



BRIDGING THE BAY



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH WOMAN NAMED SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE

Parades are fun. Meeting famous entertainers, politicians and beauty queens is pretty neat. But riding in a brand new convertible across the bridge you named is — priceless.

Sixty three years ago on Labor Day, 1954 Virginia Seymour basked in her 15-minutes of fame as she was rewarded for her entry in a nationwide contest to name Florida’s engineering marvel that crosses the entrance to Tampa Bay; The Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce received permission from the state highway department to organize the contest to name the fifteen-mile long connection between southern Pinellas County and Manatee County.

The promotion received a surprising amount of attention. More than 20,000 entries from every state in the Union, the District of Columbia and Canada were submitted. Tourist agencies and travel clubs added the “spectacular” two-lane bridge to their lists of “must see” places to visit. The judges chose Virginia Seymour’s idea, noting the fact that of the top 25 finalists, ten used “skyway” as part of the name. Adding the name of Florida’s primary product, “sunshine,” made the perfect combination.

The socially prominent young woman and her husband lived at 18610 Gulf Boulevard in Indian Rocks and were at one time involved in operating a small specialty newspaper. Virginia claimed her winning idea, “just came out of the blue.” Cecil M. Webb, chairman of the State Road Board made the formal presentation.

Her reward included a bouquet of roses, an assortment of discount coupons from publicity-savvy area merchants and publication of her picture in the official 100-page Sunshine Skyway commemorative book.

According to several friends, the key to the city presented to Virginia by St. Petersburg Mayor Samuel Johnson, was prominently displayed in her home throughout her life. She also earned a ride across the span in a Convertible Caravan, coordinated by promotion-hungry area Dodge dealers, as the special guest of Congressman Courtney Campbell and his wife. Campbell himself would later have a Tampa Bay causeway named in his honor.

The Sunshine Skyway was actually comprised of five bridges, ranging in length from a 336-foot structure at the northern tip of Terra Ceia Bay to the main 864-foot steel girder center span. The total length exceeded 22,000 feet and could withstand hurricane winds of all known measurable intensities. Annual traffic volume predictions of 750,000 were quickly surpassed, reaching twice that figure by 1957.

On the toll-free opening day thousands of cars waited for hours to travel over the \$22-million passageway. The lineup brought traffic to a standstill along 34th Street, Lakeview and Tangerine Avenues. All of these drivers and passengers would lay claim to being the “first to cross.”

By the end of the day, tollbooth operators had counted more than 15,000 vehicles. At 11 p.m., the free rides were over and the tollbooths got down to business. St. Petersburg resident Donald Davis, on his way home from Bradenton, was the first to pay the \$1.75 crossing fee at the Manatee station.

But that’s the easy, non-controversial part of this story.

continued on page 7

Story by Nevin D. Sitler, St. Petersburg Museum of History
Photo courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History

CREDITS



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CITY MANAGER Gregg Mims 595-2517

MAYOR - R.B. Johnson

COMMISSIONERS —

Cookie Kennedy Vice Mayor
Phil Wrobel • Phil Hanna • Ed Hoofnagle

Building Dept: Dan Weigner 517-0404

Planning & Zoning: 517-0404

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AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS 595-1038

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SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177

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PINELLAS COUNTY INFO 464-3000

COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

STATE:

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

GekoFest Gulfport 2

Labor Day Public Schools Closed 4

Grandparents Day 10

Patriots Day 11

Bucs First Real Game Miami 10

City Commission Meeting 12

Homeowners Happy Hour 13

Rock The Ribbon 5K/10K Morton Plant 15

Mobile Collection Seminole High 16

IRB Boat Club Meeting 20

Rosh Hashanah 21-22

Autumn Begins 22

Boat Club Intracoastal Clean Up 23

Boat Club Island Party 23

Yom Kippur 29-30

Super Boat Race Weekend 29-30

Art Show in IRB's 300 Plaza 30

OCTOBER

Fire Prevention Month

City Occupational Licenses Due 1

Clearwater Super Boat Races 1

Blessing Of The Animals Calvary Church 7

Blessing Of The Animals COTI 7

Rock The Beach Invasion 7

SPCA 3k Pet Walk 7

Wine Walk Belleair Bluffs 7

McGough Park Garage Sale 7

Hispanic Heritage Concert 8

Columbus Day Public Schools Closed 9

Coffee With A Cop 10

City Commission Meeting 10

Homeowners Happy Hour 12

Oktoberfest 14

Achieva Box Car Rally 14

Hispanic Heritage Concert Coachman 15

Stone Crab Season Opens 15

National Bosses Day 16

Public Schools Closed 16

Clearwater Jazz Holiday 19-22

St Patrick's School Fun Fair 19-22

Clearwater Stone Crab Festivals 20-22

Keep Pinellas Beautiful Clean Up 21

Indian Rocks Hallow-Fest 21

Keegans Stone Crab Event 27-29

McGough Park Owl-O-Ween 27

Country Jubilee Heritage Village 28

Johns Pass Seafood Festival 28-29

Feed the Critters Food Truck Rally 30

Halloween 31

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Closes 31

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
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Did You Know



ANITA RETIRES After working 39 years for the U.S. Post Office, Anita Deal, the long time front desk clerk at the Indian Rocks Post Office, is retiring. She started working for the U.S. Post Office in Tampa in 1978, but transferred to Indian Rocks 29 years ago. We wish her well in her next adventure and will certainly miss her!

RCS EVENTS THE RCS of Pinellas 3rd Annual Grand Gala is September 23 at Dunedin's Conny Center. Get more information at www.RCSGrandGala.com. Also, their 15th Annual Faces of Domestic Violence luncheon will be October 17 at Clearwater's Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Get tickets at RCSPinellas.org/Events.

AREA CLEANUPS The IRB Boat Club will clean the Intracoastal Waterway islands and shoreline on September 23rd from 8 - 10am. They need volunteers and boats. Call Bob Griffin 727-430-8300 to help. That afternoon, they will be hosting their annual End of Summer Island Party. Everyone is welcome!

The fall beach clean-up, co-sponsored by Keep Pinellas Beautiful and the City of IRB, is October 21st. Citizens canvas our beaches to pick up everything not disposed of in the trash cans—cigarette butts, straws, plastic bottle lids, etc. Show up at the County Park at 8am and you will be done by 10. If you want to bring a group, such as a scout troupe, call Public Works 595-6889.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Celebrating something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago, both churches in the city will have Blessing of the Animals services Saturday, October 7. Bring your dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, or any other pet. Calvary Episcopal, at 1615 1st Street will conduct their ceremony on the north side of the building at 9am. The Church of the Isles, at 24th Ave and Bay Blvd. will have their ceremony at 10am. You do not have to be a member of either to receive a blessing.

TUESDAY HOT DOGS Indian Rocks resident and Beach Food Pantry volunteer, Kim Soltis, noticed lots of kids in Kolb Park this summer. She worried they were not getting any lunch, and with the help of others, started Tuesday Hot Dogs. With a stand on the corner between Calvary Episcopal Church



and Kolb Park, she offered free hot dogs and drinks to the kids. It's Your Day Bakery supplied the condiments and drinks and helped cook. The church donated food and money. Special thanks to Chuck Pond and Dave Toll for helping out every Tuesday.

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PIECE OF THE BILTMORE

Do you want a chandelier from the Belleview Biltmore. You will find this one or others at Schiller's in Tampa. Most of the wood, windows, doors and other artifacts removed from the Biltmore were taken to Schiller's Architectural and Design Salvage, located at 1002 N. Rome Avenue in Tampa. They still have a nice selection of items from the hotel. Check them out at www.schillersalvage.com.



INDIAN ROCKS ART SHOW An outdoor art show in the business triangle is scheduled for Saturday, September 30 from 4 and 7pm. Sponsored by It's Your Day Bakery, Island Surf Shop and The Candy Kitchen, it will be held on the sidewalk of the 300 Plaza, south of Slyce Pizza. The Beach Art Center will provide art demonstrations and their artists will have goods for sale. Enjoy live music and a raffle of local art. Food, beer and wine will be sold. Proceeds benefit the Beach Art Center.

ROCK THE RIBBON RUN Plan to run in Morton Plant's Rock the Ribbon Run on Friday, September 15th. The event includes a 5K, 10k and Kids Dash, all on the Morton Plant Hospital campus. Proceeds benefit the Morton Plant Foundation. Get information at MPMF.org.

BIRTHDAY BASH Clearwater Marine Aquarium will celebrate Winter and Hope's Birthday Bubble Bash. Starting Saturday, October 7 through Sunday, October 15, kids (ages 3-12) who make a birthday card for Winter or Hope get in for \$9.99. The aquarium's Spectrum Theater will be transformed into a birthday bubble bash celebration for guests to enjoy.

NEW FIELD OF DREAMS The Little League's new playing field will be ready in September, after having been completely resurfaced and sodded, and improve drainage added. The field has been off limits during the late summer to allow the sod to take root, but is expected to be 100% ready to go by the first week of September—just in time for Fall Ball. The project cost \$110,000 and was budgeted under the Capital Improvements Budget this year.



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

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BELLEAIR JEWELRY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Belleair Jewelry's owner Deborah Wells got her first taste of selling jewelry while working for minimum wage in St. Pete Beach behind the counter at the "House of Charles" jewelry store. She was in her late 20s then. Her low wages included no commission and when she asked her boss why, he replied, "because I don't have to!"



Wells later worked as a night auditor at the Buccaneer Hotel in Treasure Island. The owner gave her a little storefront, she called Debbie's Den that doubled as her office, where she opened a small gift shop. She made small charms, such as painted silver dollars and seahorses. "I was amazed how many I sold," says Wells. About the same time, she became a registered goldsmith. "That took some time and some training," she adds.

In 1987, Wells leased a small space in the Bluffs' Shopping Center (near today's Cody's) and opened Custom Jewelry Creations. In the beginning, she was the only employee; eventually another sales person and a goldsmith were added.

"I approached the building's owner about buying the entire strip center," Wells remembers. "I did not have that kind of money but I figured I could borrow it." The owner refused, so she found a larger shop across the street in the Bonefish Plaza (before there was a Bonefish) in the space now occupied by Kahwa Coffee. With the move, she changed the name of her business to Belleair Jewelry. She stayed there for about 20 years before moving to her current location, west of Bonefish, seven years ago.

Belleair Jewelry, now in its 30th year, does not just buy and

sell jewelry - they make it too. They are well known for their custom designs. "You bring us a piece of metal and an idea - and we will make it into something special," Wells says with pride.



"We have three working goldsmiths. Jim has been here for over 14 years. We are here because of our loyal customers. We have had many well-known residents - even movie stars - who keep coming back to Belleair Jewelry. We love the people who live in our Belleair community, but many of our long-time customers come from surrounding cities or are snowbirds who stop by when they are in town."

Belleair Jewelry has been very active in the community as life members of Ruth Eckerd Hall, Festival of Trees, the American Heart Association and numerous other local organizations.

"Debbie is a great boss," says Carol, who has worked with her for 25 years, "and our customers are the best. They come back and recommend us to their friends and family. We see their kids growing up, who are shopping here too. They seem to respect our quality, service and pricing."

Find Belleair Jewelry at 2957 West Bay Drive, just west of Bonefish Grill. Call them at 584-0157.

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SKYWAY BRIDGE, Continued

The Sunshine Skyway moniker stuck for 16 years. However, in 1970 the Florida legislature approved a bill introduced by a Clearwater legislator to name the 4.3 mile bridge section after long-time state engineer W.E. "Bill" Dean. A sign bearing the name of this nationally renowned pioneer in concrete bridge construction was positioned over the original main span and a bronze plaque was placed in the park at south end of the causeway.

The next year, 1971, a second "twin" span was completed and opened to the public. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) records indicate that the new structure actually had no name, just a project and inventory number. It was this bridge that was badly damaged in the deadly collision of the freighter Summit Venture in 1984. Thirty-five people were killed; the entire state was stunned.

Traffic once more reverted to single-lane, two-way traffic on the original 1954-built bridge. And almost immediately plans got under way for funding the third generation iconic structure that today towers over the bay.

Opinions over the "correct" names were varied and led to some opinionated, if not heated, comments. When interviewed in the mid-1980s, a 73-year old Virginia Seymour insisted, "My bridge was and always will be the Sunshine Skyway Bridge." She never did approve of the W.E. "Bill" Dean recognition.

Pursuing an engineering interest similar to his father's career, William L. Dean had his opinion on the matter as well; but was more willing to compromise. The younger Dean was employed by the firm responsible for dismantling the old bridges following the Summit Venture accident. He told reporters that because his dad was as much of an avid fisherman as he was a bridge building expert, a more appropriate tribute might be to name one of the Skyway fishing piers in his father's honor.

Following his 1962 retirement, the senior Dean worked as an engineering consultant for FDOT. Three years later he suffered a fatal heart while inspecting the Hathaway Bridge in Panama City. As recently as 2012, FDOT includes a Bridge Engineering Award in honor of him as part of their annual employee recognition program.

Today, the golden cable-supported structure is officially known as the Bob Graham-Sunshine Skyway Bridge, recognizing the efforts of the former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator who led the way in funding for the project. But, for clerical clarity in its 215-page bridge inventory, FDOT simply lists the Sunshine Skyway Bridge as number 150189.



Virginia Seymour with her husband J.C.
Photo by the St. Petersburg Times

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Real Estate News

REAL ESTATE SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT Honor Student, Dropout or Scholar

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



Everyone is an expert when it comes to real estate. Whether a licensed agent or a cum laude graduate of the Academy of Money-I-Lost-On-Real-Estate, everyone knows something about the industry. Some even think they know it all. And, for every expert opinion, on every facet of real estate, one exists to totally contradict it.

Expert A: Investors are our friends.
Expert B: Investors are our foes.

During the recovery, cash-rich investors drove prices up, making it difficult for the non-investor to purchase at a fair price. But, these friends/foes also kept the real estate crisis from going totally off the rails by buying foreclosures and renting them. In the next 3-5 years, investors are expected to begin a slow sell-off to provide an influx of much-needed inventory for buyers who now, unfortunately, face escalating prices and higher mortgage rates because of the wait.

Expert A: Another real estate bubble is right around the corner.
Expert B: No real estate bubble is in sight.

Those who experienced the last bubble will always fear another, much like Depression-era folks who still wash out baggies, just in case. Nationally, home values could exceed the '07 peak in early '18 as fewer homes on the market continue to drive prices up. In July, the typical U.S. home was worth \$4,000 more than before the last bubble went kablooye. Banks have been selling distressed loans to nonbanks who are now beginning to foreclose. Fortunately, rents are so strong that investors aren't likely to fire up and sell off the foreclosures they bought for a song all at once. In Indian Rocks Beach, the average per sq. ft. price is up 2% from last year and 22% from the year before. The leveling off some predict for '18 appears to have begun a tad sooner in IRB but is more of a return to normalcy than a sign of a potential bust.

Expert A: It's better to sell your home/condo furnished.
Expert B: It's better to sell your home/condo vacant.

Rule of thumb: If your couch smells like a Cocker Spaniel, vacant is better. If it's good quality furniture arranged nicely and there's not too much of it, furnished is the way to go. That is also true of a larger home or one with floors/walls that "need attention." Strong proponents of "furnished" are why staging exists. The opposition says it just takes profit away from buyers to make the agent's job easier. In cases where a good cleaning and neutral paint will do the trick, don't stage. In this current seller's market, the added expense might only mean the difference between 30 days on the market versus 7 anyway. But, because so much real estate shopping is now done online, furniture does make it easier for cyber-lookers to judge room sizes, etc.

Which experts do you listen to? All? None? Enroll in the school of thought you choose to attend, then skip a few classes. Or, just let good old-fashioned common sense be your guide. And, if all that fails, flip a coin. If it comes up heads, go with tails.

Source: My Florida Regional MLS/Avg. sale price/SF-2015, 2016, 2017 (1/1-8/20/17)

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THE JAMES MUSEUM CELEBRATES CEREMONIAL "TOPPING OUT"



At the end of July, St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman and James Museum co-founder and Chairman Tom James marked the milestone occasion of the "Topping Out" of the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art when the final steel beam was raised, completing the 219 ft. tall steel frame, which will anchor the 105 ton stone mesa that will frame the building's entrance along the 100 block of Central Avenue, downtown St. Petersburg

St. Pete Mayor Rick Kriseman stated, "The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art will be a remarkable addition to the culture of the Sunshine City and is sure to become a new hub of activity and learning in our already bustling downtown."

St. Petersburg has been James home virtually all his life and when he and wife Mary decided to build a museum to house the best of their art collection, they wanted it in the heart of the city they call home.

"The Downtown Partnership is glad to see these new jobs coming downtown, but also the space for community gatherings that we need for the entire city," says Joni James, CEO of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership.

The James Museum will be the new, permanent home of 400-500 premier works of art selected from the more than 3,000 pieces acquired by Tom and Mary James over their 50 years of collecting. The 84,000 square foot museum will be bigger than the Dalí and include over 30,000 square feet of gallery space; a double height lobby with water feature; a Native American Jewelry collection, 6,000 square feet of rental event space, supporting both large events and break-out sessions; a commercial catering kitchen; a museum store and café; as well as all the spaces required to support and operate a 21st Century museum of this scale.

Project design director, Yann Weymouth, said, "The unique, never-before-seen design of the Museum has been directly inspired by Tom and Mary's extraordinary collection and vision. The architecture and the art both gloriously tell the story of the American West."

The James Museum's roots are from Tom and Mary James' undivided love both for culture and the city of St. Petersburg that has been their home. Tom began collecting while a student and when their travels took them west, they were captivated by the art, landscape, and wildlife of the West. They began to collect what moved them — art of action and attention to place made by contemporary artists. They collected for their pleasure, though with an aim to help living artists live by their art alone. Many of the artists became personal friends. Their collection is further enlivened with many works by local artists and their intended programming includes regional artist spotlights and guest lectures from renowned western and wildlife artists including members of the Cowboy Artists of America™. In addition, The James Museum intends a strong educational element in both adult docent education and youth education in the history of the American West and in wildlife.

The building also includes almost 35,000 square feet of leasable space, situated on the east and west sides of the project, which will activate both of those corners along Central Avenue.

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LIFE INSURANCE ONCE YOU ARE RETIRED

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

One of the first financial decisions made by many is to buy life insurance. This usually happens after getting married. You want to protect your family from your premature death. But now you are retired and you still have life insurance. What should you consider?



First, keep it assuming you can pay the premiums, but if your spouse doesn't need the money, you may want to change the beneficiary to the children/grandchildren. If it is a dividend paying policy, use the dividends to reduce the premium. Next, consider using it to supplement retirement income.

If you have a concern about long term care, then consider a 1035(a) tax free exchange to a new policy that provides an advance on the death benefit in the event you are confined to a long term care facility. There are issues to be considered before replacing life insurance including; commissions, fees, expenses, surrender charges, premiums, and new contestability period.

Life insurance proceeds are income tax free, but not estate tax free. How can you get it out of your estate? You can set up a life insurance trust and make a gift of the policy to the trust. If you live three years after the gift, it will not be included in your estate. It may be just as convenient to gift the policy to the children/grandchildren. You can also gift it to a charity where you will get a tax deduction.

But what if you don't want to keep the life insurance? You can cancel the policy and take the cash value. Check on the cost basis of the policy because any amount over this will be taxed as ordinary income.

What if you want to spread the taxes out over a period of time? Do a 1035(a) tax free exchange to an immediate annuity over a set number of years. If you do not need the income you can delay paying the taxes by doing the exchange to a deferred annuity.

Another approach is to consider selling your policy to a third party. In this case, an investor will buy the policy. The older you are and the less healthy you are the more the investor will generally pay you for the policy.

Like any asset you want to maximize its value. If you would like to discuss alternatives, we are pleased to provide a complimentary meeting.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chairman and CEO
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MY NEW BOOK "LIVE BIG"

By Richard Preece

"Live Big – Creating the life you never dared to dream" is based upon the Ten Priorities that I discovered while my children were attending Hyde School in Maine. They provide a tremendous practical framework for real life leadership, whether at work or at home. My goal in writing "Live Big" was to help anyone struggling to confront the tough realities that block them deep down from being the parent, spouse, or leader they aspire to be. Through sharing real life experiences, both my personal stories and those of others, the book provides a practical approach to handling day to day challenges at home or at work and creating the life you never dared to dream. It worked for me!

I currently work as an executive for a global investment management company. I have worked in Information Technology in leadership roles for over 35 years across diverse industries and geographies. During my career my passion has been "helping people be the best they can be." I am a firm believer in the philosophy of "having the right people in the right roles with leadership coaching and support results in passionate team members and delighted customer's." For many years I searched far and wide for leadership development tools and techniques; I read countless books, attended training classes, connected with senior leaders as mentors, but unfortunately none truly gave me what I was looking for. Until I found the Ten Priorities – then it all changed. After sharing with others at work and facilitating workshops around the world, the feedback I received was so positive I thought the best way to "get the good word out" would be to write a book.

Douglas Preston, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author had this to say about the book: "Live Big by Richard Preece is an absolutely life-transforming book. Based on the remarkable and effective principles developed over decades at the innovative Hyde School in Bath, Maine, Richard elucidates and enlarges on these principles through telling real-life stories about family, career, life struggles, and the search for meaning. If you feel vaguely dissatisfied with your life, if you are a parent struggling with family challenges, if you are stymied in your career and feel your life lacks meaning, then you will discover this book is going to change your life. I myself went through the Hyde program with Richard, and I can only repeat what he says in the beginning of this wonderful book: *I had a reawakening that I'd love you to experience.*"

Note: Richard and his wife Amber have been Indian Rocks Beach residents for nearly four years now and absolutely love it! He says, "Living on an island with a Key West vibe only 30 minutes to from his office is like heaven on earth." Live Big is now available on Amazon.

POLICE MEET & GREET

The City of Indian Rocks Beach is inviting the public to meet the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office deputies assigned to the "A" shift just prior to the regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. The PCSO deputies will be available from 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Indian Rocks Beach Civic Auditorium, located at 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard.

This is an opportunity for Indian Rocks Beach residents to meet and talk with some of the deputies assigned to the city.

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Bar & Restaurant News

NATIONAL COFFEE DAY

Celebrate National Coffee Day Friday, September 29, with a cup. Coffee, a beloved drink of millions, is so loved we now have all sorts of endearing nicknames, one of which, is "Cup of Joe." So how did it earn that interesting nickname? Its been around a long time, and there are several theories. One idea originates from a 1914 alcohol ban on Navy ships imposed by the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus "Joe" Daniels. After the ban, the strongest drink a sailor could get onboard ship was black coffee. Angry sailors called it a "Cup of Joe" in protest. A second theory is it became known as joe because joe is slang for the common guy, and coffee is the common man's drink. Either way, enjoy your cup of Joe on National Coffee day at numerous places in Indian Rocks.



KEEGAN'S STONE CRAB FESTIVAL SCHEDULED

The Annual Stone Crab Festival at Keegan's Seafood Restaurant will be October 27-29. They do not have any bands but instead have low, low prices on Stone Crab Claws for those three days—while supply lasts. Get more information at KeegansSeafood.com.



GROUPERS IRB CLOSED UNTIL OCTOBER After only six months, this small casual restaurant located at 1401 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach that specializes in steamed shrimp and \$1.75 beers has closed for the rest of the summer. They plan to reopen at the end of September.

CLOSED The final last call happened for The Sandbar in Indian Rocks Beach. The small pub / restaurant at 1309 Gulf Blvd, next to Nekton Surf Shop, lost their lease and closed in July. Owner Heather Boles, is returning to her previous health care profession. She donated all the restaurant's dishes and kitchen wares to the nearby VFW Post on Walsingham Rd. Landlord Pete Lopez says, "the space will be totally upgraded and remodeled. There are plans for it to reopen as a gastro pub with lots of TVs—and really good food, later this year."



E&E STAKEOUT CELEBRATES 32 YEARS

Eugen Fuhrmann opened "Eugen's Restaurant" in Belleair Bluffs in September of 1985. In 1995, he changed the name to E & E Stakeout when his friend Chef Erwin Scheuringer became his partner.

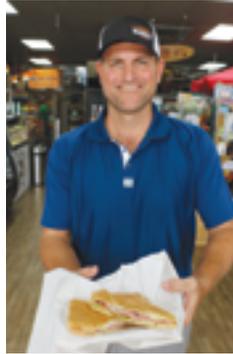
Eugen and Erwin have worked together many years, starting in Hamilton Bermuda at a restaurant called The Lobster Pot. Fuhrmann also owns Guppy's in Indian Rocks Beach. Find E&E Stakeout at the south end of The Plaza Shopping Center in Belleair Bluffs.

Bar & Restaurant News



MAGGIE MAE'S VOTED BEST LUNCH Last year they were voted Best Breakfast; this year they were voted Best Lunch. "I guess the customers are sleeping later," chuckles Allen Edger, owner of Maggie Mae's in Belleair Bluffs. No matter how you look at it though, customers love their food! Maggie Mae's located next to Bonefish Grill at 2961 West Bay in Belleair Bluffs, was voted #1 Place for Lunch by the Readers of the Belleair Bee (Tampa Bay Newspapers).

VOTED BEST CUBAN The votes are in and Belleair Market has been awarded the Readers' Choice Award Runner Up for the Best Cuban Sandwich in Pinellas County. It is the second straight year they have earned this honor. If you haven't tried their authentic Tampa style Cuban, stop in at 510 Indian Rocks Rd. N in Belleair Bluffs to try what many are saying is the best Cuban Sandwich in the Bay area.



When asked what makes Belleair Markets's Cuban sandwiches so good, owner Chris Scott explains, "It's the combination of authentic Cuban bread, baked daily in Ybor City, our homemade sauce, slow roasted, thinly sliced Pork marinated in my own recipe of rubs and spices, plus high quality salami, ham and Swiss cheese. Then, it's all pressed with a little butter and garlic." Belleair Market is open 7 days a week, 7am to 9 pm.



30 YEARS OF PIZZA This month, Bill Kaiser has been making pizzas for 30 years. Kaiser is the co-owner and manager of the Largo Hungry Howies at 14219 Walsingham Road. He started with Hungry Howies in 1987 and helped open the Largo store in 2000.

"In 1987, a large one topping pizza was \$3.99," Bill remembers. Today, that pizza costs \$6.99. To order a pizza from Bill, call him at 596-1400 and wish him a Happy Howie Birthday.

STEFANO'S STATUS IN SEMINOLE We have been following the reopening of the restaurant for months stating in previous newsletters that they were opening in May—then July. Stefan says he has many plumbing and permitting issues, but is finally working full speed ahead with hopes to be open by Labor Day. Find them in the Seminole Portofino Shopping Center, on Park Blvd east of 131st Street.

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OVERDOSE - FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

Since 2015, there have been 392 opioid-related deaths in Pinellas County. Unfortunately, the number is rising. The average 9.7 deaths-per-month in 2015 almost doubled to 17 deaths-per-month in 2016, which means a 78-percent increase in opioid-related deaths from 2015 to 2016.

This information, obtained from the Pinellas County Medical Examiner's Office, albeit staggering, does not reflect the average 150.3, 186.3, and 209.7 patients-per-month in 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively, whom Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has treated with Naloxone. Naloxone, commonly referred to as "Narcan," is an "opioid antagonist." The nasal spray, once administered, counters the effects of overdose and puts patients into immediate opioid withdrawal. Sometimes referred to as the "miracle drug," Narcan has, arguably, prevented another 5,296 overdose deaths since 2015.

The question: Why has the number of overdoses increased so drastically during the past few years? The answer: fentanyl

Fentanyl, which hit the Pinellas County drug scene in the early 2000s, has become prevalent within the last six to eight months. It is a powerful synthetic opioid similar to, but 80 to 100 times stronger than, morphine. To put this in perspective, the estimated lethal dose of fentanyl in humans is 2 milligrams. A one-gram sugar packet would contain 500 lethal doses.

When law enforcement eradicated the rampant "pill mills" that distributed oxycodone, addicts turned to heroin - and now, fentanyl - to satisfy their addictions. Although some choose to take fentanyl because its a cheaper, "cleaner" high, as described by informants, many addicts ingest the drug unintentionally.

"I think dealers are cutting their illegal drugs with the fentanyl to create more product at a cheaper price," said Narcotics Division Sergeant Jose Camacho. "That affects the addicts, because

they're taking the same amount as usual, but with the fentanyl added, it creates a deadly cocktail. They overdose and die."

This clandestine mixture puts at risk not only drug-users, but also deputies. When undercover detectives purchase narcotics - be it cocaine, heroin, Xanax, etc. - there is no longer a guarantee that is all they receive. Because fentanyl is transdermal, even touching it can result in dangerous side effects.

"Our biggest thing is evidence collection," said Narcotics Division Sergeant Matthew McLane. "The testing, how it's packaged, and how it's dealt with out there is where we're making changes."

Likewise, patrol deputies who pull over drivers for as minimal an offense as a traffic stop could potentially come into contact with airborne powder containing the drug.

"We don't have an opioid tolerance," said Narcotics Division Sergeant Joleen Bowman. "So it takes such a small amount for us to have a chemical, lethal reaction."

If citizens know friends or family members who purchase any type of drug off the streets, they should warn them about the potential dangers of fentanyl inclusion. Citizens must be even more cautious around any white, powdery substances they encounter and should call law enforcement immediately if they do. Simply put, the best thing the community can do to help the problem is "just say 'NO' to drugs."

Because the drug is primarily shipped from overseas, there are no "fentanyl mills" to target.

K9s are unable to detect the drug and it is equally lethal to them.

"There is no hub. We have to figure out how and where it's coming in, and that's always going to change." Sergeant Bowman said. "So it's going to be a process to learn how to get one step ahead on this one, but we're definitely trying to get there."

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GREASE - YOUR SINK'S WORST NIGHTMARE

Information from Pinellas County / Department of Solid Waste

The pipes in your home are like the arteries in your body. If they get clogged, the flow is reduced and eventually you have a problem. To prevent this, you should not pour grease down your drains

FOG is an acronym that stands for Fat, Oil and Grease, all of which will clog your home's pipes. FOG, the liquid (and solid) by-products of cooking, may come from beef, pork, lard, shortening, oils, butter, margarine and sauces. It clings to the inside of your home's plumbing and the pipes in the sewer system. Over time, this builds up, like plaque in your body's arteries, decreasing a pipe's diameter and slowing the rate at which waste can pass through, until it eventually prevents all waste from passing through.

It may be hard to notice a problem, until everything stops. The first sign is water slows down and accumulates when going down the drain. Then your sink may back up. The consequence can be an overflow of wastewater into your house (or even the neighborhood). This can be unpleasant, dangerous and unhealthy.

Once a blockage occurs, commercial drain openers are not a good remedy. They inject chemicals into our waste system and these chemicals in your pipes may be tough to remove. The best solution is to call a commercial plumber.

Here is an easy drain cleaning solution you can try: First use a plunger to start some flow. Pour ½ cup of baking soda down the drain. Add ½ cup of white vinegar and cover the drain for a while. The resulting chemical reaction may break down fatty acids and clean out your clog. **WARNING: DO NOT USE THIS** after trying ANY commercial drain opener—the vinegar can react with the drain opener product to create dangerous fumes.

The best way to avoid clearing these backups is to simply not put any FOG's down your drains. To accomplish that, after cooking use a strainer to separate the grease from cooking oil, and scrape the solids into your trash can. Pour the grease and fat into a disposable container. Place that disposable container inside a plastic bag and put that in the trash, too.

Remember, your home's plumbing is only meant to handle water! Your garbage disposal is not capable of handling fats and grease. If you are disposing for grease and oils down your drain, change your habits-- you will save yourself a lot of future grief and expense.

For more information on what to do and not do—call the County's Solid Waste Department at 464-4000 or see their web site www.PinellasCounty.org/Recycle.



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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."

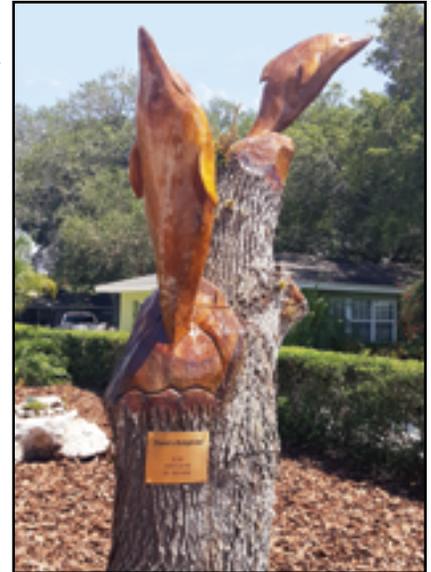
"When oak tree was starting to die, I called a company to cut it down," she explains. "Then in the process I got this idea and told them to stop." They were down to about 12 feet off the ground. I searched online for a wood sculpturer and found Keith Carroll; he lives across the state in Melbourne."

"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.



PREVENTING WATER DAMAGE

By Phil Wrobel

Non-weather related water damage is the second highest cause of home insurance claims (accounting for 19% of all claims). The issue has become so prevalent in Florida that Citizens has proposed a rate increase of 5.3% statewide in 2018 due to the surge in water claim losses that has increased litigation and payouts for the companies (it's up for review). Although most companies offer water damage coverage, putting these practices into effect is much easier than making a claim!

1. Be careful where you plant: some plants/trees have invasive roots that can grow into your pipes, sprinkler systems or septic tanks.
2. Clean Gutters are important-they keep water away from your foundation where water can seep into your home. No gutters, or clogged gutters, won't accomplish this.

3. Never pour grease down your sink- no matter how much you rinse it still congeals, clings to pipes, and can cause serious damage or blockage.

4. Excessive use of unclogging chemicals can eat away at pipes causing leaks. Drain snakes are inexpensive and a better option.

5. Keep an eye on your water bills- if they start creeping up, or are uncommonly high, that is a good sign there may be a hidden leak.

6. Check supply lines to sinks, toilets, appliances for signs of wear. This is where many water leaks start. They are inexpensive and easy to replace- they should be replaced every five years.

7. Turn off water supply when you leave for extended vacations.

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LEGENDARY BIRD SANCTUARY IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, one of the oldest and largest wild bird sanctuaries in North America, is in danger of reducing operations due to lack of financial support.

The not-for-profit, bird rescue and rehabilitation facility only has a few days' worth of food on hand at any given time and is no longer able to conduct bird rescues. Monthly operating costs, including the care and feeding of over 110 permanently injured birds on site, still exceed \$20,000, despite cutting expenses to a minimum.

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, a fully independent, successor organization to the previous sanctuary, relies completely on public support to maintain a small, dedicated staff to provide daily care. Seaside has administered critical care to over 1,300 sick, injured, or orphaned birds representing 128 different species in 2017, to date. The compromised birds are brought to Seaside by concerned citizens or were rescued by staff and volunteers from locations within 400 square miles of the Central Gulf Coast of Florida.

"We are at a critical time for the future of this great organization," said Andrew von Gontard, President and Director of Seaside Seabird Sanctuary. "We are only as strong as the support we receive from the Gulf Coast communities, Tampa Bay area, and beyond. Our goal in assuming operations in September 2016 was to continue a long-standing tradition of wildlife care and environmental stewardship, while being transparent every step of the way with our supporters and benefactors. Please help us to continue, the positive and nurturing work of which Seaside Seabird Sanctuary is capable."

While Seaside has made great progress in a short time, unfortunately, the Sanctuary is still not achieving the broad financial support needed to fully operate, much less expand outreach. "While we want to continue the original mission of saving seabirds, we need appropriate funding to do our best for the wildlife," said von Gontard.

The Sanctuary works closely with local partners, including Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue, whose President, Barbara Walker, said, "Every injured or sick bird that is rescued, rehabilitated, reconditioned and released is important to the environment and the balance of nature. The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary isn't just good for the area; it's a metaphorical step in the right direction for the whole world. Rehabilitation work is costly and relies on well-trained, dedicated staff, many volunteers and quality facilities. The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary's mission must continue in order to meet local and global community needs. This large, well-equipped seabird sanctuary is essential to the Tampa Bay area.

For further questions, contact Seaside Seabird Sanctuary by email at office@seabirdsanctuary.com, or by telephone at 727-392-4291.

Ways to help save the sanctuary:

- Online Donation seabirdsanctuary.com/donate.html
- Donate by mail, payable to Seaside Seabird Sanctuary
- Donate supplies from Seaside's Amazon wish list or drop off supplies
- Ask your employer about Matching Donations
- Include Seaside Seabird Sanctuary in your will or trust
- Sponsor capital improvements such as a new hospital roof or enclosure
- Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for fundraising ideas

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) public, non-profit organization whose mission is one of wildlife care, while promoting a sustainable approach to the environment and educational outreach to minimize injuries and sickness in birds.

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Business Briefs



WALSINGHAM PUBLIX REOPENS

The Publix on Walsingham Road, which was formerly an Albertsons store, has reopened. Earlier this year, it was demolished and rebuilt as a modern Publix store. It is now 46,000 square feet and has a new pharmacy. This is

the second area Publix that has been completely rebuilt. The Indian Rocks Road store was done a few years ago. The Belleair store on East Bay has undergone some renovations, but was not completely rebuilt.

ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS AMI Chairs now accepts reservations online at amichairs.com or by calling 941-357-6103. Now, your chairs and umbrellas will be ready when you get there. They are located at the Indian Rocks County Park access seven days a week, 9:30-4:30.

CLOSED Fun Ride Rentals, located at the corner of Gulf Blvd. and Walsingham Rd., next to Tropical Ice Cream closed. "We just weren't making it in Indian Rocks," says Sandra DeBerzinae, owner of Fun Ride. "However, we used this as an opportunity to open a second location in Clearwater Beach, underneath the new Edge Hotel. So you will still see their little red cars passing through IRB.

HILTON'S \$20-MILLION REMODEL

The Clearwater Beach Hilton recently completed a 20-month, \$20 million renovation. Highlights include new modernized guest rooms, impressive interior upgrades, two new pools, a new restaurant, new spa, new fitness center and a new Starbucks. "This is the most extensive renovation in the hotel's history," says Carlos Sanchez, General Manager. "We are extremely proud of the massive renovation and believe it epitomizes the hotel's legendary stature on Clearwater Beach."



ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF WEST BAY MOVED

Dr. Cynthia Stroup's Animal Hospital, which will be 10 years old later this year, moved, but only one block. The Animal Hospital is now inside the city limits of Belleair Bluffs at 2520 West Bay Drive. Visit WestBayVet.com for a list of their services.

DEJA NEW BOUTIQUE MOVES

This small consignment store, owned by Carmen Chase, moved from 1495 Indian Rocks Road to 926 West Bay Drive, across from Publix.

NEWS WANTED

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



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Business Briefs



BEACH ZONE OPENS Beach Zone is open for business. The big beach supply store, at the south end of the new shopping center next to CVS, opened September 1. There has still been no announcements yet as to who the tenants will be

for the other four spaces. There are a couple of people very interested, but nothing but the details are still being negotiated.

STILL FOR SALE The county owned property, just south of 18 On The Rocks has been for sale since December 2015. It has been put out for bids three times, the last of which was July 2016, but the bids have not been high enough. Now, they have divided the property into three parcels, and are taking separate bids on each.

The three parcels total .83 acres MOL. The rectangular site with 300 feet of frontage on Gulf Blvd. would be appropriate for a mixed-use development incorporating commercial and residential units. Interested persons should contact county employee Jim Just at 464-3925 or email him at JJust@PinellasCounty.org. You may also call the City of Indian Rocks Beach with any zoning questions.

118 ICE CREAM FLAVORS When Fun Ride Rentals moved out, Tropical Ice Cream expanded - big time. In addition to adding to their space, owner Craig Severson, is adding four new ice cream coolers with 42 new flavors of ice cream. That means he now has 118 flavors.



Severson says, "we now carry more flavors of ice cream than any other ice cream store in the United States!" The expansion also includes adding more seating, handicapped restrooms and a new game room for kids. He hopes to have it completed soon. Find them at the corner of Walsingham and Gulf Blvd.

LAUGHING LIZARD SOLD Indian Rock Beach's only Bed and Breakfast, owned by former City Mayor Bill Ockunzi, was sold. New owners, T&J Gonzalez Properties Management, are headquartered in Plant City. Ockunzi owned and operated Laughing Lizard as a B&B until last year. Gonzalez Properties plans to continue to operate it as a multi-unit vacation rental, with an office in the front. Currently, Gordon Realty House operates out of that location. Ockunzi moved to Safety Harbor.

SHELL GAS STATION TO REOPEN The long closed Shell gas station at the south end of town will be reopening as a Circle K Convenience store with gas. They

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Organizational News...

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted David Kline

THANK YOU CONNIE!

Director Connie Curran, the face of Calvary Episcopal's main mission, the Beach Community Food Pantry, has decided to step down from the daily task as Director of our wonderful community resource.

Working tirelessly, Connie has dedicated a large portion of her time in growing BCFP from serving a small number of clients in the past, to serving over 900 family members per month in 2017.

Connie oversaw the renovation of the pantry, including new freezers and refrigeration, which allowed us to serve more needy families. She directed our most successful fundraiser, *A Celebration of Giving*. She oversaw increased involvement with our fellow IRB volunteer groups and our community in general.

After four years as Director, and many more as a volunteer, Connie looks forward to spending more time with her friends and family. Fortunately for BCFP, Connie will continue in her capacity as a member of our management team as well as volunteering whenever and wherever she can. All of us affiliated with BCFP wish to offer Connie our sincere gratitude for her dedication and service to the community and our clients.

The BCFP has continued to serve an increasing number of community family members in 2017. The services that we offer to our needy clients are supported solely by the community through monetary and food donations as well as substantial hours donated by our all-volunteer staff. We sincerely appreciate those donations.

If you would like to support BCFP's good works through food and or monetary donations, please stop by the pantry during their hours of operation, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am to noon. You may also stop by the Calvary Episcopal Church office, 1615 First St., IRB, Monday through Thursday from 9 am through 2 pm. Interim Director, David Kline, can also be contacted at 727-418-1673.

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Danice Sarcone

Beach Art Center opens for the season with a watercolor workshop by London artist Stephie Butler, September 18-20. View our first exhibit of the season, *Summer Musings*, October 2 - November 10, artists may submit works September 25 & 26. Our most popular adult classes resume October 2, register online. BAC artists, instructors and artwork to be featured at IRB Local Art Festival, September 30 (sponsored by It's Your Day Café, Island Surf Shop & Candy Kitchen to benefit BAC). Watch for ticket sales announcements for our new Masquerade Ball on October 28th. Now's the time to start preparing small works for our Gift Shop and November Holiday Show & Sale. For details on all programs, to register for classes or be a member, visit beachartcenter.org. While you're there, we encourage you to join our mailing list and like us on Facebook to receive new announcements and updates.

IRB BOAT CLUB

The Club's informational meetings with guest speakers held at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) will resume September 21st. Held on the third Thursday of each month, they are open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

September 23rd, donate a couple hours of your morning to clean up our local islands and waterways. They need volunteers and boats! Then that afternoon celebrate the end of another great summer of boating with the Annual End of Summer Island Party.

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

Organizational News...

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by Katrina Vargas

It's that time of year again - the start of the Annual Big Game Raffle fundraiser!

- 1st place wins 2 tickets to the 52nd Big Game in Minneapolis, MN + 4 nights lodging + \$1000 cash
- 2nd place wins \$1000 cash
- 3rd place wins \$500 cash

Tickets are \$5 a piece or \$20 for five tickets and can be purchased from any Indian Rocks Beach Rotarian or call 727-418-1673.

The Grand Prize winning ticket will be drawn at the Annual Big Game Raffle Drawing Party on December 10, 2017 at Slyce Pizza. ANY ticket could be a winner, and ALL ticket proceeds benefit the charitable work of the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach, Rotary International, partner clubs, and affiliated non-profit organizations.

Good Luck! And let's get ready for some football!!

HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWS

Submitted by Nancy Ayers

POTLUCK LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 4

The historical society's fall potluck luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 at noon. You need not be a member to participate! Just bring a dish to share, and plan to enjoy traditional potluck food and good fellowship at the museum. Our very own Billy Bie, who is a natural story-teller, will take us back to the time when he was a child in Indian Rocks Beach in the early 1940s while the country was at war. His memories include riding his bike to Belleair Beach where fighter planes conducted training exercises, and school children collecting scrap metal for the war effort.

The museum is closed during the slow months of August and September, to give volunteers a little break. Visit the museum starting in October, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm for a fun and interesting experience! Admission is free but donations are accepted. It is located across from the post office at 203 4th Avenue.

ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by Tim Shears

OKTOBERFEST 2017 our annual fundraiser is not far away! Mark your calendars for October 14, 2017 from 11am to 7pm at Kolb Park www.oktoberfestonthebeach.com. There will be live music, food & drink, events, arts & crafts and some terrific vendors & sponsors.

Action 2000 Indian Rocks Beach (A2K) has had a busy summer improving and beautifying IRB. We updated the plantings to improve the look of our Key West Style pedestrian shelter at 17th Ave. & Gulf Blvd. and continue to maintain all our Gulf Blvd. projects.

Towards the end September, there will be a dedication of the Pergola at the 5th Ave Pocket Park where a plaque will be unveiled in honor of COL. James J Driscoll, the former mayor of IRB - for more information visit www.irbaction2000.com

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

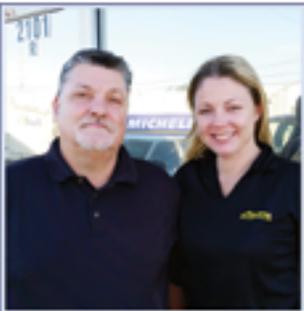
A2K seeks to transform the Gulf Boulevard Corridor and other adjacent commercial, tourist and residential areas into vital, thriving, attractive and desirable areas within which to live, conduct business, shop, dine, recreate & vacation.

www.irbaction2000.com/ or on Facebook - Action2000IRB. Action 2000 - Keeping IRB beautiful!

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Organizational News

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FRIENDS OF IRB DOG PARK

Submitted by Wendell Schott

We're all looking forward to the cooler days ahead. This summer it was either "raining cats and dogs" or it was just too hot, keeping many dogs (and their cooped up owners) away from the Dog Park. To beat the heat most of us were going early mornings or early evenings. The Park normally opens around 7am and stays open until dusk. It will be closed for pesticide applications on the last day of Summer - Thursday, September 21 - and on Thursday, October 19.

While Friends of the IRB Dog Park is no longer a corporation, we as dog owners have a wonderful place to take our pooches and to socialize. We hope to have a couple of special activities when the weather gets cooler. Posted events or business notices on the bulletin board serve as information to help the public make informed decisions. The City does not post or in any way advocate such businesses.

IRB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Joe McCall

IRB Community Socials continue at the following restaurants: September 14th – TJ's Italian Cafe and October 12th – Aqua Prime Seafood & Steaks Restaurant. These FREE Happy Hours are from 6-7:30pm and are held on the second Thursday of each month. Visit www.IRBhome.com or our Facebook page for details.

Invasion Rocks the Beach Pub Crawl - sponsored by Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, on Saturday, October 7th, 4pm to 10pm.

Dress in your best Pirate garb and Invade downtown Indian Rocks Beach! Advance registration, open now is \$20 per person, \$25 on the day of the crawl, online at IRBhome.com or download the registration form and mail to address on the form. On crawl day pick up your wristband/registration packet between 3 and 6pm at Plumlee Realty located at 417 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach. Visit all pubs in downtown IRB including Plumlee Registration, JD's, PJ's Oyster Bar, Crabby Bill's, Jimmy Guana's, Aqua Prime and LuLu's Oyster Bar. There will be a raffle, a 50/50 drawing. For all wanna be Pirates there will be a Pirate costume contest and awards party at Crabby Bill's Loading Dock at 9pm (Must be present to WIN!). Visit all pubs for great drink specials and you will be entered in the raffle for \$350 in gift certificates. For additional details visit www.irbhome.com or www.facebook.com/IRBHomeowners

Holiday Home Awards - Following up a great first year, residents will have an opportunity to show off their decorating skills. We will be holding Halloween Home Awards again this Fall with the best decorated Halloween House. Homes must be entered by October 10th and voting will take place between Oct. 14th – Nov. 6th. Plans are in the works so keep checking our website for more details.

Taste of IRB - sponsored by C21 Beggins, November 11th from 3 to 9pm at Chic-a-Si Park. Once again, more than 20 local restaurants will be offering their specialties while you mingle with friends and neighbors listening to live music.

THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH TENNIS CLUB

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

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Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Belleair Garden Club
903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair 33756
412-2344 information

Organizational News

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Submitted by Patricia Burch

The summer heat will be easing up soon, and it will be time to get ready for the Fall growing season. This is a great time to grow vegetables that thrive in balmy autumn weather.

What to plant in September and October? Try beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers, just to name a few. Want more information? There's an app for that! It's the "Florida Fresh" app provided by the University of Florida IFAS available on iTunes or the Play Store. Simply enter your ZIP code and the app will tell you what vegetables to plant at that particular time of year. You can also find out about the seasonal availability of Florida grown produce.

To get the Community Garden going with the fall growing season we will be having two "renew and replant" sessions. This is when members get together to clean out Earthboxes, add new soil and fertilizer, and plant fall crops. Volunteer coordinator Trish Burch will be on hand to provide advice and encouragement. She will also demonstrate tips on growing vegetables from seed.

If you are thinking about becoming a member, or if you're just curious about the Garden, stop by and see what's happening. The planned dates and times are:

- Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to noon
- Sunday, October 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dates may be rescheduled if the weather doesn't cooperate, so check the City's website for details and updates.

SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The teams are setting up for the start of their fall season, which begins in September. The league now has five teams, with over 50 players. Summer play was on hold until rehabbing of the field was complete. Now that it is done, they will resume play in the middle of September. They are always looking for more players. Anyone over 50 who wants to play, call Doug Valery at 517-8888 (days).

CLEARWATER/ST. PETERSBURG SKI & SPORTS CLUB

As Pinellas County's only snow ski club, they kicked off their 34th year by announcing four ski trips for the upcoming season, and a Spring Bike and Barge trip to Europe. With trips planned to Steamboat Springs Colorado, Sun Valley Idaho, Whitefish Montana and Snowbasin Utah, there will be trips all season long including Spring Break. Trips are for all levels of skiers at various price ranges.

While at Steamboat, they will be joined by as many as 14 other ski clubs from Florida. They will also be heading to the Netherlands for a Bike and Barge trip during their Tulip season. This is a trip that shouldn't be missed.

Details about the club's trips, their social events, and the Winter Sports Clinic can be found at snowshark.org or on their Facebook page.

The Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club will be holding their monthly social meetings at Mikes Pizza & Deli Station located at 13560 49 St. in Clearwater Fl. Socials begin at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the months through February, not including December.

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, contact the Belleair Pro Shop at 727-442-0229 or www.belleaircc.com.

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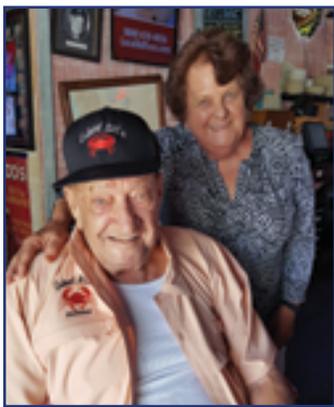
Sharon Spohn Retires After 38 Years

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Sharon Spohn has worked for Crabby Bill's Seafood longer than almost anyone, except maybe Crabby Bill himself. Sharon, now 75, has been part of the Crabby family since in 1979. She joined them when they had a restaurant on Bay Pines Blvd. While she technically wasn't really family, the Loders made her feel like one. Now 38 years later, she has retired.

Sharon moved to Florida from Stockbridge, Michigan. She knew some of the Loder family and started working there just for fun. In the beginning, she did not even get paid.

At first, she helped do dishes and later after learning more about the restaurant, began to greet customers and serve tables. At that time, Crabby Bill's founders Bill and Dolores, who everyone called Doe Doe, Loder were running the restaurant, while their kids were just learning the business.



Sharon and Crabby Bill

"I loved working with Bill and Doe Doe," Sharon remembers. "And of course the other Loders too - George and Val, Ellie, Paul, Matt and his wife Maria, Johnny, Dolores who everyone called Cookie, Aunt Frannie - Doe Doe's sister, and her daughter Dolly. As you can imagine, there were always family members around, many of whom have come and gone. I got to work with many generations of the Loder family during my 38 years. I am glad to have been a part of Crabby Bill's and get to know so many

people. It is such a long-time family business, and now there is a new generation coming on board."

"Before my time, the restaurant was located in Redington Shores, then moved to Bay Pines Blvd on the curve, then on Tyrone across from the mall and, then in 1983, moved to Indian Rocks Beach," she recalls. "I joined them at the Bay Pines location in 1979."

"It was always a fun place to work," Sharon goes on. "Bill was a hoot. He was constantly saying something funny. His wife Doe Doe was such an angel. We called her 'The Organizer' because she kept the place running. She actually had several nicknames, including 'Sweet Ma Ma' and the 'Queen Bee.' She was also the 'White Glove Lady.' After we cleaned at night, she came behind us and gave the restaurant the white glove treatment, pointing out all the things we missed.

"Bill was not there all the time. He was normally out rounding up fresh seafood as it came off the boats. He always told me, 'Never overcharge anyone—and never under charge, either.' One time, he got mad at me when I overcharged someone by accident. But, Bill is not really Crabby," Sharon adds. "That is just an act."

"George, Bill's oldest son, was a sweetheart; he was so nice to everyone. He died in 2010. Matt, the fourth of the Loder kids, was my favorite. We served our fish fresh from a showcase, so people could view it. At a real young age, he was put in charge of the showcase. I learned almost all I know about fish from Matt. Before working at Crabby Bill's, I never ate fish," Sharon recalls. "Now, I really like it."

"Paul, Crabby Bill's son-in-law, was our 'Oyster Shucker.' It was his main job. He was also a part-time bartender. He was

a character and is a great father, too. Jake's Cantina is named for his son Jakey, who has been disabled since birth," Sharon continues.

"Ray Brookman was one of the main cooks. But, whenever we needed someone to dress up in a lobster costume, Ray was always the first to volunteer," Sharon chuckles. "Ray has been with Crabby's for a long time, possibly longer than me. His father worked for Crabby's too."

You can imagine, after so many years, I have developed many long term relationships through Crabby's and the family," Sharon reflects. "Unfortunately, I have lost many of those friends—such as Roberta, a fellow waitress."

She also has many funny stories to tell too.

"One-time, while we were still at the Tyrone store, Matt went into the attic to get some supplies. He fell between the beams and almost came crashing down on a customer's table. That's one of the stories that has been told hundreds of times," Sharon says with a grin. "Another time, Matt went outside while a delivery truck driver was unloading a beer order. When the driver wasn't looking, Matt put live blue crabs all over the truck's front-seat. You can imagine the driver's reaction. He was in shock, Sharon laughs."

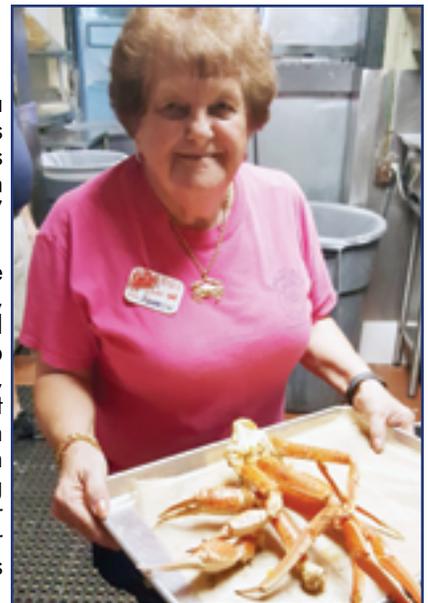
"Sharon is a great gal," Crabby Bill Loder says. "I wish I had had ten more just like her."

"I have worked with Sharon since I was 16 years old," Matt adds. "We share a long history together. She is one of the family and always will."

"I always felt I was part of the Loder Family. They always made me feel like one of them." Sharon concludes.

Sharon lives in Seminole where she raised four kids, one of which currently works at Crabby Bills. She is not fully retiring. She has been sold real estate on the side, for the last 30 years too, and will continue to work for Century 21 / Champions on Duhme Road.

If you want to buy or sell a house, or just wish her well, you can reach her at 434-0703.



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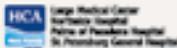
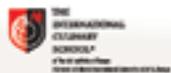
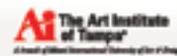
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* Artists Subject to Change

CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY OUTREACH CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

The lineup is out! The Bay Area signature tradition turns 38 this year and plans to welcome over 30,000 festival goers again to the waterfront in Coachman Park, October 19-22.

As always, the bill has broad appeal. Kenny Loggins, Michael McDonald, The Avett Brothers, Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox, The Temptations, and the Four Tops are among the headliners and fans will also be treated to a wonderful blend of jazz, fusion, funk, rock and soul.

Part of Clearwater Jazz Holiday's special appeal, is its focus on education, outreach, and community. Its growth has enabled its organizer, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to create a year-round impact with innovative programs, special funding, creative learning experiences, exciting performances, and a dynamic and spirited social community. We caught up with Foundation CEO, Steve Weinberger, to learn about a few new programs.

"Education and outreach are fundamental to the mission, and the theme is now an integral part of our identity," Steve explains. "Our board works hard with staff to seek out new and creative ways to make a difference and provide meaningful experiences at the festival and throughout the year."

Young Lions Jazz Master Sessions:

Launched in December, this one-of-a-kind instructional experience is for Bay Area jazz students with master class group and individual instrument sessions. Held in Ruth Eckerd Hall's state-of-the-art Murray Theatre, Steve describes the program as "exciting and inspiring."

"We have developed a really unique learning environment – less about competition and more about peer-to-peer performance and collaboration. It is thrilling to connect participating, world-class university jazz educators and local professionals with these talented jazz students."

Local professionals and jazz educators from USF, UCF, St. Petersburg College, and Southeastern University were among the participants. The Foundation surprised each school with a \$600 gift to their program.

My Journey with Jazz: New, this music mentoring project complements after-school and summer programs in under-served communities. It consists of four sessions with an educator and special guest musicians who deliver an overview of jazz history, while describing how jazz music has influenced their lives.

Students learn about music from various eras, locations, social issues, jazz music's contribution, and are inspired to play an instrument. The program culminates with

a special performance by professional musicians designed to tell the story of jazz with student participation.

"Our pilot effort targeted 3rd-5th graders at the Clearwater Neighborhood Family Center. It was a learning experience for all and I think will pave the way to grow the project and engage young people," offers Jeni Mitchell, Program Chair, and long-time Foundation Board of Directors member.

Participants included: Bay Area jazz educator Frank Williams, trumpeter and educator Dwayne White, local bass legend and former member of the Duke Ellington Orchestra John Lamb, jazz musician, educator and mentor Butch Thomas, and Sam Hayward, a longtime, local musician and educator and familiar to the community.

"We are so motivated with the growth and wonderful reception of these programs. Our History of Jazz Education Outreach Program is another great example. It is only six years old and already impacts thousands of area students, building a next generation appreciation of the art form," Steve says. "When you visit the festival this year, know you are part of something bigger. Your support not only helps to sustain the festival but also grows a year-round community impact."

To learn about Clearwater Jazz Holiday and the Foundation or to buy tickets visit clearwaterjazz.com.

Happy Hour 4-7pm
2 Domestic Drafts



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NEW CITY BUILDINGS

NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING REOPENS

The City moved back into the rebuilt public works building on August. As you may remember, there was a significant fire inside the Public Works Building in March of 2016 and everything inside was a total loss, including four city vehicles and most of the city's equipment. As a result, the building had to be completely renovated. While the construction was underway, the City rented the "GTE Building" on Walsingham Rd. to store their equipment. The new building, on the site of the old one, meets all current FEMA and Florida Building Code requirements. City Manager Gregg Mims says everything lost was covered by the City's property insurance provider, Public Risk Management.

SOLID WASTE BUILDING GONE

At the same time, the City has been building a new home in Largo to store our solid waste (garbage) trucks and equipment. That building is complete and the equipment has been moved. The old solid waste building at the east end of Miami Street next to Keegan Clair Park has now been demolished. The plan is to build a city community center on that small piece of land.

MCGOUGH PARK EVENTS

McGough is the first park to the north, after you cross the Walsingham Bridge, near 688 Discount Liquors, they are offering a number of events this Fall.

1st Annual Help Feed the Critters Food Truck Rally
October 30 (11am to 3pm) Free Admission

Join them for a day of food and feathered/furry fundraising. Visit one of the food trucks, then meet one of their special raptors or reptiles, then take a chance on a raffle item.

Fall Community Garage Sale
October 7 (9am to 2pm) Free Admission

Be a shopper or a vendor at this day of treasure hunting. Each table costs \$10. The fee goes to the park, and you keep the profits from the sale of your items. Reserve your table by calling 727-518-3047.

Owl-O-Ween
October 27 (6pm-9pm)

A spooky nature trail, a raffle, candy, toasted marshmallows, plus ghosts and goblins are on the agenda for this night. \$5 per person. Call 727-518-3047 to register.

Get info and more event listings at LargoNature.com or call 518-3047.



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SEA TURTLES ARE HATCHING

Sea turtle nesting season is underway and hatchlings are being spotted on Pinellas beaches, but also in areas where they could be in danger, like busy roadways. Pinellas County reminds beach residents and visitors in beach communities to keep conditions safe for sea turtles to hatch and make it safely into the Gulf by turning off their lights at night along the beaches.

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.
- Do not pick up hatchlings heading toward the water, shine lights or use photo equipment with a flash.
- Do not approach or harass adult turtles as they make their way back to sea.
- Remove obstacles such as sand castles or holes that may make it difficult for hatchlings to make their way to the water.
- Keep the beach clean. Eliminate trash items that may entangle baby hatchlings and adult turtles.

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

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.



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SUPERHERO 5K RUN

For Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay

Attention Superheroes, lace up your running shoes and help abused children in need! The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay invites you to the 3rd Annual SuperHero 5K Run, Walk and Stroller Roll on Saturday, September 23rd at Nolan's Pub, 230 Main St, Safety Harbor, at 8:30 am

Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child today by participating in the 3rd Annual SuperHero 5K. This event will raise community awareness for the 3,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties who have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own.

Whether you are a competitive runner, a casual walker, or just love the idea of supporting a wonderful cause, participating in the Superhero 5k allows you to show your support for abused and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The family friendly, all ages, and abilities event will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, starting and ending at Nolan's Pub, 230 Main Street, Safety Harbor.

SuperHero costumes are encouraged, but not required. The race course will run along the beautiful Safety Harbor waterway. We will kick off at 8:30 am with the 5K Run. There will be activities afterwards for runners and families. Awards will be given for top qualifiers of the 5K Run. Snacks and water will be provided. A school uniform collection drive will be held to benefit children served by the Guardian ad Litem program.

Registration in advance is PREFERRED for the SuperHero 5K at thesuperhero5k.com. For those runners and walkers who are unable to attend the race, a virtual option is available. Register for the Virtual Race at thesuperhero5k.com. To volunteer, you can also register at thesuperhero5k.com

They are still seeking sponsorships.

For more information about the Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay contact Amy Foster, Executive Director, AmyF@galf6.org or visit www.herotoachild.org

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS CARD PROGRAM

Do you remember the Holiday Christmas Cards that sprung up after Thanksgiving last year? That was a project by the Executive Committee, repeating an Indian Rocks tradition that has been around since 1980.

Last year's introduction included only businesses and area associations. This year, we are opening it up to residents and home based businesses.

A card costs \$350. That includes the cost of the board, the artist that will create your custom card with your input, applying the card to the board, and the frame to display it. If you want to supply your own art work, you can.

Your card can be placed in front of your house—or maybe at the end of your street.

This is a one-time expense that can last ten years or more. The City has agreed to store the cards and frames from year to year. If you would like a Holiday Card made for your family or home business, call Bob Griffin, 727-517-1997. Deadline is October 15th.



THAT'S AN AWFULLY LARGE... TREEFROG!

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

Did you know invasive Cuban treefrogs can grow to be 5.5 inches? That is quite big considering our largest native treefrogs only grows to be 2.5 inches. It's also a good way to help identify this invasive species.



Cuban treefrogs came from, you guessed it, Cuba, and their populations have spread throughout much of Florida. Their diet is similar to that of other frogs, eating beetles, roaches, spiders, which means native frogs are competing with them for food. Even worse, Cuban treefrogs eat other frogs, lizards and snakes, posing a threat to native species.

How To Identify A Cuban Treefrog:

1. If size is not a distinguishing characteristic, take a look at the frog's toepads. All treefrogs have toepads to help them climb, but Cuban treefrogs have very large toe pads when compared to native treefrogs. They also tend to have large bulging eyes.

2. When young, Cuban treefrogs have reddish eyes, are olive-brown in color, have light stripes along their side, and they have blue bone that can best be seen through the skin on the underside of hind legs.

Unfortunately, color is not a reliable feature when it comes to identifying Cuban treefrogs. They can vary in color quite a bit, but they are most often a creamy white to light brown with bumpy skin. Cuban treefrogs can thrive in urban areas and are commonly found on and around homes and buildings, and in gardens and landscape plants.

How You Can Help: You can help manage Cuban treefrogs around your home by capturing and humanely euthanizing (killing) them.

1. After properly identifying a Cuban treefrog, capture it using gloves or a plastic bag to protect yourself from the irritating mucus on its skin.

2. Another way to catch the frogs is to place 1.5 PVC pipes in the ground around your home, which can attract treefrogs. The frogs use the pipe as a source of shelter. Check the pipes regularly for effective management. Once you have a Cuban treefrog in the pipe, place a plastic sandwich bag over the top, pull the pipe out of the ground and use a broom handle or other plunger device in the other end to scare the frog into the sandwich bag. The sandwich bag should be held tightly around the pipe because as soon as the frog hits the bag it will most likely start jumping and try to get away. They are slippery too!

3. Once captured, apply benzocaine ointment or spray on the frogs back and place in sealed bag for 15-20 minutes. Frogs breathe through their skin, so the benzocaine will be absorbed into their system and put them to sleep. Benzocaine is commonly used to treat sunburn, toothaches and sore throats and can be found at most convenience stores. Note: If you are unable to apply benzocaine you can skip #3 and move on to #4.

4. Place the sealed bag in the freezer overnight and dispose of the frog in bag the next day.

5. Always wash your hands well after handling the frog as their secretions can cause eye irritation for some people.

Thanks for doing your part to help keep Pinellas County free of invasive species!

You can reach Laura at Lara317@ufl.edu or 727-453-6905



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