

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

RUTH KIRBY - ED WRIGHT'S SECRETARY & LIFELONG COMPANION



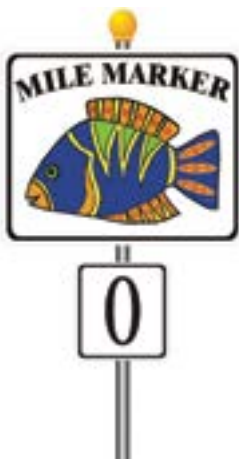
Our last issue featured a story about Ed Wright, who at one time was the richest man in Pinellas and the owner of Sand Key. This issue features Wright's longtime secretary, personal assistant, companion, and eventual executor of his estate— Ruth Kirby.

Ruth Kirby worked with Wright for almost 40 years and understood his various businesses almost as well as he did. When he died, Wright owned approximately \$25 million of land in Pinellas (in 1969 dollars), plus land in 19 other Florida counties. He also had 51,000 shares of the Seaboard Coast Line stock.

When Wright hired Kirby in 1931 his office was filled with ringing phones - his phone bill alone was over \$1,000 per month - teletype machines spitting out stock prices, and Western Union machines clattering financial news. Wright picked her from a secretarial pool to do some filing; she was 18. Neither knew that the one day of work would turn into four decades and then some.

Continued on page 7

Also in this Issue:



Mile Marker Signs have been on the beach 15 years

Find out how they got here - page 14

Richard Jacobson

The late philanthropist left a list of accomplishments, now there is a new event in his honor - page 32

Cross Bay Ferry is back for a second season

Already breaking ridership records, the ferry is back with an extended schedule. Visit Tampa, with no driving - page 20

Meet Marcel Sanchez Belleview Inn's New Manager

Hand-picked for the job, Sanchez has a varied background - page 13



CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it Neighborhood News 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, 727-430-8300 bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL!

CITY NUMBERS

| | |
|---|----------|
| CITY HALL | 562-4250 |
| 600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, clearwater-fl.com | |
| MAYOR OFFICE | 562-4050 |
| MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1 | |
| CITY COUNCIL | 562-4050 |
| Jay Polglaze - Seat 2 ● Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 ● David Albritton - Seat 4 ● Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5 (Vice-Mayor) | |
| CITY MANAGER | 562-4040 |
| William Horne | |
| ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER | 562-4040 |
| BUILDING PERMITS | 562-4567 |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | 562-4870 |
| PLANNING & ZONING | 562-4567 |
| PUBLIC SERVICES | 562-4950 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES | 562-4600 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY | 462-6633 |
| CLEARWATER GAS | 562-4980 |
| SOLID WASTE | 562-4920 |
| PIER 60 | 462-6466 |
| MARINA | 462-6954 |
| BEACH REC CENTER | 462-6138 |
| BEACH LIBRARY | 462-6138 |
| VISITOR INFO CENTER | 442-3604 |
| BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY | 462-6020 |
| POLICE NON-EMERGENCY | 562-4242 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT | 562-4334 |
| POLICE HOTLINE | 562-4080 |
| NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON | 562-4554 |
| ----- | |
| CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | 447-7600 |
| 429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach | |
| POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES | 449-8732 |
| SAND KEY PARK | 588-4852 |
| Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park | |
| CLEARWATER AQUARIUM | 441-1790 |
| 249 Windward Passage, Island Estates | |
| JOLLEY TROLLEY | 445-1200 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB | 447-6000 |
| 830 Bayway Blvd S. | |
| CLEARWATER SAILING CTR | 517-7776 |
| CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN | |
| Sue Williams, President 446-4471 | |
| ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH | |
| Sharon Skinner 515-1532 | |
| CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION | |
| Sam Hutkin hutloan@aol.com | |
| CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB | 316-5504 |
| ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION | |
| Mike Anderson, President 777-2787 | |
| ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB | |
| Lynne McCaskill, President 430-1911 | |
| FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY | |
| Linda Owens 260-894-0270 | |
| CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY | |
| Bill Wallace 446-2676 | |
| ----- | |
| PINELLAS COUNTY INFO | 464-3000 |
| COMMISSION OFFICES | 464-3377 |
| Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276 | |
| Karen Seel Sand Key 464-3278 | |
| STATE: | |
| Senator Ed Hooper, 727-771-2102 | |
| Republican, District 16 | |
| 3450 East Lake Road Ste 305, Palm Harbor | |
| Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov | |
| Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090 | |
| Republican, District 66 | |
| 1940 West Bay Drive, Ste 4, Largo | |
| nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov | |
| Governor Ron DeSantis | |
| Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com | |
| FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS: | |
| Marco Rubio 202-224-3041 | |
| www.Rubio.Senate.gov | |
| Rick Scott 202-224-5274 | |
| www.RickScott.Senate.gov | |
| AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE: | |
| Charlie Crist 202-225-5961 | |
| 696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete | |
| www.Crist.House.Gov | |

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Valentine's Day | 14 |
| Island Estates Community Yard Sale | 16 |
| Yard Sale St Brendan's Catholic | 16-17 |
| Speaking of History Heritage Village | 17 |
| Presidents Day Public Schools Closed | 18 |
| Florida State Fair Closes | 18 |
| Blast Friday | 22 |
| Phillies Spring Training Begins | 22 |
| Causeway Clean Up By IECA | 23 |
| Folk Festival Heritage Village | 23 |
| Sea-Blues Festival | 23-24 |

MARCH

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Wild 94.1FM Splash Coachman Park | 2 |
| Sunday in Belleair Concert | 3 |
| Ash Wednesday | 6 |
| Beach's Library Book Club | 6 |
| Public School Closed | 8 |
| Beach Pool Opens | 8 |
| Grand Prix | 8-10 |
| Reds, Whites, And Bites | 9 |
| Daylight Savings Time Begins | 10 |
| Pinellas Spring Break Public Schools | 11-15 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Shamrock Run | 15 |
| Great American Clean Up | 16 |
| St Patrick's Day | 17 |
| Speaking of History Heritage Village | 17 |
| Bus Driver Appreciation Day | 18 |
| Spring Begins | 20 |
| Wine Walk Belleair Bluffs | 23 |
| Phillies Spring Training Ends | 25 |
| Blast Friday | 29 |
| CBA Spring Picnic | 30 |
| Clearwater Neighborhood Day | 30 |
| Sunday In Belleair Concert | 31 |
| Clearwater Iron Girl | 31 |

APRIL

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| April Fool's Day | 1 |
| Beach Library Book Club | 3 |
| Sea Turtle Awareness Pier 60 | 6 |
| Holocaust Remembrance Day | 12 |
| Sugar Sand Festival Begins | 12 |
| Paw Fest Largo Central Park | 13 |
| Blessing of The Fleet Clearwater YC | 13 |
| Causeway Clean Up By IECA | 13 |
| Speaking Of History Heritage Village | 14 |

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Did You Know



CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED

The city of Clearwater is looking for camp counselors to help with day out and summer camps. Counselors enjoy fun filled trips, make new friends and learn new things while creating a fun, safe and positive environment for children. Counselors also:

- Mentor young children in all areas of recreation.
- Ensure camper safety by keeping campers organized and implementing camp rules, while engaging in active recreation activities.
- Promote positive energy and be ready to have FUN!

If you're interested, contact Courtney Schultz (727) 669-1914 or Courtney.Schultz@myclearwater.com.

BLAST FRIDAY IS BACK FOR 2019 This fun, monthly street party is held on the last Friday of the month in downtown Clearwater on Cleveland Street beginning at 5:30pm. It is free or you can buy VIP seating tickets for \$49 each. Here is a list of upcoming bands:

- February 22, The Fixx
- March 29, The Rippingtons
- April 26, Gregg Billings, Ronnie Dee and the Superstars
- May 31, Mark Farner

GRAND PRIX The 14th Annual Firestone Grand Prix of St Petersburg is March 9-11. The series of races along the 14-turn, 1.8 mile temporary track will culminating with the Verizon IndyCar Series on March 11.

The Dali will be open, although their parking lot is closed. On Thursday, March 8, there is a 5K race on the track. Friday, March 9 will have a Movie In the Park in North Straub Park. Buy tickets in advance - www.gpstpete.com.

CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS JACKETS

Clothes To Kids needs new or gently used kids jackets, especially elementary school boys and girl's jackets sizes 6-12. Each year Clothes To Kids provides more than 11,000



low-income and in crisis PreK-4 to 12th grade children with clothes including a jacket. Families who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch or that are in crisis can come shop at one of their stores.

Donations may be dropped off from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at: Clearwater: 1059 N. Hercules Avenue and St. Pete: 2168 34th Street S. Monetary donations are also needed to buy new socks and underwear. For information or to schedule an appointment to shop, please call 441-5050 or visit clothestokids.org.

50th ANNIVERSARY

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Sunday, March 3, from noon to 4pm, show your love of flamingos and celebrate Sunken Gardens' young flock's birthday! Wear pink for \$1 off admission! Kids' activities, face painting, and live music are free with garden admission. Beer and wine available for purchase. Call 727-551-3102 for information.



FOLK FAIR The annual and very popular Folk Festival will be held at Heritage Village on Saturday, February 23, from 10am to 4pm. This fun, all-day event includes food and music. Visit all the old homes and enjoy a day in the Village, located at 11909 125th Street North, in Largo. Visit PinellasCounty.org/Heritage or call 582-2123 for information.

HEALTH SCREENING To help build awareness of the importance of heart health, BayCare Health System's community health screening team will offer free heart healthy screenings, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 8 am to 2 pm at Morton Plant Hospital in the Cheek-Powell Heart and Vascular Pavilion, 455 Pinellas St., Clearwater.

The free screenings, which take about 15 minutes, include blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol and a pre-screening for diabetes. If the pre-screening indicates someone is at-risk for diabetes, an A1C test may be offered. Screening results are provided and explained on site.

SPRING BREAK Pinellas County Schools scheduled their Spring Break early - March 11-15. But we know, Spring Break on Clearwater Beach begins near the end of February when northern schools start their breaks and visit the area. It will continue until Easter, which is very late, April 21. You will know when it happens, just look for the traffic.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG To dig or not to dig? Whether you are a professional excavator or a homeowner, smart digging always requires a call to 811. Clearwater Gas System wants to remind the public to



always know where underground utility lines are buried before you dig. Properly marked underground utilities help protect you from injury and prevent damages to utilities, service disruptions and potential fines and costly repairs.

Plan ahead. Call 811 on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked. Professional locators will visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint or flags.

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

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RUTH KIRBY, Continued

"He told me he could use a girl full time and hired me - at \$9 per week," Kirby recalled. "I was scared to death of him and the job."

Kirby's job included listening in on all those phone calls and taking notes. She soon started trading bonds and buying land; she proved to be as savvy an investor as her boss. Over the 40 years, the two never married, though they were said to be engaged.

Early on (in 1958), Wright gave Kirby the deed to Blue Springs, a beautiful piece of nature in Gilchrist County, west of Gainesville.

Kirby loved the place and turned it into an attraction with a dive platform. She charged swimmers, campers and canoeists 10¢ for a day's admission. Eventually, the property was passed on to her nephew.

Wright, 19 years older than Kirby, is said to have given her Blue Springs as a pre-wedding gift. But the two never married. Kirby once explained, "every time we discussed getting married, he got sick or something." So, she remained his employee, but also his lifelong companion.



Ruth Kirby and Ed Wright

Wright lived in Old Northeast with a sister, while Kirby lived nearby with her sister. She kept a stable of horses not far from downtown St. Petersburg and drove a large gold Cadillac—a gift from her boss.

In 1963, the City of Clearwater built a bridge at the north end of Sand Key, which was nothing but a big sandbar, across Clearwater Pass with a road connecting Clearwater Beach to the north end of Belleair Beach. Wright owned most of the island at the time. No one thought it suitable for development and Wright began the process of trying to sell it to a government entity who could turn it into a park, much like Ft. DeSoto.

Wright first approached the U.S. Government for inclusion in the "National

Seashore Program." Then, he approached the State, followed by the County to add Sand Key to their parks system. Finally, he offered it to the City of Clearwater - one report says for \$1 million. The City considered it but determined it would take another million to develop, plus there were the ongoing maintenance costs of another park - so they passed on the offer. Behind the scenes, Wright and City Manager Merrett Stierheim, who went to high school together, continued to talk. Merrett said he would find a way for the city to buy Sand Key. Wright died, before that happened.

In 1966, Wright donated 160 acres near 62nd Avenue NE, adjacent to 200 acres St. Petersburg already owned. Now, with 360 acres, Wright suggested the city build a "golf course, bridle trails, baseball and football fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and a park with picnic areas." In tribute, the city named the complex, "Ed Wright Park."

At Wright's end, Kirby held a 21-day vigil at his hospital bedside, until he died on February 1, 1969. With 150 people in attendance, Kirby had a front row seat at his funeral. There were 55 honorary pallbearers at the graveside service, including Doc Webb, of Webb City fame, but it was Kirby who received all the media's attention.

Wright's will named Kirby the executor and a benefactor of his more than \$50 million estate. Overnight, Ruth Kirby became one of the most powerful, yet unknown, women in the state.

When she began to liquidate his enormous estate, it quickly became impossible to avoid the limelight. She negotiated each sale and haggled with the State of Florida, the Pinellas County Commission, U.S. Steel and many others who all tried to beat her down and get a better price on Wright's real estate.

Wright left \$6 million to eight different charities: First United Methodist Church, United Way, SPCA, Suncoast Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Infantile Paralysis Fund, St. Augustine Home for the Blind, and the Children's Home Society of Jacksonville.

Twenty beneficiaries, including his three siblings and some relatives, were to split 25% of the value of the estate when it was liquidated. The will allowed Kirby 20 years to sell everything and paid her \$90,000 a year during the process.

U.S. Steel, already building in the area, had been talking to Wright about buying the Sand Key property before his death.



Ruth Kirby shortly after Wright's death

Ruth Kirby continued those conversations. U.S. Steel first offered her \$5 million for the property; with a laugh, Kirby countered at \$18 million. Five months after Wright's death, they agreed on \$11 million—but for only half the island. The deal did not include the Sand Key Park land and some other parcels. Two years later, U.S. Steel sold the Sheraton site.

When asked about the Sand Key sale, Kirby explained, "I had to do some soul-searching before I let the property go to U.S. Steel. But I felt it was best for the community and the estate. It was necessary to cover the inheritance taxes."

Ed Wright's will made many land donations, all executed by Kirby - many still bear his name. Wright donated: 160 acres near Weedon Island for a park, 20 acres on Clearwater's MLK Jr. St. now named "Ed C. Wright Park," and 17 acres for Largo Middle School.

One of Kirby's biggest public fights was with the Pinellas County Commission. At the time, they were using a landfill called "Toy Town" and proposed building more above-ground garbage dumps. Kirby presented a petition with 4,000 signatures to stop new landfills. As a result, the county purchased land from the estate to build the Solid Waste Disposal site still in use today in the Gateway area.

In another fight, Kirby flew to Tallahassee to pressure the Governor into buying Weedon Island for a public park.

Five or six years after Wright's death, some charities and benefactors began complaining they wanted their money. Kirby tried to explain it takes time and well negotiated sales would yield more money. Finally, after seven years, close to 95% of the real estate had been sold.

Ruth Kirby continued to honor her companion's wishes until her death in 1989, at the age of 76. She died at home in St. Petersburg at 3301 Country Club Way South. ■

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MEET AMANDA PAYNE
Clearwater Beach Chamber's New President

Amanda Payne, the new President and CEO of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce has always wanted to work in the chamber of commerce business, in fact her first job was with a chamber in Walton County, Georgia, which is near Athens. She later worked for the West Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.



Payne replaces Darlene Kole, who after serving in that role for eight years and retired last fall. Payne, originally from West Virginia, has been living in Pinellas County for three years.

"Our search to find the next great leader for our chamber was not an easy task and we were fortunate to find her," says Mary Reischmann, Past Chairman. "Amanda brings a great deal of experience to the table from both state and local government levels as it pertains to chamber business. Her financial acumen will aid us in the continued growth of our chamber revenues through membership retention and expansion alongside continued success of our annual events. Her southern charm and hospitality fit in nicely with the warmth and comfort of our thriving beach community."

"I just love it here on the beach," Payne exclaims. "The members are so warm and full of energy. Plus, we have the best volunteers! This is my dream job come true."

"And the people! The people I have met—both residents and tourists—are so nice," she continues. "But remember, I am not really a newcomer. My family has lived here for the past three years. Both my kids are Floridians—they were born here."

Amanda lives in Clearwater near US 19 and Sunset Point, with husband Chris and their two kids, ages 6 months and 2 years.

"I look forward to meeting all our Chamber members and interacting with the community through our many public events," she concludes.

The Clearwater Beach Chamber has over 250 members. Get more information at www.BeachChamber.com.

PINELLAS COUNTY SOLID WASTE
New online survey first step in developing 30-year master plan

Pinellas County Solid Waste is seeking feedback from residents, businesses and business partners about its existing solid waste operations, programs, facilities, technologies, and countywide recycling and diversion programs, as well as ideas for future projects through a new online survey.

The survey is the first public engagement step in the development of the 30-year Solid Waste Master Plan, which is currently underway. Citizen and customer feedback is vital to ensure that the County's award-winning integrated solid waste management system aligns and sustains its existing programs to meet current needs, while evaluating, planning, developing and implementing new programs and technologies that will attend to the needs of residents and businesses for the next 30 years.

The Survey, available through the end of February, is online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/pinellascountymasterplan.

MAKING ART THAT BENEFITS THE BEACH ART CENTER



Many of you know Bobbie Rendell. An Indian Rocks resident, she has also been a long-time area Realtor, most recently with The Biltmore Group. What you may not know about her though is she is an artist and has been since she was a child.

Rendell's love of art started at the age of seven. Many years ago, her Aunt Amelia, a very well-known watercolor artist in the St. Louis

area, organized a small art club, took Rendell and her friends to the art museum, especially during the summer months. This gave her a foundation in art and instilled an appreciation for all things art - art history, composition, techniques, and color theory.

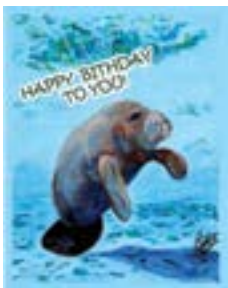
While in high school and part of college, Rendell lived in Europe. This gave her the opportunity to visit many of the most magnificent museums in Europe. This deepened her appreciation for painting.

From 1978 until 2014, Rendell and her husband lived and worked in Clearwater Beach. When they moved to Indian Rocks four years ago, she discovered the Beach Art Center.

Living on the beach has given Rendell the opportunity to see and paint many marine animals, water birds and fish. She chooses to paint with acrylics and uses a great deal of color.



After enjoying all the Beach Art Center has to offer, Rendell saw an opportunity to give back to the community through the Beach Art Center. She has created a collection of custom painted art works that have been converted into gift cards, place mats, and frameable pictures. She has absorbed all the costs. Her creations are for sale in the Beach Art Center's Gift Shop.



GIFT CARDS: There are 16 varieties of gift cards for every occasion from birthdays to anniversaries, and even generic. Each has a catchy message and is \$4.50.

PLACE MATS: There are four versions for your table. You can buy four of the same or mix-and-match. They are art only with no message, and are \$6.50 each.

FRAMED PICTURES:

Some have been enlarged, framed, and ready to hang. They are available in several sizes and cost between \$75 to \$150.



Drop by the gift shop any day to see her collection and take home a few. A portion of each sale goes to support the Beach Art Center, located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach.

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DON'T RETIRE...REWIRE™

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Many look forward to retirement. Others can't imagine not working because it is more about who they are, then what they do. Either way there is a lot to consider and often it can be confusing and overwhelming. Two common denominators regarding retirement are wealth and health. Without sufficient assets and decent health, the golden years could be tarnished.



There is no time like the present to add to the nest egg if you are still working and maintaining a healthy lifestyle should be a lifelong project. Do you see yourself working and dying at the desk, or do you see yourself thinking about sleeping in every Monday through Friday? Makes no difference as the third common denominator is restructuring your life or as we like to refer to it – you need to rewire.

Okay, let's admit it, the idea of not setting the alarm clock to go to work every day, not opening the computer for emails with that first cup of coffee, not eating lunch at the same places, not making that daily commute to and from the office, etc. may seem appealing. But suddenly, the structure you have had in your life for 40 years or more collapses. We all need and want some degree of structure.

For the first few months, you have lots to keep you busy around the house with all of those projects you always wanted to do. What happens when they are all done? Maybe you visualize playing golf or fishing more, seeing the family more frequently, volunteering, or maybe even starting your own business part time. However, more often than not there is only so much of anything that you can do on a sustained basis. In fact, some folks love their new found freedom so much they resist structure, but that in and of itself is still structure.

One of the basic fabrics of living is having a routine. Many times we have one and don't realize it because the actions become innate. When you get ready for the day, don't you follow a routine in the bathroom and get dressed a certain way each day? These are just two small examples of our need for structure. In the next article, we offer ideas on how you can REWIRE!

In the meantime, why not come to see us for a complimentary session to chat about your pending or actual retirement?

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DROWNINGS CAN HAPPEN IN AN INSTANT

By Rebecca Geiger

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) drowning is the third highest cause of death for children. While scary, this statistic is more than a little abstract. Let's bring it a little closer to home. In the US drowning has consistently been the #2 cause of "preventable death" for children under the age of 15, and the number one cause of "unintentional death" for children under the age of 4 as reported by the National Safety Council. Still this seems like a nationwide problem more than a local one. After all, unfortunately children drown nationwide. Let's bring it a little closer.



In 2018 Florida had 21 pool and spa drownings involving children under the age of 15 from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Notice that this is only statistics from a 3 month time period, and only reports on children who actually died from drowning. Statistics on drowning are notoriously hard to find due to the sensitive nature of the incident, possible criminal charges for parents or caregivers, tourism, and incidents where death does not occur are reported differently regardless of the extent of damage.

Still, Florida is a big state. Let's bring it even closer. In order to get the most comprehensive data we must go back to 2016. It is estimated that drowning is reportedly down 9%; however, as you can see the numbers are still staggering.

- Nationwide: 322 deaths
- Florida: 40 deaths
- Pinellas: 17 deaths - over 40 states have fewer pool/spa drownings than our county.

So why are our figures so high? There are a multitude of reasons, but the most logical is the sheer number of pools and spas we have in the area. While barriers are required by law, there are many locations whose pools are "grandfathered" in before barrier regulations. Many old barriers have gaps or holes. Another factor is children by nature are curious.

As we are in winter, it is common for people to think there is less danger than in the summer. After all, as adults we want nothing to do with cold water. However, statistics show that 74% of drownings occur at residential locations, and 70% of those occur during non-water related events.

It is imperative that caregivers have an active tangible way of knowing who is watching the children at all times. While this may sound like common sense, having a child of my own I can attest to how easy it is, especially at gatherings to think that a spouse, relative, or friend is watching when they think the same is being done by you. To remind you of whose turn it is to keep an eye on the kids, I offer free plastic cards on lanyards to anyone that would like one. I have heard of families using a stuffed animal, or really anything tangible that can be used to signify who is "Tagged In" at the time. Similar to the old game of "Tag you're it!" When you are tagged, it is up to you to be aware of where your little ones are. Then, when you want some adult time, make sure someone else knows they have been "Tagged."

I am known as Miss Becca to my students and specialize in Drowning Prevention Education through lessons and group presentations to children and their adults. Please contact me at (813)363-9133.

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**SAVE OUR COTTAGES:
 ARTISTS WITH A CAUSE**

The Indian Rocks Beach Plein Aire Cottage Artists have added another accomplishment to their long list of artistic works... they are now "movie stars!"

The debut of their documentary short "Save Our Cottages: Artists with a Cause" at the Central Park Performing Arts Center on November 18th was a huge hit. The first show sold out quickly and the second showing that night had only a few empty seats in the theatre to see the new documentary about the Indian Rocks Beach artists' work... and the preservation movement it created.

More than 600 people turned out to be the first to see the film, produced by the Emmy Award winning documentary team of Lynn Marvin Dingfelder and Larry Wiezycki, the owners of Creative on Main Street, in Tampa.

Lynn & Larry spent two years following and filming Mary Rose Holmes, Helen Tilston and Violetta Chandler to countless locations, including Provence, France, the home of the impressionists. The film crew also interviewed more than 70 people (you may have been one of them or know someone who was) to capture the beach cottage memories and history.



Emmy Award winning Cinematographer/ Editor Larry Wiezycki and Producer/ Writer Lynn Marvin Dingfelder from Creative on Main Street

Archived photos, unique family films and historic newspaper headlines complimented the production.

Dingfelder is currently in talks with WEDU/ PBS about broadcasting "Save Our Cottages" in the Spring of 2019 and has been asked to submit the work to several film festivals... including the Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) and HotDocs in Toronto, Canada. "We are very excited about entering the film festival world" Dingfelder said " and we are so grateful to the St Pete/Clearwater Film Commission, the Tampa Bay Film Commission for helping underwrite this production, as well as local businesses, A2K, the IRB Homeowners Association, the dedicated IRB Documentary



"Save Our Cottages" Documentary Finance Committee

Finance Committee (Amy Steinkellner, Patricia 'Tricia' Priest, Julie Folden, Terry Hamilton Wollin, Carole Sivyer, Daryl Frahn, Mary Rose Holmes and Mary Wilkerson) as well as individual support all making this film possible."

Dingfelder hopes others will be inspired by the Cottage Artists and use their success story as a template to save something that's unique and special in their community. "We are proud to have saved the memories of Indian Rocks' historic beach cottages and to shine a well deserved light on these exceptionally talented women."

MEET THE MANAGER OF THE BELLEVUE INN

Born in Mexico, Marcel Sanchez (34) was hand-picked to be the first manager of Belleair's newest - yet oldest - hotel, The Bellevue Inn.

The Bellevue Inn is a relocated/remodeled portion of the historic Bellevue Biltmore Hotel, which was originally built by Henry Plant in 1896. Now, under the guidance of Michael Cheezum and JMC Communities, it is a five-star boutique hotel located in the gated community of Bellevue Place.

"Marcel is a dedicated, caring professional who understands true hospitality," says Michael Cheezum, JMC Communities. "He loves to be of service to others. We are fortunate to have him at the Bellevue Inn and we know he will excel in his General Manager role."

Marcel and his family moved from Mexico to Minneapolis when he was five years old. When he was ten, they moved to Pinellas County. He attended school and college here. "I went to the same high school as Mr. Cheezum—Northeast High School," adds Marcel.

Marcel is living the American dream. His first job - a dishwasher at Village Inn. While in college, he worked in hospitality at the Renaissance Vinoy. "I was in charge of the gym, pool and tennis courts," he says. From there, he went to work for the City of St. Petersburg's recreation department's teen programs and special events. He stayed five years.

"I was ready for a change. I knew I wanted to work in hospitality," Marcel explains. "I applied for a job at the Hilton in Carillon Center. That is where I got my training in the hotel business. First, I was a restaurant supervisor, later the Front Desk Manager.

In 2015, Eric Waltz hired me at the then new Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater Beach. "I started as the Assistant Housekeeping

Manager and again moved to Front Desk Manager."

"I wanted to travel and began exploring the cruise industry and

opportunities it offered. They are really just floating hotels. I went to a job fair and Norwegian Cruise Lines made me an offer. I was trained and hired as a Guest Services Supervisor."

"It was fantastic," Marcel recalls. "You travel the world while making a living. You wake up in a new city almost every day."

While working for Norwegian, Eric Waltz sent him a text. "We want you back," it said. "We want you to manage the new Bellevue Inn!" That was an offer Marcel could not refuse.

"I worked with Marcel for 2 years at the Sandpearl and he did a great job in both Housekeeping and the Front Office," says Eric Waltz, General Manager of The Sandpearl Resort. "He has a customer focused personality and is very team oriented as well. When he left to work on the cruise ship, we kept in touch and he expressed interest in the Bellevue Inn position. Even though we were a year from opening, I knew Marcel would be a great fit for the Bellevue Inn as well as the entire Belleair Community.

The inn opened December 8th. Sanchez manages the 35 guest room hotel and supervises 15 employees. "I believe everything happens for a reason," Marcel says. "I am super happy here."

Get more information about the hotel at TheBellevueInn.com



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MILE MARKERS 15 YEARS LATER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Have you ever noticed the signs up along Gulf Blvd with fish and numbers on them? They are Mile Markers and literally are placed one mile apart.

Where did these come from? I am proud to say that I was the person who pushed for the idea in 1998, but they would not have happened without the help of many people in many organizations.

In the late 1990s, our company had publications in the Florida Keys, where they have FDOT supplied mile markers (MM) from MM-106 in Key Largo to MM-0 in Key West. All the businesses, hotels and restaurants refer to their location by Mile Marker. In fact, their address and their MM correspond, such as, address 106125 Overseas Hwy was MM 106.1 which is in Key Largo.

I thought - what a wonderful idea - that would work on our beaches, and be helpful since our addresses are not sequential. What we call Gulf Boulevard is approximately 25 miles long, beginning in South Pass-A-Grille and ending in Clearwater Beach near the Carlouel subdivision. Some of the road has a different name; it starts as Pass-A-Grille Way, becomes Gulf Blvd., then Blind Pass Road, back to Gulf Blvd., until in Clearwater it is then South Gulfview Blvd. and finally ends at Mandalay Avenue.

I created a mile marker prototype with a special "sunburst" graphic and number in it and took my idea to several local Chamber of Commences. They said, "Great idea, but we do not control the streets or their signage." Then, I suggested it to several City Managers. They too said, "Great idea, but we do not control Gulf Blvd. or its signage, you have to talk to Florida Department of

Transportation (FDOT). They control all of that."

Off to FDOT's Tampa office I went, and they said, "NO WAY!" Then they explained that even if it was approved it would be those little green mile marker signs you see on the highways and interstates - just like the Florida Keys.

A regional manager for FDOT told me to write it up and he would deliver it at the statewide committee's next quarterly meeting. About 2000, I wrote it up and he presented it at their September meeting. Much to his surprise, they approved it. Not only for Pinellas, but for any tourist town with a relatively straight road like Gulf Blvd.

The approval presented a new problem. FDOT did not have any money for the project; it was not in their budget.

I estimated \$5,000 would buy 50 signs and poles, so I began asking for donations - a sort of an "Adopt a Sign" campaign.

Enter County Commissioner Karen Seel. Then, as today, she was Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners. When she heard I was having a funding problem, she offered to help. The County was just starting the "2001 Gulf Blvd Beautification Project" and she thought the Mile Marker project could be part of it - and would pay for it.

There were many meetings, which included PSTA who was rolling out the Beach Trolley system with a series of bus-stop signs. It was proposed that the MMs be at every bus-stop, but that idea was dropped for a variety of reasons.

Clearwater Beach artist Silas Beach created the fish graphic with the MM number added below. On July 8, 2003, the MM plan was officially adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and the fish design was approved.

The streets were measured and marked. There were to be two signs per mile, one facing in each direction - 50 signs. Additional signs and posts were to be posted at intersection such as Walsingham Road (16-17) and the Roundabout (23-24) in Clearwater Beach advising drivers about the direction of the mile markers.

They put the signs and posts out for bid. The cost turned out to be more than I had estimated - about three times more - \$18,000.

On January 13, 2004, (fifteen years ago) the County Commissioners signed the resolution and signs started to appear along the beach.

The County also produced a tourism



brochure showing the location of each sign. We started adding the MMs to our advertiser's ad. I printed a large easy to read map showing major landmark's MM, such as Corey Avenue (4.2), John's Pass Village (8.0), Walsingham Bridge (16.5), Pier 60 (23.5) and others.

About 18 months later, the County returned and added half-mile-markers to further help tourists and bus drivers. This was another 50+ signs, boosting costs to \$24,800.

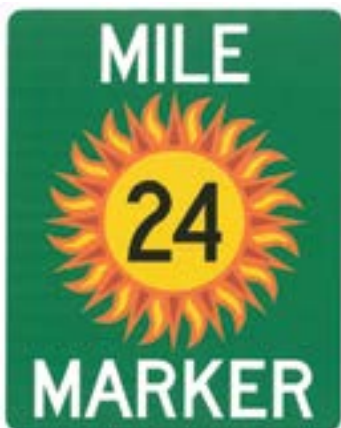
Overall, there are 102 signs and posts, plus an additional seven at major intersections. Each costs about \$390.

"This was a project that Bob Griffin brought to the County - using the Key West model for providing mile markers on Gulf Boulevard," says Commissioner Karen Seel. "Bob was very instrumental in advocating for this idea - to bring a unique vibe to our beach communities and showcase our assets to our citizens and our tourists. I took this idea to our local transportation board - now named - Forward Pinellas. Brian Smith, the former director, put the plan in action and Silas Dent was the artist by default for his wonderful fish design. It was a crazy idea but what a great outcome - it has provided great identity for our beach communities and all the businesses. Wow!"

I am proud to have been a part of a project like this and pleased it is still here 15 years later. Big thanks to Commissioner Karen Seel and artist Silas Beach for their contributions, as well as County employees Brian Smith, Gina Harvey and Sandra Koebel for making it happen.

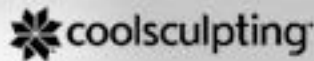
Hopefully, everyone uses them when on the beach. ■

**HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY
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Mile Marker Prototype

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Bar & Restaurant News



THANK YOU FOR 10 GREAT YEARS "It seems like only yesterday, but it has been 10 years since we first opened," says Allen Edger, owner/operator of Maggie Mae's on the Bluffs. During that time, they have won "People's Choice" for Best Breakfast and Best Lunch many times. "We want to thank the people of Belleair Bluffs and Belleair for supporting us over the years."

STILL COMING SOON Sekushi Dumpling & Noodle Bar is a new restaurant opening in the prior Cork-N-Brew location. New owner Frank Mandella has gutted the interior and doubled the square footage adding more seats.

It is still under construction, but once open will be offering sushi with a full bar. Look for them to open possibly in late March or early April.

CLEARWATER OYSTER COMPANY OPENS

The Original Crabby Bill's Family Brands Returns to Clearwater Beach with its newest venture, Clearwater Oyster Company, which opened last month in the former location of an IHOP. This is a joint venture between Matt Loder (above right) and St. Petersburg native Steve Page (above left) of Page Resorts & Hotels, LLC.



Clearwater Oyster Company offers some of the Crabby Bill's Family Brand's best, along with unique and exciting drinks and dishes like Clearwater's Hangtown Fry for breakfast or the Lobster and Scallop Pot Pie for dinner. Their menu features as many local products as possible including Gulf grouper and wild shrimp, grass-fed and grass-finished beef from Adena Farms in Ocala, and Florida oysters. Serving responsibly sourced domestic and local foods is part of the Original Crabby Bill's Family Brand's mission, and you'll find just that at Clearwater Oyster Company.

Along with Clearwater Oyster Company, the Crabby Bill's Family Brands will operate Tropix Beach Bar, which features poolside cabanas, live music, and a daily happy hour. Plans include featuring the Clearwater Oyster Company menu favorites there in the near future.

Clearwater Oyster Company is located 655 S. Gulfview Blvd. Call (727) 451-1134, or visit clearwateroystercompany.com.

Bar & Restaurant News



CELEBRATING SUSHI LOVERS: CHARLIE IS BACK! Veteran sushi chef Charlie Lam opened Kaiko Japanese Restaurant in 1996 in Countryside, on the corner of Enterprise and McMullen Booth, and it was an instant hit!

During its tenure, readers of Tampa Bay Magazine voted Kaiko "Best Sushi Restaurant in Tampa Bay," 20 years in a row!

After working 7 days a week from 1996 to 2016 making sushi at Kaiko, Charlie sold

his restaurant and took a well-deserved vacation to Australia and the Far East.

Upon his return from his favorite place, Taiwan, Charlie bought a large building at 1200 Cleveland Street on the corner of Missouri Avenue in downtown Clearwater.

He lovingly renovated it and opened his new place aptly named: Charlie's Sushi and Japanese Restaurant.

Attention residents of Belleair, Sand Key, Clearwater Beach, Island Estates, and downtown Clearwater! You now have a local multi-award-winning, sushi restaurant where you can dine-in or take-out the best sushi in Tampa Bay.

Charlie's Sushi is located at 1200 Cleveland St at the corner of Missouri Ave in downtown Clearwater. 727-351-7338.

CAPTAIN'S PIZZA MOVES Captain's Pizza, a fixture on Mandalay Avenue for 29 years, (since 1990) closed, but it has not gone out of business - it moved. Owner Atiff, also owns Pan Filo's at 656 South Gulfview. He moved Captain's Pizza inside Pan Filo's. Call 446-1799 to order pizza. They also deliver.

BACKWATER'S 14TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS

Backwater's 14th Annual Chili Cookoff was January 27th and regardless of the weather it was standing room



only! This year over 20 amateur chefs showed up to compete in the cook-off. The judges had a difficult time, since all of the entries were extremely well prepared chili concoctions. The cold and rainy day was perfect for a good bowl of chili.

Seminole resident Carrie Hillard (on the right) has won the contest two years in a row, but this year she came in second when snow-bird Rob Walsh (center) was declared "The Best." Longtime Clearwater Beach resident Carol Pryor, (on the left) came in third. Walsh received a First Place plaque and bragging rights for the year.

This event is always held the Sunday before Super Bowl so there is no football to distract the judges. To see more pictures, visit their web site at: BackwateronSandKey.com. Backwater's is located in the Shoppes of Sand Key.

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TACO JESUS - A HOT SAUCE WITH A HEAVENLY TASTE

Bored one day, Jeff Crupper, a business man and Belleair Bluffs resident, decided to invent something - why not a hot sauce? So, three years ago, Crupper created "Taco Jesus Hot Sauce" with the help of a friend (who conveniently is also a bottler) in Texas.



Crupper has a marketing degree but has a background in the restaurant business. He owned several small ice cream stores in the past, although today he works for the Neilson Company in Oldsmar — "that's my real job," he explains.

In 1868, Tabasco was introduced in Louisiana. And for more than 150 years it was the only hot sauce anyone knew. Now, it has hundreds - maybe thousands - of competitors. Almost all of them are small businesses, just like Crupper's.

Naturally, the name Taco Jesus was met with both wide reception and push back. "Actually, the name works in our favor," says Crupper. "It really gets noticed. Many people from our local churches and church organizations purchase the product to give as gifts to pastors, and pastors buy it for their congregations."

"This is a small business—almost a hobby," Crupper says. "We only sell a few cases a month. When it was first delivered, I put a full pallet in my garage and wondered if I was going to get stuck with all that sauce."

But that didn't happen. Many Pinellas area restaurants now offer it to their customers including: Cody's in Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater Beach's Cooters, Bauser's in Dunedin and Rick's Reef in St Pete Beach. You can find it in local farmers markets and at the Belleair Market on Indian Rocks Road.

"This is a great product, from a locally owned company," says Chris Scott, owner of Belleair Market. "It's not about the heat, it is about the flavor. Belleair Market is proud to carry Taco Jesus."

Although Crupper does not do the bottling himself, he does specify the ingredients. With the help of his friend in Texas, they have come up with a dozen different flavors.

"We experimented with many tastes and ingredients from mild to the "Holly Ghost Pepper" which is hot, naturally," says Crupper. "We did not have the desire to create the hottest sauces in the world; we want them to be desirable."

There are many other things on the web site to purchase such as a Taco Jesus action figure (\$28), a Taco Jesus metal emblem for your car (\$7), Virgin Mary Hot Sauce Mix (\$10) and Devotional Candles.

"I give Taco Jesus as gifts at Christmas time," says Mayor Chris Arbutine. "It has become a part of my yearly ritual of the Christmas giving spirit. Before Taco Jesus hot sauce, I was relegated to giving strictly bland and normal gifts that did not stand out. Giving Taco Jesus has made my gifts something friends, family and customers look forward to receiving."

"We do not do any advertising. Most of our sales are repeat business, business-to-business and word-of-mouth." Recently, Crupper was featured on a segment of Great Day Tampa Bay on WTSP (Channel 10).

Crupper is engaged to Suzy Sofer, owner of Cody's Roadhouse in Belleair Bluffs. As an engagement present, he gave her a ring with a taco on it.

To place an order, visit www.theTacoJesus.com.



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Bar & Restaurant News

CESARE'S ENJOYS 15 YEARS ON CLEARWATER BEACH

Cesare's on the Beach, located in the south end of Clearwater Beach, celebrates their 15th anniversary in March. They opened in that same location in March of 2004. Find them at 794 South Gulfview. Call 449-8797 for reservations. See their web site at www.CesareAtTheBeach.com.



HOGAN'S STILL IN PROGRESS The Hogan's Hang Out owners are still working on the new bar on Mandalay Avenue. They plan to have an announcement "very soon," so stay tuned. It is located at 499 Mandalay Avenue at Baymont Street.

A SLICE OF ROMAN More pizza is coming to Clearwater Beach's north end. Enzo Chiavatti is opening a small pizza operation on Baymont Street, one block off of



Mandalay Avenue. They will primarily offer take-out, but do plan a small amount of seating. The concept, called Roman Pizza Al Taglio (by the piece), has pizzas on display and will include high end toppings as well as the standards. You pick the what you want, by the slice or the pie. "Roman Pizza is light and airy with a crispy texture... thicker than a regular pizza but not doughy," says Enzo. They hope to be open by the end of the month

DONUT EXPERIMENT CLOSED Unfortunately, the experiment apparently failed on Clearwater Beach. The small donut shop, located near Gondolier Pizza and owned by Seth Botkins, recently closed. If you really enjoyed the donuts, there is another Donut Experiment located on Gulf Blvd. in Indian Shores. The two stores are not related and have different owners. The Clearwater Beach space is now available.

POKE LOKE AND ROUNDABOUT PIZZA Both restaurants are still under construction in the Clearwater Beach Marina, but are making progress and may open soon. Poke Loke mostly a takeout restaurant and Roundabout Pizza with a stone oven are owned by the Baystar Restaurant Group. They also own Salt Cracker Fish Camp and Marina Cantina, also in the Marina.

NAMED BEST BUSINESS LUNCH Bob Heilman's Beachcomber was named by the Tampa Bay Times as one of the best places for a business lunch. The 70-year-old classic, with an extensive wine list, is just as suitable for date night as it is for a business lunch. Enjoy their ever popular fried chicken, New York Strip or Seafood platter all still served with their famous relish plate. If you haven't been lately, maybe it is time for a visit at 447 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach. Call 727-442-4144 for reservations.



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CATCH THE FERRY

Now Boarding



by Dan L. Hummel

This convenient way to get between two great cities is back for the second time. The Cross Bay Ferry returned in November and shuttles passengers between Downtown Tampa and Downtown St. Petersburg. Running Tuesday through Sunday, the Ferry is offering 16 round trips weekly through April 30, 2019. A new feature of the Ferry this year is the addition of late evening trips so that patrons can enjoy the amenities of both cities on the same day, or take in an evening sporting event or concert.

Once on board, you can skip the traffic hassles and enjoy a beautiful ride across Tampa Bay aboard the spacious, comfortable Provincetown III. With affordable fares and convenient departures every day of the week except Monday, it's the perfect way to get to your favorite destinations in Downtown St. Pete and Tampa.

As soon as the service concludes its season here, the 149-passenger Provincetown III will return to Boston to provide a similar summertime service in the picturesque New England city. The boat is owned by Bay State Cruise Company in Boston, and operated by Seattle-based HMS Ferries.

Funding for this second year was led by St. Petersburg with all four previous funding partners from the inaugural year agreeing to provide financial resources for a second six-month operation. The cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa, as well as Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, each contributed \$150,000 to support the service, which is substantially less than the first year due to the Ferry's strong ridership performance. The governments each paid \$350,000 for the 2016/2017 pilot program. In addition,

the Florida Department of Transportation contributed \$150,000 this season.

Under terms of the 2018-2019 contract, the first \$200,000 in revenue will be split evenly with the four funding governments. The next \$200,000 goes to HMS Ferries. After that, profits will be split evenly between the member governments and HMS.

Kevin Fisher, General Manager of the Cross Bay Ferry, said, "Business during our first full month of operation has been extremely impressive with over 9,200 passengers traveling between the two cities. That ridership number comes very close to topping the best month we have ever had in the Tampa Bay Area." According to Fisher, the inaugural 2016/2017 season can boast of moving almost 41,000 passengers during the six months of operation.

Ben Lee at the Schifino Lee Advertising Agency who is charged with marketing the Cross Bay Ferry stated that, "We use community partnerships and social media to advertise and market the Cross Bay Ferry. Our community partners include the City of St. Petersburg, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, Sparkman Wharf, Tampa Bay Lightning and others. These organizations share the Ferry's news and information on their social media platforms, and it's really working well. Tickets sales are on pace to exceed our initial season, which was considered a big success."

Both docking locations place patrons near each city's vibrant waterfronts that offer beautiful scenic views. In Tampa, the boat docks adjacent to the Florida Aquarium where there are great restaurants, museums, and extraordinary entertainment. In St. Petersburg, the Ferry docks near the Vinoy from a temporary pier while the Downtown St. Petersburg

Pier is under reconstruction. However, visitors will still find themselves within a short walking distance of St. Petersburg's fresh markets and fabulous shopping. Parking in St. Petersburg during the pier's reconstruction is free at the Sun Dial Garage at 117 2nd Street North with proof of a Ferry ticket. There is also non-metered parking available along 5th Avenue North.

The vessel is fully equipped with a café serving coffees, pastries, snacks, wine, beer and cocktails. Riders will be able to enjoy their food or drink while taking in the breathtaking views.

The Cross Bay Ferry also encourages bike transit and happily provides space aboard for bikes. For capacity reasons, the vessel can accommodate up to 30 bicycles at a time, and there is no charge to carry on bikes.

This service has been a real passion of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman who told the Downtown News Magazine that, "The Cross Bay Ferry started as an idea, not as a single solution to our transportation issues in Tampa Bay, but as one part of a larger strategy. The success of our pilot program was built on the partnership of four partner governments. Working together, we proved that the service is a viable option for travelers between Tampa and St. Pete. Now in our second year, we're already seeing promising signs of success. I have continued high hopes for the Cross Bay Ferry, for our ability to work closely with our partner governments on new, innovative transportation projects, and to find solutions to the transportation challenges facing the Tampa Bay region."

So give this exciting new Cross Bay Ferry a try soon. After all, with its new and improved schedule, you will be sure to know when your ship is coming in!

Find more information at thecrossbayferry.com ■

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2019 CLEARWATER SEA-BLUES FESTIVAL

VIP and Reserved Seating Tickets Available

The Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival will erupt out of Coachman Park February 23-24 offering up top-rated blues artists with a side of mouth-watering seafood. This year's festival will feature a mixture of blues-inspired artists that will showcase their incredible musical talent. To kick off the weekend's festivities, downtown Clearwater will host a Blues Walk and Blast Friday on February 22 with the Grammy-nominated band Fastball headlining the event and several blues artists performing throughout downtown. As always, general admissions to these events are free. Here is the 2019 Sea-Blues Festival Lineup:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- Vintage Trouble - Since forming in 2010, Vintage Trouble have quietly become rock 'n' roll's best kept secret
- Fantastic Negrito - Fantastic Negrito is the story of a man who struggled to "make it," who "got it," who lost it all, and somehow managed to find his way back. His songs are his fuel as he continues on the third comeback of his life.
- Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band After 12 years of playing as many as 300 shows each year, Rev. Peyton, the world's foremost country blues finger-style picker, along with the biggest little band in the country, has pieced together one of the most dedicated followings out there.
- Ruby Velle & the Soulphonics - They're a world-class modern soul revue topped off with the cherry of Velle's sultry voice, as she deftly toggles between sweetly crooned R&B tunes and expertly belted barn-burning get-downs that can instantly jolt a roomful of wallflowers into a dance party
- Mark Telesca - His "hook" oriented songwriting style and storytelling lyrics along with his expressive style of bass playing and powerful lead vocals are capturing the attention of music lovers everywhere.
- Jamie N Royce – Winners of the Suncoast Blues Society annual local showcase will open the festival.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- The Devon Allman Project With Special Guest Duane Betts - Devon Allman is a guitarist, vocalist, keyboardist, songwriter, and record producer. He is the son of musician Gregg Allman and appeared occasionally as a guest musician for Gregg Allman and The Allman Brothers Band.
- Christone "Kingfish" Ingram - Christone "Kingfish" Ingram's love of music grew from the rich gospel sounds emanating from his family's church and the blues music he regularly heard played in his Delta neighborhood.
- Davy Knowles - Davy Knowles is a blues guitarist and singer and has stated that his music is influenced by the Celtic genre.
- RJ Howson - Fire branded in the Chicago blues circuit, roots rocker and bluesman RJ Howson picked up his skillful guitar chops performing and jamming with blues icons at Buddy Guy's Legends club, Rosa's Lounge, Kingston Mines, Blues on Halstead and many other clubs in the Windy City.
- Victoria Ginty and Ladyhawke – Blues singer and multi-instrumentalist artist performing modern blues, R&B, and bluesy Americana music.

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| <p>Featured on Beach Bites with Katie Leel COOKING CHANNEL</p> <h1 style="font-size: 2em;">Beachside</h1> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">HOSPITALITY GROUP</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue;">Visit our Florida Family of Restaurants</p> <p>www.beachsidehospitalitygroup.com</p> | | |

THE TRAVEL TRIBE ON THE MOVE - PART FOUR

Home for the Holidays, Then Back on the Road

By Cassie Berger, Belleair resident

27 hours of travel from Mumbai, India to Tampa, Florida. We made it! We spent Thanksgiving with our family in the local area and then hopped a jet to cross off some major bucket list destinations. Only this time, it's just the kids and I. From the flatlands of Florida to the vast depths of the Grand Canyon. What a wonder to see. Coated in a dust of snow, the red rock beams beneath.



The canyon seems to be a never ending abyss going on as far as the eyes can see. It was a humbling experience to be a witness of its beauty. Just south of the Grand Canyon, we spent the next few days in Sedona. Playing

around on Pink Jeep Tours, it is one of the most beautiful towns I've ever seen. Nestled against protected land Sedona is a small quiet city that draws people from around the world to visit their vortex sights and take in the natural red rock beauty that surrounds.

From Arizona to California, we left the desert for the city of L.A. To Disneyland we go! A bucketlist for all three of us. Disneyland we found to be much smaller than Florida's DisneyWorld but every bit as magical. Here you can walk

from nearby hotels directly to the entrance of the two parks. There's also a lot of the original rides that Disney World no longer has. A Disney caramel apple to go and we are on our way to country number eighteen!

Mexico! Staying close to Florida (where Tyler is) yet still venturing to another country, I chose Mexico. I've always wanted to see Chichen Itza and that was the main purpose of this trip.

We took a 12 hour day tour from Cancun to Chichen Itza. It was a long, hard, hot day exploring with the kids. But I can not express how worth it it was. The magnitude and precision of these ruins are incredible. After that, we had a nice week of relaxation on the beach before flying back to Florida for Christmas and New Years.

From Florida, Penelope and I took a girls trip to Savannah, Georgia and stayed in the beautiful historic district. Daily walks down the cobble stone streets, grabbing bites to eat and playing in Forsyth Park filled our days.

Where are we off to next!?? January 27th, we left for Switzerland!

Until next time! Happy Traveling from the Travel Tribe Family, Cassandra, Tyler, Preston and Penelope

Keep up with us real time on Instagram @traveltribefamily





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Business Briefs

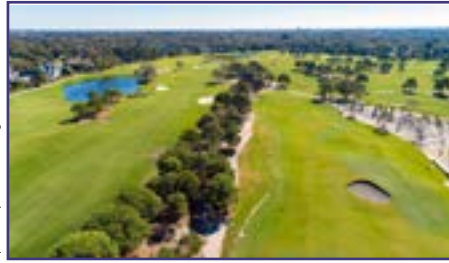


photo by Belleair Images

PELICAN GOLF COURSE
Construction, including demolition, has been ongoing for 21 months. Now, the course is almost ready and it should reopen

this spring. The fairways and greens are almost ready for play, but the clubhouse is still under construction.

"We do not want to open the golf course for play until everything is just right," says the new Golf Club Manager, Lee McKay. "We expect it will be very soon though—probably later in February."

The new clubhouse and dining rooms have a ways to go and will probably be ready in April or May.

"The Grill, Pro Shop and main Clubhouse are progressing on schedule," says Johnny Patronis, Supervisor for Triton Building Group LLC.

Owned by the Doyle family, who are Belleair residents, the Club is now private; memberships are by invitation only.

SPRING EVENT AT THE ALLEY Belleair Bluff's The Alley is gearing up for their Spring Artisans and Antiques In Bloom Market - A Home and Garden Event Showcasing the local Alley Shops and over 40 vendors and artisans. Plan to enjoy the day, while you stroll The Alley on Sunday March 3rd, 10-4.

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BIG MAN'S HAULING OPENS

Big Man's Moving Company owners Josh and Brooke Anderson, are finishing their second year in business. During the completion of over 1000 moves,



their customers consistently requested hauling and junk removal services. Conscious of the cleanliness of their moving trucks, the couple opted to refer this business elsewhere. Why would any professional moving company place "junk" in the same vehicle as customers' household valuables? After 2 years of deliberations, Big Man's Moving found a solution and proudly announces their Big Man's Hauling and Junk Removal, dedicated to removing or donating unwanted items such as furniture, appliances, and construction debris from your home or business. Open 7 days/week, options include self service (they supply the dump trailer and you fill it) or full service (they supply the dump trailer and the labor). For a free estimate, visit Bigmanshauling.com or call 727-772-3458

Business Briefs

NORTH BEACH PUB FINISHES FIRST YEAR

This popular bar located on the north end of the beach, celebrated its first anniversary on February 1st with a ribbon cutting held by the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce and a street party.



"We are so happy to have survived our first year and thankful to the residents who discovered our little North Beach Pub," says owner Liz Colston.

Find them at 600 Mandalay Avenue, next to the Speedway Gas and Convenience Store. Call 281-2364 for takeout.

THE CLEARWATER BEACH BESTIES AWARDS

Last month, Pinellas County's marketing firm, Visit Clearwater/St Pete, announced their selected "County's Best" businesses in many categories. Here are the winners from the Clearwater Beach area only:

- Best 360 Degree Roof Top Bar - Jimmy's Crow's Nest
- Best Beach in Pinellas - Clearwater Beach
- Best Boutique Hotel - Palm Pavilion Inn
- Best Brunch - Island Way Grill
- Best Charter Boat for Dining - Starlite Cruises
- Best Cocktails - Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Best Family Activity - Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- Best Festival - Sugar Sands, Pier 60
- Best Grouper - Frenchy's Rockaway Grill
- Best Overall Hotel - Wyndham Grand
- Best Water Excursions - Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise

ISLAND ESTATES MOBILE OFFERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Steve Collins, owner of Island Estates Mobile is



offering a special rewards card. The card allows you to earn points good for savings on purchases like gas, food, beer and wine - everything at the station—inside and out. The program is free...just ask for it.

Earn 3 points for every gallon of gas you buy. Earn 2 points for every dollar you spend on products inside. Earn more points with e-mailed specials. Every 100 points equals \$1 in savings. Getting your card at the Island Estate's location. Then register at www.ExxonMobilRewardsPlus.com. You get 100 points just for signing up. Island Estate Mobil is located at 50 Island Way Blvd., near Island Way Grill.

A NEW MIX OF FUN ON CLEARWATER BEACH

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ANOTHER YEAR, AND MORE CHALLENGES IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY



*By Tom Smith
Owner of GHD Construction Services*

Hard to believe that 2019 is now here, and Santa is back at the North Pole resting up for next year. Spring is just around the corner, and many families that come through our model center each year have now decided that it's time to build their dream home here along the Pinellas beach communities. Again, new home costs have increased due to inflation and supply & demand, and unfortunately in 2019 it is predicted that another round of increases will take place, now due to FEMA changes after Hurricane Michael. The new federal regulations are not in place yet, so at least for this season these costs will not affect new home pricing, but certainly will for the following year.

After the devastating pictures that we all saw in Mexico Beach after Michael, it only stands to reason that the building industry cannot be allowed to construct homes using yesterday's codes. When the big one hits Pinellas, we will see the same devastation from the existing homes built decades ago. It's been 97 years since a direct hit hurricane came ashore in Pinellas County, but the odds are very probable of course. I hope to have 25 to 30 years left to chase my grandchildren around, and I hope that I do not witness a Pinellas direct hit, but the odds are probably going to catch up to us.

Specifically, the talk in the industry is that FEMA will enact even stronger standards for homes, for new construction and major remodeling. Some beach jurisdictions themselves are enacting even more stringent codes than FEMA requires. The so called

"50% Rule" may become history, so remodeling homes using this loophole may go the way of the dinosaurs. I can't say I'm against that, seeing that if/when the storm comes, those family dollars now being spent for remodeling will be wasted as they will then be required to start over with an elevated home, at tomorrow's costs.

It's also predicted that this tourist season, a record number of snowbirds will become homeowners along the beach communities. I personally enjoy seeing the new homes being constructed here by various builders in the many Pinellas communities. And thankfully, these newly constructed homes will weather the storm, being constructed under newer stricter codes to protect the homeowners investment. Then too, these families that are now constructing new homes will appreciate many years of family enjoyment living in a new more modern home, as well as the peace of mind knowing the security of a new home, raised above the flood plain and constructed with today's more stringent standards.

GHD Coastal Homes, a division of GHD Construction Services, Inc., is now offering very attractive townhouses within easy walking distance, 1 block from the beach, from under \$500,000. Of course, each are constructed with today's stringent Florida Building Codes as well as elevated to FEMA required elevations. Come by our "Key West" home for details.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and announces our GHD Coastal Homes for the Pinellas Beaches. Come visit our "Key West" 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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Business Briefs

BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR

Over 500 members and guests attended the Clearwater Regional Chamber's 87th Annual Awards Dinner in January. "Our judges diligently reviewed 45 well-qualified applications for our 2019 Business of the Year Awards", said Carol Hague, President/CEO of the Chamber. "Each decision was a challenge. We applauded the winners for their contributions in making our community great!"



Jonah Gilmore with Studio Rocker Science

The Clearwater Beach winners included Lisa Chandler named the Tourism Person of the Year. Lisa and husband Steve manage Pier 60 events, the snack shops at Pier 60 and Barefoot Beach House, and created the Sugar Sands Festival on Clearwater Beach, now in its seventh year

STARLITE EXPANDS TO JOHN'S PASS Starlite Cruises's newest dinner cruise ship, the Calypso Breeze, will call John's Pass Village home. Starlite Cruises already operate dinner cruises from the Clearwater Beach Marina and St Pete Beach's Corey Causeway.

44 YEARS AND COUNTING

The Sheraton Sand Key is 44 years old this month - it opened in February of 1975. When it opened, there was little on the island except a few condos. Russ Kimball, now 74, was the General Manager, when it opened; he is still there today! Congratulations Russ and Sheraton Sand Key.



POSSIBLE NEW HOTEL Jeff Keierleber, Clearwater Beach resident and owner of the Chart House Suites, at 850 Bayway Blvd., wants to replace the aging hotel with a slightly larger and taller one. The residents who live at the southern tip of Clearwater Beach, east of the Sand Key Bridge, don't like the idea and are trying to stop the project.

The four-story Chart House Suites hotel has 30 rooms with a 26-boat slips. The proposed building would be a 60-room hotel, that is 30-feet taller with 80 parking spaces. There would be no restaurant or bar, and no live or amplified music. The swimming pool would be moved to the fifth floor facing the water. The 26 boat slips would stay with some slips leased to area residents.

City Planners say the area is zoned tourist so the project may be approved. The City Council will make the final decision soon. Keierleber also owns and operates Clearwater Beach's Holiday Inn, the Pier 60 Hotel, the new Edge Hotel, and has another hotel under construction next to the Pier 60 Hotel. They own the various restaurants within them, as well.

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TONS OF "SANDY" FUN IN CLEARWATER BEACH

Plan to Enjoy the Upcoming Sugar Sands Festival - April 12-28

by Dan L. Hummel

This April, there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the shore, the sand, and the fabulous Gulf sunsets as the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival presented by Visit St. Pete Clearwater gets underway in Clearwater Beach. Running for an unprecedented 17 straight days this year from April 12 to April 28, the festival is a beach celebration packed full of family friendly activities. Because of the late Easter holiday, the event is being extended an extra seven days this year only.

Lisa Chandler, founder of the festival back in 2013, is in her seventh year of producing this mammoth event. According to Chandler, the festival's beach infrastructure takes over two weeks to build as more than 1,000 tons of white Clearwater Beach sand are collected directly from the Pier 60 area for the Sugar Sand activities.

One of the festival's highlights each year is the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit where fourteen world renowned sculptors travel here from all parts of the world to create magnificent sand sculptures inside a 21,000 square foot tent. This year's theme for the sculptors is, "Sea the World...A Journey Around the Globe."

While the majority of the festival is free to the public, there is a charge to walk through the breathtaking sandscape exhibition. There you may well see some of the sculptors still creating additional smaller versions of their incredible art. Last year over 45,000 people purchased tickets to the exhibition. While tickets are available at the event, festival-goers can enjoy additional perks by purchasing tickets in advance online at sugarsandfestival.com

Also, in a separate area called Camp

Hyatt, kids can enjoy playing in the world's biggest sandbox while parents lounge around on provided beach chairs and umbrellas. Sticking with the sand theme, and new this year, is a Pro-Am Sand Sculpting Competition on Saturday, April 20, and a family sand sculpting event on Easter Sunday.

After you shake the sand off, enjoy over a dozen street performers, called buskers, who rotate their shows all day and work for tips. Or, visit the area filled with 75 artisans and crafters whose work is all authentic, and must meet strict criteria to in order to have their work at Sugar Sand.

Not exhausted yet? Then, stick around for the "Frenchy's Beach Concerts" that are staggered over the afternoon and evening hours during nine days of the festival. Featuring all types of music, the festival brings in mostly local and regional bands to perform. There are also free movies on the beach each Friday and Saturday night of the event. Bring your blankets and chairs, and enjoy great family friendly movies on America's number one beach.

You may also want to enjoy the Sugar Sand Corn Hole Tournament fueled by Monster Energy Drink, or get cooled off at one of the water slides. If you are thirsty, proceed immediately to the Shephard's Sand Bar where you can enjoy beer and wine while relaxing "on the beach." This year the bar will feature beers from the 3 Daughters Brewery in St. Petersburg, White Claw Hard Seltzer, and various selections of wine. Why not dig your toes into the sand, enjoy a beverage, and celebrate the beautiful Clearwater landscape and sunsets.

On the three Saturday nights of the festival, you can conclude your visit with a bang as Spectrum presents a

fabulous fireworks show over the water beginning at 9 pm.

Another new venture for the festival in 2019 is focused on helping kids in the area. For the first time, the local YMCA will feature their fundraising Fishing Rodeo Tournament on Pier 60 during the festival. All monies raised from the fishing tournament will help needy children be able to regularly visit the YMCA at no cost to their family. Chandler remarked, "This is an amazing opportunity to show our support and give back to our community by partnering with the YMCA. Our goal is to bring more awareness to their fishing tournament so that more children from our area can take advantage of the activities that the YMCA offers. It's a natural fit for our event, it's family friendly, and showcases our world famous fishing pier."

Crowd expectations for this year's extended festival are much higher than the 125,000 people who attended in 2018. Organizers are encouraging attendees to use the festival website and their Facebook page to gain valuable information about traffic, parking, and alternative transportation alternatives like the Jolley Trolley and the Clearwater Ferry.

While the producers of this event are extremely proud of its quality and diversity, there is also a great deal of gratification for its economic viability to the area. As a destination event, last year 56 percent of the attendees stayed overnight in Pinellas County accounting for an estimated 12,106 room nights. Additionally, the total economic impact of the out of county visitors soared to over \$20.5 million.

So, this year enjoy one or more days of the Sugar Sand Festival. No use burying your head in the sand...just your feet! ■

7 SIMPLE HABITS OF FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

By Michelle Chenault, Realtor Broker



Practical financial education is non-existent in American schools. I remember learning how to write a check in a simple bookkeeping course but no courses about mortgages, budgeting, taxes, or living within my means. Not at school, anyway.

My parents taught me about being frugal. Not directly, just by example in our daily lives. Being one of 6 kids, we didn't do anything extravagant—no big vacations, no fancy clothes, no new cars. In fact, we had the same family diesel van throughout my entire childhood. We all learned to drive on this vehicle, and it finally died with over 200,000 miles on it!

What about you? How do some people manage money so smoothly, while others continually struggle? Here are 7 habits of financially successful people:

- 1. They check their statements often.** Keeping tabs on your accounts doesn't have to be a daily thing. Weekly or even monthly is fine—but many people just don't even bother to ever check. When was the last time you checked your accounts?
- 2. They plan their estate.** Nobody likes to think about dying. Planning your estate can be a depressing task, which makes it extremely easy to put off. Repeatedly. Like, forever. But without a plan, you have no control over what happens to your things.. Make a will so that your assets go where you want them to go.
- 3. They create (and stick to) a budget.** Financially savvy people make a plan for how they are going to spend their money each month/ quarter or even year if you are a business owner or in commission sales. Timing issues can be complicated, but a written budget is helpful and will end up saving you a lot of money.
- 4. They live below their means.** Spending every dime you make is one of the best paths to financial ruin. Having no cushion won't allow you to roll with the punches that WILL come along. Lose your job or have an unexpected bill, and it could take you months or even years to recover. Living below your means allows you to save and invest the difference between what you earn and what you spend. If life throws you a curve ball, you won't get knocked off your feet.
- 5. They pay themselves first.** Paying yourself first means to set aside money to invest or save—BEFORE you spend any money. All too often, people spend spend spend, then save or invest whatever is left. If you have no budget, have no idea how you spend your money, and have a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants mentality, your leftovers are meager—if anything.
- 6. They invest.** Financially intelligent people invest for their future. Having a diversified portfolio spreads out your risk.
- 7. They are money conscious.** Being money conscious doesn't mean you never spend any money. It doesn't even mean you never spend frivolously. It means you are conscious of your spending, conscious of what things cost, and conscious of how your actions affect your future.

Being financially successful doesn't mean you give up fun. It means you have a financial plan and you stick to it. You make saving for your future a priority, and you structure your life to reach your goals.

Michelle Chenault, MBA and Broker Associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate/ Beach Island Group enjoys working with local investors on Wholesale/Distressed packages, Notes, Flips and Foreclosures through Trusts, IRA's and Tax-Free vehicles. Feel free to contact Michelle at 727-481-5700.



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LET'S TALK!

By Nurse Ruth



Years ago (and I'm not talking about the Jurassic period), on the day of admission it was protocol to collaborate with social services on discharge planning. Today, protocol is still the same; discharge plans for a patient start on the day of admission. However, because of the influence of the health insurance industry, the patients are discharged earlier. In many cases, although they are medically stabilized, they're still not able to care for themselves. So, my friends, please note: each family needs to actively participate in the discharge plans of their loved ones.

1. Safety First: You should realize that the home environment prior to the illness/hospitalization may no longer be sufficient or safe upon discharge. The patient may need a short term admission to a rehab facility prior to going home. The hospital is required to make this referral and it is the individual's choice where they go.
2. Entitlement: Upon returning home, your family member may be entitled to home care. It requires a physician's order for physical therapy, occupational therapy and skilled nursing. Also, in the discharge orders should be any durable medical equipment needed in the home. Nutritional counseling is also covered under Medicare and can be ordered by your physician. This is very important for patients with diabetes or kidney disease. However, depending on medical insurance, this can vary.
3. Plan: Upon discharge to the home you should have: any new medication prescriptions, diet change information, activity restrictions, information on follow up doctor appointments, and home health referrals, when appropriate.
4. Knowledge: You should also have received, or had explained to you, the present medical status of your family member and ongoing treatment that may be necessary. Also, you should be given names of any specialists needed for the care of the patient.

It is important that the family be involved and included in the discharge planning of your loved one. You can also request a care plan meeting with Case Management to discuss short and long term goals.

Discharge planning is a collaborative effort by the health care team. It should include the patient and his/her family. Active participation by your primary care physician and nurse is important for a smooth transition home.

If you have a concern, viewpoint or comment with regard to this subject matter, Let's Talk!

Ruth Fanovich, RN, LHRM, is the owner of Care Placement Home Health Agency, Inc. and RMF Care Management, Inc. CarePlacementHH.com.

WALKING CLUB & MEMORY CAFE

Walking is an excellent dementia strategy for those living with dementia. Join Dr. Cate, Dementia Coach and others as we meet in the food court at Tyrone Mall on the third Friday of every month. Walk with others living with memory changes and enjoy a shared scavenger hunt for fun and steps for brain health.

If you don't want to walk, meet us at 11 am at the Red Robin restaurant mall entrance to enjoy our memory café.

We promise laughter, new friendships, support and camaraderie. Upcoming dates: February 15, March 15, and April 19, 10am for walking the mall, 11am for lunch at Red Robin.

Please RSVP so we know to look for you: Vanessa 727-492-4050 or vkcroning1@gmail.com or to Dr. Cate 813-384-7571 or catemccarty@gmail.com

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PHILLIES' IMPORTANCE IN PINELLAS COUNTY

By Mayor George Cretokos

Pitchers and catchers have reported, and the first game of the 2019 Spring Training baseball season at Spectrum Field is scheduled for February 23rd. The Philadelphia Phillies have called Clearwater home since 1947, and the team's overall economic impact to Pinellas County is now over \$125-million per year.

Clearwater has become the "second home" for all of the Phillies baseball operations. The ownership has continually invested in the facilities and the community, and during Spring Training all of its management team is in Clearwater. The team also brings sponsors to Clearwater for part of this time. Most recently, the Marriott on Sand Key was the host hotel for the Phillies Fantasy Camp at which fans from throughout the Delaware Valley came to Clearwater to be a "major league baseball player" for a week. As a result, the county has benefited from this marketing and "word of mouth" of one of baseball's most rabid fan base.

This year the city has requested approval for a grant from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to Spectrum Field and the Carpenter Complex for upgrades to benefit fans and players alike. This \$40-million request is to be paid from "bed tax" dollars collected by hotels and other short-term rentals. The request is only the second time the city has asked for funds for the stadium since the Philadelphia Phillies first came to the Clearwater. The city and the team will be responsible for all operating costs, and any overruns will be paid by the team.

Baseball has changed since 1947, but the Phillies have remained a good partner for Clearwater and Pinellas County. Spectrum Field and the Carpenter Complex are City of Clearwater facilities, and they are used throughout the year not only by the Phillies and the Clearwater Threshers, but also by the community at large. It is important for the city to upgrade them to meet current baseball and fan expectations, and the city will continue to work with the county, the State of Florida, and the team to secure these "bed tax" dollars to improve these facilities for the benefit of all.

(Mayor George Cretokos is a member of the Clearwater City Council and can be reached at 727-562-4050 or at george.cretokos@myclearwater.com.)

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.

FEBRUARY

- 15: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (PG)
- 16: LA LA LAND (PG-13)
- 22: JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (PG)
- 23: BLACK PANTHER (PG-13)

MARCH

- 1: SGT STUBBY (PG)
- 2: FOREVER MY GIRL (PG*13)
- 8: INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)

- 9: CRAZY RICH ASIANS (PG-13)
- 10: THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
- 14: CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)
- 15: A HOUSE WITH THE CLOCK (PG)
- 16: THE LITTLE MERMAID (1989) (G)
- 22: RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG)
- 23: LEGALLY BLONDE (NR)
- 29: BERNIE THE DOLPHIN (G)
- 30: FANTASTIC BEASTS/GRINDELWALD (PG-13)



RICHARD JACOBSON - BELLEAIR RESIDENT, BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Richard Jacobson who died in April of 2016, left his mark on our area—one that will continue for years to come.

Originally from Des Moines, Jacobson worked for the Monsanto Chemical Company before he became an independent agricultural chemical wholesaler and founder of the Jacobson Warehouse Company. Over the years, Jacobson built the Jacobson Companies into one of the nation's largest privately-owned warehouse organizations with over 9,000 employees. The business spun off other companies including: investment, transportation, packaging, staffing, and other companies. He also invested heavily in ethanol and the Hawkeye Renewables Company.

Then, Jacobson moved to Florida—Belleair to be exact, where he met many local business leaders and became involved with many charity organizations. He also made many friends. Three of those friends are movers and shakers in both business and charity work - Frank Chivas (Baystar Restaurants), Ed Droste (Hooters), and Bob McIntyre (Ditek Corporation). The group became close friends attending baseball and football games together; they also sponsored charitable events together.

Jacobson always found ways to give his time, talent and financial resources to help others which fulfilled his goal of "making money to give money." Jacobson's spirit of giving earned him numerous recognitions and awards—both in our area and in Iowa.

The Mayo Clinic received \$100 million from Jacobson to establish a program to create a proton beam therapy cancer

treatment. It was the largest-ever single living donor gift.

With a \$1 million endowment, Jacobson established the Jacobson Culinary Academy at Tarpon Springs High School. It opened in 2009 as part of the Pinellas Education Foundation. That same year, he gave \$100,000 to Tampa's Lee Moffitt Cancer Center for prostate research, where he and Ed Droste on the Board Directors. In 2010, he gave \$1 million to the Education and Marine Life Hospital portion of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

In recent years, it is estimated that the Richard Jacobson Foundation donated approximately \$25 million to Tampa Bay area charities. But Jacobson wanted to do more. Before he died, he gave each of his three friends \$1 million for the charity of their choice.

Shortly after Jacobson's death, the managers of his foundation and trust called the three friends and asked for a meeting where they learned Jacobson had left each \$5 million more to go to their desired charities.

Droste's directed his \$5 million to go to support the Moffitt's Center for Excellence for Evolutionary Therapy. This is on top of Jacobson earlier gift of \$1 million. This will also provide scholarships to high school students entering the profession.

McIntyre's \$5 million will be given to the Pinellas Education Foundation to construct a veterinary science building at the Seminole Campus of the Richard Jacobson Technical High School which opened in August. It is the largest single donation in the Pinellas Education Foundation's history. The earlier \$1 million donation created an endowment fund to pay for a variety of career and technical initiatives in perpetuity.

Half of Frank Chivas' \$5 million will go to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium's program for disabled children and veterans who come to Clearwater to see Winter. Half of his earlier \$1 million donation also went to CMA earmarked for their \$66 million expansion.

Chivas directed the other half of the total \$6 million donations to about a dozen Tampa Bay



Charities including the development of a culinary college in partnership with Pinellas County and St. Petersburg College.

Over his lifetime, it is estimated that Jacobson and his foundation gave over \$300 million to charity. The recipients include hospitals, colleges, and libraries, helping countless individuals.

"He never did things that affected only one or two people," says Frank Chivas. "He made sure it was going to affect the masses. He did things here that will last forever."

To honor the memory of Richard Jacobson, Chivas, Droste, and McIntyre created a new event: Feast on the Beach. Held last December on Clearwater Beach, the first ever Feast on the Beach, Wine and Seafood Festival was a big hit and a large money maker according to organizer Frank Chivas. It featured food and drinks from many Clearwater Beach restaurants and is said to have raised over \$20 million

The fund-raiser benefited the Richard Jacobson Foundation and others including Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Pinellas Technical College (PTEC). The primary sponsors included Duke Energy, Visit St Pete/Clearwater and the Baystar Restaurant Group. Frank Chivas and Chicago Cubs Coach Joe Madden were organizers. There were too many restaurants to mention here, but you can see the list at FeastontheBeach.com

Chivas says this fund-raiser was held basically to honor their friend, Richard Jacobson. There are plans to make it an annual event. ■



Feast on the Beach Organizers

“Frank Chivas’ new Belleair Bluffs spot Seaweed is a revelation with fresh fish and an interesting menu.”

- Laura Reiley, TBTimes Food Critic



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OCEAN ALLIES – CREATING A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

by David Yates CEO, Clearwater Marine Aquarium and CEO, Ocean Allies

Conservation has gone mainstream. Envision this: A continued thriving and growing tourism industry where we lock in new market share, while our beaches, marine life and eco-system are cleaner and safer. How can that happen, right? Aren't tourism and conservation directly opposed to each other? Nope. That is what Ocean Allies is about. We are a newly formed and fast-moving Pinellas County based grassroots movement that is working with municipalities and the business community to develop a long-term strategy to lock in both new tourism markets and preservation of our beaches and eco-systems. Backed by community leaders throughout the county, Clearwater Marine Aquarium is glad to help lead this great effort.

With being ranked the #1 beach in the U.S. in both 2016 and 2018, it is reasonable to assume Clearwater Beach will continue its success as a tourism draw. Ocean Allies is a grassroots community-led effort, designed to marry tourism and conservation in an easy and practical manner, ensuring this success continues long-term by protecting our beaches and eco-systems tourists enjoy. This project was born in Clearwater but is for any city that wants to develop a more sustainable plan for their area. We are here to help.

A major misconception is that conservation and tourism don't intersect, but they can and do with a well thought-out strategy. Studies show that a large and growing number of travelers seek to spend their dollars in areas that they see as environmentally responsible. An astounding 57% of travelers said they "often" make eco-friendly travel decisions, such as their choice of hotel. Most major resort areas see this and are taking steps to lock in their slice of this market share, and we don't want Pinellas County to miss out on this. The Ocean Allies plan is attractive whether you wear the tourism promotion hat or a conservation hat, or both. Why would we not do this? Want a new and loyal customer base? This does it. The following hotels and restaurants have already become certified Ocean Friendly by Ocean Allies - it is amazingly simple and has great benefits to those that do.

- Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Bobby's Bistro & Wine Bar
- Caffeinated Bakery
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Shark Bites Cafe
- Wyndham Grand's Ocean Hai
- Wyndham Grand's eSKPades
- Wyndham Grand's Dock's Pool Bar & Grille
- Sandpearl Resort's Caretta on the Gulf
- Sandpearl Resort's Tate Island Grill
- Island Way Grill
- Marina Cantina
- Salt Cracker Fish Camp
- Tropics Boat Tours
- East Shore Resort
- Warrior One Yoga
- be4giving bakehouse
- Good Vibes Juice Co.
- Honu Restaurant
- The Green Table
- Cider Press Cafe-St Pete
- Vegan International Kitchen & Market

Come join the team. It's fun and inspiring, and your business will love the benefits. Contact us at support@oceanallies.org, or call me personally at 727-441-1790 x 235. Let's go!

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**2019 BEACH WALK/WALK
DRUM ROLLS PICK UP THE BEAT TO
FEED THE NEEDY**

Early Saturday morning on February 2, drum rolls echoed down Clearwater Beach launching the 10th Anniversary Beach Walk/Walk. Over 300 walkers and participants were dazzled by the drum roll display provided by the Pinellas Sheriff's PAL Drumline, while it sparked awareness and helped raise funds for needy Pinellas County residents.

The Beach Walk/Walk is sponsored through a partnership between Chapel By The Sea and RCS (Religious Community Services). Last year RCS provided food and shelter to over 165,000 residents. All proceeds from the event go to the RCS Food Bank and The Haven For Domestic Violence. Since its inception in 2010 the Beach Walk has raised over \$115,000 in support of RCS activities.

At the finish line participants were greeted with cheers and a flurry of drum rolls. Inside, all were treated to a hearty traditional pancake breakfast with all the trimmings provided by Clear Sky Café, followed by a lucrative silent auction. Last year's Beach Walk raised over \$17,000. According to Walk Director Rick Owens "We did some things differently this year to spark interest and celebrate the 10th anniversary; new upgraded shirt and design, beads for all participants and, of course, the PAL Drumline. The numbers aren't in yet, but all indicators point to another banner year for 2019.

PAY ONCE TO PARK ALL YEAR

Parking doesn't have to be complicated. Clearwater residents can purchase a resident parking permit and park all year long. Permits cost only \$75 per year or \$40 per 6-month period and are valid at seven select parking lots:

- Lot #36, Rockaway Lot, 4 Rockaway St.
- Lot #37, Avalon/Kendall, 6 Avalon St.
- Lot #38, Bay Esplanade, 51 Bay Esplanade
- Lot #39, McKay Field, 605 Mandalay Ave.
- Lot #44, Courtney Campbell, 3390 Courtney Campbell
- Lot #68, Sailing Center and Sand Key North Beach Area
- Lot #47, Mandalay Avenue (on-street meters), North of Kendall/Juanita

One permit may be purchased for each vehicle registered to an incorporated city of Clearwater address. Permits are recorded by the tag information and must be permanently affixed to the inside driver's side corner of the front windshield.

To buy a permit, visit the Parking System office located at, 100 S. Myrtle Ave., Suite 220, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Make sure to have your Florida vehicle registration, a Florida photo identification with your current city address, and two forms that identify your current address, such as a utility bill, voter registration card, or registered deed, mortgage, or lease. Permits are non-transferrable.

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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 meetings are March 6 and April 3. 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. Next meetings are March 11 and April 8.

It is time to renew your membership and pay your dues for 2019. The cost is \$50 per year, and with that you get discounts at dozens of nearby businesses and free admission to the Spring and Winter Socials. Please pay now. Visit MyIslandEstates.org/Membership.

Save these dates:

- Community Yard Sale - February 16th, held on the entire island.
- Causeway Cleanup - February 23rd and April 13, 8am. Report to the Island Way entrance near Island Way Grill.
- Big Block Party - April 27

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

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They awarded their 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award to Past President and Club Parliamentarian Lucile Casey, who has been an active member of the club for more than 20 years. She has held many positions in the club, and donated her time to most club projects.

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. www.ClearwaterCWC.org.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Chapel By-The-Sea, except during the summer.

- March 5 - Next monthly meeting.
- March 30 - Spring Picnic at Triangle Park.
- April 2 - Monthly meeting.
- April 27 - Beach Clean-up, 9am.
- May 5 - Cinco de Pirate Adventure on the Pirate Boat.

This neighborhood association promotes projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature and be a voice to City Government on issues that affect our community. Membership is \$25 per household. Checks made payable to CBA should be mailed to 294 Windward Passage, Suite 408, Clearwater, FL 33767 or visit their website to pay by PayPal.

Contact President Sam Hutkin at Hutloan@AOL.com, or visit ClearwaterBeachAssoc.com for information.



Organizational News...

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

They are working hard to get the new, South Ward School museum open and hope to host a spring grand opening. They are still having many volunteer work days. They are seeking donations that tell the story of Clearwater, such as: Vintage Clothing, Photographs of Clearwater, Sand Key and Clearwater Beach, Event Memorabilia (Fun 'N Sun, Jazz Holiday, others), Old Clearwater business, neighborhood and organizations items, Maps, Local school yearbooks, annuals and class pictures.

The Plumb House, is undergoing renovations and is not open for tours at this time.

Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$5 students, \$20 family, \$150 corporate, \$250 life and \$500 patron. For information, visit ClearwaterHistoricalSociety.org or email them at clearwaterhistory@gmail.com.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DAR is celebrating their 129th Anniversary this year 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

Chartered in chartered November 2, 1953, the just celebrated their 65th anniversary last month. They meet 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, please contact Rear Commodore Barbara Loubier at 224-3163 or email BLoubier@InnisBrookResort.com.

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

They meet monthly from September-May. Socials include lunch with guest speakers, entertainment, fund-raisers, field trips and happy hours. Lunch reservations are required, call Linda Dorn at 808-2255.

Their next luncheon is February 19 at 11:45am at the Clearwater Country Club. The guest speaker is Barbara Rhodes speaking on "The Red Tent Women's Initiative."

Their 2019 Scholarship program has begun. Since 1997, they have given scholarships to many female Clearwater High School graduates. Applications must be downloaded and submitted by March 20th. Call Marilee Hoffman-Ferguson at 307-1691 with scholarships questions.

Cooperation, Congeniality and Companionship are the goals of this organization. Membership is \$21 per year. To join, visit www.islandstateswomensclub.org and or call Membership Chairperson, Joan Landreth, at 812-8078. For additional information and questions, feel free to call Club president, Lynne McCaskill, at 430-1911. www.islandstateswomensclub.org.

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Day of Event at Site charge card sales from 4:00-8:00 P.M.

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Organizational News...

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Members are retired active duty Military Officers, their spouses or widows. To RSVP, or to join, call LTC. George Smith at 786-5578.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACH REC CENTER & LIBRARY

They sponsor monthly presentations on the area's history. These presentations normally on the second Wednesday of the month. They begin at 5:30pm:

March 13: Mike Lloyd will speak about the US Coast Guard Aux, the uniformed, all-volunteer component of the Coast Guard. Flotilla 11-1 has a 68 year history serving Clearwater.

April 3: Clifford McKay will tell of his personal experience with the Optimist Pram as a youngster on Clearwater Beach. He was the first person to test the Pram.

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 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. Since 1966, this social club has helped relocated residents, and others in the area, develop new friends. The ladies meet monthly at different locations for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities include two book clubs, card groups, dining out, lunch groups, craft groups and trips to various venues and activities.

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

March 12: Island Way Grill at 11:30am. The owner of The Bayou Dance Club will present "Dancing With The Stars" along with a demonstration and instructions. There will be prizes.

They meet on the second Tuesday of the month, October to 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.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30am, at their Clubhouse on Seminole Street. Meetings are \$5 for members; \$8 for non-members. They also hold demonstrations on the third Saturday each month.

March 9: Standard Flower Show "Just Learning" 2-5pm.

April 18: Kathy Thomas will teach a paint-in. She will guide you through a painting and you will have a finished product when the lesson is over. Paint and canvas are provided plus, wine and appetizers. The cost is \$30. 7pm.

Call 316-5504 email ClearwaterGardenClub@gmail.com or visit www.ClearwaterGardenClub.com, for information.

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

February 20 - At the Clearwater Yacht Club beginning at 10:30am. The guest speaker is Aimee Jackson from the St Petersburg Garden Club. She will be discussing IKEBANA. It will be followed by the popular Chinese Auction.

Membership in the BBIGC is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. For further information contact Marjorie Rose at rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition of yachtsmen the world over. You don't need a boat, to join in the fun at Clearwater Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach. Most of their members don't have a boat. Their social activities center around regular parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki-Bar out back. In addition to their regular Friday Prime Rib dinner with live dance music, here are some upcoming events:

February:

- Valentine Dinner and Dance
- Chowdah Challenge
- Wine Pairing Dinner
- Laser Mid-Winter East Regatta Host

March:

- Dockside Seafood Boil
- Commodores Ball
- St Patrick's Day Party
- Clearwater Challenge Regatta

Learn more at www.ClearwaterYachtClub.org, e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org or call 447-6000.

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 727-443-5485.

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

They meet at 9am every Tuesday in the back of Panera Bread for coffee and socializing. They also meet for dinner at different restaurants on the first and third Sundays, and for lunch on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month.

This organization is open to all seniors, living in the area.

There are no dues and couples are encouraged to join the fun. Call Marilyn Daminato, 585-9633.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They meet at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in the Town of Belleair on the first and second Wednesdays of each month. The first Wednesday meetings are a tea and general meeting. They also plan field trips throughout the year.

- February 13: Community Sponsored Agriculture (9:30am)
- March 6: Day Lilies with Kay Smith (1pm)
- March 28: Tour of *Art in Bloom* at Museum of Fine Arts (9am) Prior Reservations Required.

Annual membership is \$50 per year per person. Couples pay \$75. Seasonal members \$30. Guests are welcome. Email Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com or visit BelleairGardenClub.com.

THE NAVIGATORS

A mens club at St Brendan's Catholic Church of Clearwater Beach, they have numerous fund-raising events to gift to charities. Their Annual Yard Sale is Saturday, February 16th, 8am to 6pm and Sunday February 17th, 8am to Noon. St Brendan's is located at 245 Dory Passage, Clearwater. Behind Publix on Island Estates. Contact Dennis Murphy (313) 590-3754, the organization's President, for more information or to donate.

CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

If you are new to the Carlouel Neighborhood, please contact President Sue Williams, SueWilliams5@Me.com, to be added to the Neighborhood Directory. MyCarlouel.com will give you most of the information you need to live in the neighborhood.

FEATURED RESIDENCES IN CLEARWATER



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11 BAYMONT ST. #1206, CLEARWATER BEACH
2 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,972 SQ FT | \$1,479,000



1200 GULF BLVD. #102, CLEARWATER BEACH
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,821 SQ FT | \$895,000

1931 OAK RIDGE CT, CLEARWATER
5 BD | 4 BA | 3,946 SQ FT | \$699,000

501 MANDALAY AVE. #1002, CLEARWATER BEACH
3 BD + DEN | 3.5 BA | 4,192 SQ FT
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