

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine



Beach Sand— Where did it come from?

Sand is something most of us who live near the beach take for granted. We hate it when the kids track it into the house or car, but we love it when it is time to go to the beach. The Sand on our Gulf Beaches has been around for a long, long time; longer than anyone can remember. Actually, longer than humans have existed. Have you ever wondered where it originally came from? **Continued on page 7**



Meet Olivia

She is a breeder for the Southeastern Guide Dogs and is helping to provide guide dogs to those in need. - page 26

Join us as we tour the new St. Pete Pier

200 people a day are working hard to finish - page 14

Also in this Issue:

New Clearwater Historical Museum

Now open in the former South Ward School, the Clearwater Historical Society has big plans from future exhibits. - page 34

Circle of Hero's

Located on Pinellas's Veteran's Reef, the first of its kind, offshore underwater Veteran Memorial is now open. - page 9



CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Chamber Night at Spectrum Field	16
Causeway Clean Up IECA	17
Backwater's 19th Anniversary Party	23-25
College Football Begins	31
Gulfport Gekofest	31

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Public Schools Closed	2
Rock The Ribbon Run	7
Grandparents Day	8
Patriots Day	11
IEYC A Progressive Dinner	14
International Peace Day	21
Autumn Begins	23
Sheriff's Charity Golf Tournament	23
City's Electronic Waste Disposal	25
Blast Friday	27
Offshore Super Boat Races	27-29
Rosh Hashanah	29-1

OCTOBER

Night Out Against Crime Clearwater Mall	1
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CBA Beach Clean Up	5
Blessing of The Dogs Chapel By The Sea	5
Fire Prevention Week	6-12
Yom Kippur Begins	8-9
Madd Walk Largo	12
Peace Memorial Church Concert	13
Beaches Pool Closes	13
Hispanic Heritage Concert Coachman	13
Columbus Day Public Schools Closed	14
Indigineous Peoples Day	14
Stone Crab Season Begins	15
Clearwater Jazz Holiday	17-20
Chalk Walk Beachwalk	18-20
Johns Pass Seafood Festival	18-20
CBA Pub Crawl	19
Stone Crab Festivals	25-27
Blast Friday	25
Three Bridge Run	26
Country Jubilee Heritage Village	26
Kona Windsurfing World Challenge	26-27
Halloween	31
Turtle Nesting Season Ends	31

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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 or call 341-6930 for more information.

CLEARWATER BEACH'S SUPER BOAT RACES Now in its 11th year, the Super Boat Races have a new sponsor, Hooters! The first race was in 2008, and since, a lot of water has passed under the hulls of the many speed boats. This year's race is Sunday, September 29, with boats on display near Harborview Marina on September 27-28. Come on down and see the boats. It is FREE.

RUN FOR THE RIBBON Morton Plant Hospital and their Foundation are holding the now annual Rock the Ribbon Run on Saturday, September 7 at 6pm. The various runs (5K and 10K runs) start at Morton Plant, cross over the Clearwater Memorial Causeway Bridge and end back at the Morton Plant Campus with a post-race party.

The race is to raise support and awareness for prostate and breast cancer programs. Proceeds from the event benefit their hospital's programs and will stay in the local community. Register at www.MortonPlantMeaseFoundation.org. Call Liz Howard if you need additional information at 462-3508.

LIONFISH CHALLENGE Now through September 2, The Lionfish Challenge rewards lionfish harvesters with prizes for removing lionfish. Lionfish are an invasive species that have a negative impact on native marine life and ecosystems. They eat native fish and have 18 venomous spines that cause painful injuries. This year, participants who submit



the largest and smallest lionfish may be eligible to receive up to \$3,000 in cash prizes thanks to support from sponsors. As of the first of August, 304 people have registered and 15,367 lionfish have been removed. Find more details on how to get rewarded for your harvest at FWCReefRangers.com.

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WELCOME TO SAND KEY

The Sand Key Civic Association is responsible for a new "Welcome Sign" on Gulf Blvd. It is noticeable when you enter Sand Key from the south. They also repaired a sign at the north end near the fire station, which was damaged



in our last hurricane. The project was done with the help of Michael Lucke of Fast Signs. Look for it as you enter Sand Key.

FERRY CONTINUING

The City of Dunedin recently approved a three-year deal to continue underwriting the Clearwater Ferry's service to Dunedin. People board the Ferry at the Clearwater or the Harborside Marina and are shuttled to and from the Dunedin Marina. It reduces automobile traffic and parking congestion at both ends—not to mention increase visitors to Dunedin. Get more information on the Ferry's service and schedules at ClearwaterFerry.com.

LET'S GO SKIING

Even though it is still 90 degrees here, the Pinellas County Ski Club is kicking off its 36th season with local meetings and organized trips to places you can snow ski. They have trips planned to Taos, Lake Tahoe, Snowmass, and even Zermatt (Switzerland) and Hotel Theresa (Austria). There are trips for all levels of skiers, ages and price ranges. They on the second Tuesday. Visit SnowShark.org or call Polly Trautweiler at 430-1757.

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 Liverpool 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, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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SAND'S BEGINNINGS, continued

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

For eons, powerful rivers, constant winds, and changing water levels created - and moved - our sand. No grain of sand is new; each is millions of years old and the creation of constant scouring, polishing, tumbling and traveling of different types of rock.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, Florida was much larger. At one time, you could walk on land another 75 miles west of today's Florida's western edge. Then, the water rose and most of Florida was under water. Only the area near Lake Wales (Bok Tower) was above the waterline, eventually the waters receded to where it is today.

While it was underwater, the waves pounded the rocky Florida surface creating infinite grains of sand. The withdrawing waters caused erosion and carried the sand to the Gulf of Mexico, depositing it on our land and also at the bottom of the sea.

Glaciers and rain continued the process of erosion. Each drop of rain is the equivalent of a hammer blow - miniscule but mighty over time - turning rocks into granules. Every river emptying into the Gulf of Mexico carried various amounts of sand and sediment in its water. This sediment makes up the bottoms of today's lakes, rivers and seashores.

The Gulf's sand never stops moving. Whether you live in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, or Texas - the beach is always different every day. Sand shifts with the help of winds, rain, currents and even the moon's tides.

Quartz is the second most prevalent mineral on Earth and dates back to the Pleistocene' times (beginning 2.6 million years ago and ended about 12,000 years ago). Found inside almost every type of rock, quartz is in all of our area rivers. Sediment containing crushed quartz has been deposited in the Gulf for millions of years. It is the chief particle found in beach sand - the part that blinds you on a sunny day.

Most of the sand on Florida's beaches originated from the Piedmont and Appalachian highlands. Eroded rock washed southward down the Apalachicola and Tennessee rivers which once reached the Gulf of Mexico. The currents distributed the mountain-made sand across the panhandle and eventually to West Florida.

So, when you stroll the beach, you are really walking on mountains. You are also walking on sea life, too, since the sand

is mixed with coral, fossilized marine life, and pulverized mollusk shells.

"Florida's Gulf Beaches might be the whitest in the world, with a special sparkle and glitter," wrote Rachel Carson. "The dry sand squeaks under our feet. The beaches are another world - warm, drowsy, and white - yet filled with color, unequivocally inviting, which is why, in recent history, they have been awash with human activity (i.e. tourism)."

Pinellas beaches have been recognized recently by a variety of media and people, as the best beaches in Florida, the United States, and even the world.

"Sugar-like" is a word commonly used to describe the look and feel of the sand on Pinellas Beaches. Lisa Chandler, Clearwater Beach resident and business owner created The Sugar Sand Festival, featuring sand sculptors made from Clearwater Beach's sand.

"Sand color and consistency is determined by the sand's components. Corals and shells control the texture and color of sand. Most Florida beaches are made up of quartz crystals mixed with coral and shells. However, not Clearwater Beach," Chandler explains.

"Clearwater Beach's sugar sand is one of the purest and whitest sands anywhere in the state of Florida! This is because sugar sand is primarily quartz crystal with barely any shells or coral, giving it a colorless tone and a 'sugar' like feel," says Chandler. And best of all, when you sink your toes into our sand, it's cool to the touch! No shoes required," adds Chandler.



Beach surveys and ranks over 650 U.S. beaches on a variety of criteria including beach width, beach material, condition, softness, slope, color, smell, wildlife, pests, trash, litter, views, buildings, urbanization, access, amenities, and more. As you can see, it goes well beyond the quality of the sand and is designed to feature beaches where people like to also walk, enjoy scenery, play sports and other activities.

Various beaches on Florida's West Coast have won the coveted honor of Best Beach. The award is never given to the same beach twice. In 2005, Ft. De Soto won the top honor, 2008 Clearwater's Caladesi Island won it and in 2017, neighboring Siesta Key, just 50 miles to the south of Pinellas was the winner. Clearwater Beach is sure to be soon.

Another media-sponsored contest that Pinellas Beaches likes to brag about is Trip Advisor's "Travel Choice Awards." Clearwater Beach has won it four times in the last decade - 2012, 2016, 2018 and again in 2019.

"Soft sand, clear water and balmy temperatures are the common threads among these award-winning beaches," says Trip Advisor's Brooke Ferencski. "The Florida beaches stake the claim as the most decorated beaches in the United States." This is the fourth year in a row a Florida Beach topped the U.S. list.

Clearwater Beach recently won a similar contest sponsored by "USA Today."

If you are looking for the best beaches in the world for your next vacation, you do not have to go far - the best beach sand in the world might be right here in Pinellas County.



One of the most famous rankers of area beaches is Dr. Beach, a.k.a Stephen Leatherman. He is an American geoscientist, coastal ecologist, and author. Every year, since 1991, Dr.

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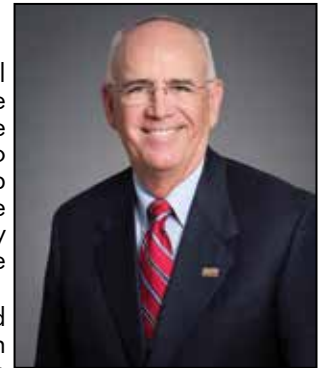
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OPPORTUNITY ZONES - TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



The investment world is full of "opportunities" that are currently fashionable and the hot new investment. They go all the way back to the tulip craze in the Netherlands in the 1630s. Today's new opportunity is a Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund.

These funds were authorized under the tax act passed in December 2017 and allow an investor to defer capital gains and in some cases eliminate them entirely if the fund is held for a ten year period. There will be good and not so good programs, but the promoters will make them all seem foolproof. So what should you consider in evaluating different funds?

Talk with your financial, tax and legal advisors to see if the fund makes sense for you. Consider that in order to get the full benefit you must hold the fund for ten years. When you sell an asset with a large capital gain you must reinvest the money within 180 days.

How do you separate the wheat from the chaff? Like most real estate investments, it is about location. But it shouldn't be about one location. Multiple locations are better and diversifying between different types of real estate is desired over single use.

Look for a sponsor with experience in development, not someone new. You need to review the sponsor's audited financials because they will need to be around for at least ten years. A larger enterprise will likely have more resources than a smaller one.

Do they have a strategy and can they actually explain it? Does the strategy make sense? Can they execute the strategy? Do they have a good team of financial and legal advisors?

Real estate often is done with borrowed money. The more leverage, the greater the risk. Is the loan interest fixed? For how long? If the interest is variable, what are the terms for it to increase/decrease?

Then there is a matter of fees. Some of the early programs we have seen are loaded with fees. If the fees are too low, that may seem attractive, but are they reasonable enough to sustain the sponsor?

Once all of this is done, circle back and talk to your advisors once again. Get a second opinion from a third party. If you would like to discuss Qualified Opportunity Zone investments please call for a one hour complimentary conversation.

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Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.

NATION'S FIRST UNDERWATER VETERANS' MEMORIAL OPENS

By Pete Magnani

The "Circle of Heroes" officially opened August 5th on the Veteran's Reef, one of Pinellas County's forty-two artificial reefs scattered offshore between St. Pete Beach and Tarpon Springs. This is the first phase of the Circle with twelve concrete



life-sized statues representing men and women of the United States Armed Forces. The statues making up Circle of Heroes were made possible thanks to the generosity of private businesses, community donors and Pinellas County.

The dedication ceremony, held on boats above the reef, featured speeches by Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Neysa Grzywa of Deep Sea Valkyries, and Vietnam Veteran Dave Miller, who also volunteers at Bay Pines VA Hospital. Dr. Heyward Mathews, professor of Oceanography and SCUBA instructor at St. Petersburg College for nearly fifty years, was in the water wearing full SCUBA gear. He cut the ceremonial red ribbon that was stretched between two boats to officially open the memorial. Afterwards, more than 30 divers descended forty feet into the Gulf of Mexico for the "First Dive" on the Circle of Heroes site.

The Circle of Heroes is the brainchild of Dr. Mathews. He conceived the idea ten years ago and has been the driving force behind its completion. Mathews also co-founded the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and the Pinellas County Artificial Reef Program.

In addition to honoring those who served, the monument will be a destination for organizations like the Arizona based Deep-Sea Valkyries, which uses SCUBA as an alternative therapy for combat-wounded veterans. The statues will also attract recreational SCUBA divers from around the country.



The project is not complete. Another twelve statues will be installed in 2020, including one honoring Seaman Apprentice William Flores, who was killed in 1980 when the USCG Cutter Blackthorn collided with a tanker and sank in Tampa Bay.

"This underwater exhibit featuring our nation's heroes will also help sustain marine life in our Gulf waters by serving as an artificial reef,"

said former Congressman David Jolly, whose non-profit, Brighter Future Florida, is spearheading the campaign to complete the memorial. "I also thank my uncle, Dr. Heyward Mathews, for creating the concept, and for his dedication to growing the dive community and tourism in our region," Jolly added.

In addition to its benefit to veterans and recreational divers, the Circle will serve as a haven for many types of sea life, from coral and marine fauna to sharks and Goliath Grouper. Mooring balls have been installed to prevent the need for boaters to drop anchors, which could damage the statues. This first-of-its-kind underwater memorial is located about 10 miles west of Clearwater Beach.

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PROVIDING URGENT CARE FOR THOUSANDS IN NEED

The Community Dental Clinic (CDC), an independent non-profit clinic located at 1008 Woodlawn Street, Clearwater, is busier than ever caring for low income uninsured residents of Upper Pinellas County who can't afford dental care. The clinic now offers free Urgent Dental Care and reduced waiting times for patients. Since last summer, the CDC has more than doubled its number of appointments, has enrolled more than 500 new patients, and can see most acute patients within a few days.

In less than a year, the clinic has provided nearly 2,900 appointments and over \$1.1 million in free dental services. Thanks to gracious community support, excellent volunteer dentists, dedicated part-time professionals, and a resourceful staff, the CDC is now able to help meet the urgent dental needs of the community. It's an important addition and a new direction in the CDC mission.

Left untreated, basic dental problems can quickly escalate to medical crises. What was once a simple cavity or a broken tooth can become a painful infection that can spread to the bloodstream and vital organs. Most ERs and urgent care clinics are not equipped to resolve acute dental issues, and emergency dental work can cost hundreds of dollars, so the CDC offers hope and relief for low income uninsured adults.

In some cases, it has changed the lives of its patients. One mother of three credits the CDC for helping her to support her family, "I was unemployed and embarrassed by the condition of my teeth. After two visits, I had two separate interviews, and was offered employment by both companies."

The CDC relies on the generosity of volunteers, grants, and community donors to provide these life-changing services. Many patients provide whatever donation they can to help the clinic grow. The need, however, is growing too. In Pinellas, more than 100,000 people would qualify for CDC services.

To help, visit communitydentalclinic.net to see the many ways you can become a part of this important mission.

DISCOVER THE ISLAND 2019

Come to Egmont Key State Park on Saturday, November 9th and Sunday, November 10th and join the Egmont Key Alliance "Discover the Island" fund-raiser, while you enjoy one of Tampa Bay's gems!

The 161-year-old lighthouse is still working to guide ships into Tampa Bay. Come see its majestic spiral staircase and participate in the many activities sure to enlighten all ages.

See Civil War re-enactors, stroll the island on our self-guided walk with interpretive sites along the way, including nature, wildlife, military and history. There will be guided walking tours, a silent auction and a viewing of the lighthouse. There will be live birds of prey from Boyd Hill Preserve, The Egmont Shanty Singers, presentations on history and wildlife and a Florida flag history presentation.

Food, drinks and souvenirs will be available for purchase on the island. Shuttle ferries will be leaving Fort DeSoto Park from 9am to 2pm, with the last ferry returning to Fort DeSoto at 4pm.

Day passes include the ferry: Adults \$25, Young Adults 12-18 \$15, Youth 6-11 \$10 and 5 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Bay Pier boarding site starting at 8:30am. Follow the brown "Egmont Key Ferry" signs to the location.

For more information, visit EgmontKey.info. Look for the "Discover the Island" link at the left side. If you still need additional information, call 813-361-7563.

Discover The Island is the 18th annual fund-raiser for the Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Citizen Support Organization of Egmont Key State Park.

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CHIEF SLAUGHTER CELEBRATES 5

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

When former Chief Tony Holloway become St. Petersburg's police chief, Dan Slaughter was concerned about his future. But that changed when City Manager Bill Horne promoted him to Clearwater's Chief of Police, five years ago this month.

Dan Slaughter was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and moved to Pinellas in the 9th grade. He attended Largo High School. "I thought I wanted to major in Aeronautical Engineering," he recalls, "but engineering was not my thing." He got the bug for crime prevention and instead began studying criminology.

Slaughter was hired by the Clearwater Police Department in 1992 as a patrol officer. Eight years later, he was promoted to Sergeant. He continued to move up the ladder and was promoted to lieutenant in 2009 where he was put in command of the Special Operations unit. As part of that, Slaughter managed public safety at the city's special events, such as the Clearwater Ironman, filming Dolphin Tale, Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Fun 'n Sun and Clearwater's July 4th fireworks shows.

"I always enjoy the events in our City - big and small. I think it is great to see everyone having fun where they live," says Slaughter. "Clearwater Jazz Holiday is certainly Clearwater's flagship event."

"Eleven years ago I was involved with Frank Chivas in planning the first Clearwater Super Boat Race, adds Slaughter. "I really enjoyed that event and the way it turned out."

As Chief, Slaughter oversees a staff of 370 professionals, 244 of which are officers. Approximately 50 officers are specifically assigned to Clearwater Beach, but that varies during season.

"Our staff is very dedicated - and adaptable," Slaughter says. "Everyone is very professional."

"Chief Dan Slaughter and I talk several times a week and have formed a very strong team," says City Manager Bill Horne. "He is doing an outstanding job as Police Chief in all respects. Most importantly, he knows what he doesn't know, and uses facts and his concern for people to make the best decisions possible."

The City is divided into three policing areas called districts - the area east of Keene Road; west of Keene Road to the Intracoastal; and the beach. "The areas are very different with different types of crimes and needs," says Slaughter. "The beaches have more quality of life issues - traffic and domestic disputes. Crime on the beaches is relatively low compared to the rest of the city.

"Having risen through the ranks, Chief Slaughter personifies a chief who recognizes trust, responsibility, and civic involvement are keys to providing for the public's safety," says Clearwater's Mayor George Cretekos. "Clearwater benefits from his command."

In addition to running the city's police force, Slaughter serves a board member for Clearwater For Youth. He is also Past President of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association. When he is not working (which is almost never), he enjoys a round of golf and time with his family.

"I think Don was an excellent choice as Chief—after all, I recommended him," says former Chief Holloway, "and I promoted him to Captain. Bill Horne asked my advice, and he was the only person I recommended for the job."

Chief Slaughter, now with the Clearwater Police Department for 27 years, is married. They have one child, two grandchildren and live in Clearwater. He says he has no plans for retirement or a job in a larger city. "I love this area - why leave?"



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WHERE DID CALADESI GET ITS NAME?

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.

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 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.



A workshop for educators at Ulele Springs in Tampa

1973.
Our grandparents went to Florida and all we got was this super great beach house that’s still in the family in **2019.**

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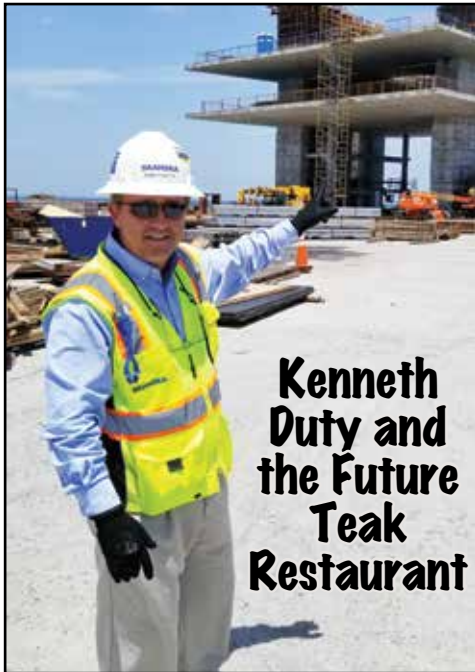
ST. PETE PIER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

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,



**Kenneth
Duty and
the Future
Teak
Restaurant**

Project Executive of Skanska USA.

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



**The Future
Doc Ford's**

until possibly next summer.

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. Be sure to sign up for occasional updates on the Contact Us page.

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Bar & Restaurant News

COUSINS MAINE

LOBSTER Now open on Coronado, this is a restaurant specializing in Maine lobsters. While a chain, so to speak, Heidi Varona is the local owner.

They offer traditional dishes including lobster rolls on split top rolls also shipped from Maine

They are located in the Residence Inn building, across from the Hyatt Regency, at 309 Coronado, call 275-2345 for takeout and catering. Get more information at CousinsMaineLobster.com.



CLEARWATER BEACH CHAMBER AWARDS

In June, the following Clearwater Beach restaurants received awards from the Chamber:

- Best Family Dining: Crabby's Dockside
- Best Fine Dining: Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
- Best Waterfront Dining: Ocean Hai
- Best Pub or Bar: Coco Coronado

IRISH 31 OPENS

Part of a chain of Irish bars, Irish 31 Pub & Eatery, is now open at 478 Poinsettia Avenue on the east side of the North Beach Parking Garage. They open daily at 11am with daily specials and live entertainment. For more information, see their web site at www.Irish31.com.

CELT'S ON ISLAND ESTATES

CELT'S Irish Tavern is opening at 126 Island Way, in the site that for years was Tommy Duff's Irish Pub and briefly The Boardwalk. Celtz is almost ready to open, it is just waiting on a few final touches to be completed. When open, there will once again be Irish food and drinks on the Island.

NO ROUNDABOUT PIZZA YET

Frank Chivas, owner of Roundabout Pizza still says it will be opening "very soon." Located on the northeast corner of the Clearwater Beach Marina Building, Roundabout Pizza is "almost ready to open", he says. It will be take-out and delivery, with a small amount of on-site seating.

HAPPY 34!

Thirty four years ago, Labor Day, E&E Stakeout planned to open, but it didn't happen thanks to Hurricane Elena. After 48 hours of threatening 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. in Belleair Bluffs.

POKE 88 NOW OPEN

Now open in the space vacated by The Donut Experiment, Poke 88 is yet another Clearwater Beach restaurant that specializes in "poke" dishes. They offer "fresh and healthy" sushi bowls and encourage you to build it your own way.

They have a small amount of inside seating. Find them at 688 South Gulfview Blvd, next to Gondolier Pizza. Call 221-7016 for takeout. Get more info and see their menu at www.Poke88fl.com.

Bar & Restaurant News



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 1261 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key, in the Shoppes of Sand Key. They have a sister location in Belleair Bluffs located at 2961 West Bay Drive, next to Bonefish. They serve breakfast and lunch, seven days a week.

BUBBLE TEA THE NEXT BIG THING 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.

Clearwater Beach's newest location is Rolls and Treats in the Clearsky shopping center at 490 Manday Ave. But new locations serving bubble tea are popping up all over.

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.

BACKWATER'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY The always popular Backwaters on Sand Key is celebrating their 19th Anniversary 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.



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IHA Florida, Florida's Premier Hockey Academy, is 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 ihaflo.com.

PEACE CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in downtown Clearwater is hosting a series of monthly free concerts, on the second Sunday of the month at 3pm. The 2019 concerts are: October 13, November 10, and December 8.

October's concert, "Boundlessly Beautiful Brahms" is the season's opening concert and features violist Michael Klotz and pianist Grigorios Zamparas. There will be two viola Sonatas, a piano intermezzo and Hungarian Dances. Get more information at www.PeaceMemorial.org or call 446-3001.

FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE TITANIC, THE MUSICAL

History comes alive at Clearwater's Francis Wilson Playhouse as their 90th Season opens with the West Coast Florida premiere of Titanic, The Musical, setting sail August 15th through September 1st. Making its West Coast Florida premiere, this blockbuster show won five Tony Awards on Broadway, including Best Musical, and has delighted audiences worldwide.

Kicking off their epic 90th season, the Creative Team at the Playhouse has gathered a huge cast of talented performers, fifty in all, to tell the true stories of the passengers and crew upon this legendary ship. This large ensemble cast represents a large array of gifted actors and singers who seamlessly portray the various classes aboard the fabled ocean liner.

Set in 1912, the production will feature a vast array of lavish costumes representing the Edwardian era plus an imposing multi-level set that encompasses the many areas of the ill-fated ship. Dramatic lighting and effects add to the mystical experience of reliving this amazing true story.

The book of the epic musical is by Tony Award Winner Peter Stone, who craftily tells the many stories of the dozens of characters represented, while the award winning music and lyrics are by Maury Yeston, who creates a grand musical full of drama, passion and humor, too.

In addition, the theatre Lobby has been transformed with a Titanic History exhibit, and the Playhouse will offer free lectures about the ship ninety minutes before each performance.

This amazing production kicks off the epic 90th Season of the Francis Wilson Playhouse, with upcoming performances of such classics as Born Yesterday, South Pacific, Harvey, Brigadoon and many others filling this one-of-a-kind season. Since 1930, Tampa Bay audiences have attended the Playhouse productions and this season is sure to top them all.

For tickets to this soon to be sold out production call the Box Office at 727-446-1360 or Order Online at FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org

THE REST OF THE STORY

Recently we ran a series of stories regarding Ed Wright, Ruth Kirby and the sale of Sand Key. We received this letter and wanted to share it with you.

I was pleased to receive your February/March Issue #55 "Clearwater Beach Neighborhood News" from my daughter Mia Stierheim, who lives in that lovely community. As you may recall I served as city manager of Clearwater (1967/73) and as Pinellas County administrator 1973/76 before moving back to Miami as Miami-Dade County manager. I was particularly interested in your lead story about Ruth Kirby and Sand Key because I was very involved in that whole acquisition process, both in Clearwater and later in Pinellas County. Your article was very accurate except for whoever told you that Ed and I went to the same high school. I don't know where Ed went but I graduated from Mineola High, in Mineola, Long Island, New York in Jan. 1951.

The late Clearwater Mayor Everett Hougen and I knew Ed Wright and Ruth Kirby very well and lunched with them both every so often. Ed personally promised us that he would deed the beach property south of Clearwater Pass to Clearwater before he passed on. His death, however, from a fall was sudden and totally unexpected. Ruth acknowledged Ed's wishes but when he passed his estate was land rich and money poor and she reluctantly felt she had to sell the property to US Steel to meet the estate taxes.

Ben Dembeck was the official US Steel representative for their properties, which in addition to Sand Key included the Belleair country club and golf course. The mayor and I tried to negotiate with him about buying the Sand Key beach area—to no avail. Frustrated, Mayor Hougen hand wrote a blistering letter, which he asked me to edit for transmittal, to the chairman of US Steel, not only as the chief elected official in Clearwater but as a lifelong republican. Within a few days of that letter the chairman's executive assistant arrived with full authority to negotiate with the City. He proved to be a prince and we successfully purchased what is now the County's Sand Key park. The only problem was that Clearwater didn't have the money and would really struggle to meet those future payments.

The end of this story happened after I moved two blocks to become Pinellas County administrator, a position I was quoted in the St. Pete Times as saying "I wouldn't touch that job with a ten-foot pole". I changed my mind because the vote was unanimous and I had a 3 year contract. After I came on board, of the five commissioners that hired me, three were convicted and sent to jail for zoning payoffs that I'm happy to say all occurred before I began my service as county administrator. Fortunately, Reuben Askew was governor and he appointed three outstanding replacement commissioners, Don Jones, former St. Petersburg mayor, Jeanie Malchon, former state senator, and Cliff Stevens, a former Clearwater Commissioner who served when I was hired as manager.

Knowing firsthand about Clearwater's financial constraints over the Sand Key purchase I went to Mayor Hougen, the late Commissioner Don Williams (who was County Commissioner Karen Seel's father and was instrumental in bringing me to Clearwater as city manager), and other city commissioners urging them to transfer the Clearwater Sand Key obligation to the County. The Clearwater city commission did just that and the County Commission accepted the obligation.

That, Mr. Griffin, is essentially the rest of the story and personally, I take great pride and enjoy visiting that beautiful park every time I'm back in Pinellas County—where, I might add, I have another daughter, Cathy Sarnago, living in Dunedin. The most important thing in this history is that no matter whether it is a city or county beach front park, it will always be there for the public's continuous relaxation and enjoyment in the years to come.

Sincerely, Merrett R. Stierheim




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Business Briefs



30 YEARS OF THE SHOPPES
 The Shoppes of Sand Key opened on September 19, 1989. When it opened, the center was not fully leased, but The Columbia Restaurant opened that same day. Today, it is home to sixteen businesses, five of which are restaurants.

SURF STYLE AD FEATURES MODEL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Local nonprofit Help Us Gather (HUG) has been working hard for months to make the dreams of an exceptionally talented model with Down syndrome come true, and that work finally paid off. 16-year-old Ethan Holt will be featured in an ad by Surf Style, a popular beachwear company. Holt posed on the beach outside the Surf Style Clearwater Beach store. Hiring models with disabilities is far from common practice in the advertising world. Surf Style is setting the bar for companies everywhere. Thanks You!

THIRD CONDO BUILDING OFF TOPS

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.

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



TOURISM PERSON OF THE YEAR This year's winner is Bill Potts from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

"Bill Potts had a storied high-level marketing career prior to coming to CMA, including working for my previous company, the Ironman Company," says David Yates, CEO of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. "I knew his background and success, and he has brought that success now to Clearwater Marine Aquarium. He is, hands-down, one of the best marketers in the country, and

a perfect fit for the inspirational work CMA does."

"This award honors an industry leader whose exceptional commitment has significantly enhanced and perpetuated the tourism industry in the Clearwater area," says Amanda Payne, President of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. "Through their work and commitment to the tourism industry, they have demonstrated significant success in fostering tourism and furthering the tourism industry throughout the Clearwater community. This year's winner is Bill Potts from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium."

JOE BARKLEY'S NEW BUSINESS Joe Barkley and Mary Lou Ambrose sold their 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 not in the office, Joe is a Belleair Bluffs City Commissioner. Reach him at 433-4048.

PROVISE PROMOTES

O'HARA ProVise, a financial planning and investment management firm based in Clearwater, promoted Shane O'Hara, CFP, to Senior Financial Planner. O'Hara, a graduate of the University of Central Florida joined ProVise in 2015. "The relationship he has with his clients is deep and meaningful at both the business and personal levels," says Eric Ebbert, CFP, President of ProVise. "I feel very fortunate to be a part of this fantastic company, and going forward it is very exciting," adds Shane.



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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 or call 240-1200.

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 has been an owner and veterinarian at Bluffs Animal Hospital in Belleair Bluffs since 1977.

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They have been in business 30 years and also buy and sell cars, offering free estimates. Call them at 727-442-7777.

ROCKET FIZZ This fun new store is a walk back in time. They have one of the country's largest and craziest selections of glass-bottled soda pops and retro candies, and games of yesteryear. Rocket Fizz opened at 309 Coronado Drive, across from the Hyatt Regency.

This is the seventh store to open in Florida and the first in our area. The original store opened in California in February 2009. Get more info on their web site at RocketFizz.com




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OPPORTUNITY ZONES OFFER SOME REDEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES

By Charlie Justice, Pinellas County Commissioner

In Pinellas County Government, our strategic plan supports our mission and vision. The plan has five overarching goals that guide us, and I want to focus on one today: fostering continual economic growth and vitality.

The Board of County Commissioners and Pinellas County Economic Development department foster economic growth and vitality in many ways. Pinellas By Design is an economic development and redevelopment plan that shapes the county's strategy to promote business development while managing population growth and preserving quality of life. The countywide plan, which is currently being updated, guides land planning among the 24 municipal governments and Pinellas County. Recently, Pinellas County was awarded a \$300,000 Brownfields Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to be used primarily in Lealman to assess contaminated and unused properties. This could lead to some great development in what was once one of the most depressed areas of our county.

What I mainly want to discuss in this column are Opportunity Zones. Created as part of the 2017 Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Opportunity Zones are economically distressed tracts designated by the U.S. Treasury Department. They present development opportunities in office, housing and industrial space through tax incentives for investors. Through an Opportunity Fund (a qualifying investment in an Opportunity Zone, investors can defer and/or reduce their capital gains tax liability. The longer the investments are held, the greater the benefit.

Pinellas County has 16 Opportunity Zones. They stretch the length of the county, with one in Tarpon Springs, one in downtown Clearwater, six in the mid-county Largo and

Gateway areas, one in Lealman and seven in St. Petersburg. Opportunities range from urban infill projects to the massive redevelopment possibilities of the Tropicana Field tract on the western end of downtown St. Petersburg, where a new stadium may or may not be built for the Tampa Bay Rays.

The City of St. Petersburg and HKS Architects developed a conceptual master plan for the redevelopment of the 85-acre Tropicana Field site. It envisions scenarios with and without a new stadium and up to 9 nine million square feet of mixed-use development to create a new walkable urban district. It would include corporate headquarters, a technology and research campus, hotel and conference space, destination entertainment, retail, residences and the re-imagination of Booker Creek into a destination amenity. In short, this could become one of the most vibrant parts of the county.

We haven't seen much movement locally yet on the Opportunity Zone program, but that could soon change. A Clearwater investment firm is preparing to launch at least three Opportunity Zone projects, including two in the unspecified locations within the Tampa Bay area, according to the Tampa Bay Business Journal. This spring, Pinellas County Economic Development launched a web page, PCED.org/OZ, that promotes our Opportunity Zones. Would-be investors can view a prospectus that offers an overview of the program and details about each tract. For example, the Tarpon Springs prospectus points out that the 1,101-acre tract includes 70 acres that are located within the Tarpon Springs Community Redevelopment Area and offers myriad incentives for redevelopment, including various grants.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or issues at (727) 464-3363 or cjustice@pinellascounty.org.



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THE COAST GUARD EXCHANGE ON SAND KEY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

There is a grocery story on Sand Key with great prices and no taxes. The only problem is you are not allowed to shop there - unless you are active duty or retired military personnel or a member of their family.

The store is a small Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) at 1375 Gulf Blvd. It is smaller than a typical convenience store and run by Seminole resident Glenda Miller. Previously, Miller held wine tastings in other CGX stores until the manager of the St Pete / Clearwater CGX (at the airport) hired her as a cashier. Seven years ago, when the Sand Key job opened, it was offered to her.

It is a typical exchange store and sells beer, wine, liquor and cigarettes. They also sell uniforms and a variety of personal items. Because it is located on the Sand Key Coast Guard base, they carry a lot of toiletries and personal items for those who live on site.

The CGX acts as their personal convenience store, carrying soda, water and snacks. "We carry a lot of high-protein snacks for the young people," says Glenda.

In addition to the products they sell in the store, other items can be ordered such as, logoed clothing, golf bags, and umbrellas. They even offer Goodyear tires. The CGX stores in Tampa, Clearwater and Downtown St Petersburg are bigger. The St Petersburg store is the largest and has the most inventory.

The advantage of the CGX is that the prices are low. They are not extremely low, but it beats most other retail stores in the area and products are tax free. That makes it 7% lower right there.



"Basically, our customers come from about a five-mile radius - people from Clearwater, Belleair Beach, Indian Rocks, Largo and Seminole."

"Having been here seven years, I have gotten to know a lot of people," Glenda says. "Some of them are snowbirds and I only see them in the winter. But they know we are here."

"The CGX at Sand Key provides a great resource to our veterans in the area as well as our members serving actively at Station Sand Key" says BOSN3 Tracy Randall.

The Sand Key CGX is open Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm. It is closed Saturday and Sunday. To reach the exchange, call 596-8744 ext #3. Get more information about all the exchanges at www.ShoppingCGX.com.



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CLEARWATER'S PEDICABS

By Anne Garris

Back in the early sixties, when we lived in Taipei, Taiwan, compliments of the United States Marine Corps, one of my favorite adventures was riding in the charming little pedicabs that populated the streets. A pedicab is a three-wheeled vehicle; it is a bicycle up front that is attached to a small cab, large enough for two adults, or a family of Chinese. These little vehicles seemed equally at home on a main street through the city or speeding down the narrowest alley. Right away, I could picture them on Clearwater Beach and suggested to my husband that we take a few home with us and start our own pedicab business. We didn't do it, but, finally, someone has.



Scott Carpentier, the owner, operator of Fun Ride Rentals, says pedicabs first came to Clearwater Beach at least 8 years ago. At first there were only five. Today he has ten, but it sometimes seems like more as you watch the drivers skillfully maneuver the interesting little vehicles beside the traffic on Clearwater Beach and even to Island Estates' Publix or Marine Aquarium.

A pedicab can accommodate two adults, plus a couple of children if they sit on the adults laps. If necessary, pedicabs that pull two carriages behind one bicycle are available, accommodating up to four adults and maybe a child, or two, mystifying the spectator as to how the driver can possibly do it. Total passenger weight limit is approximately 550 pounds.

According to Mr. Carpentier, drivers are from everywhere, including people who race bicycles, professionals from other sports, retired police officers, and at least one man who was the survivor of a car wreck.

"Generally, they come to us," says Mr. Carpentier, "we don't have to go looking for them."

Surprisingly, when you ask the fee, the driver will tell you they work for tips. Asked what would be considered a reasonable tip for a ride, the answer was, "People usually tip about a \$1 for each minute."

Fun Ride Rentals not only provide you with a ride to where you want to go, they offer guided tours of Clearwater Beach, which include Island Estates. The phone number to arrange a ride in a Clearwater Beach pedicab is 727-519-3008.

WATER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM RESUMES

The city of Clearwater and Pinellas County will conduct routine maintenance on the water system from Sept. 23 to Oct. 12. The method of water treatment will be temporarily changed from chloramines to chlorine disinfection in order to optimize water quality. The first segment was in April to May.

Some residents may notice a slight difference in the taste or odor of their drinking water. Although the disinfectant is slightly more noticeable, the water is perfectly safe to drink. Residents and businesses with kidney dialysis machines and tropical aquatic life tanks should not be affected, but should contact their respective industries with questions about this temporary change. Call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960 with questions.

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Olivia

RAISING A SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOG BREEDER

By Erin Emmett

Meeet Olivia. She is a Breeder for the Southeastern Guide Dogs, and I am lucky enough to be her Breeder Host mom. Two years ago, my company, Rogan and Associates, became aware of the needs of Southeastern Guide Dogs and spent a day there to determine how we could help fulfill their mission. Since that initial visit, two of our financial planners, including myself, have become volunteer Breeder Hosts.

A Breeder Host is a volunteer who has a Breeder Dog living in their homes. We take the dogs to the Southeastern Guide Dog campus as needed for breeding and whelping. As a host, we donate our time and financially support our dog in order to help Southeastern Guide Dogs provide guide dogs to people with vision loss and emotional support dogs to returning veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and other disabilities.

A guide dog transforms lives. These skilled dogs are smart, fit, and highly trained. For the first year of their life, they participate in innovative puppy education with expert trainers in a volunteer's home. Once they are matched with a visually impaired individual, the dog and its student spend twenty days on the Southeastern Guide Dogs' campus training together. Certified instructors provide students with individualized, hands-on training. All of this is provided at no cost to the individual, but graduates must be financially capable of caring for a healthy and active guide dog.

Most of the dogs in the program are Labradors, but Olivia is one of a handful of Golden Retrievers. During her career as a Breeder, she can have up to four litters of guide dog puppies (male Breeders typically have 6-8 litters). After that, she will be retired, which usually happens by age six. I will be allowed to officially adopt her then. Until then, Southeastern Guide Dogs owns Olivia and has guidelines I must follow. They determine her diet, provide wellness exams, and restrict her activities. She cannot go to a dog park or be exposed to non-neutered male dogs and she must stay within 75 miles of the Southeastern Guide Dogs campus. Even after I adopt her, she will have eye, health and wellness exams every two years at the Southeastern Guide Dogs Genetics and Research Center.

Olivia first lived with a Southeastern Guide Dog Puppy Raiser just like the guide dogs, but she was chosen to be a Breeder because of her superior genetics, excellent health, and gentle temperament. If she hadn't been selected to be a Breeder, she would have gone on to be a guide dog. She will be two years old this October and has not had a litter yet, but we are hopefully she will have her first one this fall. She will have all her puppies on campus and after they are born, she will stay there for up to three months. Once her puppies are weaned and ready to go live with their own Puppy Raiser, she will come home with me.

I was matched with Olivia in March and since then, she has brought much joy and fun as our family pet. Even though she was already 15 months old when I brought her home, she immediately bonded with my family and loves being part of our day-to-day lives providing lots of doggy kisses. She also enjoys her visits to the Southeastern Guide Dog campus in Palmetto and staying with all her Breeder friends when needed.

All guide dogs and services are provided free of charge and Southeastern Guide Dogs receives no government funding. Because of this, they depend on an army of volunteers, like me, to be able to provide dogs to those in need. In addition to Breeder Hosts, they need volunteer Puppy Raisers. Puppy Raisers have a team to work with that teaches them how to raise a future guide or service dog. Other volunteers are "co-raisers" and puppy sit when raisers are traveling.

If you don't have the time to devote to being a Puppy Raiser or a Breeder Host, volunteer opportunities are available on their campus and High School students may obtain Bright Future hours through their work with the organization. It is expensive to raise these dogs and provide for their healthcare, so to raise funds they sponsor Walkathons, Pet Parades and other activities and are always looking for volunteers and participants, too.

They accept cash donations and their Web site lists many items they need. Donating an item is as easy as clicking on the items of need and buying it directly through your Amazon account. It will then be delivered directly to their campus. All donations are tax deductible.



Some of the Rogan and Associates Financial Planners staff visiting the Southeastern Guide Dog Campus



Olivia and I at the office.

Campus visitors can enjoy a guided walking tour that provides an in-depth overview of their state-of-the-art facilities and a peek at what happens behind the scenes. The campus is located at 4210 77th Street East, Palmetto. For more information, call 941-729-5665 or visit www.guidedogs.org.

If you would like to talk more about this, feel free to contact me, Erin Emmett, 727-712-3400, or erin@roganfinancial.com.



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SUNSET CINEMAS SCHEDULE

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



AUGUST

- 23 - BUNYAN AND BABE (PG)
- 24 - OCEAN'S 8 (PG-13)
- 30 - WONDER PARK (PG)
- 31 - ROBIN HOOD (PG-13)

SEPTEMBER

- 6 - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (PG)
- 7 - AVENGER'S ENDGAME(PG-13)
- 13 - POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG)
- 14 - A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG)
- 20 - THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG)
- 21 - THE HUSTLE (PG-13)
- 27- DOLPHIN TALE 2 (PG)
- 28 - ALADDIN (PG)

OCTOBER

- 4 - MONSTER'S INC. (G)
- 5 - GODZILLA: KING OF MONSTERS (PG-13)
- 11 - SCOOPY DOO (PG)
- 12 - THE MEG (PG-13)
- 18 - HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION (PG)
- 19 - HOCUS POCUS (PG)
- 25 - FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM: CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD (PG-13)
- 26 - GHOSTBUSTERS (PG)

ORAL CANCER IS ON THE RISE

This year in the US, approximately 50,000 people will be diagnosed with oral or oropharyngeal cancer. Worldwide, new cases will exceed a tragic 640,000.

Oral cancer screening is a short and painless exam. Your dentist simply checks the inside of your mouth for red or white patches or mouth sores. Your dentist also feels your neck and the tissues in your mouth to check for lumps or other abnormalities.

Early detection is the key. There is an 80 - 90% survival in stage 1 or 2 versus 20 - 30% in stages 3 or 4.


Common symptoms of mouth cancer:

- One or more painful or painless mouth ulcers that refuses to heal
- White or red patches over the inside linings of the mouth or tongue
- A swelling in the mouth that refuses to go away, after 3 weeks

Common risk factors:


- Tobacco use
- Drinking alcohol in excess
- Excessive exposure to harmful U.V. rays of the sun
- Viral infections including human papillomavirus (hpv)

Excerpt from Oral Cancer The Silent Killer, Neal M. Solar, DMD, Community Healthcare Digest • Apr-Jun 2019 www.chdigest.com



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WHAT DROWNING LOOKS LIKE

By Rebecca Geiger

Drowning is now the number one cause of accidental death for children in Pinellas County. Looking at this closer there are some staggering statistics.

- 20% of drownings occur while someone is actually watching it happen.
- 70% of drownings occur at non pool related events.

One of the newest viral stories on the Internet right now highlights the first statistic. A five year old boy drowned in a pool full of adults. I have taught several children who almost drowned but were resuscitated prior to hiring me. Each event happened at a family pool event. How could this happen?

The Internet and TV are deceiving. If you look up drown or drowning images online you will see images of people flailing, water splashing, mouths open appearing to be yelling. That is distress, and while they do need help, they are not drowning at that point. In reality, drowning is completely silent. If someone is drowning the only indication will be the look of sheer panic in their eyes. The victim will be unable to get their head above water and even if they do, it will not clear enough for noise to get out. If you see anyone looking like a tadpole going up and down without actually accomplishing anything, they are drowning. Grab them!

Meanwhile, 70% of drownings occur at non-pool related events. A child slips away from the group and is gone before anyone even realizes that there is a danger. For children with Autism the statistics are even scarier due to their desire to "wander" or "elope" from areas where there is a lot of commotion. They are drawn to water which is why drowning accounts for over 90% of deaths of autistic children under the age of fourteen. In all of these cases, parents/guardians report never hearing a thing. The child finds a way past a barrier and is not found until the body of water is searched.



What drowning looks like - and what it doesn't look like

There should always be a designated individual watching children!

Anytime there is even one child in a pool, an adult should be keeping an eye on them. Programs such as Pool Watcher, Pool Guardian, Parent on Duty, and Tagged In, just to name a few have started to gain traction in the public. These use a lanyard and a card to designate who is responsible at any given time. I have seen a stuffed animal or balloon used the same way. It is simply a tangible notification among the adults of who is watching. If it is a pool related event, the adult should switch off every 15 minutes, but looking at the statistics above this is just as important at non-pool related events.

I have hundreds of Tagged In lanyards and would be happy to supply you with as many as you would like free, just contact me.

I am known as Miss Becca to my students, specializing in "Drowning Prevention Education" for children and adults for more than 20 years through private lessons and presentations. Please visit TaggedIn.org or call (813)363-9133.

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-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.



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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COUNTRY JUBILEE IS A FALL TRADITION AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

The 41st annual Country Jubilee is back again at Pinellas County's Heritage Village, located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo, on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10am to 4pm. The event is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. All proceeds go to support the operation of Heritage Village. The event offers visitors a wide variety of crafts; live bluegrass, folk, rock and traditional country music along with stepping into the past to enjoy old-timey fun-filled activities for the whole family.

Cornucopia of Crafters - More than 85 craft vendors will sell home-created items, including: candles, soap, doll clothing, honey, smoked almonds, paintings, photography, jewelry, stained glass, wooden treasures, handmade holiday decorations, and much more.

Fantastic food - Visitors can choose from pulled pork sandwiches smoked in the Village's own smokehouse; hot dogs, sausages; chicken platters, pizza, Greek dishes; kettle corn, and more. For dessert - delicious, brownies, pies and cookies will be available along with many other choices.

Musical offerings - Bluegrass, folk, Country and many other styles of musical entertainment will be offered at the bandstand, starting at 10 a.m. There will be a Jam Session from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in front of the Walsingham House.

Entertainment/Demonstrations - Back by Popular Demand for the 41st annual Country Jubilee, children will have an opportunity to build a wooden 210 PWS-Minnow or a PWS Spritsail from a kit via Seaworthy Small Ships, Inc. After the construction of the boat the children may sail their boat in a small pond near the Boat House. Our supply is limited so get there early before they all sail away. A \$2.00 Donation is requested for each boat.

The Pinellas Genealogy Society will advise visitors about tracing their ancestry. Pinellas County Historical Society members will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about the Society and how it supports Heritage Village Operations.

At the Train Depot, the Morse Telegraph Club Florida Chapter will be demonstrating how people communicated with Morse code. Four Men and Their Trains, a local train enthusiast club, will run "G" scale model trains all day at the Train Depot.

Free event parking and free shuttle buses are located at 119th Street between Ulmerton and Walsingham roads. A cash donation of \$5 for adults, 12 years and older, is suggested for admission. Children under 12 enter free.

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.

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

24TH ANNUAL



Charity
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 23, 2019

Belleair Country Club
1 Country Club Lane, Belleair, FL 33756

8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

Register and pay online at
pcsoweb.com/charity-golf-tournament

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5TH ANNUAL SUPERHERO 5K, WALK AND STROLLER ROLL

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

Whether you are a competitive runner, a casual walker, or just love the idea of supporting a wonderful cause, participating in the Superhero 5k allows you to show your support for abused and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. This family-friendly, all ages, and abilities event will be held on Saturday, October 12, starting and ending at Safety Harbor Municipal Marina located at 110 Veterans Memorial Lane in Safety Harbor.

SuperHero costumes are encouraged but, not required. The race course will run along the beautiful Safety Harbor waterfront. We will kick off the SuperHero 5K at 8:30am and host carnival activities afterwards for runners and families. Awards will be given for top qualifiers of the 5K Run and for best costumes both animal and canine! Snacks and water will be provided.

Advanced registration is preferred at www.thesuperhero5k.com. For those runners and walkers who are unable to attend the race, a virtual option is available. Register for the Virtual Race at www.thesuperhero5k.com

Want to volunteer at the Superhero 5k? Register to volunteer at www.thesuperhero5k.com, also.

Sponsorships for this important event are still available. Please contact Amy Foster (amyf@galf6.org) for more information about sponsorship opportunities.

Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child today by participating in the 5th Annual SuperHero 5K. This event will raise community awareness for the more than 5,000 children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties who have been removed from their homes by no fault of their own.

HOW TO STAY SAFE DURING AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS

Tips from Clearwater Fire Rescue

- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike up to 10 miles from any rainfall. Many lightning deaths occur ahead of storms before any rain arrives or after storms the rain has ended. Don't be fooled by blue skies. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat.
- Monitor the weather. Look at the weather radar frequently when outside. Look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorms such as towering clouds, darkening skies, or flashes of lightning.
- Get to a safe place. If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, seek safety immediately. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are best. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed is also safe. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- On Clearwater Beach, pay attention to the lifeguard tower flags. Double red flags mean there are unsafe conditions on the beach. Seek shelter until the storms pass and the beaches are deemed safe by lifeguards.
- If someone is struck by lightning, move the victim to a safer place, begin CPR and call 911. Use an Automatic External Defibrillator if one is available. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and you are in no danger when giving first aid to the victim.



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VISIT THE NEWLY OPENED CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

Thanks to a tremendous effort from volunteers and community sponsors, the Clearwater Historical Society is happy to announce that the Museum and Cultural Center at the former South Ward School is now open.

Take a jaunt to downtown Clearwater to explore Clearwater's history in the setting of the 100-year-old school. See exhibits that tell the stories of the city's tourism, sports, leisure, schools, citrus growing, and restaurants.

"It's so exciting to see our vision become a reality," said Allison Dolan, president of the Society. "And it's doubly wonderful to know this was done solely by volunteers, community sponsorship and donations. I can't thank our volunteers and the community enough for making this possible."

"This is just the beginning," she continued. "New exhibits and renovation of the other buildings on the campus are planned," she said. "And we always welcome new volunteers to help us as we continue to grow. Come join us. It's fun."

Volunteers are needed to serve as museum docents and historical character interpreters. Museum docents start out staffing a reception desk and can learn more about the museum to gain the ability to lead tours. Character interpreters portray real-life people who helped build Clearwater and are costumed for their era. Other exciting volunteer roles are also available, including outreach ambassadors, artifact entry, event hosts, and special projects.

Museum hours are Thursday through Saturday 10am to 2pm. Admission is free and donations are gratefully accepted.

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

Become a part of the museum by joining the Pioneer Donor program. Pledge \$1,000 and have your name forever recorded on the museum's Pioneer Plaque.



Photos courtesy of Clearwater Historical Society

For information on the Pioneer Donor program, artifact donation needs, or to volunteer, visit clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org, e-mail clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, like us on Facebook and Instagram at [ClearwaterHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterHistoricalSociety), or call (727) 754-8019.

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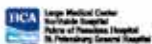
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Organizational News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

Their Community Garden is celebrating its fifth year with their Annual Summer Brunch, August 18th, 11am to 1:30pm at the Historic Ft. Harrison Hotel. Tickets are \$20 and all funds go to the Community Gardens. Please purchase tickets online at EventBrite.com/e/62263611137. Call Howard at 793-4446 for more information.

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

The President for 2018-19 is Albert Latina. Call 316-5504, e-mail ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com, or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.com, for information.

CLEARWATER BEACH ROTARY

They now meet at The Columbia Restaurant in Sand Key on the second Thursdays at 6pm. Visit ClearwaterBeachRotary.com for more information and dates. To join, call Sharon Skinner at 515-1532.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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

Their Summer Membership program continues. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$150, with no food minimum. Summer members can use the pool, tiki bar, dining room and other amenities, including participating in weekly parties. 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. Call Tom at the Yacht Club's office, 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Chapel By-The-Sea, except during the summer. Quarterly happy hours are on going (see their Website).

October 19: The now Annual North Beach Pub Crawl begins at Hooters at 6:30pm, There will be drawings for many prizes.

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

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

ROTARY CLUB OF CLEARWATER

They meet every Wednesday at the Belleair Country Club for a lunch meeting. For more information, contact Dewey Williams, at 224-6494 or visit ClearwaterRotary.org.

Organizational News...

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit, and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They meet monthly on the second Monday. They recently arranged for the landscaping on the sidewalk near Island Way Grill to be cut back—to make it safer for pedestrian traffic

Upcoming events include:

- August 17 and Nov 16 - Quarterly Causeway Clean Ups
- October 31 - A Halloween Event
- November 12 - Town Hall Meeting, 7pm

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

ISLAND ESTATES WOMAN'S CLUB

They start there new year in September with new president Karen Stevens, first Vice President Linda Dorn, and second Vice President Joan Landreth.

The Tuesday, September 17 meeting is at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber with speaker, Lina Teixeira talking about "Clearwater Downtown Development."

They have a fabulous line up of monthly lunch venues, awesome speakers, activities, happy hours, bowling group and even an annual cruise planned this season. Two major fund-raisers are:

- Oct 15th - 12th Annual "Pink is Beautiful" benefiting the Pinellas County Mammography Voucher Program.
- March 17, 2020 "Spring Fling Scholarship & Fashion Show fund-raiser to benefit graduating Clearwater High School women to further their college educations.

Luncheons begin at 11am for social time with program and luncheons 11:45am-2pm. Cost is \$25 and reservations are required. Book at www.islandestateswomensclub.org or Patti Jucha pattijucha@yahoo.com or 661-477-1741.

For membership information or to join, visit islandestateswomensclub.org or contact Membership Chairperson Joan Landreth at 727-804-3165, President Karen Stevens at 727-642-4711, or Vice President Linda Dorn 727-808-2255.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DAR is celebrating their 129th Anniversary this year. The Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on varying dates at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11am followed by lunch at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to join. RSVP for meetings with Diane Richardson at 871-9773 or BradSkate@AOL.com. Contact Cathy Athanson at 510-7135 or Dubinwv41@Gmail.com.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The Island Estates Yacht Club is a social club on Island Estates. They have various social events throughout the year.

September 14: A Progressive Dinner

December 14: Island Estates Lighted Holiday Boat Parade

New members are always welcome, please contact Rear Commodore Barbara Loubier at 224-3163 or email BLoubier@InnisBrookResort.com.

Saturday, Oct 12, 2019
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COACHMAN PARK - CLEARWATER

Register: the3bridgerace.com

All proceeds benefit Clearwater For Youth.

For further information, please contact info@clearwaterforyouth.org.

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.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneer's honored Odey and recognized him for his service at the second preseason game.

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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Beautifully updated 2BR/2BA pool home. This coastal retreat is just a short walk to the beach. Truly a must see! \$549,000

NEW LISTING



1869 Overbrook Ave, Clearwater
This old Florida 1926 home has 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a screened in pool area. Bonus room, close to beach. \$275,000

LUXURY



1350 Gulf Blvd. #201, Sand Key
Enjoy all the space of a home in this very upscale 3BR/2.5BA condo located in an intimate 29 unit bldg. 2,355sf. \$1,195,000

NEW LISTING



1230 Gulf Blvd. #1708, Sand Key
2BR/2BA, 1,111sf, corner unit with fabulous Gulf view. Great condo for a 2nd home or investment. 1 month min. rental. \$479,000

NEW LISTING



330 Regina Dr, Largo
3BR/2BA home with screened in pool area. Light and bright with tile throughout. Very nice curb appeal. Close to beach. \$245,000

**Listed and Under Contract in
7 days with Multiple Offers**



1600 Gulf Blvd. #812, Sand Key
Beautifully renovated 3BR/3BA unit in Dan's Island. Direct Gulf views, venetian plaster, hand scraped wood floors. \$725,000

**Listed & Under Contract
with Multiple Offers**



1582 Gulf Blvd. #1602, Sand Key
Direct gulf front 2BR/2BA plus den condo in beautiful Key West style complex. New impact window, htd. pool, fitness room. \$565,000

CONTRACT PENDING



832 Bayshore Dr, Tarpon Springs
Fabulous, waterfront 3BR/2BA with open floor plan, gorgeous wood floors, beamed vaulted ceilings, fireplace, dock/lift. \$585,000

LUXURY



1200 Gulf Blvd. #303, Sand Key
Welcome to the beautiful Meridian. 3BR/2.5BA with 2,530 sq. ft. of living area. Resort style amenities. \$999,000

**Brian has procured the BUYERS
for the following SALES:**

158 Sand Key Estates Ct, Clearwater, FL 33767 - \$949,000
107 6th St, Belleair Beach, FL 33786 - \$575,000
9743 106th Ave, Largo, FL 33773 - \$319,900



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