

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

Magazine

## Pier 60 - Twenty-Five Years of Sun, Fun, and Fishing



Clearwater Beach is one of the few beach-front communities that still has a fishing pier. Most have been destroyed during storms, plus the Department of Natural Resources and the Corp of Engineers have strong building restrictions for new or rebuilt piers. Our popular sunset spot celebrated its twenty-fifth year the spring.

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200 people a day are working hard to finish  
- page 16

#### Help a Foster Child

Do you know what Guardian ad Litem does? This organization could use your help.  
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#### Children's Swimming Lessons

Knowing what to expect makes it easier for the whole family.  
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At 23, he went Europe to fight in WWII, a year before D-Day. - page 24





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**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 OCTOBER**

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AUGUST**

- Sunset Run Sand Key 2
- Sales Tax Holiday For School Supplies 2-6
- Grouper Week Ends 4
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 8
- Gracie's Big Splash 10
- Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed 12
- Public School Begins 14
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- Calvary Episcopal Fashion Show 17
- Backwater's 19th Anniversary Party 23-25
- Beach Art Center Capital Fun Closes 28
- Gulfport Gekofest 31

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- St Patrick's School Fun Fair 9-13
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## TIME TO THINK ABOUT HURRICANE SEASON AGAIN.



By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

In past articles, I have written about what new homes offer today with the increased Florida and Federal Building codes. As an industry in Florida, we are constructing homes that meet or exceed the 150mph wind speeds, to insure the best amount of safety and security for new homes. Some homes can be retrofitted to add some of these features, yet other homes remain susceptible to high tides

and severe water damage. What can be done today for the homes along our beautiful coastal island communities?

Everyone is now aware that hurricane resistant windows and doors should be a "must" for any home. Those are the areas that will be first to fail when the high wind and water comes our way. Although pilings cannot be installed in existing homes with any practicality, they are very helpful in keeping the stability of the home sound, especially along the beaches. Then as I have mentioned in the past, the most important item for homes is that they are raised above FEMA standards, to keep the flood waters from ruining the home and furnishings. Sorry, but as I see homes playing the game of FEMA's 50% Rule, I can't help but wonder why families are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to re-build a home on grade. Not a good investment or decision!

Many of our home customers today are inquiring about whole house generators for their new homes. My wife and I are personally installing one in my new home, as it makes sense to protect against power failure, especially if you live in beach communities where power is the most likely to

fail during a storm. A natural or propane gas system that fuels the generator can actually have enough power for the entire home, including air conditioning. I'm told by the gas company, that they do not turn off the gas after a storm, as it is necessary for hospitals and other first responder needs. Sure a gas generator can be temporarily used from your garage for the refrigerator and a few lights, but having the entire home uninterrupted after a storm is a major plus.

As I write these thoughts on building a strong home, it's funny, but I remember one of the favorite books that my mother read to me was the "3 Little Pigs." I don't know why this is in my memory 67 years later, but I guess it rang a bell in terms of building a home substantial enough to keep that "Big Bad Wolf" from destroying a home. Our wolf is the potential Florida hurricane. We all know it's coming, but we can't predict what year we will experience it. I just returned from a trip to the British Virgin Islands 2 weeks ago, and in addition to the devastating pictures that I saw on TV, there is still many signs of the devastation caused by the strength of the wind and water there from Irma and Maria. Very eye-opening.

If you are considering remodeling or building a new home, maybe some of the items listed above might give you cause to reflect on what items you want to install.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and announces our GHD Coastal Homes for the Pinellas Beaches. Come visit our "Key West" Home at 239 144th Ave. N, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD model, call at (727) 954-8345, or email to: [tweisser@ghdcsi.com](mailto:tweisser@ghdcsi.com). Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at [www.GHDCoastalHomes.com](http://www.GHDCoastalHomes.com).



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## Did You Know



**TOP CHEF PARC EVENT** The 5th Annual Top Chef has been moved to the Arts Warehouse District - at The Morean Center for Clay, 420 22nd Street S. The event, benefiting PARC's Culinary Arts Program, just one of the PARC programs, will be August 22nd. The Culinary Arts Program trains clients for restaurant jobs.

This year's participating restaurants include Tampa's Osteria, Bulla GastroBar, and Bake'n Babes, St Pete's The Library, Sand Key's Rusty's Bistro, Carrabba's, and others. Admission is \$125. VIP tickets are \$150. For more information, visit [www.parc-fl.org/events/top-chefs](http://www.parc-fl.org/events/top-chefs) or call 341-6930 for more information.

**INDOOR YARD SALE** Join Southwest Recreation Complex for their annual indoor community garage sale, Saturday, August 17 from 8 am to noon. Tables are \$10 each, limit two tables per person, and are already on sale. The event is free to attend. With over 65 tables, there are bound to be some treasures, so come find great deals on home goods, children's toys, gently used clothing and much more. Call 727-518-3125 for more information.

**TAX FREE SHOPPING DAYS** Even though it feels like school just ended, plans are already underway for the kids' return to class. If you will need new clothes and school supplies, mark your calendar for August 2-6. That is when the state will wave Sales Tax on many school items - from notebooks to computers; shirts to shoes. Of course many stores will be offering discount sales prices at the same time. The list of items is rather long, so visit [FloridaRevenue.com/BackToSchool](http://FloridaRevenue.com/BackToSchool), to see what is included.

**THANK YOU KATHY GASTON**

The Town of Belleair Bluffs' Archives Room has been officially renamed the Kathy Gaston Archives Room. Kathy has been the Town's unofficial archivist for more years than she cares to count and calls the room her "home away from home." She keeps all the information organized and at least once a week is available to answer requests from the town's residents, who are looking for something from the past.



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# and More...

## MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Neighborhood Meals on Wheels is in serious need of volunteer drivers. The organization provides meals to nearly 3,000 adults 60 or older at low or no cost. They deliver the nutritious meals, approved by a licensed dietitian, to the senior's door Monday-Friday. In many cases volunteers are the only interactions some homebound seniors have each day. The organization has lost more than 25 percent of its meals-on-wheels volunteer drivers and this has put some seniors in danger of not receiving their daily meals. Deliver routes take anywhere from one hour to 90 minutes to complete. Call 727-573-9444 or visit [neighborly.org](http://neighborly.org) for other volunteer options



**NEW EVENT - FESTIVAL BY THE SEA** On September 28, from 3 to 7pm, the City of Belleair Beach will have a new event. Enjoy live music, a dunk tank where you can dunk the Mayor, City Council Members and former Mayors/Council Members for a fee, inflatables, Corn Hole, a K-9 demonstration with a safety information, the Suncoast Fire and Rescue Antique Fire Truck for kids to climb on, and much more. They are looking for sponsors. To rent a booth contact the city at 595-4646 or e-mail Chairman June VanScoyoc, [JuneforMayorM@gmail.com](mailto:JuneforMayorM@gmail.com).

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WIND ENERGY?

Humans have harnessed the power of wind for centuries - pushing boats down rivers or across the seas, pumping water, and grinding grain. The earliest windmills were in Persia in 600 AD. In the 1920s and '30s, U.S. farms in the Midwest used wind turbines as their primary source of energy. Throughout the twentieth century, the use of wind energy declined, but now a resurgence is underway with dropping costs and heightened performance. In 2015, a record 63 gigawatts of wind power were installed around the world, almost half in China. It is estimated, the wind energy potential of Kansas, North Dakota and Texas could meet the electricity demands of our entire country.



32 wind turbines recently installed offshore near Liverpool, England are owned by Lego - yes the toy maker. Each is double the height of the Statue of Liberty with blades that have a sweeping diameter nearly twice the length of a football field. A single rotation of one turbine generates one household's daily electricity use. The project supplies power for all 466,000 Liverpools residents.

Today, 314,000 wind turbines supply 4 percent of the global electricity. With new, quieter, cheaper designs, look for that number to continue to climb.

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

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## Pier 60 - A Look Back, continued

Actually, the Pier we now call Pier 60 is the third pier to be built at that location. Records show the City of Clearwater acquired the land around 1898, but did not build a pier there for many years. Instead, they just built picnic shelters there. After Clearwater built the Clearwater Beach bridge in 1927, more people discovered the beautiful beaches. The popularity of fishing rose and the next year, the city built the first Clearwater Beach pier as a tourist destination.

Constructed by Willard Moore, who also built the Calvary Baptist Church, the pier was built with wood, on hundreds of pilings. In addition to picnic shelters, the project included a larger beach pavilion where visitors could change into or out of their bathing clothes.

The popular fishing pier was declared unsafe in the late 1950s and the City decided to build a replacement, this time out of concrete, next to the old wooden one. To great fanfare, the new pier opened June 29, 1962. To help prevent beach erosion, a jetty was installed at the south end of the beach. It worked, maybe a little too well. The sand began accumulating behind the jetty moving the waterline farther and farther out, until eventually the concrete pier barely reached the water. The City had to lengthen the pier to almost double its original size.

The Pier became known as Pier 60 because it appeared to be an extension of Highway 60's Memorial Causeway. During the 1960s, it was the place to be and be seen. Many attractions appeared nearby including Everingham's, a popular small restaurant. A large dance hall was to the south where the public parking is today. Joyland, to the north, included a swimming pool. A large trailer park was directly on the beach where the Hilton sits today.

In the late 1980s, The Pier included a small extension of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. It had two tanks, each with a sea turtle, including Mo who was considered to be the oldest sea turtle in captivity. There were other sea life exhibits in the bait house and in the nearby aquarium.

By the early 1990s, the concrete pilings were cracking and sand from newly built jetties was piling up under the pier. The city decided it was again time for a new pier. With the help of the Penny For Pinellas revenue, they were able to build today's million dollar pier with another million dollars in amenities.

"Because of construction restrictions issued by the state, the new pier had to be built exactly on the same footprint as the old pier," says Gary Johnson, Public Works Director of Clearwater. "There was talk of making it a double-decker, or having a two-level observation deck, but the cost of that was way out of the budget."

While the structural design of the pier was left up to City Engineers, in May of 1991 a Blue-Ribbon Panel was formed composed of citizens, designers, and city councilmen who

submitted ideas for the pedestrian amenities. A contest was held requesting ideas with a \$1,000 prize going to the winner.

It was decided the design theme would be a Tropical Seascape to include a new pavilion, shops, concessions, bait house, observation deck, and a nearby children's playground. Before the new pier opened, the buildings at the entrance of the pier were removed and replaced with a grassy play area for children and families.

The new pier opened April 16, 1994- Twenty-five years ago. Its opening celebration was incorporated into the annual Sun-N-Fun festival. Admission to the pier was free for a few days and included a fishing contest.

Since 1995, from two hours before, until two hours after sunset, Pier 60 is host to a daily sunset festival, weather permitting of course. The celebration includes artisans, crafters, street performers, and the star of the show - Clearwater Beach sunsets. On Friday and Saturday evenings, a free family-friendly movie is played under the stars at the Sunset Cinema. The list of upcoming movies can be found at [www.sunsetsatpier60.com](http://www.sunsetsatpier60.com).

The pier sustained some minor damage during Hurricane Irma. Those repairs, done last year, presented a good opportunity to do a little facelift. The bait house received a new roof, windows, siding and an air conditioner. Crews also renovated the pavilions by repairing the columns and replacing/repainting the roofs. It was the first time anything had been renovated since it had been built.

Today's Pier 60 is 1,080 feet long. The water at the end is between 10-12 feet deep. Last year, even with the construction, over 129,000 people paid to walk or fish on the pier. It costs \$1 per person to walk to the end of the pier. Children pay \$5.25/day, seniors \$6.75/day, and adults pay \$8/day. There are also weekly, monthly and annual fishing passes. Already this year, over 116,000 people have paid to walk or fish on Pier 60.

The large playground area, located on the east end is for everyone to enjoy. ■



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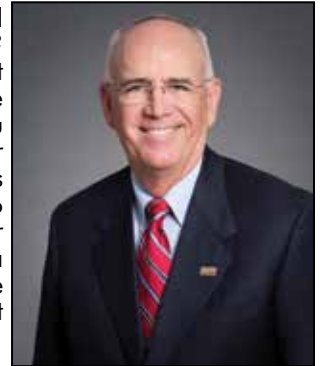
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**ARETHA, PRINCE, TOM AND...YOU**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

What do these famous musical artists all have in common? They all died leaving their vast fortune in a very messy state of affairs. It is not a club you want to join. Franklin with four children, Prince with six siblings and Petty with a wife and two daughters from a former marriage either died without a will or had a trust with language open to interpretation that subsequently led to a lawsuit.



With something as basic as a will and/or living trust, why would such wealthy and hopefully well advised people not have a will? In Franklin's case, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, so it was not sudden. She had time and that may have been the problem, she thought she had more time and procrastinated. Prince was "only" age 57 before his drug overdose. No need to hurry at such a young age. Petty had a will and a trust, but the language is now left to interpretation by a judge.

What does all of this mean to you? It means if you do not have a properly drafted estate plan or you have not reviewed it in the past five years, NOW is the time to call your advisors (lawyer, accountant and financial planner) together to obtain their collective knowledge and recommendations.

It would all be easy if it was just about "having" a will, living trust, power of attorney, health care surrogate, and living will. A simple estate plan leaves the estate to the surviving spouse and then equally amongst the children. However, things are often not that simple. Maybe one of the children isn't prepared to handle the inheritance, another may be in a shaky marriage, maybe a family business is involved and children need to be treated differently, maybe there is a special needs child and the list goes on.

Having documents is one thing, but making sure that they say unequivocally what you want is another. Will you leave the estate directly to the children, or perhaps better in a trust with liberal terms of distribution and which might provide asset protection from creditors or in a divorce?

Most of our clients have found it beneficial to discuss these difficult decisions with us before visiting a lawyer. We always offer a complimentary consultation so join our club instead of Aretha, Prince and Tom's.

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## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

IHA Florida, Florida's Premier Hockey Academy, is currently accepting billet applications for student athletes attending the Clearwater International Hockey Academy for the upcoming 2019/2020 season.

The Program operates at the Clearwater Ice Arena and welcomes players from Europe, Canada and the USA. Players participate in a High-Performance Hockey Program, while at the same time continuing with their education at the Clearwater Ice Arena. They are partnered with Elevation Prep School to provide classes geared to individual student's needs.

The billet families are a large part of their program. If you feel you are able to offer a warm and supportive family home environment, nutritious meals, and a furnished bedroom that students can call their own space while attending our Academy for the 10 month program, please contact either Donna Lewis or Adam Bennett. Also, visit our website at ihafloida.com for more information.

## GRACIE'S BIG SPLASH

Saturday, August 10, 2019 - 5:30 - 9pm

Belleair's Dimmitt Community Recreation Center

The Largo Fire Department brings the splash and rainbow at 6:45 pm. The Splash will also feature:

- 6 water slides with the new 27' black pearl pirate ship
- 4-way bungee jumper
- Rock climbing wall
- Mark the Balloon Guy
- Raffle and silent auction prizes
- Bake sale, snow cones and more

Donation Entry is \$10 and includes a kid's meal and wristband. Proceeds will benefit the Gracie G. Purdy Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit focusing on helping children facing a terminal or catastrophic illness, donations to pediatric cancer research and sponsoring youth oriented programs in our community.

In 2007, the first Gracie's Big Splash was held to aid Gracie Purdy, who was diagnosed with brain cancer, and her family. Gracie passed away in 2008 and the event has continued in her memory.

For information, contact Martin or Llisiana at 727-559-0993 or email 4splash.info@gmail.com.

## CLOTHES TO KIDS

### Underwear Drive "Drop Off Your Drawers"

Drop (off) Your Drawers is a drive designed to collect and "underwrite" underwear – a basic part of the Clothes To Kids wardrobe. During July and August, Clothes To Kids is collecting new packages of underwear, boys sizes 4-16 (boxer briefs), young men sizes 30 & up, girls sizes 6-16, Junior girls sizes 5 and up primarily bikini style. Please support our mission and help us provide this basic necessity! More than 80,000+ pairs of new underwear will be given this year, all free of charge.

Individuals, companies, civic groups, places of worship, and schools are encouraged to sign up to collect new packages of underwear. Once your collection is complete, "drop" them off to one of three stores - Clearwater (1059 N. Hercules Ave., Clearwater) St. Pete (Twin Brooks Commons, 2168 34th Street South) or Tampa (5011-H West Hillsborough Ave., Tampa).

To sign up, contact Rita Wesley, at ritaw@clothestokids.org or call 727-441-5050, ext 222. Visit www.clothestokids.org for to learn more about the organization.

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## TWENTY YEARS WORKING ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE BEST IN GOVERNMENT

By Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

For me, this year marks twenty years of working for you as a county commissioner. During these years, I've had the privilege and pleasure of working alongside some of the most dedicated and talented people in local government.

Pinellas County recognizes these employees through a video series that highlights the contributions of these hard-working individuals. The videos are debuted at our Board of County Commissioners meetings and, as I recently watched one of them, it struck me that our employees do have wonderful stories to tell about themselves and their roles with the county.

So, over my next few columns, I'd like to share some of their stories so that you, too, can get to know some of our wonderful employees. I want to start with Scott Rintz, a Safety Specialist with Pinellas County's Risk Management department.

Scott's job is evaluating workforce safety at various locations throughout the county. According to Scott, his role is to make sure our employees go home to their families every night.

One of Scott's many objectives is to make sure employees wear safety gear while they're on the job. From operating an excavator to operating a quick-cut saw or chainsaw, he evaluates every tool and technique workers employ and assures that the proper safety equipment is being used.

The importance of wearing the correct personal protection equipment, also called PPE, hit close to home last year during Pinellas County's response to Hurricane Michael in the Panhandle.

Scott had recently been reviewing different types of safety helmets and recommended a new type for Pinellas County Utilities workers. The helmet provides full face coverage and that made all the difference to one Utilities worker when a

huge branch from a downed tree he was cutting fell, hitting him and sweeping him off his feet and to the ground about eight feet away. When his team got to him they found that he was unconscious. The worker survived because of Scott's selection of the full face helmet.

According to Scott, he's proud to work for a county that puts a large emphasis on safety.

Scott also helps others save lives by leading CPR classes and provides the full the gamut of OSHA training classes for employees.

His efforts are part of the county's commitment to certify 100% of the Pinellas County workforce in OSHA safety within the next few years.

Recently, he's also offered classes in treating someone who is bleeding extensively. Scott says the idea came to him after the active shooter incident in Parkland, where high school students were gunned down. His class incorporates the use of bandages, instruction on how to take and elevate and compress, and the use of tourniquets to stop bleeding until EMS arrives.

Scott says it's gratifying to see how his efforts have directly impacted the lives of his coworkers and he is proud of the work he does, helping people go home to their families every day.

I, for one, am very happy that we have Scott Rintz in our court protecting the lives of our employees.

You can view the video story about Scott and our other employees by visiting Pinellas County's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/pctv1](http://www.youtube.com/user/pctv1).



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## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN SOMEONE CARES

By Erin Emmett, President Guardian ad Litem Foundation

The Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay is an advocate for children, young adults, and families impacted by abuse and neglect in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. These children in foster care need more help than our system provides. Through their collaboration with community partners, the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) staff and volunteers work to support these children. I have been fortunate enough to see the wonderful work these people do over the last five years as a volunteer, board member and for the last three years as the Board President of Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay.



I became aware of GAL through my work with Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin. Part of our community focus was children aging out of foster care. GAL representatives spoke at our meetings and I became interested in helping to fulfill their mission.

Every year in the Tampa Bay area, thousands of abused and neglected children are removed from their families and home. GAL volunteer child advocates represent the best interests of these children as their voice in court. The volunteer's only interest is the child's best interest. They help them in and out of court making sure their needs are met by the system; often they are the only consistent adult in a child's life. At any time, over 1,000 kids are waiting for a volunteer advocate. GAL is working hard to help more kids in the Court system and to help them find a permanent home.

The GAL Program is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation - protecting a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in a safe loving family. GAL volunteers are caring adults, there to protect a child's rights at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives.

Through my work on the Board of Directors I have seen the difference this program can make. One recent foster child participating in GAL graduated as the valedictorian of Boca Ciega High School with a 4.6 GPA. He has been accepted into both Yale and Stanford.

While being a GAL child advocate is a wonderful experience, not everyone has 10-15 hours a month to dedicate to the job. However, you can still help by supporting us behind the scenes working with The GAL Foundation.

During my time as President, I have seen exciting changes. We have almost doubled the number of Board members, which helped us to double our amount of fundraising and increase our local community business partnerships. While the State provides the program's basic funding, the Foundation provides the extra funding needed to fill the gaps. These changes have allowed us to increase the amount spent on the children's education and private tutoring.

As a Financial Adviser, I spend my days helping people navigate challenging life events, which is very rewarding. But my work with GAL has allowed me to give back in a special way. Our Foundation is helping children, who have been dealt a tough hand through no fault of their own, as they face difficult life challenges. I see how we are making a difference in so many of their lives.

Do you want to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are flexible to meet your skills, interests, and time commitment. For information about GAL and volunteer opportunities, visit [herotoachild.org](http://herotoachild.org), e-mail [iamfourthechild@galf6.org](mailto:iamfourthechild@galf6.org) or call 727-464-6528.

Together, we can make an even greater impact in the lives of these abused and neglected children. If you would like to talk more about any of this, feel free to contact me, Erin Emmett, 727-712-3400, [erin@roganfinacial.com](mailto:erin@roganfinacial.com). Because it really is true, "Anything is Possible When Someone Cares"

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**FOCUS GRAPHIX**

A small family run business on West Bay Drive just east of the Pinellas Trail, Focus Graphix is celebrating their tenth year. Run by Sand Key residents Ferenc and Valarie Wahl and Victoria Wahl Martin, Focus prepares and sells custom printed and embroidered T-shirts, hats, novelty items and banners. They work for individuals, organizations and many nearby businesses, big and small. You can order one or thousands. "I have been using their services for years," says Bob Griffin, Publisher of this News Magazine. Find them at 1025 West Bay Drive, next to Hammerhead Hardware. For more information, call 216-6757 or visit [www.FocusGraphics.com](http://www.FocusGraphics.com).



**BEST HEALTH FOOD STORE**

Nature's Food Patch, a family-owned, natural food grocer in Clearwater was voted Best Health Food Store in Tampa Bay by the Tampa Bay Times during their recent "Best of the Best" campaign. The Patch also won runner-up for Best Grocery store. The results were officially announced in a special section of The Times in June. Nature's Food Patch is located at 1225 Cleveland Street on the mainland. Visit [NaturesFoodPatch.com](http://NaturesFoodPatch.com).

**NEW PONTON BOAT ADDED**

Outland Jet Ski Rentals has added a pontoon boat to its inventory of fun water



rentals. The 24 foot long party boat holds up to 10 people. It is safe and stable and even comes with a slide! It costs \$125 an hour and comes with gas and a captain. Outland Boat Tours operates behind the Holiday Inn Harborside, with a rental office at the south end of 2nd Street - near the History Museum. See their web site at [OutlandBoatTour.com](http://OutlandBoatTour.com) or call them at 301-6267.

**MARINE MAX PARTNERS WITH MJM YACHTS** MarineMax welcomes MJM Yachts to their lineup as the official dealer for the West Coast of Florida as well as Stuart and Palm Beach.

"MJM Yachts has a history of building one of the most technologically advanced powerboats on the market today," states Brett McGill, MarineMax Chief Executive Officer and President. "They specialize in Express Cruisers that are fast, stable, and fuel efficient, with a strong Epoxy composite construction. We see a great opportunity to showcase MJM Yachts and their products in some of the most popular boating destinations in Florida."



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# Business Briefs



## BLUFFS ANIMAL HOSPITAL HAS NEW OWNERS

Meet The Bluffs Animal Hospital's new owners. Shown here, they are Doctors Patrick Brady, Christine Heatherly and Patricia Entoma.

While they may be new owners, they are not new to the Hospital and they are not planning any changes. Find them still at 320 Indian Rocks Road North in Belleair Bluffs.

**DR. MORGAN WINS AWARD** The Florida Veterinary Medical Association honored Dr. Donald H Morgan with the 2019 Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated service to the veterinary profession for nearly 50 years. In 2011, they already honored him with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Morgan has served as the Tampa Bay representative on the executive board and as President-Elect in 2013-2014. He has also served as the President of the Pinellas Animal Foundation, as Chairman of the Board of the Greater Largo Chamber of Commerce (and member for 10 years), a member of the Largo Jaycees, and Chairman on the Largo Medical Center Board of Trustees. Dr. Morgan also volunteers and supports the Pinellas County Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Morgan founded the Bluffs Animal Hospital in Belleair Bluffs in 1977.

## THIRD CONDO BUILDING TOPS OFF

Developer JMC Communities topped off the Belleview Place third building, Sunset, by placing a traditional palm tree on the roof while construction continues on the interior.



Residences in the fourth and final building are now selling. The condos, six-stories over two floors of parking, present beautifully appointed, spacious residences ranging from 1,724 to 4,144 square feet with two or three bedrooms, large windows and expansive terraces.

In addition to 100 mid-rise luxury condominium residences, Belleview Place also offers 26 two-story carriage homes, which offer a maintenance-free townhome lifestyle with 2,142 to 3,306 square feet of living space, private elevators and two-car garages. Prices start from the \$700,000s.

Belleview Place residents enjoy access to the Belleair Country Club and the amenities at the Belleview Inn, the restored lobby and 35 guestrooms of the original Belleview Biltmore hotel. The Inn offers a resort-style pool, a history room, Maisie's market, fitness center and social event spaces as well as an event lawn.

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# Business Briefs



**JOE BARKLEY'S NEW BUSINESS**

Joe Barkley and Mary Lou Ambrose sold their Largo based Great Florida Insurance Agency at the end of last year. Now, they have opened a new one with his name on the door—The Joe Barkley Agency. Joe has been in the Insurance business—in one form or another—since 1976. He is precluded by a

non-compete agreement from continuing in the Property and Casualty arena, so has returned to his original area of service—Employee Benefits, Life and Health Insurance, and Retirement Benefits. When he is not in the office, Joe is a Belleair Bluffs City Commissioner. Reach him at 433-4048.

**BILTMORE NOW OPEN** The Biltmore Real Estate Company, with offices in Indian Rocks and Countryside, has a new office in Belleair Bluffs at 784 Indian Rocks Rd. N., next to Chez Collette Bistro. Opened on June 1st, the office services Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, and the Belleair Beaches. They still have room for one or two more energetic Realtors. It is owned by founder and Broker Jim Mayes, , 727-260-5164.

**LALA'S FINISHES FIRST YEAR**

Laura Katz new store, Lala's Home Decor has finished its first year. The store opened in The Plaza last September. "I am so happy all my customers that knew me from Antique Alley followed me down the road to The Plaza. Thank you for a great first year," says Laura. Find her, next to Belleair Coffee.



Visit [LalasHome.com](http://LalasHome.com) or call 240-1200.

**CLOSED AFTER 32 YEARS** Nicoles Boutique, in Belleair Bluffs, closed May 31. Wanda Matuska owned and operated the store since December of 1986—32 years! She is now retired.

**TWELVE YEARS AND COUNTING**

August 1st is this News Magazine's twelfth anniversary. Time flies when you are writing stories - hundreds of them. In twelve years, we have printed 68 issues. That is a lot of history, business, restaurants, and organizational news. If you missed an issue, you can always read in online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com). Thanks for continuing to read our stories and advertising with us.



# Business Briefs



**STEFANEC'S IS EIGHT** Irena Strecha opened her Stefanec's South Barber Shop in Belleair Bluffs September, 2011. Over time, with so many new customers, she has added help. They specialize in men's and boy's haircuts. Find them at 772 Indian Rocks Road North, next to the

Chez Colette Bistro. Drop by for a trim. No need to call.

**NEED A RENTAL CAR?** Gulf Car Rentals rents clean, non smoking pre-owned cars. They will deliver it directly to you and pick it up when you are done. They offer unlimited miles and even offer airport pickup and drop off. Keep them in mind next time you need an insurance replacement cars. They have been in business 30 years and also buy and sell cars, offering free estimates. Call them at 727-442-7777.

**CLOSED AND ALREADY REOPENED** Billy the Tree on Jewel Avenue closed and has already been replaced by the Painted Pear Studio. It is a artists' studio where you can buy art, have it framed and or even learn to paint. They offer classes and group paints with wine. They are located at 2617 Jewel Road, behind the Belleair Market.

**ENGEL & VOELKERS MOVES** Steve and Kelly Kepler moved their office one block east to 2510 West Bay Drive. Look for their big white building across from Wells Fargo. Call them at 461-1000.

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** Their August After Hours Mingle will be held August 8 at the office of Liza Campa-Flanagan, with Raymond James, located at 645 Indian Rocks Road.

Social Hour begins at 5:30pm. To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797. Visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com for more information.

## RCS PINELLAS ADDRESSES SUMMER HUNGER

RCS Pinellas is pleased to announce its partnership with Pinellas County Schools and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast. As part of the partnerships, the organizations will address summer hunger faced by many children in Pinellas County by providing snacks to the school's summer program called 21st Century CCLC iClass and to the Boys & Girls club for four weeks. Additionally, an RCS representative will come teach the children about healthy relationships and boundaries, and the Boys & Girls Club youth will come to the RCS Food Bank to volunteer and learn about food insecurity.

"For many of us a snack is just a snack, and not a big deal, for others, however a snack and a drink make all the difference in the world when it comes not being hungry, and simply being happy. It's truly an honor and privilege to be the summer camp snack provider for these amazing kids," says Kirk Ray Smith, President & CEO of RCS Pinellas.

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RCS Pinellas will provide snacks to a total of 230 students at High Point Elementary School, Melrose Elementary School, Ponce De Leon Elementary School, Maximo Elementary School, Lakewood Elementary School, New Heights Elementary School, Campbell Park Elementary School, and Fairmount Elementary School - 3,680 snacks. They will also provide snacks to 420 children at Northside Club, Royal Theater Club, Wood Valley Club, Pinellas Park Club, Ridgecrest Club, and Tarpon Springs Club - 8,400 snacks. In total it is over 12,000 snacks.

RCS Pinellas has provided help & hope to people in need for 50 years. Their mission is to feed the hungry, help families facing homelessness return to self-sufficiency, and empower survivors of domestic violence. Over 130,000 Pinellas County individuals are served annually. For information on RCS, visit www.rcspinellas.org or call 727-584-3528.

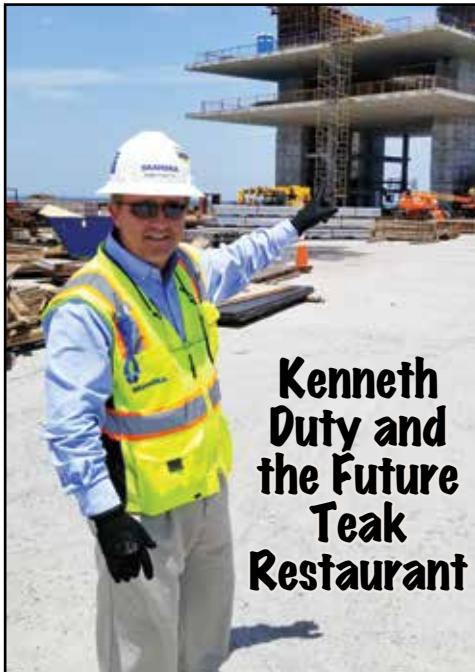
# ST. PETE PIER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

JULY 2019

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The St Pete Pier closed to the public on May 31, 2013 - over six years ago. Skanska USA was awarded the contract to build the new one. Skanska, a worldwide construction company, is based in Sweden. Their U.S. operations is headquartered in New York with four Florida offices including Tampa.

On June 21st, Skanska USA employees gave me a personal tour of the St. Pete Pier™ - from end to end. I met with Kenneth Duty, Project Executive of Skanska USA.



**Kenneth  
Duty and  
the Future  
Teak  
Restaurant**

Duty has worked for Skanska for thirteen years and commutes daily from Lithia (Brandon area). He has supervised many Florida projects including the building of Tampa's International Plaza. He supervises 100 to 200 workers a day, many of whom work for subcontractors.

Skanska did not do the initial demolition, which involved cutting and/or pulling out about 1400 pilings. Skanska installed 425 new ones. "The pilings that were removed were 14x14 inches square," Duty explained. "The new ones we installed were bigger - 24x24 inches. They are set along the same path as the original foundation with a minor offset to miss the portion of the previous pier's piles that remain cut-off below the mudline."

Oddly enough, some of the old pilings were left to stick up out of the water in front of Tampa Bay Watch's new Discovery Center area. They will be used as part of a natural reef for undersea life.

The seawall was replaced and extended to the north towards historic Spa Beach, which will remain primarily unchanged. The area under the roadway was drilled to test ten basic zones for strength under the mudline.

The new pier is 3122 feet in length—just 178 feet shorter than the former pier. The approach is no longer a straight line; it is accentuated with several angles.

In front of the St Pete Museum of History will be a large exhibit area and walkway covered with solar panels that will provide both shade and energy. This new vendor Marketplace will be active Friday through Sunday—all year.

A nautically themed children's play area, designed by one of North America's premier playground designers is strategically located near the Pier Splash pad, Welcome Center and Spa Beach. There will be a food vendor and restrooms close to the play area and a tram stop nearby. The widely anticipated art by renowned sculpture artist, Janet Echelman, will be draped across the roadway near the play area, too.

Just beyond the artwork, a new parking lot provided by Duke Energy has covered parking, which also will contain a series of solar panels providing electricity.

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille, a major seafood restaurant company based in Sanibel, is halfway down the pier route next to the Duke Energy Parking Lot. The one-story 10,000 square foot building has 2,000 square feet of balcony facing the water. Off to its south will be approximately twenty public docks for boaters to use when visiting the pier.

In the middle of the pier's roadway will be Discovery Center operated by Tampa Bay Watch. With inside and outside exhibit areas, stadium seating facing the city is being built for special water-related presentations.

The primary feature of the project at the Pier Head is a restaurant, actually three restaurants, owned by local businessman Chuck Prather, owner of Birchwood Inn and Birch and Vine Restaurant on Beach Drive.

It will be three levels with three distinctively different tropically themed concepts: the Driftwood Café, Pier Teaki and the fine dining, Teak. The top floor will be a rooftop bar with a 360-degree view of Tampa Bay and the city, offering fine dining. Most will be complete when the pier is finished, but the fourth-floor Teak restaurant won't open until possibly next summer.



**The Future  
Doc Ford's**

A bait shop also at the Pier Head will be operated by Alan Kahana who will also operate the Pavilion at Spa beach. As with the old pier, there is a trolley system that will constantly run from Bayshore Drive to the Pier Head.

"The new St. Pete Pier and Pier District will be a waterfront destination for everyone to enjoy, no matter your age, income, or ability, says Mayor Kriseman. "From an environmentally friendly kids playground to a variety of restaurants and cafes, there will be spectacular views, and lots of shade. I'm looking forward to cutting the ribbon on the new St. Pete Pier."

The original target date for the Grand Opening of the St. Pete Pier™ originally was late last year. Weather and other design factors caused the date to move first to this fall and now into early 2020.

To get all the information about the pier's progress and amenities, visit the official web site at [www.NewStPetePier.com](http://www.NewStPetePier.com). Be sure to sign up for occasional updates on the Contact Us page.





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**FREEFALL WRAPS UP SEASON WITH BROADWAY MUSICAL PIPPIN!**

This summer, freeFall will be closing out their 2018/2019 season with the classic Broadway musical Pippin. Long a contender for inclusion in our season, Artistic Director, Eric Davis is excited to present a new staging of this beloved musical, which features an energetic, funny, and moving score by Wicked composer Stephen Schwartz and was originally directed on Broadway by the legendary Bob Fosse.

Pippin stars freeFall newcomers Daniel Maldonado and Kellie Rhianna as Pippin and the Leading Player. The supporting cast is filled with freeFall favorites including Alison Burns (Bernarda Alba), Emanuel Carrero (The Mikado), Will Garrabrant (The Little Prince), Hannah Benitez (The Pirates of Penzance) and Matthew McGee (The Musical of Musicals). Pippin is directed and choreographed by freeFall Artistic Director Eric Davis and musically directed by Michael Raabe.

Pippin, the eldest son of Charlemagne, has recently graduated from university and is determined to find a fulfilling purpose for his life. He embarks on an epic personal quest in an attempt to find his "Corner of the Sky." What is the price of glory and is he willing to pay it? Pippin is a modern classic, universal in its message and unique in its point of view.

freeFall's summer musical is an anticipated tradition in Tampa Bay. Past productions have included smash hits Cabaret, Mame, and Man of La Mancha. Pippin will be a great addition to those titles. Its themes of self-discovery and use of heightened theatricality make it a great fit for freeFall and Pippin's search for meaning, significance, and a 'brighter tomorrow' make it the perfect finale for our 2018/2019 season. Pippin opens July 13 and runs through August 11.

Tickets range from \$39.50 to \$52.50. Discounts for groups are available. Contact the Box Office, freefalltheatre.com, (727) 498-5205, boxoffice@freefalltheatre.com.

**DON MCLEAN MCMANUS**

Don McManus owner of the Belleair Bluffs CPA firm next to Antique Alley died June 25. He was loved and appreciated by everyone he met.

Born in 1933, Don moved from Chicago to Clearwater with his parents in 1952. He was a capable athlete before he was afflicted with polio at 17. He graduated from the University of Florida on the Dean's List in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He began his career in Clearwater working for the CPA firm, Harper & Van Scoik. Then, teamed up with Fred Campbell, and together they opened McManus and Campbell, CPA on West Bay Drive. They enjoyed a long friendship and a mutual interest in business and the community.

Shortly after college, he met and married his wife Sandra Moore. They had five children and were married 61 years at the time of his death.

Don became very involved in the community, joining many organizations including The Optimists Club, Rotary, Church of the Ascension, Boy Scouts and the Indian Guides. With his kids, he could be found on the soccer fields coaching and supporting them. Later in life, he was often seen scooting down Indian Rocks Road in his motorized wheelchair—sometimes with a granddaughter or two on his lap.

Don is survived by his wife, three daughters, a son, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He has two younger brothers, one of which, Bruce owns McManus & McManus, PA, also in Belleair Bluffs. He was preceded in death by a son, Donald (Mike) Jr.


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## WHAT TO EXPECT

By Rebecca Geiger

The comment I get from parents most often when it comes to lessons is: "I have wanted to do this for a while, but it seems so brutal." Well, it is. Knowing what to expect makes it easier on your child and you though. The main thing to know is that even with a good instructor, there will be tears. This is often mistaken as fear, but is actually anger. Extreme anger to be sure, but anger can be a great motivator when used appropriately.

So let's dive in to what is happening in the child's mind. Children do not know fear. Fear is knowing that an action has a consequence, which usually causes pain or discomfort. If children had fear we could be much less concerned that they would attempt to "swim" without knowing how. They are also accustomed to being rescued, knowing if they cry loud enough and long enough, mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, etc. will step in and save them. Swimming lessons prepare them for the worst case scenario, should they fall in when you are not there to save them. Explaining this to them is all but impossible. To your child, this is a foreign concept.



By giving children lessons, group or private, you are placing that discomfort squarely on the shoulders of the instructor. Instructors are trained for this. They do not take the child's frustrations personally and can provide a detached place for the child to vent those frustrations and anger while allowing you to continue enjoying your time in the pool with the child during non-lesson times. All

of their negative emotions are directed at their feelings for the teacher, not the water. This is important. We never want them to have a dislike of water, yet we need them to respect it.

There are many options for parents: "Mommy and Me" classes, Infant Swimming Resource (ISR), group, semi-private, or private lessons. The one that is right for you will

depend on your comfort level and the speed at which you want your child to progress. Keep in mind, if your child can see you, it will double their learning time. If you are in the water with them it will triple it. The reason for this is simple. Your child is literally hardwired to cry/whine at a pitch that is excruciating for you. This is a survival mechanism. You are correspondingly hardwired to respond to their discomfort as quickly as possible to prevent your own discomfort. If they can see you, their mind will be focused on why you are not stopping what is upsetting them, giving you extreme discomfort by watching them without interfering. This is a hindrance to everyone while developing this vital skill.

Accepting this can help you make the best decision for your child, and you. No matter which decision you make, please make sure your child learns to save themselves in the water!

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



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**LONG LIVE CALADESI**

by Terry Fortner

Caladesi! The derivation for this beautiful name has never been absolutely determined.

This barrier island represents the "real Pinellas" replete with towering

Slash pine trees, ancient live oaks, acres of mangrove forest, clear, clean water and beaches, teeming with wildlife, especially sea life and birds.

Did ancient tribes, whose burial and ceremonial grounds evidence that they were the first humans to walk the island paths, call it this? Or maybe "Cayo d'Desi" is named for a fisherman with a seasonal rancho in the frontier days of Florida? No one now knows for certain.

Caladesi's charms captivated one man so entirely, that he chose to make it his lifelong home. Swiss immigrant Henry Scharrer homesteaded it in 1888, marrying Kate McNally in a moonlight ceremony in the palm grove near his island home. In February of 1895 a daughter, Myrtle, was born. Scharrer befriended a crew of fishermen from Cuba who visited each time they were in the area. Over many years of interaction, gifts and knowledge were exchanged. Henry learned the Spanish name for what locals called "Hog Island" or "Scharrer's Island" and began to reference his home place as Caladesi, which he translated as meaning "beautiful bayou." He kept this name alive in oral tradition until it was made official in December 30, 1926 (United States Board on Geographic Names).

Essential to any story of Caladesi Island is Gerald Rehm, Mayor of Dunedin, who in 1964 organized a civic campaign that resulted in Caladesi Island being preserved as a state park in 1967. Without Jerry Rehm's direct assistance in every phase of the lengthy and difficult negotiations, it is unlikely that Caladesi would have been preserved. The people of Florida are indebted to Mr. Rehm for this. We might take inspiration, too, as we are in desperate need to protect less developed habitats in our crowded state.

There are many people that acted to preserve Caladesi in the past so that we can protect it into the future. Dedicated Park Managers, Rangers, and volunteers serve daily to maintain the habitat, wildlife and history of our treasured Caladesi.

Long live Caladesi! A particularly remarkable, special place, with a unique name! If you want to know more, read *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise* by Myrtle Scharrer Betz, 2007 edition. A Timeline Addendum extends the history told to before and after the narrative itself.



**THE ALLEY'S UPCOMING EVENTS**

September means school is back in session and Mom and Dad need a little break! The Alley will be open from 5-9 on Friday September 20th, featuring a fashion show, wonderful local musicians, outside vendors and of course all the shops will stay open late. It is your chance to shop, relax, and unwind at your favorite shopping destination and support local. Hope to see all our friends for this fun filled event!

The Fall Antiques and Artisans Market is Sunday Oct 27th from 10-4. It has been held for over 30 years with Collum Antiques, Alley Antiques, and Victoria's Parlor still part of this event and all the new shops being brought into The Alley.

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## WHAT IS THE FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL?

By Keith Simmons

The Florida Humanities Council (FHC) is the statewide affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). FHC was organized, in part, to better promote the humanities and its various disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, ethics, etc.—in Florida. Since 1973, we have done exactly that.

Through a grant program and a number of public programs, we seek to increase the public’s engagement with the ideas, which are essential to the human experience. As an example of our work, during the past two years, FHC has invested over \$80,000 in small grants to organizations across west central Florida. From this region alone, over 14,000 people attended a Smithsonian traveling exhibition; 3,500 area students participated in a poetry recitation contest; and 2,100 residents attended a lecture or community conversation. These programs are typically free and open to the public.

In order to complete this work, the Florida Humanities Council relies in several funding sources, including the NEH and the Florida Legislature. During the 2019 session, FHC’s state appropriation—which we approved annually for years—was not renewed. This resulted in a 25% decrease in our budget. Consequently, we will have to reduce the number of programs made available to the public.

Despite this loss, we are able to remain in operation. We also remain committed to our core mission: to provide access to the humanities—to the stories and ideas that make us human—to all Floridians, wherever located.

The Florida Humanities Council is also determined to make a stronger case to the Legislature during the next session.

We will also seek funding from the business community and private foundations. A critical component of this process is to rally support for the humanities. We join other Floridians in asserting that the humanities are essential for a functioning democracy.

There are several ways you can join. Visit [floridahumanities.org](http://floridahumanities.org) and:

- Sign up for ENews to keep updated on everything going on with FHC.
- Tell us the programs, stories, and ideas that inspire you and help you to fall in love with our state.
- Contribute to our efforts to provide humanities programs, which are free and open to the public by becoming a member or if you are already a member, please consider an additional gift or getting a friend to join.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



**BREAKFAST AT CADDY'S**  
Caddy's Pub Indian Shores has added breakfast to their waterfront restaurant's menu—daily. They now open at 8am

Sure, they have eggs - \$4.99 gets you two, plus meat, home fries and toast. But, among other delights, are seafood omelets, fresh pancakes and in-house made waffles. Enjoy Buy-One-Get-One Bloody Mary's and Mimosas.

See their complete menu online at [www.Caddys.com](http://www.Caddys.com). Find Caddy's at 20025 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores.

**CASA ITALIA** Owned by the Starovas family, this restaurant has been under construction for a year and a half, but they finally saw an end to the dust and opened in mid-July. Located at 2699 Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach, the 28 seat Italian restaurant is not the first for the couple. They previously owned restaurants in Dunedin, St. Petersburg and Clearwater. With their beer and wine permit in hand, they just needed a few building issues to be completed.

"It took longer than we expected", says Tony, but we are ready to meet our neighbors here in Indian Rocks. We gutted the place and rebuilt everything new. "



**MAGGIE MAE'S WINS BEST BREAKFAST, AGAIN**  
Maggie Mae's Restaurant was Voted #1 Place for Breakfast in the area by the readers of the Tampa Bay Newspapers. That makes seven times in the last 9 years. They also came in third for best lunch. Congratulations to the team that makes that happen! Maggie Mae's is located at 2961 West Bay Drive, next to Bonefish. They serve breakfast and lunch, seven days a week.

**HAPPY 34!** Thirty four years ago, Labor Day, E&E Stakeout planned to open, but it didn't happened thanks to Hurricane Elena. After 48 hours of threating our coast and a forcing an evacuation, it turned north. E&E had to delay their grand opening a few days and opened later in the week. E&E Stakeout Restaurant is located in The Plaza Shopping Center at 100 Indian Rocks Road N.

**SIMPLE WEDDINGS** The Caddy's group of restaurants, including nearby Caddy's Pub (Indian Shores), Caddy's on the Beach (Treasure Island) and Caddy's on Boca Ciega Bay (Gulfport) are offering waterfront weddings and receptions. Called Simple Weddings, they offer a relaxed, fun filled affair surrounded by water. The Caddy's staff will cater to your every wish. Select the Caddy's venue that best suits your needs. Learn more about Caddy's Simple Weddings Team at [SimpleWeddingsFlorida.com](http://SimpleWeddingsFlorida.com).

## Bar & Restaurant News

### NEW CRAFT BREWERY OPENING ON THE BEACH

Still under construction, a new craft brewery called Antidote Brewing Company will be opening in Indian Rocks Beach. Owned by Philip Anderson, the 65 seat facility, which hopes to open by the end of the summer, will brew ales and lagers on site. They plan to sell growlers to take home. It is located at 321 Gulf Blvd. between Slyce Pizza and the CVS store.



**BUBBLE TEA COMING SOON** What is bubble tea you may ask? It is the newest thing coming to a store near you. The drink features a base made from tea, fruit, coffee or milk - but usually tea - and chewy "pearls" at the bottom of the cup. It is shaken until frothy. The pearls are marble-sized balls of tapioca. Bubbly tea, also called boba, originated in Taiwan.

So far, the closest location near Belleair is Rolls and Treats in the Clearsky shopping center at 490 Manday Ave., Clearwater. But new locations are popping up all over.

**JEWEL CAFE HITS THE BIG 10** Directly behind the Belleair Market, this small restaurant is located on Jewel Road. Before being Jewel Cafe, it was The Black Café and Penelopes. Darrell and Elaine Youness, owners of the Pizza Shack, opened it as Jewel Café, in September of 2009. When Tom Hawn and John Lawrenson bought it, they kept the name, Jewel Café.

**BACKWATER'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY** Save the date, Backwaters on Sand Key is planning their 19th Anniversary Celebration. Always popular, this party will last for three days, August 23-25th.

"It got too crowded last year, we had about 400 people on just one day," says owner Larry Edger. "So this year, we are spreading it out to three days." That weekend they will offer Anniversary Chowder - \$3, Jumbo Peel & Eat Shrimp - \$9 a dozen, Raw Oysters - \$10 a dozen, Fish & Chips - \$6, Catfish Plate - \$6 and Old School Sliders - \$6. Happy Hour prices will be all night. Find Backwater's at the south end of The Shoppes of Sand Key. Get more details at [BackWatersSandKey.com](http://BackWatersSandKey.com).

**CONTEST WINNERS** In the last issue, we held a Bastille Day contest. The winner, Belleair resident Robert Olmstead, received dinner for two at Chez Colette Bistro. He and his wife Sharon used the opportunity to celebrate their wedding anniversary on June 22.



"Our visit to Chez Colette Bistro was wonderful," Robert said. "Colette, the owner, waited on us personally. We loved the food, the décor and the overall atmosphere. We plan to go back again."

For those playing along here are the questions and answers.

1. What is the French name for July 14th? - Bastille Day
2. In which French city did the July 14th event occur? - Paris
3. What began due to the July 14th event? - French Revolution
4. What is the Bastille? - A prison

Congratulations Robert, and thanks to everyone who entered.

# Robert Young

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# People in our Community

## MEET 98-YEAR OLD WWII VETERAN ODEY O'DONNELL

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In 1943, at the age of only twenty-two, Francis (Odey) O'Donnell (98) was sent to Europe to fight in World War II. It was a year before D-Day - 76 years ago.

Today, Odey and his wife Lois, live a much quieter life in the Town of Belleair, but he still remembers his time "in the War." Odey was born in 1921 in Hartford, Connecticut. After high school, he attended the Citadel, a military college in Charleston. When the U.S. entered the war in 1942, he joined the Navy. His plan was to be a pilot, so he became a cadet in Flight Training. But to his dismay, he was discharged for "reckless flying", something about flying his plane upside down over the Base. "My commander said he was going to 'save my ass' by discharging me," Odey chuckles.

Still wanting to serve, Odey promptly signed up with the Army Air Force and once again was a pilot cadet in training.



However, when they discovered his navy experiences, they transferred him to Bombardier/Navigation School.

"I was trained on the B-24 Liberator bombers. They were relatively new at the time," Odey says. After his training, he was sent to where the action was - North Africa. To get there, they

had to fly north to Newfoundland, then to the Azores - a region of Portugal, and finally Marrakesh, a major city in North Africa's Morocco.

Odey was first based in Foggia, Italy, where he joined the 15th Air Force squadron. There, he flew 17 missions dropping bombs over the south of France and nearby Linz a city in Austria, Vienna, Greece and Romania.

He was eventually transferred to a provisional unit in Brindisi, Italy working side-by-side with the British. It was their job to drop various supplies—food, guns, ammo—over the south of Europe. The planes (B-17s and B-24's) were painted black so they would not be seen at night. "Sometimes we carried agents, some of whom were OSS, which were members of the U.S. wartime intelligence agency.

From that assignment, he was transferred to Algiers, in North Africa. That is where he was during D-Day. He participated in a second invasion in southern France that came shortly after D-Day.

All in all, he flew 52 missions. When the war was over, the Army wanted him to fly a plane home.

"None of the guys wanted to fly—so we got on a slow boat that took us home," Odey recalls. "We did not care that it would take two or three weeks."

Odey left Europe from Naples, Italy on his birthday, March 17, 1945 and headed home. Just over a month later, he

and his high school sweetheart Elizabeth Winter, were married on April 21, 1945.

The military wanted all the men to get some rest and be medically checked out. Odey was sent to Atlantic City on R&R (military slang for rest and recuperation) where he stayed in a resort that employed Joe DiMaggio as the Athletic Director.

With the help of the military, Odey enrolled in Providence College, and graduated in 1949. He went to work in medical sales. But in 1951, as a member of the Army Reserves, he was recalled for the Korean War. He was trained on a B-29, still as a navigator. He trained in San Francisco, but was never sent to Korea.

Odey and Elizabeth were married for 21. They had seven children, before they divorced in 1969. He met Lois, his current wife, at a medical convention in Boston. They married and lived on Bolton Lake, CT, but often vacationed here in Pinellas County. They enjoyed the beaches and often stayed in Clearwater. Finally one day they decided to stay. They bought a condo and later a house, in Imperial Point, Seminole.

Odey had retired from his job in medical sales, but he wasn't done being involved. They joined the Clearwater Yacht Club where in 1995 Odey became the Commodore and Lois was the President of The Gulls - a ladies' fundraising group. They enjoyed life, cruising to other yacht clubs on their boat, "The Good Life."

They were founding members of the North Suncoast Associates an organization formed to support the Florida Orchestra. Lois has been President or involved with many, many Belleair area groups, including the Belleair Fine Arts Society, the Belleair Beach Ladies Luncheon Club, and the Belleair Garden Club.

On June 14 of this year, Odey, now 98, flew to Washington, D.C. on an Honor Flight, to see the World War II Memorial for the first time. He was the oldest veteran on the flight.

Plans are also in the works for him to be honored and recognized for his service at the November 10th Tampa Bay Buccaneer's game, against Arizona.

The U.S. and the entire world owe Francis O'Donnell and all the other World War II veterans—living and not—a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.







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## Organizational News...

### CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - FINE ARTS & FASHION

Calvary Episcopal Church will present a benefit luncheon and fashion show on Saturday August 17, from 1-4pm in the church Parish Hall located at 1615 1st St., Indian Rocks Beach. Included will be a special "Musicale" program featuring keyboards, harp and female soloist.

This program will feature clothes from Colette's of Madeira Beach and includes fashions for the beach to travel, casual and business to formal. There will also be door prizes, drawings and a Chinese Auction during the luncheon.

The theme will center around the sounds and sights of summer with a touch of French Impressionist influence in some musical selections. Calvary Musical Director Matt Burke on keyboards will be joined by area harpist Victoria Garcia, and soloist Leslie Long.

For tickets, contact Calvary Episcopal Church Monday – Thursday 9am – 1pm or Liz Robb at 727-580-8237.

This special program will help to support Calvary Fine Arts Events in its continuation of a series of musical and art events for Fall and Winter so as to bring the Fine Arts to our beautiful beach communities and to Calvary.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome. Contact Marjorie Rose, [rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com). Their next meeting is in September.

### THE BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Barbara Parker

**Creative Kids Camp** - Is your child spending too much time playing Video Games this summer? We have the perfect remedy, "Creative Kids Camp" with both full and half day week-long sessions available! In the Full-day session campers will alternate working in our art and pottery studios, learning about the style of famous artist and applying that to their work in clay, watercolors, pastels, mixed media and more. In the half-day sessions, the students also learn about the style of a famous artist and applying that to their work in a variety of mixed media art forms. Full-day sessions \$200/week (Members discounted to \$185) + supply cost of \$20. Half-day sessions \$100/week (Members discounted to \$92.50) + supply cost of \$10-\$20.

Camp Scholarships are still available through the Beach Art Center. Contact us directly at (727) 596-4331 or visit [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org). Qualified applicants will be approved on a first come, first-serve basis.

**Upcoming Gallery Show** - "Capital Fun" through August 28th, will feature local artists for the benefit of our Capital Fund Raising Campaign. All the proceeds will go to the building fund. You are sure to find a wide variety of work, in all media; there is something for everyone.

**Classes and Workshops** - We are open all summer and are always adding, so watch our website [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org)

- Acrylic's with Barb every Monday from 1-4.
- Watercolor with Roberta every Wednesday from 1-4.
- Ceramics and Pottery Two classes every Tuesday. 3-6 with Joyce and 6-9 with Karen.
- Ukulele Night Tuesdays, 5-7, find the IRB Ukulele group singing and having fun! We always have a spare Ukulele!

### ART on the ROCKS - 6-8pm

- Aug 14: Mermaids & Dolphins with Shawn Dell Joyce
- August 27: Paint along with Bob Ross.

## COYOTES NEARBY - STAY SAFE

By Richard J. Doyle, Belleair Chief of Police

I have noticed an increase in social media posts concerning coyotes in and around our area. According to the Urban Coyote Research Project (and many similar websites), there are a few things you can do to help protect yourself, your family, and your pets.



First off, DO NOT FEED COYOTES! Feeding them will only make them lose their natural fear of humans.

DO NOT LET YOUR PETS RUN LOOSE. Not only is it usually a code violation, it can be an invite for a hungry coyote.

If you happen to come face to face with a coyote, DO NOT RUN. It is recommended that you carry some type of noise maker, shout and alter your route.

Coyotes will defend certain areas, especially if their pups are nearby. Report aggressive, fearless coyotes immediately to your nearest Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. IF the behavior is immediately life threatening, call 911.

Coyote's by nature are afraid of humans and attacks on people are extremely rare. Those with small children and smaller pets should be more cognizant of Coyote's in your area, particularly at night. If you are interested in learning more, I would encourage you to research the topic on one of the many websites dedicated to educating us on Coyote behavior.

## CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM OPENS

Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center in downtown Clearwater is open to the public Thursday through Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. Admission is free. Donations gratefully accepted.

Visit the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center at South Ward School and enjoy the historic school while exploring exhibits that tell stories of the area's tourism, leisure, sports, trains, restaurants and schools.

The Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center is located at 610 S. Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater 33756. Parking is available on Mulberry Alley, between the museum and First United Methodist Church. Additional parking is available behind the museum, accessible via N. Hamilton Crescent.

For further information, donations, membership and volunteer activities, visit [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org), email [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com), like them Facebook/Instagram @ClearwaterHistoricalSociety, or call (727) 754-8019.

The Clearwater Historical Society, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with the mission to educate, collect, preserve, exhibit and promote the people, culture and events of Clearwater's rich past. Its vision is to create a place where the community comes together to explore Clearwater's past, share its present and imagine its future.

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# Organizational News...

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**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 at 11:30am with guest speakers. Activities vary from card games to field trips and shows.

August 6: Luncheon at Clearwater Country Club with guest speaker Kathy Blair, owner of KRB Management

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

**BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**

They meet at the Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair, but there is no August meeting.

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.)

Get information at BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com. The club welcomes Republicans from all surrounding communities.

**BELLEAIR ROTARY**

They are moving to Belleair Bluffs. Until now, their weekly lunch meetings were at the Belleair Country Club. Now their lunch time meetings will be noon at Belleair Coffee in The Plaza Shopping Center on Thursdays. Guests are always welcome

John Funk is the current president. E-mail him at BelleairRotary2017@Gmail.com. Visit BelleairRotary.org

**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 began 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, 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).

**BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB**

They normally meet the second Tuesday of each month at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join; membership open to area residents is \$15 / year. They have no meetings until September.

**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.

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# Organizational News...

## GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

GreenTown Kids, the Surfrider Foundation, Kids Saving Oceans, and Broke N Bored Grill – an Ocean Friendly Restaurant, are reaching out to all restaurants in Indian Rocks Beach to take on a summer challenge and go “Ocean Friendly”. The Surfrider Foundation’s “Ocean Friendly Restaurant” certification was created as a way for restaurants to show their commitment to making sustainable choices for the ocean. The certification focuses on reducing single use plastics, eliminating polystyrene use (Styrofoam) and plastic bags, offering straws only on request, and ensuring the restaurant has proper recycling practices. Water conservation, energy efficiency, and sustainable seafood are also prioritized due to water scarcity and the impacts of climate change. The certification was established to be attainable by any size restaurant – from ice cream shops to fine dining.

During the 2018 International Coastal Cleanup – 8 of the top 10 items collected were single use plastics, plastic bags, and Styrofoam. With over 25 restaurants in Indian Rocks Beach, there is an opportunity to make a big impact on the local beach community and also on the many visitors throughout the year.

The Summer Challenge was kicked off in the beginning of June and runs through September. Restaurants are being incentivized to certify Ocean Friendly by September to be part of the annual GreenTown Kids “Eat for the Environment” community event. Youth members of GreenTown Kids and other local kids will be personalizing and delivering letters to restaurants to encourage them to participate. Kids who take part in the challenge will be entered to win a prize giveaway. The City of Indian Rocks Beach is hosting an info session for all restaurants on July 23rd at 6:00pm at Indian Rocks Beach City Hall. To get involved, deliver a letter, or get more information visit [GreentownKids.org/OFR](http://GreentownKids.org/OFR)

Upcoming events:

- August 9 - Sunset Beach Pop-up (6:30pm)

Family Annual Memberships are \$20. Register at [greentownkids.org](http://greentownkids.org). To receive our monthly newsletters and scheduled events, email: [greentownkids@gmail.com](mailto:greentownkids@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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 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. The are on summer break until October with the exception of the pot luck lunches the first Wednesday of each month (11:30am). This is always open to non-members, too

They elected new officers recently for 2019-20. The new president is Carol Frecker. She will serve for two years. Annual membership is \$50 per year per person. Couples pay \$75. Seasonal members \$30. Guests are welcome. Email [Kathleen\\_Hardwick@MSN.com](mailto:Kathleen_Hardwick@MSN.com) or visit [BelleairGardenClub.com](http://BelleairGardenClub.com).




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 All proceeds benefit Clearwater For Youth.

For further information, please contact [info@clearwaterforyouth.org](mailto:info@clearwaterforyouth.org).

## CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY TURNS 40! IMPACT FELT YEAR-ROUND

The cherished and timeless Bay Area tradition celebrates its 40th anniversary October 17-20th along the waterfront in beautiful Coachman Park.

Chicago, Alison Krauss, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Boyz II Men, Robert Randolph & The Family Band, Yonder Mountain String Band, and The Soul Rebels are among the many artists gracing the big stage for the 40th rendition of the annual celebration.

"It's definitely another exciting and diverse lineup with something for everyone," shares Steve Weinberger, Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation CEO, as he describes this year's programming.

"We are also looking forward to what is sure to be a memorable 40th Anniversary Tribute." Steve explains the special set is a tribute to jazz vocalists and will feature many artists special to the tradition and who have previously played the fest including Karen Benjey, Erica DiCeglie, Valerie Gillespie, Fred Johnson, Theo Valentin, and Belinda Womack.

"But equally as exciting to us is what happens outside of those four days throughout the entire year," Steve says.

Particularly in recent years, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that produces the festival, has worked to increase awareness of the substantial cultural impact it brings to the community all year long.

Steve adds, "When you attend and support Clearwater Jazz Holiday, you are part of something very special – a growing giveback in the form of year-long programs, special funding and learning experiences that are enriching the lives of people of all ages and from various socio-economic backgrounds. We are very proud of the impact and it is truly rewarding to see the difference we are making together."

Among those initiatives are:

**History of Jazz Education Outreach Program** - Interactive, musical presentations by local musician mentors offered to local schools (including Title I) and other special groups covering the culture, history, and feel of jazz and its evolution as a unique, American art form. The Foundation has impacted over 26,000 students with this innovative program and has adapted it to also provide meaningful experiences to older adults in our community, memory care centers, as

well as organizations and schools serving people with special needs.

**Young Lions Jazz Master Sessions** - A one-of-a-kind instructional experience with master class sessions connecting jazz students with university jazz educators and local professionals. This program, which involves group performance and instrument breakout sessions, started as a one-off main event every December but is now also offered throughout the entire year with in-school visits.

**My Journey with Jazz Program** - Music mentoring program in a unique game format where students learn about important people, places and music that shaped the history of jazz. It delivers a fun and meaningful experience to after-school and summer

education partners such as The Art Institute of Tampa, St. Petersburg College, and United Way's Operation Graduate are creating exciting learning opportunities for students to participate in all facets of event production including operations, stage and production, marketing, journalism, photography and videography, design and even culinary. These opportunities also highlight the value and rewards of networking and philanthropy.

**Special Funding** - The Foundation has a long history of providing special funding in support of youth music and jazz education including annual contributions to Middle School and High School jazz ensembles and band programs who participate in CJH's History of Jazz Education Outreach Program, Young Lions Jazz Master Sessions, and School Give Back Program. The Foundation also offers scholarships to graduating High

School seniors who demonstrate a unique music background and/or aspiration for careers involving music as well as to students pursuing careers in other aspects of music event production. For years, the Foundation has also provided special funding to Ruth Eckerd Hall's youth jazz program and provides performance opportunities for those students throughout the year and at the festival.

Speaking of performance opportunities, CJH is known for showcasing and promoting talented young musicians at its events throughout the year, creating opportunities for them to learn, build confidence, and develop fans. You can catch some of these incredible Young Lions at the festival this year.

Multi-Grammy winner trumpeter John Daversa will be featured as part of the University of Miami's Frost Jazz Ensemble and is also sitting in with the Ruth Eckerd Hall / Clearwater Jazz Holiday Youth Jazz Band. Tampa Bay based sensation James Suggs will perform, too, as part of a Young Lions Jazz Master Sessions student showcase. Steve adds, "James has been special to our Young Lions initiatives and we are thrilled he is part of the lineup and helping to increase the awareness of these important programs. These opportunities are invaluable for the students."

To learn more about Clearwater Jazz Holiday and the Foundation's outreach initiatives or to buy tickets visit [www.clearwaterjazz.com](http://www.clearwaterjazz.com).



programs in economically challenged or under-served communities. What started as a pilot effort at the Clearwater Neighborhood Family Center has grown to serve many others including Mattie Williams NFC, High Point NFC, the Greater Regional Area Youth Development Initiative, Union Academy NFC, Sanderlin NFC and the Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League. Participating students are excited to play an instrument after experiencing the program, and thanks to a new CJH initiative - Build-A-Guitar® in collaboration with Palm Harbor based company Best Corporate Events - the Foundation is able to donate guitar kits to the centers. The Foundation has started providing group lessons at some centers as well.

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