

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

Magazine

## RUTH KIRBY - ED WRIGHT'S SECRETARY & LIFELONG COMPANION



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

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

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

*Continued on page 7*

### Also in this Issue:

#### Florida Holocaust Museum's founder passes away.

The Museum was Walter Loebenberg's vision - **page 18**

#### Drownings

Over 40 states have less drownings than Pinellas County. Why? - **page 10**

#### Sugar Sand Returns to Clearwater Beach

The festival celebrating the beach is April 12 - 28. Come see what artists can do with more than 1,000 tons of white Clearwater Beach sand - **page 16**

#### Meet Silas Beach

Pinellas County's resident tropical artist whose art features beach and wildlife themes - **page 20**





This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to occupied residence and business in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Harbor Bluffs, and part of Largo. We are not officially associated with any city government.

**PUBLISHER**

Bob & Becky Griffin

**ART DIRECTION**

Becky Griffin

**SALES**

727-430-8300

**CONTACT INFO**

P.O. Box 1314

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

430-8300 ~ 517-1998 FAX

**BeachNewsletters.com**

If you are interested in advertising, we offer resident, multi-city and annual discounts. Ads need to be reserved one month in advance.

E-mail: bob@griffindirectories.com or visit beachnewsletters.com for more information.

© 2019 Griffin Productions, Inc.

**BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is about your neighborhood. It is mailed to the entire Belleair Area - a total of about 8,000 households - six times a year.

Do you need another copy of this newsletter. You may pick up additional copies of this newsletter at all City Halls, Panara Bread, UPS Store and the Belleair Market. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few.

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

Thank you for reading, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300 bob@griffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN JUNE**

**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS**

www.belleairbluffs.org  
2747 Sunset Blvd City Hall: 584-2151  
Fire Dept: 587-6714  
Sheriff: 582-6200

MAYOR - Chris Arbutine, Sr

COMMISSIONERS — Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer  
Jack Nazario • Taylour Shimkus

**CITY OF BELLEAIR BEACH**

www.cityofbelleairbeach.com  
444 Causeway Blvd City Hall: 595-4646  
Fire Dept: 595-1117  
Sheriff: 582-6200

MAYOR - Leslie Notaro

COMMISSIONERS — Wanda Schwerer  
Nicolas Pavouris, Vice Mayor • John Pietrowski • Marv Behm • Glenn Gunn  
Jody Shirley

**TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORE**

www.belleairshore.com  
1200 Gulf Blvd, Belleair Shore 593-9296  
Fire Dept: 595-1117  
Sheriff: 582-6200

Mayor: Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.

COMMISSIONERS — Ray Piscitelli  
Dorothy Niewlarowski • Deborah Roseman, Vice Mayor • Ray Piscitelli  
Steve Bloom

**TOWN OF BELLEAIR** TownofBelleair.com

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair 588-3769  
Public Works: 588-3795  
Police Dept: 588-3769

MAYOR - Gary H. Katica

COMMISSIONERS — Michael Wilkinson  
Karla Rettstatt Deputy Mayor  
Tom Shelly • Tom Kurey

**CITY OF LARGO** www.Largo.com

201 Highland Ave, Info: 587-6700  
Fire Dept: 587-6714  
Police: 586-7427

MAYOR - Woody Brown

VICE MAYOR - Curtis Holmes  
COMMISSIONERS — Michael Smith  
John Carroll • James Robinson  
Samantha Fenger • Donna Holck

**SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES** 582-6200

**SHERIFF DISPATCH** 582-6177

**DUKE POWER** 443-2641

**SPECTRUM CABLE** 329-5020

**BELLEAIR REC CENTER** 518-3728

**BELLEAIR FINE ARTS SOCIETY** 934-4304

**BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB** 585-9633

**BELLEAIR BRIDGE GROUP** 669-5283

**BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB**

JoAnn Bruner 544-4433 x222

**BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB**

President 595-1791

**BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB**

Marjorie Rose 238-8691

**BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB**

Laura Katz, President 735-7574

**BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB**

Lois O'Donnell 595-1349

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Bonnie Trembulak 686-8797

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB** 316-5504

**CLEARWATER SAILING** 517-7776

-----  
**PINELLAS COUNTY INFO** 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

**STATE:**

Senator Ed Hooper, 727-771-2102

Republican, District 16

3450 East Lake Road Ste 305, Palm Harbor

Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov

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

Rick Scott . . . . . 202-224-5274

www.RickScott.Senate.gov

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Charlie Crist . . . . . 202-225-5961

696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete

www.Crist.House.Gov

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL**

Arbor Day	26	Arbor Day	26
Largo Movies In The Park	5	Clearwater Blast Friday	26
Belleair Beach City Garage Sale	6	IRB Beach Fest	27
Rotary Runs the Beach	6	Adopt A Shelter Pet Day	30
Apollo 13 Concert Calvary Episcopal	6	<b>MAY</b>	
Free Shredding Belleair's Solid Waste	6	Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins	1
IRB City Garage Sale	6-7	Clearwater Beach Taste Fest	3
Iron Girl Sand Key	7	Kentucky Derby	4
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	11	Ramadan Begins	5
Largo Movies In The Park	12	Florida Botanical Area Gardens Tour	5
Sugar Sands Festival	12-28	RCS Annual Golf Tournament	6
Paw Fest Central Park	13	Teacher Appreciation Week	6-10
Heritage Village Lecture Series	14	Belleair Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	9
Federal Income Taxes Due	15	Postal Workers Food Drive	11
Public Schools Closed	19	Mother's Day	12
Good Friday	19	Rotary Wine & Tapas Fest	13
Spring Fest Town of Belleair	20	Stone Crab Season Ends	15
Main Sail Art Festival Vinoy Park	20-21	Hands Across The Sands	18
Easter	21	Belleair Family Golf Tournament	18
Dyngus Day	22	Memorial Day	27
Earth Day	22	Public Schools Close for Summer	29
Administrative Professional Day	24	Clearwater Blast Friday	31



## WHO IS GHD CONSTRUCTION SERVICES?



By Tom Smith  
Owner of GHD Construction Services

Sometimes companies tend to take things for granted, and aren't really empathic enough to realize that people are wondering about family owned businesses like GHD Construction Services. Maybe it's not that important when buying clothes or food from a local store, but after numerous customers kept inquiring about our company history, I thought I'd take this time to shed some

light on our company. After all, when trusting a contractor with the large dollars needed for a new home to be constructed, it is very important to feel safe with that investment.

GHD Construction Services, Inc., begun as an "American Dream" of Tom Smith over 48 years ago, has constructed over 6,500 quality homes for families in Florida since 1971. After receiving an economics degree from the University of Florida in 1970, Tom began his homebuilding career in Pasco County, and now GHD is being continued under the leadership of the second generation, with son Brian at the helm. Brian also attended and graduated from UF with a finance degree, and has steadily and conservatively grown GHD over the past few years. Aside from the GHD homes along the Pinellas Beaches, under Brian's leadership GHD has become one of the largest producers of quality affordable apartments in the State of Florida, serving veterans and lesser income Americans. Providing safe and sanitary housing for families in need, is an integral part of GHD's business plan to give back to those that served our great nation.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. is now branded as "GHD Coastal Homes" for our new waterfront home designs. In visiting the GHD model home, customers realize the Key West theme that resonates so well for our beach communities. Due to the volume of construction that GHD produces annually, and all the lessons learned from providing affordable housing, it became evident that quality affordable housing can be achieved for all price points of residential homes. With that in mind, GHD has developed home designs for the Pinellas beaches that do not break the budget of those wanting a new home, either on the water or an interior lot in the Pinellas beach communities. GHD customers range from snowbirds now deciding to own a new home in Florida as a second home, to the many that already own homes here, but want a replacement upgrade on their existing home. For those families, GHD provides all the services necessary to demo their existing home, and work with designing a new home that fits their budget, then permitting and constructing their new home. GHD prides itself in being a "One Stop Construction Company", providing architectural services, permitting, design, and home construction, from start to finish, for customers to realize the enjoyment of a new Florida home with all of today's bells & whistles.

As a family owned business, we are very proud of what we have achieved in serving these thousands of Florida families.

*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).*



WATERFRONT LIVING

Luxury coastal living takes on a whole new meaning when you build with GHD Coastal Homes. We specialize in building affordable luxury homes along the coastal beach towns of Pinellas County.

Your original Design-Build custom home builder for almost five decades. We are committed to providing you with a home that is exclusively yours and with an unsurpassed quality you should expect.



**SHOWCASE HOME OPEN DAILY: 239 144th Avenue, Madeira Beach, FL 33785**

Custom Single-family and Townhome Coastal Living  
New Homes from low \$300,000s to over \$2 million\*  
Your Design or Ours | Your Lot or Ours



a division of



**Building Affordable Luxury Since 1971**

\* Prices exclude lot and subject to change without notice. Broker Participation Welcome.

**GHDCoastalHomes.com**

**727-954-8345**



Your Full Service Plumber in Pinellas

SINCE 1951

# CLEARWATER PLUMBING

INC.

**Service is our Salesman**

Save flooring and landscaping - ask about pipe relining

Quality materials & workmanship for all jobs big or small!

follow us on Facebook

**\$13 OFF ANY SERVICE**  
limit one per customer

Residential Commercial Industrial

**Water Heater Experts!**

www.clearwaterplumbingonline.com

409 N. Ft. Harrison - 727.446.8355

# Did You Know

**READING FOR LITERACY WEEK** Belleair police chief Rick Doyle read to the children at Belleair Montessori Academy for February's Literacy Week. This was his first time reading to the children since Chief Bill Sohl retired, and he did a great job! Going forward, Chief Doyle will be reading a book every month to the children.



**POSTAL WORKERS** May 11, your local mail carrier will pick up donated food you leave at your mailbox and deliver it to nearby food banks. The food collected on Belleair Beach goes to the Beaches Food Pantry in Indian Rocks Beach. The food collected in Belleair Bluffs and Town of Belleair will go to RCS in Clearwater. All of the food will then be distributed to those who need it.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** St. Anthony's Triathlon, which has been selected as the 2019 Southeast Olympic-Distance and Paratriathlon Regional Championship Race, is calling for volunteers to help at the 36th annual St. Anthony's Triathlon weekend, to be held April 26-28, 2019. Approximately 1,000 volunteers are needed to assist the 3,500 athletes who will swim, bike, and run along St. Petersburg's waterfront course. Volunteers will assist at areas including: Athlete check-in, Meek & Mighty, bike check-in, finish-line duty, athlete body marking, water stations, transition areas, and merchandise sales.

Sign up online at [satriathlon.com/volunteer-information/](http://satriathlon.com/volunteer-information/) where you can specify your desired task.

**NATIONAL BEER DAY** Sunday, April 7th is National Beer Day. It marks the day the Cullen-Harrison Act was enacted after having been signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 22, 1933. The act allowed people to buy, sell and drink beer containing up to 3.2% alcohol. People across the country gathered outside breweries, some as early as the night before. That first day, 1.5 million barrels of beer were consumed.

Almost every bar and restaurant sells beer, but Pinellas County has become a mecca for craft beer companies. Visit St. Pete / Clearwater publishes a list of all Pinellas County Craft Beer breweries. Download the list at [VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://VisitStPeteClearwater.com) and go celebrate



## Teeing Off a Financial Plan... Or Already on the Back Nine?


*A Personal Game Plan for You and Your Family*

**FOR YOUR STAGE OF LIFE:**

- Asset Allocation & Portfolio Review
- Tax & Investment Planning
- Retirement Plan Rollovers
- Retirement Income & Cash Flow Options
- Annuity, Insurance, & Long Term Care
- Estate Planning
- Business Capital Needs Solutions
- Wealth Accumulation
- Wealth Protection
- Wealth Distribution

Elizabeth (Liza) Campa-Flanagan  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™  
Certified Investment Management Analyst™

**RAYMOND JAMES®**  
RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.  
Member FINRA/SIPC  
645 N. Indian Rocks Road Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
Phone (727) 585-1212 • Fax (727) 584-7624  
Email: [liza.campaflanagan@raymondjames.com](mailto:liza.campaflanagan@raymondjames.com)





# and More...



**SPRINGFEST & ARBOR DAY**

The celebration, Saturday, April 20 from 10am to 12pm, is a free, family event for all ages that includes an egg hunt, egg coloring, visits with the Easter Bunny, plant giveaways, touch-a-truck, crafts and more!

For additional information, visit [www.belleairrec.com](http://www.belleairrec.com).

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED** People are need to help at McGough Park during daily activities and for special events. They especially need help setting up tables, handing out food, directing parking, and other things during events like the Family Picnic in March and the Eco-Fest in April. Contact Kyle Vogel, Nature Park Specialist, 518-3047.

**PAWFEST** Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Largo, Pawfest aims to provide children and families an opportunity to have some fun with the family pet and demonstrates the remarkable capabilities of our pets. It also heightens children's awareness of the love and care pets require. All this fun will take place April 13, 10 am - 3 pm in Largo Central Park, which for the day will become the Dog House Village with The Activity Midway, The Art House, The Doggy Mall, and The Bark Café.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** The Town of Belleair is once again hosting the Belleair Family Golf Tournament, to be held May 18, at the Belleair Country Club. There will be two tournament styles to choose from: 18-hole scramble and a 9-hole adult and junior tournament. Contact the Rec Dept. at 518-3728 or visit [www.BelleairRec.com](http://www.BelleairRec.com) to play and for more information

**GIVING BACK** For the third year, the students and faculty of Country Day School held a food drive for the Beach Community Food Pantry. More than 40 boxes of non-perishable food products were collected.

**BLAST FRIDAY WINDING DOWN FOR SUMMER** This fun, monthly street party is held on the last Friday of the month in downtown Clearwater on Cleveland Street beginning at 5:30pm. It is free or you can buy VIP seating tickets for \$49 each. Only two more remain before the summer break. Here is the list of upcoming bands:

April 26, Gregg Billings, Ronnie Dee and the Superstars  
 May 31, Mark Farnar

**SHREDDING EVENT**

April 6 the Town of Belleair, is offering FREE document shredding at the John Osborne Public Works Building at 1075 Ponce de Leon Blvd, just east of the City's Soccer Fields. The Town's employees will do the shredding for you. You are limited to five boxes of paper per resident. Proof of residency is required. Visit [www.TownofBelleair.com/shredding](http://www.TownofBelleair.com/shredding) or call 588-3795 for more information.



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

**Kathy L. Anderson, DO, FAOCD**  
 Board Certified Dermatologist  
 Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology

**Introducing NovaThreads®**  
 for a rejuvenating instant face and neck lift using NovaThreads® Technology | [www.novathreads.com](http://www.novathreads.com)

Call today for a consultation.  
**(727) 462-5242**

- Radiesse®
- Restylane®/Juvederm®
- Botox® Xeomin®
- Photofacial (IPL)
- PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma)
- Microdermabrasion
- Chemical Peels

Treatment of: Skin, Hair & Nails

Over 20 Years Experience in Dermatology  
 Trust Your Skin to a Board Certified Dermatologist

510 Druid Road East, Suite A ☒ Clearwater, FL 33756  
[www.drkathyandersondo.com](http://www.drkathyandersondo.com)

**MEAL DEALS**  
 FLAVOR THAT FITS ANY BUDGET

<b>\$5</b> Small 2-Topping Pizza	<b>\$10</b> Large 1-Topping Pizza with Reg. 3 Cheeser Bread
<b>\$15</b> Medium Specialty Pizza Plus Medium 2-Topping Pizza	<b>\$20</b> 3 Large Cheese or Pepperoni Pizzas

ORDER ONLINE [HUNGRYHOWIES.COM](http://HUNGRYHOWIES.COM) WE DELIVER!

**Hungry Howie's**  
 FLAVORED CRUST. PIZZA

LARGO (WALSINGHAM)  
 14219 West Walsingham #V Walsingham Village Plaza  
**727-596-1400**





Beach season  
is back...  
Let us help you  
look and feel your best!

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY with  
**DR. TREVOR F. QUICK**  
AND THE STAFF AT



RESTORATIVE, COSMETIC & IMPLANT DENTISTRY

(727) 518-2333 | 2600 West Bay Drive, Largo [belleairdental.com](http://belleairdental.com)




**Ladies Apparel  
& Accessories**




**400 INDIAN ROCKS RD. N.  
SUITE B | 727-595-8700  
BELLEAIR BLUFFS**

*Simple*

[www.PREMIEREGULFCOASTPROPERTIES.COM](http://www.PREMIEREGULFCOASTPROPERTIES.COM)



**CRYSTAL BEACH, FL**

1 Block to the Gulf of Mexico! 3-story home with 3 beds/3 baths. Brand new chef's kitchen, bathroom and wood flooring. 2 car, bonus room & bath on lower level. Offered at \$449,000 [www.505Mayo.com](http://www.505Mayo.com)



**DUNEDIN, FL**

Waterfront Condo, with sparkling water views and glorious sunsets, on the Dunedin Causeway. 2 bed/2 bath. 1,480 sq. ft. Offered at \$519,000. [www.GaryCircle406.com](http://www.GaryCircle406.com)



**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FL**

Brand New Gulf Front Luxury home on the sands of IRB. 3,311sf with elevator. Oversized 4 car garage with A/C. Gorgeous views! Beyond Perfection! Offered at \$3,350,000. [www.1102BeachTrail.com](http://www.1102BeachTrail.com)



**SCOTT FERGUSON**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE, GRI, SRS, RSPS, MRP  
727.744.0993  
[SCOTT@FERGUSONPGP.COM](mailto:SCOTT@FERGUSONPGP.COM)

## Scott & Amy Ferguson



**AMY FERGUSON**  
REAL ESTATE ADVISOR, GRI, RSPS, MRP, CIPS  
727.644.1254  
[AMY@FERGUSONPGP.COM](mailto:AMY@FERGUSONPGP.COM)




# RUTH KIRBY, Continued

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

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

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

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

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



*Ruth Kirby and Ed Wright*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Ruth Kirby shortly after Wright's death*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Pyramid Realty**  
 203 N. Indian Rocks Rd. ~ Belleair Bluffs

*Serving all of Pinellas County*

Family Owned and  
 Operated since 1977

**Kim Deetz**  
**727.559.9800**

PyramidRealtySellsFLRealEstate.com

**Bluffs Animal Hospital**

*Serving the beach communities for more than 50 years*



- No Appointments Necessary - Walk-in as needed!
- Exams, digital x-ray, dentistry, digital dental x-ray, surgery, in-house labs, boarding, grooming & more
  - Easy online re-orders for medications & food
  - Drop-off exams available for established clients

320 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs  
 Hours: 7am-5:30pm M-F, 7am-12pm Sat.  
*(Doctors begin seeing patients at 8am)*  
 P: 727-585-5682 F: 727-585-0525  
 Email: info@bluffsanimal.com  
 www.BluffsAnimal.com

Donald Morgan, DVM  
 Guy Gibson, DVM  
 Douglas Spiker, DVM  
 Kristin Heatherly, DVM  
 Patricia Futoma, DVM  
 Patrick Brady, DVM

*Proudly Serving You For 30 Years!*

**Courtesy shuttle within 3 miles of the shop**



**Michael K. Schulz, Owner**

Bosch Authorized Service

**German Imports Corporation**  
 European Service Since 1976

**14286 Walsingham Rd. Largo**  
**727.596.1374**

**DON'T RETIRE...REWIRE™**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



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

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

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

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

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

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

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
 ProVise Management Group, LLC  
 611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756  
 727-441-9022, info@proviser.com

*The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.*



Securities offered through Kestra Investment Services, LLC (Kestra IS), member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services may be offered through Kestra Advisory Services, LLC (Kestra AS), an affiliate of Kestra IS, or ProVise Management Group, LLC. Kestra IS and Kestra AS are affiliated with ProVise Management Group, LLC.





## THE NEW PELICAN GOLF COURSE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The Town of Belleair’s newly remodeled, yet historic, Pelican Golf Course is open for play—to members. It opened in February. The clubhouse though is still under construction.

The Pelican is a private 18-hole, par 70 course at 7,000 yards. The original course, built in the 1920s, was also called The Pelican. Over the years it was eventually changed to the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club, but during the restoration and renovations, the name again returned to The Pelican Golf Club.

Belleair resident Dan Boyle, Jr bought the club in 2017. He hired Beau Welling of the Beau Welling Design headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina to redesign the course. The firm is famous for golf course designs all over the United States. Construction began right after July 4, 2017

“The Pelican has truly been an exciting project,” says Beau Welling. “We have had the opportunity to create a modern interpretation of a Golden Age golf course. The course is set in a beautiful park-like setting in Belleair that we have updated. Our primary focus has been on recreating many classic stylistic elements while increasing overall strategy and playability. We want to make it both challenging and fun.”

One big change is the grass. The Pelican is one of the first Florida golf courses to use Latitude 36 Bermuda grass. The dense, fine-blade turf allows the course to keep its vibrant green color during the winter months and is on all the fairways. The turf will be aided by a new irrigation and storm drainage system.

The new clubhouse is located about where the last one stood. It will contain lockers, a restaurant and golf carts, and is scheduled to open in early summer. The Club will also have a Pro Shop and a Grill. Lee McKay, former manager of Carlouel Yacht Club, is the club’s new General Manager.

There is a dress code. Men must wear colored polo shirts in all areas of the Club. Shirts must be tucked in and belts are required if the pants contain belt loops. Denim is prohibited (except for ladies’ colored denim). Shorts are allowed. Men’s hats must be removed indoors.

This is now a private club and management plans to enforce different rules at The Pelican than were in effect at the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club. They include:

- All guests must be accompanied by a member.
- Proper decorum is required.
- All food and beverage must be purchased from the club.
- No pets are allowed, except service dogs.
- No smoking except in designated areas.
- No use of cellular phones and other related devices on club property—unless otherwise designated.
- No tipping of the staff.
- No loud or offensive language.
- No Firearms and other weapons are allowed.
- A round must be completed in 4 hours and 15 minutes.

Get more information about the course at [www.PelicanGolfClub.com](http://www.PelicanGolfClub.com).

*Serving Pinellas County for over 100 years*

# LARGO FEED & PET SUPPLY

210 W. Bay Drive 727-581-8743

We Carry a Wide Variety of Premium Dog & Cat Foods and Supplies, plus Wild Bird Seed, Fish Food, Fertilizers and Insecticides.

## 10% OFF

your purchase with this Ad  
*exp. December 15, 2019*

*Stop by to say hello and let our knowledgeable staff answer any questions you may have*

*Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 8am-3pm*

**DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE**

AWARD WINNING NATURAL BEACH

# CALADESI ISLAND

VIA FERRY

3 MILES OF UNCROWDED, WHITE SANDY BEACH

FERRY DEPARTS EVERY DAY\* FROM HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK AT WEST END STATE ROAD 586. (Dorinda Causeway)

**HASSLE FREE PARKING AT DEPARTURE**  
DEPARTURES BEGIN AT 10AM  
Departs Every Half Hour Weather Permitting (Seasonally Adjusted)  
**ADULT \$14.00 • CHILD \$7.00 (6 THRU 12)**  
**UNDER 6 FREE • ROUND TRIP**  
Park Entrance Fee Extra  
*\*Except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.*  
Call Today • 727-734-5263 • [CaladesiFerry.org](http://CaladesiFerry.org)

**Caladesi**  
ISLAND FERRY





**Affordable Care Assistance When You Need It**

*Celebrating 22 Years of Experience!*

<p><b>Personal Care</b> Bathing, Grooming Meal Preparation</p> <p><b>Light Housekeeping</b> Dusting, Vacuuming, Sweeping Dishes, Laundry, Linens</p> <p><i>One Time, As Needed, or Daily Care Available 24/7</i></p>	<p><b>Transportation</b> Appointments, Errands &amp; Events</p> <p><b>Companionship</b> Conversation, Reminiscing</p> <p><b>In-Home Respite Care</b> Break for Primary Caregiver</p>
--	--



**CARE PLACEMENT**  
Home Health Agency  
*Caring is Our Business*

727-787-8677 • 813-884-6100  
CarePlacementHH.com

ProStar/Prova Lic #20962202 • Hillsborough Lic #20962449

## DROWNINGS CAN HAPPEN IN AN INSTANT

By Rebecca Geiger

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) drowning is the third highest cause of death for children. While scary, this statistic is more than a little abstract. Let's bring it a little closer to home. In the US drowning has consistently been the #2 cause of



"preventable death" for children under the age of 15, and the number one cause of "unintentional death" for children under the age of 4 as reported by the National Safety Council. Still this seems like a nationwide problem more than a local one. After all, unfortunately children drown nationwide. Let's bring it a little closer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RMF**  
Care Management, Inc.  
*Problem Solver for the Elderly*

**Patient & Family Advocacy**

**Care Management**

**Crisis Intervention**

**Consulting**

**Placement Services**  
*(Skilled & Assisted Living Facilities)*



*"Our nursing team has provided professional guidance to our clients and their families for over 22 years."*

Ruth Fanovich  
RN, LHRM & Owner

727-787-8677 **RMFHomeCare.com**



## 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 as a toll bridge that cost 25¢ to cross.

The first bridge 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 [www.BeachNewsletters.com](http://www.BeachNewsletters.com).



Photo by BelleairImages.com

## 13TH ANNUAL WINE AND TAPAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Join the Belleair Rotary May 13, from 6 to 9pm at the elegant Belleair Country Club, One Country Lane, Belleair. Enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres & desserts from top rated local restaurants, fine wines from Bella Vino Live Entertainment and laughter as you participate in casino activities. Your ticket purchase, sponsorship if desired, and successful bids on silent auction items support local, national and international organizations. Tickets are \$75 in advance and available at [BelleairRotary.org](http://BelleairRotary.org). The Gala is expected to sell out early. Call 265-6658 for more information.

## BELLEAIR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Join them at their After Hours Mingles, they begin at 5:30.

April 11: Suncoast Osteopathic Foundation

May 9: Bender Chiropractic Center

To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797. Visit [BluffsBusinessAssociation.com](http://BluffsBusinessAssociation.com) for more information.

## CHURCH BRINGS FINE ARTS TO THE BEACHES

Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 1615 First Street in Indian Rocks Beach, will present "APOLLO XIII", an original opera, on Saturday April 6. The production will begin at 7pm and will be held in the sanctuary. Parking is available on the property. There is no charge for admission, but a "free will donation" is welcome to defray expenses. This will be the first in a series of planned fine arts events.

"APOLLO XIII" is written, produced and directed by Matthew Burke, Music Director at Calvary and has two acts. The opera tells the story of NASA'S third attempted moon landing. Launched on April 11, 1970, the crew encountered a near disaster 200,000 miles from home. The musical setting captures the drama of the mission with style and power. Space buffs will appreciate the lyrics taken directly from the source material.

The fine acoustic space of the church will be filled with the sounds of 4 vocal soloists, a men's choir, organ, keyboards, violin, flute, trumpet, guitar, bass and drums. We are sure you will enjoy a beautiful evening of music with stylistic inspiration from classical and film score to progressive rock.

For information, contact Liz at 727-580-8237 or [bonjourliz@yahoo.com](mailto:bonjourliz@yahoo.com) or Calvary Episcopal Church 727-595-2374.

**24 Hour  
Emergency  
Service**

SLAUGHTER

PLUMBING

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

727-596-5663

Family Owned since 1958

All Plumbing Repairs

Water Heater Repair & Replacement  
Faucet and Fixture Repair & Installation  
Water & Sewer Line Replacement  
Sewer & Drain Cleaning

\$10 OFF Any Service!

not combined with other offers

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Senior Discounts • Estimates

RF11067209  
C9501

Serving All of Pinellas County  
for 50 years

12920 Walsingham Rd Largo

Laura's

by  
Laura Katz Home

Gifts  
Desireables  
Home Decor  
Original Artwork

in The Plaza

100 Indian Rocks Road North  
Belleair Bluffs 727-240.1200



# Business Briefs



**Brenda B Ehrke**  
Financial Advisor  
2450 West Bay Dr  
Largo, FL 33770  
727-581-3583

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



**ASTORIA PASTRY SHOP** This small Belleair Bluffs bakery, located at 560 Indian Rocks Road next to Antique Alley, was recently sold. Originally opened by Clearwater resident Nick Zahos three years ago, as of January, the new owners are Leia and Orson Gregory. Not much has changed. Lei owned a bakery in Greece, but after she moved to Pinellas she worked in the health care field. She always wanted to get back into the bakery business—and now she has. Orson, with a background in auto repair, is now her helper and co-owner. Call 585-3777.

**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.

**BEST SWEET SPOT**

Laura Reiley, The Tampa Bay Times Food Critic, released her Best of 2019 List. Our own William Dean Chocolates made the list as the "Best Place to Indulge Your Sweet Tooth." Find William Dean at 2790 West Bay Drive. See what they have to offer at [www.WilliamDeanChocolates.com](http://www.WilliamDeanChocolates.com).



**44 YEARS AND COUNTING**

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

**THE CLEARWATER BEACH BESTIES AWARDS**

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

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

**PLAY GOLF at the NEW COVE CAY**

**Make your Tee Time TODAY and play waterfront holes along Tampa Bay only at Cove Cay Golf Club!**

**(727) 535-1406**  
2612 Cove Cay Drive  
Clearwater  
[www.covecaygolf.com](http://www.covecaygolf.com)

**COVE CAY**  
GOLF CLUB



## RUTH KIRBY, AS I REMEMBER HER

By Sandy Simpson

I worked and lived with Ruth from about 1966 to 1970. I was the bookkeeper for the Ed Wright Estate until it ended. I ran Pinewood Farms, which Ruth owned, on her property on 31st Street South.



Before Mr. Wright's death, I was occasionally their driver when he wanted to go visit his properties. Ruth was a very dedicated to Mr Wright and their work.

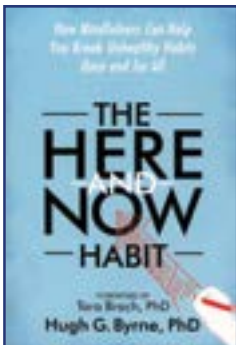
Ruth was a very private person, and even though she could afford to, she never bought anything extravagant, only necessities. She was very kind and loved animals, especially her horses. The horse pictured on the front of this magazine was really my horse, but she enjoyed riding him. I ran her stables where we boarded horses. We had about twenty at one time. Those were the good ol' days for sure!

Ruth was a very special person. The photo above was taken in 1971 at my wedding, after Mr. Wright's death.

Ruth developed Parkinson's disease, which is what eventually killed her... I wish she was still here.

Sandy Simpson, now 73, lives in Oxford, Florida.

## A WEEKEND WITH HUGH BYRNE



Recently, a group of over twenty Indian Rocks residents had the pleasure of enjoying a "Pop-Up" Conversation with internationally acclaimed author Hugh Byrne. He was staying on the beach while writing his next book.

Originally from London, and now living in Washington DC, Byrne author of "The Here and Now Habit", is the Co-Founder of the Mindfulness Training Institute, a Guided Meditation Teacher at

Insight Meditation Society, and a leading expert in the field of mindfulness and positive habit change.

The remarkable evening, held in a private home, led to such a collective, meaningful conversation that five of the group is planning to bring Byrne back to our area the weekend of April 5 and 6, for two separate public sessions.

Saturday April 6 will be a full day seminar titled *A Day of Mindfulness Self-Compassion, Bringing Mindfulness to Ourselves and Our World*. The cost is \$50. It will be held at the Church of the Isles in their Pilgrim Hall, 200 24th Avenue, Indian Rocks. The number of participants will be limited so as to keep the experience personal.

The April 5 Friday evening session, once again being held in a private home, is already sold out

All remaining dollars beyond the costs, will be donated to the Church of the Isles who so graciously agreed to house the event and has been most welcoming and generous.

For tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/HughByrneMindfulness>. E-mail [msfasttrackhappiness@gmail.com](mailto:msfasttrackhappiness@gmail.com) with questions. To learn more about Hugh Byrne, visit [www.hugh-byrne.com](http://www.hugh-byrne.com).



**3 SHOWROOMS**  
 Palm Harbor Design Showroom  
 U.S. 19. North of Tampa Rd. 727.773.9888  
 St. Petersburg  
 10722 Gandy Blvd. North 727.507.9799  
 Lutz/Tampa  
 23114 State Rd. 54 813.935.8432  
[www.morespaceplace.com](http://www.morespaceplace.com)

*Carlson Wildwood Florist*  
 Flowers and Gifts  
 For all occasions  
 in the Perfect Blend  
 of Classical and  
 Contemporary

**10% DISCOUNT**  
 if you mention this ad

**727.446.4610**  
 1488 Clearwater Largo Rd., Largo



**REEL  
 LIFE**  
 UNITED BY WATER  
 MarineMax



**CATCH TIME WITH THE FAMILY**  
 Visit our website to check out the latest inventory or  
 stop by MarineMax Clearwater today!

MarineMax Clearwater  
 18025 US 19 N | Clearwater, FL 33764  
 (866) 581-9072 | [marinemax.com/clearwater](http://marinemax.com/clearwater)

**WHAT'S YOUR LANDSCAPE STYLE?**



By Randy Lee

The two main components of landscaping are softscape and hardscape. Examples of softscape include flowers, plants, soil, mulch, grass and trees. Examples of hardscape include lighting, pavers, pools, driveways, irrigation systems and water features. Softscape materials are living and changing whereas hardscape materials are non living and constructed. Here are the differences between the two.

Softscape materials are soft, change more often and better for the environment. Maintenance might include fertilizing, pruning, remulching or changing out flower beds. The visual appeal here is one of beauty, texture and color. Too much softscape might result in having no hard surfaces to drive or entertain on- a lack of a hard surface.

Hardscape materials are more expensive and usually serve a function. Maintenance involves cleaning, repairing and replacing surfaces. Visual appeal might include the drama of lighting or a fire pit at night. Too much hardscape could result in a heavy, unbalanced look with little plant material.

Examples of combining both softscape and hardscape in a favorable way include planting vines on a pergola, using potted flowers on a pool deck or lighting several palm trees for night viewing. Combining softscape and hardscape in an unfavorable way might include too much driveway or too much stonework on the facade of a house (see this all the time) or using too many busy materials that create chaotic effect. Keep it simple, modern and fresh.

When landscaping, softscape and hardscape materials need to be thought out and balanced. They create beauty and visual appeal. They can enhance curb appeal and raise property values. A combination of both creates an ideal, practical and beautiful effect.

**April-May Checklist:**

- Fertilize grass, trees and shrubs
- Fertilizer ban begins June 1st
- Flowers and vegetables can be planted now
- Great time to install tropical plants and trees
- Pruning and trimming begin now
- April and May are both dry months- water accordingly

Landscapes By Randy Lee, Inc. is a full service landscape design company here to help you with all of your needs. Call us direct at 727-421-2715 or visit us online at our newly updated website [www.landscapesbyrl.com](http://www.landscapesbyrl.com)

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDEN'S  
 TOUR OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GARDENS**

The Florida Botanical Gardens is pleased to announce its 4th Annual Tour of Public and Private Gardens on Sunday, May 5th.

Enjoy a delightful day visiting private and public gardens in Pinellas county. This is the perfect early Mother's Day gift!

Registration begins at 10 am at The Florida Botanical Gardens, where hosts will lead group tours of the garden between 10 am-12 pm. From 1 -4:30 pm, exceptional private gardens will be open for viewing at your leisure, via a self-guided map using your personal transportation. The cost is \$30 per person in advance or \$35 the day of the event. Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Members receive a discounted price of \$25. Do not miss the opportunity to peek into these private Shangri Las.

For more information, visit: [www.flbgfoundation.org/events](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/events). The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at: 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774.







**IRB'S THRIFT CENTER TURNS TEN**

The Beaches Community Thrift Center in Indian Rocks Beach (previously called Save Your Seconds) is ten years old this month. Some people reading this story will ask, "Indian Rocks Beach has a thrift center?" They certainly do – at The Church of the Isles (COTI), on 25th Avenue, just east of Gulf Blvd.

Ten years ago, the Thrift Center was founded by church members Nancy Ertz and Jeannie Waller, and it is run totally by volunteers, with over two dozen rotating shifts. On any given day, five to ten people are there to greet shoppers and accept/sort donations. "Many of our volunteers are snow birds and only help when they are in town," Waller explains.

They accept household items, furniture, jewelry, kitchenware, small appliances, toys and clothes - lots and lots of clothes.

"We probably have well over a hundred shoppers per week," says Ertz. "That is a lot considering that we are only open four days a week and our hour are limited. We accept credit cards for purchases over \$10."

"Sometimes a person comes in and clearly does not have any money. They need the basics," Waller says. "We just give it to them—it is obvious they need help."

"We use the money the store makes to fund the missions of the church," Ertz says. "Once a month, we feed the people at Pinellas Hope and we support many safe houses in Pinellas. We also contribute to the Beaches Food Pantry, local animal shelters, Habitat for Humanity and even Goodwill who gets the things we can't sell."

COTI and the Thrift Store are the promoters of Green Fest, held on their property each spring - held last month. Profits from that event also are used to fund church missions.

The Thrift Store is open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays (10-2), and Saturdays 10am-2pm and Thursdays 5 to 8pm. It is located at 210 25th Avenue North, Indian Rocks Beach, next door to the church. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, please call 444-0339.

**DYNGUS DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Dyngus Day is an unofficial holiday that falls on the Monday immediately after Easter Sunday - this year April 22. The day celebrating Polish culture, was started to let people blow off some steam after the restrictions imposed by the season of Lent. It is also an excuse to eat some good polish food, drink some beer, dance and have some fun.

The origin of the celebrations is uncertain, but may date to pagan times (before 1,000 AD). The tradition was brought to the U.S. by Polish immigrants. One of the most common Dyngus Day traditions is for boys to douse girls with buckets of water, squirt guns and wet towels.

Crabby Bill's Seafood has held the largest Dyngus Day Celebrations in the County for the past eight years. They have polish sausage (kielbasa) a live Polish band and a very large crowd, April 22 from 11 to 5pm. Don't forget to wear red.

**BELLEAIR MARKET**  
YOUR CORNER STORE

**Your Home Away from Home**

**YES, WE CATER!**  
for all occasions

**FINE WINES \* CRAFT BEER \* CIGARS**  
**FAMILY MEALS \* CATERING \* DELIVERY**

**510 Indian Rocks Rd N Belleair Bluffs**  
**727-584-3697 www.belleairmarket.com**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
More Retirees are choosing Independent Living over 55+ Communities...

**THE OAKS OF CLEARWATER**

**This is why:**

<b>55+ Community</b>	<b>The Oaks of Clearwater</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ HOA Fees</li> <li>✗ Long-Term Leases</li> <li>✗ Maintenance/Upkeep</li> <li>✗ No Long-Term Solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All-Inclusive Rates</li> <li>✓ Social Events &amp; Outings</li> <li>✓ All-Day Dining Program</li> <li>✓ Care Services Available</li> </ul>

**THE CHOICE IS OBVIOUS!**

**SCHEDULE A TOUR AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!**

**727 - 445 - 4069**

**RSVP TO LEARN MORE AT OUR WEEKLY HAPPY HOUR**  
www.theoaksofclearwater.com | 420 Bay Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33756



## TONS OF "SANDY" FUN IN CLEARWATER BEACH

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

by Dan L. Hummel

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

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

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

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

Also, in a separate area called Camp Hyatt, kids can enjoy playing in the

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

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

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

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

On the three Saturday nights of the festival, you can conclude your visit with a bang as Spectrum presents a fabulous fireworks show over the water

beginning at 9 pm.

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

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

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

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



AL FRESCO DINING, TAKE OUT, CATERING & PRIVATE PARTIES

# Cesare's

FINE ITALIAN CUISINE

---

---

CLEARWATER BEACH



Both born and raised in Italy, our founders, Cesare and Carlo, know what an authentic Italian meal means. Family and friends gathering around to enjoy each others company with a glass of wine and the perfect dish.

Come savor Italy's finest flavors including homemade pastas, pappardelle with wild mushrooms, ossobuco Milanese, filet mignon in a brandy sauce, fresh seafood, veal classics and homemade desserts. You can dine in or al fresco overlooking the water and Sand Key Bridge while being pampered by our professional staff.

727-449-8797 • [www.cesareatthebeach.com](http://www.cesareatthebeach.com)  
Open 7 Days, 5pm - 10pm  
794 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767



# FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM'S FOUNDER PASSES AWAY

The Florida Holocaust Museum (The FHM) is incredibly saddened to announce the passing of its founder, Walter P. Loebenberg. The FHM was established by Walter and his wife, Edie, with the help of community leaders. The Museum is the result of Loebenberg's remarkable journey and vision.

"Walter Loebenberg was loved and highly respected by everyone he met and by the community. He was private and strong, but possessed a deep, abiding kindness and selflessness. His children and grandchildren adored him, his peers held him in high esteem, and the community was proud to call him its own," said Elizabeth Gelman, Executive Director of The Florida Holocaust Museum.

In 1989, Walter had a dream to provide quality Holocaust and human rights education to adults and students. In 1992, the Museum rented a space it would soon outgrow, on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County in Madeira Beach, Florida. In 1998, The FHM relocated to its current location in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, FL in a 27,000 square foot building specifically designed for visitor enrichment, artifact preservation, and educational purposes. In 2017, the Museum proudly celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

Walter Loebenberg was born in Wachterbacht, Germany and was raised with one sister. His family could trace their roots back to 1492 and the time of the Spanish Inquisition. Walter came from a prominent family that lived in a community with very few Jews. Walter's father owned a paint manufacturing company and was arrested in 1933 for slandering Hitler's name. His business then deteriorated due to antisemitism, and the family moved to Frankfurt in 1936.

At age fourteen, Walter became an apprentice in a bakery. On Kristallnacht, he arrived to work to find the bakery and a nearby synagogue burning to the ground. He was arrested and taken

to the town square where Jews were being sent to concentration camps. He was released by SS officers, along with fourteen others, then to be chased by a mob of women. He escaped and made his way home. His mother immediately wrote for assistance to leave Germany.

Walter's family was scheduled to leave Europe on the ship the St. Louis, but the family's plans changed at the last minute. They came on another ship, and reached Ellis Island in 1939, where they remained for four months. Walter, then a teenager, was later drafted into the United States Army and became a U.S. citizen. While overseas, Walter was awarded with The Bronze Star Medal, presented to him by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, for his involvement with an interrogation that led to the information that saved the life of many American soldiers.

After he returned to America, he met his wife Edith. Walter and Edith had three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They were married for 62 years

Through his philanthropic efforts, Walter supported more than fifteen organizations in the Tampa Bay area. He received several awards in recognition of his philanthropic efforts, including the Key to the City of St. Petersburg, the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the JCC, and the Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts Award.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 5th Street S., St. Petersburg. Photos Courtesy of The Florida Holocaust Museum



Walter & Edie in the summer of 1947



1977.

Your first real responsibility drooled a lot. Which seems pretty manageable compared to having kids in college and aging parents to care for in

2018.

One minute you're just a kid with a new dog. The next, life's far more complicated. That's why a Raymond James financial advisor will partner with you to build a plan that accounts for your increasingly complex financial needs. From tuition and senior care, to your own desire to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've always wanted. LIFE WELL PLANNED.

## RAYMOND JAMES

**JAMES S. CONLIN, CFP®**  
Senior Vice President, Wealth Management  
Branch Manager // Belleair-Largo  
2401 West Bay Drive // Largo, FL 33770  
O 727.584.8615 // TF 800.237.0153  
jim.conlin@raymondjames.com  
conlinwealthmanagement.com

© 2018 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. CFP Board owns the CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ marks in the United States. 18-0832D-0086 TA 7/18



# THE TRAVEL TRIBE ON THE MOVE - PART FIVE

## Back on the Road

By Cassie Berger, Belleair resident

After a Christmas in Florida with our toes in the sand and seeing our loved ones, we were off once again.

Back to Europe we go, and four more countries to see - Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria & Germany!

Fourteen hours of travel and we finally made it! Country 19 was Switzerland, land of chocolate and cheese! We spent a full week driving all around the Alps with a few days in Lucern, and then the old town of Bern. Next, into the mountains we headed to visit Grindelwald to do some sledging. Who knew that going down the run just once would take us an hour and a half! Picturesque as a postcard, we raced down the run, with no one in sight Nothing but the glistening snow and bright shining sun. The snow was soft as can be as we wizzed down the mountain.



Driving the Alps was a bit harder than expected.

Crossing from Switzerland through Liechtenstein we encountered a horrendous snowstorm. We slid down the interstate, luckily not hitting anyone. We pulled over for a bit, before continuing on to our week-long journey in Austria.

We stayed in Innsbrook. It is the most beautiful place in

the world and my new number one top vacation destination. We stayed down off the mountain in the valley below. Old town was within walking distance, and a train/cable car directly across from our hotel could take us up the mountain for skiing. I was the only one who braved the slopes and I'm so glad I did. When you're at the top looking down on Innsbrook it's like you are on top of the world!



Next we were off to Germany to visit a tucked away castle high in the mountains that was covered in snow. It is the castle that was the inspiration behind sleeping beauty, Neuschwanstein Castle.

One last stop we couldn't forget - an indoor water park just for the kids. Nestled along the Swiss Alps, we swam in the heated pools and rode the light up slides. Before we knew it, our adventure Alps adventure was over. So now....where in the world are we off to next?

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

Keep up with us real time on Instagram @traveltribefamily

# WE ARE BUYING

WE'RE ADDING TO OUR INVENTORY AND EAGER TO BUY YOUR ITEMS OF VALUE. BRING THEM IN...SELL THEM TO US AND LEAVE WITH MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!



## THE SILVER QUEEN



1350 West Bay Drive  
Largo, FL 33770  
727-585-4502

Family owned & operated since 1972

belleaircoins.com • silverqueen.com • chris@silverqueen.com

Honesty • Integrity • Reliability

# 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. ■







PROUDLY SERVING...

THE BELLEAIRS...THE BLUFFS...AND THE BEACHES  
YOUR... FULL TIME...FULL SERVICE...REALTOR

PROVIDING YOU WITH PEACE OF MIND  
2018 A REMARKABLE YEAR FOR CBSVR  
OVER \$150 MILLION SOLD!

Looking forward to serving you in 2019!

Angela K. Grieco ~ Realtor Associate

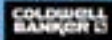
Belleair Resident 29 Years

727-455-7595

[akgrieco@aol.com](mailto:akgrieco@aol.com)

[www.cbsvr.com](http://www.cbsvr.com)

Your Coastal Connection since 1980



# Cassi & Co.

*Classic Modern Apparel*

Our NEW fashion line *marble*  
is capturing attention.

Designed in Scotland it's bright & shiny



CELEBRATE SPRING WITH US  
& OUR FASHION LINES

Clara Sun Woo  
David Cline - Pleats  
Dolcezza - Habitat  
and so many more!

*We Are Ready With All The Latest Fashions!*



The Plaza 100  
100 Indian Rocks Rd N. #3  
Belleair Bluffs, 727.585.2011

*You Will Love  
Shopping With Us!*

# Thank You!

for making Maggie Mae's a local favorite!

Proudly serving  
the Belleair Bluffs area for 10 years!



**Maggie Mae's**

**10% OFF**  
Your Next Visit

Maggie Mae's on the Bluffs  
2961 West Bay Dr.  
Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
(727) 727-4243  
[www.maggie-maes.com](http://www.maggie-maes.com)

Must present coupon upon purchase.  
Not valid with any other promotion.  
Expires December 31st, 2018.





- ✦ Daily Dog Walks
- ✦ Pet Sitting Services
- ✦ Overnight Pet Sitting
- ✦ Extended Boarding
- ✦ Pet Taxi Service
- ✦ Poop Scooping (that's right... we clean up your pet's poop)
- ✦ House Sitting Services & Much More...

**(727) 584-PAWS**      [www.walkwag.com](http://www.walkwag.com)

## BELLEAIR OPTICIANS IS EXPANDING



- Optometrist available on site
- High Tech ophthalmic lens
- New Designer Frames

**Belleair OPTICIANS**

# 727-584-0730

100 Indian Rocks Road N. Belleair Bluffs Plaza Suite 1  
[www.belleairopticians.com](http://www.belleairopticians.com)  
[www.instagram.com/belleair\\_opticians](http://www.instagram.com/belleair_opticians)

## NEW APPROACH SALON & SPA

### CELEBRATING 12 YEARS!!!

*We would like to thank our clientele for their loyalty & support as we continue to grow moving forward*

*Hair-Nails-Skin-Waxing*

[WWW.NEWAPPROACHHAIRSalON.COM](http://WWW.NEWAPPROACHHAIRSalON.COM) 727-584-8664

## 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](http://SeaweedGrill.com).

**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.

**CESARE'S ENJOYS 15 YEARS ON CLEARWATER BEACH** Cesare's on the Beach, located in the south end of Clearwater Beach, celebrates their 15th anniversary in March. They opened in that same location in March of 2004. Find them at 794 South Gulfview. Call 449-8797 for reservations. See their web site at [CesareAtTheBeach.com](http://CesareAtTheBeach.com).



**POKE LOKE HAVANA & ROUNDABOUT PIZZA** Both restaurants are still under construction in the Clearwater Beach Marina, but are making progress. Poke Havana, mostly a takeout restaurant, should open in two weeks or so. Roundabout Pizza with a stone oven is farther behind. Both are owned by the Baystar Restaurant Group. They also own Seaweed, Island Way Grill and Salt Rock.



## Bar & Restaurant News

### BACKWATER'S 14TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS

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



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

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

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



### CHANGES AT THE XONE

What was Xone Sports Bar in Largo is now Player Sports Bar, but it still has the same owner. More games and lots of fresh BBQ have been added.

"We decided to mix it up a little," says owner Tony Marzano. "We added Memphis style BBQ as the primary food and added lots of adult games including a pool table, darts, golden tee, and others. Plus, we have twenty TVs. Smoking is still only allowed outside."

Find Player at 14219 Walsingham Blvd. in the same complex as Hungry Howies Pizza.

### CASA ITALIA

This restaurant under construction at the north end of Indian Rocks Beach is starting to take shape. Once Stefano's, this new Italian restaurant may open as early as this spring. The building was completely gutted and although it will look like an old



Tuscan cafe, it is all new. Owners of Casa Italia say look for a Grand Opening soon at 2699 Gulf Blvd.

# Beauty Is Skin Deep, So Is Skin Cancer



**Call To Schedule Your Free Skin Cancer Screening!**

*New Patients Only*

*Offer Expires 03/31/19*

*Code - BBN*

**Florida Dermatology**  
AND SKIN CANCER CENTERS

EXPERIENCE THE MOHS FELLOWSHIP DIFFERENCE

*Trust is more than skin deep*

[www.FLDSCC.com](http://www.FLDSCC.com)

**Belleair**

**727.446.6217**

**609 Indian Rocks Rd.,  
Belleair, FL 33756**



**What did you do with your wedding gifts?**



**We purchased our first moving truck. 2 years later we've successfully completed 1300 moves**



**Fill out our FREE ESTIMATE Form at [www.bigmansmoving.com](http://www.bigmansmoving.com) or call (727) 772-3458**

**Packing Services | Open 7 Days  
Licensed & Insured | Local & Out of State**

## Bar & Restaurant News



### **BELLEAIR MARKET'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Chris and Julie are celebrating the fifth year anniversary of the re-opening of the Belleair Market.

They will be having a celebration at the Market on Sunday, April 7th from 5 - 7pm. There will be music, grilling, wine, beer and neighbors. Call them

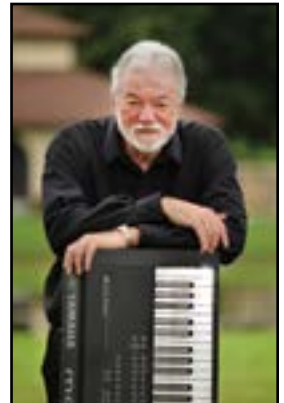
at 727-584-3697 or visit the Belleair Market for more details. The Belleair Market is located at 510 Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs and is open daily from 7am - 9pm.

**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.

### **FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC SERIES AT BELLEVIEW INN**

Start your weekend at the Belleview Inn with spectacular sunsets and the melodious talents of pianist Rod Keiser, who has performed with Dicky Betts in the '60s, the U.S. Air Force Band, the USF Symphony Orchestra, and BB King. Mr. Keiser delivers an impressive repertoire with tunes for every taste, from Bach to The Beatles. Bring your friends and neighbors to Belleair's most iconic new gathering spot every Friday from 5 - 9 pm. Complimentary cheeses will be provided, and wine and beer is available for purchase. To receive notification of upcoming events, visit [thebelleviewinn.com/newsletter-sign-up](http://thebelleviewinn.com/newsletter-sign-up).



**NEW RED LION OWNERS** The Red Lion Pub, the local British Pub and a longtime favorite of locals, has another new owner. Bryan and Debra who bought the Pub in July, sold it to Tom George in January. George is no newcomer to the restaurant business. He owns the Time Out in Seminole, Ft. Knox in Redington, and Eddie's in Dunedin - in total he owns 12 area restaurants. It is located at 1407 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks.

**FREE BIRTHDAY DINNER** Jimmy Guana's Restaurant, at the Holiday Inn Harborside in Indian Rocks Beach, is offering you a FREE dinner during your birthday month. But only on Tuesdays. Receive one meal free with the purchase of another on any Tuesday during your birthday month. Beverages and desserts are extra. Call 595-8356 for information.

### **SLYCE MONDAYS HELPS THE BEACHES FOOD PANTRY**

On the first Monday of the month, Slyce Pizza, located at 311 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, donates 10% of all the day's sales to the Beaches Food Pantry. It averages about \$500 per month. Things have been tight at the Pantry lately and they can really use your help, so if you are plan to order a pizza that day, buy it from Slyce. You get a great pizza and at the same time help the clients of the Beaches Food Pantry.



# Bar & Restaurant News

## VENUS CELEBRATES 33 YEARS

This month marks Venus Restaurant's 33rd year in Belleair Bluffs. Owner Mark Norberg has been the owner for the past three years, also as of April. He is happy to announce that they are now offering catering and delivery in select areas. You can now order large quantities of their food at reduced prices, including appetizers, salads, sides, sandwich and wrap platters, and hot entrees. Most of the daily menu is available for catering. Call Mark at 581-3849 or e-mail Mark@VenueLargo.com with your catering questions.



Shown here is Mark, enjoys a cup of coffee with Teri, who has been at the restaurant 23 of those 33 years. Most of their employees have been there for many years. Get more information at VenusLargo.com.



## CLEARWATER OYSTER COMPANY OPENS

Indian Rocks' Original Crabby Bill's returned to Clearwater Beach with its newest venture, Clearwater Oyster Company, which opened last month. This is a joint venture between Matt Loder (right) and St. Petersburg native

Steve Page (left) of Page Resorts & Hotels, LLC.

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

Along with Clearwater Oyster Company, the Crabby Bill's will operate Tropix Beach Bar, behind the hotel.

Clearwater Oyster Co. is located 655 S. Gulfview Blvd.

## PANERA BREAD MANAGERS

The Belleair Bluffs Panera Bread store is so popular and so busy that it takes two managers to run it. General Manager Stephanie Stiles (RT) has been at this store for a year and a half. Mariah Robertson (LT) is the Assistant Manager and has been at this store for four-and-a-half years.



Landscapes By: **RANDY LEE** Inc

727.421.2715  
www.landscapesbyrl.com

*Celebrating 25 Years!*

**Janna**  
Fine Consigner Apparel

Women's Apparel & Accessories

Come in for a visit where the coffee is always on and the shopping is always fun

268 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs  
727-584-9222



**BEST BEACH RESTAURANT & BAR**  
*in Indian Shores*

LIVE MUSIC EVERY DAY

ENJOY DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

**10% OFF LUNCH OR DINNER**

VALID ONLY WITH COUPON. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. EXPIRES JULY 30, 2019. CODE:RBB

20025 GULF BOULEVARD INDIAN SHORES, FL 33785 (727) 595-3127 WWW.CADDYS.COM



# Organizational News...

**Bender Chiropractic Center, PA**  
 Chiropractic - Wellness - Massage - Nutrition  
 School & Sports Physicals - Auto Injuries

**Now Offering Acupuncture**

**Celebrating 24 Years!**

**727-559-7881**  
 321 Indian Rocks Rd. N. Suite C  
 Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
[www.benderchiropractic.net](http://www.benderchiropractic.net)

## CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition of yachtsmen the world over. You don't need a boat, to join in the fun at Clearwater Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach. Half of their members don't have a boat. Their social activities center around regular parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki-Bar out back.

Their Summer Membership program will begin in May. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues of \$150. Summer members can use the pool, tiki bar, dining room and other amenities, including participating in weekly parties. Kids are welcome and they are pet friendly. Best of all, you can meet new people. It is a great way to see for yourself how much fun it is, with no obligations. You can end your membership whenever you wish, or convert to a permanent member in the Fall. If you are interested, please call Tom at the Yacht Club's office, 447-6000.

Learn more at [www.ClearwaterYachtClub.org](http://www.ClearwaterYachtClub.org) or e-mail [Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org](mailto:Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

## ST BRENDAN'S COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

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

## BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

*Submitted David Kline BCFP Director*

BCFP wishes to express our appreciation to two of local schools. For the third year, the students and faculty of **Country Day School** organized a food drive that culminated in the donation of over 40 boxes of non-perishable food products. Meisha Leibson, Keith Reynolds and their staff organized the collection, delivery, sorting and stocking of this vital donation. Thank you Meisha, Keith and students, for making a difference in the community!

In the first year of their existence, **Richard O. Jacobsen Tech High** principal Marty Giancola, and Student Council Advisor Holly Roush reached out to BCFP discuss how their students could make a difference. Since BCFP is always challenged with supplying pet food to our clients and their animals, we suggested a pet food drive. The students came through in a big way, donating many boxes of wet and dry pet food. Thank you, Marty, Holly and students for supporting the pets of our clients

## BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month, (October - May) at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join; membership open to area residents is \$15 / year.

The April 9 meeting will be at Aqua Prime Restaurant in Indian Rocks Beach, at 11:30am. The program will include an exhibit of floral design presented by Rinda Mizelle.

The May 14 meeting will be held at the Watercolour Steak House inside the Marriott Sand Key at 11:30am. This meeting will include a fashion show presented by Sign of the Dolphin as well as the installation of new officers.

RSVP to Sue Edmunds, 596-5710 or Lois O'Donnell, 595-1349.

## BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

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

This organization is open to all seniors, living in the greater Belleair area. There are no dues and couples are encouraged to join the fun. Call Marilyn Daminato, 585-9633.

**Aqua Prime**  
 Seafood & Steaks

**Coastal Cuisine**

**Outdoor Dining | Live Music**  
**Happy Hour Specials**

Scan To **Win**  
**A Free Dinner For 2**

**2018**  
 DINERY CHOICE AWARDS

**727-330-7724**

213 Gulf Boulevard | Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Visit our Website for Daily Hours [AquaPrimeFlorida.com](http://AquaPrimeFlorida.com)

*Quality Service Since 1981*

**BELLEAIR BLUFFS**  
 CLEANERS

Monday – Friday 7 to 7  
 Saturday 8 to 5

2924 West Bay Dr. Belleair Bluffs  
 727.585.1101



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

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).

**SEAWEED**  
steaks seafood & sushi

a contemporary steak and seafood experience.

[seaweedgrill.com](http://seaweedgrill.com) • 727.584.1700  
2819 west bay drive, belleair bluffs, florida 33770  
mon to thurs 4-10 • fri & sat 4-11 • sun 4-9

**brunch & bubbly**  
served saturday & sunday • 11am-3pm

complimentary mimosa or bloody mary with purchase

enjoy an amazing brunch menu including:  
salmon benedict  
shrimp & grits • chicken & waffles  
lemon ricotta pancake  
lobster & brie omelette

## Organizational News...

### BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Barbara Parker

**Classes & Workshops** - Many classes have been added to our schedule. You will find options including: Pottery classes, Pastels, Portraiture, Plein Air Painting, Jewelry Making, Pencil Drawing, Watercolor on Aquaboard, Glass on Glass, Encaustic to Making Signs and a "Peace Pole"! These are all in addition to a range of classes in Watercolor, Oil and Acrylic Painting! The best way to explore our catalog is to browse online for the most up to date list of classes. For information and registration go to [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org).

**Class Categories** - You may notice some new categories

- "Limited Series" - "New" These 3 hour classes will be offered for a limited period, generally four weeks. Current options include portraiture, still life or pastels. Watch our schedule for new additions to this series.
- "Weekend Workshops" - "New" Three Full-day sessions offered Friday - Sunday featuring nationally and internationally known guest Artist/Instructors.
- "Weekly Classes" - Generally 3 hour classes which meet weekly specializing in a wide variety of media.
- "Art on the Rocks" (Make it, Take it) - These are a single class, generally offered in the evening. All materials and instruction are included and you leave with a completed project. These are fun classes, many students bring refreshments and friends.
- "Open Studio" - Open time for students to work on projects in open Pottery Studio and Gallery spaces.

**Kid's Camp** - Great News! The Beach Art Center will be offering additional weeks this summer, running from June 3 through August 9. There will be no camp the week of July 4th. The price are the same as last year, Full-day sessions \$200/week (Members \$185) and Half-day sessions \$100/week (Members \$92.50). Visit [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org) for details.

**Gallery Show** - Please also join us for the opening of our next show "Artist's Choice", Friday, April 12 from 6-8pm.

The Beach Art Center is located in center of Indian Rocks Beach, across from Kolb Park at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. The Art Center is open Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm and available on weekends for private events.

### BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

The April 5th meeting is a Fashion Show at the Belleair Country Club with clothing by Patchington's. The event starts at 11:30am. The minimum donation for this luncheon is \$45.

Registration and social hour are at 11:30 am, with lunch being served at noon. Reservations are necessary, RSVP to Claudia Thomas at 470-9849 or Nina Pilon at 726-8782. Credit Cards are not accepted at the door; but checks are.)

They meet monthly at the Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair. Get information at [BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com](http://BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com). The club welcomes Republicans from all surrounding communities

### DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

They meet monthly at 11:30am on the third Friday, at Belleair Country Club for lunch. Call Linda Mintz 488-1068.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They are closing their season with a fashion show, presented by Sign of the Dolphin, April 17th, 10:30am, at the Belleair Beach Community Center. There will also be a cooking demonstration using herbs and native plants by Wilcox Nursery.

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



HOME DÉCOR • FURNITURE • GIFTS  
& MORE

*Visit Our Retail Store*

*In*

**The Alley**

**Open Tuesdays thru Saturdays**

**From 10 am to 4 pm**

*Proud Premier Retailer of*



596 Indian Rocks Road N, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
(813) 494-4295

## VENUS RESTAURANT



## DAILY DINNER SPECIAL

at Venus Restaurant

**ONLY \$11.99!**

Buy one Entree and Get one Free!

**EVERY MONDAY-FRIDAY  
FROM 6 TO 8 PM**

[venuslargo.com](http://venuslargo.com) | 727-581-3849

Venus Restaurant 2441 West Bay Dr, Largo, FL 33770



## Organizational News...

### BELLEAIR ROTARY

They are now planning their 13th Annual Wine and Tapas fund-raiser on May 13th. This is a large, eat and drink event held at the Belleair Country Club. There will be a Casino Style event with a silent auction. Bella Vino Wines in Belleair Bluffs is the primary wine sponsor. Since the beginning, this event has raised over \$250,000 allowing Rotary to support such organizations as Belleair Elementary, ARC of Tampa Bay, Salvation Army, Polio Eradication and the Rotary Foundation.

Tickets are \$75 in advance and available at BelleairRotary.org. The Gala is expected to sell out early. Call 265-6658 for more information. You can also buy a ticket from any Rotary member.

They meet every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of every month is the general assembly and Board meeting.

Contact President Marc Walker at 204-8483 or email him at BelleairRotary2017@Gmail.com. Visit BelleairRotary.org

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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

### INDIAN ROCKS ROTARY

They are hosting their Annual Rotary Runs the Beach 5K Run and Walk on Saturday, April 6, at 8am, at the County Park in Indian Rocks Beach. Registration is at 7am on site.

This 5K costs \$30 in advance and \$35 day of. The Mile is \$25 in advance and \$30 day of. Registration is online at RunSignUp.com, search for Rotary Run.

Crabby Bill's, the main sponsor is providing the after party with food and drinks. Get more info on this and the IRB Rotary at www.IndianRocksRotary.org.

The Indian Rocks Rotary meets at the Holiday Inn Indian Rocks on Wednesdays at 7:30am and has many members in Belleair Beach and the surrounding area.

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

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

- April 3: Gardening with Bees and other pollinators by Jennifer Standly, at UF Master Bee Keeper, (1pm)
- April 10: Butterfly Garden Brunch at Thompson Park. Bring a dish to share. Guests are welcome. (9:30am)
- May 1: Annual Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club with Installation of Officers. Reservations required. (11:30am).

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

### NEWCOMER CLUB

This is a social club to help relocated residents, and others in the area, develop new friends. The ladies meet monthly at different locations for lunch with guest speakers. Leisure activities vary from card games to field trips and shows.

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

*Robert Young*  
 JEWELER EXTRAORDINAIRE  
 Our Most  
 Exquisite Pieces  
 Exceptionally Priced



**ETRUSCAN EMERALD**

CUSTOM DESIGN  
 JEWELRY REPAIR  
 LARGE DIAMONDS  
 GROOVY GEMSTONES

*Unbelievable Low Prices*  
**UP TO 50% OFF**

250 INDIAN ROCKS ROAD NORTH  
 BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLORIDA  
[www.robertyoung.com](http://www.robertyoung.com) 727.584.1110

## 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 expained. "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.

LIVE MUSIC BY RENOWNED PIANIST ROD KEISER

# Great times. Grand tunes.

Fridays • 5:00-9:00 p.m.

End your week at the Belleview Inn. Unwind with inviting views and intoxicating melodies by extraordinary pianist Rod Keiser.

Admission and parking are free for this event.

Complimentary cheeses will be provided with wine and beer available for purchase.

Live Music Fridays • 5-9 p.m.

**Belleview Inn™**

25 Belleview Blvd. • Belleair FL 33756  
TheBelleviewInn.com • (727) 441-1774



**St. Petersburg OPERA COMPANY**

2018 – 2019 SEASON  
 Mark Sforzini, Artistic Director  
 Josh Miller, Stage Director  
 SEASON 13 ARTISTIC SPONSOR  
 Belinda Dumont

2019  
 MAY 17-21

SUOR ANGELICA  
 SPONSORED BY  
 Belinda Dumont

GIANNI SCHICCHI  
 CO-SPONSORED BY  
 Gloria Matysyk &  
 Dick Caldwell and  
 The Norma  
 Quance Trust,  
 Jo-Ann Hammock,  
 Trustee

**PUCCINI**  
**Gianni Schicchi**



**SUOR ANGELICA**

*Tampa Bay Times*

**PALLADIUM THEATER, 253 FIFTH AVE. N., ST. PETERSBURG**  
**FOR TICKETS: 727-823-2040 | STPETOPERA.ORG**

soon it will be  
**TOO HOT**  
 for your air conditioning  
**TO GO OUT**  
*don't wait to get your tune-up from*



*Amazing AIR*  
**AIR-CONDITIONING & HEATING**  
**ON CALL 24/7**

**BOTH RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
 Heating & cooling  
 Installations  
 Preventative maintenance  
 Service & repair  
 Indoor air quality  
 Duck work  
 FREE Estimates  
**100% financing available**

**Belleair Residents Only**  
 FREE service call  
*with repair*  
 \$250 off new system  
 FREE 32-point inspection  
*First time customers, only*  
 Not valid on rental properties

**(727) 793-4238**  
 State Licensed, Bonded, and Insured #CAC 1817543



**frame factory™**  
 and gallery  
*You Name It,  
 We Frame It!*

Framing and Mat Design  
 Sales of Originals and Prints

We Offer:

- Complimentary Framing Design Consultations and Estimates
- Pickup and Delivery of large oversized art and art objects
- Discounts for Seniors, Interior Designers, and Students

*44 Years in the same location!*

600 East Bay Drive  
 Largo

Mon - Sat  
 9:30am - 5:30pm  
 727-581-0322

**10% OFF YOUR NEXT ORDER**  
*with this ad*

**NEED MORE SPACE?**

**INDIAN ROCKS**  
 Mini Storage



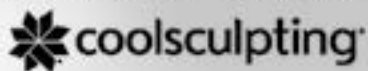
Best Storage Rates  
 Near the Beach

**Affordable Storage Units**  
**Top Quality Security**

Garage Style - Fenced & Lighted  
 Temperature Controlled - Long Term Discounts  
 Gates Open 7 days 6am - 10pm

indianrockssto@tampabay.rr.com  
 Walsingham at Ulmerton Rd - Across from the Pie Factory  
 12700 Walsingham Rd ~ 596-8678

# Pledge To Reduce Waist This Year.



Reducing waist begins with you. And CoolSculpting. This non-invasive procedure results in lasting fat reduction, around waist, hips, thighs, arms and chin. FDA cleared. No downtime. We have performed over 9,000 body contouring treatments and are a #1 Provider of CoolSculpting in the Tampa Bay Area. Reduce your waist with CoolSculpting. Call to schedule a complimentary consultation today.

2894 West Bay Dr  
Belleair Bluffs  
727-518-7100  
radiancemedspa.com



**Save Up to 25% Off  
CoolSculpting**

May not be combined with other specials  
or discounts. Offer expires 05/31/19.

Medical Director: Erika Francis, MD

