

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine



Egmont Key's Lighthouse & Its Keeper

Egmont Key Lighthouse. 190x-. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

Egmont Key has a rich history. The entire key is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its first lighthouse was built in 1848 and was the only lighthouse on the western Gulf Coast of Florida. After being damaged by a hurricane in 1848 and again in 1852, the lighthouse was rebuilt in 1857-58, and remains in service today. *Continued on page 7.*



Is Your Sunscreen "Reef Safe"?
Find out on page 31

Follow a Belleair Family's Travels
52 Countries in a Year page 32

This Time of Year Who Doesn't Love Ice Cream?

Find a new place to get your next fix on page 14

The Clearwater Ferry's New Dunedin Route

Skip the traffic and enjoy a day in Dunedin. Get the details on page 9



CREDITS



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
112 S. Osceola Avenue, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
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CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
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PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
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SOLID WASTE	562-4920
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VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
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POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
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SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
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CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLEY TROLLEY	445-1200

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
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Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
Sharon Skinner 515-1532	
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	
Beth Prast 859-802-6110	
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	316-5504
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Mike Anderson, President 777-2787	
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Lynne McCaskill, President 430-1911	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Anne Garris 446-4410	
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Bill Wallace, President 446-2676	

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO	464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276	
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larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov	
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Rick.Scott@myflorida.com	

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist 202-225-5961	
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Backwater's 18th Anniversary Party	17-19
Buc's First Pre-Season Game	18
Holocaust Museum Rock N Roll Exhibit	18
Chamber Night At Spectrum Field	24
Scavenger Hunt Clearwater Beach Marina	25
USF Day At The Rays Game	26
Primary Elections	28
Clean-Up Sand Key Sailing Ctr	30

SEPTEMBER

Gekofest	1
College Football Begins	1
Labor Day Public Schools Closed	3
Beach Book Club at Beaches Library	5
Grandparents' Day	9
Buc's First Game	9
Rosh Hashanah	9-10
Patriots Day	11
Rock the Ribbon Runs	15
Yom Kippur Begins	18

Fairy Garden Workshop Beach Library	19
International Peace Day	21
Autumn Begins	22
RCS Annual Gala	22
Sheriff's Charity Golf Tournament	24
Blast Friday Coachman Park	28
Off Shore Super Boat Races	28-30
National Coffee Day	29

OCTOBER

Fire Prevention Month	
Night Out Against Crime Clearwater Mall	2
Praisen' Pooches Chapel By The Sea	6
SPCA Pet Walk St Petersburg	6
Columbus Day Public Schools Closed	8
Fire Prevention Week	7-13
Clearwater Beach Association Pub Crawl	12
Recycle Collection Event Largo HS	13
MADD Walk Largo	13
Hispanic Heritage Concert Coachman	14
City Beach Pool Closes	14

AL FRESCO DINING, TAKE OUT, CATERING & PRIVATE PARTIES

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Did You Know

FREE CPR CLASS

Clearwater Fire and Rescue is offering free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes to the citizens of Clearwater on the third Saturday of each month, by a certified American Heart Association (AHA) instructor. The goal of the program is to train Clearwater citizens to save the lives of victims in cardiac arrest through early activation of the 9-1-1 system and high-quality CPR. This program prepares citizens to perform CPR, operate an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), clear an obstructed airway, and to be a critical link in the chain-of-survival. Contact Deborah Humes at 562-4334 ext. 3048 or deborah.humes@myclearwater.com.



MORTON PLANT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

FUND-RAISER The 25th Annual Planter's Luncheon is October 16, at the Opal Sands Resort on Clearwater Beach. It will feature guest speaker and author Kelly Corrigan. The luncheon will provide supplemental financial support to Morton Plant/Mease nursing students through the Lois Odence Nursing Scholarship. This event normally sells out, so if you are interested, reserve today. Call Liz Howard at 462-3508 or Liz.Howard@BayCare.org.

BEACH BOOK CLUB

Always wanted to join a book club, but never made the time? The Clearwater Beach Library Book Club reads well-crafted, contemporary, literary works and then discusses them among their interested reader members. They meet the first Wednesday of each month from 4-5 pm.

COUNTRY JUBILEE RETURNS

This popular event returns on Saturday, October 27th to Heritage Village. The all-day country event includes food, music, demonstrations, and lots of craft vendors. Vendors interested in displaying and selling should call 582-2123 and leave a message. Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th Street North, in Largo. Visit PinellasCounty.org/Heritage for more information.

DROP (OFF) YOUR DRAWERS

This drive is designed to collect and "underwrite" underwear – a basic part of the Clothes To Kids wardrobe. For the month of August, Clothes To Kids is collecting new packages of underwear in the following sizes: boys 4-16 (brief & boxers) and young men's sizes 30-& up. The boys that Clothes To Kids serves all want boxers (and boxers) – so they would love boxers! Girls in the following sizes 6-16, junior girls sizes 5 and up primarily bikini style. Please support their mission and help provide this basic necessity! Drop off donations at the Clearwater store (1059 N. Hercules Ave.) or St. Pete Store (Twin Brooks Commons, 2168 34th Street South).



50th ANNIVERSARY

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HURRICANE DAMAGE TAX REFUND

Did you suffer hurricane damage in 2016 or 2017? Financial relief may be on the way. Florida passed a law to help homesteaded property owners that suffered damage from the past two years' hurricanes. To qualify, your property must have been uninhabitable for a minimum of 30 days due to one of the three named storms - Hermine, Mathew or Irma.



Apply for a one-time property tax refund at PCPAO.org and select the "Forms/Change of Address" tab, then select Application for Abatement of Taxes. Print and sign the form and submit it to your Property Appraiser via email, fax or in person by March 1, 2019. You must also submit proof your property was unlivable, such as with utility bills, insurance information or building permits.

SENIORS MEDICARE SEMINAR Are you turning 65 this year? When it comes to Medicare, you have choices, but reviewing your options can become overwhelming. To help get you started, attend this FREE Medicare Panel meeting where you will learn about your Medicare choices. There are many tools and resources available to make it easy to understand your options. Come ask the pros yourself!

Join them September 6th 1pm- 3pm at Cypress Palms located at 400 Lake Ave NE in Largo. Panelists include:
 - Bob Coston, Financial Advisor | Edward Jones
 - Joan Sokol RN, COS-C, Executive Director | Director of Clinical Services Able Palms Home & Health Care Services
 - Pete Zeher, CCM, Community Liaison | Sabal Palms
 - Karyn Rizzo, Advocacy Care Consultant
 - Linda Bullerman, CLTC, Independent Medicare Specialist
 Refreshments will be served and this is free to the public. Reserve your spot by calling Michelle 727-434-8963.

PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE Have you noticed the new front page? We thought it was a time for a change, but only on the cover. We will still bring you history, interesting stories, and news about your local businesses, restaurants and neighborhood organizations. We want to know what you think about our Magazine. Would you like to see other changes? Send an email to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or we have an online survey posted at BeachNewsletters.com.

SAFE BOATING CARDS REQUIRED Anyone born after January 1, 1988 (30 years old or younger) is required to have successfully completed an approved boating education course, and have in their possession a boating education ID card, before operating a vessel with a motor of 10 HP or more in Florida. Safe Boating Skills programs are offered by the USCG Auxiliary Flotillas in many cities in Pinellas (such as Clearwater and St Pete). Call 727-898-1324.



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

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EGMONT KEY LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER



Charles Moore in his college days

The small island of Egmont Key in Tampa Bay was named by the British after the Earl of Egmont, who at the time was Lord of the Admiralty. Florida became part of the U.S. in 1821, and with the increase in commerce in the Gulf of Mexico, a lighthouse was built on Egmont Key in 1847-1848. The light was first lighted in 1848, but after only 10 years, it was so battered by storms that in 1858 it was dismantled.

A second tower was built in 1857-1858 and lighted in May 1858. This tower was built with brick walls more than three feet thick, and stood 87 feet tall including the lamp house. Though this tower has survived a century and a half of hurricanes and storms, its lamp house was eventually removed and was replaced with a modern beacon light, leaving the tower with a rather unusual appearance. Even so, the Egmont Key Lighthouse remains in service to this day.

There have been many lighthouse keepers on Egmont Key since 1858 when the present light was put in service, but one stands out as the longest serving keeper. Charles Mortimer Moore, born on September 22, 1838 in Connecticut.

His term of service as Keeper spanned from 1878 to 1910 which was a few years after the Civil War to the Spanish American War and the construction of Fort Dade. For twenty years he and his family were the only residents on the island. He had several different jobs in the local area - caretaker at Fort Brooke, operating a saltworks, and transporting mail to Cedar Key. He became Assistant Keeper of the



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore Wedding Portrait

Egmont Light in 1877, under Walter S. Burgess. He became Keeper the following year.

Charles was visited in November of 1882 by George O. Shields, who was a famous sportsman and author of articles in *American Field Magazine*. He visited Egmont and spent some time there with Charles and described him as "an intelligent, kind hearted and hospitable gentleman." He told of a heron rookery on the island and that Charles considered the birds his pets. He would not allow them to be shot or disturbed in any way. Shields said in the article that on Mullet Key there was a large herd of deer and when Charles needed venison for his family he would go there to hunt. He had killed 192 deer over a two-year span. Charles invited Shields to return in the future for a longer visit.

The Spanish American War brought an end to the solitude of being the keeper on the island. First, there came some temporary earthworks on the north and south ends of the island, built by the Army as protection

against potential attack of Tampa by the Spanish Navy. There was a dispute with the Army and the Lighthouse Service since the northern earthwork was on lighthouse property and permission had not been asked prior to construction. Egmont also had a "detention" camp that was established to quarantine the soldiers coming back from Cuba as yellow fever was a real threat to public health.

The war lasted only three months, but Henry Plant, who built the railroad and hotel used by the Army during the war, had many friends in Congress and he convinced them that Egmont Key should become part of the U.S. Coastal Defense network. So, construction of Fort Dade/Fort DeSoto began. Prior to this, the only cleared land was around the keeper's house, lighthouse and the dock. The Army cleared most of the island, built five gun batteries and 70 support buildings, and established a small city with 300 soldiers, families and civilian workers. Charles lamented that with the arrival of the fort he felt more alone than in the "jungle days."

The last two years of his service, suffered from throat cancer and reluctantly retired. He died in Tampa on November 20, 1910 and he is buried at the Major Adams Cemetery in Bradenton. Still accessible only by boat, today Egmont Key, now a state park, has a unique natural and cultural history, including the lighthouse that still helps to guide ships into Tampa Bay. A ferry runs from Fort De Soto to Egmont Key daily. For information, call the main office at (727)398-6577.

Come to Egmont Key State Park on Saturday, November 10th and Sunday, November 11th and join the Egmont Key Alliance's "Discover the Island" fund-raiser while you enjoy one of Tampa Bay's gems! Come see the 160-year-old lighthouse's majestic spiral staircase and participate in the many activities sure to enlighten all ages.

See Civil War re-enactors, stroll the island on self-guided walks with interpretive sites along the way including nature, wildlife, military and history. There will be children's games, a silent auction each day and a viewing of the lighthouse. Live music will be by singers performing period music and sea shanties.



Unidentified people in front of Egmont Key Lighthouse 1925.

Black & white digital image.
State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

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THE ISLAND ESTATES DENTIST RETIRES



By Anne Garriss

Dr. Nick Faklis, known as The Island Estates Dentist, has retired, and that is bad news to his patients. As one of them reports, "He opened up his office on a Sunday morning just to fix my front tooth, and I was not even his patient!"

Satisfied patients from all over expressed their dismay and appreciation.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart," wrote one, "for all the years you have helped me maintain my teeth."

"No one will be able to take your place," wrote another. "We thank you for your kindness and service."

Born in Tarpon Springs, where his ancestors had settled in the early 1900s, Nick Faklis started his college education on a football scholarship at Asheville-Biltmore College, eventually moving on to earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tampa.

During the Korean War, he served in Military Intelligence as an Interrogator and Interpreter with the U.S. Army. From there, he went to Dental School at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, graduating in 1964.

"During my high school years," he says, "I had worked for a friend who was a dentist and I knew I would like it."

"I met my wife, Anna Marie Athanason, in the first grade," he reports. "I wanted some flowers to express my admiration for her, so I left the school grounds without permission, and then I went on private property to steal the flowers," he says, adding, "I got a spanking for it."

Nick and Anna married in 1966 and she taught school while he pursued his degree in dentistry. Making their home on Island Estates in 1966, they were among the first residents to build there. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Asked about his retirement plans, Dr. Faklis smiles. "Oh, Anna has her to-do list all ready," he says.

SUPER BOAT RACES
September 28th - 30th

The Hooters Clearwater Super Boat National Championship, presented by Visit St. Pete/Clearwater,



attracts world-class powerboat racers and thousands of spectators to the sparkling shores of Clearwater Beach for the tenth year in a row. There will be a variety of activities throughout the weekend such as the Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Boat Parade, Baystar Restaurant Group VIP party and a concert presented by Hooters.

Head to Coachman Park, where you can see the racing teams and boats up close and get autographs and photos, while enjoying a variety of local food and beer. Proceeds will help fund Tampa Bay Charities, focusing on those who strive to make water activities available for all, such as the Clearwater Community Sailing Center and Sailability Tampa Bay.

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KONA WINDSURFING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Make sure to pay a visit to Sand Key Beach October 27-31st. You will be greeted by a colorful mass of windsurf sails off shore competing in the 2018 Heritage Insurance Kona Windsurfing World Championship. Hosted by the Clearwater Community Sailing Center and Sheraton Sand Key, 100 competitors will travel from seven different countries to attend the five day race on one design Windsurf Boards.

The Kona class promotes accessible windsurfing through class rules that prioritize simplicity and family friendly competition. These low barriers to entry and the friendly attitude of the fleet, encourage growth in the sport.

Clearwater already has a strong feet of Kona Windsurfers and hopes hosting the 2018 World Championship will help expose the sport to more locals. Look for the fleet to launch off Sheraton Sand Key's beach each morning around 10:30. Social events will be held at the sailing center in the evening.

FREE TO CAR OWNERS

If you heard about a new, FREE device that prevents 80 percent of car burglaries with the push of a single button, would you want one? Lucky for you, the not-so-new technology is already available, and you almost certainly own it: a vehicle door lock.

Last year, 80 percent of the vehicle burglary reports that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office responded to required "no forced entry." As the easily accessible temporary storage site for recent shopping purchases, expensive personal items like laptop computers and cell phones, and often firearms, unlocked vehicles are major burglary targets.

Regardless of whether you're quickly running into the post office, cooling down your car before you're ready to leave, or you think you're parked in a "nice part of town," there is never a good excuse for leaving your vehicle unlocked and your belongings - including the vehicle itself - unprotected.

In addition to locking your car doors, there are several precautions you can take to prevent vehicle burglaries. For instance, if you must leave valuables in the vehicle, don't leave them on the seat or visible from the outside. If you store them in the trunk, place them there before you park in public, where burglars could be watching.

Park your vehicle in well-lit, public areas when possible. If your vehicle doesn't have an alarm, consider purchasing one. The noise alone is often enough to scare away inexperienced criminals. Combine these tactics with consistently locked doors, and the only thing those burglars will be breaking into is a run in the other direction.

Courtesy of the Pinellas County Sheriff

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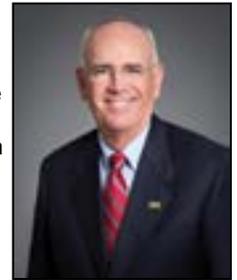
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TAX REFORM AND YOU

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



The IRS is still mulling over the new tax act to provide guidance to professionals and taxpayers. There are opportunities that do not require waiting. Here are a few ideas that might apply to your specific situation which you should discuss with your tax advisor.

First, consider the new law doubles the standard deduction to \$12,000 for singles and \$24,000 for joint filers. Thus, many taxpayers will no longer find it beneficial to itemize deductions. You may find it advantageous to "bunch" your deductions every other year. Instead of paying real estate taxes in each year, pay current year taxes in January of next year and then pay next year's in the following December.

Another way to bunch your deductions is with charitable deductions by using the same approach. Contribute to your university, place of worship, etc. in a lump sum in January for the current year and then make next year's contribution early by paying in December of the same year. In each of these two examples you would then use the standard deduction in the "off" year.

Further, if you are over age 70 1/2 consider using your IRA to make charitable contributions by having the IRA custodian send the contribution to a qualified charity directly. You will not get a deduction, which you might not anyway because of the higher standard limits, but you will not pay income taxes on the distribution either. Thus, there is still a tax savings.

If you find yourself holding stock which has a large capital gain and you have an elderly parent, consider gifting the stock to your parent with the proviso that when they die, the stock will come back to you. If they live a year after the gift is made then you will receive a step up in basis. If they live less than a year you get it back with no step up, but you are no worse off. In the alternative, you could have it willed to your children if it is less than one year and they will get the step up because they were not the donor. Of course, it is no longer part of your net worth.

We have other ideas to share and would welcome an opportunity to discuss them with you as we offer a no obligation one hour consultation. Please give us a call.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chairman and CEO
 ProVise Management Group, LLC
 611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756
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RYAN'S ISLAND CAFÉ

Ryan's Island Café, named after owner Ryan Vogel, only opened June 1st, but it already has a large following on Clearwater's north end of the beach. The beach café's building, located between Mandalay and Poinsettia Avenues, has been a few other cafés over the past few years: longtime JB's Island Café, Art Wallace's Island Cafe, then Detroit Coney Island.

Vogel was born in New York. He loved visiting hometown delis and from the age of 14, worked in his parent's deli business. He moved to Florida with his longtime girlfriend, Athena, and settled in Palm Harbor. Since, he has worked in several area restaurants, most recently Norton's Eastside Sports Bar.

"I always wanted to own a restaurant that would feature food from my hometown - New York," says Vogel. That explains why when you read his new menu, you will notice many items that are named or themed after New York dishes

Breakfast includes the Belt Breaker, Morning Monster, Iron Man Omelet, Boss Stacked Pancakes and more. For lunch you can choose from a Chicken Bacon Bomber, NYC Ruben, Gulf Grouper and Caesar Wraps. He offers not-so-usual burgers, hot dogs - Coney Island and dirty NY Dogs of course, salads and chili. Plus, different weekly specials.

"Every week, I offer different specials," says Vogel. "It keeps our business fun. I love the locals that I have met here," continues Vogel. "The tourists might feed my family, but it is the locals that keep me open."

Ryan's Island Café employs six people, not including Athena and Vogel. He feels his prices are lower than most other Clearwater Beach restaurants, but even still he offers a 10% discount to other beach employees, first responders (fire, police and EMS) and to veterans.

The Café is open for breakfast and lunch, from 7:30am until 5pm, and serves breakfast ALL DAY. Delivery is available through various area services. Find Ryan's at 432 Poinsettia Avenue, behind Toucan's. Call them at 240-4799 for pick-up and delivery. It is closed on Mondays.

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VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

If you are looking for a way to truly make a difference in your community, the Clearwater Parks and Recreation Department invites you to join our friendly team of volunteers. Do you enjoy helping others, want to learn more about your community, interested in meeting new friends? All of these things can happen, plus you'll have fun!

The City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation Department is always looking for more Adopt Program partners. Businesses, neighborhood associations, scout troops, school groups, and service organizations with at least six members are invited to become our newest partners. There are currently four programs to choose from, Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Street, Adopt-a-Trail, and new this year- Adopt-a-Waterway. Groups are required to complete a minimum number of projects in their park, section of trail, street, or waterway through their contract period. In exchange for their hard work, groups are recognized with a sign bearing their name in the adopted location.

The City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation Department is also always looking for volunteers for our many different events. Some upcoming volunteer opportunities, both at Coachman Park, include Hispanic Heritage Concert, Saturday & Sunday, October 13-14 / Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Thursday – Sunday, Oct. 18-21



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A VISIT FROM THE "SAND MAN"

By Dan Hummel

The sand being moved around on our area beaches every day by kids with bright colored, plastic sand shovels and buckets can now continue for many years thanks to the efforts of Norfolk Dredging, who have been hired to do a completely different type of sand moving. This year the Chesapeake, Virginia company, is dredging almost two million tons of sand from out in the gulf and moving it back onto our local beaches.



It is all part of a master plan for what is commonly referred to as beach nourishment, the artificial process of adding sand to a beach for recreational and aesthetic purposes, as well as to provide a buffer to coastal erosion. The first U.S beach nourishment project was at Coney Island, New York, in the early 1920s. Now it is a common shore protection measure for beach communities where tourism is a major business and revenue producer.

The \$51.5 million dollar project is 100 percent government funded. 78 percent of the cost is borne by the federal government, the remaining 22 percent is split between the State and County. The massive countywide project began in April, and should be completed by year-end.

From a county perspective, Andy Squires who is the Section Manager, Coastal Resources, for the Pinellas County Public Works Environmental Management Division, expresses what a massive undertaking this project is. "Pinellas County is very appreciative of the federal, state, and local funds supporting this collaborative team effort led by the Army Corps of Engineers and County as the Local Sponsor. The project represents an enormous multi-year undertaking to design, permit, and finally place sand on the beach. The cost may seem high, but is priceless in terms of storm protection and tourism."

Clearwater Mayor George Cretoko said, "The beach renourishment project on Sand Key helps stabilize the beach, provides more beach for visitors and residents to enjoy, and protects property. Residents should be pleased that federal and state governments assist with the costs of such projects, and tourist bed tax dollars supports this most important program that benefits all of Pinellas County."

Some locals have questioned the consequences of this dredging on the area's many sea turtles. However, according to the Sea Turtle Conservancy of Gainesville, Florida, website, they conclusively state that when the dredging is done correctly, and in accordance with all laws to protect sea turtles and other natural resources, beach nourishment can add nesting habitat where erosion had washed it away.

Lynn Rives, the City Manager of Belleair Beach, is a big fan of the nourishment project. According to Rives, "The benefits of beach nourishment come from the wave energy dissipation. By creating a wider beach, it reduces the potential storm damage to the coastal area and to the upland structures. Additionally, it assists with flood control, delivers a defense system for our coast, and it provides enhanced recreational opportunities for residents and visitors."

Beach erosion is an unstoppable natural event. The balancing act for its remediation is keeping the beaches spacious and inviting for tourism, while ensuring that the process does not permanently play havoc with turtles and other sea life. For beachgoers and residents in these affected communities, there is no doubt that the process comes with some downside. However, these are but temporary inconveniences towards a more permanent improvement.

GET DOWN TO HELP OUT

By Rebecca Geiger

Watching someone in trouble and not knowing what to do is one of the worst feelings in the world. Drowning is one of the most traumatic things a person can see. Our instinct is to help in any way possible, but it is vital that we help in a way that does not put ourselves and the other person in danger.

A big reason why I became a swim instructor came from an incident where my grandmother almost drowned. My mother went to help her, and despite my mother being a bigger and stronger person, my grandmother completely overpowered her. I remember watching helplessly as they both struggled to survive. They were in 3' of water.

If you are ever involved it will be in one of two ways:

1. The victim is away from you and you see them drowning.
2. The victim has a hold on you and is doing everything in their power to get to higher ground, which means they are climbing you, pushing you under water.

The first situation occurs when you see someone struggling, but they are out of reach. If you are out of reach of the victim, the first thing to realize is that due to adrenaline, they are immensely powerful. Even if you are larger and stronger, they can and will drag you in and take you down. In this case you want to use a pole, noodle, or other float to get them close to a side, or in shallower water where they can stand. Once you get them close to a side remember this phrase: "Lay down to help out." Laying down lowers your center of gravity, increases your traction with the ground, and allows you to help them without being pulled in yourself.

The second situation is if someone has hold of you while in

the water and is climbing you trying to reach the surface. The primary thing to remember here is that you must remain conscious in order to help. The saying I use with my

students is "Go down to help out." By this I mean, if the person is climbing you, they will not continue to hold on if you go deep. Once you are down and they have let go, swim away from them and resurface. From a safe distance you can use a pole, pool noodle, float, or other device to help them get secure. If you try to fight them for the same space above the water, you will both lose.

These tips can and should be taught to children of any age. For young children, teach them where the pool pole is and how to run and get it while yelling loudly for mom or dad. This way they stay away from the person who is in distress; yet, are being helpful while continuing to yell for more help.

I am known as Miss Becca to my students. I have been "Drown Proofing" children and adults for more than 20 years through private lessons and presentations. Please call (813)363-9133 with any questions.



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YOU SCREAM. I SCREAM. WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM.

Clearwater Beach seems to have a sweet tooth. Fortunately for us, we have ten local spots (not including convenience stores) to fill our need for the cold, sweet stuff. Here are the nearby places to get your ice cream fix.

NORTH BEACH

GELATO BELLA

490 Mandalay Avenue, next to Clear Sky Café

They specialize in Italian-style gelato, serving 15-18 flavors, plus Italian coffee, smoothies and Italian pastries.

THE MINT FOX COOKIES AND ICE CREAM

483 Mandalay, Pelican Plaza, Downstairs by the Brown Boxer.

Serves Working Cow ice cream, thick milk shakes, fresh baked cookies, cakes, pies, coffee and more.

SPIRALZ CREAMERY

474 Poinsettia, on the east side of the new Parking Garage.

This is the newest Ice Cream place on the beach. They serve handcrafted ice cream rolls, like a wrap and other unique desserts.

SOUTH BEACH

BAREFOOT BEACH HOUSE

300 South Gulfview Blvd, across from Surf-Style.

Barefoot is run by Pier 60 and also serves Working Cow Ice Cream. They have 24 flavors on hand. In addition, they serve hand held beach fare for lunch. Get your picture taken outside on their Ice Cream bench.



ICE & CREAM CREAMERY, SOUTH

453 South Gulfview Blvd. at Hamden Dr.

They create flavorsome, traditional ice-cream using fresh, local ingredients, with some surprising taste combinations. Their sign post tells you their flavors, 38 in all.



PIER 60 CONCESSIONS

Located at the beginning to Pier 60.

They serve locally-made Working Cow Ice Cream, with no high fructose corn syrup, made from Florida dairy produced by farmers who use sustainable methods and no bovine growth hormones.

Pier 60 offers 16 ice cream flavors, some of which are unique. Their most popular are Raspberry Truffle and Salted Carmel Praline. The kids really like their Superman ice cream.

CONEHEADS ICE CREAM

420 South Gulfview Blvd., north of Post Corner Pizza

At the south end of Beach Walk, you will find this small Ice Cream café. Look for the red awning. They are open noon to 10pm most days.

SAND KEY

KOHR'S FAMILY FROZEN CUSTARD & ICE CREAM

1261 Gulf Blvd Suite, in the Shoppes of Sand Key.

This was formerly Ryan's Ice Cream, and the storefront has been entirely renovated. They are a family owned business offering all natural 100% homemade premium ice cream and frozen custard, milk shakes, floats, and slushy drinks, with 101 years of family tradition.



ICE & CREAM CREAMERY, NORTH

460 Mandalay Avenue, across from Beachcomber.

They have 48 flavors, plus soft serve ice cream, milk shakes and sodas. Open 7 days a week, 11am to 11pm.

CLEARWATER BEACH TAFFY/EDDY'S ICE CREAM

403 Mandalay Avenue, across from the Hilton

32 ice cream flavors, 16 gelato flavors, plus soft-serve ice cream, shakes and smoothies. Open seven days a week 10am to 11pm.



KILWINS CHOCOLATES

391 Mandalay Avenue, north of Hooter's.

In addition to chocolate, they serve a wide range of ice cream—32 flavors to be exact all made by Kilwins in Michigan. For the last 71 years, Kilwins ice cream has come from their own dairy. They even make their own fudge. This store is open 7 days a week, 11am to 11pm.

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ESTATE PLANNING, REAL ESTATE STYLE...



By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

I've mentioned in past articles that investing in Florida residential real estate has historically increased at a higher rate than other personal investments. I thought for this article I would quantify that statement based upon the historic charts of Florida real estate increases over the decades. Being a Baby Boomer myself, I thought I would start with what Florida home prices

were in the 1950s. I'm not advocating complicated commercial real estate, just a residential home to enjoy and watch increase in value over the years.

I'm back on this topic as my wife Linda and I begin planning our estate for the kids and grandkids. Now that we are blessed with a grandson (3 year old Cooper, the smartest 3 year old ever!) and a granddaughter (9 month old Ellery, now trying to take her first step), we began contemplating what we feel is the best way to invest our retirement funds for maximum return for both ourselves and future generations. Even though Cooper has a larger savings account now than the average preschooler (Nene takes him to the bank monthly to deposit money and get a lollipop), it still makes sense for Linda and I to leave behind good capital in hopes that with the proper nurturing and example, they will be able to get off to a good start with their education and careers.

Here's the actual facts about Florida real estate from historic charts. In our Baby Boom decade of the 1950s, the median Florida home cost \$6,612. Wow, hard to believe! In 2014, the median cost of a home was \$176,900. Quite a difference. GHD Construction Services has single family homes on your lot for as low as \$279,900, and we are now developing beautiful townhouse within walking distance to the beach, land and home, in the mid-\$400's. A great opportunity for investment.

By the way, Cooper likes our furnished model in Madeira Beach, and in my deep discussion with him, he firmly believes that everybody should buy a new home from Papa Tom. Easy for a 3-year-old to believe. I'm certain that Ellery believes the same, but she just doesn't articulate that yet. On a funny side, Cooper picked up this magazine and saw my picture in a past issue, and he now believes I own the publishing company! Therefore, I felt compelled to attach their picture here to see what his reaction will be with this issue when he sees his and his sister picture in this magazine. Of course, I'm just showing off my Grand-Kids.



However, considering Florida real estate as a great way to invest for your estate makes a great deal of sense. The 1950s homes that cost less than \$7,000 just do not have the selling power to appreciate for maximum gain for your estate. And, you get to enjoy a home raised to FEMA standards, hurricane resistant, and energy efficient, with all of today's "bells & whistles". Worth considering.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and has the new 2018 "Key West" Model Home at 239 144th Ave. N, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD model, call at (727) 954-8345, or email to: tweisser@ghdcsi.com. Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at www.GHDcoastalHomes.com.

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COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

Through volunteers, grants, and private donations, the Community Dental Clinic has provided free dental care to low-income, uninsured adults in upper Pinellas County for five years. Since the Clinic's opening in September 2013, they have provided over \$2 million in services to more than 1500 patients. In their three operatory rooms and two hygiene chairs, they provide comprehensive exams, x-rays, cleanings/deep cleanings, fillings, extractions, and educate patients on the importance of oral health.



Volunteer Dr. Oscar Menendez with staff and volunteers

In 2009, access to dental services was identified as the number one social service need in Pinellas County. United with a shared vision to provide affordable dental services, the Salvation Army, Clearwater Free Clinic, the City of Clearwater and Arc of Tampa Bay collaborated in 2011 to establish the Community Dental Clinic as a nonprofit, non-governmental facility that relies on professional and non-professional volunteer services, strong civic partnerships and private donations to meet the ever-growing needs of the community.

As they approach their Fifth Anniversary, they are working to provide more appointments for those who desperately need it. They are grateful for the volunteer dentists who donate several days per year, as well as for the grant from the Florida Department of Health - Pinellas County that provides one dentist and two hygienists one day per week. Want to help? Here is how:

Donate -

They are a 501c3 nonprofit corporation that relies on volunteers, grants and donations.

Volunteer -

Licensed dental providers can help by volunteering their time at the clinic, or accept referrals in your office. Any amount of volunteer time: two hours, four hours or all day is appreciated.

They need office help filing charts, scanning files, and addressing mail, answering the phones, reminding patients of their appointments, and surveying patients about their clinic experience.

Donate Supplies & Equipment - They constantly need consumables: distilled water, paper towels, toilet paper and garbage bags. They need two desktop computers to help move to electronic records.

PRAISIN' POOCHES

**Canine Blessing & Service Dog Commemoration
October 6th, 10:30am at Chapel By The Sea**

Calling all dogs, calling all dogs...you're invited to attend a dog blessing! Rev. Rhonda Blevins will conduct a blessing for the canines of our community on Saturday October 6 at 10:30 am. All dogs are welcome...but sorry, just dogs. Participants will receive a handsome kerchief and a blessing collar tag.

Prior to the blessing a special commemoration honoring our community Service Dogs will be conducted too. Canine units from the Clearwater Police Dept. and other local organizations will be featured for their special work in providing safety to our community.

The blessing will be in the north courtyard at Chapel By The Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach. For information, contact Shari Maxwell: 727-446-0430 or Rick Owens: 727-415-1460.

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BILL GRAHAM AND THE ROCK & ROLL REVOLUTION



Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution is coming to The Florida Holocaust Museum (The FHM) this summer! This exhibition explores the extraordinary life of renowned music promoter Bill Graham (1931- 1991) who helped launch and promote the careers of countless rock & roll artists. Named one of the best museum shows of 2017 by the Chicago Tribune, The FHM is proud to present this iconic exhibition.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution is the first comprehensive retrospective about the life and career of renowned music industry impresario Bill Graham. Recognized as one of the most influential concert promoters in history, Graham launched the careers of countless rock & roll legends in the 1960s at his famed Fillmore Auditorium. He conceived rock & roll as a powerful force for supporting humanitarian causes and was instrumental in the production of milestone benefit concerts such as Live Aid (1985) and Human Rights Now! (1988). As a promoter and manager, he worked with iconic artists including the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Fleetwood Mac, the Who, Led Zeppelin, the Doors, and the Rolling Stones.

Through memorabilia, photographs, archival concert footage, historical and new video interviews, ephemera, and psychedelic art, Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution is both a deeply personal reflection on Graham's life and an exploration of how Graham helped transform rock music into the immersive, multi-dimensional, and highly lucrative phenomenon of rock

theater that persists today. Treasured photographs and artifacts from Graham's early life and career will be on loan from the Graham family, many on view to the public for the first time. Also for the first time ever, preparatory drawings and the original artwork of several iconic Fillmore concert posters will be on museum display, revealing the signature visual styles and creative process of poster artists Bonnie MacLean, Wes Wilson, David Singer, Greg Irons, and David Byrd.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution also traces the indomitable spirit of a man brought to the United States as an eleven-year-old Jewish refugee fleeing the Nazis, fueling a lifelong passion and advocacy for social justice. This exhibition illuminates how Graham's childhood experiences as a Jewish emigrant from Nazi Germany fueled his drive and ingenuity as a cultural innovator and advocate for social justice.

The public will also be able to see, for the first time in more than forty years, the original apple barrel that greeted fans with fresh apples at the entrance to the Fillmore Auditorium, letters and gifts from performers and fans, and remarkable live performance and backstage photos from the Fillmore, Winterland, Day on the Green, Live Aid, and other Bill Graham Presents concerts throughout the era. An installation of "The Joshua Light Show" - the trailblazing liquid light show conceived in 1967 by multimedia artist Joshua White, which served as a backdrop to many Graham-produced shows - will be customized by White specifically for the exhibition. It will be one of several gallery components designed to evoke the sights and sounds of the era.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution opens on August 18 and will be on display through February 10, 2019 at The Florida Holocaust Museum at 55 5th Street S, St. Petersburg.

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SKIP THE TRAFFIC AND RIDE THE CLEARWATER FERRY TO DUNEDIN

Last month, the Clearwater Ferry added a new route connecting downtown Clearwater and Dunedin. This is a one-year test period recently approved by the City of Dunedin. For now, the Ferry has regular service on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Clearwater Ferry leaves downtown Clearwater from under the Memorial Causeway. If you prefer, you can board the ferry at the Clearwater Beach marina and ride to the Clearwater stop first, although parking downtown is much easier than at the marina. The Dunedin Ferry Terminal is located on a dedicated floating dock, immediately in front of the Bon Appetit restaurant. Before this project, Dunedin's city docks were rebuilt converting them all to floating docks. This allows an easy on or off for passengers.

Each trip to or from Dunedin is about 30 minutes. Pricing is \$8 each way, with a senior and Dunedin resident rate of \$6. Monthly passes and yearly pass are available. The first trip leaves downtown at 11:15am arriving in Dunedin at 11:50. The last trip leaves Dunedin at 9:45pm.

While riding the ferry in itself is fun, there is a lot more to do in Dunedin than you might think! The downtown area is very walkable with quaint shops, art galleries, a micro-brewery, many bars and pubs, and highly rated restaurants. There is even a hidden gem of a restaurant right in the marina – Olde Bay Cafe.

The Dunedin Historical Museum is housed in a restored railroad station, close to the marina. It contains 2,000 artifacts, 2,500 photographs, and a library with 200 volumes of local and Florida history. Exhibits detail the railroad and citrus industries, our pioneering families, Mease Hospital, development of the alligator tank used during WWII, and Honeymoon Island.

The Ferry is a perfect way to attend the fun special events hosted in Dunedin, and there are many: The Highland Games, Dunedin Wines the Blues, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day parade and others. They also host a weekly Friday Farmer's Market in Pioneer Park that is on summer hiatus. It will return in November.

Each Ferry carries twenty-one people. To prevent a long wait, all trips are booked on line through their reservation system at ClearwaterFerry.com or through their app. That insures you have a seat and won't be left at the dock.

The Ferry's test phase is meant to test all aspects of the service in real life – prices, times, parking, infrastructure and services. If demand is high enough, they may purchase a dedicated vessel and add more days to the schedule. They are also investigating an added stop in Belleair.

The Clearwater Ferry opened in March, 2015 and provides water transportation along the Intracoastal waters of Pinellas County with stops at the Clearwater Beach Marina, North Clearwater Beach, Island Estates, Downtown Clearwater and now Dunedin.

CLEARWATER BEACH, FLORIDA
In Celebration of Our 92nd Year

Growing up there was only one thing better than spending the day at Clearwater Beach ... going to the Palm Pavilion. Since its earliest day, The Palm has been a special place where family and friends come and create memories to last a lifetime.

Join us for a meal, an appetizer, dessert, drinks and a sunset. There's live music every day, as long as we can find the extension cord.
Happy hour: Monday - Friday 4-7 p.m.

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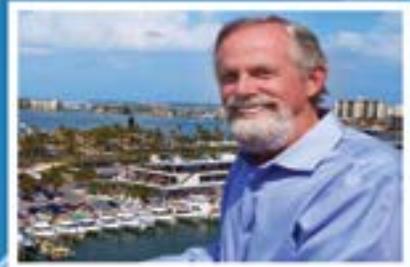
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JOHN FUNK, THE BEACH BROKER



John Funk The Beach Broker

Inventory drops and Prices rise

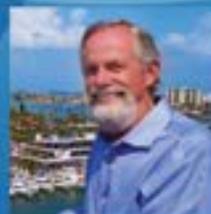
Did you know? How much the total assessed values of real estate have risen in the past 5 years in the City of Clearwater?

- +6.45% for the year 2014
- +6.88% for the year 2015
- +7.45% for the year 2016
- +8.31% for the year 2017
- + 9.79 % as of 7/1/2018

Did you know that the City of Clearwater is planning up to a 13.5% increase in the city's millage rate?

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Business Briefs



NOIRE NAILS This new nail salon held a ribbon cutting and Clearwater Beach Chamber mixer, simultaneously. Many attendees received pedicures while they enjoyed the new salon's atmosphere. Located on the east side of the new North Beach Parking Garage, they have a relaxing salon with all new equipment. As they say, "Sit back and sip wine in serenity." See them online at www.NoireNailBarClearwater.com. Find them at 478 Poinsettia Ave or call 953-8831 and ask for Lee. Walk ins are welcome.

PELICAN GOLF COURSE STATUS Work is continuing. "The Grill and Pro Shop buildings construction are progressing on schedule," says Johnny Patronis, Supervisor for Triton Building Group LLC. "Work on the main clubhouse has also started."

The property's owner purchased 1.13 acres just south of the golf course that includes an existing house. To connect it with the golf course, the city approved giving up a small road between them. The Town of Belleair recently approved a zoning change for that property, and an expansion to the golf course to allow for the addition of enhanced practice greens, development of a golf learning center, and the addition of two cottages for overnight accommodations for members of the club. At this time, the house has been removed and the property has been cleared.

The Pelican Golf Course is projected to open in the Spring of 2019. Golf play may begin as early as December of this year—weather permitting.

THE MINT FOX This new sweets store is in the Pelican Plaza, in the same place as the Delicious Ice Cream store, which was run by owner Jennifer Boychuk's father. Jennifer has 15 years of experience in the food service business. Not only can you get ice cream at The Mint Fox Cookies and Ice Cream, they serve cakes, pies and of course large cookies, too. They are at 483 Mandalay Avenue, downstairs, next to the Brown Boxer.



MOVED - SALON ISLAND ESTATES Now that Publix has re-opened and the dust has settled, Victoria and Debbie have closed their Island Estates Salon and moved it to Dunedin. They have the same phone number.

NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact us. E-mail news to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-517-1997.

AVEDA IS NOW IN SALON GABOA

Dedicated to the artistry of beauty and glamor, Salon Gaboa has a growing reputation of beautiful hair painting/ombre techniques, fantastic customized color, event styling and personalized cuts, which has made them one of the most popular hair salons in Tampa Bay. For over a decade, Salon Gaboa has been offering knowledgeable, talented and friendly hairstylists, now they are also offering a full line of Aveda's natural, organic products.



Salon Gaboa Aveda strive to set an example for environmental leadership and responsibility not just for the world of beauty but around the world. They invite you to come, meet and fall in love with the Aveda products and allow them to take you through a complementary stress relieving ritual. Find them at 812 S. Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater. Call 727-466-9598. Walk ins are Welcome.

WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES FEATURED ON TONIGHT SHOW

About nine years ago, William Dean chocolates appeared on the daytime television show "The View" as one of Whoopi Goldberg's "Must Have" items. Since then, she has continued to give the boxes of chocolates as gifts. She ordered ten boxes for the Tony Awards and uses them regularly for birthday presents. In June, Whoopi's staff contacted the store about a week before she appeared on Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight Show asking for a box to give Jimmy while she was on air. They sent a couple wooden boxes that included chocolates with her logo on them, as well as their signature chocolates. Fallon must have been a fan because he order four more boxes. The 32 piece box retails for \$110. The week after the show, the store shipped 10 or 15 extra boxes to people that watched the show. They overnight them with lots of gel packs and ice due to the summer heat.

BELLEVUE PLACE Overall Bellevue Place is now 50 percent sold out and features four model homes: two Carriage Home models with private elevators and 2-car garages; and two models in the Allamanda mid-rise condominium building opened in July. Residents have already moved into the Carriage Homes and the first condominium building, the Allamanda.

The renovations of the Bellevue Inn's 35 guest rooms and original lobby are progressing beautifully with porches taking shape on the front and rear of the building, and the interior renovations making excellent progress. Above is a rendering of the lobby. The hotel opening is expected in late Fall, but you can already make reservations for December and beyond at www.thebellevueinn.com.

2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARDS CORRECTION

Two winners were incorrectly reported in our last issue. The correct winners are:

- Best Attraction of the Year: Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- Best Wedding Venue of the Year: Sandpearl Resort

GARY HIDU - HYATT REGENCY'S CONCIERGE

Every day is tourist season to Gary Hidu. Hidu is the Lead Concierge at the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa and has been with the Hyatt since its Grand Opening, February 1, 2010. If you want to know what to do, where to go or the best places to eat while in town, talk to Hidu.

Hidu is a beach bum, having grown up at the Jersey Shore where he rubbed elbows with such celebrities as Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi and James Gandolfini of Tony Soprano fame. "Gandolfini and I attended Rutgers and worked together in the college pub. We had a symbiotic relationship, he worked the door and let my friends in for free, and I gave his friends beer!

After graduation, he worked at his family's full-service travel agency for 18 years. He frequently came to Clearwater Beach to visit his mother and grandmother, and in 2005, amid significant changes to the travel agency industry due to the Internet, Hidu moved to Clearwater Beach.

"I saw a classified ad in the St. Pete Times for a front desk person at the Sheraton Sand Key," Hidu remembers. In September of 2006, Russ Kimball hired him. "The concierge's desk, managed by Charlie Creel, was across the lobby. After a few months, Creel asked if I wanted to work with him," Hidu continues. "Of course, I said yes! We also unloaded guests' cars and hauled suitcases. I worked with Charlie for three years."

"Hidu crossed the lobby to work with us as a concierge-bellman in 2007. He was a great addition to our team," said Charlie Creel. "He genuinely cares about his guests and is patient and thorough. He goes to great lengths to take care of a guest's request and he's relentless when it comes to solving problems."

Around 2008, they broke ground on the new Hyatt Regency. "I drove past that big hole in the ground every day on my way to the Sheraton. I dropped off my 36 page leather bound resume complete with pictures, references, kudos and clippings, disguised in a Saks 5th Avenue sweater box along with a card addressed to Nancy Longstreth, Hyatt's Director of Sales at the time, welcoming her to the neighborhood. It worked, and I started as their lead concierge on January 15th, 2010, two weeks before they opened."

"Guests have lots of questions, but they are usually the same - What is there to do around here? Where can I eat? Who is Winter the Dolphin?" Hidu says. "People come to Clearwater Beach for four main reasons: to enjoy our beach; to visit our marina for fishing, parasailing, jetskiing, boating & the Pirate Ship; to see Winter & Hope at the aquarium; and to have a

grouper sandwich at a beach bar."

"Those who go to downtown St. Pete are usually looking for a day away from the beach. Many want museums, as St. Petersburg is the Art and Museum Capital of Florida. It is only 45 minutes away and you can take the trolley."

"People are surprised to find out Busch Gardens is over an hour away. First time visitors think it is nearby."

"When it rains, I get the usual what can we do in the rain question. I put together a 10-page Rainy Day Off The Beach handout with everything to-do indoors: spas, shopping, attractions, game rooms, museums. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is my first suggestion. We sell tickets to most of the attractions. On rainy days, CMA ticket sales double."

"The average vacationer visits for 5-6 nights. When guests check in they normally eat in Hyatt Regency's onsite restaurant, Shor the first day or night. On the second day, they venture out to a nearby casual restaurant or beach bar. By the third night, they generally are in search of a beach casual restaurant. By the fourth night, they may want a more upscale restaurant like Island Way Grill, Beachcomber, Marina Cantina, Forlini's, Cesare's or The Columbia. One of my fringe benefits is the local restaurateurs will occasionally invite me in to sample their menus; when I first started I had a 32" belt, I've added a few holes since!"

The Hyatt caters to families. Many of the rooms are deluxe one and two-bedroom suites with complete kitchens. "Some of our guests may go to Publix, or make arrangements through me in advance to have their refrigerators stocked with food & drink then eat some of their meals in their rooms, particularly breakfast when they have small children in tow.

"Yes, I get many requests. Some are obvious (flowers, champagne, balloons, cakes, etc) and some are unpredictable. I try to accommodate all requests--as long as they are legal. I joke that my nickname is 1-800-ASK GARY."

One of the reasons Hidu was selected as Hyatt's 2012 Employee-of-the-Year was when a guest, who was in-town to compete for a major business contract, was heading out to dinner with the CEO, when he realized he forgot to pack his black belt. "This poor fellow came rushing up to my desk and asked where he could buy a belt nearby as he had a dinner reservation within half an hour. Gee, he would have to go to Men's Warehouse at Clearwater Mall to get a dress black belt. Seeing him sweating, I asked what size waist he was and took my belt off and gave it to him. A



week later he wrote me saying I saved his day and he got the contract!

The Hyatt Regency has 287 rooms. They are nearly full every day. Occupancy ranges from 85% Monday-Wednesday to nearly 99% on weekends. The average family is three to four people so that means the Hyatt hosts 800 to 1,000 visitors per day!

"We get visitors from every state and country you can imagine," says Hidu. "We get a lot of British, but we also see a lot of Asian, South Asian and Arabic visitors. Each have different type of requests for food and entertainment."

"In my 20 years in hospitality, I have known many concierges and Gary Hidu is by far one of the best," says Chad Eding, General Manager of the Hyatt. "He is instantly friendly and exudes hospitality! Our guests find his knowledge of the area to be a great resource and consistently give him excellent reviews."

In June, Gary Hidu was honored to receive the Tourism Person of the Year Award, issued by the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"Gary is the epitome of a tourism service representative for our entire community," says Darlene Kole, President/CEO of the Beaches Chamber of Commerce. "He helps visitors know how to experience the best possible way to have fun while visiting Clearwater Beach. On top of that, he is the 'Pied Piper' of all guest services people employed in our community. He is their mentor on how to make sure all our visitors have an awesome vacation."

Today, Hidu is one of only a handful of the original employees at the Hyatt Regency. If you want the skinny on what to do on the Number 1 Beach in the U.S., stop in at the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa at 301 South Gulfview Blvd. and let Gary treat you to his Gold Medal Service.

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Bar & Restaurant News



BACKWATER'S 18TH BIRTHDAY PARTY This year, they are changing their annual Birthday Bash, a little. Instead of one day, they will celebrate for three days, Friday August 17 through Sunday the 19th. "It got so crowded last year, we had over 400 people on just one day," says owner Larry Edger. "So this year, we are spreading it out to three days." That weekend, they offer their Anniversary Chowder (\$3), Jumbo Peel & Eat Shrimp (\$9/dozen), Raw Oysters (\$10/dozen), Fish & Chips (\$6), Catfish Plate (\$6) and Old School Sliders (\$6) with happy hour prices all night.

Save the date - Backwater's Annual Trolley Trip and Beach Crawl is September 15th. They will leave from Backwaters and head for the southern beaches for an afternoon of entertainment, food and beverages. Call 727-517-7383 for more information.

Backwater's was recently voted Best Happy Hour and Best Waterfront Dining in the Bay Area, by the readers of Tampa Bay Newspapers.

Find Backwater's at the south end of The Shoppes of Sand Key. Get more details at www.BackWatersSandKey.com.

SEAWEED OPENS The former Marlin Darlin's, in Belleair Bluffs, has reopened as Seaweed. The popular Marlin Darlin Grill, owned by the Baystar Restaurant Group, closed in January for a remodel and menu redo. An outdoor bar and dining area has also been added. Still owned by the Baystar group, the restaurant had a soft re-opening in late June as Seaweed.

SALAD SHOP This new eatery just opened this week and serves chopped salads and more with many guilt-free options. They also serve smoothies and juice drinks. Find them at 476 Poinsettia Ave, also on the east side of the new parking garage.

STONE CRAB FESTIVALS Back by popular demand, Clearwater Beach's Stone Crab Festivals will be the week of October 25-28, held at Cooters, Palm Pavilion and Frenchy's.

TOP CHEFS COMPETE PARC's Fourth Annual Top Chef's will be September 15th from 6 to 10pm. Participating are a few chefs you may know from restaurants nearby including Guppy's, Sheraton Sand Key's Rusty's, Outback and Bonefish, just to name a few.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with these incredible restaurants again this year," says Karen Higgins, PARC's President. "Their support helps raise money and awareness to PARC's Culinary Program. The event serves hundreds of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the year."

Top Chef will be held at The Birchwood Hotel, 340 Beach Drive, St. Petersburg. General admission is \$125 and includes open bar, entrée samplings, and decadent desserts. Tickets are available through www.PARC-FL.org. Call 341-6962 for more information.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS

\$100 Gift Card raffles each night

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Starting Friday evening at 5 PM, August 17th, we will be rolling back prices on customer favorites through Sunday August 19th. 3 days of fun & food!

Check these prices!

- Anniversary Seafood Chowder \$3
- Jumbo Shrimp \$9 dozen - Oysters \$10
- Catfish & Hush Puppies & Fries \$6
- Sat. Night \$10 Prime Rib! Dine in

MUCH MORE

Bar & Restaurant News

SPIRALZ CREAMERY This new ice cream and dessert store opening at the north end of Clearwater Beach plans to sell hand-crafted ice cream rolls, and other unique desserts. They are currently under construction, but should open any day at 474 Poinsettia Avenue, on the east side of the new parking garage



BEST BREAKFAST AND LUNCH Once again, readers of the Tampa Bay Newspapers voted Maggie Mae's Best Lunch in the area. They also won Second Place for Best Breakfast. One guest recently stated, "It is the best breakfast I have ever had, at least since the last time I ate here." Maggie Mae's is located in the Shoppes of Sand Key and is open from 7am to about 2pm. Also try the other Maggie Mae's in Belleair Bluffs. This time of year it gets really busy at BOTH Maggie Mae's. No reason to wait in line - just call ahead and they will put your name on the list and give you an estimated time to arrive. Get great food all the time!

TAP AND TOKEN This is new Key West style, restaurant and bar was formerly Bumpas. With a theme of Eat Drink and Play, you can watch all the games, while playing games on their over 40 arcade games. Located just west of the Sand Key Bridge, next to it is next to Brown Boxer at 735 South Gulfview Drive, South Beach (CWB) MM 22.6.

BIRCHWOOD OWNER NEW RESTAURANT AT THE PIER The City of St. Petersburg plans to have three new restaurants on or near the new Pier. Chuck Prather, owner of the Birchwood Inn and Birch and Vine on Beach Drive, will develop one of the three. Prather has announced he plans to build a five-story building containing three distinctly different concepts.

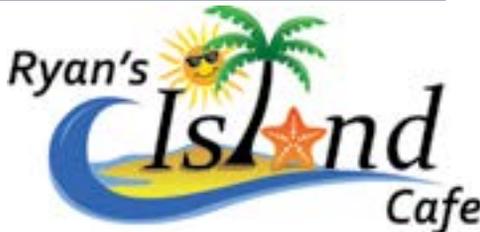
The ground level will house a gift shop, bait and fishing supplies. The second floor will be the Driftwood Café, a casual restaurant selling coffee, ice cream and hand-held foods, such as sandwiches. The third floor will be a mezzanine. The restaurant on the fourth floor, to be called "Teak," will be the main dining room with a Tommy Bahama type motif. The rooftop bar is called Pier Teaki, a play on words for teak/tiki. It will be 50 feet off the ground, with panoramic views of the pier, Tampa Bay to the east and sunsets to the west.

Prather knows his roof top bars, as he has a very successful one on Beach Drive. "Rooftop bars can be tricky," he says. "Business can be very much affected by the weather."

Previously, the city announced Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grill, a concept based in Ft. Myers Beach / Sanibel will also be built. The third restaurant has yet to be announced. All three new hope to be open on or near Labor Day, 2019.

RYAN'S ISLAND CAFÉ

Now open at 432 Poinsettia, Avenue, behind Toucan's, this new Café serves breakfast all day and lunch until 5pm. For pick up or delivery, call 240-4799.



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WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

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

Rain. It happens. Especially in Florida. We are known as the "Sunshine State", but we might be better off being called the "Umbrella State" as we have an average of 54.5 inches of rain a year. This rain doesn't come all at once, nor is it spread evenly throughout the year, and this can present some problems. There are times we pray for rain and times we pray for clear skies. Our thoughts about rain also depend on who we are and our role and relationship with water, but one thing is certain, none of us want to be dumping partially treated wastewater into our oceans and bays.

If you're like me, you have probably wondered how rain and wastewater are connected. Why are some wastewater systems overloaded when it rains? These two things aren't connected, are they? Well, it's complicated, but the long story short is, yes. There are a few things to consider here:

- Pinellas County is old (founded in 1912)
- Some of our infrastructure is old or aging
- We are the most densely populated county in the state
- Our soils are sandy and our elevations are low

Okay, let's make sense of this. Problem number one has to do with our old and aging infrastructure, in this case, pipes. When it rains, water that falls on unpaved areas will either evaporate or infiltrate and sink into the soil. If the soil is already saturated from previous rains (think of a wet sponge), the water starts to get creative in where it goes, and sometimes that is in the cracks and crevices of our pipes (also known as infiltration). So the pipes that normally carry wastewater from your house to the waste water treatment plant get inundated with rain water during storm events and that means trouble for waste water treatment plants that aren't designed for this excess water.

In addition to the leaky pipes, we all have our own pipes that run from our house and out to the waste water treatment system (that is if you don't have your own septic tank). Houses connected to the main system have what is called a "cleanout" that can be accessed by plumbers should there be a blockage or for regular inspection of pipes. These cleanouts are often covered with a lid that must be unscrewed to gain access to the pipe, but sometimes these lids are missing or loose, presenting a great outlet or inflow for the rain when it falls. Rain entering cleanouts is also another way wastewater pipes and treatment plants are getting overwhelmed with water. But wait, there's more!

Many homes in Pinellas County also have rain gutters. Some are utilized as a way to collect water for landscape irrigation and some are used as a way to keep water away from homes. Rain gutters that are connected directly to cleanouts contribute to the possible overwhelming of waste water treatment plants during storm events. Rain spouts are best directed toward an area of your yard that will allow the water to soak into the soil. The same applies to swimming pools. If you need to drain your pool it is recommended to drain excess water into your yard. For the proper functioning of our wastewater treatment plants and stormwater management, pools should never be drained directly into a manhole, cleanout or any drainage system.

These are a few, little things we can do to help keep waste water treatment plants from receiving excess and unnecessary fresh water. In addition to these steps mentioned above, you can consider touring Pinellas County's reclamation facilities to get a better understanding of their role and function in treating our waste water. You can tour South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility in St. Petersburg by calling 727-582-7000 or the William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility in Palm Harbor by calling 727-453-6744.

RESTAURANT WEEK NOW IN SEPTEMBER

Restaurant Week has moved. This event was previously held in the month of May near Mother’s Day. The area restaurants requested that it be moved to September, a slower month for tourism and restaurant business.

The 9th Annual Clearwater Beach Restaurant Week is an event promoted by the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce from September 14-23. The 10 day-long culinary celebration offers ‘foodies’ an opportunity to experience top-notch dining or casual cuisine, at all your favorite hot spots. Do not hesitate to try something new! This annual event is a great benefit for both diners and the restaurant community. An incredible array of different cuisines is a cornerstone of the beach vibrancy, which is one of many reasons Clearwater Beach was voted the #1 beach in the entire country.

During restaurant week, participating restaurant will offer a delicious prix fixe menu priced from \$15 to \$35. Some restaurants offer a prix fixe lunch menu for \$10 to \$15.

Restaurants will be competing for “BEST OF” awards in a variety of categories. Diners will have an opportunity to vote on their experience at each restaurant. Each vote will be entered into a drawing for great prizes. In previous years prizes included hotel stays, round trip airfare and gift certificates to local businesses.

The menus from participating restaurants will be listed on www.ClearwaterBeachRestaurantWeek.com just before the event’s September 14th start date. Bon Appetit.

RESEARCH CAMERAS INSTALLED ON DAN’S ISLAND

In April 2018, researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) St Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center installed two cameras on top of the Dans Island condominium in Sand Key, FL to observe the changing the coastline. The successful installation of the cameras was a result of a collaboration between the USGS and the Sand Key Civic Association, Dans Island Condominiums, and the City of Clearwater.

The cameras collect images each hour and the USGS can use the individual pixels of each image to observe a range of coastal processes, such as changes in shoreline position, hourly water levels, beach and dune erosion, and dune overtopping that can occur during storm events. Current images from this camera and more information about how the USGS uses video imagery to better understand coastal changes along the nation’s coastlines can be found here: <https://coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes/research/video-remote-sensing.php>.

Recent images from the cameras captured the placement of the beach nourishment along this section of coastline that resulted in a widening of the beach. The USGS will continue to monitor changes in the width of the beach over time, and can compare them to water level and wave data to evaluate how coastal processes such as tides and storms alter the beach. These local measurements improve the overall understanding of coastal change processes in the Tampa Bay region and will be used to improve model predictions of water levels, coastal change, and the vulnerability of our nation’s coastlines.

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Organizational News...

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving life on Sand Key by researching issues, distributing information and representing members' views and positions. They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Assn., and maintains contact with city/state departments impacting Sand Key.

Meetings are (normally) held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM, Clearwater Community Sailing Center and are open to all residents of member condominiums and businesses. Next meeting is September 5. E-mail President Brian Pelfrey at skcainc@aol.com for information.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit, and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They meet monthly on the second Monday.

The annual meeting is November 13th and the Winter Social is December 4.

For information, contact President Mike Anderson 777-2787, President@MyslandEstates.org, or visit myislandestates.org.

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Clearwater Woman's Club is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The volunteer service club was established more than 40 years ago. General Meetings are held the third Tuesdays of each month, at 11am, at the Clearwater Downtown Library. For more information about the club, contact Martha Hickey at 813-765-6219.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Chapel By-The-Sea, except during the summer. The next meetings are September 4th and October 2nd. The Fall Volunteer Project is September 15 and Annual Pub Crawl will be October 12.

Contact Beth Prast at esphome@yahoo.com or David MacNamee DMacNav@TampaBay.RR.com, or visit ClearwaterBeachAssoc.com for information.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Plumb House will be closed to the public over the summer. They are working hard to get the new museum at South Ward School open. If you want to help with the renovation process or be on one of many committees, please call Bill Wallace 446-2676. Visit ClearwaterHistoricalSociety.org.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on varying dates at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11am followed by lunch at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to join. RSVP for meetings with Diane Richardson at 871-9773 or BradSkate@AOL.com. Contact Cathy Athanson at 510-7135 or Dubinwv41@Gmail.com for more information.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

The next meetings are August 23 and September 20th at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Please visit ClearwaterBeachRotary.com for more information and dates. To join, please call Sharon Skinner at 515-1532.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The Island Estates Yacht Club is a social club on Island Estates. They have various social events throughout the year. New members are always welcome. Contact Jean Sanders, Commodore 2018, to join or for more information. Call her at 461-3949 or email at EmmaJean.Sanders@Gmail.com.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

They meet monthly from September-May. Socials include lunch with guest speakers, entertainment, fund-raisers, field trips and monthly happy hours.

September 18 kicks off their new year with a luncheon at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber. The speaker is Terry Fortner whose grandmother lived on Caladesi Island and wrote "Yesteryear, I Lived in Paradise." Non-members are welcome to join them. For reservations call Linda Dorn at 808-2255.

For membership information, visit islandestateswomensclub.org or call the Membership Chair, Joan Landreth, at 812-8078. Reach Club President, Lynne McCaskill at 430-1911.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. The September 4th guest speaker is Bob Griffin, publisher of this magazine. He will discuss the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the USCG Tampa. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers, their spouses or widows. To RSVP, or to consider joining, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

Their Fall programs including stories about Florida's barrier island state parks, the Belleview Biltmore Hotel, the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, the local Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on the second Wednesday of the month beginning in September. The Friends of Clearwater Beach, Library, Recreation Center and Pool meet the third Tuesdays at the Rec Center. Contact President Linda Owens at 260-894-0270 or the Library at 562-4970, or email at FriendsOfClearwaterBeach@gmail.com.

NEWCOMER CLUB

You do not have to be new to the area to join this club. But if you are—this club is for you. This is a social club to help relocated residents, and others in the area, develop new friends. The ladies meet monthly at different locations for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and theater shows.

The next meeting will be September 4 at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant for lunch. Stay afterwards for a game of Bingo and fun.

Mary Petrovich is the current President. Please RSVP with Ginny by calling 365-3493 or Mary Jane at 352-263-5518. Visit WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

The first lunch meeting of the new year is October 8th at Heilman's Beachcomber. The speakers are from Southeastern Guide Dogs, their main project last year.

November 13th they will meet at the Clearwater Yacht Club.

Their December 11th meeting will be held at the Belleair Country Club with Patchington's Annual Fashion Show

They meet on the second Tuesday of the month, October - May, at area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join. Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. RSVP for lunch with Sue Edmunds at 596-5710.



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Published by Griffin Productions

Organizational News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

AUGUST 18: Meeting 10:30am - Topic is Youth Gardening with President Al Latina, speaking about the Wekiva Youth Camp and Saving the Earth's Environment through Knowledge.

AUGUST 19: 4th Annual Gardens Summer Brunch at 11am. The lunch is \$20. Dress is casual. Proceeds benefit the Community Garden Project. The incoming new president, Albert Latina, is the key note speaker. His topic is "Gardening—Good For The Soul". He is excited the community garden is flourishing now with 48 families who enjoy friendship, food and fun.

SEPTEMBER 15: Meeting 10:30am - This is a talk with demonstrations on container gardening for the Fall and Winter Seasons—a hassle free way to grow delicious edibles in small spaces. Master Gardener Danny France is the speaker.

They meet twice a month in Clearwater at 405 Seminole Street. Meetings cost \$5 for members, \$8 non-members. They hold demonstrations on the third Saturday each month. Call 316-5504 email ClearwaterGardenClub@gmail.com or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.org, for information.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They hosted their Annual Dinghy Poker Run in July. The fun weekend include Friday's Hat Day Contest where dozens of members competed for prizes, followed by Saturday's featured Dinghy Poker Run and a cookout. Over 200 people in 45 small boats got wet while having lots of fun.

Upcoming events include August 18th: the Annual White Party. September 3rd: the big Labor Day Cookout and September 22nd: the fun Throwback Party.

August 21st to August 28th they will close the dining room for a refresh to the upstairs bar and dining room. While the upstairs will be closed, the Dry Dock and Tiki Bar will remain open.

Email office@clearwateryachtclub.org or call 727-447-6000 for membership information.

CLEARWATER/ST. PETERSBURG SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Pinellas County's only snow ski club held their 35th annual season kickoff. With trips planned to Copper Colorado, Big Sky Montana, Snowmass Colorado, Whitefish Montana and Park City Utah, there will be trips all season including Spring Break. Trips are for all levels of skiers at various price ranges.

Details about the club's trips, social events, and the Winter Sports Clinic can be found at www.snowshark.org or on their Facebook page. They will hold a monthly social at Mikes Pizza & Deli Station, 13560 49th St. N. in Clearwater at 6:30pm on September 11, October 9, and November 13.

PEACE LOVE UKULELE GROUP

This new community group recently organized from a suggestion on the Nextdoor Ap. They began by meeting weekly on the beach for fellowship and to play music. With the summer heat, they have moved their weekly meetings to the Belleair Coffee Company in Belleair Bluffs Shopping Center on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. They hope to have beach sessions again soon. Starting in August, they will meet the second Tuesday of the month, at the Indian Rocks Beach Library from 5-6pm for an introduction to the Ukulele. It is free and open to all ages. Contact Deborah at Deb@deborahthepainter.com. Find them on Facebook - Beach Ukulele IRB. Their website, under construction, is beachukuleleirb.com.

ST BRENDAN'S COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

This group of women meet the first Tuesday of each month at the church and other places. Annual dues are \$15. To learn more about this faith based organization, contact Mary Ellen Kilbane at MEKilbane@aol.com or call the Church, 727-443-5485.

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WHAT'S IN YOUR SUNSCREEN?



By Becky Griffin

Everyone that lives in Florida has heard it over and over – “Use Your Sun Screen.” Because of these countless warnings, we have all learned to dutifully put on sunscreen when we head to the beach or pool. In fact, many cosmetics we use every day have sunscreen incorporated in them. Now, it appears that advice has had some unintended consequences. While we have been protecting our skin, we have been destroying the coral reef’s “skin,” worldwide.

Two chemicals, oxybenzone and octinoxate, found in 70% of commonly used sunscreens have been found to damage coral reefs. Studies have determined these two identified chemicals cause bleaching to the coral reefs throughout the world. Bleaching occurs because these chemicals cause DNA damage to the coral itself and cause coral larvae to die.

Reefs are vital to the marine ecosystem and supplies essential nutrients in the food chain. They also protect coastlines from storm and wave damage. Reefs worldwide been undergoing global bleaching, and Hawaii alone has reported that more than half their reefs were bleached between 2014 and 2015.

The problem with sunscreens, carefully applied by beachgoers, is it washes off and spreads throughout the water. Findings show even the smallest amount of oxybenzone and octinoxate can cause coral to rapidly bleach, and they can stay in the water up to two and a half years. Approximately 70% of the sunscreens on the market contain these ingredients, including Banana Boat, Coppertone, and Neutrogena.

Because of these findings, Hawaii recently banned the sale of all sunscreens with these two chemicals, effective 2021. So far, Florida has not banned them, but the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Coral Reef Conservation Program urges swimmers to use “reef-safe” sunscreens to protect Florida’s Reefs.

Some people are now asking “Are these ingredients dangerous to humans?” The US Food and Drug Administration has approved oxybenzone and octinoxate as active ingredients for sunscreen. Some environmental groups claim they may cause hormone disruption and allergic reactions. Toxic levels of these chemicals have been documented in fish, sea turtle eggs, algae, dolphins, oysters, crayfish, mussels, and even human and dolphin breast milk. According to the Centers for Disease Control 97% of Americans have these chemicals circulating in our bodies.

You can still protect yourself from the sun, while also protecting the reefs. Do not use sunscreens, moisturizers or makeup with oxybenzone and octinoxate in the list of ingredients. They may also be listed as benzophenone-3 and octyl methoxycinnamate, respectively. Look for sunblocks labeled “Reef Safe” containing ingredients such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide, which place a physical barrier between your skin and the sun.

Oxybenzone and octinoxate have been detected in waters around the world. While you may think they are safe to use in your pool, a heavy rain or even a sewage spill after your sunscreen was removed in the shower, can cause the chemical laden water to flow into our local waters.

There is a widespread availability of natural mineral sunscreens on the market now, please consider choosing safer sunscreens for you and our reefs. If you want more information or a list of safe products, just Google sunscreen. You might be surprised what you learn.



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WE ARE THE TRAVEL TRIBE FAMILY - PART ONE

Where in the world are we off to next?

By Cassie Berger, Belleair resident

We're just your average family, who is choosing to live a not so average life. We decided to leave everything for an adventure around the world. Now we are the Travel Tribe; Tyler (26), Cassie (25), Preston (4), and Penelope (10 months). We plan to visit 52 countries in 52 weeks for one full year of nonstop travel.

This crazy idea came about after our December 2017 travels. Three weeks, two countries, five cities. Our first adventure set off the travel bug. I came home to our dream house that we bought just one year ago, and all I wanted to do was leave and go travel! So I suggested to my husband, we have one year before Preston starts kindergarten, it's now or in 20 years when the kids are out of school. Surprisingly he agreed. He owns several businesses and can work anywhere so we will be living off of his income. We aim to make Travel Tribe self-fueling by working with sponsors and advertising their accommodations, gear, flights, and experiences.

Months and months of research and preparation have gone into making this happen. On average I pay \$150 for all 4 of us to fly one way within Europe. Google Flights is the best! Check our Instagram for tips on how to use Google Flights (@traveltribefamily). For accommodations we use Airbnb. You can find accommodations for all price ranges in all countries. Some cities are more expensive than others, but some are also surprisingly cheap. Our budget is \$70 or less a night. For transportation, we plan on either public transit or walking. We purchased travelers medical insurance through TravelGuard, and visited our local health department to get our necessary immunizations.

The last thing to get in order (and hardest) was our luggage. We ended up with two large rolling suitcases, two backpacks, one single stroller, and one infant car seat.

We are looking forward to meeting new friends, eating delicious local delicacies, seeing historic sites, and finding a way to make the world a better place. We plan on participating in service projects throughout the year and are also working on a Travel Tribe bracelet; each bracelet purchased will feed a child in South America for 1 month.

We took off July 23rd! Check out where we've been and our upcoming itinerary:

- USA - London, UK
- London, UK - Toulouse, France
- Toulouse, France - Prague, Czech Republic

Welcome to our family adventure. Where in the world are we off to next? Follow us on our journey:

Instagram @traveltribefamily | Facebook @traveltribefamily
Twitter @traveltribefam | TravelTribeFamily.Com
youtu.be/5VmAcYgasmU



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SUPERHERO 5K, WALK & STROLLER RUN

Attention Superheroes! Lace up your running shoes and race for a cause - to help abused children in need! The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay invites you to the 4th Annual SuperHero 5K, Walk and Stroller Roll - October 13th.

Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child today by participating in the 4th annual SuperHero 5K, hosted by The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Whether you are a competitive runner, a casual walker, or just love the idea of supporting a wonderful cause, participating in the Superhero 5k allows you to show your support for abused and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The family-friendly, all ages, and abilities event will be held on Saturday, October 13, starting and ending at Nolan's Pub, 230 Main Street, Safety Harbor.

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

The State of Florida requires that the interests of every abused and neglected child be represented by a Guardian ad Litem in court. These volunteer child advocates provide foster children the needed support the system cannot provide. In Pinellas and Pasco County those volunteers are part of The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay, a private 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. In Pinellas and Pasco County, there are currently 3,007 children in foster care and 120 more come into care on average each month. Guardian ad Litem Volunteers are the voice of the child in court and the child's best interest is their only interest. They are often the only consistent adult in a child's life and they stay with each case until the child is placed in a safe and permanent home. The SuperHero 5K will help raise community awareness for the more than 5,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties who have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own.

SuperHero 5K Advance Registration is preferred. Register at www.thesuperhero5k.com. For those runners and walkers who are unable to attend the race, a virtual option is available to participate: Register for the Virtual Race at thesuperhero5k.com Want to volunteer at the Superhero 5k?: Register to volunteer at www.thesuperhero5k.com. Sponsorships for this important event are still available. Contact Amy Foster (amyf@galf6.org) for more information about sponsorship opportunities.

SUNSET CINEMAS SCHEDULE

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages are available on site. See the schedule online at www.SunsetsAtPier60.com or call 449-1036.

AUGUST

- 17: BIG HERO 6 (PG)
- 18: I FEEL PRETTY (PG-13)
- 24: THE HONOR LIST (PG-13)
- 25: MIDNIGHT SUN (PG-13)
- 30: SHERLOCK GNOMES (PG)



- 7: SHOW DOGS (PG-13)
- 8: OVERBOARD (PG-13)
- 14: PAWS P.I. (PG)
- 15: MEAGAN LEAVEY (PG-13)
- 21: I KILL GIANTS (PG-13)
- 22: LIFE OF THE PARTY (PG-13)



SEPTEMBER

- 1: AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (PG-13)

- 28: KUBO & THE TWO STRINGS (PG)
- 29: PACIFIC RIM: UPRISING (PG-13)

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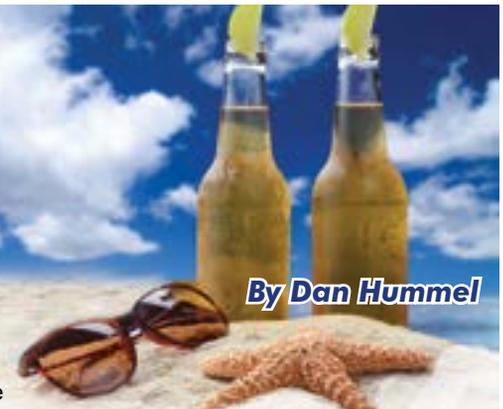
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DRINKING ON THE BEACH

The Truth about Sand & Alcohol

As the popular Kenny Chesney song goes...

**“The sun and the sand,
And a drink in my hand with no bottom,
And no shoes, no shirt, and no problems.”**



By Dan Hummel

But, “hold on” swigging those favorite spirits when visiting most of our area beaches. From Clearwater to Pass-a-Grille, consumption of alcoholic beverages is only permitted on a few local beaches. And, those scarce alcohol friendly exceptions still harbor a sizable list of restrictions.

Not surprisingly, properly permitted hotels and restaurants with a beach front presence in all of these locales are allowed to sell alcohol on a regular basis to their many patrons.

Why all the fuss? It seems rather harmless if a person wishes to have a beer or sip on the alcoholic beverage of their choice while soaking up a few rays or viewing the beautiful sunsets on the Gulf. Well, the answers vary from keeping the beaches clean, safe, and family friendly to avoiding those unruly social gatherings of large groups that party to the extreme.

Some cities are more lenient than others about drinking on their sand. Many will unofficially turn their heads if you are not making it too visible, or acting out of line. However, please note that you cannot refer to this article as your defense!

CLEARWATER BEACH AND SAND KEY BEACH

On the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Clearwater Police Department’s website, it reads, “The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed on our beaches”. The popular beach bars of Shephard’s, Frenchy’s, Palm Pavilion, and the Sheraton Sand Key are Clearwater exceptions.

BELLEAIR BEACH Nearby at Belleair Beach, under the title of Beach No Nos on their city’s web page, language clearly spells out that “a person shall not enter upon any beach while such person is in possession of any alcoholic beverage, or consume any alcoholic beverage”. Now that’s pretty clear.

INDIAN ROCKS & INDIAN SHORES BEACHES:

Moving south, similar rules exist against spirits on the beaches at both Indian Rocks and Indian Shores. Both towns have specific language in their ordinances that prohibit any alcoholic consumption on their shorelines.

THE TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES: They are even more direct with their prohibition writing, “No alcoholic beverages allowed on beach”. No room for an interpretation error here.

NORTH REDINGTON BEACH This city spells out their policy in more tedious detail. “It shall be unlawful for any person to possess an unsealed or opened container or can or cup of alcoholic beverages or to consume or drink or taste any alcoholic beverage on or in or afloat upon or on any beach bordering the Gulf of Mexico or Boca Ciega Bay.” Whew! Simply put, no alcohol here.

REDINGTON BEACH Continuing on our trip down the beaches, we have reach the town of Redington Beach where there are NO ordinances prohibiting drinking on their beaches. According to a spokesperson at City Hall, you are permitted to drink alcohol (in moderation) at the beaches in the town of Redington Beach. Finally, the drought is over!

MADEIRA BEACH Nearby city of Madeira Beach, has taken the initiative within their regulations to actually include permission “to consume alcoholic beverages on the beach, but not in glass containers” with just a few exceptions.

TREASURE ISLAND BEACH If your travels take you further south, drinking is allowed on Treasure Island, except in Sunset Beach, the small strip of sand south of Treasure Island. However, ironically, alcohol is allowed at Caddy’s Beach Bar, located in the middle of Sunset Beach, because Caddy’s owns the beach to the waterline, and can legally allow drinking behind his property. Additionally, drinking is permitted at the popular beach bars at the Bilmar, Thunderbird, and Sloppy Joe’s. I suggest a visit to Treasure Island’s website to familiarize yourself with their rules. You wouldn’t want to get caught with a cold one on the wrong parcel of land.

ST. PETE BEACH & PASS-A-GRILL: And finally, on St. Pete and Pass-a-Grill beaches, alcohol is only allowed to be sold to registered hotel guests with wrist bands in cabana areas. The most popular larger hotels on the beach include Cabana Bar, Harry’s, Jimmy B’s, Rum Runners and the Undertow. Alcohol is completely banned on all other public areas of the beach.

Hopefully, this will help you plan your next beach visit. For the most part, it looks like (with a few exceptions) that soft drinks and bottled water should be your beverages of choice. . . Cheers!

BEACH	ALCOHOL ALLOWED?	BEACH CITY/WEBSITE
Clearwater Beach	No	clearwaterpolice.org
Sand Key Beach	No	clearwaterpolice.org
Belleair Beach	No	cityofbelleairbeach.com
Indian Rocks Beach	No	indian-rocks-beach.com
Indian Shores Beach	No	myindianshores.com
Redington Shores Beach	No	townofredingtonshores.com
North Redington Beach	No	townofnorthredingtonbeach.com
Redington Beach	Yes*	townofredingtonbeach.com
Madeira Beach	Yes*	madeirabeachfl.gov
Treasure Island Beach	Yes*	mytreasureisland.org
Sunset Beach (TI)	No**	mytreasureisland.org
St. Pete Beach	No	stpetebeach.org
Pass-a-Grille Beach	No	stpetebeach.org

*You are encouraged to visit each city/town website, or call for all exceptions and details.
**Except for Caddy’s Waterfront Bar.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WHERE

Charting a New Course in Design

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Do you ever just stare at your GPS screen and wonder how it can know all those details, the curves, the distances, even the colors? That is what Dean Forss's wall-hung wooden maps look like. Except, his maps are as detailed as a boat's navigational chart, even displaying the depth of the water surrounding the land, through the use of layered wood, each stained with a specific color according to the depths of the water.

Forss takes GPS displays to an entirely different level. As a 25-year veteran cartography, he creates three-dimensional precision cut maps ranging in size from a small 20 inches wide version to huge 30-foot tiled displays. Each map is individually made from layers of birch, maple and aspen woods and carved with several large CO2 lasers, thus bridging the science of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with the art of Cartography and precision wood working. The end result is a one of a kind piece of art.

Forss, a resident of St. Petersburg, makes his maps of the earth's landscapes in many versions. He has maps of Tampa Bay, most areas of Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, South Carolina, and even the U.S. lower 48. Each is highly detailed and extremely accurate, using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) specifications

How did he get started doing this? "I have been working with wood since I was a little kid," Forss says. "I learned the art from many influences while growing up in Wisconsin. I dabbled in outdoor cedar furniture and later designed and built guitars."

But, he has always been interested in technology. "I built my own computers and have beta tested systems built by many well-known computer companies." He designed multimedia technologies in several universities and has a Bachelor's Degree in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems. He has a Master's Degree in 3D GIS Science.

"My background gave me the knowledge to push the envelope in art, design and science," Forss explains.

Forss owns the Summer Night Productions design studio and Island Laser Design. Among other endeavors, he has designed museum displays and worked with NASA. He worked with film companies designing animation and special effects. He is most proud of his design of the Korean War Memorial in Hangar 79 at the Pearl Harbor Pacific Aviation Museum.

His commercial and artistic path all led him to create his detailed, 3-D wooded charts. Shipwrecks, submerged obstacles and spoil areas are all included.

When Forss begins a new project, he first selects an area that interests him. You would assume he just downloads a basic GPS map. But that would not be accurate enough for his standards. As a scientist, he relies on information from a myriad of sources including: The U.S. Census, county and municipal data, information from the Coast Guard, Army Corp of Engineers, CIA maps, the National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Florida Coastal Management, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FEMA, local harbor reports and even area fishing captains.

Once he has all the detailed information, he uses a laser to cut thousands of pieces of very thin wood and other plastic materials. It is all stained and assembled, mostly by hand, to form a 3D map.

It takes months to produce one targeted area. Once the pre-work has been done, he can produce multiple copies of the same area. He has twenty-five versions, twelve of which are near Tampa Bay. New maps are being created and added monthly.

My vision is to create detailed accurate shoreline maps for all of North America and beyond," Forss says, "while keeping true to *The Art and Science of Where*, our mapping heritage."

The costs are based on size and detail. A typical mid-sized display (20" x 24") costs about \$600. He has larger ones in the range of \$1,000 to \$3,000. Custom orders may cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$10,000



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THE CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC STRAWS

It is estimated Americans use over 500 million plastic straws every day - that means you will probably use over 35,000 plastic straws in your lifetime. All will end up in our landfills or worse yet, our waterways.

Environmental groups have been pushing banning plastic straws for years, but the strawless movement received a major bump in public consciousness in 2015 thanks to a graphic viral video of a marine biologist who extracted a plastic straw crammed up the nostril of a live and (very uncomfortable) sea turtle. It has been watched more than 30 million times on YouTube alone

Now, people are starting to take action. Nationally, Starbucks announced they are giving up plastic straws and transitioning to a new compostable lid with no need for a straw. Seattle banned plastic straws and utensils. Alaska Airlines, Seaworld, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Ikea all announced bans.

Locally, the cities of St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Gulfport, Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach and others instituted voluntary programs to encourage local business to discourage the use of plastic straws through the Strawless Summer Challenge.

To help the effort, refuse plastic straws when offered and remember besides helping keep our water clean, less sucking on straws produces less wrinkles! The following Clearwater Beach restaurants signed the Go Strawless pledge:

CLEARWATER BEACH:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 505 Bistro | Jimmy's Fish House |
| Another Broken Egg | Jimmy's at the Edge |
| Badfins | Marina Cantina |
| Barefoot Beach House | Ocean Hai |
| Blinker's Beachside | Ocean Flame |
| Steakhouse | Palm Pavilion |
| Bob Heilman's | Pan Filo's |
| Beachcomber | Pier 60 Concessions |
| Bobby's Bistro Wine Bar | Ryan's Island Cafe |
| Brown Boxer - Both | Salt Cracker Fish Camp |
| Calypso Queen | Salty's Island Bar & Grill |
| Carambola Restaurant | Samgelo's Pizza |
| Caretta's | Sea-Guini |
| Carlouel Yacht Club | Sharky's Bar & Grill |
| Cesare's at the Beach | Shor Restaurant |
| Clear Sky Beachside Café | Show Queen Cruises |
| Clearwater Marina | Slo' Joe's Bar |
| Aquarium | South Beach Café |
| Clearwater Yacht Club | Spegg-tacular Café |
| Clearwater Wine Bar & Bistro | Spotted Donkey |
| Coco Coronado | Starlite Dinner Cruises |
| Cooters Restaurant & Bar | Surfside Tap House |
| Cork N Brew | The Bait House |
| Crabby Beach Walk & Dockside | Toucans Bar and Grill |
| Evy's | Tropix |
| Extreme Pizza | Tropics Boat Tours |
| Formaggi Pizza | |
| Frenchy's - All | SAND KEY: |
| Gondolier Restaurant | Backwater's |
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*Information is derived from the Multiple Listing Service and is believed to be accurate. Ultra luxury condos sold over \$1.5 million along Tampa Bay beaches.

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