a Florida governor.

When Andrew Jackson returned home to Tennessee, he was back in the middle of politics. He did not want to run for any office, but the local machine nominated him for both the Senate and later the Presidency.

Jackson ran for President as a Republican in 1824. He won the popular vote, but lost to John Quincy Adams. He ran again in 1828 as a Democrat and won by a landslide. He was the seventh President of the United States and served two terms. In March of 1836, Jackson declared his old friend Richard Call Governor of Florida.



Statue of Jackson in Washington, D.C

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## Did You Know



**BIRD SANCTUARY RE-OPENS** The former Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary has reorganized with new owners and managers and a new name - Seaside Seabird Sanctuary. Their Grand Re-Opening was in March. The Sanctuary is still located at 18328 Gulf Blvd in Indian Shores and they still survive on donations. Check them out at [SeasideSeabirdSanctuary.com](http://SeasideSeabirdSanctuary.com) or call them at 392-4291.

**PLEIN AIRE COTTAGE ARTISTS** Travel Industry Today is featuring a story called "Save our Cottages; Artists with a Cause," detailing our award winning Plein Aire artists' mission to capture our endangered cottages and pristine beach on canvas. Read the story at [travelindustrytoday.com](http://travelindustrytoday.com).

Now, the Emmy Award-Winning production team, Lynn Marvin Dingfelder and Larry Wiezycki, are preparing a documentary featuring the artists. "We are thrilled that this documentary is going to be filmed and will be aired on PBS in 2018," says artist Mary Rose Holmes.

Visit [saveourcottagesdoc.org](http://saveourcottagesdoc.org) to read more of their story and to see a preview of the film. Individuals and companies have an opportunity to have their name in the credits through donations. All donations are tax deductible.

**FOOD FOR FINES** IRB's Library is partnering with Beach Community Food Pantry in the "Food for Fines" program, during May. The Library will accept canned or boxed food in lieu of overdue library fines. Donated items must be unopened and unexpired and one item will forgive the fine for each overdue item. This for overdue fines only, not for lost or damaged items. Present your items at the check out desk. The library is open Monday through Friday, from 10am until 5pm, and Saturdays, 10am until 1pm. The Library is closed on Sunday.

**CROSS WALK STUDY** To make the city safer for pedestrians, the City with the help of the County, has decided to conduct a study to determine if more cross walks, with blinking yellow lights, are needed. Presently, they are only installed at high traffic locations, such as the one at 4th Avenue. The last study was conducted in 2013.

**PARK COMPLETE**

The new pocket park, located at the city's only stop light, Gulf Blvd. and Walsingham Road, is now complete. The small park is the first thing people see when they enter the city on Walsingham Road. The project was a partnership with Action 2000 and the City.



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# and More...

**NEW LIBRARIAN** The City of Indian Rocks Beach hired a new Librarian, Ms. Lee Miller. Miller holds a Master in Library and Information Science Degree from University of Washington and a Baccalaureate of Arts Degree from San Francisco State University. She has many years of library experience and comes to us from the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library system. She began work in April.



**GOLF TOURNAMENT** Support the Clearwater Free Clinic, and have fun doing it. The Annual John Meek Memorial Golf Tournament is being held at the Belleair Country Club on May 15th. It will have a shotgun start at 1pm. Proceeds will directly support the Clearwater Free Clinic and their programs. Get more details at [ClearwaterFreeClinic.org](http://ClearwaterFreeClinic.org) or by calling 443-3504.

**MICROBEADS** Plastic is filling our waterways, although it can be hard to see. Many products contribute to the plastic pollution by utilizing microbeads, tiny bits of plastic, in personal care products such as toothpaste, deodorant, shower gels, and skin care products. The products are washed down the drain and because of their small size, the plastic microbeads bypass most sewage treatment and go straight into our water - by the trillions. One tube of facial cleanser contains up to 350,000 microbeads! Microbeads absorb and concentrate toxins in the sewage as they pass through, and can be up to a million times more toxic than the water around them. Often, microbeads, which resemble fish eggs, are mistaken by animals as food. Microbeads have been banned in the U.S., and new, microbead free products will begin to be manufactured this summer, but there will be an overlap of products for a few years. For now, avoid products with polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polymethyl methacrylate, polylactic acid, or nylon— these are the most common plastics that make up microbeads.

**POSTAL WORKERS FOOD DRIVE**

On this day each year, your Indian Rocks Beach mail carrier



collects any food donations left by mailboxes on their route and delivers it to the Beaches Food Pantry. Leave non-perishable food by your mail box that morning. All the food collected in Indian Shores, Indian Rocks and Belleair Beach will go to the Food Pantry, but that will only last 6-8 weeks. If you will not be home May 13th, drop food off at the IRB Post Office prior to the collection.

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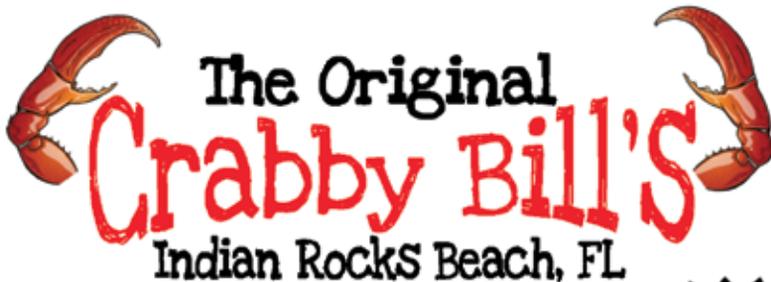
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## DOUBLE EAGLE - 50 YEARS OF FISHING FUN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In May, Clearwater Marina's *Double Eagle* will celebrate 50 years of fishing. The fishing boat is often referred to as a party/head boat. In the early days, these boats were known as "cattle boats," because it felt like you were herding cattle as you boarded that many passengers. These type of boats take large groups of novice and veteran fishermen out into the Gulf of Mexico, making wonderful memories while catching fish.

Over its 50 years, *Double Eagle* has had six owners. Captain Bill Gilmore was its first. "We commissioned the boat and started our fishing operation May 22nd, 1967, fifty years ago," remembers Gilmore. "The *Double Eagle* was built by Clark Mills of Clearwater Bay Marine Ways. It was the first catamaran-style vessel licensed by the US Coast Guard to carry passengers in Florida."

50 years ago, there were many fleet companies competing for each tourist dollar. "When we started, *Queen Fleet* had two boats, *Rainbow* had two, *Buckeye* had two and there were at least six other boats," says Gilmore. "It seemed that all the owners had to have two boats," he chuckles.

"I lived on a schooner across from the marina, near today's Pier 60 Hotel. I could see my boats from the schooner's bridge," Gilmore continues. After Gilmore retired, he and his wife moved to New Hampshire.

Neil Wingo owned *Rob Ann*, a smaller 6-pack boat kept in the marina. It was called a 6-pack because that is how many people he was licensed to carry at one time. In 1969, Wingo sold *Rob Ann* to go into a partnership with Gilmore. That was the same year Gilmore added the *Double Eagle II* to the fleet. "Neil was one of, if not, the best fisherman in the marina at that time. I knew I wanted him working with me," explains Gilmore.

They sold the original *Double Eagle* in 1980, The same year, the 88 foot, all aluminum *Double Eagle III* was added to the fleet. *Double Eagle II & III* are still carrying fisherman into the Gulf of Mexico.



**Sandy and his son Chad on the Double Eagle**

In 1971, Sanford "Sandy" Haggert, a local born and raised nearby, started working on fishing boats. His son Chad and daughters Chasity and Cassandra, were all born nearby in Morton Plant Hospital. "I was a deck hand on the *Eagle* from 1971-'74," recalls Haggert, now 65. "I became a captain in '75 and then in 1982, I became a partner in the *Double Eagle*."

"I remember this marina when it was twice as big," Haggert says. "It had a large marina building and then a smaller building at the east end. The parking lot was half the size and there were additional boat slips on the east end where The Bait House is today. On the east end, there was a small marina shop that was home to a retail fish market and The Captain's Table restaurant. All three were owned by "Pappy" Haggert, my father. There was a Shell gas station near the east end owned by Jerry Hunt."

Gilmore added Richard Wilson as a third partner in 1982. He started as a captain with the *Double Eagle Fleet* in 1971, and worked with the fleet until 1988. He stayed on as a partner until about 1994, when he sold his share.



"I was able to buy the *Double Eagle* fleet in 1999", states Haggert. "I took out a loan to buy it all from Gilmore and Wingo."

For a short time in the early 2000s, Haggert took on Luke Palmer as a partner. Palmer also had started as a deckhand. He received his captain's license in 1994 and shortly there after, moved into that role full time. He became the acting manager with a small ownership percentage before selling in 2007.

Haggert, his wife Rose Ann and his son Chad are partners today in the *Double Eagle* fleet. They have run the two boats for 18 years, always out of the Clearwater Beach Marina.

"At one point in time, I remember 13 party boats operating out of the Clearwater Beach Marina," says Haggert. "The *Dixie Queen*, then owned by Herb Brower, tied up at the west end near South Gulfview Boulevard. There was the *Sea Hawk*, owned by a Greek guy named Pete Papadopoulos.

Harold Hayes owned the *Rainbow* fleet, one was called *The Rainbow* and the other the *Miss Elsie*. The *Nautilus* was owned by John "No Neck" Staletis. Joe Krammer had two party boats - *Miss Buckeye I* and *II*. Another party boat, called *Sea Fever*, was owned by Mickey Couch who kept it tied up on the mainland near the Pierce condos.

The *Double Eagle* goes fishing seven days a week, every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Most trips are 4-8 hours, either half or full days. There are some overnight Friday through Sunday fishing trips, but those trips depend on fishing seasons and regulations. Over 18,800 people went out on the *Double Eagles* last year. "Over the past six years, our business has been consistently going up," says Chad Haggert, who now runs the daily operations. Chad has been in charge since 2008.

The only times things have been bad for the *Double Eagle* were during the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill, when the cost of diesel oil spiked and during Red Tides. Of course, we are always dependent on the weather, too. "We have no control over any of those things," adds Chad.

"I believe that the development of Orlando's Disney World effected Clearwater Beach's tourism and as a result, our fishing business," says Sandy Haggert. "I noticed a significant decrease in business, and the number of other boats, after Disney got going in the late 1970s and '80s. But now, with the recent changes to Clearwater Beach and with the beach being more nationally known, business is on the rise again!"

Get more information on the *Double Eagle* or book a fishing trip at [DoubleEagleDeepSeaFishing.com](http://DoubleEagleDeepSeaFishing.com). The ticket office is open from 6:30am-8pm. Call them at 727-446-1653.

# Real Estate News

## FIXER-UPPERFEST

### Buying and Selling Imperfect Properties

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



As the number of real estate listings declined, the number of fixer-uppers has increased. According to Zillow, there are about 12% more fixer-upper homes on the market nationally than there were five years ago. And, among higher-end fixer-uppers, as in Indian Rocks Beach, "imperfect" inventory is up about 35%.

If there was ever a time to sell a less-than-perfect home or condo, that time is NOW. When housing inventory is tight, as it has been for some time in 33785, it's more about selling a lifestyle, a community, and a "feeling" than touting the physical characteristics of a particular property. It's about selling what could be...not what actually is and requires a somewhat different set of marketing skills than it does when properties abound and the market is more balanced.

When selling a home or condo that needs "attention," it's important to work with a real estate professional who has been down the fixer-upper road before. It requires someone with an understanding of proper disclosures and who has solid contractor relationships. It doesn't hurt to have a contractor make creative suggestions on improvements and supply ballpark dollar figures prior to listing the property. And, if the contractor is willing to meet with buyers and has the ability to get them excited by tangible before-and-after results, that's even a bigger plus. Showing how a less-than-perfect home was transformed into a showplace with instant equity gives a buyer a reason to get his/her hands dirty.

The realtor's most important role in a fixer-upper transaction: Setting the price point where needed improvements won't surpass the point of no return-\$\$\$. Generally speaking, a fixer-upper buyer should plan to live in the home anywhere from 5 to 7 years, allowing the property to gain value over time. Fixer-uppers for immediate flipping are an entirely different, rare-bordering-on-endangered animal.

Certain economic trends bode well for beach community fixers-uppers. In 2006, Florida ranked #10 in the ratio of millionaire households to total households. Five years later, it dropped to 19th. Last year, it was ranked #32. That, to me, says more demand for non-waterfront and fixer-uppers than for pristine, luxurious waterfront.

Take into consideration, too, that the average age of U.S. homes has basically doubled. A decade ago, the typical home was 15 years old. Now it's 28, so fixer-upper homes and condos, needing some semblance of modernization, are a way of life. That is especially true here in IRB where new construction is the exception, not the rule.

Zillow says there is more freedom in the current seller's market to list a home "as is" without fear of losing a sale. After all, HGTV exists because people love to see positive real estate transformations so don't let your home's flaws keep you from selling now.

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## TROPICANA FIELD HOME OF THE TAMPA BAY RAYS

With the beginning of another baseball season, we thought it would be fun to look at the building the Tampa Bay Rays call home – Tropicana Field.

The capacity of the building was originally set at 45,369 in 1998, which was also the attendance at the team’s first game on March 31, 1998. The number of seats was reduced in 2007 to 38,437 and then again to 31,042 in 2014. Over 11,000 seats are “tarp covered” during a game, some of which, are obstructed views. The building houses 50 luxury suites and 2,776 club seats.

Attendance at the games varies greatly, as it is usually tied to the team’s winning or losing record. The first year, they averaged 30,942 people per game. That fell to 19,294 the following year. The best attendance in subsequent years was during the 2008-2010 seasons when they averaged close to 23,000 people per game.

Last year, over 1,286,000 fans watched a baseball game in The Trop, which is an average of 15,878 per game. That was the lowest average MLB attendance ranking the team as 30th out of 30 teams –and is about the same as 2015.

The Center Field wall is set at 404 feet and is 9’ 4” high. The dome also boasts some of the shortest distances down the line in the major leagues; the left field corner sits just 315 feet from home plate, and the right field corner just 320.

The AstroTurf of the first decade was replaced with Field Turf in 2011. This year, the team invested in a new surface called Shaw Sports Turf. It will have a similar fiber blade and rubber infill as the former Astro Turf with a hard foam pad between the field and the concrete floor of the Trop. This will lessen wear and tear on the players.

“We think there are a lot of improvements to this new type

of turf,” says Tampa Bay Rays President Brian Auld. “You will also see an improvement on TV and in person. The Shaw Turf is slightly darker and more colorful on TV.”

The Rays paid nearly \$1 million to install the new turf. “We continue to invest in Tropicana Field,” Auld explains. “This is our home and we want to make it the best venue we can for baseball.”

The Rays Touch Tank is located above center field. At over 300 square feet, it holds 10,000 gallons of water, and is home to a school of cownose rays, caught in the waters of Tampa Bay and supplied by the Florida Aquarium. For every home run hit into the tank by a Rays player, the team donates \$5,000 to charity – half of which, goes to the Aquarium. Fans may purchase food for the rays with the proceeds going to the Florida Aquarium and the team’s charitable Rays Baseball foundation.

Tropicana Field is also home to the Ted Williams Museum and The Hitter’s Hall of Fame. The 7,000-square foot museum opened upstairs in 2007. It houses exhibits on Ted William’s career with the Boston Red Sox, the U.S. Marine Corp during WWII and the Korean War.



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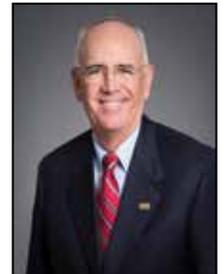
  
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## ESTATE PLANNING ISN'T JUST FOR THE WEALTHY

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



Although it is entirely possible by the end of the summer that tax reform, including the elimination of estate taxes, will have occurred, it doesn't mean that you shouldn't have an estate plan in place.

At the core of any plan is having the proper documents (will, power of attorney, healthcare surrogate, and living will) in place. Regardless of age or wealth, it is important to have these documents. For some, a living trust should be considered as it will help minimize the cost and time delays of probate. If you set up a living trust, you must retitle the assets into the name of the trust. Before visiting with an attorney, be sure to bring a list of the assets with you for review.

When was the last time you updated these documents? These documents should be reviewed at least every five years. Finally, make sure that they are in a safe place, but do not put them into a safety deposit box. We provide our clients a secure vault at our website for safe storage and easy access worldwide.

Some assets pass by law. Usually spouses will title assets using Tenants by the Entirety or Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship (JTWRoS). These assets pass directly to the surviving owner. Other assets, including life insurance, annuities, IRAs and other retirement accounts, transfer by use of a beneficiary designation.

Do you have the right beneficiary on the forms? Do they need to be updated? Did you get married, have a child, have a beneficiary predecease you, go through a divorce, or have a significant change in your financial picture – positive or negative? Do you have primary, contingent, and possibly tertiary beneficiaries named?

Should you leave the money outright to the heirs versus leaving it to them in a trust? By using a trust you can possibly keep a spendthrift heir from fettering away the money, provide for a special needs heir, and protect the assets from the creditors (including a spouse) of the heir.

Not having an estate plan is an option, but generally not a good one. If you would like to explore these and other thoughts regarding your estate plan, please give us a call for a complimentary visit.

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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

## SKY FLIERS

By Lara Milligan, Natural Resources Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County

It's that time of year! Swallow-tailed Kites are returning to Florida from their winter homes in South America. You will often spot these large, distinct black and white birds soaring and cutting through the air as they feed while flying.

Swallow-tailed Kites can be identified by their long, slender, pointed wings, but more distinctly by their very pointed and forked tail. Their head and bellies are bright white, with some white also extending on to the wing and tail. This white is contrasted by black along the edge and tip of the wings and tail.

They use their forked tail to navigate through the air, like a rudder on a boat. In flight, they feed mostly on flying insects. It has been noted that Swallow-tailed Kites have frequently been seen bringing whole wasp nests back to their nests to feed on the larvae. Once they finish eating the young wasps, they will incorporate the empty wasp nest into their nesting structure.

Unlike the adults, who mostly feed on stinging and biting insects, the diet of young Swallow-tailed Kites mostly consists of small vertebrates (things with a backbone) such as treefrogs, lizards, baby birds, and snakes. Often, adult males will go out hunting for these prey by snatching them from trees and bushes while in flight, grabbing them with their feet. Once males return to the nest with a catch, they pass it off to the female, who breaks up the prey into small pieces and feeds it to the young.

Swallow-tailed Kites are often found in habitats near water, places like swamps, forests near a body of water (river, lake or pond), and marshes. They prefer tall trees for nesting sites near open spaces that support a healthy population of prey species so they can feed their young. It can take up to two weeks for a mating pair to build a nest together. The nest material mostly consists of twigs, lichen and Spanish moss. Nests of Swallow-tailed Kites are about one to two feet wide and vary from six inches to a foot tall with a dip in the middle for laying and incubating eggs. It is typical for these birds to build a new nest each year, but they may repair and reuse an old nest, although this is less common.

When you see Swallow-tailed Kites soaring in circles, twisting and turning in the air just above the trees, this is often an indication that a nest is nearby. This is one way they show and defend their territories. More than one mating pair may nest near each other and will often perch together as a community of Swallow-tailed Kites. So don't be surprised if you see more than two circling overhead.

If you want to learn more about these sky fliers, consider attending Brooker Creek Preserve's program titled "The Story of Swallow-Tailed Kites and the People Who Track Them" on Saturday, April 1st at 10:30am in Tarpon Springs.



Note the very forked tail and distinct black and white coloration in the picture of Swallow-tailed Kite soaring through the air.

Photo By Everglades NPS from Homestead, Florida, United States (Swallow Tailed Kite, NPSPhoto, Rodney Cammauff) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

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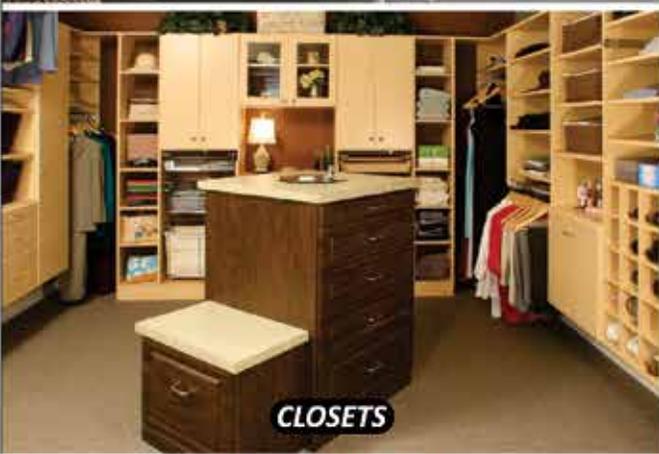
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*Bar & Restaurant News*



**Vargo (Chef), Engelhardt (Proprietor) & Morales (GM)**

**AQUA PRIME SOLD** Steve Wesphal has now left the beach. Wesphal, who sold The Pub in January, sold his other beach restaurant Aqua Prime in March. Wesphal, who lives downtown, still owns five restaurants there.

The new owner is Greg Engelhardt, who comes from the Feather Sound Country Club, where he was the Head Chef. He owns other businesses and restaurants, three of which are in St Thomas, Virgin Islands. He has extensive experience as a chef and will be involved with all aspects of the business. For now, they plan very few changes. Both Manager Johnny Morales and Head Chef Jason Vargo are remaining with the restaurant.

Aqua Prime is located at 213 Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach. Call 330-7724 for reservations.



**THREE YEARS LATER**

Chicago Jaqx Pizza will celebrate three years of pizza on June 14th. "And they said we would not last," laughs owner Gary Panton. The restaurant brings a touch of Chicago to IRB—not just in name, but in pizza, too. The menu includes three pizza styles (thin crust, deep dish

and stuffed), a fantastic half-pound burger and 25 types of beer, 12 of them on tap, and over 25 wines. They offer dine-in or take out and just restarted delivery this month. Drop by on June 14th and help celebrate. They are located at 1511 Gulf Blvd. They are the one with the big yellow awning. Call Chicago at 303-3946.

**STEFANO'S NEW RESTAURANT** Stefano's Italian Restaurant closed their Indian Rocks Beach location in January with plans to relocate just over the bridge in Largo. That did not work out, so now they are moving to Seminole's Portofino Shopping Center, on the northeast corner of Park Blvd at 131st Street. Stefan says the build out is about 70% finished and he hopes to reopen in June.

**WESTSHORE PIZZA HAS NEW OWNERS** Cedrick and Isabelle recently sold their restaurant to Denise, Mike and Remon on February 1. Even though there is an ownership change at the Bonefish Plaza restaurant, you may not notice because very little has changed. It still has a great eat-in and take-out pizza or get yours delivered. Of course, they serve and deliver more than pizza including wings, burgers, salads, calzones, strombolis, grinders, hoagies, and sandwiches. They have beer and wine available for take-out too. Even the phone number is the same, 585-6974. Mention this story and get 20% off during April.

# Bar & Restaurant News

**VIE'S AT SHIPWATCH** This new restaurant is within sight of the Walsingham Bridge, but on the Largo side - in Shipwatch. Owned by Mark Porter and his wife, it is named after their daughter. The restaurant has a nautical theme with portholes lining the dining room and seating for about 70. They have a side room with a pool table and several TVs.



Chef Kim Palumbo (seated) came from Slyce Pizza. The menu is quite simple, and full of light choices. Lunch offerings include soups, salads and sandwiches, with nothing over \$6. For dinner they offer fish, chicken, pasta and Mom's Meatloaf, with nothing over \$11.75. They offer a variety of appetizers from \$3 to \$6.50 wings. Weekends feature breakfast beginning at 8am with nothing over \$5.75. They also have a large selection of beer and wine.

Vie's Waterfront Restaurant at Shipwatch is open to the public and is located in the clubhouse facing the Holiday Inn. They have inside and outside dining on a deck facing the water. If you have a boat, there are two slips reserved for diners.

They are located at 11900 Shipwatch Drive, in the Shipwatch Condominiums. Just tell the guard you are going to the Vie's Shipwatch Restaurant. Call them at 754-4421 for directions and takeout

**THE PUB TO BECOME CADDY'S PUB** The popular waterfront restaurant in Indian Shores, simply called The Pub, was sold to JWC of Florida. These are the same people who own McDinton's Irish Pubs in Tampa and St Petersburg, Yard of Ale, Caddy's on the Beach in Treasure Island, Caddy's On Central in St. Petersburg, and Caddy's At The Pointe in Bradenton.

The new owners they will be making some changes over the summer. The 70 year old name will change from The Pub to Caddy's Pub Indian Shores. There is a plan to renovate by adding an outside bar and live music on the north deck.

**NEW VFW** Bob Florio, owner of Mako's, sold his property to the VFW Post 10094. The property reopened in mid-April as a VFW. Al Pristera, the new manager, says they moved because in November, the previous Sabala Plaza location had a fire. Florio approached them about buying his building.



Membership in the VFW is limited to members of the military who served in foreign wars and their families (including children). Membership varies from \$35-40. They also host a VFW Auxiliary to help support their many outside projects.

The new VFW is located at 14450 Walsingham in Largo. Call Al for details on joining at 596-8959.

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# PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, PENNY FOR YOUR FUTURE

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

What do you think about having wider, smoother roads, clean waterways, a new fire station or even underground pipes that drain floodwaters from your street? These are just a few examples of the basic things you rely on local government to provide every day to maintain and improve your quality of life. In a coastal peninsula that's home to nearly 1 million people and millions more annual visitors, delivering these essentials can be costly. As responsible stewards of the public's resources, it's the county's job to invest wisely in the needs of our community today and tomorrow.

Since 1990, our county has seen the Penny for Pinellas 1-percent sales tax as a great way to sustain our investments in areas that matter most to our citizens. The Penny can only be used on capital expenses and infrastructure investments. It cannot be used for ongoing maintenance and operating costs. At the end of this year, our citizens will be asked to consider the renewal of the Penny for another 10 years, from 2020-2030. It's important that you make an informed decision at that election on Nov. 7, 2017.

The Penny has enabled both the county and the 24 municipalities to build a better Pinellas, with improved roads, bridges and trails, water quality and flood prevention, public safety facilities, and preservation of our parks and environment. It pays for those single capital expenses that don't come around every year, but often cost a lot when they do come up, such as repaving a heavily used section of a busy road before it develops potholes or replacing a bridge that's nearing the end of its useful life. The Penny has also

supported large one-time costs such as acquiring large tracts of environmentally sensitive lands to be managed as parks or nature preserves. The Bayside Bridge, which offers an alternate route to busy U.S. 19, didn't exist before the Penny nor did our treasured 47-mile bike and pedestrian path, the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail.



The Penny allows us to share our major infrastructure expenses with everyone who visits our county. Our tourists and seasonal visitors pay for approximately one-third of the Penny. This helps us share the cost of keeping up our infrastructure that everyone uses instead of placing the burden solely on property owners.

To date, the Penny has helped the county and cities complete thousands of needed projects. If renewed, what would the Penny do in the future? That's something the Board of County Commissioners and city government leaders will be considering over the next several months with your input.

As a Pinellas County citizen, you have an important decision to make at the end of this year, so take a little time to learn more about what the Penny has done in our community. You can start by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/penny](http://www.pinellascounty.org/penny), where you can find facts about the Penny and see an interactive map that shows highlights of the many projects it has supported across the county. I encourage you to get involved in our community's future. If you'd like to schedule an informational presentation about the Penny, please call our office at (727) 464-4600.

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## LOCAL ARTIST WINS ART SHOW

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Winning an art show is always exciting, but it is even more so when it is the first art show you've ever entered. It is almost unheard of for it to happen at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts - one of the largest shows in the country.



Glen DePasse (61) has always been an artist. It was his main area of study in college. But life distracted him with dreams of playing football and then acting, which led to a move to New York City followed by Los Angeles, before returning to Belleair Bluffs in 2007. No matter where he lived, he always had his art supply box with him, dabbling here and there, hoping one day to get back to it.

In 2009, with a need for a salary, DePasse surrendered to the corporate world and traveled through Florida all week selling framing molding and supplies. The stress of seven years on the road, five days a week, took its toll and in 2013 he underwent emergency open heart surgery.

DePasse found himself staring out the hospital window one night wondering what had happened to his life. This was his wakeup call to get back to who he is, an artist. Glen quit his job last April to follow his passion, and converted his home into an art/photography studio. He created art day and night - and it was therapeutic. Eleven months later he applied to the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts. It was the first time his work had been seen by the public and he didn't know what to expect. They only allow a limited number of artists to participate "It's a huge juried show and my work hadn't been seen anywhere," DePasse thought. "They'll think I'm crazy."

When he got the "Congratulations, you've been selected" email, he just about came out of his shoes. His long days and nights of work had paid off. Then during last month's show, one of his pieces ultimately won the "Emerging Artist Award." To top it off, he also sold three originals.

It was a validation of his risk and sacrifice. In an effort to be original, Glen experimented with designing textile sculptures that he would light and then photograph - creating his own genre. He knew he was in uncharted territory and had some tough moments, at times operating solely on faith, but a small voice said "keep going!"

The response has been overwhelming. He now feels he's the person he was intended to be; his search is over and his plan is happening. DePasse will be doing more shows, contacting designers and galleries, and creating a brand. "Harder work is ahead, but that is ok. I feel alive again" he says. Showing most life-event have a silver lining.

You can see DePasse's work online at [GlenDePasse.com](http://GlenDePasse.com) or contact him at [Glen@GlenDePasse.com](mailto:Glen@GlenDePasse.com).

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## ANGEL OF HOPE

by Vonnie Schaffer

After my husband and I lost our son, Michael Ryan Schaffer, we realized, this moment changed our lives forever. As parents, we understand that the loss of a child whether before or after birth affects the entire family, and often a community. When our friend Melanie Kuklis approached me about bringing an *Angel of Hope* to Pinellas County, I knew I wanted to be a part of this journey with her. This memorial is very near and dear to our hearts as it is dedicated to the memory of children who have passed away preceding their parents. The *Angel of Hope* (from the book *The Christmas Box*, by Richard Paul Evans) serves as a memorial for those healing from the emotional and physical absence of a child. The original angel statue was commissioned by Evans, in response to reports that parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal. This monument was dedicated on December 6, 1994. The *Angel of Hope* statue provides a peaceful place for grieving parents and relatives to mourn, heal, and remember their beloved child/children who have passed. It also gives parents, family, and friends an opportunity to connect with one another as they visit the memorial. *Angel of Hope* statues have been placed around the world where a vigil is held once a year on December 6th, the day the first monument was dedicated.

In order to bring this beautiful memorial to Pinellas County, we created a campaign to raise \$14,500, the cost of the statue. Serenity Gardens Memorial Park located at 13401 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL has graciously donated land to display the angel. The goal is to raise money for the angel by June 1, 2017. This would allow the three months it takes to get the angel cast, delivered from Christmas Box International and set up for display. We could then participate on December 6, 2017 when vigils are held at all 150 angels. Preceding the first vigil, Serenity Gardens Memorial Park will be holding a dedication ceremony. Once the Angel is dedicated, we will send photographs of the finished monument and a detailed map to be included on the Richard Paul Evans website. This allows people from around the world to visit the *Angel of Hope Pinellas* or join the vigil.

If you would like to donate to this campaign, visit us at [www.gofundme.com/angelofpinellas](http://www.gofundme.com/angelofpinellas) or email us at [angelofpinellas@yahoo.com](mailto:angelofpinellas@yahoo.com). View video of 100 angel statues at <https://vimeo.com/8059288>

## 12TH ANNUAL TARPON RODEO TO BENEFIT TAMPA BAY WATCH

Tampa Bay Watch will host the 12th Annual Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo, a catch and release fishing tournament on June 8 & 9 with cash prizes totaling \$4,000. Anglers will fish their favorite spots throughout Tampa Bay from one mile offshore running north to Redington Fishing Pier and south to Longboat Pass.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Tampa Bay Watch, a nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and restore the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary through scientific and educational programs. The tournament is open to the public but it is sure to fill up fast with anglers who love to fish, catch and release! To register, please call Tampa Bay Watch at 727-867-8166 x234 or visit [tampabaywatch.org/edalbertarponrodeo](http://tampabaywatch.org/edalbertarponrodeo).



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**BELLEVUE BILTMORE'S ARTIFACTS**



Did you know, they found many antiques and artifacts inside the Belleveiw Biltmore when they began to demolish it? Construction workers found various items representing many decades over the last 120 years. Some of the items had previously been on display in the old hotel's a museum and library. Most of the larger items like doors, windows, mirrors, chandeliers, and such were sent to Shiller's Salvage in Tampa for resale, but the other items are being kept for future display.

"We found a large movie projector that was used in the Starlite Ball Room to show movies during the 1930s and '40s," says Mike Dooley, a construction supervisor for JMC Communities. "In the basement the St. Andrew's Bar, a workshop, sleeping quarters and tunnels were found. There were a lot of interesting things down there."

"Most of the things we found have been temporarily stored at our office for safe keeping," says Michael Cheezem, JMC Communities President. "We are hiring a professional to plan a new museum on property in our new hotel. The collection will be on permanent display for the public to view."

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# Business Briefs



**PETAL & VINE HAS NEW OWNERS** Patti and Joy have turned the store over to sisters Jennifer and Niki, both from Dunedin. They bought the novelty and plants store January 1st. "We always wanted to own a store like this and to work together," says Niki

Bouchard. "A friend of ours told us this place was for sale," adds Jennifer Andersen. "We were looking for a creative outlet." Their promoted Grand Opening was held in March during the Wine Walk. Drop in the store at 596 Indian Rocks Road on Antique Alley and welcome them to the neighborhood.

**PROVISE #1 IN CLEARWATER** ProVise Management Group in Clearwater was once again recognized by Barron's as one of the nations Top 1,200 advisors. They are one of only six in the Tampa Bay Area on the list, and the only one in the greater Clearwater area. They want to thank their clients for helping them reach this recognition, again. Get information on ProVise at ProVise.com or call them at 441-9022.



**NEW CLEARWATER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD CHAIR** Stephanie Schlageter, owner and founder of Radiance Medspa in Belleair Bluffs, has recently assumed the role of 2017 Board Chair for the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce. As Board Chair, Schlageter will lead the Chamber on

its mission to enhance economic growth in the Clearwater region by focusing on the development of the business and tourism communities. "It is my sincere honor and privilege to accept responsibility for this exciting leadership position," says Schlageter, "The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce plays an important role in the continuing growth and success of businesses in our region and I am thrilled at the opportunity to be a part of such an impressive and impactful organization."

**CLOSED**

Living Pretty Boutique in The Plaza 100 Shopping Center, in Belleair Bluffs, closed after three years. Owner Lisa Ellissays decided to return to the corporate world.

Owner Ann Smith decided to close Periwinkles Boutique at 400 Indian Rocks Road so she could spend more time with her two new grandbabies.

Mako's Bar on Walsingham Road

**NEWS WANTED** If you have news or suggestions appropriate for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 517-1997.

# Business Briefs



**COLDSTONE TURNS 10,** V and JD have been dishing ice cream in Belleair Bluffs for 10 years. Viren (above in the middle) and Janardan (left) opened their store in the Bonefish

Plaza in May, 2007. They have seen a lot of children grow to be teenagers and young adults who still stop by for their ice cream fix, now though with friends instead of with their parents. To celebrate their 10 years in The Bluffs, Coldstone is offering 10% off on all orders during the month of May, when you mention this story. Don't forget to wish them Happy Anniversary when you ask for your discount!

**IMPACTFUL PERFORMANCE** Safety Harbor's Rogan & Associates Financial Planning firm is on track to have one of their most impactful years yet. Community involvement has always been a top priority at Rogan & Associates, but this year they will be extending their reach to help



more people and animals improve their lives. "When you live and work in an area that you love, social responsibility is no longer an obligation; it's a purpose. Improving our community has become a central theme in our firm. Our social mission is to help as many people as we can by making our community a better place to live and work. This applies to everyone, clients and non-clients," explains Erin Emmett, a Financial Planner at Rogan and Associates.

Already this year, Rogan & Associates contributed to elementary classroom funding dedicated to teaching children financial planning skills and supported members of the Fraternal Order of Police through the Nolan's St. Paddy's Day 5k Run, which supports fallen police officers' families.

This month, as a passionate supporter of animal welfare, they will be a King Of Hearts Sponsor at the 15th Annual Puppy Love Benefit, to raise funds for Pinellas County's Pet Pal Animal Shelter, a no-kill, 501(c)(3) organization funded entirely by private donations. Rogan & Associates invites you to help them celebrate the triumphs in saving animals' lives at the Puppy Love Benefit, Saturday evening, May 13th, at The Historic Coliseum located at 535 4th Ave. N., St. Pete. This year's theme will be "Whiskers in Wonderland." Tickets are available at [www.petpalanimalshelter.com](http://www.petpalanimalshelter.com). You can reach Rogan & Associates at 727-712-3400.

**SHOE STORE FOR SALE** Beverly is retiring from her women's shoe business, and is selling her shoe store, Shoes By Beverly. The sophisticated shoe and handbag boutique has been in The Plaza 100 for almost 10 years. It has a loyal and extensive client base. If you are interested, call her at 480-3970 or email [ShoesByBeverly@Yahoo.com](mailto:ShoesByBeverly@Yahoo.com).

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### INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY MANATEE ZONES

There are changes coming to your local Intracoastal waterway. But, you may not notice them unless you are a boater, or you own waterfront property along the Intracoastal.

While some areas are already marked as Slow or No Wake Zone, previously, there were no manatee slow wake zones in areas along the western boundaries of Pinellas County. But that is changing.

Beginning at the Narrows in Indian Rocks, and heading north along the Intracoastal Waterway, much of the waterway will be designated Slow Speed Manatee zones. From the Walsingham Bridge to the north end of the Indian Rocks Beach city limits, both sides of the main channel will be designated as a Slow Speed Manatee Zone. Speeds do not change for inside the actual channel though, it will continue to be a regular speed (up to 25mph) zone.

In Belleair, north and south of the Belleair Beach Causeway, east and west sides of the Intracoastal main channel will have no manatee zones.

In the Clearwater Beach area, most of the new earmarked manatee areas are already indicated No Wake, such as in and around Island Estates, the Memorial Causeway Bridge and north and south of the Seminole Boat Ramp. No additional areas are being added.

From April 1 through Nov. 1, the new seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down where posted to prevent manatees from being hit by motorboats or personal watercraft.

Pinellas County has 21 new zones where boaters will be required to operate at an idle speed. Most of the areas

are in shallow, sea grass areas where boats can't travel, but a few, such as two areas in Indian Rocks Beach were popular watersports areas.

It is likely many people do not know this is happening. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers will be on patrol in state waters to remind boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take enforcement actions when necessary.

These changes came from a study of the area from Tarpon Springs to Tierra Verde including the Skyway Bridge area. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee held meetings on creating the Slow Manatee Zones in Pinellas County waterways during 2013, before designating, which areas would be targeted for slow speeds.

All the necessary permits have been granted to install the signs, and a contractor began the project on April 1, but it may take a few months to get the whole county finished. In the meantime, keep an eye out for the new signs. Once installed, the new restrictions take effect in that area.

Manatee zones and maps are available at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee), where you can select "Protection Zones" for links to county maps.



# Good Times Key West Style

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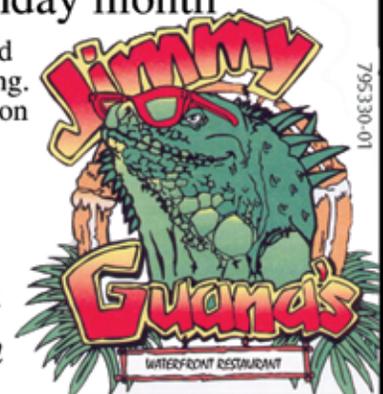
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# Business Briefs



**BIG MAN'S MOVING COMPANY OPENS** One year ago, Josh Anderson and Brooke Mahler used a well known moving company to move to Clearwater Beach. After their move, when inspecting their furniture, the engaged couple found nicks and scratches all over their

belongings. How could such an expensive service come with so much negligence? The couple realized a careful and diligent boutique moving company would be a huge business opportunity in our area... and the vision for Big Man's Moving Company was born! In early November, Josh and Brooke wed and deciding to pursue their dream of owning a family business, used their wedding gifts to partially fund their 26' truck. At 6'8, Josh is anything, but small - and consequently, Brooke had nicknamed him "Big Man," the name they choose for the business. Josh is physically involved with every job to insure your belongings are handled with care. Big Man's Moving Company services St. Petersburg, the beaches and the surrounding Tampa Bay areas. Contact them for a free estimates at 727-772-3458 or bigmansmovingcompany@gmail.com. .

**MODA BOUTIQUE** Chris and Sonya Hollands opened a women's boutique in the space vacated by 432 Westside, in the Plaza 100 Shopping Center. Women's fashions are not new to them, they operated a similar store in Winter Park for 16 years. They always wanted to live near the water and in February they saw closing signs in the window of 432 Westside, while driving through the Belleair Bluffs. They decide it was time to leave Orland and owned it the next week! The store opened in March.

**GORDON REALTY HOUSE PLUS THREE** Real estate broker Gordon Obarski welcomes the addition of three new sales associates to the Gordon Realty House team: Bob Linderman, Don House and Nancy Obarski.

In addition to a track record in real estate development, Linderman brings three-decades of sales and marketing experience for such companies as IBM and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Don House, with a B.A. in Finance from USF, joins the group as an expert in all aspects of investment property ownership and management. After 40 years in advertising sales and marketing, Nancy Obarski will manage all promotion for the brokerage including branding, Web site maintenance and graphic design. They will be based in the brokerage's main office at 2211 Gulf Blvd., Suite C, in Indian Rocks Beach.

**NEW PET SUPPLIES STORE COMING SOON** A Pet Supermarket, similar to PetSmart, is opening in Belleair Bluffs. Permits have been approved to build the store at 2630 West Bay Drive, once the site of Belleair Bluffs' City Hall, across the street from Publix.

**SPLASH HARBOUR OFFERS FREE ADMISSION** During May, Splash Harbor Water Park at the Indian Rock's Holiday Inn Harborside is offering free admission to all Military, EMS, Nurses, Firefighters and Police Officers. In addition, each member of their party will receive a discounted admission price of \$18.95. First responders will need to provide an ID.

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[www.RapunzelsSalon.com](http://www.RapunzelsSalon.com)

## AREA SUMMER CAMPS

### BEACH ART CENTER ART CAMP

1515 Bay Palm Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach,  
727-596-4331

[www.BeachArtCenter.org](http://www.BeachArtCenter.org)

They are offering 50 half-day art camps over 10 weeks, in the morning or afternoon, that are tailored for children 5 to 18. The week long sessions include adventurous art themes, multi-media, paint, creatures and clay programs. Registration is by the week and costs \$85 per session, plus materials. Members receive \$10 off.

### ISLAND SHOP SKIM BOARD CAMP

309 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, 727-596-2244

[www.IslandShopSurf.com](http://www.IslandShopSurf.com)

Weekly camps are Monday through Fridays, 10am to Noon and cost is \$100 a week. They provide a board if you do not have one.

### COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

727-517-0775

[www.CountryDaySchoolIRB.com](http://www.CountryDaySchoolIRB.com)

Their Summer Compass Camp is for Pre-Schoolers ages 1-5, full and half-day, June 13 through August 12th.

### CITY OF BELLEAIR REC CENTER

727-518-3728

[www.BelleairRec.com](http://www.BelleairRec.com)

With a community center that includes a gymnasium, game room, tennis courts, multipurpose room and two multipurpose sports fields, the Rec Center has dozens of camps. Designed for children ages 6-12, camps are Monday through Friday, May 30th to mid-August. Mornings 8 to 12, Afternoons 1-4pm, and Full Day camps available. Space is limited to 100 campers a week. Costs vary, family discounts offered.

### BELLEAIR REC COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM:

Belleair Rec's CIT volunteer program, for kids 13-18, allows teens to achieve community service hours in a fun and safe atmosphere. As a CIT, teens learn responsibility, leadership and team skills. Applications, available at the front desk and online at [BelleairRec.com](http://BelleairRec.com), are due by early May. New applicants, may be asked to interview.

### LARGO THEATRE CAMPS

105 Central Park Drive, 727-587-6751

[www.LargoArts.com](http://www.LargoArts.com)

Largo Cultural Center is offering the "Magic of Live Theatre" for teens 12-18. Most camps are three week programs in June and July, 9am to 4pm, and end in a performance.

Kids interested in working behind the scenes, can sign up for the Technical Theatre Production Camp, designed for kids 13-18.

### LARGO REC

727-518-3016

[www.LargoCamps.com](http://www.LargoCamps.com)

The City of Largo has 60 different camps, including sports, theatre, dance, teen, nature, and pre-school, held at the Highland and Southwest Centers. You do not need to live in Largo.

### MCGOUGH PARK

11901 146th St N, 727-518-3047

[www.LargoCamps.com](http://www.LargoCamps.com)

If your child enjoys nature, animals or the outdoors, The Narrows Environmental Education Center at the City of Largo's McGough Nature Park offers weekly Nature camps. These unique half day camps, beginning May 30th, are jam packed with nature related activities for children 7-15. Each week, campers hike, have guest speakers, explore the park and create arts and crafts. Camps are Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm. Children can attend one or more weeks or all summer.

### CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

1001 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key

727-517-776

[ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org](http://ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org)

Camps, rain or shine, are weekly, Monday through Friday (9am to 3pm) June 5th to August 4th. Half Days available 9am - noon or 12-3pm. Themes include: Little Puffs, Pram Camp, Water Adventure 420 Camp, and Windsurfing. Prices vary.

Camp Awesome is their camp designed for children 8 years and up with special needs. This special 2-week camp starts in mid-June. Get more information at [FreedomSailingCampofFlorida.com](http://FreedomSailingCampofFlorida.com) or call Bonnie Monroe at 224-1726.

### CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

Email [Camps@CMAquarium.org](mailto:Camps@CMAquarium.org)

[www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com)

Designed for K through 10, they have half and full day week-long camps featuring Winter and her rescued dolphin, river otter, and sea turtle friends. Options feature snorkeling in seagrass beds and on sandflats, kayaking, SCUBA, and discovering marine creatures in their natural habitat. For camps that include snorkeling, the boats are supervised by Coast Guard certified Captains in addition to staff, interns, and volunteers. Campers always have access to water they can stand in during snorkeling camps. Snorkeling experience is not required for camps with snorkeling activities. Register online.

### SOCCER CAMP

[www.FloridaCeltic.com](http://www.FloridaCeltic.com)

The Celtic FC International Development Academy provides a July soccer camp, from 9am to 3pm for ages 5-15. They are located at the Seminole Junior Warhawks Soccer Complex in Largo.

### FREE SUMMER PRE-K

727-400-4411 or

VPK office 727-588-6513.

[www.VPKPinellas.net](http://www.VPKPinellas.net)

The Pinellas Public School System offers a free, voluntary, pre-kindergarten Summer Bridge program during June and July, to help kids who may need a little academic help before the next school year. Children must be 5-years old on or before September 1st to apply.

### HUMANE SOCIETY CAMPS

[HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org](http://HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org)

They offer four, week-long camps for ages 7-12 where kids spend a week learning animal care, behavior, current events and animal careers.

### ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

[SPCollege.edu/summerprograms](http://SPCollege.edu/summerprograms)

Programs include: Operation Graduate that provides at-risk middle and high school students with educational opportunities, a one week High-Tech Robotics Summer Camp, a four-week STEMTEC program for students ages 14-17, and a Youth Development Program for low-income, academically-talented youth ages 14-15.

### DALI MUSEUM JUNIOR DOCENTS

727- 623-4730

[www.TheDali.org](http://www.TheDali.org)

This one-week program, for children grades 3-5 encourages students to express their ideas about Dali's art while gaining knowledge about Dali. Students build a foundation in art by learning to look and talk about art. It builds self-esteem and enhances speaking skills. Classes are limited to 20 students.

### FIRST TEE OF ST. PETERSBURG

727-551-3300

[TheFirstTeeStPetersburg.org](http://TheFirstTeeStPetersburg.org)

If your kids play golf or want to learn, there are full and half-day summer golf camps for kids 6-17.

### TAMPA BAY WATCH ESTUARY

867-8166

[TampaBayWatch.org](http://TampaBayWatch.org)

Their Summer Camp offerings have multiple opportunities for learning and adventure. Its location on Shell Key Preserve provides exciting hands-on opportunities to learn about marine ecology and restoration.

### RAYS BASEBALL CAMP

727-825-3415

Enjoy a major league training experience including hitting, pitching and running the bases inside the Dome with special guest speakers including current/former Rays players and coaches. For kids 6-13.



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**Friday May 19**  
1/2 Day Fishing Trip on the Double Eagle Friday Afternoon  
**\$40 each** nonrefundable  
Bring your own food & drink or buy it on board  
100 spots available  
Contact Virginia to reserve your spot

**Sunday May 21**  
Fish Fry on the Patio Sunday 2 PM  
**\$15 each**  
Live Entertainment Games and Raffle starting at noon  
Don't Miss the Potato Car Derby - Open to All

Both Days  
Open To All Club Members  
Guests Welcome

## SLAUGHTER PLUMBING 52 YEARS IN INDIAN ROCKS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

John Slaughter, now 74, started Slaughter Plumbing, 52 years ago. Born in Houston, he was the fourth of ten kids - seven were boys.

The family moved to Indian Rocks Beach when John was only six. They lived in the Fox Cottages, which eventually were torn down to build a condominium.

As a kid, John remembers the old swing bridge and its operator Captain Ramson.

"When I was about 11, I used to help Cap Ramson open the old swing bridge. We got to help turn the big key in the middle, that made it swing," he remembers. "All the boys in town did it."

"We used to all hang out at the old L&M Grocery store at the west end of the bridge and of course at the Brandon Pavilion on the beach," John recalls.

"Somewhere around the age of 16, I got a plumbing job. My brother Ron and I went to work at Phillips Plumbing in Largo. Ron went on to marry the boss's daughter, July Phillips," John says.

The Slaughter brothers worked for Phillips Plumbing for six years, until in 1965, John and brother Ron started Slaughter Plumbing. John was only 22.

"Slaughter Plumbing worked all over Indian Rocks Beach and most of Largo," John explains. "I remember working on the old IRB Fishing Pier many times. I was there when Hurricane Elena knocked it down. We did a lot of work for the City of Indian Rocks, too," John says. "Ralph Finke was the mayor and he was also a local contractor."

"We did a lot of work at the Blue Lagoon, which is Crabby Bill's today and Dale's Package store that was torn down to build CVS. We used to gas up our trucks at Freddie Geisler's Gas Station next to The Beach Place at 24th Avenue. We did his plumbing, too. We probably were in every house there was back in the 1960s and '70s."

Plumbing seems to be in the Slaughter blood. Two of his brothers started their own plumbing businesses: Ron went on to start Largo Plumbing and brother Franklin Sr. started People's Plumbing, which is now run by son Frank Jr.

John and his wife, Patty, are retired now, living part of the time in Indian Rocks Beach and the rest of the time in Colorado. Their daughter Patricia and her husband Paul Jewel bought the plumbing company in 2004 and have been managing it ever since. If you ever need a plumber, call Slaughter Plumbing at 596-5663.



## CLIPPINGDALES PET GROOMING Celebrating 20 years in Belleair Bluffs

Tina McCormick, owner of Clippingdales Pet Grooming, has been grooming dogs since March of 1997 - 20 years, or 140 dog years of grooming.

McCormick is from Sweden. "When I was 26, I left Sweden. It was 1990 and we moved to Vicenza, Italy, where my American husband, was stationed. My son Sanny was four years old and my daughter Eileen was 3. Shortly after settling in Italy, I found out I was pregnant with my third child, Victoria. When Victoria was only 5 weeks old, we moved to Baton Rouge, LA to be near my husband's family," McCormick explains.



In 1994, the family moved to Florida. living Seminole. McCormick wanted to be a groomer and enrolled in a Tampa grooming school. After grooming school, she got a job at a Tampa kennel. She soon found that Seminole to Tampa was a long daily commute, especially with three kids in school or day care.

"I was working in Tampa, when I got a call from a friend who told me he was selling his grooming shop in Belleair Bluffs. He asked me if I wanted to buy it," Tina recalls. "I jumped right on it and I have been here 20 years now." McCormick's shop grooms 15-20 dogs a day, well over a hundred a week. "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all my old and new clients," Tina says with a smile. "I have dogs coming from all over Pinellas County. Some come from as far away as Tampa and even Palmetto. I probably have several hundred customers—it is hard to put an actual number on it. Many of my customers have become close personal friends

"I really love my job and all the people (and dogs) I have gotten to know over the last 20 years. Now, I have customer's children who I watched grow up that are bringing their own dogs to me. I have also, many times, shared in my customer's grief when their pets have died.

Tina is the proud grandmother of two, Dillon (7) and Sidney (2 months), and besides her human children, mother to Kirby, her English bull dog.

"I just want to say thank you—for twenty great years," Tina adds.

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## PROTECT YOUR INSURANCE BENEFITS

by Phil Wrobel

An Assignment of Benefits (AOB) is a contract between you and a contractor (such as a plumber, roofer, etc.) where you give the contractor control of your claims benefits. They file a claim for their services and direct the insurance company to pay them directly. This may seem like the hassle-free way but, once you sign an AOB, you lose control of your claim. The contractor can submit whatever they like to your insurance company, sometimes billing the company two to five times the going market rate for their services, and sometimes including work that was never performed.

Potential pitfalls in signing an AOB? You've committed to this contractor, and you have little to no recourse if you're not satisfied. You can no longer comparison shop if you are not satisfied with their work. Even if they walk off the job with work incomplete, they can still claim compensation from the

insurance company which gets deducted from your benefits. Both you, and the contractor, are still bound by the terms and conditions of the policy, and if the contractor violates these, those actions could potentially jeopardize coverage for your entire loss.

This is where the mantra of "if it seems too good to be true, it probably is," comes into play. Has the contractor: Solicited a job from you for damages you didn't even know were allegedly present? Offered you something for nothing, such as a free roof or kitchen? Wanted to start work immediately and advises you to delay contacting your insurance company? Offered to "take care of" your deductible? Any of these issues could lead to a fraud investigation which could jeopardize your coverage. If you have questions about this or other insurance benefits-please call Phil at Florida Best Quote (727)596-9999. We are located in IRB!



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# Organizational News...

## ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

*Submitted by Katrina Vargas*

On April 13th, The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach joined forces with Calvary Episcopal Church, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District and Publix for the Easter Holiday Meal Distribution. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit helped deliver these meals to 50 local families in need.

On April 22nd, The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach held its Annual Pancake Breakfast with all proceeds and donations going to Beach Community Food Pantry.

June is an exciting month for IRB Rotarians. June 8-9th marks the dates for the Rotary District 6950 conference in Tampa and Atlanta is hosting the international convention for Rotary International June 10-14 including keynote speaker Bill Gates. Gates has generously contributed to one of Rotary's major goals that is very close to being met, the worldwide eradication of the polio virus.

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach takes pride in good fellowship and providing service above self to our local and global communities. Meetings are every Wednesday morning from 7:15am-8:15am at Jimmy Guana's in the Holiday Inn Harbourside. For more information, please visit our website at [www.indian-Rocks-Rotary.org](http://www.indian-Rocks-Rotary.org).

## BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

*Submitted by David Kline*

The Beach Community Food Pantry presented "A Celebration of Giving" event on Saturday, April 1st at the Parish Hall of Calvary Episcopal Church. The event was held to dedicate the newly remodeled pantry facility and to recognize those who supported BCFP in 2016.



The "Celebration" was a huge success! The BCFP wishes to express our sincere appreciation to all of the community who attended and those businesses who supplied the delicious food and beverages: The family of Crabby Bill's restaurants; Crabby Bill's, Lulu's, Sea Breeze and Jake's Cantina, Keegan's Seafood Grill, Slyce Pizza Bar, Ready, Set, Yo, Cafe de Paris Bakery, The Pie Factory and Barley Mow Brewing Co.

The BCFP also recognized those organizations who supported us during 2016: Crabby Bills, Rotary Club of IRB, Slyce Pizza Bar, IRB Homeowners Association, Century 21 Beggins Realtors, Indian Rocks Family Sailing Association, Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue, Action 2000, Publix, RCS, and Church of the Isles

Special thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated the gift baskets, and door prizes. Most importantly, thanks to all those who donate to and volunteer for the BCFP. We would not be able to serve over 800 needy people each month without you.

For more information about this valuable community resource, visit the Beach Community Food Pantry Facebook page or contact director, Connie Curran (727-482-6167)

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# Organizational News...

## NEWCOMER CLUB

This not-for-profit group can help you meet new acquaintances and have 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 at 531-0378 or visit [WelcomeNewComerClub.com](http://WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

## IRB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Laura Hall

This year's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the IRB HOA and the City of IRB was once again a huge success! Roughly 300 children hunted for over 3,000 hidden eggs throughout the nature park on Saturday, April 8th. Children and adults danced to and enjoyed music by the charismatic DJ, CJ Rocks. There were lots of games and great prizes, balloon animals and yummy snacks and, of course, the enthusiastic Easter Bunny, sponsored by Century 21 Beggins! Thanks to everyone who came out and all our volunteers!

The HOA Monthly Community Socials are FREE and are held on the second Thursday of each month from 6 – 7:30pm. Come on out to Lulu's Oyster Bar on May 11th and PJ's Oyster Bar on June 8th! Catch up on what's going on in Indian Rocks Beach. Visit with friends and neighbors and enjoy free appetizers and special drink prices while you show your support for our local restaurants and bars.

With the community's support the HOA recently approved contributions to: Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach Youth Mission Trip; Spring City of IRB Luncheon and; IRB Flag Retirement Ceremony.

IRB Homeowners Association loves putting on community events and supporting local projects. We welcome your project suggestions and encourage you to visit our website to submit your ideas and recommendations. The opportunity to get involved and volunteer is open to everyone! Visit [irbhome.com](http://irbhome.com) or our Facebook page for details.

*Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation to promote community unity. Our mission is to unite residents and businesses for the preservation, beautification and enjoyment of our small beach community. To accomplish this mission we provide opportunities for residents and local businesses to meet and get better acquainted in a friendly and informal manner during adult and family social events throughout the year. All proceeds generated by our major annual events help fund worthwhile projects and causes that directly benefit our city.*

## HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWS

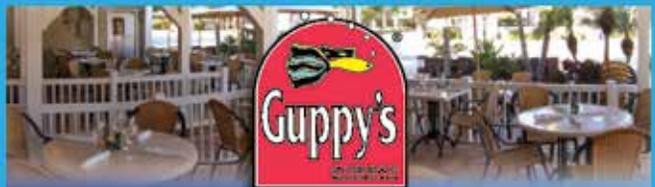
The Indian Rocks Historical Museum is continuing with the placement of historical signs throughout the city. This is a joint project with A2K, which is providing funding and support. The signs will be the basis for a self-guided historical walking tour.

Visit the museum Wednesday through Saturday, 10am - 2pm for a fun and interesting experience! Admission is free but donations are accepted. It is located across from the post office at 203 4th Avenue.

## THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH TENNIS CLUB

This new Indian Rocks Beach group is looking for tennis players of all levels and ages to play at Kolb Park. Their goal is to unite fellow tennis players and to coordinate matches at various times of the day and week. The club hopes to gain enough interest to host a major local tournaments. Find them on Face Book under Indian Rocks Beach Tennis Club, or call Dean Rock at 347-3288.

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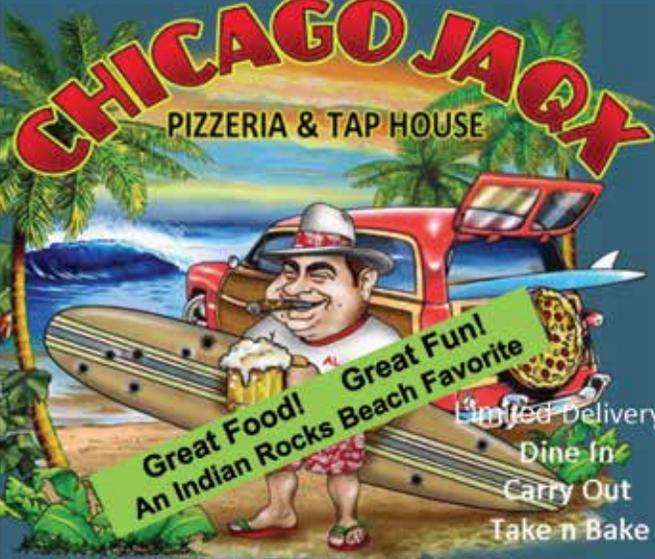
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# Organizational News

## ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by Tim Shears

Since 2014, IRB Action 2000 has spent \$174,000 on projects beautifying Indian Rocks Beach. Our most recent landscape project was to improve the look along Gulf Boulevard in front of CVS. We have also completed two new Key West style bus shelters near Villa Gallace



and at 8th Avenue. We are also very proud to have funded the newly installed pergola in the 5th Ave. Pocket Park at the entrance of Indian Rocks Beach.

Our annual May Mixer is on May 10th from 6 to 8pm at the History Museum where we are presenting our Preservation Awards for 2017. Everyone is welcome, come and socialize and discover A2K with your friends and neighbors!

Each month we meet at the IRB Beach Arts Center on the second Monday at 6:30pm to discuss, plan and implement projects benefiting IRB, everyone is very welcome.

Visit [irbaction2000.com](http://irbaction2000.com) or on Facebook - Action2000IRB. Action 2000 - Where Action is the Attraction!

## BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Danice Sarcone

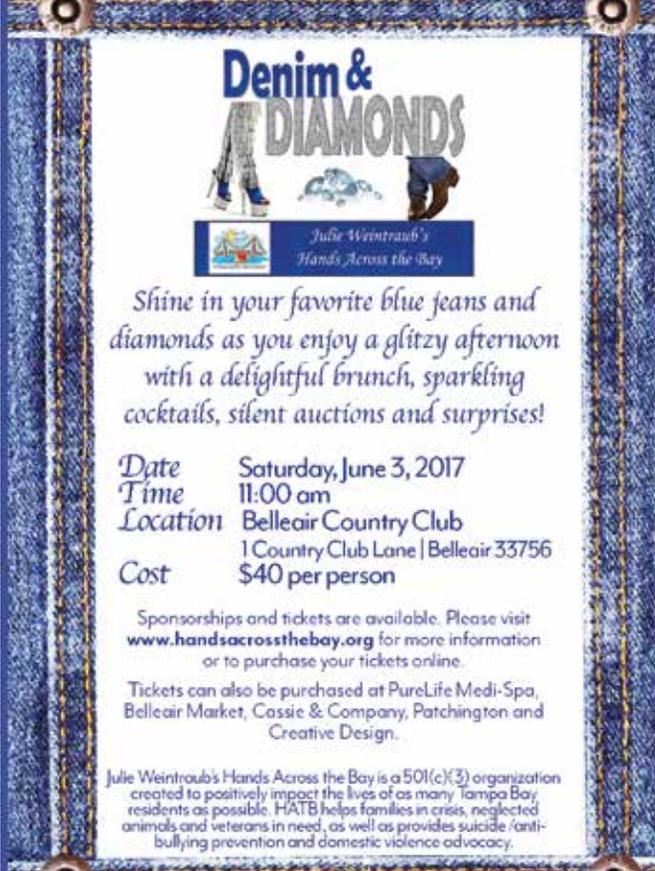
Beach Art Center has been making changes all year to re-ignite the passion of engaging in the arts in our local community. We have enjoyed a positive response to changes: increased attendance at gallery receptions, classes and workshops, plus enthusiasm and support from our community organizations and their members. Beach Art Center will end the season with a new event sponsored by IRB Homeowners Association. Splash, an art festival celebrating the beach life, will be held on May 20th at Kolb Park. Our summer Gallery Exhibit opens June 2nd with a reception from 6-8pm. Both the event and the exhibit are aimed at teens and young adults, rounding out our effort to include creatives of all ages in our events, exhibits and educational offerings. This summer, the Beach Art Center will offer its traditional adult classes and Art on the Rocks workshops, while rolling out a club-style Kreative Kids Summer Program.

In other news, Beach Art Center is negotiating new opportunities for member artists, from connections for commissioned works to off-site exhibits as the main attraction for events in surrounding communities. We also launched an exciting fundraising campaign, The Art Yard, in which donors may purchase or sponsor pavers to be painted by artists and used to create a patio for art-related socials and activities. Find details on all our programs as they unfold at [www.BeachArtCenter.org](http://www.BeachArtCenter.org).

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Although growing season is winding down, Indian Rocks Beach's Community Garden is still growing strong. Located inside the Nature Park, members grew spectacular tomato and quite a variety of other vegetables, including beets, lettuces, broccoli and peppers

For information on the garden or to get involved, contact Trish Burch [PBurch@Stillwater.com](mailto:PBurch@Stillwater.com) or at 596-5316.



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 Hands Across the Bay

Shine in your favorite blue jeans and diamonds as you enjoy a glitzy afternoon with a delightful brunch, sparkling cocktails, silent auctions and surprises!

**Date** Saturday, June 3, 2017  
**Time** 11:00 am  
**Location** Belleair Country Club  
 1 Country Club Lane | Belleair 33756  
**Cost** \$40 per person

Sponsorships and tickets are available. Please visit [www.handsacrossthebay.org](http://www.handsacrossthebay.org) for more information or to purchase your tickets online.

Tickets can also be purchased at PureLife Medi-Spa, Belleair Market, Cassie & Company, Patchington and Creative Design.

Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay is a 501(c)(3) organization created to positively impact the lives of as many Tampa Bay residents as possible. HAATB helps families in crisis, neglected animals and veterans in need, as well as provides suicide /anti-bullying prevention and domestic violence advocacy.

# Organizational News

## IRB BOAT CLUB

Their annual Fish Fry was Saturday, April 1. More than 70 people gathered under the oaks at Keegan Clair Park to enjoy the Saturday afternoon. The weather and the company were both perfect! A BIG thank you to Crabby Bill's, who once again provided a great, freshly cooked fish dinner!



The last meeting of the season was in April with guest speaker Chad Haggert, owner of the Double Eagle Fishing Boat in Clearwater Beach.

The event calendar is available online and some of the upcoming events include:

- May 13: Afternoon at Salt Rock Grill
- June 24-25: Weekend in Tarpon Springs
- July 20: Three Rooker Beach Day

In addition to events, the Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) monthly, on the third Thursday. Meetings will resume in September. Everyone is welcome.

The Boat Club, which gives boat owners an excuse to use their boats, is free to join and you do not have to live in Indian Rocks Beach. To get involved, call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or e-mail IRBboatclub@gmail.com. Visit [www.IRBboatclub.com](http://www.IRBboatclub.com).

## FRIENDS OF IRB DOG PARK

Submitted by Wendell Schott

Snowbirds and their faithful companions made their exodus from our area recently and the Dog Park isn't quite as busy as it was. It's a wonderful time of the year for you and your "best friend" to get over to the Park before it gets too doggone hot during the afternoons. Even with it being busy, doggie bags have usually been available recently. Since the City doesn't supply them, let's keep up the good work of supplying the Park with our own bags. Even with the bags being at the four stations within the fencing, not everyone is picking up their pooch's poop. If you catch an offender, please call it to their attention: that is, the owner's attention, not the dog. Poor Fido can't figure out what we do that for anyway! There were some problems with the entrance gate, but that was promptly fixed by the City. Parking permits are not only required in the designated spaces near to the Dog Park entrance, but enforcement is taking place. Don't risk getting a fine. Section 62-35 of the City Code allows one resident parking permit per vehicle for IRB residents and property owners. Permits are available weekdays at City Hall and proof of residency of ownership is required. There are usually ample parking spaces not requiring a parking permit near the bathroom facilities. Remember that entering the Park itself does not require a special permit but that your furry friends - up to 2 per person - need to be licensed and wear identification tags. Happy Tails to You!

## CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Join the Club for a week-end of fish! They have chartered the Double Eagle Fishing Boat Friday afternoon, May 19th, for a fishing trip. Reserve your space now at \$40 per person. 100 spots are available and a limited number will be available to the public, so everyone can join in the fun and catch some fish. Bring your own food, drink and fishing tackle, or get it on board. E-mail [Communications@CLWYC.org](mailto:Communications@CLWYC.org) or call 447-6000, for reservations.



## SWIM TO FIGHT CANCER IN TAMPA BAY.

This is a family event, not a race. Participants of all ages and skill levels swim with us. Join us as we celebrate our 6th year with the Mayor, our honorary Olympians and new Olympians to support cancer research at Moffitt Cancer Center.

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