

CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Newsletter 20-25



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. In 1814, in what is today central Alabama, Jackson's party finally defeated the Creek Indians in the bloody "Battle of Horseshoe Bend."

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 left Florida, Jackson stationed troops in Pensacola. Spanish officials were outraged, as were 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.

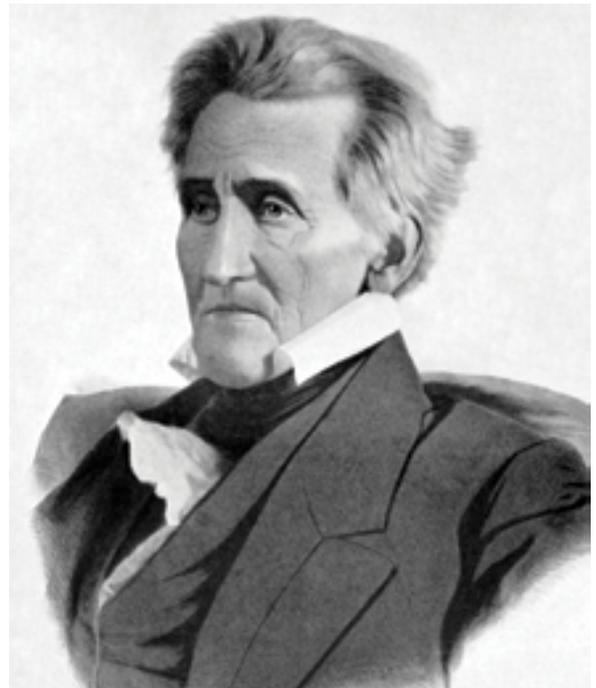
Jackson thought he would simply haul down the Spanish flag, raise the American flag and go quietly home. He took his wife Rachel, traveling by boat from Nashville to New Orleans, and then on to Pensacola. Although it was July, she wrote "We have the finest sea breezes and most beautiful water."

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, despising 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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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - a total of about 5,000 households - six times a year.

You can pick up another copy at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Island Estates Print Shack, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

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 AUGUST!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
112 S. Osceola Avenue, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
Doreen Caudell - Seat 2 ● Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 ● Bill Jonson - Seat 4 (Vice-Mayor)	
Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES	449-8732
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLEY TROLLEY	445-1200
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	

CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
LITTLE LEAGUE	
John Murphy 813-486-4430	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
Alexandra Everist 237-8037	
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	
Beth Prast 859-802-6110	
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	
Maggie Caster 488-8705	
ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
Mary Lau, President 813-335-6770	
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Lynne McCaskill, President 430-1911	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Anne Garris 446-4410	
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Bill Wallace, President 446-2676	
PINELLAS COUNTY INFO	464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
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Karen Seel Sand Key 464-3278	
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Senator Jack Latvala 727-793-2797	
Republican, District 20	
26133 US Hwy 19 N. Ste 201, Clearwater	
Latvala.Jack.web@flsenate.gov	
Representative Larry Ahern 727-395-2512	
Republican, District 66	
8383 Seminole Blvd. Suite B, Seminole	
larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov	
Governor Rick Scott	
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com	
FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:	
Marco Rubio 202-224-3041	
www.Rubio.Senate.gov	
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274	
www.BillNelson.Senate.gov	
AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist 202-225-5961	
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

National Garbage Man Day	17
Father's Day	18
Summer Begins	21
Sunset Run Sand Key Park	23
Blood Drive	28
Pool Family Fun Night	30

JULY

Independence Day	4
Fireworks	4
All Star Game MLB	11
Pool Family Fun Night	14
Sunset Run Sand Key Park	14
Tampa Bay Home Show	14-16
Pitch-For-Pink	14
Yacht Club Dinghy Poker Run	15
Parents' Day	23
Grouper Week Begins	23
Threshers Beach Chamber Night	28
Pool Family Fun Night	28
Grouper Week Ends	30

AUGUST

School Supply Tax Free Shopping	4-6
Public School Begins	10
Buc's First Preseason Game	11
Sunset Run Sand Key Park	11
Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed	14
Boat Club To Marina Cantina	19
Backwater's 17th Anniversary Party	23

SEPTEMBER:

Labor Day Schools Closed	4
Grandparents Day	10
Buc's First Game	10
Patriots Day	11
Rosh Hashanah	21-22
Autumn Begins	22
National Coffee Day	29
Yom Kippur Begins	29
Blast Friday Boat Display	29

OCTOBER

Offshore Super Boat Races	1
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Did You Know



PENNY FOR PINELLAS

You will soon be hearing a lot about the Penny For Pinellas campaign, which is up for renewal November 7, 2017. The program allows for 1¢ of our sales tax to go to the Penny for Pinellas fund, which is shared with individual cities. The Penny has enabled both the county

and its 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. The Penny can only be used for capital expenses and infrastructure investments. It cannot be used for ongoing maintenance and operating costs. If renewed by the voters, that penny is expected to generate over \$2 billion over its next ten years.

LOCK 'EM UP! Clearwater Police are reminding those who go to the beach - lock your cars! More than 80 percent of vehicle burglaries in the city occur in cars that are not properly locked. That makes it easier for criminals to help themselves to your wallet, purse, computer and other valuables. Actually, no matter where you are, always take the time to lock your car.

WORLD CLASS SOFTBALL July 24-30, Clearwater will be host to the 2017 Jr. Women's World Softball Championship, a fast-pitch softball tournament. There will be 110 teams, with over 2,000 players, their families, and 30 umpires from 23 countries including the U.S., Japan, China, Brazil, Great Britain, Israel, Ireland, and Italy. All the games will be held at the Eddie C. Moore Complex, which has nine softball fields. "The economic impact of this seven day tournament is estimated to be \$10-million" says Brian Craig, Clearwater's Recreation Coordinator. Volunteers are still needed to help. Call the City's Recreation Department at 562-4803.

TAMPA FERRY TEST COMPLETE

The six-month test of the Tampa Bay Ferry, between the downtowns of St Petersburg and Tampa, is over—at least for now. The heavily financed test ended April 30th. The ferry has returned to



Massachusetts (its home port) while city governments evaluate the numbers. The project is reimbursing some of the money paid by the four supporting governments. Mayor Kriseman will present the numbers soon and any proposed changes we may see in the future. Hillsborough County has already set aside several million dollars dedicated to their share of bringing the Ferry back and keeping it going.

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SUMMER POOL PARTIES Held at the Clearwater Beach Family Aquatic Center, pool parties will be held June 30, July 14, and July 28 from 7-10 pm. Parties include music, refreshments, and games. The price is the standard pool admission. Staff photo (L to R) Sierra Kingman, Haley Stevens, Hannah Heier, Jarrett Moore, Taylor Schmitt, Justin Rodriguez.

SUNSET RUNS AT SAND KEY PARK This popular Summer Sunset Run Series, now being held in the Sand Key Park instead of Clearwater's Pier 60, has returned. Remaining runs include June 23, July 14 and August 11. The West Florida Y Runners Club hosts the events to raise money for scholarships. Free Kids races start at 6:45pm. The 5K starts at 7pm. Adults pay \$20 for each race (no shirt), \$25 with shirt or pay \$50 for all four with a shirt. Races start and end behind the Sheraton Sand Key. Get more information, and register at www.WFYRC.com.

COUNTRY JUBILEE RETURNS The popular Country Jubilee at Heritage Park (which was canceled last year) is being rescheduled for Saturday, October 28th. It will also include a Flea Market. If you are interested in participating, call 582-2233 now.

MOVIES ON THE BEACH Sunset Cinema has lined up another great list of movies to see this summer including The LEGO Batman Movie, Captain America, Moana, Pirates of the Caribbean and the recent Academy Award Winning La La Land. See the complete list at SunssetsAtPier60.com.

TAX FREE DAYS The state approved August 4-6 as sales tax free days for back to school supplies. The state will offer sales tax-free days on many school related products, including school supplies, clothing, shoes, backpacks and personal computers up to \$750.

RECYCLE PERKS The City of Clearwater is urging you to recycle more by offering you recycle perks, which rewards efforts with discounts and freebies from local businesses. Here's how it works: Activate your free account at RecyclingPerks.com. Use the promo code "MDunn" to get 25 free points just for registering. Once enrolled, carts will be assigned to your household and every time recycling is picked up (on their normal pick up day) your account receives 25 points. Log into your account and trade in your points for local merchant discounts. RecyclingPerks.com is accessible from any computer, tablet or SmartPhone. For information, call 562-4040.



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HELEN SYKES

An Original Beach Mover and Shaker

Helen and Bill Sykes moved to Clearwater Beach in 1976, when almost every hotel was of the “Mom-and-Pop” type. First, they bought the Baycourt Motel on the corner of Bayside and Hamden Drives. In addition to running the motel, Bill was a real estate broker and Helen opened up a small hair salon inside the motel. Their rooms rented for \$16 per day.



They eventually sold Baycourt and bought The Beach Inn at 421 Hamden Drive just up the road. They renovated it, putting their heart and soul into it.

Helen was very proud of how clean her hotel was kept and bragged how over the years it had been featured in many tourism magazines.

In the early 1990s, the Sykes were involved in forming one of the beach’s first marketing organizations - the Clearwater Beach Tourism Council. Meetings were held in Helen’s living room. Member businesses paid \$100 a year to join. By 1995, they had 80 paying members.

In 1995, when other beach merchants formed the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce, the two organizations merged and created a larger membership base, which allowed them to talk to the City government as one voice.

“Over the years, Helen was involved in many beach issues. She made a big difference in our beach community,” says Darlene Kole, President of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce today. “The Beach Inn was one of our favorite mom-and-pop hoteliers that we referred business to.”

The Beach Inn won the Beautification Award from the city, the White Glove Award from Superior Small Lodging, Trip Advisor’s 2015 Certificate of Excellence and was featured in many magazine articles.

But what Bryan Sykes, Helen’s son, remembers most was her cookies. “She just loved to cook. People would come to my broker opens just to ask where the cookies were. She was the glue that held our family together.”

Helen died of cancer on May 6. A Celebration of Life was held on May 23rd.

READING WITH THE RAYS

Since 2006, the Rays Baseball Foundation has teamed up with Suncoast Credit Union for the summer reading program Reading with the Rays-Read Your Way to the Ballpark. The program encourages kids to avoid summer reading loss by reading 24 hours over the summer.

Participating libraries track their progress and award prizes for reaching certain goals, including free tickets to a Rays game. Reading with the Rays spokesman Evan Longoria visits local libraries throughout the summer to speak to the kids about the importance of reading.

How to Play: The rules of the game are simple. Choose your favorite books from the Library, or your favorite section of the Tampa Bay Times, to read over the summer. As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases and collect Rays prizes.

When you read enough hours to get on first base, ask your parent or guardian to initial your card and bring it to the Library. The Librarian will sign your card, put a sticker on the base, and give you a reading reward. Round the bases by reading a total of 24 hours and receive two tickets to a Rays game! Offer ends 9/29/2017. Pick up your Rays card starting June 5th at your Library

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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 was one of four people to run for President as a Democratic-Republican in 1824. The election was the only one in history to be decided by the House of Representatives. While Jackson won the popular vote, John Quincy Adams was elected. Jackson 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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Bar & Restaurant News

CAR CRASHES INTO CESAR'S!

An 18-year-old driver crossing the Sand Key Bridge, lost control of his car and crashed into the front of Cesar's On the Gulf restaurant in the early hours of a Saturday morning. No one was critically hurt, but Cesare's building was damaged.



The car missed the left turn, headed towards the shopping center, hit the big bolder on the corner, flipped and landed on Cesare's patio, which is about 5 feet off the ground breaking one of the large windows was broken. Joggers and employees from The Floridian Café helped rescue the driver from the burning car.

The driver was treated at Bayfront Medical Center before being transported to the County Jail, where he was charged with grand theft auto, possession of marijuana, driving under the influence, reckless driving and property damage.

"We had a lot of damage, but were able to reopen for business the next day," says Carlo Tini, co-partner with Cesare Cenditto. "Fortunately, we were closed when it happened. The property owner is fixing the damage."

BACKWATER'S CHOSEN AS BEST SEAFOOD Major travel web site TRIP.com recently selected Backwaters On Sand Key as Best Seafood Restaurant. The travel web sites visitors that have eaten there gave them a 98% rating. Check them out for yourself at 1261 Gulf Blvd in the Shoppes of Sand Key. They are open 7 days a week, 11am until 11pm. On August 23rd, they will host a party to celebrate their 17th anniversary.

FLORIDIAN BEACH CAFÉ This new small diner is located at 770 South Gulfview Blvd, next to Cesar's On the Beach in Clearwater. They have a fun menu with dishes named after Florida cities and beach concepts, such as The Round About Breakfast Sandwich, The Panhandle, The Tarpon Springs Omelet, Day Tripper, and even the Belleair Omelet, which has 3 eggs with spinach, artichokes, basil and sundried tomatoes topped with a mix of cheese. It comes with potatoes or grits. They are only open for breakfast and lunch—7am to 3pm with inside or outside seating and an open air bar with specialty drinks. Call The Floridian at 401-3507 for take-out.



AREA RESTAURANTS CONSERVING WATER

In response to a mandate from SWFWMD The City of Clearwater has asked area restaurants to help save water. As a result, through August 1, many restaurants will only be serving water upon request.

CAPTAIN'S BEACH This restaurant is still under construction on Coronado across from the big Surf Style building. The independent concept should open when the Spring Hill Suites does.

BONEFISH CELEBRATES 15 YEARS IN BELLEAIR

In June 2002, 15 years ago, Bonefish Grill opened. Since then, they have served a lot of Bang Bang shrimp and many wonderful dinners.

The restaurant opened the same year Chris Arbutine became Mayor of Belleair Bluffs. "I have eaten at Bonefish more times than I can remember," says Mayor Arbutine. "I enjoy it every time. It is a great place to eat, drink and socialize. They have been an excellent addition to our community."

Niko Hales, managing partner at our Bonefish, has been there since 2015. Bonefish Grill is located at 2939 West Bay Drive. Call ahead seating is available; call 518-1230.



IRIE FIRE JAMAICAN-AMERICAN GRILL This new restaurant serving authentic and Jamaican food with American dishes also, opened at 351 West Bay Drive, in Largo. They offer more seating than it looks, with a covered outdoor area in the back and a private room coming soon. They have a full bar with drink specials during the week. Call them at 727-351-5821.

PANERA'S PARENT COMPANY SOLD In April, JAB, parent company of Krispy Kreme Donuts, Dunkin Donuts, and more, purchased the Panera Bread brand. JAB, a European company, has been on a buying spree lately spending over \$40 billion on acquisitions. They paid \$7.5 billion for Panera Bread. Local managers do not expect any noticeable changes to the local stores. Panera Bread operates a store in Belleair Bluffs at 2928 West Bay Drive.

BROKEN EGG OPENS!

With the new parking garage came a new restaurant, Another Broken Egg. This breakfast and lunch café, on the east side of the new parking garage, is part of a New Orleans franchise started in 2006. It is the chain's third Tampa Bay location.

The menu is a mixture of New Orleans/American cuisine, with a wide range



of breakfast specialties such as: Eggs Benedict, Biscuits and Gravy, all types of pancakes, French toast, Belgian Waffles and of course Beignets. Lunch offers many egg related sandwiches, shrimp and grits, crab cakes, and Cajun skillet. Both breakfast and lunch are served all day—from 7am to 2pm. They serve a variety of alcoholic drinks including Bloody Marys.

If you park in the new parking garage (\$2 for 2 hours), show your receipt for a free beignet with your meal, a \$5 value. Find them at 470 Poinsettia Avenue, in North Beach. Call 204-4682.

Manager Brian McNeff, shown here, oversees a staff of 30 people.

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YOUR DIGITAL LIFE AFTER DEATH OR INCAPACITY

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Hopefully you have a living trust and/or will along with the other legal documents needed in case of disability or death. But have you also made preparations for the orderly transfer of your digital assets? Who knows where to find the passwords needed to reach these assets? Can these assets be inherited by heirs?

While digital assets include the hardware we use, it is more about the information stored at various websites. How does one access your bank accounts, bill payments, credit cards, frequent flyer information, governmental records, email accounts, Facebook, LinkedIn, Amazon, pictures, etc. at a website?

While technology makes life easier today (who remembers phone numbers anymore), it can make life difficult in the case of mental incapacity or death. The first thing your executor will need is the passwords to your digital life. If you are like a lot of people you have a list somewhere, but will they know where to find it? Do you have it in some type of code that no one else would understand?

A tool that we use personally and we recommend to clients is a password app for your smart phone or tablet. We are not endorsing any of the apps, as you should do your own investigation, but perhaps this will get you moving in the right direction. In short, by using these apps you, your power of attorney, or your executor have access to all of the websites and passwords by simply knowing one password, which opens the app itself.

1Password, LastPass and eWallet are the ones we hear about most often, but there are many others. Most have an unlimited amount of passwords that can be stored, can store credit card numbers, and will automatically fill in the login information when you click on the website. With the need to change passwords on a regular basis most apps will do this if you choose to do so and the passwords they generate are probably stronger than the ones you create for yourself.

Further, there is generally lots of room to make notes within and sometimes a place to store pictures. If you have the app on one device it can often automatically be transferred to other devices. Make sure that whichever app you use that it has high security and AES 256-bit encryption makes security at a bank level.

If you would like to talk more about this part of estate planning, please give us a call for a complimentary consultation.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chairman and CEO
ProVise Management Group, LLC
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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



PINELLAS COUNTY JOINS RECYCLING EFFORT TO "TRASH THE BAG"



Maintaining its commitment to practicing superior environmental stewardship, Pinellas County has joined a regional effort to promote recycling of plastic and encourage residents to "trash the bag."

The multimedia public education campaign features a new bay-spanning video and co-branded webpage, TampaBayRecycles.org, which will provide recycling information and encourage residents to keep recycling bag-free, no matter

where they are in the Tampa Bay area. Partners in this effort include City of St. Petersburg, City of Tampa and Hillsborough County.

Plastic bags and bagged recyclables are NOT recycled because they can't be efficiently sorted by recycling equipment. Plastic bags also get tangled in the sorting equipment, which causes equipment damage, creates health and safety hazards for workers, reduces the amount of recyclables that can be recovered, and increases the cost of the recycling process. All recyclables should be placed in recycling carts and municipal drop-off containers loosely, not bagged.

Using reusable bags is more eco-friendly than using disposable plastic bags when shopping. Plastic bags can

be reused for other purposes around the house, recycled at participating retailers, or disposed of in garbage carts.

All four jurisdictions participating in the regional recycling effort use Waste-to-Energy facilities for trash disposal, turning garbage into renewable electricity.

Curbside and residential recycling systems are only designed to process certain items, including:

- Clean and empty plastic bottles and containers
- Clean and empty aluminum cans
- Clean and empty glass bottles and jars
- Dry paper, newspaper, and junk mail
- Clean and empty metal containers
- Clean and empty milk and juice cartons
- Dry paperboard boxes (such as cereal boxes)
- Dry flattened cardboard

This partnership marks the first time Pinellas County, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, and the City of St. Petersburg have worked together on a single regional recycling campaign. For additional information on recycling in Pinellas County, visit www.pinellascounty.org/recycle.

This initiative is a key component of Pinellas County's Strategic Plan: reducing, reusing and recycling resources including energy, water and solid waste.





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Business Briefs



CEREAL FOR THE HUNGRY

Clearwater's Natures Food Patch, teamed up with 10News WTSP, suppliers, and its customers to collect and provide healthy breakfast items for Feeding Tampa Bay's

summer initiative "Cereal for Summer." Children go hungry over the summer without the programs that feed them during the school year. The promotion collected breakfast items, such as cereal, oatmeal, cereal bars and shelf stable milk in May.

Vendor Seitenbacher donated six pallets of cereal to the program. Customers purchased breakfast items and pitched in with "buy-one donate-one" promotions.

The May promotion was considered a huge success and provided \$43,159 worth of food and donations for thousands of needy kids. Nature's Food Patch is located at 1225 Cleveland Street in Clearwater. Get more information at NaturesFoodPatch.com.



BIG MAN'S MOVING CONTINUES TO GROW

Newlyweds, Josh and Brooke Anderson, who applied their marriage gifts towards the purchase of a

26' moving truck, started Big Man's Moving Company are continuing to grow and expand.

After completing 100 successful moves in their first three months of business, they realized it was time to expand their fleet to two trucks. "We are humbled to receive such amazing community support, and are honored to be entrusted with the treasured belongings of our customers. The biggest obstacle we have encountered is having to turn people away because we are already completely booked. This second truck doubles our capacity, and allows us to serve more residents. I recommend you reserve your move 3-4 weeks in advance, as this is the busy season and companies with good reputations book quickly," Brooke explains. Big Man's Moving Company specializes in local and long distance moves. Call 727-772-3458. www.bigmansmoving.com.

WYNDHAM GRAND OPENS SPA The Wyndham now has it all - as a five star resort should, when last month they opened the Pallavi Luxury Spa. Both guests and locals can enjoy "refined yet relaxed pampering and rejuvenation" in the spa whose name "Pallavi" means new leaf. The over 5,700 square foot spa, inside the Wyndham, is open to the general public. Anaelys Napoels is the new spa's director.

Business Briefs

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Real Estate Broker John Funk has been coaching youth sports at the YMCA for the past dozen years. During the Clearwater YMCA's 60th Anniversary Dinner, he was recognized as their Volunteer



of the Year. In addition to coaching, when they needed equipment, he assisted in fund raising. "Many kids ask to be on my team because of the success I have had in the past," John says. "Finding ways to help a child become better at sports while enjoying the experience is what I try do." To thank John, shown above with his family, e-mail John@WeWorkWeekends.us or call him at 599-3864.

CLEARWATER FERRY'S EXPANSION Ridership on the Clearwater Ferry is growing. During the 2017 Spring Break (March/April), ridership exceeded 29,000. The city of Clearwater reported a reduction in traffic during this same period. By comparison, PSTA had an advertising campaign to take the Trolley (for free) during Spring Break and reported less than 6,000 riders.

The Ferry offers a \$60 Student Pass for unlimited rides to and from Clearwater Beach through August 31st. The passes are available on board with a current student ID.

In October, the Clearwater Ferry will test a pilot program operating between Clearwater Harbor Marina and Dunedin on Friday, Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 10pm.

NEW WATERSPORTS STORE Clearwater Beach PaddleBoard and Rentals, an outdoor shop, carries Yolo, N2, and Laird Hamilton paddleboards and accessories. Located at 439 Poinsettia Ave, they also carry skate boards and beach



cruiser bikes, and a full line of men and women's clothing featuring Patagonia, Costa, Ray Ban, Yeti, life is good and more. They also rent just about anything you might need for an afternoon at the beach from paddleboards to bikes to chairs, umbrellas and even a beach wheel chair. Check out their fishing gear and tackle as well as spearguns, too. If you are looking for something specific, call them at 727- 333-7188

SHOES BY BEVERLY STATUS Beverly announced this spring she wants to retire and listed her store for sale. Is she leaving? Maybe or maybe not, she is not saying. But, the store is liquidating most of the inventory and prices have been cut to as much as 65% off! All sales are final. Shoes by Beverly is a sophisticated shoe and handbag boutique that has been in The Plaza almost 10 years.

MARQUESAS Ocean Properties, owners of the Sandpearl and Opal Sands, is building a condo hotel on the vacant lot just west of the Sand Key bridge. Ground work began late last year, but it is hard to tell. Right now it looks like nothing but a pile of sand.

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Business Briefs

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STAN THE CARPENTER

Recently, local carpenter Stan Wolney, received a call for an unusual problem. A homeowner living in a Biltmore area condo inherited a family heirloom - an armoire that was likely 150 years old. The armoire, with four doors and two drawers, was too large to fit in the elevator or to be carried up the stairs. Plus, it was old and needed to be refinished. To make matters worse, it was further damaged by the moving company delivered that delivered it to Wolney's workshop.



Wolney disassembled the large piece of furniture, fixed the damage and refinished the surfaces. "It was unique because it was 150 years old," says Stan. "It had dowels, not screws, the way they worked years ago." Wolney figures spent about 30 hours in the job. It will be delivered later this month.

"My specialty is woodworking - all kinds of wood," says Wolney. "Some people have a vague idea of what they want. I make their ideas happen." Stan is a Vietnam Veteran. If you have a special project that requires working with wood, call him at 215-4770.

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

Their expansion is moving forward. The project includes more natural habitats and enhanced spaces, larger pools to allow them to better treat and rehabilitate animals. There will also be additional parking.



SANDPEARL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS The first of Clearwater Beach's new upscale hotels, The Sandpearl Resort opened 10 years ago in August. Since its opening, the resort has consistently won industry awards making it one of the highest rated Clearwater Beach hotels. It was built on the site of the well known Clearwater Beach Hotel. It is owned and managed by Delray Beach company Ocean Properties, who owns over 125 other properties, including our new Opal Sands. The hotel's manager Eric Waltz was recognized this year as Tourism Person of the Year by the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce.

EDGE OPENS

On Clearwater Pass, the Edge Hotel opened at 505 South Gulfview, next to the Holiday Inn. This beautiful new hotel is owned by Clearwater Beach resident and developer,



photo credit Belleair Images

Jeff Keierleber and has 155 rooms over ten floors, with six floors of parking. The office and infinity pool with a glass window facing Clearwater Pass are both on the 6th floor. "Jimmy's On The Edge," the restaurant, is on the 10th floor.

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3RD ANNUAL RCS GRAND GALA Commemorates 50th Anniversary

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, friends and supporters of RCS will gather at The Conmy Center in Dunedin, to celebrate RCS's 50th anniversary and raise funds for the organization. Through ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and auction purchases, last year's event raised over \$230,000. The 3rd Annual RCS Grand Gala: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace, Love, and Understanding will include dinner, dancing, live entertainment, and a keynote address by Jay Harris of ESPN. It will also include silent and live auctions of donated items from local businesses.

RCS was founded in 1967 by a network of congregations of varying faiths in response to social ills. RCS's focus still remains the same today—serving individuals and families with dignity and helping them along the path to self-sufficiency. Each year RCS serves over 115,000 people in Pinellas County through the RCS Food Bank, RCS Grace House, The Haven of RCS, and the RCS Thrift Store; that is almost 15% of the county's population.

"I'm not sure if our founders could've envisioned what we've become fifty years later. I'm sure they hoped and prayed for long term success and deep impact in the community, but now to be serving over 115,000 individuals and families with the support of over 2,500 volunteers and staff would be considered a miracle," says Kirk Smith, President and CEO. "The real miracle; however, is the amount of selfless support we continue to received from our amazing donors. It's because of events like the RCS Grand Gala, we're able to position ourselves to increase capacity and envision another fifty years of service to the most vulnerable among us."

More information on the 3rd Annual RCS Grand Gala: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace, Love, and Understanding can be found at www.RCSGrandGala.com.

PAINTING FOR PEACE DAY ON CLEARWATER BEACH

Vincent van Gogh once said, "I tell you, the more I think, the more I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people. Loving people is an expression of peace." The United Nations observes an International Day of Peace around the world each September. The day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace. The theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for All.

For the past five years, the Rotary Club of Clearwater Beach has commemorated the United Nations Day of Peace with a Painting for Peace Day. This year, it will be September 22, at 5:30 pm.

Sakuji Tanaka, 2012/13 President of Rotary International stated "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways." Peace begins in communities and extends out from there. Through service, individuals become more tolerant of other people or culture.

High school students are invited to paint their impressions of peace on area storefront windows. They are looking for area businesses that wish to be included in the project and for students that wish to paint. The Rotary Club of Clearwater Beach will provide the paint supplies and pizza. To register, please contact Alexandra Everist at 727-237-8037. Other clubs around the world will also join in the event. In 2013, the event was highlighted in the International Rotarian magazine.

For more information on Rotary Club of Clearwater Beach, please contact President Sharon Skinner at 727-515-1532 or visit www.clearwaterbeachrotary.org.

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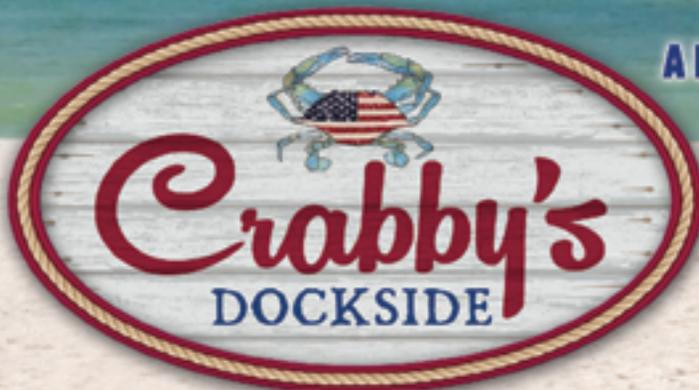
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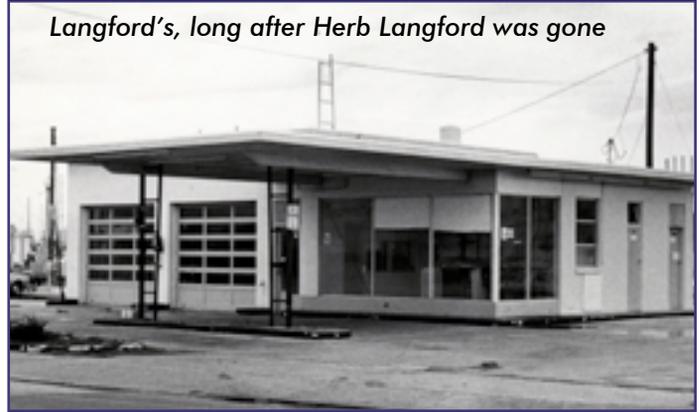
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FROM LANGFORD'S TO CRAZY BILLS' TO CRABBY'S DOCKSIDE

By Anne McKay Garris

In the beginning, it was a filling station. It was the only one on Clearwater Beach; located at the west end of Memorial Causeway, it couldn't be missed by any motorist driving on or off the Beach. Owned by the City of Clearwater, the building just west of where the Clearwater Marina now stands, was built in the late fifties and leased by Herb Langford. Although it had other operators, it was always known as "Langford's Service Station" or just "Langford's" even after it closed in 1977.

The obsolete building stayed empty until, in 1979, long-time Clearwater resident, Bill Goodwin, wanted to market his daily fresh seafood catch. Goodwin had come to Clearwater in 1962, to work on his uncle's fishing boat, the Sea Hawk. After serving as a deck hand on the Sea Hawk for a while, he purchased his own fishing boat, the Grouper Grabber and wanted a seafood market to provide the community with fresh fish.



Langford's, long after Herb Langford was gone



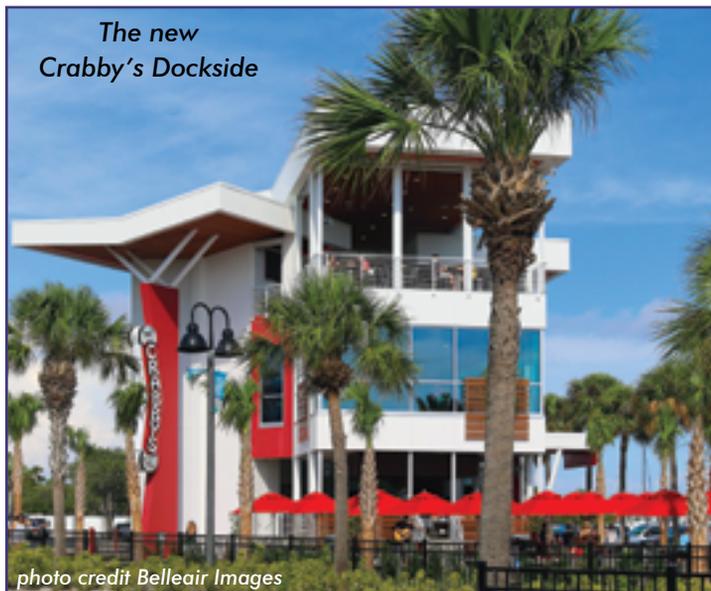
Clearwater Beach Seafood Market

It cost approximately \$300,000 to change the old filling station from an eyesore to a useful facility, that would cater to the needs of the Clearwater Islands' residents and visitors. Goodwin named it the "Clearwater Beach Seafood Market." At the beginning, he and his wife, Joan, sold only raw fresh seafood and take-out meals.

In 1984, Goodwin's customers persuaded the Goodwins to add a second story on the old building to make room for a "sit down" restaurant. At the time, it was the only restaurant on Clearwater Beach featuring seafood right off the boat. Dinners were served in a quiet, uncluttered dining room with a second story view of the Bay and Gulf. Guests could watch the graceful pelicans and other sea birds as they flew by on their way to feast on the Marina fishing fleet's leftovers from the catch of the day.

Goodwin never forgot his supporters and customers. When one customer repeatedly asked for catfish, an item not on the menu, he added it, along with the notation, "Berle, this one's for you!" Always eager to please his customers, he also hastily returned "You Peel 'Em Shrimp" to the menu, when a regular customer complained about its absence.

After a "Crabby Bill's" restaurant opened in Indian Rocks Beach, Goodwin renamed his restaurant, "Crazy Bill's" and added occasional entertainments, including an Elvis Presley imitator and sometimes a magician, performing magic tricks tableside.



The new Crabby's Dockside

photo credit Belleair Images

In the early 2000's, the Goodwins sold "Crazy Bill's" to "Crabby Bill's" and retired to Orlando.

The new restaurateurs moved quickly from family style to a popular tourist attraction and in 2015, received the City's permission to remove the old building and rebuild a structure with roof top dining and a large bar on the roof. The building was completed in early 2017 and is now named Crabby's Dockside.

The new three story restaurant seats up to 300 people and is nothing like the one they replaced. The first floor offers a large bar and cafe seating. The second floor offers an entire inside dining room with floor to ceiling windows. On the third floor is a large bar, with open air seating and panoramic views, which allow guests to enjoy our beautiful Clearwater Beach sunsets.

Their new menu offers a variety of dishes, including a Calamari Caesar salad, Key West Combination, Bairdi Crab Legs and a Creamy Crab & Cheese Spinach Dip. Their Happy hour runs Monday - Friday from 3-6pm, with \$1 off domestic drafts and house wine, along with \$4 call liquor cocktails.

BELLEVUE BILTMORE GOLF CLUB CLOSES FOR REMODELING

Last year, the City sold the Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club, on Indian Rocks Road, for \$3.8 million to The Doyle family, residents of Belleair. The city bought the property to protect it from being developed into something else, paying for \$3.5 million.

The Doyles also want to protect, and improve the golf course. Their first action was to rename the golf course. It is reverting to its original name, The Pelican Golf Club, given to it when the club opened in 1926.

The Club was built long after the days when Henry and Morton Plant owned the Biltmore. It was designed by famous golf course designer Donald Ross. The course was renamed Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club, in 2001, while under a Japanese developer's ownership.

The Pelican Golf Club including its golf course closed May 31st. A full remodel is scheduled to start in the fall. North Carolina designer Shane Robichaud has been hired to design the Club's new golf course and two new buildings.

Plans call for a new clubhouse with a restaurant, lounge and locker rooms. A smaller building, to be called The Grill Room / Golf Shop, will include a small restaurant and retail golf shop.

Robichaud's plans call for the golf course itself to be radically changed. The fairways will be widened, and the grass and greens removed and replaced. Drainage and irrigation will be improved. Parking spaces will be reduced from the current 392 down to 175. All of this will take many months.

Most of the residences on or near the golf course were concerned about how this will impact their long-time views in addition to the impact on wildlife, drainage, sidewalks, and cart paths. Many attended a meeting at City Hall where the architect made a presentation and answered questions.

During the presentation, all the city commissioners liked what



they saw. Mayor Katika said "There should always be a golf course in Belleair and I am glad the Doyles own it."

Construction beginning this fall should be completed in the Spring of 2019. The total cost of this conversion and remodel is around \$18-million. When they acquired the property, the Doyle family promised to never allow development of any kind on this property.

When the golf course closed, what happens to the employees? "On May 31st, 40-45 employees were working at the club that was managed by Green Golf Partners. Some will unfortunately be laid off and others are moving to other Green Partners golf clubs located in Tampa Bay and even Cape Coral. All the golf carts will be relocated elsewhere, probably Cape Coral. I have enjoyed working here and meeting the people of Belleair," says Zack Vervaecke, with PGA Green Golf Partners.

There was a final event for members and the public. It has still not been announced how the current memberships will be handled—that will be up to the Doyles.

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Life is better at the Edge

Mesmerizing views from every vantage point—that's Edge Hotel Clearwater Beach. The 10-floor Mediterranean-style property boasts panoramic views of Clearwater Pass and Sand Key Park, the Intracoastal Waterway, Clearwater Harbor and of course, the Gulf of Mexico.

Inside, Edge's fresh island decor incorporates authentic Floridian artwork, soothing earth tones and metallic accents. The lobby's contemporary Key West ambience beckons guests to relax under Palisade ceiling fans, calling to mind a stogie-puffing Ernest Hemingway hammering away at his typewriter, a bottle of Scotch within reach. Abundant amenities and attentive service conspire to make guests and visitors feel at home and away from it all.

That feeling of being on "the edge" of a dream or fantasy begins upon arrival in the lobby, where a majestic gulf view and two pristine swimming pools sparkle just outside the windows. The sixth floor glass panel pool appears to extend into the Gulf waters.

On the lobby level, **505 at the Edge** serves three meals a day indoors and outside on the terrace. A breakfast buffet, included with all rooms, features scratch-prepared hot items as well as fruit and cereals. For lunch and dinner, eclectic and attractively plated dishes and appetizers entice with intriguing variety.

Florida inspired cuisine figures prominently, notably the Shrimp Toasties, Pan Seared Scallops with Key Lime Emulsion, Mojo Pork and Lobster Gnocchi.

"We're elegant, but not stuffy," says Jim Kasper, Decade's Food and Beverage VP. "Every dining experience is a very unique event for our guests."

Up on the roof, guests enjoy a more casual bar-restaurant experience. **Jimmy's on the Edge** sports several flat screen TVs and a 20-foot projection screen for major televised games and other events. (The Green Bay games are a big deal here.)

A specialty drink menu tantalizes with colorful tropical concoctions, such as the Sunset Mojito prepared

with mango rum. Local craft brews are on tap. Adjacent to the main bar, a sleek concrete "firewall bar" features a walled in flame at the center—a stylish way to keep warm during winter months.

Opened in April 2017, Edge arrives with an impressive legacy behind it. Its parent company, Wisconsin-based Decade Properties, owns the **Holiday Inn Harbourside** in Indian Rocks Beach and the **Holiday Inn GulfView** among other hotels, home to successful beach eateries such as Jimmy's Guana's, Jimmy's Fish House and Jimmy's Crow's Nest. Shuttles are provided to and from the Decade properties, including the new Splash Harbour attraction at the Harbourview.

State-of-the-art Fitness and Business Centers, along with a full service Water's Edge Banquet Center catering to Social and Corporate events.

"Customer service is top priority here," Kasper added. "We've got southern style with midwestern friendliness."

505 at the edge

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6th Floor Glass Panel Edge Pool

IS IT FINALLY TIME FOR YOU TO LOOK INTO SOLAR?

by Ted Shannon

You've heard for years that solar is the way of the future. "Going Green" will make you feel good about your impact on the planet. But, is it worth the actual cost? Will it add more than PR value? Do you have to start dressing like a hippie? What are the benefits?

The biggest incentive is the 30% tax credit from the IRS. That means that 30% of total cost is a direct reduction on your taxes. Simple math - If a large solar system costs \$25,000, you get \$7500 back as a refund, or a reduction on what's owed. This benefit will "sunset" at the end of 2019 and goes away Dec. 31, 2021. That's a strong argument for looking at solar now.

Solar can lower your monthly bill. Solar companies offer low interest loans, or, if you are clever, finance it on a HELOC or mortgage and get the additional tax write-off. Solar financed over years brings the actual amount you pay for electricity down from what you now pay. That's right, going solar will cost less monthly in most cases.

Solar adds value to the home. Systems cost between \$10,000 and \$30,000 for the average-size home depending on electricity usage and size of roof to fit solar. If you install solar and no longer have a power bill bigger than the base \$10, your home will be worth more if you sell it. Who wouldn't want to buy a home that makes its own power? Homes with solar sell faster and for more money than homes without. It depends on the age of the system and warranties still in effect. NOTE: warranties vary between companies. Do your research.

Expect long term reliability. Solar panels produce electricity

for up to 40 years. Standard warranties on panels are 20 years. There are no moving parts, but they lose about 0.4% per year in production. Solar can be producing at 90% after 20

years. Few solar companies have production guarantees, but some do. Again, research!

To go solar you need sun exposure. Southern without shade is best. Trees over roof? Forget solar. Also, don't put solar on old roofs. The newer the roof the better, panels can be removed and reinstalled for a re-roof, but it costs.

Prices have plummeted. Solar costs have dropped over 50% in 5 years.

Is it time to go solar? Yes - and you don't have to be a hippie.

Ted Shannon is a resident of Belleair Beach and works with residential and commercial solar. He can be reached at 727-386-8407 or tedthesolarguy@gmail.com for any questions you have. Find him on Facebook as Ted the Solar Guy.



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NEW LIBRARIAN CAME A LONG WAY

By Linda Owens

Roxana Grinov, the new librarian in charge of the Clearwater Beach Library, says as a new employee at the Main Library she toured the Clearwater branch libraries and immediately fell in love with the Beach Branch. That is when she knew she wanted to work there. Fast forward three years, and Roxana is delighted to find herself at the helm of the Clearwater Beach Library, which she calls, "A gem!"



Roxie's journey to the U.S. and the Clearwater Beach Library began with a little-known U.S. Department of State program called the "Electronic Diversity Visa Lottery." After receiving her undergraduate degree in her homeland of Romania, she applied for the lottery program that grants visas for 50,000 sponsored, vetted, educated people from around the world. In 2006, 2,500 of those visas were approved from Romania, including Roxana's.

Roxie was sponsored by Tampa relatives and worked at a local hospital for five years. She met and married her Romanian-born husband, Bobby Grinov and had two boys, 7 and 8 years old. In 2010, Roxie proudly became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

The next step was going back to college (at USF) to obtain her Master's Degree in Library Science, which she finished in 2013. She visualized working in an academic library, but, after completing a public library practicum during her graduate training, she became intrigued with public libraries. Her love of public libraries made her the natural choice to replace retiring Beach Librarian Joyce Kirchoffer in March, 2017.

Already, the new Beach Branch Librarian has initiated several programs. Adult coloring, with materials supplied, is scheduled for Wednesday evenings. Other planned programs include a Beach Book Club and a Meet the Author session with local author, Cliff McKay, discussing his recently published Clearwater Beach memoir Growing Up Wet.

Roxana says she is enjoying getting to know the beach patrons and hearing them express appreciation for the library staff's efforts to help them—finding books, using the computer, downloading programs, etc.

"What I want," she says, "is to serve the patrons at the Clearwater Beach Library for a long time to come."



BEACHTRAN / SKYTRAN UPDATE

The local investor group, BeachTran Clearwater, LLC led by the brothers Tom and Frank L. ("Bud") Nocera, negotiated an agreement with SkyTran, Inc. This is an important step towards a SkyTran system from Clearwater Beach to Tampa and St. Petersburg. "Having a signed agreement with SkyTran is huge" according to Tom Nocera. "It puts Clearwater and Clearwater Beach on the map along with the world class tourism destinations of Yas Island in Dubai."

Tom Nocera tapped his brother Bud to be the CEO of BeachTran Clearwater, LLC. Bud is credited with the creation Visit Florida, Inc. as a private public partnership, which he headed for a number of years, prior to becoming the president of the Ft. Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce.

BeachTran Clearwater, is on track to have the first SkyTran designed solar-powered, passive maglev aerial transit system

in the Western Hemisphere. SkyTran systems are underway in both Israel and Dubai and are expected to be operational in 2018.

Recently, Tom Nocera briefed Congressman Charlie Crist on the futuristic transit technology and requested our Congressman's help with key introductions in Washington. "Florida's former governor is passionate about solar power. He sincerely wants Florida to lead the way in finding solutions to traffic congestion" Nocera says. "With Charlie Crist's help we are absolutely going to make this happen. The key to solving traffic congestion is developing an option that is more cost-effective than owning a car, and more fun than driving in traffic. This is what our team is doing."

CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC: PATIENT HIGHLIGHT

Two years ago, Richard Helvey, a 51-year-old Detroit native, took stock of his life and knew something had to change. Distracted from a recent bout of bad luck, Richard got in his car and drove south, toward sunny Florida for what he hoped would be a fresh start.

He stopped and settled in Largo, but without a job. Soon he was living in his car. Worse, his health was deteriorating. Diagnosed with diabetes years earlier, he could no longer afford his medications. Now he was crippled by kidney pain, numbness in his feet and other effects of uncontrolled diabetes.

Then he discovered a place that helped people like him.

Jan Humphreys is nurse practitioner at the Clearwater Free Clinic (CFC), though some patients affectionately call her "Dr. Jan." She remembers the day that Richard came in to the Clinic seeking help. He had several chronic conditions, his blood sugar level was sky high and shared that he was living in his car. The CFC gave him the medications and care that he needed to get better – all of which was free of charge and a medical home to return to. Concerned about Richards living arrangements, Dr. Jan made a phone call to help Richard find a place to live.

Most CFC patients are low-income, working families who can't afford health insurance or whose employers do not offer it, and do not qualify for governmental assistance. Patients can receive comprehensive medical and behavioral health care at the CFC if their income is no more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, are legal U.S. residents and live in mid or upper Pinellas county.

Richard came to the Clinic sick, overwhelmed and embarrassed by his circumstances, but he soon felt a renewed sense of empowerment. These days, Richard's smile is bigger, his shoulders a bit straighter and his spirit revived. His medical conditions are under control, and after working three part-time jobs, one turned into full-time employment and he was promoted to manager in February. He now happily lives in his rented apartment.

Without the Clearwater Free Clinic, "I probably would have crawled up somewhere and died," he somberly expressed. Instead, Richard is counting his blessings. He will soon be insured through his employer and considered a Clearwater Free Clinic graduate.

SUMMER FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS BEGAN JUNE 1

Fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus may not be used on lawns and landscape plants through September 30. Fertilizer runoff can pollute rivers, lakes, bays and the Gulf of Mexico, cause algae blooms, and lead to fish kills.

As the rainy summer season approaches, residents and commercial landscapers in Pinellas County are reminded to temporarily stop using nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. From June 1 to Sept. 30, which is typically the end of our rainy season, fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus are prohibited. Phosphorus is restricted year-round without a proper soil test, as Florida soils are naturally abundant in phosphorus.

Limiting fertilizer use prevents additional pollutants from entering storm drains and water bodies such as rivers, lakes, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus can cause harmful algae blooms that can lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills. Treatment to remove these excess nutrients could cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

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MEET CHARLIE CREEL, SHERATON SAND KEY CONCIERGE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Concierges provide information and services to business visitors and tourists, and are usually found only in larger hotels. Twelve hotels in Clearwater Beach, ranging in size from 100 to over 450 rooms, have a designated concierge.

Charlie Creel (age 64), has worked in the lobby of the Sheraton Sand Key for 40 years. He is the longest serving concierge on the beach and only Sheraton manager Russ Kimball and Sous Chef Stefan Kugler have been with the hotel longer.

Creel began working at the Sheraton in November of 1976. As a long time Pinellas resident, having lived in Indian Rocks and Largo, he knows the area well.

"When I came to the Sheraton, Sand Key was almost deserted," Creel remembers. "The lot to the south was vacant. There were some low-rise Condominiums (Bayside Gardens) to the south and the South Beach Condos on the west side. Next door to that was a restaurant / bar. The Isle of Sand Key condo was the southernmost building. We had the "Sky Lounge" nightclub with live music on the ninth floor of our hotel, occupying the space where Sheraton Fitness and Sheraton Club is now.

"Charlie Cheezem started building a few high rise condos south of here and Sand Key development took off. Then came the Coast Guard Station, Shoppes of Sand Key and The Marriott."

"When the hotel first opened, we had very little beach. Our original postcard shows barely enough room to park two Hobie Cats," Creel remembers. "Over time, sand just started accumulating behind the hotel when the Clearwater Pass jetties were added. Today, we have about 13 acres of beach."

"I started as a bellman," Creel explains, "After about 5 years, I was in charge of all the bellmen. There was no full-time concierge then. We all talked to the guests and answered their questions as best we could."

"Back then, suitcases didn't have wheels so a lot more people used bellmen," says Creel.

He works 40-48 hours per week - and loves it. "I have fun every day. We will do almost anything for our guests, as long as it is legal, moral and humanly capable," says Creel with a laugh. "Our primary requests are for entertainment, food and transportation."

Guests always ask about things they can do. That might include: the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Busch Gardens, Disney World and others. Everyone looks for restaurants information, too. They want to know how far away they are and what is on their menus. Many need rental car, taxi, Uber, or Beach Trolley information. Most need transportation to the airport. Occasionally, guests have medical needs and look for walk-in clinics, hospitals and pharmacies.

What has been Creel's most unusual request? "One time, a newly-wed was here on a business trip and lost his wedding ring in the sand," Creel recalls. "I had to call in a guy with a metal detector - who found it. The guest was so happy also and off the hook with his new wife!"

The hotel is famous for a visit from Jim Baker and his well known affair. "I remember when Jim Baker stayed in one of our rooms. The news about the affair came out a year later. I heard about it when I came to work, because we received dozens of calls from radio stations around the country who wanted to interview anyone who answered the phone. After that, we kept having visitors steal the room number plate off the door. People still ask for that room by name and number."

Creel oversees a department of twelve employees. All of them are men. "Women seem to have little interest in the bellman job here, although I have had women in the bell position before. We have had many women concierges. Other Clearwater Beach hotels have a few women working at their desks, but not many. Today, my employees are 20% bellman and 80% concierges."

Many local concierges first started at the Sheraton, working for Creel then have gone on to work at other beach hotels. "Charlie gave me my first job when I moved to Florida," says Gary Hidu, now concierge at Clearwater Beach's Regency Hyatt. "Charlie is a fixture on the beach. People come into the Sheraton and ask for him by name. He is a very fair and likeable boss. He sponsored me into Bay Area Concierge Association (BACA); now I am President." Gary has been at the Hyatt Regency since it opened in 2010.

Creel has won his share of awards and recognition in his industry. He is a member of the prestigious Les Clef d'Or USA International Union of Concierges. He is past president of BACA, and has served in numerous board positions. He was the Guest Services Employee-of-the-Year in 2005 by the Florida Hotel and Motel Association and received the Iris D. Larson Hospitality Award in 2005 for his excellence in hospitality service by Visit Florida, which was presented to him at the annual State Governor's Conference on Tourism.

"Over the past 40 years, Charlie has been Sand Key's Ambassador—welcoming back our guests, families and meeting attendees to the Sheraton," says Russ Kimball, Manager of the Sheraton Sand Key. "As Director of Concierges, he provides the friendliness needed to create our Clearwater Beach vacation experience."

So, if you want to see what a concierge does, drop by the lobby of the Sheraton Sand Key and just watch.





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~ APPETIZERS ~

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Seafood-Stuffed Mushroom
Shrimp and crab stuffed mushroom, topped off with a very light basil cream sauce

~ ENTRÉES ~

Fatale Con Pollo
Bowtie pasta, chicken, spinach and sun dried tomatoes in a roasted garlic cream sauce

Lobster Cozze Fra Diavolo
Two 4oz. Main Lobster Tails served with mussels over fettuccini pasta in a spicy light plum tomato sauce

Grouper Rolando
Fresh Black Domestic Grouper stuffed with shrimp, crab, ricotta and spinach with a light basil cream sauce. **OMG!**

TJ's Destination Filet
Pan-seared and baked to temperature, stacked with a grilled onion and portobello mushroom, topped with port wine demi-glacé, then finished with a 5oz. lobster tail on top

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WHERE PINELLAS COUNTY STANDS WITH BUSINESS RECRUITMENT

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner



Pinellas County recently hosted the second Pinellas County Economic Leadership Symposium in April to bring together thought leaders from across the nation to share their insights with local leaders in business and government about what economic drivers attract new and economically diverse businesses to an area. Part of the symposium was a review of a recent study commissioned by Pinellas County Economic Development to assess our county's ability to attract high-wage jobs by way of corporate recruitment. Now, you might think that we would fair very well. Who wouldn't want to move to sunny Florida and live in paradise? But, the answer to the question is more complex than you might think.

When choosing a location, companies hire site selectors to evaluate a multitude of quantitative and qualitative factors that play a role in a business's decision-making process. Examples are:

- Demographic trends
- Is the area growing or shrinking in population?
- Workforce availability
- Does the area have the employees with the necessary skills?
- Logistics
- Is the region centrally located or easily accessible?
- Operating Costs
- What would it cost to operate over one year or 10 years?
- Available real estate
- Is there "shovel-ready" real estate?

These are just a few of the factors that go into the decision to locate a business in a new region. So, how does Pinellas County stack up against other areas of the country?

The study looked at attracting corporate headquarters, financial services businesses and advanced manufacturing businesses. While Pinellas County competed well with other areas in the country for corporate headquarters and financial services businesses, we do not compete well in attracting advanced manufacturing companies. Comparable areas like Atlanta, Greensboro or Greenville do much better due to the availability of competitive industrial real estate options. In other words, we don't have shovel-ready sites for these businesses to build their preferred type of facility. In our area, these highly technical companies with many facility requirements would have to adapt existing space to their needs at an added expense. Along with our peninsula-on-a-peninsula location, sunny Pinellas County doesn't look so sunny to companies concerned with ongoing operating costs for shipping and initial costs for retro-fitting an outdated facility.

But, overall, Pinellas County does have strengths to offer companies looking to locate here. The report stated that our community presents well to prospective businesses and offers an attractive option for corporate expansions and relocations. We offer corporate headquarters and financial services businesses good real estate availability that is effectively priced in, mostly, the Carillon area. And, we are supported by a great team at our economic development department.

Although we want to see a sunnier report, we know that we need to keep working towards the goal of smart redevelopment to keep attracting corporate and financial businesses and the goal of assembling land in large enough parcels to attract advanced manufacturing companies to our county. After all, it's about attracting and retaining the highest-wage jobs across diverse types of businesses that grow a strong and resilient economy so our local workforce can thrive.

To see the study results presentation and video links of the entire symposium, visit www.pinellasbydesign.org/2017symposium.htm

SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON UNDERWAY

Beach residents and visitors reminded to take precautions protecting nests until Oct. 31

Sea turtle nesting season is underway, and in order to practice superior environmental stewardship, Pinellas County reminds beach residents and visitors in beach communities to keep conditions safe for sea turtles to thrive.

Females generally nest from early May through August with turtle eggs typically taking between 50 and 60 days to hatch.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitors nearly 26 miles of coastline and reports on sea turtle nesting activity. The staff engages in early morning patrols to locate new nesting sites and late night patrols to check existing nests for hatchlings. They also watch the nests from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. to make sure that hatchlings make it to the water safely. Do not pick up hatchlings heading toward the water, shine lights or use photo equipment with a flash. Hatchlings use starlight and moonlight reflecting off the water to find their way to the ocean, and if they become misled by artificial light, they can become disoriented and die.

In addition to checking the beaches every morning for signs of new nests, aquarium staff mark the nests and rope them off to avoid human disturbance. As an endangered species, loggerhead turtles are protected under federal law. Bothering their nests is illegal. To report the disturbance of a sea turtle nest, or report the sightings of turtles or hatchlings lost, stranded or wandering in the street, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement at 1-888-404-3922 or *FWC from a cell phone.

Most Pinellas County beach communities have ordinances in place prohibiting lighting that casts glare onto the beach during turtle nesting season, which ends on Oct. 31.

During nesting season, residents and beach visitors should do the following:

- Turn off outside lights, draw drapes and avoid using flashlights or fishing lamps on the beach.
- Remove obstacles such as sand castles or sand pits that may make it too difficult for hatchlings to make their way to the shoreline.



- Keep the beach clean. Eliminate trash items that may entangle baby hatchlings and adult turtles.
- Do not approach or harass adult turtles as they make their way back to sea.

- If residents spot turtle tracks or what might be a nest, and it does not appear to be protected by stakes or ribbon, call the Clearwater Marine Aquarium at (727) 441-1790, ext. 1.

By obeying the law and following some simple guidelines, residents and visitors can greatly improve the chances of sea turtle survival.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium reports that 2016 was a record year for nests and events that impacted them. The area was host to 318 turtle nests with more than 13,000 hatchlings released into the ocean last year. Tropical Storm Colin and Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew damaged and destroyed several nests.

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NATIVE BUZZ

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

Have you ever wondered if we have native bees in Florida? We do, and a lot of them! We actually have hundreds of native bee species buzzing around and they are quite different from the non-native European honey bees we hear so much about.

Nation-wide there are over 4,000 species of native bees, and here in Florida there are over 300! Bees can be divided into two categories, honey bees and native bees. Honey bees were brought to the Americas by European settlers and thus are considered to be non-native species. These bees are eusocial meaning they work and live together for survival in a colony of thousands. Honey bees are very protective of their colony and will risk their lives to defend it, using their stingers to discourage intruders. Their colonies are built out of wax honeycomb, which the bees construct and this is where our honey comes from. Honey bees are generalists, so they can feed on the nectar of a variety of flowering plants, which is why you can find a lot of different types of honey in the market: orange blossom honey, wildflower honey, tupelo honey, saw palmetto honey, gallberry honey, and the list goes on. To produce honey from European honey bees, hobbyist and/or commercial producers need unique equipment, supplies, and gear to be successful. Native bees on the other hand are quite different.

Native bees are mostly solitary, living in a narrow nest either below ground or in wood cavities near the ground, and most of them don't make any honey. They also differ from the honey bees in that native bees are often specific pollinators, attracted to particular plants, which the bee needs for food and the plant needs for pollination. Although people are often fearful of the sting of bees, many of the native bees

are often stingless or will only sting if annoyed or feel their lives are threatened. It is easy to create habitat to attract native bees and it requires little to no management once established if you wish to attract these native pollinators to your yard. Some common native bees you might see in your yard include: Bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.), Carpenter bees (*Xylocopa* spp.), Metallic Sweat Bees (*Halictidae*spp.), Leafcutter Bees (*Megachile* spp.), Digger Bees (*Andrena* spp.), and many more.

You can encourage native bees to your yard by:

- Stopping use of insecticides
- Leaving bare soil in undisturbed areas so bees can dig their nests and tunnels
- Leaving some stumps and logs so the wood borers have a place to nest
- Planting native plants and nectar plants that bees love such as: saw palmetto, seagrape, wild coffee, goldenrod, Walter's Viburnum, Pennyroyal, Blazing Star, Powderpuff, Carolina wild petunia, tick-seed, and blanket flower.
- Building a bee house visit: <http://bit.ly/BuildABeeHouse>

Bees provide great benefits to us. Eighty percent of flowering plants around the world are pollinated by native bees, and one out of every four bites of food people take wouldn't be possible without the help of bee pollination. So let's do our part to help keep these very important pollinators around for generations to come!

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CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB IN CUBA



The race Crew left to right: Ed Proefke Jr., Larry Steele, Gerard Kane, Hugh Ott, Marianne Hallas and Pierre Maneri t Moro Castle at the entrance to Havana harbor.

February 28, Clearwater Yacht Club Commodore Edward Proefke Jr. and crew raced Ed's 34' Beneteau from St. Petersburg to Havana. While in Havana at Marina Hemingway, Ed and crew met Commodore Jose Miguel Escrich, Commodore of Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba. Upon

learning that Ed is the current Commodore of Clearwater Yacht Club, Commodore Escrich invited him back to Cuba the weekend of May 19 – 21 for sailing and nautical events, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba.

Ed and a group of Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) members traveled to Cuba to join in honoring Hemingway International Yacht Club on this anniversary. Commodore Ed Proefke led the excursion and presented his counterpart, Commodore Escrich, with a plaque from CYC that commemorated the historic occasion.

Over 300 people celebrated at the Hemingway International Yacht club on the evening of May 21. CYC members included Commodore Ed Proefke Jr., Nancy Lloyd, Michael Delk, Board member Mary Kay Delk, Vice Commodore Collin Heimensen, Abbey Heimensen, Board member Gerard Kane, Michelle Kane, Deb Mattson, Past Commodore Tim Roberts, Terri Roberts and Past Commodore Tish Wold.

Patrick Hemingway, grandson of Ernest, was present on behalf of his family. Representatives came from France, South America, the Conch Republic, Marine Max, Seven Seas Sailing Association and the Marine Manufacturers Association.

Other yacht clubs in attendance included Sardinia (Italy), Dallas (TX), Old Dominion (Alexandria, VA), Saint Petersburg, Key West, Fort Lauderdale, Marathon Key and Fort Lauderdale. The Cuban Tourism Minister spoke on behalf of the Cuban government.

The group enjoyed their interaction with the Cuban people and being able to honor the shared heritage of the sea with them.

NEW BELLEVIEW ENTRANCE SIGN

The new sign on South Ft Harrison at Belleview was built by JMC Development, the developer of the new condo village on the site of the former Belleview Biltmore.



At a cost of \$93,000, they used 11,580 original bricks from the Belleview Biltmore hotel. The 120 years bricks were trimmed to reveal their natural beauty to make a historic connection between the hotel's celebrated past and the exciting future of the development.

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THE DOLPHIN TREE

Char Nelson's home, at 129 Live Oak Lane, in Harbor Bluffs may not be waterfront, but it has dolphins thanks in part to a diseased oak tree.

Originally, Nelson planned to have the dying tree removed from her front yard. Then one day, she had the idea of turning it into a piece of yard art honoring her husband.

"My husband Dave, passed away a year ago," says Nelson. "We had a boat and during our boat rides, the dolphins always followed us in the Intracoastal. Dave loved to see them jumping behind the boat."

"When oak tree was starting to die, I called a company to cut it down," she explains. "Then in the process I got this idea and told them to stop." They were down to about 12 feet off the ground. I searched online for a wood sculpturer and found Keith Carroll; he lives across the state in Melbourne."

"Char called me and sent photos of the remaining tree trunk," Keith says. "She asked me if I could turn that into something with dolphins. Of course, I said yes, that is what I do."

Carroll drove over, chainsaw in hand, and met Char in the front yard. She was on her way to work. Eight hours later when she returned, the carving was done.

Carroll applied a coat of sealer on the dolphins and Char added a polyurethane paint, as Carroll directed. Finally, she added a permanent gold-plate proclaiming the finished piece "Dave's Dolphins" and giving Carroll his due credit.

If you want to see more of Keith Carroll's work, you can find him on Facebook.com at Wood Carvings by Keith Carroll or call him at 321-432-8783.



CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA Leadership Change After 36 Years

Join Chapel-By-The-Sea, Sunday July 2nd and meet their new Reverend Doctor Rhonda Blevins, and her family, husband Terry, and children, Jake (9) and Rhys (3). Enjoy morning refreshments at 11am during a meet-and-greet immediately following Pastor Blevins very first sermon at the 10am Chapel Sunday Service.

The public is invited to enjoy this very informal gathering and the always friendly attitude and atmosphere of the Chapel. Everybody is always welcome to attend this Clearwater community beach church.

Come and enjoy Rev. Blevins' first sermon, a morning coffee reception or both – you will be most welcome. Chapel-By-The-Sea is located in Clearwater Beach at 54 Bay Esplanade. Call them at 727-446-0430 for more information.



PINELLAS COUNTY BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROGRAM.

By U.S. Congressman Charlie Crist and Janet C. Long,
Chairman of the Pinellas County Commission

Pinellas County received good news last week from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – almost \$30 million in federal funding is now available to renourish up to 10.5 miles of our beaches. Beach renourishment is critical to protecting our coastline and our economy. We have some of the best beaches in the world, visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists each year, which provide unrivaled recreational opportunities for everyone and important natural habitat and nesting grounds for shorebirds, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Successfully protecting our beaches through this renourishment project depends on more than just funding. It also depends on the cooperation of property owners along all three sections of the project (Sand Key, Treasure Island, and Long Key-St. Pete Beach). Pinellas County sent letters in January to owners of beach-front property along Sand Key where sand will be placed on private land. The letters request that owners sign easements to allow the nourishment activities and the beach in front of their properties to remain open to the public in perpetuity, an Army Corps legal requirement for the project to move forward.

Renourishment of our beaches is scheduled to begin this fall, but planning, engineering, and design work must be done quickly in order to put the project out to bid for construction, award the contract, and complete the scheduled work on time. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has asked Pinellas County to have all easements signed and in place by June 2nd to meet this timeline.

Without the signed easements, the Corps may be forced to leave segments of the beach project uncompleted. With a number of easements still outstanding, engineers estimate that more than 1.5 miles of the project will be bypassed. These sections of the beach could threaten the integrity of the project and leave those areas at greater risk of further erosion and personal property damage in the event of a severe storm or hurricane event. That's bad for homeowners, bad for tourism, and bad for sea turtles and other wildlife that call the beach home.

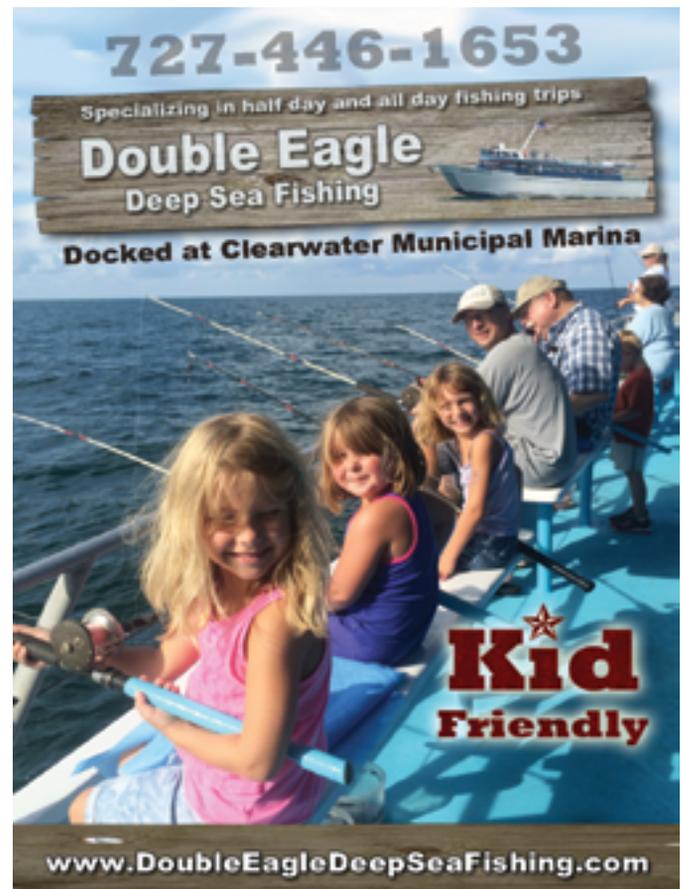
We write to assure property owners that these easements don't allow the Army Corps or anyone else to access your home. They simply allow work to proceed along the beach where new sand is needed. If you have questions, Dr. John Bishop, Pinellas County's Coastal Management Coordinator, at (727-464-8677), will be happy to take your call and walk you through the details of the easement.

The Pinellas County shore protection project is a national model for cooperation among all levels of government and property owners. To achieve the best possible design and construction that will deliver maximum storm protection, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, we need everyone's help. Thank you to those who have already signed the easements. And if you have not already done so, please return your signed easements today.



Clearwater Celebrates America
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REVEREND. HERBERT FREITAG RETIRES FROM CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA

Anne McKay Garris

Thirty-six years ago, when the Reverend Mr. Herbert Freitag became the minister of the Chapel-By-The-Sea, several things happened, among them, a lively new family was added to the church roles and humor in the pulpit became the norm.

When the Chapel-By-The-Sea was founded in 1949 by a committee of the Clearwater Beach Association, the founders were of a variety of denominations and decided the Chapel should be an interdenominational community church. Reverend Freitag's experience with interdenominational churches and participation in the Fellowship of Community Churches were considered helpful in understanding the diverse views of the congregation.

"I like working in churches where everyone is welcome, all from different backgrounds and experience," he says. "The variety is both a challenge and a benefit as we work together. I remember in my early years there were two ushers who became good friends. One was an engineer who had grown up in a church where the ushers were carefully trained in their duties and most dignified. They even wore special uniforms as they served. Our other usher was a farmer who hadn't grown up in any church, yet the two were good buddies, ushering together; the engineer in coat and tie and the farmer wearing striped pants and a plaid jacket."

The Freitag family was clearly a team. Shortly after their arrival at the Chapel, Herb's wife, Lorraine, accepted the responsibilities of Sunday School Superintendent and their two children, Eric and Kirsten, became active in the Youth Fellowship.

Eventually, Mrs. Freitag became Director of Christian Education, bringing many innovations to the position, among them a series of programs entitled, "Non-trivial Pursuit" where guest speakers shared information about the community, other faiths, their travels, and other topics. She was diligent in seeing that the activities of the Chapel congregation were known in the community and community events were shared with the congregation.

Asked for an example of the congregation's participation in community events, Reverend Freitag responded, "Look at the Chapel's involvement in Religious Community Services (RCS). The Chapel-By-The-Sea was a charter member of that organization and has been an enthusiastic supporter since its inception."

Under Reverend Freitag's leadership, this support has expanded to a yearly fundraiser, titled the "WalkWalk." People from all over join in a beach walk from the Palm Pavilion, down to Pier 60. They return to the Chapel for a gala breakfast and musical entertainment, plus a silent auction. Virtually all the members of the Chapel participate in some fashion at the WalkWalk and community businesses and organizations lend their support.



Reverend Freitag at WalkWalk

"The WalkWalk always includes T shirts for all participants. The names of our sponsors are listed on the back of the shirts," says Reverend Herb. "It's wonderful on Sunday morning after the event, when all participants wear their bright colored T-shirts to church services and a check for over \$10,000 is presented to RCS to support them in caring for the hungry, distressed and homeless



The installation committee for The Reverend Mr. Herb Freitag, December of 1981 (left to right) The Reverend Mr. Paul J. Wagner, president of the Florida Fellowship of Community churches; The Reverend Mr. Kirk Hammond, interim minister at Chapel-By-The-Sea; Mrs. Emmett Hough, president of Religious Community Services; Reverend Freitag; Mr. Earl Ayers, chairman of the Search Committee; Sister Jeannette, St. Brendan's Catholic Church on Island Estates; Miss Barbara Finch, secretary of Search Committee and Mrs. Adon Smith, Sr., chairman, Board of Directors, Chapel-By-The-Sea.

of our city." WalkWalk has raised a total of over \$100,000 for RCS in its eight years of operation.

Members of the Chapel participate in food drives and delivers Meals On Wheels to shut-ins, as well as volunteering at the homeless shelter. Reverend Herb also demonstrated his carpentering talents when a team from the Chapel participated in building houses for Habitat For Humanity.

It is generally agreed that one of Reverend Herb's greatest gifts to the members and friends of the Chapel was persuading superb musician Dr. Marilyn Michael, who oversees "everything musical" at St. Petersburg College, to also be choir director, organist and "everything musical" at Chapel-By-The-Sea. This includes excellent music every Sunday morning and frequent extra musical events by guest artists.

Reverend Herb is probably best known for his thoughtful sermons, frequently sprinkled with humor. "I have kept every one of them," he says, "Over 2,000. Some of them have been published in a magazine of sermons."

At a farewell party for the Freitags in May, members and visitors were given an opportunity to write their good wishes on special note paper to be posted on wall in the Fellowship Hall. Among the comments were: "What a wonderful world it's been, here at the Chapel. When I first moved here, your very first sermon you spoke of the importance of community. I felt you talked directly to me - to welcome me."

Another tribute read: "One thing you can say about Herb Freitag, he has Chutzpah! Case in point! His sermon was titled "Lady Liberty Cried," You closed with, "And maybe God did too!"

One parishioner summed it all up! "With a joyful noise in the choir loft; friendship in the fellowship hall; worship in the sanctuary and humor in the pulpit, it's easy to believe that, as Pastor Herb has said, it's fun to be a Christian!"

Reverend Freitag's successor is The Reverend Doctor Rhonda Blevins, ordained by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and experienced in working in interdenominational organizations. Join Chapel-By-The-Sea July 2nd and meet Reverend Blevins, husband Terry, and children, Jake (9) and Rhys (3) at a meet-and-greet immediately following her first sermon at the regular Chapel Sunday Service at 10am.

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AREA CONSIGNMENT STORES - WHERE TO FIND THEM

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The Belleair area is home to quite a few consignment stores. These stores sell secondhand items (typically clothing, furniture and accessories) on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the sale.

There is a big difference between a consignment store and a thrift store. Consignment stores normally carry a higher quality product that people have taken care of. Thrift stores usually sell donated items people no longer want. Consignment shopping may take a little education and change of habits. Many consignment shoppers stop in regularly, to check the inventory.

Here are our nearby consignment stores:

JANNA FINE CONSIGNER APPAREL **268 Indian Rocks Road N., north of The Plaza** **727-584-9222**

Lisa Hammock bought the store six months ago, but it has been open for 24 years. Specializing in fine women's apparel and accessories, the displayed clothing turns over every 60 days and is seasonally appropriate. Lisa takes in over 90 new products, weekly.

Consignors are limited to 15 items at a time. If their clothing does not sell in 60 days, and the client does not want their stuff back, Lisa donates it to Hospice. If it sells, the store takes a 60/40 split on most merchandise.

Lisa emphasizes there are two sides to this business—the consignors and the shoppers. Her store has been known to turn



many a consignor into a future shopper.

DE JA NEW BOUTIQUE **1495 Indian Rocks Road S., one mile south of West Bay Dr.** **727-216-3321**

This relatively new store, owned by Caren Chase, opened about four years ago. They specialize in women's clothing and accessories, but do carry some men's clothing, too. In addition to clothing, they sell jewelry, shoes, handbags and accessories. She has hundreds of consignors and over a thousand products for sale; most items are designer brands.



BELLEAIR PEACOCK FINE CONSIGNMENT GALLERY **249 Clearwater-Largo Road,** **Largo, north of West Bay,** **727-586-3888**

This store is not in Belleair, but it is nearby and is different than most consignment shops. New owner



Gregg Martin bought the 14 year old store in January.

The store features luxury, high-end furnishings with many vintage, highly collectible, one-of-a-kind items. They have a mixture of consignment and new furnishings, art and jewelry. They attend Estate Sales and offer their finds for sale in the store, too. They offer a 50/50 split, free estimates and pick up.



A NEW LOOK-CONSIGNMENT **904 West Bay Dr., Largo, across from Publix** **727-586-3665**

This store specializes in home furnishings including lamps, mirrors, and other decor. The store takes a 50/50 split and there is no time limit for your item's sale. Very seldom are there price reductions to sell a product.

Owners Kathy and Bruce have been in this business for twenty years and in this location for six. Bruce says this is a relationship business. They work closely with all their consignors and regular customers. Over the past six years, they have had over 2,000 consignors.

CHLOE'S CONSIGNMENT

**1260 West Bay Drive, Largo, west of Pinellas Trail
727-303-0883**

Having opened in April, this is the newest consignment store in the area. Owner Kay Davis used to work at Pat's Consignment, down the road.

The store specializes in high end and affordable furniture including accessories, mirrors, lamps, clocks and more. They have many things to display or to decorate your walls. Mention this story and receive 20% off your next purchases.



HOME AGAIN INTERIORS

**12025 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, near Pizza Shack,
727-595-0195**

This store has been operating for 20 years. Ruth Martin has owned it for 15 of those years. She specializes in furniture and has lots of art for sale. Ruth offers a 60/40 split on merchandise with pick up. If you bring it in it is a 50/50 split. They have 3,300 consignors. "I have a very good reputation in this business and many long time customers," Ruth says.



PAT'S HOME CONSIGNMENT

**1704 West Bay Drive, Largo, Near Subway
Sandwiches 727-588-2529**

The store has been in this location since 2007 and has had over 6,000 consignors over the years. Pat's products range from \$10 into the thousands. There are many high end products including a signed Mermaid table worth \$2,500. She does not take everything. "If I do not think it will sell, I tell my consignors that in advance," says Pat. Products start out with a 50/50 split; after 30 days that changes to 60/40.



**NOON LUNCH MEETINGS
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Organizational News...

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, Not-For-Profit organization of residents and businesses dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key by researching issues, distributing information and representing our members' views and positions

They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and maintain contact with the city and state departments that impact Sand Key. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, in The Sailing Center on Gulf Boulevard, and are open to all residents of member condominiums and businesses. Interested individuals are welcome to attend and observe. Next meetings are July 5 and August 3. E-mail new President Holly Gyles at skcainc@aol.com.

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thanks to the lead of Senator Jack Latvala (with the help of other State Legislature members), they received a grant to preserve and renovate the historic former South Ward School. However, the grant will not cover all the expenses required to open the 1906 building as a museum and to stop the other buildings deterioration. Therefore, they have applied for a smaller matching grant to replace the roof on building 2 and to finish the roof on building 3.

Their Thursday Tours continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays (all year) from 9am to noon. They are still working to open their new museum in the old South Ward School. Volunteers are doing much of the work and many local businesses have donated services.

Call Bill Wallace 446-2676 or Michael Sanders 434-1684, or visit ClearwaterHistoricalSociety.org for information.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit, and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They meet monthly on the second Monday. They no longer meet at CMA. See their web site for the locations.

Membership is \$50 per year. Businesses are \$60. Contact President Mike Anderson at Tide-Fan@BellSouth.net 777-2787, or visit myislandestates.org.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and welcomes women from the Belleair area. The 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, at 11am, at the Clearwater Downtown Library. Lucile Casey is the 2017 President.

They recently awarded their \$2,000 Daisy Grants to five local charities; these charities had applied for the grants for a specific purpose. The Grants were awarded to The Lighthouse of Pinellas, Inc., Religious Community Services, Grace House, The ARC Tampa Bay, Inc., College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. and St. Vincent dePaul Community Kitchen and Resource Center, CCSP. They are accepting new members; information is available online, as well as on Facebook. For more information, contact Martha Hickey at 813-765-6219 or visit ClearwaterCWC.org

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

They meet on the third Friday of the month, at the Belleair Country Club for lunch at 11:30am. Call Cathy Athanson at 510-7135 or email her at Dubinwv41@Gmail.com.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Club continues the tradition of offering a temporary summer membership program, running from May 1 through Sept. 30, in which new members pay no initiation fee and dues of \$125 per month. There is no minimum food expense required. For information, call GM Tom Brusini at 727-447-6000.

Last month they had many events including: ARC event, Blessing of the Fleet, Double Eagle Fishing Trip, Dockside Fish Fry and Potato Races. Upcoming events include:

- June 17 - Jimmy Buffet Party
- June 18 - Father's Day Party
- June 20 - Book Club
- June 22 - Bingo Night
- July 1 - Red, White & Blue Dock Party
- July 10-21 - Summer Sailing Camp
- July 13 - Trivia Night
- July 15 - Dinghy Poker Run

Chartered in 1911, this is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs and is known as the most fun, family friendly Yacht Club in the area. You do not need to own a boat to join. Half of their members don't have one. Most social activities center around parties in their own restaurant or at their waterfront Tiki-Bar. Visit Clwyc.org, e-mail Office@CLWYC.org or call 447-6000.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

This social club began as a small club for the Island Estates neighborhood, now it has many members who live off the Island. They enjoy social events almost every month and welcome new members. They are planning a fish fry in July and are going on the Clearwater Beach Pirate Ship August 5th. For information, contact Mary O'Connor at 871-1881. For membership e-mail Sanders@Gmail.com

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Their summer camps began the first of June. Call for details. The CCSC 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.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

The Club takes the summer off, and the festivities begin again in September 2017. At their last meeting before their break they proudly awarded five scholarships to Clearwater High graduating senior young ladies:

1. Xhulia Fiku: University of Florida, Business Administration. GPA 4.7. She plans on being a lawyer.
2. Selvia Mikhael: St. Petersburg College, Degree in Chemistry. GPA 3.51. She plans to work toward being a Pharmacist.
3. Sophia Ann McCray: University of Florida Major, Pre-Med. GPA 4.45. She plans on becoming a surgeon.
4. Rita O'Neil Memorial Scholarship: Desirae Vanhorn: Penn State University Major, Science: GPA 4.53. She plans on being a Doctor.
5. Marie Wadsworth Memorial Scholarship: Hailey Woolridge: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Major, Degree in Business. GPA 4.18. She plans on being an Accountant with a minor in Investigative Fraud.

Membership is open to all. Dues are \$20; call Joan Landreth at 812-8078. To receive monthly e-newsletters visit islandestateswomensclub.org. Newcomers are encouraged to call Welcoming Committee Chair, Amber Davis, at 727-743-2722. Call President Lynn McCaskill at 430-1911.



CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

8th Annual Restaurant Week

The 8th annual Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week was a huge success. Thousands of people submitted their votes on their dining experience. The restaurants tell us they saw many new and familiar customers eating in their restaurants.

The whole point of this event is to encourage our locals and entice our visitors to come to the beach and dine out after Mother's Day. It worked! Planning is already underway for the 9th Annual Restaurant Week, which will be held May 14th-24th 2018

And the Restaurant Week Winners are:

- Best Chef: Hector Hernandez, Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Best Appetizer: Salty's Island Bar and Grille
- Best Entrée: Ocean Hai at the Wyndham Grand
- Best Dessert: Spotted Donkey Cantina
- Best Overall: Ocean Hai at the Wyndham Grand
- Best Server: Yudis Avila at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Best Bartender: Matt Moscato at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Chairman's Award: Mike Mastruserio of ProForma Communications

Business of the Year Awards

Each year, the Chamber awards local businesses. This year, the awards were issued at the Annual Chamber Dinner held at the Opal Resort, June 6th.

- Small Business of the Year: Reel Deal Sport Fishing
- Large Business of the Year: Wyndham Grand Resort
- Non-Profit Business: Sunsets at Pier 60
- New Business of the Year: Opal Sands Resort
- Volunteer of the Year: Carolyn 'CC' Veltre
- Hero of the Year: Rick Norberg, Chairman, Restaurant Week.



Steve and Heather Hunsucker, Reel Deal Sport Fishing Small Business of the Year

BLOOD DRIVE AT FAIRFIELD INN JUNE 28

Get paid to give blood...with gifts!

This Neighborhood Newsletter is teaming up with One Blood, Fairfield Inn & Suites, and other beach businesses to help collect blood for the community. On June 28, the Blood Mobile will be parked at The Fairfield Inn at 650 Bay Esplanade from 11:30am to 4:30pm. Tour the new hotel and enjoy after donation refreshments in their new dining area. Everyone donating will receive a discount certificate to ClearSky Café, Brown Boxer Sports Bar, Clearwater Paddle Board Company and more.

When participants mention this newsletter, they will also be included in the \$500 grand prize drawing! The Prize package includes a one night stay at the Fairfield Inn (value \$200), a \$100 BayStar Restaurants gift certificate, \$50 Clearsky Cafe gift certificate, \$50 Brown Boxer gift certificate, a \$100 Clearwater Paddle Boards gift

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 2017 / 2018 SEASON

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certificate, Recipes of the Best Beach Restaurants cookbook (value \$20), and more. But you must mention this newsletter to be entered in the contest!

All donators will receive a free OneBlood T-shirt, a free wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening and of course the opportunity to help save a life.

Please register in advance (if possible) at OneBloodDonor.org. The blood mobile will do this again on August 30th in Sand Key.



Organizational News...

NEWCOMER CLUB

Are you an area newcomer and just have not been able to meet people? Try joining the Welcome Newcomer Club. This is a social club to help relocated residents develop new friends. But you do not have to be a newcomer to join. The ladies meet monthly at different restaurants and country clubs for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and theater shows. The next luncheon is July 11: East Lake Woodlands Country Club. Please RSVP with Ginny by calling 365-3493 or Mary Jane at 352-263-5518. Visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapel By-The-Sea Church but will not have any meeting during the summer. All members, or those wishing to join, are welcome to attend. Visit clearwaterFLBeachAssoc.com.

This neighborhood association promotes projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature. Membership is \$25/household and checks can be made payable to CBA and mailed to 294 Windward Passage, Suite 408, Clearwater, FL 33767. Contact Board Members Beth Prast at esphome@yahoo.com or David MacNamee DMacNav@TampaBay.RR.com, for more information.

IRB BOAT CLUB

June 24-25: Weekend in Tarpon Springs

July 22: Three Rooker

August 19: Marina Cantina Restaurants

In addition to events, the Club has informational meetings with guest speakers at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside Indian Rocks Beach) monthly, on the third Thursday. There are no meetings May-August.

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. Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or e-mail IRBboatclub@gmail.com. Visit www.IRBboatclub.com

CLEARWATER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

This all volunteer non-profit organization teaches boating safety courses. Courses emphasize boating safety skills. One of the best ways to have a fun boating experience is to "know before you go." If you are a new boater or an experienced boater in need of a refresher course, consider taking a boating course or attending a seminar. To join, email Peter Losi, Education Officer, LOSEAS13@Gmail.com.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They have 10 plots available for the next year, each 4x8 feet, on the corner of Betty Lane and Grove Street. Contact Howard Warshauer at CaptainHW@Gmail.com for more information.

They meet twice a month (October through May) at 405 Seminole Street. They also holds demonstrations on the 3rd Saturdays of the month. Garden Club members get in free at the Francis Wilson Playhouse on final rehearsal nights. For more information, contact President Maggie Custer at 488-8705, e-mail at mmcuster@outlook.com, or ClearwaterGardenClub.org.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

They meet monthly to plan new activities for Clearwater Beach. Anyone who enjoys working with people to put together special events and programs is invited to join. The next meeting will be at Noon, on June 27 at the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center. Join and become part of the excitement. Call Anne Garris at 727-446-4410.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

From October through April, the club features a monthly tea & informational meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Horticulture programs happen on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am, both are the Belleair Garden Club, 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in Belleair. Annual membership is \$50 per year per person. Couples pay \$75. Three month members \$30. Guests are welcome. Contact Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com or visit BelleairGardenClub.com.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on the third Wednesday at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Avenue at 11:30 to socialize. Lunch begins at noon. Their programs normally pertain to the Constitution or Revolutionary history. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Jim Phillips at 447-1616 or email to JPhillips1936@icloud.com.

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 short program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers and their spouses or widows. They welcome new members. To RSVP for lunch or to consider joining, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

Lunch meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays at Carlouel Yacht Club. There are also additional monthly social and community events.

Alexandra Everist, President, can be reached at 237-8037. ClearwaterBeachRotary.com.

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN. OF BELLEAIR

They welcome members who wish to join the 18-hole group. The WGA has a full calendar of events October through April. For information, please contact the Belleair Pro Shop at 727-442-0229 or www.belleaircc.com.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

They meet on the third Monday of every month at Acropol Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Road in Largo at 7pm. Meetings feature guest speakers and candidates. Call Mary Lou Ambrose at 433-4045 or visit www.LargoDemocrats.com.

ISLAND ESTATES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Island Estates Tuesday Luncheon Club meets weekly. This organization goes back 50 years. Contact Robert Landreth at 812-8078 or email at RobertNL@AOL.com.

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

They welcome new neighbors to join the group as they move into the Carlouel neighborhood. They admit they are the smallest and least active HOA in the area, however, they do have a few events. To participate, please call Sue Williams at 446-4471 or visit their new website, full of history, weather and events, www.MyCarlouel.com.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

They meet monthly on the first Friday, with issue appropriate speakers. There will be NO meetings in July and August. Meetings are for lunch at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club, and normally cost \$22 (pay at the door; no credit cards). RSVP for meetings to Mary Miskin at 453-2630 or Renatta Cochran at 595-6678. Get more information at BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com

FEATURED PROPERTIES FOR SALE



\$2,695,000

11 SAN MARCO ST, #1402
CLEARWATER BEACH, FL 33767
4 BD/3.1 BA/3,500 SQ FT



\$1,250,000

15 SOMERSET ST, #4-A
CLEARWATER BEACH
4 BD/3.1 BA/2,911 SQ FT



\$1,199,000

17960 GULF BLVD, #124
REDINGTON SHORES
3 BD/3.1 BA/2,050 SQ FT



\$929,000

15 SOMERSET ST, #5-C/503
CLEARWATER BEACH
4 BD/3 BA/2,711 SQ FT



\$798,500

521 MANDALAY AVE, #706
CLEARWATER BEACH
2 BD+DEN/2 BA/1,547 SQ FT



\$795,000

13525 BAY LAKE LN
TAMPA
4 BD/4.1 BA/ 4,409 SQ FT



\$695,000

530 S GULFVIEW BLVD, #707
CLEARWATER BEACH
3 BD/2 BA/1,803 SQ FT



\$679,000

618 MANDALAY AVE, #C
CLEARWATER BEACH
3 BD/3.1 BA/1,750 SQ FT



\$629,900

342 LARBOARD WAY
CLEARWATER BEACH
3 BD/2.1 BA/3,098 SQ FT



\$249,000

660 ISLAND WAY, #402
CLEARWATER BEACH
2 BD/2 BA/1,350 SQ FT

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