

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

Magazine



## MAAS BROTHERS - CLEARWATER'S GREAT DEPARTMENT STORE

With the demolition of Clearwater's Harborview Center this month, we thought it would be fun to look back on the store that once stood there - *Maas Brothers*. Everyone shopped there and everyone had a personal relationship with the store and its employees. So how did it all begin and why is it gone?

*Maas Brothers* was started by two brothers who immigrated from Germany - Abe and Isaac Maas. After the Civil War, they worked with two other brothers in Georgia selling general merchandise, groceries, feed, and dealing in cotton. In 1886, Abe decided to try his luck in Tampa - an up and coming fishing village. There, he opened the *Dry Goods Palace*. Isaac joined him the next year and they renamed the store *Maas Brothers*. They had no idea that one day their small 23 foot by 90 foot dry goods store would grow into a chain of 39 stores across the state of Florida. *Continued on page 7*

### Also in this Issue:

#### Sunscreens

Read what a local doctor says about our sunscreens effect on the environment - **page 27**

#### Our City Clerk Deanne O' Reilly

The woman behind the scenes in Indian Rocks Beach for 25 years - **page 20**

#### Meet Commander Tracy Randall USG Station Sand Key

She joined the Coast Guard at 17 and rose through the ranks. Now, she supervises 48 active duty personnel and station dog Buddy - **page 11**

#### Silas Beach

Pinellas County's resident tropical artist whose art features beach and wildlife themes. - **page 16**



**CREDITS**



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**CITY HALL 595-2517**

Mon - Fri, 7:30am to 4pm  
1507 Bay Palm Blvd  
www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com

**CITY MANAGER Gregg Mims 595-2517**

**MAYOR** - Cookie Kennedy

**COMMISSIONERS** —

Ed Hoofnagle Vice Mayor

Diane Flagg • Phil Hanna • Nick Palomba

Building Dept: Dan Weigner 517-0404

Planning & Zoning: 517-0404

Public Works: Dean Scharmen 595-6889

Mon - Fri, 7am to 3:30pm

Solid Waste/Trash Pickup 595-6889

**ELECTRICITY** 443-2641

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**PHONE (BUSINESS)** 800-483-5000

**WATER** 464-4000

**CABLE (SPECTRUM)** 329-5020

**EMERGENCIES:** 9-1-1

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**SHERIFF DISPATCH** 582-6177

**IRB FIRE STATION** 595-1117

**LITTLE LEAGUE** 409-5024

**IRB WELCOME CENTER** 595-4575

**AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS** 595-1038

**POST OFFICE** 596-2894

204 4th Ave. Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30; Sat 9a-12p

**IRB LIBRARY** 596-1822

Mon-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 10-1pm

**IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM** 593-3861  
Wed - Sat, 10am to 2pm

**IRB HOMEOWNER ASSOC.** 692-7867  
Joe McCall, President - IRBHome.com

**BEACH ART CENTER** 596-4331  
1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Mon-Fri 8:45am to 4pm

**IRB ROTARY**, Bruce Sobut, 403-4060  
Meets at Jimmy Guana's every Wed. 7:15AM

**ACTION 2000** Julie Hoofnagle 400-6672

Meets 2nd Mon each month Beach Art Ctr

**BEACH FOOD PANTRY** 517-2534

1615 First St. M-W-F 10 am-12 pm

**BEACH THRIFT STORE** 596-8868

Tue & Sat, 10am to 2pm, Thu 5 to 8pm

**PINELLAS COUNTY INFO** 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Jeff Brandes 727-395-2512

Republican, Dist. 24

3637 Fourth St. N., Ste 101 St. Pete

Brandes.Jeff.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

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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**

**MAY**

- May Day 1
- National Tourism Month Begins 1
- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins 1
- Action 2000 Gala 1
- Taste of Clearwater Beach Fest 3
- Derby Day Kentucky Derby 4
- Indian Rocks Historical Museum Pot Luck 4
- Cinco De Mayo Sunday 5
- Ramadan Begins 5
- Tour of Florida Area Gardens 5
- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 6
- Community Clean Up 6-8
- Teacher Appreciation Week 6-11
- Homeowners Happy Hour 9
- Postal Workers Food Drive 11
- Mother's Day 12
- City Commission Meeting 14
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15
- Hands Across Sands 18
- Armed Forces Day 18
- Safe Boating Week 18-26
- Music & Arts Fest 25-26
- Memorial Day 27
- National Hamburger Day 28
- Public Schools Close for Summer 29
- Blast Friday Clearwater 31

**JUNE**

- Hurricane Season Begins 1
  - National Donut Day 2
  - Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 3
  - D-Day Remembrance 6
  - Chocolate Ice Cream Day 7
  - Sand Key Sunset Run #1 7
  - City Commission Meeting 11
  - Homeowners Happy Hour 13
  - Flag Retirement Ceremony 14
  - Flag Day Friday 14
  - Father's Day 16
  - National Garbage Man's Day 17
  - Summer Begins 21
  - Sand Key Sunset Run #2 21
  - Take Your Dog To Work Day 24
  - IRB'S 64th Birthday 25
- JULY**
- Independence Day 4
  - Fireworks Coachman Park 4
  - Calvary Independence Day Concert 4
  - National Fried Chicken Day 6
  - World Chocolate Day 7
  - Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 8
  - City Commission Meeting 9
  - MLB All Star Game 9
  - National Pina Colada Day 10
  - Homeowners Happy Hour 11
  - Sand Key Sunset Run #3 12

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

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

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, Indian Rocks Beach Library.

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300  
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# Did You Know



**POSTAL WORKERS** May 11, your local mail carrier will be collecting food donations for local food banks. To donate, simply place non-perishable food items in a bag and leave it in or near their mailboxes. Letter carriers will pick it up as they deliver the mail. Some of the most-requested donations include cereal, peanut butter, pasta, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, and tuna. Most of the food collected will go to the Beaches Food Pantry.

**NO PARKING** Do not park in the Post Office parking lot after hours or on weekends. Your car will likely be towed at a cost of \$125 or more. This is a new policy. If you are going to the Historical Museum, Crabby Bill's, PJ's, or CVS, park someone where else—or you may find your car gone when you return

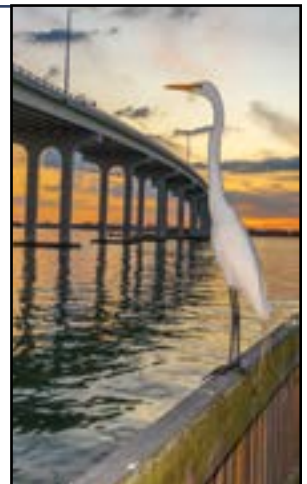
**ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR!** The last day of public school is Wednesday, May 29th. Time to make your summer camp plans. Many local camps are already filling up.

**SAFE BOATING WEEK MAY 18-25** The Coast Guard Auxiliary will inspect your boat for free. If they find anything wrong, they will not ticket you. They will be visible at most major boat ramps (in our area Seminole and Belleair) on the weekends of May 18-19 and May 25-26.

**FILM WINS AWARD** The "Save Our Cottages" documentary, featuring Indian Rocks Beach's classic beach cottages and the Plein Aire Cottage artists, won the Gasparilla International Film Festival, held at the Tampa Theatre in March. Directed by Tampa resident Lynn Marvin Dingfelder, it was entered in the documentary category and won the Audience Appreciation Award. The Florida Trust for History Preservation may show the film at their annual meeting. It is also being considered for the New York City and Los Angeles Film Festivals.

**UPCOMING CENSUS** The 2020 Census will be held in one year to count everyone in the United States. Pinellas County is forming a Census committee to drive local participation. Volunteer to help local Census efforts by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/census2020](http://www.pinellascounty.org/census2020).


**BELLEAIR BEACH CAUSEWAY TEN YEARS OLD** The bridge connecting Belleair Beach with Belleair Bluffs and the mainland opened ten years ago this May. The original Belleair Beach Causeway Bridge opened in 1950. It was a low draw bridge and began with a toll that cost 25¢ to cross. It was torn down in 2007 and replaced with the newer, taller bridge that opened in May of 2009.



Read about the old bridge and the construction of the new bridge in previous issues at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

Photo by BelleairImages.com

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**VOLLEYBALL COURT ADDED TO KEEGAN CLAIR PARK** With the removal of the solid waste building, the small waterfront park south of the Holiday Inn has been remodeled. Enhancements include landscaping, sidewalks, an expanded parking lot and a sand volleyball court. The court installation cost \$9800 and was paid for by the Indian Rocks Homeowners Association. The court is available on a first come-first serve basis. Bring your own ball and rake. Check it out at the south end of 2nd Street.

**COMMUNITY CLEAN UP** The City will conduct its quarterly Community Clean Up May 6-8. During that time, you are allowed to put your larger trash items at the curb and the city will pick them up at no charge. This does not include chemicals, TVs, electronics and boat trailers. If you have any questions, call the Public Works Department at 595-6889.

**VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS** The City received a grant from Duke Energy to install two vehicle recharging stations - one near City Hall and the other in the Business Triangle. Look for them soon. Thank Commissioner Nick Palomba for his efforts to make this happen.

**MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL** This two-day event will be in Coachman Park, May 25-26. In total, ten bands are scheduled - five on Saturday and five on Sunday. There is an art show, classic car show, food trucks and fireworks at dark. Get details at [www.ClearwaterArtsFestival.com](http://www.ClearwaterArtsFestival.com).

**KICK THE PLASTIC HABIT** In the U.S. we use 102 billion plastic bags a year. 12 million barrels of oil are used in the process. Those bags, which are used to bring home purchases from local stores, have a useful life of about one hour. Unfortunately, they have an actual life of forever. While area grocery stores collect them for "recycling" they are just disposed of. No one is recycling the bags - recycling costs more than the cost of making bags from scratch. Bring your reusable bags with you when you shop and think twice before bagging produce. Most of the time it really doesn't need it.

**BOOKS NEEDED** The Friends of Indian Rocks Beach Library requests book donations to replenish IRB's only bookstore, which is located in the Indian Rocks Beach Library at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd. as well as the Free Libraries located at City Hall, and the beach accesses at 4th, 12th, and 22nd Avenues. They particularly need paperback books in good shape. Please, no text books, encyclopedias, or computer/software manuals. If you have any questions regarding books you would like to donate, please call the Library at 596-1822.



**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JULY** Read this issue, as well as others, online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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## THE TRADITION OF MAAS BROTHERS, *continued*

By 1921, Mass Brother's was Florida's second largest department store and it contained the state's first escalator.

In 1929, the brothers sold their store to Hahn Department stores who owned 28 other stores, but Maas Brothers was kept as a separate division with the Maas family continuing to oversee it. Isaac died in 1935 and Abe died in 1941. Their sons and other family members continued to run the business.

In 1948, *Maas Brothers* opened its first store in St. Petersburg, others followed – Lakeland 1954, Sarasota 1956 and finally 302 Cleveland Street, Clearwater - October 23, 1961. The store's opening coincided with Mass Brother's 75th anniversary.

Cleveland Street was always considered Clearwater's Downtown. As early as the late 1800s it was where people went to shop, eat, and socialize with their neighbors. It was the natural location of the city's newest big thing, a department store.

The new Clearwater *Maas Brothers*, located on prime waterfront property, was 168,000 square feet and had two-and-a half levels. The lower level was accessible from the west side and showcased electric appliances, TVs, sporting goods, and furniture. They never referred to it as "the basement" even though it was below street level.

The main street level was primarily clothing - women's ready-to-wear, designer, name-brand, men's—they had it all. Plus, you could find any accessory you might need to complete your outfit: jewelry, handbags, cosmetics, men's belts, ties - it was a one stop shop.

When you grew hungry and tired from your shopping, there was *The Suncoast Restaurant*, also on the main level at the west end. It was the perfect place for a bite to eat, even if you didn't shop.

"As a little girl, I remember the Suncoast restaurant having the greatest hamburgers and hot dogs complete with toasted buns. I would go there with my mom - Alva Jones - and Miss Mary, my dad's secretary. I felt so grown up to be included. We sat along the west wall near the windows that overlooked the harbor. They also had a lunch counter," remembers Liz Childress with the Clearwater Historical Society.

The second level was where you found

domestics – sheets and towels, fine china, crystal, bedroom or bathroom accessories, and household decor.

"My mother loved *Maas Brothers* and took me there a lot. She bought all her furniture and home décor there. They always carried the higher-end items. Later, when I moved to Clearwater, I shopped at that *Maas Brothers*, mostly out of memory of my mother. I still have two beautiful lamps in my condo that came from that store," Sand Key resident Patti Eikenberry recalls.

The second floor also had the bridal department where newly engaged women would register for their bridal gifts and shop for wedding gowns.

"My wife Carolyn and I moved to Clearwater in 1972 and were married December 31, 1974. We bought our wedding rings at that *Maas Brothers*. They are a gold basket weave pattern and they still sparkle after 44 years of marriage," says Gary Bookou, an Island Estates resident.

Every year, parents would bring their children to the Suncoast Restaurant for breakfast with Santa. The entire store was transformed during the holidays with elaborate decorations. Shoppers listed to piped in Christmas carols playing overhead while browsing through the latest must have gift ideas.

"*Maas Brothers* is where I went to do my Christmas shopping—normally on Christmas eve. You would see the same guys there every year doing what I was doing—last minute shopping. And they actually had people working there who would help you. Those were the days!" Charlie Harper, President of the Largo Historical Society remembers.

The store's parking lot was part of the landfill created when the State of Florida built the Memorial Causeway bridge in the 1950s. At the edge was the Bay Drive Inn restaurant.

"From 1946 to 1969, my grandfather owned the Bay Drive restaurant in *Maas Brothers*' parking lot. In 1969, the City refused to extend his lease because they wanted to expand that parking lot," Billy Drulias says.

*Maas Brothers* opened their first mall store in Ft Myers in 1965. It was the beginning of the end of free-standing



*Maas Brothers' Suncoast Restaurant*

stores. In Pinellas, they opened two mall stores - Tyrone Square (1972) and Countryside (1975).

In 1986, *Maas Brothers* celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It is also the same year Canadian real estate developer Robert Campeau took over the then ailing retail chain. Cost cutting and store closures became the norm.

Two years later, Campeau acquired Federated Department Stores, which owned *Burdines*. *Maas Brothers* and *Burdines* became sister stores, but competed in the same markets, and even in the same malls, so many *Maas Brothers* were converted into *Burdines*.

Campeau's struggling firm filed for bankruptcy in 1990. Within a year, the already under performing standalone *Maas Brothers* stores were closed. That included the flagship Tampa store, Sarasota, St. Petersburg and of course the Clearwater's Cleveland Street store.

The Clearwater store was replaced Stein Mart, a similar but different department store. When Stein Mart closed, the City turned the building into the Harborview Convention Center.

As a convention center, it was only somewhat successful and was slated for demolition in 2010, the same year the hit movie, "A Dolphin Tale" was filmed. The movie's producers asked to use Harborview as a sound stage and studio. After the movie's success, the sets became a tourist attraction for a half-dozen years. That ended last year.

Now, 58 years after *Maas Brothers* opened, the building was demolished last month. The site will become part of the *Imagine Clearwater* master plan. Learn more about what is planned for that site at [www.ImagineClearwater.com](http://www.ImagineClearwater.com).

## DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR SWIM LESSONS

By Rebecca Geiger

While the weather is still cool, it is a good time to start thinking about the best way to teach your child to be safe in the water. There are many options available! You can teach them yourself, take a "Mommy/Daddy and Me" course, group lessons, Infant Swimming Resource (ISR), private lessons, or a combination of any of the above. Knowing which you are looking for helps you find locations offering it in your area.

Many parents chose to teach their children themselves. This is wonderful. If you chose to do this, make sure to take advantage of resources that offer tips and guidelines to help speed up the process of getting the child to safety quickly. I have developed a website - TaggedIn.org - that offers step by step instructions for various ages and stages. The Red Cross also has an abundance of information that can be accessed through RedCross.com.

Mommy/Daddy and Me courses are great for parents who want to be in the water but want a little more guidance. The positive aspect of these classes is they allow parents to be in the water with their child, often in groups, which allows social interaction for both the child and the parent. They are also quite affordable. Some of the pitfalls are that when a child can see a parent they tend to progress slower, if you have a disruptive child in the group it can be distracting, or the time coordination is difficult.

Group lessons provide a faster progression in large part due to the fact that the instructor is the one teaching and the parent's anxiety is not transferred to the student. These classes are offered frequently through the summer at Rec Centers and the YMCA. There are some smaller locations that offer similar options at people's homes as well. Group lessons allow children to have limited interaction and they can benefit from seeing more advanced children perform the tasks the instructor

expects of them. It is also a great option if you do not have access to a pool at your home. The negative aspect of this type of class is that there must be enough supervision to ensure safety and unfortunately the most disruptive children often get the most attention. A highly anxious child can also set off a chain reaction.



ISR has become very popular due to its marketing and viral videos of infants floating on their backs unassisted. These courses are highly structured and taught one on one with very regimented programs. The classes are usually run consecutive days at a set location. Lessons run approx. 10 min per session and are offered for children from 6 months to 6 years of age. The largest complaints I hear about this program is the cost and length of the class versus the time it takes to get there and get set up.

Private lessons are done either at your or the instructor's location. Many Rec Centers offer private lessons at their pools. This allows one on one instruction with the child. Parent participation is at the discretion of the instructor so you would need to find out the instructor's policy on your participation. I can tell you that parental participation substantially slows down the child's progression. Private lessons offer a much greater level of flexibility and faster progression. The downside of private lessons is the cost - they are more expensive than group lessons.

*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.*

### Eating On The Beach Has Never Been So Cool

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# Real Estate News

## SUNNY SIDE OF IRB REAL ESTATE All the good news that's fit to print

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



I don't know anyone who doesn't get up in the morning and hope for a whole day of nothing but good news. So, I put on my Mr. Roger's "won't-you-be-my-neighbor" sweater and squirted a little Windex on my rose-colored glasses to bring you some rays of real estate sunshine.

**GOOD NEWS:** Home prices continue to escalate but at a slower pace. Believe it or not, that IS good news...not just for buyers...but for sellers alike. This "leveling out" will return some previously discouraged buyers to the market and also act as an insurance policy of sorts against the dreaded "bubble." But remember, it takes more than just elevated home prices to produce a bubble. When there's an inventory shortage, like now, and lenders aren't making riskier loans, a bubble is virtually impossible. This price escalation slowdown is merely a blip on the radar screen anyway. From 1st Qtr. '17 to 1st Qtr. '18, average sale prices in Indian Rocks Beach increased 24%. The same 1st Qtr. comparison from last year ('18) to this year shows prices up a shade over 16%.

**GOOD NEWS:** Buyers are getting "better" houses. According to The Harris Poll, 73% of homeowners plan to make household improvements this year. Average expenditure: \$9,000. And, the goal of 21% of those investing in upgrades is increasing value and/or putting their homes on the market.

**GOOD NEWS:** Sale prices don't react to non-catastrophic hurricanes, even during Hurricane Season. A named storm is sort of like a bad haircut; in a few weeks everyone forgets about it.

**GOOD NEWS:** More Americans have a positive outlook on life. They spend the most on housing but still manage to shell out an average of \$165 per day on groceries, gas, entertainment, etc. Fewer are living in poverty and life is good for the majority of us.

**GOOD NEWS:** Interest rates have not risen to predicted levels. For a brief moment late last year, they inched up near 5% but came back down to what are still very attractive rates. When you add a brisk job market and rising wages (household income up about 2% last year) to the mix, the anticipated market contraction simply fizzled out.

**GOOD NEWS:** Florida's economy continues to gangbust. By 2047, the Sunshine State will add another 8 million residents and the state's economy will quadruple. It doesn't hurt that Florida is #4 among U.S. high-earners and affluent families (\$200,000-\$500,000). Overgrowth in Miami/South Florida will likely steer more folks to our area.

The Good News Network, an online clearinghouse for positive news stories, contends there is plenty of good news; we just don't hear about it. Is it just me or does too much good news in real estate make you nervous? Some of us are still in therapy from the last time we felt this way. Relax! It's all good.

Source: My Florida Regional MLS

LIVE

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Forecast:  
SUNNY & WARM

BREAKING NEWS

GORDON OBARSKI

Licensed Real Estate Broker

<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white;">LISTED!</p> <p style="color: white;">401 16th Avenue INDIAN ROCKS BEACH \$450,000</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white;">SOLD!</p> <p style="color: white;">612 Gulf Blvd #101 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH Casa de Playa</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white;">LISTED!</p> <p style="color: white;">2208 Gulf Blvd INDIAN ROCKS BEACH Vacant Lot/120' X 89'/Zoned CT \$799,000</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white;">1 LEFT!</p> <p style="color: white;">14th Ave - Vacant Lot INDIAN ROCKS BEACH 50' X 100' lot \$199,000</p>

727.480.4665

gordon@gordonrealty.house

708 Beach Trail, #B - Indian Rocks Beach



## KAYAKER RESCUED OFF BEACH

**Largo man says dedicated professionals, RapidSOS helped saved his life**

Here is a story with a happy ending. Michael Bochniarz (65), a resident of nearby Largo and an avid fisherman, was rescued while fishing off of Indian Rocks Beach on February 6. His kayak turned over in 56-degree water. With the help of the 9-1-1 system and the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District out of Indian Rocks Beach, Michael lived to tell his story and thank his rescuers for their service.

Bochniarz regularly launches his one-man kayak off of Indian Rocks to fish just offshore. That Wednesday, he packed his fishing gear, a life preserver and his cell phone - sealed in a plastic water tight pouch, fortunately - in the kayak, and pushed off alone.

"I was not catching any fish, so I paddled to a spot off of 7th Avenue and moved out about half-a-mile," Michael said. "When I tried to pull up my anchor, it was stuck. To my surprise, my kayak flipped." "I was in shock," Michael explained. "I could not right the kayak but I was able to reach my cell phone and called 9-1-1. The girl on the other line, Mackenzie Espinoza, did an excellent job of keeping me calm and getting my information."

"When she asked me where I was—all

I could say was half a mile off of Indian Rocks near 7th Avenue."

Espinoza's system located him and with his GPS location, she immediately dispatched a Sheriff's helicopter and the PSFR&D.

Within 10 minutes, the helicopter spotted him, and the PSFRD team pulled their inflatable rescue boat onto the beach at 7th Avenue and headed his way. They pulled Michael from the frigid water within 23 minutes.

"It was so cold - maybe 56 degrees. I did not think I could have held on much longer," says Michael. "I was so glad to see that helicopter and the rescue boat."

For all 911 calls, the first and most important question is "What is your location." That is the first step to dispatch life-saving emergency responders. Pinellas County uses RapidSOS NG911 Clearinghouse. It allows fast and accurate location data for 9-1-1 calls from cell phones using iOS 12 or Android 4.0 phones and up via the RapidSOS NG911 Clearinghouse. It is what allowed them to find Michael so quickly.

"We are thrilled to provide Pinellas Regional 911 call-takers and dispatchers with the information they need to get



citizens help quickly in an emergency," says Michael Martin, CEO with RapidSOS.

Saving Michael Bochniarz's life was a team effort involving the 911 Communications Center, the Sheriff's office, and PSFRD.

Michael's advice? Wear a life jacket and keep your phone in a water tight pouch. And practice using it in the pouch before you need it.

A few weeks later, Michael got the chance to personally thank everyone involved including dispatcher Mackenzie Espinoza and Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue responders Kaitlyn Armstrong and Richard Funderburk.

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## DON'T RETIRE...REWIRE™ PART II

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

In our previous DON'T RETIRE...REWIRE™ article, we primarily focused on the financial side of retirement by stressing the need for a written financial/retirement plan. But there is more to retirement than just finances.



Retirement is not for the faint of heart and it can be a huge adjustment. For most of your life you were told when, where and how you would do things. Now you wake up one morning and you have nowhere to go. So what do you do?

Here are our Top Ten Things to Consider:

- 1) Make up for lost time – Spend time with your spouse/significant other, family, friends, neighbors and anyone else that you like
- 2) Travel – Go back to that favorite place. Head to the place you always wanted to see. Buy a motorhome or boat.
- 3) New home – Maybe downsize. Move to the country/city. Maybe a second home.
- 4) Go to school/teach – Many states like Florida allow seniors to audit courses at public universities. Study what you want not what is required. Learn a new language. Become a teacher/adjunct professor.
- 5) Develop/Start a hobby – Photography, stamp/coin collecting, painting, gardening/farming, fishing, hunting, learn to play an instrument and creating your own wine/beer.
- 6) Read/Write a book - Whether for fun or learning, reading/writing is a great way to expand the mind and to keep it active.
- 7) Volunteer –Not-for-profit organizations need your help with time, talent, and treasure. Work with those where you have a passion. Mentor students, young professionals, or business owners.
- 8) Go back to work – Work part time which still gives you lots of time for fun. Work at something different. Be a consultant, public speaker, become a public servant/politician.
- 9) Join social organizations – How about your place of worship; can they use you? Maybe a country club, fitness club, bridge club, chess club, or book club.
- 10) Take it slow/easy – There is nothing wrong with doing nothing. Relaxing is good for your long term health. Maybe try yoga or tai chi.

We have worked with thousands of folks just like you. Money is important, but money isn't everything. Many could not make the transition from full time employment to full time enjoyment.

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## MEET TRACY RANDALL

### Commander, USCG Station Sand Key

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Tracy Randall joined the Coast Guard at just 17. She rose through the ranks before becoming the Commanding Officer of the Sand Key Coast Guard Station.



Commander Randall was born and raised in Southern California and joined the Coast Guard when she finished high school. Her first duty was in Kodiak, Alaska on the Coast Guard Cutter *Storis*, which was at that time one of the oldest in the fleet. "Alaska was interesting, but very very cold, for a Southern Californian," Tracy recalls. "We primarily conducted search-and-rescue missions and fisheries boardings."

"I turned 18 twice onboard *Cutter Storis*," says Randall with a smile. "The ship's captain knew it was my birthday, so he crossed the International Date Line advancing the day forward, then crossing back over the next day to push the day back. Not many people can say they turned 18 two times."

Randall's first command was as the Officer In Charge aboard the *Chock*, a 65-foot cutter based in Baltimore. Her next duty was as Executive Petty Officer at the Key West station from 2011-2013. From there she spent three years as the Boatswains Mate Assignment Officer at Headquarters in Washington D.C.

The Sand Key Coast Guard Station has a new commander every three years. Randall's command began in 2017. She supervises 48 active duty, as well as 22 Reservists. "There are also over 300 active Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel," Randall adds. "They are volunteers and we could not do our job without them."

"We interact with many local groups and authorities, such as, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, local police and sheriffs' departments, fire departments and others," Randall says. "We were very involved in the Clearwater Beach Power Boat Races in September," Randall continues. "However this September, as the Patrol Commander I had to shut down the last race, due to a swimmer crossing into the race zone."

"The Pinellas County Sheriff immediately went into action and was able to quickly get to him and save his life before he was hit. He was detained by the Pinellas County Sheriff. The Race Committee elected not to restart the race."

During hurricanes, the local Coast Guard has a variety of duties. The most important is to protect their boats and people. Some boats are pulled out of the water and stored on land. After a hurricane, they return to do whatever is necessary.

"During Hurricane Irma, I stayed in Sand Key with five others just in case. Mainly we monitored communications during the storm."

Always on duty is the station dog, Buddy. He is a seven-year old, brown Rhodesian Ridgeback mix. "We got him from a 93-year-old lady who moved to a nursing home. Buddy lives at the Sand Key station and loves to ride on our boats, whenever possible."

CO Randall wants to thank the community for their help and donations during the January Government Shutdown. The Coast Guard is part of Homeland Security, not the Department of Defense, and did not receive paychecks during those 32-days. Many Sand Key residents and businesses donated food and supplies.

Tracy, now 47, will leave Sand Key at the end of 2020. She plans to retire in 2021 and return to St Petersburg to live. "I am a California girl--but I just love it here," she says.

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*Bar & Restaurant News*



**SEAWEEED NOW OFFERS BRUNCH** The Seaweed Grill in Belleair Bluffs now offers brunch on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 3pm. The new fantastic menu, called "Brunch and Bubbly" was just introduced in March. It includes standard breakfast items such as omelets and pancakes, but some have that extra twist - Lobster and Brie omelet, lemon ricotta pancakes, chicken and waffles. The menu includes standard brunch fare including burgers and sandwiches and of course sushi. Your first Mimosas or Bloody Mary is free, and they have "bottomless" drink options. See the menu at SeaweedGrill.com.

**TJ'S CELEBRATES 30 YEARS** In March, TJ's Gourmet Italian celebrated 30 years in Indian Rocks Beach recently. In 1989, TJ (Tom Smith) opened a small pizza take-out restaurant in what is today his parking. He bought the property, tore down an old real estate building and personally built the building you see today. TJ and his wife, Kim, have consistently presented some of the finest Italian food on the Pinellas Beaches. Locals consider this to be one of Indian Rocks Beach's best.

Find them at 1515 Gulf Blvd. Enjoy eating inside, on the patio, take-out or just have it delivered. See their full menu at TJsItalianCafe.com. Call them at 596-1515.



**CHICAGO JAX** Chicago Jaqx opened five years ago in June 2014. Jenn Landry bought the restaurant last spring. Since then, she has made some minor changes to the menu, added music and has begun the popular free chicken wings on Fridays. Jenn will make one more addition soon - she is due to have her first baby later this month. Congratulations!

**EUROPA - NEW OWNERS - NEW NAME** Nick and Despina Mitsides are the new owners at the Europa Restaurant at 12125 Indian Rocks Road North, in Largo, near Pizza Shack.

You might recognize the Mitsides as they previously owned the Venus Restaurant in Belleair Bluffs. They plan to change the name of the restaurant to The Globe Restaurant and their two children are going to manage it. The restaurant is being remodeled and should open in a month or two.

**LION ROARS AGAIN** The Red Lion has a new owner—the second one in the last year. Tom George, owner of many Pinellas County restaurants, including the nearby by Time Out in Seminole, bought the Red Lion in February. He tells us that he has plans that range from changing the menu to remodeling the building. If you have been there lately, you may have seen some of that happening. If you have not been lately, give them a try and tell them you read about it in the Indian Rocks Beach News. The Red Lion is located at 1407 Gulf Boulevard.

**RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED** If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 430-8300.

# Bar & Restaurant News



**AQUA PRIME OPENS OFFTheGRiD** Aqua Prime is bringing a touch of the Virgin Islands to Indian Rocks Beach with their new Caribbean BBQ themed restaurant directly behind Aqua Prime - 208 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach. It is something new and fresh featuring "Good Vibes and Fun In Da Sun in their Outdoor Garden."

Opening this month, they have a Smoker custom built for the property that can hold up to a 165-pound pig. There will be outdoor games like bocce ball, corn hole, giant Jenga, ring toss, plus live acoustic music. Enjoy your meal with a cold beer, wine or cocktail (cheap all

day every day) on their handcrafted picnic tables.

For more information, visit [www.offthegridcuisine.com](http://www.offthegridcuisine.com) or find them on Facebook at OffTheGrid Cuisine to see all the upcoming events, pig & gator roasts, music, and food specials. They will be open 10 am to 10 pm, 7 Days a week.

Aqua Prime Seafood & Steaks is NOT changing its name, menu, or chef. They want people to know their Aqua Prime restaurant isn't going anywhere. OffTheGRiD Cuisine, owned by Aqua Prime, is directly behind Aqua Prime.

**SHIPWATCH GRILL** This small restaurant opened at Shipwatch, just across the bridge from the Holiday Inn. This little waterfront hideaway is in the clubhouse of Shipwatch Yacht and Tennis Club, but you do not have to live there to enjoy the restaurant.

They are open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, offering steaks, burgers, seafood and more. They also host a Sunday Brunch from 10:30am to 2pm.

Find them at 11900 Shipwatch Drive, just across the Walsingham Bridge. Call 735-8382 for directions.

**THE WOODEN ROOSTER** Recently opened in Seminole City Center, this is the sister restaurant to one downtown across the street from Sundial. The Wooden Rooster is know for its natural, healthy options. It is located very close to the Studio Movie Grill, and is worth driving around to find it.

They are known for their crepes, but all can be made into sandwiches as well. They have wonderful salads and soups, and serve beer and wine. Breakfast is served all day.

The restaurants are owned by Jeremy and Liset Duclut. Jeremy is the Chef at Cassis American Brasserie, downtown.

The Rooster is open seven days a week 7am to 9pm. Find them at 7839 113th Street North. See their menu at [TheWoodenRooster.com](http://TheWoodenRooster.com) or call 954-5471 for takeout.

**CASA ITALIA UPDATE** As with all business construction projects, the dates for Casa Italia's opening has slipped a bit. They still have a couple months to go and now hope to be open mid-summer.

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**MOVING QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

Josh and Brooke Anderson, the owners of Big Man's Moving Company, were recently interviewed. They have been in business just over two years, completed 1300 moves, and have excellent reviews.



**What makes you different than the other companies?**

We've been on the customer side before, and had our own bad experience with a well-known company in the area. We know what it feels like! After this, we started our own business focused on customer service. When a customer calls, they speak directly with us, the owners, who genuinely care. We are always accessible and open seven days a week to accommodate any schedule. Our movers go through an on-going, intensive training program, and we have regular meetings to keep a pulse on our business.

**How far in advance do I need to call you?**

If you're moving out-of-state, we recommend calling at least a month in advance for the best pricing. If you're moving in-state or locally, it would depend on the size of your home. Larger homes should try to book 3 weeks in advance, this way there is ample room in the schedule. Smaller homes are easier to squeeze in because they don't require as much time.

**Do I need to do anything before you arrive?**

Though we offer packing services, the best advice we would give: be prepared to move! For example, have your boxes sealed and clearly labeled, the bedding off your bed, and remember where you put the TV remote control! There's a section on our website labeled "tips" that we encourage everyone to read.

**What does it cost?**

Each move is unique. The fastest way to get an estimate is by completing the free estimate form on Bigmansmoving.com.

For more information, visit Bigmansmoving.com, email us at info@bigmansmoving.com, or call 727-772-3458.

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**SUMMER FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS BEGINS JUNE 1**

From June 1 - Sept. 30, Pinellas County residents may not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus to lawns and landscape plants. Fertilizer runoff can pollute rivers, lakes, bays and the Gulf of Mexico, cause algae blooms and lead to fish kills. Pinellas County is one of 90 Florida communities that have summertime fertilizer restrictions.

As the rainy season approaches, everyone in Pinellas County is reminded nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers are prohibited. Phosphorus is restricted year-round without a proper soil test as Florida soils are naturally abundant in phosphorus.

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

nutrients cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

Follow these Florida-friendly lawn care practices:

- Look for fertilizers with "0-0" as the first two label numbers.
- Apply iron, to keep lawns green without increasing growth which will lessen the amount of mowing required.
- Use compost to enrich soil.
- Set lawn mower blades between 3.5 to 4 inches for St. Augustine grass for deep roots that resist fungus and pests.
- Buy plants adapted to Florida's hot, humid climate.
- Hire lawn care professionals that display Best Management Practices decals on their vehicles.
- Sweep or blow grass clippings back in your yard. Do not direct them in the road, stormwater system or water bodies.

To learn more, visit, [www.befloridian.org](http://www.befloridian.org). Read the ordinance at: [pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/fertilizer.htm](http://pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/fertilizer.htm)

## HANDS ACROSS THE SAND YEARS OF ACTIVISM

Almost ten years ago, a group of concerned citizens formed Hands Across the Sand. Their purpose was to unite people to say No to fossil fuels and Yes to clean energy and organize citizens to take a stand for the protection of our lands and waters from fossil fuel processes.

Hands Across the Sand was founded by Dave Rauschkolb, a surfer and a restaurateur from Seaside, Florida. While not a typical activist, Rauschkolb recognized that his business and lifestyle were dependent on tourism and he wasn't willing to gamble his fate on the safety of the oil industry's drilling methods. He decided to organize what he expected to be a local demonstration on the beach, but his message struck a nerve and the protest mushroomed into a 10,000-person event on dozens of beaches across the state.

Just a few months later, in April 2010, the Gulf Coast experienced the Horizon Oil Spill - one of the worst oil tragedies in the Gulf of Mexico's history. This propelled Hands Across the Sand into an international movement.

During the annual event, people gather on beaches all over the world to join hands, forming symbolic barriers against spilled oil and to stand against the impacts of other forms of extreme energy. It has been fueled by the rising tide of grassroots activism demanding we choose a clean energy future over the dirty fuels of the 20th century.

The event has become particularly timely since last year, the Department of the Interior released a draft proposal to expand offshore drilling to over 90% of the U.S. waters.

Todd Plumlee and Plumlee Realty are the organizers of the mid-Pinellas County event, one of the largest in Florida.

"The Hands Across the Sand movement is made up of people from all walks of life and crosses all political affiliations," says Todd Plumlee, manager of the Indian Rocks Beach event. "This movement is not about politics; it is about protection of our shoreline, our waterways, our tourism, our coastal communities. Please come help us create the longest line in the sand possible to show our community's resolve to say no to oil drilling rigs in our Florida waters!"

If you plan to participate, report to the Indian Rocks Beach County Park, between 17th and 18th Avenues, on Saturday, May 18, by 11:30am. Near noon, organizers will ask you to approach the waterline and hold hands with the persons next to you. The media may be there to take pictures for the printed and broadcast media.

For more information, visit [www.HandsAcrossTheSand.org](http://www.HandsAcrossTheSand.org) or Hands Across the Sand Indian Rocks Beach on Facebook.

## NEW ROLLING RECYCLING CONTAINERS

In March, residents received new rolling recycling containers, replacing the smaller bins we used for the last five years. The new containers were initiated for several reasons:

- The containers are easier for residents to move.
- The containers can be emptied with the truck's equipment.
- The lids keep commodities dry, prevent it from blowing out, and keep animals out of your trash.
- They provide a degree of privacy for the homeowners.
- Research shows people recycle more with larger containers.

Each new cart, provided by the city's subcontractor, cost \$60. Single and multi-family homes received one. If you haven't already done so, place your old containers by the curb on your recycling day and the City will pick it up.

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# THE PICASSO OF PINELLAS COUNTY...MEET SILAS BEACH

Story and Photos by Dan L. Hummel

Tucked away in a little art studio in Safety Harbor is one of this area's most talented and beloved artists. Silas Beach, born in 1952 as Silas Gatewood III, has achieved considerable recognition in the Bay Area with his paintings which are notorious for their emotion and vibrant colors. He describes himself as an original tropical artist, creating stunning artwork featuring wildlife and beach themes.

A true gentleman and a delight to visit with, Silas explained why he changed his last name to Beach. "When I started painting many years ago, I used to sign all of my work with my first name. Then, a good friend of mine started referring to me as the 'artist of the beach'. The name has stuck with me, and truly fits the subject matter that I love to paint."

A native of St. Petersburg, Silas spent some time in the north and graduated from Miamisburg High School in Dayton, Ohio. While in the north, he helped operate the family's pet store and managed the exotic pet section of the business. But, painting and the south were his passions, so he eventually returned to Florida and began a colorful and whimsical life in the arts.

Over the years he has left his mark, or should we say artwork, on many businesses. He spent decades working for the Frenchy's Restaurant group where he was instrumental in helping to build their strong, colorful brand. "Frenchy's is actually my legacy", says Silas in a proud, but humble tone. Frenchy's tabletops, walls, interiors, exteriors and signage all have the Silas Beach signature of what he calls his 'Floribbean art'. When he left Frenchy's in 2012, other restaurants such as the Hog Island Fish Camp and Sea Sea Riders in Dunedin sought out his flamboyant and decorative talents. The Jimmy Guana's Bar in Indian Rocks was actually named by Silas.

One of his most recognizable projects is the artwork associated with the Gulf Boulevard mile marker project. Colorful mile posts brighten the landscape from Pass-A-Grille to Clearwater Beach. The signposts, with their distinctive fish logo, were created by Silas. One of the final prototypes lays near his feet at his work station in the Safety Harbor studio.

Christa Wakayama, who owns the Safety Harbor "n" Such Gallery where Silas works, describes her dear friend this way. "Silas Beach is the real deal. He is a true visionary and eats,

breathes and sleeps art. Some mornings I come into the shop where Silas's studio is, and he is sleeping in the middle of all these sea life masterpieces that he worked on all night with paint brushes and kaleidoscopes of palettes surrounding him."

A two time cancer survivor, Silas has a big heart. Silas has donated his talents to many charitable causes including the Largo Library, Hospice/Empath Health, Children's Home Society of Florida, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Equality Florida Inc., Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, and many others.

A longtime friend of Silas, Kelly Corcoran, commented, "Silas has never considered himself an artist, he is a zoologist at heart, but his artwork reflects an immense love of nature and a very distinct vision of how each creature is unique and beautiful. For example, he has painted literally thousands of dolphins and manatees over the years, but everyone has a different expression, a slightly different movement to it, almost as though he is painting each animal's individual portrait."

Silas is extremely interested in astrology. His depth in the subject matter is shadowed only by his talent with the paintbrush. Because of his love for wildlife, he quipped he should be reincarnated as St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of animals. Very few of his paintings lack some type of a wildlife presence.

A loyal friend to many, Silas recently lost one of his best buddies. He reflected on their many years of friendship, and was quick to point out the special pair of blue jeans that he painted to wear to the funeral. He choked up as he described their special relationship.

Since I wrote this story, Silas has had a small stroke and is in rehab. He is still painting in rehab. To view some of his colorful, beachy artwork, visit his Facebook page at Silas Beach Inc. There is also a GoFund me page on his Facebook page to raise money for his rehab bills.

Silas's work can be viewed at the Safety Harbor "n" Such Gallery at 531 Main Street on Monday through Saturday from 1 to 6 pm. When he is back on his feet, Silas will again live painting on Sundays at the Gazebo on Main Street in Safety Harbor from 10 am to 3 pm. You can purchase one of his existing paintings, or commission him to paint one exclusively for your needs. Corcoran continued, "Each day Silas produces new pieces of brilliance and love on canvas to share with the world!"

Silas can also be reached at (727) 712-6219, or via email at sibeach1952@gmail.com.■





## FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

### Boating Safety

You can never be too prepared when you take a journey out onto the water. In Pinellas County, boating is one of the top and most frequent activities in the spring and summer months. However, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, thousands of boating accidents happen every year throughout the country. The most recent report from 2017 shows that there were 4,291 recreational boating accidents in the United States resulting in 658 deaths, 2,629 injuries, and \$46 million in property damages.

Out of the victims who drowned, 84.5 percent were not wearing a life jacket, and alcohol use was the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. This means that preventing death and injury when taking your boat out is as simple as wearing a life jacket and not operating your vessel under the influence.

Aside from these two very important safety rules, we do advise Pinellas County citizens to also follow the following tips during boating season.

1. Complete a safe boating course: Florida law requires boat operators born after January 1, 1988 complete an approved boater education course and receive a Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card. Enrolling in a boaters' safety course is also a great way to learn the rules of the water and familiarize yourself with basic boating principles. Visit the National Safe Boating Council website at [safeboatingcouncil.org](http://safeboatingcouncil.org) for links to several approved online courses.
2. Make a pre-departure checklist: Before you set sail, use a pre-departure checklist to make sure you have all the necessary equipment on board, including: life jackets, sound producing devices, distress signals, fuel and oil, fire extinguishers, a radio, anchor and dock line, basic toolbox, first-aid kit, and flashlights. Florida law requires that one personal flotation device (PFD) per passenger is readily accessible on the vessel at all times, and that children under age six must wear PFDs while underway.
3. Watch for manatees: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provides a Pinellas County manatee protection zone map. Reduce your boating speed in the required areas from April 1st to November 15th. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit regularly monitors and enforces these zones. The rules and restrictions can change, so it is important to stay informed.
4. Get a free vessel safety check: The U.S. Coast Guard offers complimentary boat examinations to ensure you have the proper safety equipment required by state and federal regulations.
5. Make a float plan: Inform your close friends and family members about the details of your trip, including the name and address of the trip leader, boat type and registration, the names of all the passengers, and the trip itinerary. Also, make sure more than one person on board is familiar with the boat's operations and general boating safety in case the primary navigator is injured or incapacitated in any way.
6. Don't drink and boat: Remember, operating any vehicle—including a boat—while impaired by drugs or alcohol is illegal and can result in lives lost and thousands of dollars in fines. Just as you would before a night out on the town, designate a sober captain before you head out on the water.



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# Business Briefs

## OUTLAND BOAT TOURS AND JET SKI RENTAL

Indian Rocks Beach has a new water sports business located at the Holiday Inn Harborside. It is not just for tourists, it is for locals, too.

Captain Carlos Ferreira and his wife opened the business in 2017, and added jet skis in March. They operate boat tours that will take you to a variety of places - Three Rooker, islands or even a restaurant of your choice. Tours can be two and a half hours (\$275), half-day (\$375) or full-day (7 hours @ \$675). "It is family-friendly fun," Captain Ferreira says.



Now they offer eight deluxe 3-man jet skis. If you are under 29, you must have a license--which they can issue. Jet skis are \$80 an hour or \$135 for two. If you like, you can have a guide.

"We are proud to already be listed as the #1 Boat Tour company in the Indian Rock Beach area," says Ferreira.

Check in or get more information at their welcome center at the Prestige Collection building, 399 2nd Street, south of the IRB History Museum. Visit [OutlandBoatTour.com](http://OutlandBoatTour.com) or call them at 301-6267.

Mention this story and get \$25 off any 4-hour Boat Rental.

**NEW CONDOS** Four new townhome condos, called Hawks Bill Moon, are being built on the northwest corner of Gulf Blvd and 21st Avenue. They are not on the water, but they are close. The three bedroom units are being built by Rob Ginski and range from the mid-\$850s to lower \$900s. Visit [www.HawksBillMoon.com](http://www.HawksBillMoon.com) or call Rob direct at 572-6778.

**NEW FRAME SHOP** The custom framing shop that recently opened in The Plaza where Gluff's Barber Shop owned by Louise Del Basso, owner of Galleria Misto. Galleria Misto already offered custom framing. That part of the business now operates in the new location on the southwest corner of The Plaza. Talk to Galleria Misto about your framing needs. Call 559-7767.

**NEKTON RENTS BIKES** Everyone knows Nekton sells surfboards, skim boards and beachwear, but did you know they also rent bikes? And they rent lots of them. Rates vary based on the type of bike. Fat Tire Bikes are \$9 an hour, regular bikes \$5 an hour. They also rent surfboards \$5 an hour, paddle boards \$10 an hour, skim boards \$2.50 an hour, single kayaks \$10 an hour and double kayaks \$12.50 an hour. Most have minimum hour rentals and they offer a 10% discount to Indian Rocks Beach residents. Visit [NektonSurf.com](http://NektonSurf.com), find them at 1313 Gulf Blvd., or call 593-8292.



# Business Briefs

**THE DOG NANNY** Meet MJ Arbutine, IRB's new dog nanny. An Indian Rocks Beach resident who lives on 20th Parkway, MJ is opening a dog sitting business next



door to Chicago Jaqx Pizza. Her boutique style dog care offers boarding and animal enrichment for small and medium sized dogs. Other services including dog walking, and pet sitting (in your home) for all sizes of dogs, cats or other small animals. Dog Nanny is licensed and insured. It is Pet First Aid and CPR certified, and an active member of the International Boarding and Pet Services Assn. MJ hopes to open by mid-May. Hours will be by appointment - call 430-9729 to schedule a complementary assessment and evaluation. Find her at 1511 Gulf Blvd.

**BEGGINS IS #1** Century 21 Beggins is the #1 Century 21 office in North and Central Florida and the #16 in the World! Beggins has ten offices with over four-hundred Tampa Bay agents. If you are looking to buy or sell a home—or maybe looking for a Real Estate job—call Century 21 Beggins, owned by broker Jeff Beggins.

Century 21 Beggins is proud to sponsor many Indian Rocks events, including the Taste of IRB, Holiday Food Drives, Beachfest, and the Holiday Toy Drive. Call them in Indian Rocks at 596-1811 or visit [www.C21Beggins.com](http://www.C21Beggins.com).



**\$1.50 BOUTIQUE** Everything in the store is a dollar-fifty. Well, almost everything. \$1.50 Boutique is a new thrift shop near Indian Rocks Beach that opened in January. Most of their inventory is women's clothing and accessories. - all new, bought at auctions. Find them just across the bridge at 11650 Oakhurst Rd., behind Walgreens, next to Wendy's. Call them at 455-2117.

**CHEERS TO 688 LIQUORS** Owners of 688 Liquors, Tony and Vicki Niewiarowski will celebrate their store's 40th Anniversary in June. Tony and Vicki immigrated from Poland in 1964 and purchased the building (an A&W root beer franchise) on the corner of Walsingham Rd at Hamden Avenue in June of 1979. The store was remodeled in 1999 and today features over 30,000 bottles of wine, and more. Next time you stop in, tell them "Na Zdrowiel" - "Cheers" in Polish. Find 688 Discount Liquors at 14590 Walsingham Road. Call them at 596-8902 or just drop in.

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## CONGRATULATIONS DEANNE O'REILLY ON 25 YEARS AS INDIAN ROCKS BEACH'S CITY CLERK

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

This year marks Indian Rocks Beach's City Clerk Deanne O'Reilly's 25th year of service. She has been in her position through many Indian Rocks Beach Mayors, City Commissioners and even more City Managers.

The City Clerk is one of three positions - City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney - mandated by the City Charter. All three positions are hired by the City Commission and act independently of each other. They only answer to the Commission.

Our City Charter states the Office of the City Clerk is responsible for:

- Administering all municipal legislative processes
- Serves as custodian of all official City records and administering City-wide
- Records Management Program
- Provides open access to public records
- Provides research support to the City Commission and staff
- Coordinates municipal elections' administration
- Coordinates the City Commission and City Advisory Boards' agenda process
- Prepares the minutes and maintains an accurate record of the proceedings of the City Commission and Advisory Board Meetings
- Prepares all legal advertisements
- Oversees the codification of municipal ordinances
- Oversees Alcoholic Beverage Designation Licenses
- Performs administrative functions as specified per the City Charter and Florida Statutes

In the late 1980s, Paul Pillar had been the City Manager for a long time. For a short time, his City Clerk Dottie Cramer replaced him as the City Manager and Norma Celitano was hired to be the City Clerk. O'Reilly replaced Celitano.

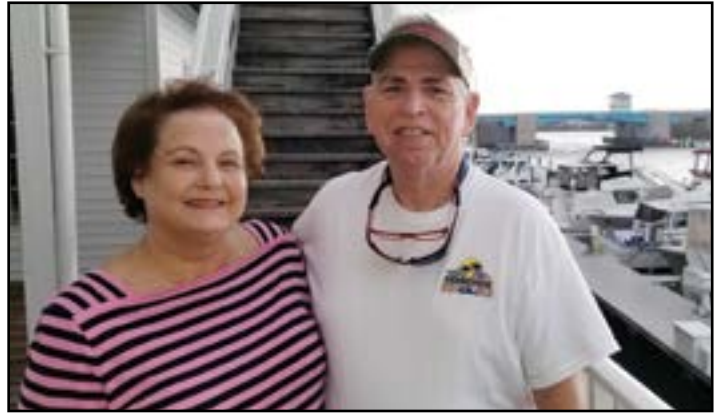
"When I first came here in February of 1994, there was no organization in the Clerk's office," remembers O'Reilly. "I found all the records in various boxes piled in a room. One of the primary responsibilities of any City Clerk is to preserve the City's history through its record keeping," she emphasizes.

O'Reilly was hired at the end of Mayor Jim Driscoll's term. A month after she was hired, Mayor Bob DiNicola was elected. She served through his five terms and since then, she has served with Mayors Bill Ockunzzi (1 1/2 terms), RB Johnson (5 terms) and now Cookie Kennedy (starting last year).

"Deanne and I have been friends for more than 25 years," says Past Mayor Bob DiNicola. "I worked with her before I was Mayor—as a Commissioner. She is a dedicated worker and should be cloned for other cities to have. She makes it all look easy while handling elections and other important City Clerk duties. I can say, without a doubt, she is the best City Clerk in Pinellas County."

Her first City Commission included Austin Campbell, Sandy Sullivan, Jean Scott and Larry Sandefer.

"Deanne was hired the same year I was sworn in as a City Commissioner – 1994," says Jean Scott. We worked together all of my years as a City Commissioner (1994 to 2000 and 2006 to 2007). She is a perfect example of what a City Clerk should be. I have always had great respect for Deanne and the job she does. I am so blessed to have her and her husband Jim as very good friends! Congratulations to Deanne and her great achievements!"



Deanne & Jim O'Reilly

Deanne has worked with almost more City Managers than she can count - Eric Meserve, Tom Brobeil, John Coffey, Al Grieshaber JR., Steve Cottrell, Danny Taylor (interim) Chuck Coward, and now Gregg Mims. There may be one or two others not worth remembering.

"Deanne is very efficient and well organized," says prior City Manager Chuck Coward (2009-2014). "If I ever needed any City or event information, she was my go-to person. Deanne was probably the best City Clerk that I worked with during my 40-year career in City Management."

Most importantly, The City Clerk Office is the custodian of the City's current and historical knowledge. It is the city's objective to receive, organize, maintain, preserve, and disseminate this knowledge.

"Deanne was the City Clerk during the entirety of my service on the commission—a total of 18 years," says RB Johnson, former Commissioner and Mayor. "What I most appreciated about her was that I never had to worry about missing a deadline, meeting or an event. She was always on top of all notifications and schedules for each and every commissioner. I found her to be consistently thorough and reliable, providing exactly the kind of stabilizing assistance an elected official needs when faced with the usual day-to-day pressures—and craziness—that comes with any high-profile job. She certainly made my tenure on the commission less stressful than it might have been. For that I will always be grateful."

O'Reilly, a true local, was born in St. Petersburg's St. Anthony's Hospital, went to Seminole High School, St Petersburg College, and USF/ St Pete. Today, she lives in Seminole with her husband Jim, Gulfport's City Manager. They have one daughter.

"Although we do not live in Indian Rocks Beach, we certainly enjoy Indian Rocks and its small-town atmosphere," O'Reilly explains. "We come here to eat, use the beach, and attend most of the events."

O'Reilly was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014. She was directed to have a double mastectomy and many rounds of chemotherapy. She is on a chemo maintenance program. And she still comes to work every day.

"I am a survivor!" O'Reilly declares. "I recommend that all women have their breast cancer check-ups annually to help detect problems early."

Congratulations! Thank you for twenty five years of great service and we hope to have you for many more.

## NATION'S FIRST UNDERWATER VETERANS DIVE MEMORIAL



The first statues for the nation's first underwater dive memorial honoring our veterans are expected to be lowered into place off the coast of Pinellas County in just a few weeks. Called "Circle of Heroes," the attraction will be located roughly 10-miles off the Pinellas County shore and eventually will include 24 different life-size concrete statues of men and women serving in the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.

"This underwater exhibit will honor our nation's heroes, while helping sustain marine life in our precious gulf waters as an artificial reef.

Its impact will be everlasting and our county and state are better for it," said former Congressman David Jolly, whose non-profit, Brighter Future Florida, is spearheading the campaign to complete the memorial.

The concrete statues, which stand 6-feet tall, will be placed in a 100-foot circle. A 4-foot high, 5,830-pound monument will be placed at the center of the memorial featuring 5 bronze emblems representing each of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The brainchild of St. Pete College instructor Dr. Heyward Mathews, Circle of Heroes will be located a quarter mile from the popular dive site Veterans Reef, about 40 feet below the surface of the water.

"This underwater memorial will not just honor our veterans, but it will also serve them," U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Bill Wilson of Clearwater said when the project was announced in 2018. "Diving trips to Circle of Heroes may be used in conjunction with sports therapy programs for disabled veterans struggling with PTSD, depression, trauma and other anxiety disorders."

To date, 12 of the 24 statues for the project have been purchased. Additional money from private and corporate donations and other sources is being sought to complete the underwater memorial.

If you are interested in sponsoring a statue or supporting the project, visit: [www.vetmemorial.org](http://www.vetmemorial.org)

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## DON'T BE STRANDED DUE TO LACK OF TRAILER MAINTENANCE

When is the last you had your trailer tires replaced, checked the trailer springs and repacked or replaced wheel bearings? Spring is a good time to do this as many trailers may have been sitting over the winter. Prepare now for your fun summer vacation.

Wheel bearings can be dry, have rust, or even weak or blown seals that will let water into the hub. Salt water is very corrosive to trailer brakes, springs and electrical wiring for the lights. Sealed trailer lights work the best for salt water areas. Water can deteriorate or even liquefy the grease in the bearing hub every time you back your boat trailer into the water, especially if the hub is warm after towing. Once this happens, the heat, weight, and friction can weld the bearing to the axle. Then, you may be looking at a complete axle replacement, not just a repair. Campers are no exception to the rule; they just don't have to be serviced as often as a boat due to the water.

Remember, bearing buddies do not always lube the inner bearing or remove the old grease. If a bearing failure happens on the road, a single-axle trailer can be a challenge to get home. Those dry rotted tires or a bad wheel bearing can very easily leave your boat or camper stranded on the side of the road. Regular maintenance can prevent that

To know more, stop by **C & E Goodyear** at 11901 Indian Rocks Rd. in Largo, or call **727-596-9551** for an appointment.



**“MADEIRA BEACH WALK”, A TOWNHOUSE OPPORTUNITY!**

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services



There is little opportunity today to be able to purchase a new “Key West” style townhouse within one block from the beach. Then too, the Madeira Beach Walk townhomes are fee simple ownership (no Condo Commandos or monthly association fees!!). These townhomes are elevated to FEMA standards and built to all the new Florida hurricane codes. Even better, these townhomes will be priced below \$495,000!

Announcing, “Madeira Beach Walk”, just one block from our beautiful sand beach of the Gulf Coast. These townhomes will have 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garages, and all updated cabinetry, granite, appliances, and new designs. Added benefits are that while purchasing a newly built townhome, homeowner insurance rates are considerably less due to being constructed under the latest hurricane codes, and of course, no high flood insurance to pay annually. Many families are no experiencing extremely high rates for just flood insurance due to federal changes in the FEMA requirements, sometimes \$10,000 to \$18,000 just for flood insurance annually! That’s a budget buster. However, that doesn’t apply to all new structures raised above designated FEMA elevations. Flood insurance for newly constructed homes built to FEMA standards is less than \$600 per year.

For many of the families that come by our model home in Madeira Beach, their main concern is being able to be within walking distance to the beach. That becomes even more important as we all witness the great increase in car traffic annually along Gulf

Blvd each year. Getting to the beach is becoming a marathon event, not to mention trying to find a parking space. Being just one short block from the beach makes the Florida lifestyle even more appreciated. And, it is just a modest walk to Johns Pass for all of the fun events, stores, and restaurants, while again not having to fight traffic or parking. Not bad!

I mentioned above that these townhomes will have fee simple ownership, not having to conform to stringent condominium laws. There is no association to worry about or the very high monthly fees that are always associated with condos. And best of all, if you are not quite ready to live full time in your new Madeira Beach Walk townhouse, the residential rental market is quite hot now. A family could lock in today’s price, receive rental income, and move in a few years from now when retirement becomes full time.

Is today a good time to buy? The market has an almost non-existent inventory of newly constructed townhouses designed with the Key West look today, and built to all new FEMA and building codes. Purchasing older inventory doesn’t make much sense when today’s new home product costs about the same. If you are possibly considering a Florida townhouse for now of future years, consider coming by our model to discuss that possibility.

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](mailto:tweisser@ghdcsi.com). Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at [www.GHDCoastalHomes.com](http://www.GHDCoastalHomes.com).



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## FISHING WITH MISTY, A REEL FUTURE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

At the risk of sounding sexist, you don't expect your fishing guide to be a woman. But Florida native Misty Wells is a fishing guide—and more. A resident of Belleair, Wells was born in Clearwater's Morton Plant Hospital.

After graduating from Clearwater High School, Wells started a hospitality career working with many Pinellas area hotels, as well as in Colorado. She eventually became the public relations and assistant manager at the St. Pete Beach Postcard Inn.

"A group of ladies organizing a women's fishing tournament came by to ask if we'd be a co-sponsor," Misty remembers. "The idea of fishing never crossed my mind but sounded really interesting. I personally entered the tournament and got 'hooked' immediately."

That led to lots of other outdoor sporting activities: hunting, diving, fishing, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

"I started writing about all my experiences," Misty explains. "I posted articles about my activities online, created videos and even started a blog. Currently, Wells writes a bi-weekly column that appears in the *Tampa Bay Times* and is also a contributor to publications including *Coastal Angler*, *Women's Outdoor Network*, *Onshore-Offshore Magazine*, *Sunseeker Magazine*, *the Florida Sportsman*, *Florida Sport Fishing*, *Guy Harvey's Online Fisherman*, *Woods N Water Magazine* and others."

Wells is also developing tv show called *Let's Take It Outside* which is part of the Tampa Bay Times web site. It covers everything from fishing, hunting, gator wrestling and diving to paddle boarding, rafting, race car driving, and even python hunting. Some of her televised work appears on the Discovery Channel, NBC Sports, and the World Fishing Network.

Now a National & International Tournament Director, Wells works with venues & locations all over the country creating fishing tournaments, and occasionally has a time to fish in one or two of them as well.

Wells has been appointed a member of the Advisory Council for the Florida Fishing Industry Council and interacts with Tallahassee and Washington on matters that affect the Florida waters and fishing.

Through those endeavors, she and Captain Tommy LaRouge created a youth-based, non-profit charity called "A Reel Future." It is focused on the next generation of outdoor men and women - targeting kids in group foster care. LaRouge is a professional yacht and charter captain based in Clearwater. He grew up in Pinellas County's foster care system - from age 6-18. Together, they have helped over 2,000 area children get to know and appreciate fishing.

"Our goal is to teach and inspire these foster children", Wells says. "We teach kids to turn off the electronics and enjoy nature."

As all organization, theirs is in need of donations, such as boats, tackle, fishing rods - and, of course, cash. Learn more about this local charity at [www.AReelFuture.com](http://www.AReelFuture.com).

You can reach Misty at 970-708-7997 or Captain Tommy LaRouge at 727-550-7759. Visit [www.MistyWells.com](http://www.MistyWells.com).

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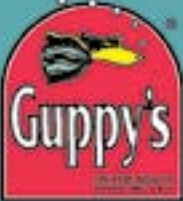
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## HURRICANE SEASON, RAINY SEASON, EVERY SEASON BRINGS FLOODING RISK

By Pinellas County Commissioner  
Karen Seel



We live in a beautiful place, with stunning white beaches and their foam-frosted waves to splash through on an afternoon walk, our sparkling blue lakes to romp and play on, dark and dense hardwood swamps to explore and hidden streams gurgling with the most relaxing sound to listen to from our porches at night. We're surrounded by beautiful water. It's our life blood here in Pinellas County.

Let's face it, though. Because of the beautiful water that surrounds us and the kind that falls from the sky in any season, we also live in a place that's susceptible to most every type of flooding.

There's low-lying area flooding from an afternoon thunderstorm, with its ability to fill your fenced-in backyard with rainwater so quickly you can't believe your eyes. There's riverine flooding, where that serene swamp or quiet trickling stream can fill with an unexpected heavy downpour and become a muddy rush headed straight for your home. And, there's flooding from a hurricane, with its unyielding rainfall and dangerous, powerful storm surge.

Do you think it can't happen to you? It did happen to the residents of the Panhandle last September.

You may not have seen the destruction left behind after Hurricane Michael, but I encourage you to read about the homes and businesses that were completely wiped away in Mexico Beach. It's this kind of devastation that flooding can create and that you need to prepare for.

Many in Mexico Beach now wish they had purchased low-cost, preferred-risk flood insurance policies which are available to property owners in designated low or moderate-risk flood zones. Homes just two blocks away from the beachfront qualified for these lower rate policies—currently \$480 per year—but, now, the homes are gone and the lives their owners led can never be recaptured. Only a street or the barest outline of a foundation is left to indicate they were ever there.

Could you financially recover from losing your home to storm surge or other flooding? Most can't.

This is why I am urging you to purchase flood insurance. Remember, homeowners insurance does not cover damage from floods. If you have a federally-backed mortgage and live in a high-risk area, known as a Special Flood Hazard Area, then you must carry a flood insurance policy.

Please take advantage of these preferred-rate policies if you live in a designated low or moderate-risk flood zone to protect yourself financially. Also, sign up for flood notifications from Alert Pinellas to protect yourself and your family. Visit

[www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas) for more details.

Don't let a flood change your life here in beautiful Pinellas County.

As always, please send me any of your comments or concerns. You can email me at [kseel@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org).



## SLYCE PIZZA BAR A SUPPORTER OF OUR COMMUNITY

By David Kline BCFP Director

Only eight short years ago, Indian Rocks Beach welcomed a new restaurant, however it certainly seems as though Slyce Pizza Bar has been here much longer. In June 2011, founders Jack Bennett, Suzanne Brown and Ken Gillespie envisioned a different type of pizza place - pizza (and many other great selections) with quality and style. Add to that a large patio, craft beer, wine and cocktails, and you have a perfect food and fun environment.



Jack Bennett and Suzanne Brown

Slyce's goal is to provide quality food, drinks and service in an upbeat atmosphere, where everyone feels like family. But great food, drink, and atmosphere is just their business side. Jack, Suzanne and Ken strongly felt if Slyce's relationship with IRB and surrounding communities was to prosper, they should also give back to the people in those communities.

In their early years, Slyce began supporting various non-profit groups, not only with food donations but also with monetary support. Here are examples of their strong support:

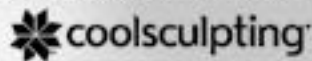
- A few years ago, Slyce offered to support the Beach Community Food Pantry with occasional donations. That soon evolved into monthly donations. On the first Monday of every month, Slyce donates 10% of their total daily sales to BCFP. They currently are the largest single BCFP donor. Slyce also donates food to BCFP during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you Slyce!
- The Brodey Sitton Foundation also benefits from Slyce's support. In 2012, Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Sitton gave his life in Afghanistan. Matthew left behind his wife and 9-month-old son Brodey, who needed help in Matthew's absence. The Sitton family is close friends with a Slyce founder, and in Matthew's honor, the "Sitton Supreme" pizza was created. Until he is 18, Slyce donates \$2 from each large Sitton Supreme to Brodey's foundation.
- The Love McKinely Organization works with Johns Hopkins All Children hospital to provide resources to families whose children are undergoing treatment for pediatric cancer, including McKinely. (McKinely's parents are long time friends of founder Jack). The Organization sponsors an annual golf tournament, attended by over 250 participants, and raises \$60,000. Slyce donates food for the pre-golf dinner.
- Philip Bryant Melanoma Foundation sponsors multiple fund raisers. This year, Slyce is their main golf tournament sponsor.
- Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach holds its annual Big Game Raffle Grand Prize drawing on Slyce's patio. Slyce donates appetizers during the 3-hour event.
- Slyce routinely participates in many events. You will see them at Action 2000's Oktoberfest', Calvary's Winterfest, Homeowners Taste of IRB, multiple charity golf tournaments, school and church functions and others.

In 2017, Slyce opened a second location in Madeira Beach that features the same quality menu, live music and weekly trivia - all with an incredible view of the Intracoastal!

The Beach Community Food Pantry salutes Slyce's owners and staff for their strong commitment to community involvement and support, especially to our mission of assisting those in our surrounding area who routinely struggle with food insecurity.

Thank you, Slyce!

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## HOW SAFE IS OUR SUNSCREEN FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT?



By Kathy L Anderson, DO, FAOCD

All of us living in Florida, know that we must be using a sunscreen to protect ourselves from sunburn. And, we have heard about all the damage that the sun, the UV rays, can cause to our skin from brown spots to premature aging, causing wrinkles and unfortunately to the development of skin cancers.

So, we buy sunscreen for ourselves and our children. We read the SPF labels, the water resistant claims and we purchase a product and apply faithfully. Sounds simple and safe, right? Well, unfortunately, many sunscreens, in fact MOST sunscreens are made with the chemicals oxybenzone (OXY) and octinoxate (OCT) which provide protection from the sun via a chemical reaction that inhibits the penetration of the UV rays. Why did I say 'unfortunately'? Because, these two ingredients are killing the coral reefs! These two ingredients do not dissolve in water and when a swimmer is wearing a sunscreen containing OXY/OCT, the sunscreen that washes off the persons' skin floats in the water and will eventually settle on the coral reef. This film coats the coral reef, essentially preventing the reef from absorbing the sun's rays, pretty much suffocating the reef, causing coral reef 'bleaching', which causes death of the reef. These products are directly affecting

our environment by destroying coral reefs which are necessary to maintain the ecology of our oceans. The living reefs support marine life that is essential for the ocean environment.

Now, Hawaii has banned all sunscreen products containing these two ingredients beginning in 2021. Key West has passed similar bans. Right now, in Tallahassee, there is a bill, that if passed, will ban OXY/OCT in sunscreen products for the entire state of Florida. And, here we are, living on Clearwater Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Oxybenzone and Octinoxate are relatively inexpensive ingredients which is why the manufacturers use them to chemically protect us from sun damage. These ingredients are also found in many cosmetics, as the FDA has claimed they are "safe" for humans. These two chemicals DO get absorbed into the skin and have been shown to affect the endocrine system as they "mimic" hormones in the body, and as some studies have shown can affect testosterone and estrogen. But, putting that aside for now (to be discussed later!), what options do we have that are safe for the environment, safe for our skin, will protect us from getting sun damage while we enjoy the beach, golf, boating, playing sports and basically living our lives in the beautiful state of Florida?

We can use mineral sunscreens!

Sunscreens containing zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. It is that simple! These minerals, come from the earth, they provide a physical block, to actually reflect the sun's rays off our bodies and do not get absorbed into our bodies, because the particle is too large (non-nano) and there is no chemical reaction on our skin. And, guess what? These ingredients DO NOT CAUSE CORAL REEF DEATH! So, why don't all sunscreens contain zinc oxide in enough percentage to provide a broad-spectrum SPF of 30, for instance, without adding the chemicals? Because it is a more expensive ingredient. You will see sunscreens with a low percentage of zinc oxide on the label, but read further...they still throw in the chemicals to achieve the SPF they want to reach, because it is a cheaper way to get the product on the market. Zinc Oxide alone, when used in the proper percentage can give Broad Spectrum protection, which means it protects against both the UVA and UVB rays and is safe for humans of all ages, safe for animals and safe for the coral reefs! The downside of zinc oxide sunscreens is that they can look 'white' on the skin if too much is used, and the sunscreen will cost a little more. So, don't apply too much of your favorite zinc oxide sunscreen and paying a little more just might be cost effective in the big picture! You can enjoy yourself, not get a nasty sunburn while you enjoy golf for 4 hours or ride your jet ski out to the island or watch your son or daughter play soccer. And, avoiding sun damage will reduce the need for doctor visits to treat sun burn and skin lesions that appear as a consequence of too much UVA and UVB.

Using a sunscreen with only Zinc Oxide or a sunscreen with a combination of Zinc Oxide and Titanium Dioxide will provide complete sun protection and WILL NOT HARM THE CORAL REEFS!

A person can choose what product to buy, for whatever personal reason. That is their choice, But, when a product is shown to have a permanent, harmful effect on the environment, there must be awareness and social responsibility. This is why law makers are looking at this seriously and passing laws, to protect the ocean.

Please, the next time you buy your sunscreen before you head to beautiful Clearwater beach, read the label completely. Know that your decision of what to put on to protect yourself will impact the marine life that we cherish and enjoy in many ways. This is a serious issue that will affect the world our children live in years from now. Protect our Coral Reefs and use our knowledge to protect ourselves as we enjoy our beautiful beaches in the State of Florida.

*Dr. Anderson has been practicing Dermatology since 1995 and has been in the Tampa Bay area since 1999. Dr. Anderson has been practicing dermatology in downtown Clearwater for 13 years, specializing in Cosmetic and Medical Dermatology.*



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## Organizational News...

### GREENTOWN KIDS

*Submitted Allie DeVore*

Looking for more opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy our community with the whole family? We have plenty to choose from! In March, GreenTown Kids helped the City put on the Great American Cleanup. 124 volunteers, and kids of all ages showed up and cleaned up 84 lbs. of trash from the beach, accesses, county park, and Gulf Blvd. In the IRB Community Garden, our greenies planted an avocado tree for all to enjoy. At Church of the Isles' Greenfest, where kids made seed bombs and clothespin critters and played in our Nature Nook.

In April, we held an Earth Day Celebration, by planting a Yellow Tabebuia Tree in the 10th Avenue Park and learned about the importance of trees in our environment. Thanks to our event partners, Action 2000, Wilcox Nursery, 18 on the Rocks, and the City of Indian Rocks Beach. We finished April with the biggest beach party at Beachfest! GreenTown Kids managed Eco Village, where we had fun kids activities and eco-vendors on the beach all day. Huge thank you to the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowner's Association for their support and generous grant!

Mark your calendars for May and June:

- May 11: Florida Botanical Gardens - Largo (11am); Scavenger Hunt & picnic.
- May 22: Bee Member Meeting - IRB Nature Preserve (6pm); Learning all about our buzzing friends and sampling honey from Becky, a local bee farmer at A Bees Place.
- June 8: World Oceans Day - World Oceans Day Event, followed by a fun evening out in St. Pete.
- June 26: Water Conservation Member Meeting - IRB City Hall (6pm)
- Summer Challenge - "Ocean Friendly IRB": We're challenging all IRB restaurants to become "Ocean Friendly" as designated by the Surfrider Foundation. More details to come.

We're proud to have reached 100 members! Our Family Annual Memberships are just \$20. Join the fun and make a difference! Know a family who would like to join, but can't afford the fee? We're proud to offer FREE memberships to our neighbors in need. Please send us an email to nominate them. Email: greentownkids@gmail.com; greentownkids.org; and follow us on Facebook @GreenTown Kids.

### FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

*Submitted Michelle Gardner*

Mayor Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy swore in the 2019-2020 Friends of Indian Rocks Beach Library Board Members at its annual meeting held Tuesday April 2 at the Indian Rocks Beach Historical Society Museum. Also on hand for the ceremony were Vice Mayor / Commissioner Ed Hoofnagle and former IRB Mayor, R.B. Johnson, along with the Friends of Indian Rocks Beach Library members.

New Board Members for 2019-2020 are: President-Jean Scott, Vice President-Julie Gomes, Secretary-Eleanor Barnett, Treasurers-Michelle Gardner and June Reece, and Directors at Large-Joe Gillespie, Pat Maleski, Cathy Nicklaus, and GeorgeAnn Thompson.

The Friends of Indian Rocks Beach Library organization promotes the library facilities, summer reading programs, special events, as well as provides volunteer personnel to staff the library and supports the librarian.

We invite you to become a "Friend" to help support this vibrant and invaluable community resource.

Please visit us in person at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd. next to City Hall or at [www.indian-rocks-beach.com/irb\\_library.php](http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com/irb_library.php).

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# Organizational News...

## IRB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Joe McCall

The HOA Monthly Community Socials are FREE and are held on the second Thursday of each month from 6pm – 7:30pm. Watch irbhome.com or the IRB Homeowners Facebook page for event announcements! Catch up on what's going on in town.

This year's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the IRB HOA and the City of IRB was once again a huge success! Roughly 300 children hunted for over 3,500 hidden eggs throughout the nature park on Saturday, April 20th. Children and adults danced to and enjoyed music by the charismatic DJ, CJ Rocks. There were lots of games, great prizes, balloon animals, yummy snacks and, of course the enthusiastic Easter Bunny, sponsored by Century 21 Beggins! Thanks to everyone who came out and all our volunteers!

Beachfest 2019 was another great year. This event was full of fun, sun, music, food and drink. Our partnership with the City allows us to provide a great event and raise funds for our local community.

With the community's support the HOA recently approved contributions to: Pinellas Hope, Spring City of IRB Luncheon and; IRB Flag Retirement Ceremony. IRB Beach Food Pantry, Greentown Kids, City of IRB Keegan Clair Park Volleyball court

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

*Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation to promote community unity. Our mission is to unite residents and businesses for the preservation, beautification and enjoyment of our small beach community. To accomplish this mission we provide opportunities for residents and local businesses to meet and get better acquainted in a friendly and informal manner during adult and family social events throughout the year. All proceeds generated by our major annual events help fund worthwhile projects and causes that directly benefit our city.*

## ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH (A2K)

Submitted by Julie Hoofnagle

Over 150 guests joined us for the A2K 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala aboard the beautiful StarLite Majesty on May 1st. The night was filled with inspiring moments as we awarded our annual preservation awards to Terry Fouse, owner of the colorful cottages on 8th Ave and Cookie Kennedy for her mixed-use Key West-style property on 2nd St. A special award was presented for the coveted IRB Star Award. Julie Hoofnagle, President of A2K, shared highlights of past 20 years and plans were unveiled for the project recipient of the gala proceeds - the upgrade of the Kolb Park Gazebo. Couldn't make the event but want to donate to this special place? Go to <https://www.irbaction2000.com/kolb-park-gazebo-upgrade>.

On April 13th, A2K volunteers dedicated time and efforts to do a good spring cleaning at the 12th Avenue Park. All the park bollards were refitted with new nautical style rope. After weeding and trimming and adding new plant material, the group put down crushed shell mulch for the pathways and pine bark mulch for the garden beds for a beautiful finishing touch.

The Oktoberfest Festival is coming! The event is scheduled for October 12th at Kolb Park from 11am – 7pm. We are seeking sponsors, vendors and silent auction donations for our 18th annual fall festival. For more information go to [oktoberfestonthebeach.com](http://oktoberfestonthebeach.com) or contact Oktoberfest Chair, Edward Hoofnagle at [edhoofnagle@gmail.com](mailto:edhoofnagle@gmail.com).

Want to learn get involved in the community and meet some great people? Join us the second Monday of the month at 6:30 at the Beach Arts Center. Check out [www.irbaction2000.com](http://www.irbaction2000.com) and follow us on Facebook Action2000IRB to get all of our event information.

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# Organizational News...



**Clearwater Beach Taste Fest**  
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## CHURCH OF THE ISLES UCC

Submitted by Marty Synnott

IRB Greenfest was quite a day at Church of the Isles! We invited all our friends and neighbors to help us celebrate this wonderful earth we have been given and to learn how to take care of it. They came, they smiled, they bought all our cookies(!), they ate delicious food and had great beer and wine (thanks to Crabby Bill's and 18 on the Rocks), they walked the field and visited and learned about our local non-profit organizations and bought from our many vendors – it really was a great day!!



We are very grateful for the generous sponsorships and the volunteers from our wonderful IRB businesses and community groups. Church of the Isles is so blessed to be a part of this amazing community. THANK YOU!!

We are having another celebration on Sunday, May 5, and you are all invited to join us. Following our 10 am worship service we will be re-dedicating our beautiful new Garden of Memories at the corner of 25th and Bay. We are very proud of the design and native plantings provided by Wilcox Nurseries.

AND right after that we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Beach Community Thrift Store and honor the people who started it and the wonderful volunteers who keep it going and built it up to be the go-to place for IRB and beyond to Recycle, Reuse and Re-Imagine!

Church of the Isles is dressing up and stepping out into the community, and we're having a great time!

## SHIPWATCH YACHT AND TENNIS CLUB

Submitted by Victoria Tuller

Just south of Walsingham Road and east of the Intracoastal is Shipwatch Yacht and Tennis Club, a hidden gem of the community. Sporting an old Florida atmosphere, the facilities include 11 clay courts, with three lighted for night play, an excellent tennis pro with two assistants offering private and semi-private lessons and clinics for all levels and the on site Shipwatch Grill. The Grill, located at the clubhouse, offers lunch and dinner in a casual atmosphere.



Players in the Club's championship tournament. The Club is open to the public.

Shipwatch Tennis offers play at all levels including local leagues and USTA leagues. Member activities include regular tennis mixers, an annual club championship and social events. In addition, March features an International Tournament, a tribute to our many members from other countries.

Continuing a 30-year tradition, Shipwatch hosts U.S. Tennis Association (USTA), Pinellas Area Doubles League (PADL), Suncoast Tennis League, and players from all over the country and world. The current head teaching professional is a well-known former WTA player.

The tennis club is open to the public for membership. Courts are available from 8:30 am to noon and 2 to 9 pm. Seasonal and full-year memberships are available. For vacationers, daily memberships offer a pay-as-you play option. Call the Pro Shop for membership information (727-596-6862).



**Belleair Rotary Club**  
13th Annual

**Wine & Tapas Extravaganza**

May 13, 2019  
6 - 9 pm

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Wine sponsored by Bella Vino  
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# Organizational News...

## INDIAN ROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submitted Terry Hamilton Wollin

The Indian Rocks Historical Society ended its 3-part winter series, "History on the Rocks" with a standing room only audience at City Hall. Already at work on the summer program, as well as next winter's "History on the Rocks", the Society welcomes suggestions at [info@irbmuseum.com](mailto:info@irbmuseum.com). All Society programs are free and open to the public.

The Society's spring pot-luck has been rescheduled to May 4. at the History Museum, corner of 4th Avenue and 2nd Street. The doors open at 11:30, lunch is served at noon. Our speaker will be Cathy Salustri, author of "Backroads to Paradise." Everyone is welcome and asked to bring a dish to share.

DO NOT PARK in the Post Office parking lot even if they are closed. They will tow your car.

## THE BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Barbara Parker

Safe Travels to All our Winter Friends! Thank you for a great winter and we will see you next fall! Stay connected with us while away - visit our social media sites like Face Book and Instagram to keep up with what's going on. Keep up with all the exciting growth, as we continue to expand our services and engage in special events and projects at the center and with-in the city. Check our website at [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org).

Creative Kids Camp - Video Game Detox Begins June 3rd. Back by popular demand for the Summer of 2019. For 9 weeks, from June 3rd to August 9th, campers will alternate working in our gallery space and pottery studio, learning about the style of famous artists and applying that to their work in clay, watercolors, pastels, mixed media and more. The price remains the same as last year: Full-day sessions \$200/week (Members \$185) and Half-day sessions \$100/week (Members \$92.50). Camp scholarship opportunities available through 1) Creative Pinellas Arts Catalyst Grant and 2) The Beach Art Center. Applicants must meet certain criteria and will need to apply prior to May 31st. Qualified applicants will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Classes - We will be open all summer. A few upcoming highlights...

- Limited Series – Classes offered for generally four weeks sessions building on the next. Upcoming are "Pastel Techniques" in May and "Absolute Beginners" in June, both taught by Shawn Dell Joyce, the founder and former executive director of a nonprofit plein air school in NY.
- Art on the Rocks – Single class session, offered 6-9pm. All materials and instruction are included, and you leave with a completed project. Upcoming sessions include
- May 3rd, "Bling your Bird Encore" with Roberta Romeo. A variety of bird forms and blinging material provided, but bring your own if you have favorite bling things. (Repurpose your old costume jewelry)
- May 22nd, Weathered Wood Sign. Join Shawn to create a weathered wood sign of your choice of "Mermaid Kisses & Starfish Wishes" OR "Welcome to the Beach".
- June 15th, "Seashell Encrusted Picture Frame". Get ready for Father's Day or just enjoy an evening with Shawn Dell Joyce. Mom's (or Dad) you can bring a child for free.

Go to our website [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org) for more information on these and other events at the art center.

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Dale Chihuly Persian Ceiling (detail)  
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