



## Belleair Beach's Causeway Toll Bridge



**D**id you know, at one time it cost 25¢ per car to drive across the Belleair Beach Causeway? It lasted during the 1950s, '60s and even the '70s. For 28 years people had to drop a quarter—both ways, when crossing the bridge.

That may not seem like a lot today, but twenty-five cents was a lot of money back then. To give you some perspective, the average 1950 income was \$3,200 per year. An average car cost about \$1,500. Milk was 82¢ per gallon, bread 12¢ a loaf, a pound of hamburger was 30¢, postage stamps were 3¢ (now fifty). Gas was only 18¢ a gallon so crossing the bridge and back was the equivalent of almost three gallons of gas!

When the Belleair Beach Causeway Bridge first opened in 1950, the people of Belleair Beach celebrated that they had their own bridge. It opened Belleair Beach and Belleair Shores for further development. It also gave Indian Rocks Beach residents an alternative to their shaky old rotating bridge in the Narrows.

But their euphoria turned to disgust when they learned the state planned to add a toll booth to collect money from those traveling to and from the beach. The toll was twenty-five cents, but residents could purchase tokens by the dozen, for 15¢ a piece.

"We lived on the mainland and would visit our friends in Belleair Beach on weekends," recalls Sheriff Jim Coats who now lives in Sand Key. "We would complain, and our friends would give us their tokens, so we did not have to pay with quarters."

"I grew up on Belleair Beach," says Gordon Geisler, now a resident of Harbor Hills. "I used to go to Largo High and would ride my bike across the bridge. My grandfather, Percy "Blackey" Blackburn was a toll taker from about 1951 to 1964—13 years altogether, I think.

"On my way home from football practice, I would stop and visit him. People stopped and handed him their money, then he

pushed a button and the toll gate would go up allowing them to pass. Later when I could drive, he would reach out and throw a token in the basket for me. We seldom paid the toll," Geisler chuckles.

"My grandfather also worked the lift in the middle of the bridge. When a boater blew their horn, he would put a sign on his toll gate, get in his car, drive to the middle of the bridge, lower the other gate, then push a button to raise the center span," Geisler remembers. "After the boat passed, he would reverse the process and drive his car back to the toll booth. Of course, back then there were a lot fewer boats on the intracoastal."

"But I will tell you, my neighbors in Belleair Beach hated the toll so much, they would drive all the way down to Indian Rocks and use the old bridge instead of paying that 25¢ toll."

In the 1970s, they introduced a sticker system. For an annual fee, you received a decal for your windshield. When the toll taker saw the decal, he raised the gate and waved you through.

"I remember always seeing cars waiting to pay the toll when I rode by on my bike to go fishing on the causeway," remembers Chris Arbutine, Mayor of Belleair Bluffs. "The toll both always reminded me of a divider between The Bluffs and the Beaches."

Somewhere around 1975, the St. Petersburg Times and other news sources reported the bonds used to build the bridge had been completely repaid—but the tolls continued and had become a revenue source. Upset area residents caused such an uproar, that in 1978 the tolls were removed.

"I remember when they took the toll away, it was like a breath of fresh air for the community. Passage to and from the beaches was made easier—even for those of us still on bicycles," Arbutine recalls.

"Removing the toll charge from the bridge in 1978 also increased the traffic and number of visitors—especially tourists—coming to the area," said John Tabor, a long-time city commissioner in Belleair Bluffs. "The beach traffic went up like a rocket ship after that."

The bridge has now been toll free for 40 years.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Photos courtesy of Indian Rocks Beach Historical Society

**CREDITS**



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**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, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, IRB Library.

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

Thank you for reading,  
Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997  
bob@griffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN JULY!**

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY**

- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
- Taste Of Clearwater Beach Fest 4
- Beach Art Center Montgomery Reception 4
- Beach Art Center Montgomery Show 4-31
- Cinco De Mayo 5
- Kentucky Derby Day 5
- Tour Of Florida Area Gardens 6
- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 7
- Community Clean Up 7-9
- Teacher Appreciation Week 7-11
- City Commission Meeting 8
- Action 2000 Mixer At Calvary 9
- Homeowners Community Social 10
- Postal Workers Food Drive 12
- Mother's Day 13
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15
- Ramadan Begins 15
- Hands Across The Sands 19
- Nature Hike At The Narrows Park 19
- Armed Forces Day 19
- Safe Boating Week 19-26
- Public Schools Close 24
- Clearwater Blast Friday 25
- Memorial Weekend 26-28
- Memorial Day 28
- Summer Camps Begin 29

**JUNE**

- Hurricane Season Begins 1
- Tampa Bay Home Show 1-3
- National Donut Day 2
- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 4
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 8
- City Commission Meeting 12
- Homeowners Community Social 14
- Flag Retirement Ceremony 14
- Flag Day 14
- National Garbage Man's Day 17
- Father's Day 17
- Summer Begins 21
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 22
- City's Birthday 25

**JULY**

- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 2
- Independence Day 4
- Fireworks Coachman Park 4
- City Commission Meeting 10
- MLB All Star Game 10
- Homeowners Community Social 12
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 13
- Parent's Day 22
- Pinellas Grouper Week 23-29
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 27
- National Chicken Wing Day 28

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# Did You Know



## DREDGING COMING SOON

The state and FWC are going to dredge the small channel, just northeast of the Sand Key Bridge, again. It is the short cut to Clearwater Beach

Marina that most boats use. This project is expected to take 30-45 days to complete and should start in early May, weather dependent of course. The dredged material will be deposited near shore in the Gulf of Mexico. The Barges and other dredging equipment will begin to be positioned in that channel soon.

**FLUORESCENT LIGHTS** Do not recycle or put fluorescent lights in the garbage. Take them to a mobile collection sites. Home Depot and Lowes will accept your CFL (compact fluorescent lights). Batteries Plus will take your fluorescent lights for a fee.

**MAKE YOUR DOCK SAFER** For under \$10, you can improve a child's chances of survival if they fall off your dock. Buy rope at your local hardware store and tie it to various places around the dock. Show your children where these ropes are. If they were to fall in, they can hold on to them, until you can reach them. Barnacles grow on ladders, pylons and even ropes, but you can replace the rope every few months at almost no cost, giving children something to grab and you some peace of mind.

**BOATING LICENSE** Before operating a vessel with a motor of 10 HP or more in Florida, everyone born on or after January 1, 1988 is required to either have successfully completed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators approved boating education course, have passed a course equivalence or temporary certificate examination, and have in their possession a boating education ID card and a photo identification card. Identification cards for persons completing the course or the equivalence exam are good for a lifetime. Temporary Certificate exams are available to the public through contractors. The temporary certificate is valid for 12 months from the issue date.

## POSTAL FOOD COLLECTION



Now in its 26th year, the U.S. Postal Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive to replenish area food banks is May 12th. Leave non-perishable food in a bag at your mail box. Your carrier will pick it up and transport it to one of several area food pantries. St Vincents and The

Beaches Food Pantry are the largest recipients in our area—but others receive donations, too. Last year, more than 71 million pounds of food was picked up across the country. The best non-perishable foods to donate are canned beans, dry beans, peanut butter, rolled oats, canned fruit or vegetables, soups and canned tuna.

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**MOTHER'S DAY IDEAS** Mother's Day is May 13th and Orchids make a great gift idea. Our May temperature swings and dry air suit orchids to a tee. If you already have some, this is a prime time for repotting if you haven't already done so. On the second Thursday of the month, Florida West Coast Orchid Society Meets at the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Center, 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo. Contact Cheryl Finke cfinke@tampabay.rr.com, call 727-420-7230, or visit fwcos.org to get involved.



**SILVER BIKE AWARD** The League of American Bicyclists recently recognized the City of St Petersburg with a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community Award—a ranking no other large Florida city has. The Silver award recognizes St Petersburg's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment, promotion, educational programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. The designation represents a significant improvement over the city's previous Bronze designation, which it has held since 2006. Learn about it at BikeLeague.org/community.

**UNDERGROUNDING STILL ON THE WAY**

Undergrounding the power and other overhead lines (cable) in the southern part of Indian Rocks' section of Gulf Blvd is ready to begin, but they are waiting on three of the 30 property owners to grant permission. The undergrounding will begin at the southern city limits and go north to 6th or 7th Avenue. As usual, the final costs are higher than expected.

**GARDEN TOURS** The Florida Botanical Gardens Third Annual Tour of Public and Private Gardens is Sunday May 6. The tours will start at the Florida Botanical Gardens at 10am and run till noon. Private gardens will be open noon until 4 pm. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.FLBGFoundation.org, or at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop at the Florida Botanical Gardens. The price is \$20 for FBG Foundation members in advance or day of the event. For non members, the fee is \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the event.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER RECALL**

Do you have a Kidde brand fire extinguisher in your house or r on your boat? Kidde, in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, announced a product recall for certain fire extinguishers with plastic handles or push-buttons. They can become clogged or require excessive force to activate, posing a risk of failure or having the nozzle blow off. If you have a recalled extinguisher, they will replace it FREE. Visit the recall section of their web site, Kidde.com to determine if you have a recalled model and to ask for a replacement.



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# PETER'S TAILOR SHOP - 25 YEARS OF ALTERATIONS

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Peter Veresan brought his personal, small tailoring business to Belleair Bluffs in March of 1993 by way of Yugoslavia (now Serbia), Paris, and Detroit—25 years ago. Peter, now 67, works alone in his small shop at the north end of Belleair Bluffs simply called Peter's Tailor Shop, where he has been since moving here. Over the years, he has served the needs of men and women of all ages and sizes, including being the personal tailor to more than a few well known people.

Veresan was born into a family of tailors in Yugoslavia. His Romanian mother had three brothers—all tailors. When he was 9, Veresan's family moved to Paris, which is where he later learned his trade and practiced the art.

When Veresan speaks, you know he comes from somewhere exciting, as his accent is distinct, but not identifiable. That is probably because he speaks five languages, and is fluent in Romanian and French. "I keep up on Romanian because that is what my kids speak," Veresan explains.

In 1977, he left Paris and moved to Detroit, Michigan where he set up a shop in the suburbs of Birmingham. He worked there for 16 years.

"I had a good business in Detroit, and served many well-to-do clients," says Veresan. "One of my clients was Michael Ilitch, the owner of Little Caesar's Pizza, the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Red Wings. "When he would call, I would go to his home for personal service."

Another of his well-known clients was the President of Chrysler - Lee Iacoca. Locally, he has served John Trovoluta, Tampa Bay Buccaneer Mike Alstott and previous Lightning GM Phil Esposito.

"Most of my business is repeat business," Veresan says with pride. "I have had many customers for all my 25 years here. I have a lot of snow bird customers who I only see once a year. I have watched my customer's children grow from babies and many are now my customers. Fewer people are getting their clothes tailored these days. But the people who buy more expensive suits and dresses have me make adjustments instead of donating them to a thrift store."

Business has its ups and downs. "I am very busy when school is in session, but not so busy June through August. That is probably because they are all away on vacations," he says.

Veresan lives in Sand Key. A widower, he has two daughters, one lives in Michigan and the other lives in Tampa's Wesley Chapel. You can find Peter's Tailor Shop at 778 Indian Rocks Road North, just south of Chez Collette's French Restaurant. You can call the shop at 559-8919.



All Photos Courtesy of G. Joseph Fitzgerald, DO

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**TIPS FOR KEEPING LOVED ONES SAFE THIS SUMMER IN THE WATER.**

By Rebecca Geiger

We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places in the country and water is part of our lives. There are many things you can do to help keep your family safe and make sure everyone enjoys the water and all the things Florida has to offer.

- Water wings are the most dangerous water toy on the market. They should be avoided at all costs. An easy way to get rid of them if the child is used to them is to pop one while the child is not around. Then when they go to put them on, tell them it is "broken" and needs to be thrown away. This way the child sees it as garbage and it is not a power struggle situation.
- Puddle Jumpers are a close second to water wings. They are approved as a personal flotation device (PFD) by the coast guard for boating and water activities; however, they were not designed to be used all the time.
- Both water wings and puddle jumpers prevent children from being able to use their arms and teaches the child that "swimming" only involves leg motions, which will not be enough to get their head above water if they go in on their own.
- Make sure to check all of your drains at the beginning of the summer and at least once a month. It only takes a second or two to check for cracked or dislodged drain covers. Either of these can increase suction and hold down a child or even an adult.
- Every child should have a "silly day" where they swim in all of their clothes. Shirt, pants, dress, shoes, etc. Let them know clothes will dry, and that they are what is important.
- Never teach a child to swim to you in the water, always have them go back to the side. A towel on the edge can help them play longer without burning their fingertips or getting blisters.
- Remind your children often that nothing is as important to you as them. If they fall in they need to let go of whatever they have in their hands and get to the wall. Many times, children will hold on to toys rather than save themselves.



Rebecca Geiger (Miss Becca to most of her students) specializes in private lessons at individual's homes where people feel the safest and where incidents are most likely to occur. Her passion is "Drown Proofing" children and adults. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have about any of the subjects above or any others you may have, whether you want lessons or not. Please feel free to call or text her at 813-363-9133.

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# Real Estate News

## DEFYING THE TRENDS

### IRB real estate with a mind of its own

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



Anyone who lives in Indian Rocks Beach knows it's special. In terms of real estate, that is even truer. Often times, IRB home/condo sale trends do not follow those at levels farther up the geographic chain. What happens in Pinellas County, Metro Tampa Bay, statewide, regionally, nationally and globally does not always trickle down to IRB.

Nationwide, new home construction and millennial first-time buyers are driving growth. IRB can't rely on either of those factors, given a void of vacant land and a shortage of skilled construction workers. Even at the low end of the price spectrum, IRB real estate simply isn't "millennial-ready." And, the highest-earning millennial executives who can afford to live in our community tend to work long hours and see the distance to Tampa International and their offices in Downtown Tampa or St. Pete as a detriment. One "Jetsonian" trend that could change all that: self-driving cars. (7,000 on the road right now!) If hard-charging, affluent, millennial whippersnappers could eat, sleep and work during their commute, the demographics of all Pinellas beach communities, including IRB, may shift over the next few decades.

Interest rates are expected to be nearly 5% by year end. That will have a definite effect on sales nationally and has already affected homeownership affordability for some. Not so much in IRB though. In 2017, nearly half of our real estate transactions were cash. Where it will make a slight difference is with buyers on a fixed income who are financing their purchases. Another trend with less impact locally than nationally is strong employment, since only a little over half our residents are in the workforce and 25% of those are self-employed. (2016 ACS Survey/U.S. Census Bureau)

Regional growth tends to spark upward movement statewide and also translates to growth here locally. Over the next decade, 62% of the U.S. population growth will be in the South...where 42% of the country already lives. Over the last year, Florida's population grew by 800 residents per day. GDP nationally is expected to grow 3% in 2018. Florida's will exceed that (3.5%) with the state economy hitting \$1 trillion, making our state the best economic performer in the South. Consequently, Orlando and Tampa are listed among the largest U.S. markets least likely to see home prices fall in the next two years. We are also attracting South Florida's (Miami) spillover buyers who have been blown out of the water by the highest home prices in the state.

That fact is that regional and statewide trends have a better shot of moving our local needle than national trends. In fact, we are even more likely to be impacted by global trends than national ones. For instance, the rebounding global economies of Canada, Brazil and India are projected to produce a surge of international buyers in Florida markets... including ours. Whether following trends or defying them, Indian Rocks Beach median sales prices are up almost another 6% in two years. The number of sales, while up 10% from '16 to '17 are trending below those levels so far in '18, primarily due to the continuing lack of inventory.

Source: My Florida Regional ML

# Selling the Beaches!

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Licensed Real Estate Broker

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### Indian Rocks Single-Family Home Transactions in 2017

My Florida Regional MLS Buy/Sell Side Transactions

<p><b>REDUCED!</b></p> <p>612 Gulf Blvd #101 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH \$645,900</p>	<p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>399 150th Ave #202 MADEIRA BEACH Sold In 33 days/97% of asking!</p>
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**727.480.4665**  
gordon@gordonrealty.house  
2211 Gulf Blvd., Ste. C - Indian Rocks Beach

## BEACH NOURISHMENT

By Ted Shannon

Putting the sand back that mother nature washes away is part of island living in Pinellas County. Those in charge of this task call it "Beach Nourishment." Replenishing the sand is critical to maintain habitat for birds and sea turtles, to protect property and roads from erosion, and of course to keep our tourism economy thriving. Tourism provides 2.3 billion dollars, while supporting 47,000 jobs and netting \$145 million in taxes.

A meeting was held in March to explain the details for the upcoming nourishment. The Environmental Management Department of the county and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are jointly responsible for the project that dredges sand from one location and pumps it to where it is needed.

The upcoming project is the fifth time beach nourishment has been done along the barrier island from Clearwater Pass south. The first project was in 1988, then again in 1999, 2006 and finally in 2012. The 2017 project begins in April and continues to November.

First, sand dredged from the John's Pass channel will be placed on Treasure Island's beaches. Then, the project will move north to Ultimar Condos in Clearwater using sand dredged from the Egmont area. They will then proceed south to Redington Beach and should be finished by the end of the year. Sea turtle nesting watch and relocation will occur 24 hours a day during the project.

1000 foot sections of the beach will be partitioned off while sand is pumped into that area. It will usually last only a day or two at each location, but do expect some denied access at times. Once the sand is in place, expect up to 100 feet of wider beach.

The 41.7 million-dollar contract was awarded to Norfolk Dredging based in Chesapeake, Virginia. The Federal Government is picking up the tab due to the damage attributed to Hurricane Hermine. Usually funding is 20% local, 20% state and 60% feds.

During the operation, Norfolk expects to work 24 hour shifts, frequently. To find precise scheduling and a full description of the project with maps and pictures visit:  
[pinellascounty.org/environment/coastalmngmt/sandkey.htm](http://pinellascounty.org/environment/coastalmngmt/sandkey.htm).

For information, contact County Representative John Bishop 727-464-8766 or Army Corp Representative Amanda Parker 904-232-1576.



**Beach Community Thrift Store**  
 Save Your Seconds

## NEW NAME SAME BARGAINS

Church of the Isles' Save Your Seconds Thrift Store at 25th Avenue and Bay Blvd. is being rebranded. In keeping with their spirit of community, it will soon be officially the Beach Community Thrift Store.

It has become the go-to place for bargain shopping in Indian Rocks Beach and even a favorite of those living across the bridges, but they could not have reached this point without the incredible support of the community through donations of resalable items and volunteer time.

That is what keeps them going, so don't stop! If you are looking for something to do in community with others, give call (727-444-0339) or come by during store hours (Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-2; Thu., 5-8) and ask about volunteering. Church of the Isles is very grateful and blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

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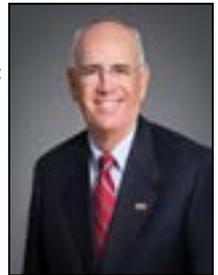
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**TAX REFORM/SIMPLIFICATION? "NO"  
 TAX REDUCTION? "YES"**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



Part 2 -

Previously, we talked about the basics of the new 20% pass-through tax deduction on certain business income. This deduction is available to pass-through entities (S-corporation, partnership, LLC, etc.) as long as the taxpayer's taxable income is below \$157,500 for singles and \$315,000 for joint filers. The deduction will be applied to the lesser of the taxpayer's qualified business income or taxable income less any capital gains.

But what if the taxpayer's income is still over the limits? There is a phase out of the deduction for singles with taxable income between \$157,500 and \$207,500 and \$315,000 and \$415,000 for joint filers. Above these levels those in a "specialized trade or business" (accountants, lawyers, financial planners, athletes, performers, consultants, etc.) or any business where the reputation or skill of its employees is the primary asset, they are not eligible for the pass-through deduction.

For everyone else, there are additional complicated rules to consider. The deduction cannot exceed the greater of 50% of the W-2 wages paid by the business, or 25% of the W-2 wages paid plus 2.5% of the unadjusted basis of depreciable property owned by the business.

Sally works for a company that pays her wage of \$350,000. She is married and her husband makes \$250,000 in W-2 wages. She owns a small strip mall through an LLC which produces a net profit of \$150,000. She pays her brother a salary to manage the property of \$30,000. The unadjusted basis in the depreciable property is \$1,000,000. She has \$80,000 in deductions.

First, we need to determine her taxable income which is \$670,000. The eligible business income is \$30,000. She must use the lesser of these two (\$30,000). Next, we calculate the greater of 50% of the eligible wages (\$15,000), or 25% of the eligible wages (\$7500) plus 2.5% of the unadjusted basis (\$25,000) or \$32,500. She uses the lesser of the first step (\$30,000) or second step (\$32,500) as the pass-through deduction.

This is just a brief analysis of the pass-through provision and by no means should anyone rely on this simple example. In addition to consulting your tax advisor, please be aware that we are awaiting rules and regulations from the IRS who must interpret the new tax law. If you would like to consult about your financial planning you are entitled to a complimentary meeting.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chairman and CEO  
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## THE PELICAN GOLF COURSE AND THE PERSON DOING THE WORK

If all goes as scheduled, people will be playing golf on the new and improved Pelican Golf Course by the end of this year. But, there is a lot of work still to be done for that to happen. The person in charge of most of that dirty work is the owner of Triton Building Group, Johnny Patronis. He is an Indian Rocks Beach resident, who has lived in the area since 2011.



Triton Building Group has tackled all types of building projects, though this is their first golf course. Construction began immediately after July 4th, when the old Biltmore Golf Course, was demolished. That included removing the existing club house and golf cart garage, as well as on all the fairways.

Three Triton employees are on the project daily, with 40-50 other people working for sub-contractors. "This is a two-year job," says Patronis. "We hope to be finished with the entire thing by the summer of 2019."



"Every fairway and every hole will get a make-over," Patronis explains. Most fairways will be the same except minor changes at two holes. Hole #8, formerly a par 3 will become a par 4 and hole #9 will become a par 3."

The new golf course was designed by South Carolina company Boe Welling Design.

Plans call for two separate buildings, the Pro Shop and Grill to the south and the Main Club House, basically where the last one was. The Club House will contain the lockers, a large restaurant and store the golf carts. The buildings were designed by Nick Fullerton. The main entrance will remain where it is.



The Town of Belleair projects they will be opening the new course by December of this year. The Pro Shop and Grill is expected to open after the first of the year. The Club House is expected to be completed by the summer of 2019.

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## Bar & Restaurant News

### CHICAGO JAQX'S NEW OWNER

Gary and Judy Panton sold Chicago Jaqx, but the good news is the new owner is a Chicago native. Jenn Landry, who acquired Chicago Jaqx in late March. She plans to leave things pretty much the same, but there may be minor changes to the menu, pricing and Happy Hour specials. "I want to get the locals back in here," says Landry, "and I want to get ready for watching sports including baseball, hockey and football."



Drop by and say hello at 1511 Gulf Blvd, next to Century 21 Beggins.

**BONEFISH BRUNCH** While, Bonefish Grill opens for lunch Monday through Friday at 11am, on the weekends they also offer Brunch Saturday and Sundays, from 11am to 2pm. Managing Partner Niko Hales, describes it as Breakfast and Bubbles.

Did you know that Bonefish offers a 10% discount to AARP members? Find Bonefish Grill at 2939 West Bay Blvd, Belleair Bluffs.

**MARLIN DARLIN GRILL** The restaurant has not gone out of business—instead they are changing things up a bit. It closed in January for some remodeling, a name change and menu tweaks. The new name is Seaweed and it will serve steaks, seafood & sushi. The restaurant is still owned by Baystar Restaurant Group and Frank Chivas, a resident of Belleair Bluffs. Watch for a re-opening announcement.

**HAVANA HARRY'S MOVES** Now a lot closer to Indian Rocks Beach, Havana Harry's Market and Deli moved five blocks west, but it is still in Largo. They relocated their small deli/café from 13932 Walsingham Rd., next to CVS to 14219 Walsingham, near Hungry Howies Pizza. Owner George Haber, who is also an Indian Rocks Beach resident, hopes to be open in the new location the first of May. The phone number has not changed: 596-5141.

**NEW READY SET YO** Crabby Bill's is opening a Yogurt Shop on Gulf Blvd next to their main restaurant. Called Ready-Set-Yo, it will operate out of the small building, previously used as a fish market, north of the Loading Dock.

### STONE CRAB SEASON ENDING

Stone Crab season comes to an end May 15th. After that it will be impossible to get fresh stone crabs your favorite restaurant. Open since October 15th, Florida's stone crab season started out fairly slow thanks to Hurricane Irma and warm weather. But the claws are available and you will have a couple of weeks to get your fill! You can usually find them on the menu at Crabby Bill's, Guppys, Keegans, Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Frenchy's, Palm Pavilion and a few others.



# Bar & Restaurant News

## ALMOST OPEN

The new Salt Public House Sports Bar hopes to open in the next month just in time for baseball season and plans to be ready for the start of NFL and college football. It has taken a lot longer than expected, but will be very nice when it is all completed. "This is the smallest restaurant we have owned," says owner Aidan Bowles. "Most of our other restaurants were in the ball park of 8 to 10 thousand square feet."



The Bowles have lived part time in Kentucky and in Indian Rocks. They have owned houses in Indian Rocks for over 30 years and currently live on Harbor Drive North.

The Salt Public House is owned by the whole family-- Aidan, Sabrina and son Sam. They plan to be a sports bar with "good food". Look for a June opening at 1309 Gulf Blvd, next to Nekton.

The Salt Public House is owned by the whole family-- Aidan, Sabrina and son Sam. They plan to be a sports bar with "good food". Look for a June opening at 1309 Gulf Blvd, next to Nekton.

**OEC SUSHI** This new Sushi and Hibachi restaurant opened near IRB in mid-March in the Barclay Shopping Center just across the bridge. O.E.C. Sushi and Hibachi has a complete Japanese menu and a lovely but small dining area. It is open seven days



a week for lunch and dinner, offering dine-in and take-out, but no delivery. They offer a \$7.99 lunch special, a larger Bento Box lunch special for \$12.99, and dinner specials at \$13.99. They are located at 13847 Walsingham, behind the McDonald's, next to Tailgators Sports Bar. Call OEC at 366-6126.

**ALMOST TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS** The new Dunkin Donut store in Largo, across from Publix on Walsingham Road is nearing completion. They hope to open the store in early June.

**SANDY'S HAS NEW OWNER** Christine, the owner of Sandy's Restaurant for the last ten years, sold her Indian Rocks Beach café to her daughter, Natasha. You might know her as a bartender at the Red Lion.



They are only open for breakfast and lunch, and closed on Tuesdays. Find them at 2300 Gulf Blvd., next to Café de

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# FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

## Summer Boating Safety

All citizens who wish to legally operate a motor vehicle on the road must possess a valid driver's license or learner's permit. However, the same cannot be said about citizens on the water.

Although Florida law now requires boat-operators born after January 1, 1988, to complete an approved boater education course and receive a "Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card," there are exceptions.

This means responsible vessel operators should arm themselves with boating knowledge and rules of the water, as well as remain alert for the many other boaters who don't.

To help prepare citizens and encourage safe, responsible boating, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has compiled a list of important boating safety tips:

1. Complete a safe boating course: Driving a car and operating a boat require different skill sets and knowledge about entirely different rules and regulations. Enrolling in an in-person or online boaters' safety course is a great way to learn the rules of the water and familiarize yourself with basic boating principles. Visit the National Safe Boating Council at [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org) for several online courses.

2. Know your boat: Before you set sail, get familiar with the vessel you are operating and the area you are navigating, including water depth, tides, weather, slow or idle speed requirements, and swim exclusion and restricted zones.

3. Get in the zone: Manatee Protection Zones are back in effect through October 31st. Vessel operators should pay close attention to all signs throughout the Intracoastal, specifically looking for these zones that have not only been implemented within the last year but also extended to provide

extra protection for manatees. Marine Unit deputies will be regularly monitoring and enforcing these zones. Note: Rules and restrictions are constantly changing, so it is important to stay up-to-date, even if you are a seasoned boater.

4. Get equipped: Florida law requires that one personal flotation device (PFD), or "lifejacket," per passenger be readily accessible on the vessel at all times, and children under age 6 must wear PFDs while underway. PFDs aren't the only required boating gear. Visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) website for a list of other mandatory items based on what type of boat you have: <http://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/equipment/>

5. Scan constantly: There are no stop signs or traffic lights on the water, so you MUST constantly scan the water for other boaters, swimmers, water skiers, or stumps and other landmarks jutting up from the water that could severely damage your boat or harm you and others.

6. File a "float plan": Share your trip details – where you're going, when you plan to return, passengers' names, and boat information – with a responsible person before you launch, in case you lose contact in an emergency. Make sure to contact that person when you return safely.

7. Don't boat under the influence: Operating any vehicle – including a boat – while impaired by drugs or alcohol is illegal and can end in a lot worse than a citation. Just as you would before a night out on the town, designate a sober driver for days on the water.

For more boating safety tips, visit the FWC, National Boating Safety Council, and the BoatUS Foundation websites. And, of course, don't forget the sunscreen!

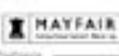
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## SOUND THERAPY AND WHY IT WORKS

By Tara Hill, Reiki Practitioner

Sound therapy is an alternative therapy, which is simply a health care approach developed outside of mainstream Western, or conventional medicine. This is not a new practice, and is used widely in other countries and cultures.

First, let's talk energy and vibration! Science tells us that everything in the universe is made of energy. Everything vibrates, even our bodies. Matter is energy which vibrates at different rates. The structure of matter can be changed when you alter its vibration. The body maintains a natural, healthy frequency; however, there are many things that can cause blockages, stagnant energy, and general dis-harmony to that frequency. This can manifest in physical pain and illness, stress, anxiety, and a myriad of other unpleasant ailments.

Sound affects the nervous system, which affects the entire body. There are two main points I'd like to discuss about how sound therapy works.

- **Brainwave Entrainment** - In the way that one tuning fork will cause another to tune to its frequency, or the way one pendulum clock will synchronize with another, causing them to both swing together, brainwaves can be entrained. In our normal, working and living state, our brain generates beta waves. This is because they are fast, and we need to be alert when working and driving, etc. Alpha waves are generated when in a relaxed/reflective state, such as when we daydream. Theta waves are generated in activities such as meditation or a light sleep. Delta waves are generated in a deep sleep.

Because we live in such a fast paced, multi-tasking obsessed world, it is rare that we get out of the alpha wave state unless we are sleeping. This is where sound therapy

through brainwave entrainment comes in. Meditation does wonders for your health and wellbeing, by silencing the inner critic and generating theta waves; however, it can be difficult to learn and do, so many people will never try or give up quickly. Sound therapy will cause your brainwaves to generate the matching vibration, thus pushing you into an alpha and/or theta wave state. This gives desired healing effects, such as deep mental and physical relaxation, increased memory, increased intuition, allowing you to be in "rest and digest", the opposite of "fight or flight", which we are in way too often. This will leave you with much more clarity and a rejuvenation like none other.

- **Vibration** - Vibration moves through your body like ripples in a pond. Vibration ripples through your body until it touches every cell, reaching places unavailable to the hands, creating a cellular massage. Harmony is restored to the cells, and healing commences. Himalayan singing bowls can soothe and calm the nervous system by restoring the body to its natural, healthy and harmonious frequency. Sound therapy is also referred to as "Vibrational Medicine".

Sound therapy has been used in many ways, for thousands of years. An increasing number of mainstream medical institutions, including cancer centers, have incorporated sound therapy into their practice, and "sound baths" are becoming more popular by the minute. If you are looking for relief, whatever your malady, or if you would just like to feel better in general, I suggest you give it a whirl!

*Heal the mind, and the body will follow. Peace.*



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# REMEMBERING



I came to know Ralph in 2013 when I became President of the Board of Directors at the Beach Art Center. Ralph believed in the importance of an art center in Indian Rocks Beach. He worked to see that it remained a vibrant artistic venue. He would help with projects no matter how large or small. Ralph contributed his artistic and professional experience, volunteering time to judge member shows.

While Ralph did not need to take classes, he regularly entered his work in shows. We all knew it meant there would be a ribbon alongside the work when the awards were presented.

Ralph was generous, kind, and cared about everyone around him. If I was working on a piece and Ralph came to the center, he would always provide constructive criticism and suggestions for making my work more exciting, more energetic and more meaningful.

*Lynda Hamlett*

I can't remember exactly when I first met Ralph, but it was over 20 years ago, about the time a land acquisition committee was formed to look into the possible purchase of several properties around IRB for future city use. Ralph served on that committee, along with a number of prominent citizens. On that list of prospective new city acquisitions was a portion of the old Big Indian Rocks Fishing Pier property, in fact the last remaining part of that pier's parking lot that had not been sold by my family, co-owners of the pier. Eventually that parcel came into the city's hands, and was turned into the current 12th Avenue Park -- designed by Ralph Montgomery. The other major acquisitions by the city that resulted from the work of his committee were the properties for the nature preserve and Chic-a-Si Park.

In the late 1990s, Ralph, Ed Starr and I spearheaded a series of work sessions that focused on improvements to Gulf Blvd. These work sessions were the embryo for Action 2000, the dynamic civic organization that has contributed so much to the beautification of the Gulf Blvd. corridor over the last two decades. Ralph encouraged me to join the newly formed City of IRB Beautification Board around the time A2K was getting underway, and also supported my run for a city commission seat a couple of years later.

Over the years Ralph and I had numerous discussions about the progress of the community we both spent so much time trying to improve. Living in a condo facing the gulf, he was an avid supporter of beach preservation via sea oat plantings. (Every year when the city received new sea oat seedlings from the county, he was always eager for his condo to get its share!) In fact, he was interested in just about any aspect of city beautification -- whether involving nature, architecture, or roadways -- that you could think of. He even helped me with ideas for picturesque library windows in the new house I started to build in the early 2000s. Being an avid student of architecture myself, we had many a discussion about the workings of form and function in new construction popping up around IRB over the years.

Ralph was always eager to contribute from the vast stockpile of his life's experience to the betterment of IRB. But even more, his capacity for friendship is probably what shines most brightly in the memories of those of us who were fortunate enough to have worked and laughed with him after he arrived in this beachside community, the new home he embraced with such love and devotion.

*RB Johnson*

Indian Rocks Beach Resident Ralph Montgomery, age 84, passed

He was born in Melrose Park, Illinois on December 24, 1933 and Institute of Architects (AIA). He obtained his degree in Architecture during the Korean War. Ralph retired after more than 40 years of architecture.

After his retirement to Indian Rocks Beach, Ralph was a founding city with landscaping and other amenities on a volunteer basis through a volunteer.

Art was Ralph's lifelong hobby, with many pieces of his work being displayed for his art work, at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Florida, and the Veterans Administration Gold Medal at their annual National Creative Arts Show at the Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach. He also taught art classes at the Center will host a retrospective exhibit of paintings and drawings from 1960 to 8pm.

Ralph will be missed by those who knew and loved him, but his passion lives on by others. Here are just a few thoughts from those he knew him well.

My mom and dad were married for over 62 years. I am the youngest of four. We spent time vacationing in Indian Rocks Beach for as long as I can remember and we would stay at Comet Villas. We loved to go to Pueblo Viejo.

Life is good. My dad said that a lot. And he meant it. Even when he was watching the sun set over the gulf. He'd take in a big deep breath.

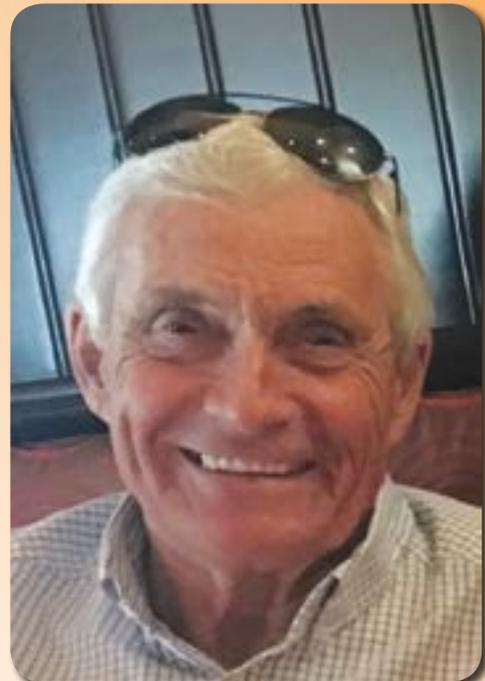
Dad was an architect and his job brought our family from Boston to Florida. He taught all of us to be passionate about our professions.

We lived in Kuwait in the 70s and in Jordan in the 80s. Living in the Middle East world. Dad was all about adventures and we took some amazing photos. Dad always had his camera and his sketch book with him. If for some reason a cocktail napkin would do. He was a traveler, not a tourist, and he loved the great wonders of the modern and ancient world, he was a collector. He had an old fishing boat. Dad noticed the beauty in the regular things in life. He had a pencil and his paint brush. Even while he was in the VA Hospital.

He was living in Kuwait when Iraq invaded in August 1990. Mom stayed along with my sister, her husband and their new baby. They stayed in Kuwait and children were let go in October. My dad and brother-in-law stayed in Kuwait, and he did a lot of drawing during that time. He relied on his art.

Dad was humble and always put others ahead of himself. He was committed himself to preserving the old beach town feel through his art.

We are so fortunate to have a collection of his drawings and sketches in our memories. Paul Cezanne is quoted saying "If I were called upon to reproduce of what the senses perceive in nature, seen through the eyes, I would do it with that. And he'd follow it up by saying "life is good".



Ralph Montgomery was a man of like mind and a strong sense of organization. He was a leader in the organization of human affairs and groups to work for life and community alive through his art and wonderful contributions.

I met Ralph in 2000 eight years ago. We worked on projects together and our friendship grew.

He and I shared a love for art as taking pictures overseas. He had an artistic ability and a sense of unique and beautiful things.

Ralph enjoyed many of his projects and both enjoyed his art. He was one of the best people I

# RALPH MONTGOMERY

d away in March, following a five-month-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

had resided in Indian Rocks Beach since 1990. Ralph was an Emeritus member of the American through the G.I. Bill, at the University of Illinois, after serving in the United States Air Force during tural practice.

member of Indian Rocks' Action 2000 (IRB A2K Inc.), a not for profit organization providing the ough fund raising and private donations. He designed several mini parks for the City of IRB as a

recognized during the last two decades. For several consecutive years, he won First Place Ribbons where he was an outpatient due to a service connected disability. Twice, he was recipient of the tive Arts Festival. Ralph hosted several one-man art shows in the Pinellas County area and taught to disabled vets, on a volunteer basis, at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center. In May, The Beach Art tating six decades of Ralph's work. The opening reception, with over 80 pieces, is May 4th from

ssing will also leave a hole in our community. The ultimate measure of a man is how he is viewed ell.



youngest of 4 children - Robert, Lois, Jon and me. s I can remember. My mother's parents lived in Largo Village to get a soda.

in the tough times. He appreciated life. Dad loved eath and say, "Life is good".

oston to the middle east. He was a hard worker and

g abroad gave us an opportunity to see a lot of the amazing trips. We rarely followed the usual path. Dad me reason he did not, an envelope from the hotel or and taught us to be the same. While we saw many of drawn to a doorway down a cobblestone street or to ags. He could capture the simple beauty with his lens, pice at Bay Pines, he continued to draw.

y mom was in IRB for the summer, but Dad was there yed in hiding in my sister's apartment until the women aw stayed in hiding until December. It was a difficult on his strong faith to get through.

e loved IRB and after he came back from Kuwait, he gh his work with Action 2000.

d paintings that illustrate our lives and evoke warm oon to define briefly the word Art, I should call it the ough the veil of the soul." I think my dad would agree  
*Jean Smith, Ralph's daughter*

ntgomery was a visionary. Along with a group ed individuals they developed one of our successful s Action 2000. Ralph was kind, possessed a sense and a twinkle in his eye. His desire was for our civic ork together to beautify and preserve the quality of munity living we all enjoy in IRB. Ralph's ideas are out out our city. We cherish him as a person and the ntributions he made to our community  
*Cookie Kennedy*

h Montgomery through Action years ago. We worked on many ether and developed a wonderful

red many of the same interests such ctures of doors when we traveled e took it a step further and used his to make wonderful pencil drawings d unusual doors.

d playing Mexican Train and shared world experiences as we played. We d a good chocolate milk shake; it alph's favorite things.  
*Ron Sacra*

Ralph's dedication, caring and determination to preserve the "uniqueness" of Indian Rocks Beach lives as an inspiration to all of us. As the founder of A2K, he was our leader, although he never asked to lead. He was a leader who never judged, but inspired through his example. He had a clarity and a vision, and they were contagious. He was the person you just wanted to be near, because you knew he would make you smile and just let you be you. He always made you feel like the most important thing in your world was the most important thing to his. I am proud to call Ralph my friend. *Daryl Frahn*

I met Ralph Montgomery in 2001, we had just moved to IRB. We weren't real close, but did work together on a few projects.

Back then, A2K was focused on the beautification of Gulf Blvd. Ralph, pushed for the removal of newspaper racks along Gulf Blvd. The only one left is in front of Guppy's. Another Ralph target was the removal of all public benches that had advertising on them. Ralph also was focused on planting nice shrubbery at the intersections with Gulf Blvd.

I remember Ralph's participation in Oktoberfest; he manned the A2K booth explaining to folks what they do for the community.

Ralph Montgomery was a shining light for IRB.

*Jim Labadie*

My wife Cathleen and I met Ralph and Phyllis shortly after we moved to Driftwood Sands in 2015. Both were kind and friendly and had as we had, traveled throughout the world. We often shared drinks, food and found memories of days pasts. Ralph and I loved Manhattans and I to this day have an occasional toast to celebrate his life. Ralph encouraged us to become involved in our wonderful community of Indian Rocks Beach. We joined A2K and I served on the Board of our Driftwood Sands Homeowners association with Ralph. Ralph and I enjoyed selling drink tickets at the Oktoberfest celebration. He and I wore our Bavarian hats/outfits for the occasion. We last worked together October 14, 2017. It was shortly thereafter that Ralph was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I always appreciated Ralph's friendship, kindness and consideration but it was not until I visited him regularly at the VA Hospice did I fully appreciate his strength, attitude and character. He was always upbeat, talkative and positive. He was a true gentleman and a true role model for all of us. It was an honor to have known him. *Marcel Turner*

I don't remember when I first met Ralph Montgomery, but I know where. It was in the back row at one of the monthly IRB Action 2000 meetings. Ralph had a remarkable energy, a positive attitude and strong feelings for Indian Rocks Beach and I was immediately drawn to him.

Over the past several years I have worked with Ralph on several projects of A2K and as I got to know him better I came to share Ralph's deep love for IRB and desire to do everything possible to make sure IRB maintained the small town livable character that made the city such a special place.

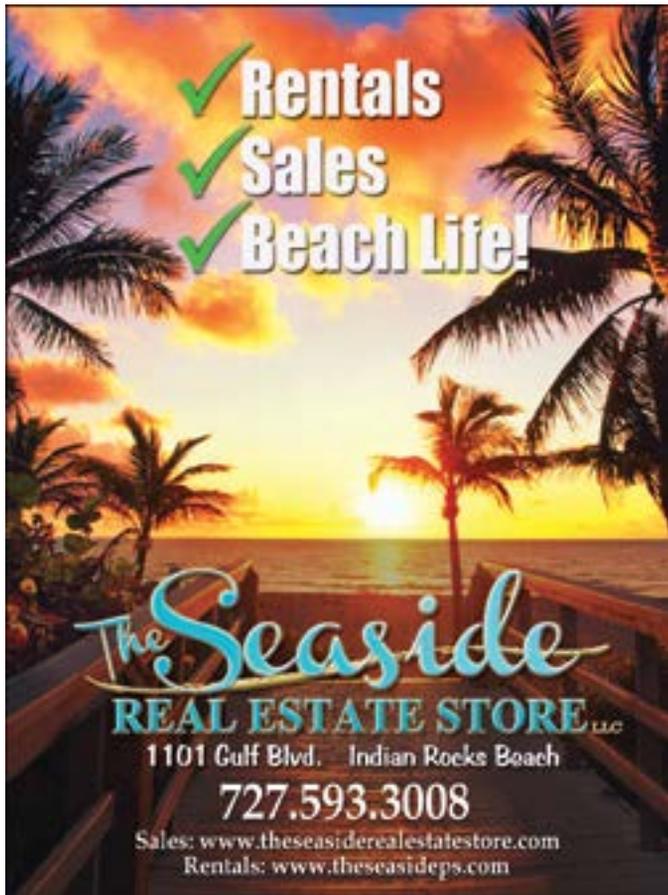
It was only in the last few months of Ralph's life that I came to know his deep spirituality and genuine love for others. Ralph began to open to me about his deep faith and love for all humanity and, even though he was facing the ultimate challenge, he faced the end of his life with love, compassion, grace and a positive giving character.

Ralph will be missed by everyone. As for me I have never met an individual like Ralph and I doubt I ever will, I miss him terribly but the time we shared will always be a source of positivity and strength and I cannot think of a better accolade to Ralph than I would like to be like him. *Don Bishop*

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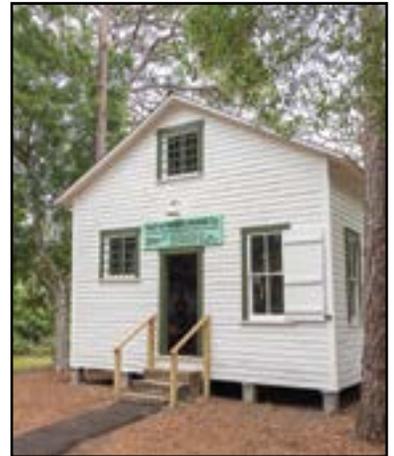
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**GULF OF MEXICO SPONGE WAREHOUSE AT HERITAGE VILLAGE**

Heritage Village recently celebrated the opening of the Gulf of Mexico Sponge Warehouse. The building arrived at Heritage Village in 2004 as a donation from the Kousaleos family, bringing with it decades of history and culture. Heritage Village staff and volunteers have worked for months to stabilize and restore the interior of the 1930s structure.



Throughout the summer and fall of 2017, a lot of activity surrounded the Gulf of Mexico Sponge Warehouse. Led by Heritage Village staff, preservation volunteers completed the restoration of the structure. In addition to stabilizing the interior of the building, volunteers performed a deep cleaning of the warehouse. This removed several decades of mold, mildew, and grime from the interior walls. Next, all the wood surfaces in the building were treated with a historically appropriate wood preservative. The mixture of linseed oil and turpentine sealed the wood and created a water-resistant barrier that aides in the prevention of rot.



The Curator of Collections at Heritage Village created an exhibit showcasing artifacts from the museum collection that discusses the sponge industry in Tarpon Springs. In addition, Heritage Village partnered with the City of Tarpon Springs to utilize

images and exhibit panels to create a cohesive sponging history. Recently, the Curator of Education at Heritage Village added an engaging interactive activity for all ages. Visitors can use historic images to create their own postcard of Tarpon Springs.

The Sponge Warehouse made its opening debut at the 2017 Country Jubilee along with a celebration a few weeks ago sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. The building is a visitor favorite! Heritage Village is a Pinellas County Government program and free to the public. It is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, and Sunday, 1-4pm.

**FLORIDA STORIES, DOWNLOAD THE APP**

If you like to to research Florida cities before you visit, there is now an app for that.

“Florida Stories” is a free app created by the Florida Heritage Council. It offers free stories and walking tours that will take visitors through the past and the present—step by step. It is packed with photos and intriguing details. Florida Stories will open your eyes to many of Florida’s cities and towns in a way you’ve never experienced before including downtown St Petersburg, Tarpon Springs, Ybor City, St Augustine, Key West and more.

Download the “Florida Stories” app through iTunes or the Google Play stores. You can also visit [www.FLStories.org](http://www.FLStories.org) for information and to download it there.

## DENIM & DIAMONDS IS BACK FOR A SECOND YEAR

On Saturday, June 2, the "Denim & Diamonds" brunch will be held at the Belleair Country Club to raise money for Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay. The glitzy event will feature a VIP celebrity meet and greet for sponsors, raffles, silent auction prizes, specialty drinks, exclusive swag bags and entertainment.

All proceeds will directly benefit philanthropist and business owner Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization was founded in 2010. The charity's purpose is to positively impact the lives of as many Tampa Bay residents as possible by assisting and mentoring hard-working families in need, advocating for change, supporting other organizations, and spreading love with various acts of kindness. The organization helps families in crisis, neglected animals, and veterans in need, as well as provides domestic violence advocacy and suicide/anti-bullying prevention.

"The first ever Denim & Diamonds event was a tremendous success," said PureLife Medi-Spa Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Fitzgerald. "Everybody feels great about supporting Hands Across the Bay. They truly help Tampa Bay families when they are in crisis and we whole heartedly support their mission. Many thanks to the committee of volunteers who are organizing this event. PureLife is honored to be the presenting sponsor once again."

Individual tickets cost \$60 per person. For information or to purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit [handsacrossthebay.org](http://handsacrossthebay.org).

## ST. PETE'S NEW PIER STATUS

If you have been along the downtown St Petersburg waterfront lately, you have not seen that construction is well underway on the new St. Pete Pier. It started last fall, and considerable progress has been made. To date, most of the 425 pilings have been placed.



Significant progress has been made on the deck and it should be complete this month. The Pier bridge and construction work is underway on the tilted lawn and the bulkhead around Spa Beach. Work is scheduled to begin on the Pier Approach – the uplands area by early May.

Doc Ford's, a small restaurant chain, owned partially by author Randy Wayne White, was selected as the restaurant on the approach. It is one of two large dining facilities and will be located in the former Pelican parking lot area. The restaurant will be family friendly and you can be sure Doc Ford's famous Yucatan Shrimp will be on the menu!

Tampa Bay Watch, an organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay Estuary, has submitted a proposal to the City for the management of the Education Center. The Education Center will house both an indoor as well as a "wet"/outdoor classroom, and provide marine science educational opportunities to both residents and visitors.

### Next Steps:

- Complete Pier Head Building - January 2019
  - Complete Pier & Approach Construction - Spring/Summer 2019
  - Commence Tenant Build-Out - Summer 2019
  - Complete Tenant Construction - Fall 2019
- Sign up for occasional Pier updates, at [newstpetepier.com](http://newstpetepier.com).

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# Business Briefs

## RADIANCE TURNS 12

Radiance Medspa, known for offering an individualized approach to anti-aging, skincare and body sculpting, is celebrating 12 years in Belleair Bluffs. The Medspa has performed more BOTOX and Juvederm treatments than any other facility in Tampa Bay, and is among the top 200 BOTOX and Juvederm facilities in the United States. The team at Radiance takes an active interest in the community by supporting charities such as the Homeless Empowerment Program, Habitat for Humanity, GFWC Pinellas Seminole Woman's Club, RSC Pinellas, the Arc Tampa Bay Foundation, Clearwater Free Clinic, and a dozen others.



**2018 BEST PLACES TO WORK** ProVise Management Group, LLC (ProVise) has been recognized as a 2018 Best Places to Work for Financial Advisers Investment News announced. ProVise was chosen as one of this year's top-50 based on employer and employee surveys delving into everything from company culture, benefits, career paths and more. They will be recognized on May 15th at the first annual Best Places to Work for Financial Advisers Awards Luncheon in Chicago at the University Club.

ProVise is a 30 year old financial planning and investment management firm headquartered in Clearwater. As a registered investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission, it serves about 1,100 clients in over 30 states, managing approximately \$1.44 billion as of 12/31/17. 727-441-9022 [www.provise.com](http://www.provise.com).

**DREAM VIEW CLOSING THIS MONTH** As soon as the tourists leave, and the dust settles, Dream View Hotel at the south end of Clearwater Beach will close. It will be demolished to make room for a new mixed-use project called JW Marriott and become part hotel and part ownership resort. Uday Lele, the hotel's owner, says he hopes to start demo the beginning of May. Units are still available for purchase. The project is at 691 S. Gulfview Blvd. See renderings at [www.JWMarriott.com](http://www.JWMarriott.com).

**GET FIT OPEN 24/7** The Get Fit gym, located in the Barclay Shopping Center, recently changed and is open 24 hours, around the clock. Now you can hit the gym while everyone else is sleeping or first thing in our morning. Get Fit is located at 13845 Walsingham Rd., just north of the McDonalds. Call for rates and membership at 595-4505. Get more info at [www.GetFitnessClubs.com](http://www.GetFitnessClubs.com)

**STORAGE SPACE** A new storage facility is almost complete and will be opening soon on Walsingham Road. An Extra Space franchise, it is next door to Hammock Hardware at 13890 Walsingham. They are not open yet but hope to open in May or June. Now accepting reservations.

**NEW DOLLAR GENERAL** A new Dollar General store opened just south of Walsingham Road at 11601 Oakhurst Street, across from Wendy's. The inventory is very similar to their neighbor, the CVS store.

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



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# Business Briefs



**BAIT SHOP CHANGES NAME** The bait shop located on the Belleair Beach Causeway Boat Ramp has changed its name. Previously Anglers 360, it is now Belleair Bait & Tackle. Other than that, there are no other changes. They even have the same owners.

**YOUR LOCAL BOATING RESOURCE** MarineMax Clearwater has everything you need to make the most out of your time on the water. It all starts with finding your perfect boat. With top-notch brands including Sea Ray, Azimut, Boston Whaler, Nautique, Harris, and more, they have the ideal boat for your lifestyle. Once you take delivery of your boat, you become a member of the MarineMax family. This opens the doors for you to enjoy all they offer including world-class service, educational courses, boater events, and getaways!

The team members of MarineMax Clearwater provide a wealth of experience and are all boaters with an incredible passion for the water. Beyond boat sales, they strive to share their joy and enable other boaters to do the same. Visit [marinemax.com](http://marinemax.com) or call (727) 536-2628 to explore the world of MarineMax Clearwater boating.

**PROPERTY SOLD** Pinellas County has sold their vacant lot in Indian Rocks Beach, between 23rd and 24th Avenues on Gulf Blvd. The new owner, Indian Rocks Beach resident Ariyana Jennings, paid \$1.1 million. Her representative states she currently has no plans to develop the site. Previously, it was the site of a small grocery store and gas station.

**JAMES R. RENNER, DMD JOINS SHOWALTER DENTAL PRACTICE**

Largo based dentist Thomas L. Showalter, Jr., DDS is pleased to announce the addition of James R. Renner, DMD. Dr. Renner (shown here to the left of Dr. Showalter, Jr.) earned his undergraduate degree at the University of South Florida and graduated from Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois in Chicago. He is a member of the American Dental Association (ADA) as well as the West Coast District Dental Association (WCDDA).



"Our team is beyond fortunate to welcome Dr. Renner, a talented and knowledgeable dental professional, who will continue our practice's 36-year tradition of personalized patient care," says Dr. Showalter. Drs. Renner and Showalter are located at 1678 W. Bay Drive. Phone: (727) 585-7439.

**AMI NOW IRB** Mike Fowler used to run his beach chairs and umbrella rental business from Anna Maria Island (AMI). A year ago, he moved it to Indian Rocks Beach and has changed his company's name to IRB CHAIRS. Call ahead for reservations at 841-357-6103 or book online, [www.irbchairs.com](http://www.irbchairs.com). Located at 1700 Gulf Blvd., they will also deliver chairs and umbrellas to your location.

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**PINELLAS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REALITIES.....**

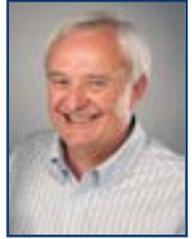
*By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services*

As I've spent time writing informational articles these past 2 years, while contemplating the robust construction activity in Pinellas County, I keep going back to recurring concepts that I've discussed because they provide the most accurate information that I feel I can provide. The construction industry has been in full swing for the past few years, and with the influx of our snowbirds that have now turned into Florida residents, it seems inevitable that more increased activity will continue. Just this past year, three of my close friends from up north that have been renting here for the past years, have decided to purchase a home here in Pinellas. They have been going to Open Houses for years seeing what is available at what price, and have witnessed the large increase in home pricing due to inflation. Like everybody, they all said "Why did I wait these past years to buy, when I could have purchased the same new home for 10%, 15%, or 25% less"? Don't we often hear our friends say "I remember when I could have purchased a home in that neighborhood for \$380,000, and now that same home is selling for almost \$500,000". That is exactly today's reality.

Therefore, I'll re-state my prior concepts from past news articles that we discuss almost daily when customers come through our furnished model home:

- **Investing or Spending:** We all like liquidity with our savings, but lose ground each year when delaying a new home purchase. The stock market is hot now, but of course will have periodic corrections. Transferring some savings into a new Florida home and having a "Hard Asset" investment makes sense. Remember, you are not "Spending" this money, but rather Investing in Florida real estate that traditionally has increased in value well above savings accounts;
- **Inflation, Inflation, Inflation:** Is a new Florida home going to get cheaper? No. A new home constructed to elevated FEMA standards, with 150MPH hurricane resistant construction, energy efficient, and all modern amenities, the "Supply & Demand" ratio greatly favors those homeowners. The existing homes built 50 years ago

to outdated codes and non-FEMA compliant elevations just do not enjoy the inflationary increase of new homes today;



- **Enjoy Your New Investment:** How many investments in a family's portfolio can be enjoyed as much as a new home, maybe on the Intracoastal with a new pool and dock, for the family to enjoy for swimming, fishing, and boating to restaurants? This point would not be valid if you were spending the family inheritance on a depreciable item, but a new Florida home has the luxury of an enjoyable family environment that has historically increased in value each year;
- **Hard to "Pull the Trigger":** I realize that it is hard to transfer the funds from savings to Florida real estate, but that big step pays many dividends for families;
- **Replacement Homes:** Those lucky families that already own a home on the water, but realize the age and non-FEMA compliant 50 year old home is not the outdated home that they want to live in for the next 20 years. These families only have to choose a new home, and replace it with a new family environment. This has become the main portion of construction for GHD these past few years.

New Florida homes are becoming increasingly popular, and many Realtors bring their customers to our furnished model home when they can't find a home that satisfies their customer's needs. We Co-Broker with Realtors around Pinellas, to show them an alternative to the existing 50 year old housing stock here.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and has the new 2018 "Key West" home at 239 144th Ave. N, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to call at (727) 800-6600, or email to: [tweisser@ghdcsi.com](mailto:tweisser@ghdcsi.com). Meanwhile, look us up at our Web site [www.GHDcoastalHomes.com](http://www.GHDcoastalHomes.com).




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## BEACH ART CENTER'S

### SUMMER CREATIVE KID'S CAMP

Weekly sessions of the Beach Art Center's Creative Kid's Camp will offer two scheduling tracks this year, a choice of full-day sessions and a selection of morning sessions. All camps are booked as a full one-week package and begin June 4th and run through the week of July 16th. Full details, information and registration is available at the [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org).

Full-day campers will focus on the Masters. Each week the central theme will revolve around a different artist. Campers will alternate working in their gallery space and pottery studio, learning about the style of each artist and applying that to their work in clay, watercolors, pastels, mixed media and more.

The morning sessions will be held in their Gray Gallery, each week with a special theme. You can choose from "Claymation – Lights, Camera, Action", "Comics & Cartooning", "Camp American Girl hangs with Moana" and several more.

Tuition for one week of our full-day camp is \$200\*. Morning session fee is \$100\*. Discounts are available for members of the Beach Art Center and the offer sibling and multi-week discounts. \*Material fees are additional and will vary by camp selected.

Memberships may be purchased for \$65 (\$95 for a family) through their website or by stopping in Monday – Thursday 9 - 4. Beach Art Center members are invited to annual meetings and receive discounts on many of the courses offered at the center. The fees collected from memberships allow them to achieve their mission of inspiring lifelong learning, empowering the individual, and engaging the community of all ages in the creative arts.

The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Boulevard in Indian Rocks Beach. Established in 1978, they are celebrating their 40th year. The Center is a 501c3 non-profit corporation offering a pottery studio, gallery exhibits, a gift shop and classes for all ages and experience.

### NEW TEXTING SERVICES KEEPING THE BEACHES INFORMED

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce realized the great need to communicate with not only local businesses, but area residents as well. Without electricity and Internet service, news updates were difficult to receive. However, many were able to still access text messages.

The Chamber recently implemented a community text messaging service to help spread information to the masses in a timely fashion. The service is free to join and open to everyone. Standard messaging rates may apply.

To receive all messages from the Chamber text "TBBCoC" to 72727. To receive targeted information only, please text the following keyword to 72727.

"TBBeaches" – Local Community News

"TBNetwork" – Networking Opportunities

"TBGovernment" – Government Affairs Information

The next time the Tampa Bay beaches face an emergency, the community will now receive information as soon as it is available, so residents and businesses are able to form a plan to act safely and immediately.

For more information please email [info@tampabaybeaches.com](mailto:info@tampabaybeaches.com).

**Indian Rocks Beach's Favorite Restaurants**

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20 Island Way, Clearwater

**Marina Cantina**  
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727.443.1750  
25 Causeway Blvd, Clearwater

**SALT ROCK GRILL**  
727.593.7625  
19325 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores

**SEAWEED**  
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727.584.1700  
2819 West Bay Dr., Belleair Bluffs

**Salt Cracker Fish Camp**  
727.442.6910  
25 Causeway Blvd, Clearwater

**RUMBA**  
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## Coming to Pinellas County

# A New Underwater Veterans Memorial

Pinellas County is adding a "Circle of Heroes" to its existing Veterans Artificial Reef. The new addition will feature 24 life size military statues to honor our veterans. The plan is to deploy the new statues in the Gulf in 45 feet of water off Dunedin.

In 1999, the Pinellas County Artificial Reef Program constructed a new artificial reef in the Gulf ten miles west of Dunedin. At the base of this reef was a concrete monument with a bronze plate that read:

*"This reef is dedicated to the men and women of our armed services, whose dedication and sacrifice have made this country what it is today, the land of the free and the home of the brave."*

The buoy that marks this reef had an American Flag flying that was periodically replaced when necessary. Since that date, countless veterans have had their ashes placed in the water at the buoy.

In June, the Pinellas County Commission allocated \$50,000 to start work on the construction of an underwater memorial that will be called a "Circle of Heroes." The plan is to have a circle of life size concrete military statues placed on the sea floor in artificial reef Gulf ten miles west of Dunedin.

While there are numerous memorials around the country to honor our veterans, this would be the first underwater memorial open to divers.

This project would be unique in the country and hopefully make Pinellas a dive destination. The attraction would not only replicate the underwater art projects that are occurring all around the world, but it would also be a unique memorial to our veterans. Having a reef designed especially for divers would also be the first of its kind in the country.

This addition would be added to the existing artificial reef that has become popular with anglers and divers. Under four mooring buoys, there will be the "Circle of Heroes" that will feature life size concrete statues in a circle 100 feet in diameter. In the center of this circle will be a concrete monument with bronze emblems of the Army, Navy Air Force, Marines, and the Coast Guard.

The first nine statues will soon be ordered from a South Dakota firm that creates military statues found in parks and cemeteries around the country. These nine will include an airman, a Korean War era soldier, a marine in dress blues, a female nurse, a Vietnam soldier, an Iraq freedom fighter, a female soldier, a Navy sailor, and a "no man left behind" statue.

The remaining 15 statues will be custom made to specifications. Local veterans groups will help chose the remaining statues. Some possible custom made statues could include statues of General George Patton (complete with twin 45s), General Douglas MacArthur, and General Norman Schwarzkopf. Additional statues could feature an

EOD soldier with an IED in his hand, a wounded marine on a stretcher with a corpsman kneeling next to him. Another statue could feature a Navy sonar man at a console, an airman working on a jet engine, a navy seal in scuba gear coming out of the water, and a wounded warrior in rehab on parallel bars.

The \$50,000 from the Pinellas County Commission will cover the cost of the first nine statues and the center monument. The remaining funds will be sought from the Pinellas Tourist Development Council and the Florida Legislature. Each custom statue will cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000, and the deployment by barge and crane will cost around \$100,000. The total cost of the project will be around \$450,000.

In recent years underwater art has become very popular around the world. The life size statue of Christ in the Florida Keys has been visited by thousands of divers every year for over 50 years. This underwater veterans memorial is expected to not only honor our veterans, but also make Pinellas County a "dive destination" for diving tourist from all across the country and around the world.

This new memorial is projected to be installed by late summer. For information about this project, contact Dr. Heyward Mathews, Oceanographer at St. Petersburg College, [hmathews@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hmathews@tampabay.rr.com). ■

## CRABBY BILL'S FOUNDER DIES

**George "Crabby Bill" Loder, Sr. 1932 - 2018**

Indian Rocks Beach lost a fixture last month. Bill Loder, aka Crabby Bill, passed away April 19th.

Just recently, the Indian Rocks restaurant celebrated its 35th Anniversary in IRB, and Bill, who has not been in good health over the last few months, celebrated his 86th birthday. Unfortunately, his passing did not come as a surprise.

Bill's roots go back to New Jersey. He moved his family including his wife Dolores, and their five kids, Ellie, Dolores (Cookie), George, Matt and Johnny to Pinellas in 1968, fifty years ago.

Bill's first restaurant was called "Captain Bill's." But he sold that name when he sold the restaurant. He had restaurants in Redington Shores (1975), Madeira Beach, Bay Pines, and Tyrone Blvd. He opened in Indian Rocks Beach in the small building, that was once their fish market, in April of 1983. The building was known as "Wolfies," was a hot dog stand, selling food out of the front window on Gulf Blvd. Coincidentally, they are in the process of reopening that building as a frozen yogurt shop.

"When dad bought that place, we all thought he was crazy," says Matt Loder, who now runs the Crabby Bill's businesses. "We did not even have a sign. We used to park a truck that had our name on it, out near the road."

Six months later, Bill bought a second building on the block from Joe Carbonaro that had been a doctors' office. He opened a second restaurant there.

"In February of 1987, Jim Sparks, owner of The Blue Lagoon on the southwest corner, asked dad if he wanted to buy his bar," says Matt. "Dad was in his 50s. All he wanted was a business that supported his family. One that the family could keep going and pass down to their kids."

That building, which had been Scoop's (an ice cream business), the Mamba Club, Blue Hawaii, and The Blue Lagoon, would now become Crabby Bill's.

"Back then, Indian Rocks was different," reflects Matt Loder. "There were more Ma-and-Pa type motels. Lots of people from Tampa had second homes and cottages over here and came to IRB for the weekends and brought their family and friends. There were less full time people."



*Bill and his wife Dottie, before her death in 2000.*

Bill Loder's foresight has helped Crabby Bill's to become one of the largest employers and one of the largest sales tax contributors in Indian Rocks Beach. Under his watch, it grew from a small 800 square foot building on Gulf Blvd to include a gift shop, Lulu's Oyster Bar, Jake's Cantina, and Seabreeze Seafood Restaurant located down the road in Redington Beach.

His family has grown too, and includes 13 grandkids and 16 great grandkids. Many of those old enough work in the family business. Crabby Bill Loder had a long and happy life and left a legacy for all to remember him by. The people of Indian Rocks and all of Pinellas County will miss him.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH  
BEACH ART CENTER  
SUMMER 2018!

## Creative Kid's Camp

Full Day or Morning Sessions Available  
Options available for a variety of interests  
Comics & Cartooning, Claymation, American Girl Dolls,  
Pottery, Watercolor, Pastels & Mixed Media  
Weeks of Jun 4, 11, 18 & 25, July 9 & 16  
[www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org) for details

1515 Bay Palm Boulevard  
Indian Rocks Beach  
(727) 596-4331

Beach Art Center



*Here is the future! This is the Anona Elementary Class of 2018 fifth grade graduates. These approximately 80 kids, from four different classrooms, will be attending Middle School next year. This year, public school breaks for the summer on Thursday May 24th, right before Memorial Day weekend. Public school resumes August 13th.*

## **PINELLAS COUNTY'S BUDGET PROCESS: A YEAR-ROUND ENDEAVOR**

*By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner*

Pinellas County's annual budget development is virtually a year-round process. The County's fiscal year starts on October 1. The following January, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) reviews its strategic plan—the guiding document that aligns service delivery to five defined principles: delivering first class services to the public and our customers, ensuring public health, safety and welfare, practicing superior environmental stewardship, fostering continual economic growth and vitality and creating a quality workforce in a positive and supportive organization.

At the same time, county departments build their budget requests aligned with the strategic plan, linking big picture goals to budget decisions.

The Office of Management and Budget works on updating the economic forecast during the same time frame. The forecast is built upon an individual assessment of ten of the County's major funds: the General Fund, the Tourist Development Fund, the Transportation Trust Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Fund, the Airport Fund and the Water, Sewer, Solid Waste and Surface Water Funds.

The targets or budget guidelines are developed by County Administration based on the financial forecast. These are communicated to the County's departments and agencies for use during their budget development. All instructions and resources for preparing budget requests are also distributed.

County departments and agencies submit their completed budget submissions by mid-March, except for the Constitutional Officers who have a due date of May 1. The budget submissions are analyzed by the Office of Management and Budget in preparation for budget work sessions with the BCC.

In April, May and June, various budget work sessions are held to obtain Board feedback necessary to develop the proposed budget such as millage rate policy, proposed program enhancements or reductions, and revenue adjustments.

In July, the proposed budget is prepared by the County Administrator based on direction acquired from the various budget work sessions and priorities in the County's strategic plan. The proposed budget document presents a balanced budget for the coming year.

Once the proposed budget is distributed, additional budget work sessions may be held to provide further guidance to the County Administrator.

Public hearings are conducted in September. All changes to the proposed budget are finalized and announced at each of the public hearings. The public hearings represent an opportunity for citizens to provide input to the BCC regarding the budget process. At the first public hearing, the BCC approves the tentative millage rates and budgets. At the second public hearing, the BCC approves the adopted millage rates and budgets.

You have the opportunity to participate throughout the process, as well.

Beginning in May, there are multiple budget information sessions scheduled. I encourage you to attend these sessions and the budget hearings in September. You can also view the meetings online or watch these meetings on PCC-TV. I also encourage you to review our strategic plan, budget process and forecasts by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/budget](http://www.pinellascounty.org/budget).

If you have comments or suggestions about the budget, please feel free to contact me at [kseel@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org).

All my best to you and your family.

## OFFSHORE DRILLING A Real Threat to Pinellas Way of Life

By Hunter Miller

America's coastal communities have been shaken by the release of the Trump administration's draft five-year program (2019-2024) for offshore oil and gas drilling. Under Secretary Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior announced plans to expand oil and gas leasing in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, as well as to the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans—nearly all U.S. federal waters. This is the largest offshore leasing plan ever proposed, overturning the Obama administration's five-year program (2017-2022) that had excluded all of these areas from offshore drilling. Although the federal government's plan for America's coasts is changing, the widespread local opposition from coastal communities is not. Coastal residents know what is at stake.

Oil and gas exploration in the eastern Gulf and Atlantic could devastate Florida's tourism, fishing and recreation industries. The prospect of another tragedy like the BP Deepwater Horizon still looms over Gulf of Mexico communities, and this new government action will increase that threat to the state of Florida. Oil spills do not respect state lines. Imagine trying to drop your fishing lines into an oil-soaked Tampa Bay. Think about turning back from a trip to the Bahamas because of a leaking rig in the Florida Straits. Vibrant coastal ecosystems could be forever changed. We cannot allow this to happen to Florida's coast. Boating is a lifestyle and hobby that relies on a clean and healthy ocean.

While early reports indicated that Florida may be exempt from the plan, that future is far from guaranteed—administration officials recently indicated that Florida's waters are still very much on the table. This is why continued engagement is necessary to make sure the federal government hears from people on the coast.

Pinellas County recently passed a resolution that formally opposes oil and gas drilling in Florida's waters. The county joins over 50 other Florida municipalities that have passed anti-drilling resolutions, including the cities Treasure Island and Redington Beach. Local Florida governments are sending a strong message of unity against this disastrous plan.

While local government opposition is key to protecting our coast from offshore drilling, we need your voice, too. Boaters and sailors have an especially important voice in this fight. Writing and calling your representatives, attending opposition events and spreading the message in your own neighborhood are meaningful ways to help. The federal government is taking public comments on the draft five-year program until March 9, 2018. It is imperative that Floridians voice their opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration. Visit [www.Oceana.org/ActNow](http://www.Oceana.org/ActNow) to submit a comment and voice your opposition to drilling off Florida's beautiful coasts.

## SAILING CAMP

Indian Rocks Family Sailing Association Youth Sailing Camps provide an affordable program aimed at teaching the basics of small boat sailing with an intentional focus on the virtues of teamwork, compassion, patience and perseverance.

2018 Summer Youth Sailing Camp is now enrolling Intrepid Sailors must be 7-14 years old on the first day of the session in order to participate and must be able to swim at an intermediate level or above.

Session 1: June 18 to 29 - Full & Half Day  
Session 2: July 9 to 20 - Full & Half Day  
Session 3: July 30 to August 10 - Full Day Only

Camp takes place at the Clearwater Yacht Club. Tuition is \$200 for full day (9am to 4pm) or \$100 for half day, which runs 9am to noon or 1pm to 4pm.

Please contact camp director Ned Covell at [jcovell2@gmail.com](mailto:jcovell2@gmail.com)



**SUNSETS**  
5k at Sand Key Park 2018  
West Florida Y Runners Club  
Clearwater, Florida

June 8th • June 22nd • July 13th • July 27th

**7:00 p.m.**  
PACKET PICK UP & REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5:45 BEFORE EACH RACE  
6:45 p.m. Kids Fun Run free to all  
**Register Online - SignMeUp.com/124944**

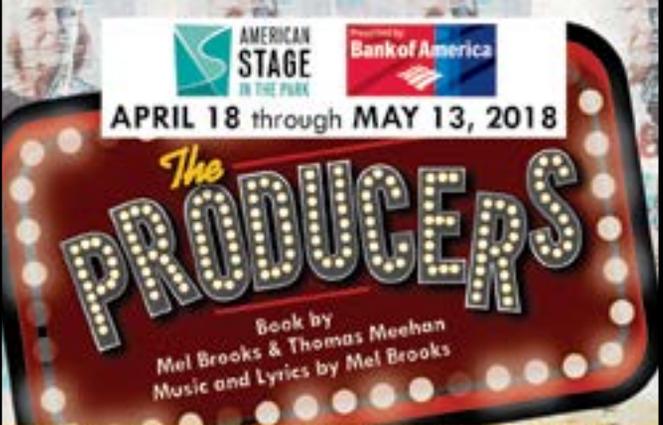
**SINGLE RACE \$20** No shirt  
**SINGLE RACE \$25** Shirt included  
**SERIES \$50** Shirt included

**WEEKLY AWARDS**  
Top 3 overall Male & Female & Top 3 in each age group  
**SERIES AWARDS**  
Overall Male & Female, 1st Place Male & Female age group

(AGE GROUPS WILL BE SCORED BY YOUR AGE OF THE LAST RACE)  
**MUST RUN ALL 4 RACES TO BE ELIGIBLE**  
Scored Age Groups 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 70-74, 75+

Race will start & finish behind Sheraton Sand Key  
Course runs through Sand Key Park (out & back)

There is a NO REFUND POLICY regarding your registration.  
EACH RACE WILL BE RUN RAIN OR SHINE  
We reserve the right in the event of inclement weather, emergency or natural disaster to cancel the race or move to a later time. In the event of cancellation, there will be no refund of entry fees.



AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK  
Bank of America  
APRIL 18 through MAY 13, 2018  
**The PRODUCERS**  
Book by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan  
Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks  
Performed at Demers Landing Park | 1st Ave SE at Bayshore Dr, St. Pete

**WHAT'S ON @ AMERICAN STAGE**

**MARJORIE PRIME**  
MAR 7 - APR 1  
AMERICAN STAGE/CAPITAL STAGE CO-PRODUCTION

**STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR**  
MAY 23 - JUN 17  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY VOICES: NEW PLAY FESTIVAL MAINSTAGE SELECTION

**BAD JEWS**  
JUL 11 - AUG 5  
A SERIOUSLY SMART COMEDY

AMERICANSTAGE.ORG | 727.823.PLAY (7529)

## Organizational News...

### FRIENDS OF IRB DOG PARK

*Submitted by Wendell Schott*

It was an active season not only at the IRB Dog Park, but with various canine-oriented festivities in our area. If you keep watch in some of our local weekly newspapers, you will see that many non-profit events were held. Winterfest '18 was a huge success with 27 entrants in the pet parade sponsored by Sun and Surf Animal Hospital. The 26 dog names ranged alphabetically from Autumn to Yogi. Man's best friend and the excited onlookers were most surprised and intrigued by Joey, a 5 year old IRB sulcata tortoise, who won "honorable mention."

PJs Oyster Bar held its first Muttt Strut in March and all proceeds went to a great cause - the SPCA. Dozens of businesses in our area donated gift certificates and prizes. Every participating pooch was a winner!

Photos from both the Muttt Strut and Winterfest are posted on the bulletin board inside of the dog park. You will also see new signs "Barking Disturbs Neighbors" posted along the north fence directly behind homes on 10th Avenue. Please keep the loud yapping and woofing to a minimum. Happy Tails To You!

### BEACH MOMS

A new area Moms group formed the first of the year. It is designed to help mothers of all kinds connect with each other. In an area filled with tourists and retirees, that can sometimes be hard. The Beach Moms group has free weekly events and offers a once a month Moms party for moms to get together relax and make friends.

This group is intended to encourage moms to make connections, laugh a little more, and enjoy motherhood with a support system. Their motto is Moms Staying Happy, Sandy, and Connected. They have all kinds of events planned for the coming months including beach play dates, evening family park outings, Monday morning walks, Mother brunches and even a special Make Moms-life Easier event!

The group's founder, Hannah Scott has a one-year old daughter and runs their private Facebook group. You can reach her at (813) 295 -1126.

### ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

*Submitted by Julie Hoofnagle*

A passion for preserving and beautifying Indian Rocks Beach is why Action 2000 (A2K) was created. The Annual A2K May Mixer is a celebration of the many spirited volunteers who have given their time efforts to make this a reality. We invite you to join us in the festivities that will be held at the Calvary Episcopal Hall on May 9th, from 6 to 8 pm. Along with appetizers, music and a chance to connect and meet new and old friends, the evening will feature the presentation of the coveted 2018 Preservation Awards for IRB businesses and residences.

Want to be part of this organization that is leaving its mark all over town? We invite you to join us at our monthly meetings held at the Beach Arts Center the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30.

Action 2000 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. For information check out our website, [www.irbaction2000.com](http://www.irbaction2000.com) and Action 2000 IRB on Facebook.

### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are offering their Summer 2018 Membership program, effective from May 1 – Sept. 30, 2018. There is no initiation fee and dues are \$150/month, with no monthly food & beverage minimum. This is for use at Clearwater Yacht Club exclusively and includes daytime dockage at Clearwater Yacht Club. At the close of the summer membership, the summer member in good standing may be offered membership in a class of their choice (Full, Social, or Junior) at the then current offer rates for dues and initiation, but you are not obligated to join. Call or email the office for more details, 727-447-6000 or [office@clearwateryachtclub.org](mailto:office@clearwateryachtclub.org)

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. If you would like to join, you do not need to own a boat. Half of their members don't have one. Most of their social activities center around parties in their own restaurant or at their waterfront Tiki-Bar. Learn more at [Clwyc.org](http://Clwyc.org), e-mail [Office@CLWYC.org](mailto:Office@CLWYC.org) or call 447-6000.

### HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWS

*Submitted by Nancy Ayers*

The Spring Luncheon at the museum included traditional potluck favorites, a bunny raffle, and the featured talk by Dr. Gary Mormino on the Gilded Age in Florida. As usual, a good crowd of members and friends enjoyed a time of sharing nourishment for the tummy and the mind! Mark your calendar now for the Fall Luncheon on November 17 to hear R.B. Johnson's long-awaited talk on the Big Indian Rocks Fishing Pier (1959-1985).

The historical museum has just embarked on a huge project to digitize, archive and preserve our photo collection. We are fortunate to have great photographs that have been donated to us over the years, and we've always recognized this collection as a "priceless" asset. Hurricane Irma last year added impetus to getting this project started. We've enlisted the help of two knowledgeable professionals and are seeking student volunteers through the "Bright Futures" program to get this done. Costs will be paid in part by a grant from Duke Energy.

If you have historical photos of IRB you have been thinking about donating to the museum (scans or originals), now would be a great time to do it!

We're located at 203 4th Avenue, across from the post office. Bring your out-of-town guests! Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm. Check our website, [IRBmuseum.com](http://IRBmuseum.com).

### SAVE OUR COTTAGES DOCUMENTARY

The Save our Cottages Documentary is in phase 4 - the final quarter! They are very hopeful that they can obtain a grant to supplement the remaining funds needed. Film maker, Lyn Dingfelder is writing the grant request.

This Save Our Cottages documentary audience has a nostalgic love for the "old Florida" of their youth...a comfortable, slower-paced place with quaint small town character and a sense of community. This baby-boomer audience longs to get back to the sleepy, seaside towns with pristine beaches but also wants to share this special sense of peace and relaxation with their families. These factors make "old Florida" and particularly, Indian Rocks Beach, a destination. Art is often used to educate and influence social change throughout history.

This story is about three Impressionistic artists who are making a difference...is sure to inspire audiences of all ages, as well as environmentalists and preservationists worldwide

## Organizational News...

### IRB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Joe McCall

This year's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the IRB HOA and the City of IRB was once again a huge success! Roughly 300 children hunted for over 3,500 hidden eggs throughout the nature park on Saturday, March 31st. Children and adults danced to and enjoyed music by the charismatic DJ, CJ Rocks. There were lots of games and great prizes, balloon animals and yummy snacks and, of course, the enthusiastic Easter Bunny, sponsored by Century 21 Beggins! Thanks to everyone who came out and all our volunteers!

The HOA Monthly Community Socials are FREE and are held on the second Thursday of each month from 6pm – 7:30pm. Come on out to Lulu's Oyster Bar on May 10th! Catch up on what's going on in Indian Rocks Beach. Visit with friends and neighbors and enjoy free appetizers and special drink prices while you show your support for our local restaurants and bars.

With the community's support the HOA recently approved contributions to: Save our Cottages Documentary, Beach Food Pantry, Anona Schools, Church of the Isles Miracles Outreach Mission, Calvary Episcopal Church IRB Youth Mission Trip, Spring City of IRB Luncheon and, IRB Flag Retirement Ceremony.

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

### BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

Submitted David Kline BCFP Director

**Celebration of Giving a Success!** Thanks to everyone who joined BCFP in our second annual Celebration of Giving event on April 7. It is our biggest fundraiser and its proceeds allow us to serve those people in our community who struggle with daily food insecurity.

This year's event honored all the volunteers who give freely of their time to serve our needy clients. From food pickup, to staffing special events, to aiding our clients in selecting their food items, our volunteers are indeed, a special group. Thank you all!!

**BCFP Van Funding Project** We have many tasks throughout the year that require a larger vehicle: food pick up (3 times per week), transporting equipment to various event locations and picking up periodic bulk food donations. This ongoing need has been covered by community members who graciously volunteer their time and larger vehicle. We thank them for their contribution.

Over the last 6 months, BCFP has been working on sourcing funds to purchase a quality used cargo van. A utility cargo van will allow us to more easily manage our ongoing, vital tasks. So far, we have raised dedicated Van Project donations of over \$10,000, well over half way to our target goal of \$17,000. We encourage all to consider supporting this worthwhile initiative.

Please contact BCFP Director, David Kline (727-418-1673) if you wish to donate to the Van Project or if you have any questions about our wonderful community resource. 'Food from the Heart'...we are all making a difference!

### NEWCOMER CLUB

Are you an area newcomer and just have not been able to meet people? 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 locations for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and theater shows.

Please RSVP with Ginny by calling 365-3493 or Mary Jane at 352-263-5518. Visit [WelcomeNewComerClub.com](http://WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

### BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

The Indian Rocks Beach Art Center will be open all summer this year with so much going on:

- Creative Kids Camps which run from June 4th – July 20th. Morning and all-day sessions are available for ages 6-13.
- Afternoon and evening pottery, watercolor, acrylic, oil painting and drawing classes for teens and adults will be offered. Visit [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org) for details and registration info.
- The Beach Art Center Gift Shop has been refreshed and refilled with fresh local art and gifts – check it out!

*Six Decades of Memories: A retrospective exhibit of paintings and drawings by Ralph E. Montgomery.* Join us at the Beach Art Center on May 4th from 6 to 8pm for an opening reception featuring six decades of work by Ralph E. Montgomery. Ralph, a retired architect, was a long-term resident of Indian Rocks Beach who gave much to his beloved community. With his passing on March 6th, we want to celebrate Ralph and his years of artistic creativity.

More than 80 pieces have been selected from Ralph's collection. They include early oil paintings from the 1960s, pencil drawings, acrylics and watercolors. One part of this exhibit will reflect time during the 1970s through the early 1990s when Ralph was working as an architect living with his family in the Middle East. Another grouping will feature work Ralph completed while a hospice patient at the Bay Pines VA Hospital - a collection of small works he referred to as the "Doors of Peace." Each demonstrates Ralph's optimism and belief in the good in all people. Ralph was a member, instructor and long-time supporter of the Beach Art Center.

### INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

Submitted by Lee Miller, Librarian

Summer Reading starts July 1st! Our theme this year is "The Library Rocks!" Join us on July 23rd at 11 am for a special program celebrating music with Mr. Richard. This special Summer Reading program is paid for by the Friends of the Indian Rocks Beach Library.

Sahaja Meditation will be offered at the Library on the first and third Tuesdays, from 5 to 6 pm. These sessions explain the benefits of meditation and how to start your own practice. Participants may sign up at the Library.

The "On the Rocks" Book Club will continue to meet the last Tuesday of each month at 5pm in the Library. A copy of the Book Club titles will be available at the Library and on Overdrive for downloading to your devices. For more information, please contact the Indian Rocks Beach Library.

"Story Time with Miss Lee" for kids, ages 1 through 5, takes place each Tuesday morning at 11 am. Join us for songs, finger plays and a story.

For more information about the IRB Library, membership and programs, please contact Lee Miller, Librarian, via e-mail at [lmiller@irbcity.com](mailto:lmiller@irbcity.com), or call 727/596-1822.

### GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The largest and most active social group in the area, this is their 38th year in Belleair. Their purpose is to meet, to know, and to grow—forming friendships through social activities.

They are winding down their season and will break most of their activities for the summer. For info visit [GBYWS.org](http://GBYWS.org), contact incoming President Sharon Vincent at [sharonvince@gmail.com](mailto:sharonvince@gmail.com) or email [GBYCommunication@Gmail.com](mailto:GBYCommunication@Gmail.com).

**GREENTOWN KIDS**

GreenTown Kids is Indian Rocks Beach’s very own kid-centered environmental nonprofit. GreenTown Kids was founded in January by IRB resident, Allie DeVore, and brought to life with the help of a group of six other local moms and friends who shared the desire to do more for their beach town’s environment, while involving their kids in the learning process and community service.

GreenTown Kids partners with local experts around the community to educate its members on specific environmental topics each month. The members then plan and participate in related community events and service projects, which create a positive impact on the local environment.

At their inaugural meeting in February, the members learned about native trees and the importance of planting them from local expert, Alicia, at Wilcox Nursery. Each child learned how to plant tree seeds and brought their potted seeds home to grow.

In March, GreenTown Kids introduced themselves to the community at Greenfest with fun eco-activities for kids including a beach cleanup and recycling game, making upcycled planter stations, and eco-friendly lemonade stand.

April was all about plants and gardening. At their April meeting, GreenTown Kids members learned about gardening in the IRB Community Garden from local expert, Trish Burch, and planted vegetables in two Earth Boxes donated by Terry Hamilton-Wollin and Laura Whittle. Members also participated in Wilcox Nursery’s “A Children’s Tour of Plants”.

The month of May will be just as fun with a Nature Scavenger Hunt in 10th Ave. Park open to members and friends and a family compost bin learning and making event open to the public. Other topics the group will be learning about this year include keeping our beaches clean and recycling. Dates and



*Pictured left to right: (back row): Ann Hanna (Secretary), Finn Hurley, Callie Poznan, Bonnie Poznan (Treasurer), Allie DeVore (Founder & President), Terry Hamilton-Wollin, Shan Collins. (front row): Sydney Collins, Colin Hurley, Palmer DeVore, Emerie Collins.*

locations of all upcoming meetings and events are posted on the group’s Facebook page and emailed out in their monthly newsletter.

The new organization has been met with wonderful support from individuals, businesses, and other organizations in the community as well as the City of Indian Rocks Beach, who is also a sponsor. GreenTown Kids is currently accepting new members (kids of all ages and adults). A Family Annual Membership is just \$20. All donations go directly toward furthering their mission and are tax deductible. GreenTown Kids is looking forward to making a difference in the community and “planting a seed for the next generation”. For more information please contact Allie at greentownkids@gmail.com or 727-480-3907, and follow the group on Facebook @ GreenTown Kids.

**Golf Lake Condos**  
**Brand New - Move-In July 2018, Remaining Units in Building 6**  
**960 Starkey Rd (between 688 & 686)**

A quiet park-like setting with wonderful views, a mid-Pinellas hidden gem alongside East Bay Golf Course. Non-golfers and golfers alike can enjoy a slice of this peaceful paradise with lakes, nature and wildlife.

All existing homes here are complete, sold and occupied by range of mostly all-year-round homeowners plus many winter residents. Pets are welcome and homeowners of all ages live happily at East Bay in peaceful harmony with nature.

Above all flood zones, high dry safe and strong - a Golf Lake Condo is a sound investment. The first new building in the Final Phase at East Bay is near completion with occupancy due in July. Very competitively priced from \$222,000 for 2 Br 2 Ba 1,460 Sq Ft




Steve Iles Broker 727-667-2553 ilsteam@aol.com www.golflakecondo.com




**20064 Gulf Blvd. \$685,000**  
**ON THE SAND** Direct beachfront four steps from the beautiful soft wide sands of Indian Shores. The Gulf of Mexico is your back yard in this unique private 1,700 Sq Ft all-ground-floor property, one of four condos nestled between Beach and Intracoastal. Family friendly, pet friendly and beautiful sunsets - this house has it all AT THE BEACH.



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**BOATERS PARADISE** Fully remodeled all-ground floor waterfront pool home, 2 Bed, 2 Bath with dock, boat lift in an open backyard oasis. Enjoy gorgeous water views of stunning reflected sunrise and sunsets from your own dock with magical marine life appearances.



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 Just two blocks to beach sunsets of skies afire in a blaze of color. Oak shaded 3 Bed, 2 Bath, extra versatile rooms, covered patio in nice large back yard with room for a pool. An all-ground-floor home in a safe cozy neighborhood - one of the lowest priced homes in town.

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**NEW INDIAN ROCKS BEACH FLAG AVAILABLE AT ART CENTER**

Local artist Linda Newton, a resident of Indian Rocks Beach, created a flag that contains a compilation of her original paintings depicting Indian Rocks Beach. She spent over three years creating the artwork in the flag. She donated the finished flags to the Beach Art Center, with ALL the proceeds going to the Art Center. Linda says, "I wanted to give back to our community's Beach Art Center. It has held a special place in our hearts for over 40 years."

The flag depicts everything our piece of paradise has to offer: a bike ride on the beach, paddle boarding in the Gulf of Mexico, riding the water slide, deep sea fishing, and dancing the night away in some of the best restaurants and bars anywhere. Indian Rocks' rich history of old beach cottages from the 1930s is shown and if you look on the left side of the flag, you will see long time Mayor, RB Johnson.

The 3' x 5' digitally printed knitted polyester flag is produced with a full color process using only the best UV treated inks and PMS coated colors. It is finished with a canvas heading, brass grommets and fully hemmed on all sides. It makes a great gift for your visitors, to take home and remind them of the fun they had while visiting Indian Rocks Beach. Buy yours at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach for \$100. All proceeds go to the Beach Art Center.

**HANDS ACROSS THE SAND/LAND**  
**Indian Rocks Beach On Saturday, May 19th**

Once again, people will join hands forming a line across the sand in a local "Hands Across the Sand/Land" gathering; this is one of hundreds of synchronized events globally to



raise awareness about the dangers of dirty fuels and the need to speed the transition to available, affordable clean energy solutions. The events are more important this year with renewed talk about oil drilling off Florida's coast. Floridian Dave Rauschkolb founded Hands Across the Sand/Land in October 2009.

This year's event will be at the County Park across from Guppy's between 17th & 18th Avenue. Registration begins at 11:30am. Be in position at noon.

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