

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

Sand Key's

Early Days



Before its building boom, Sand Key (shown above in 1950), was nothing but sand dunes, Australian pines and sandspurs. Lots and lots of sandspurs. The first bridge, a drawbridge, connecting Sand Key to Clearwater Beach opened in 1963. Before that, people had to come by boat or drive through Belleair Beach.

The road through Sand Key, now Gulf Boulevard, was not paved, or even straight. The constant flow of cars, trucks and jeeps created a sandy dirt path that ran between the Gulf and the intracoastal from Belleair Beach's northern city limits, where there were gates that were never locked, to the edge of Clearwater Pass. Often, you could find a car stuck in the deep sand on either side.

Ed Wright, a wealthy landowner, owned almost all of Sand Key. His house was situated in the middle of the island on the Gulf and had its own pier. He spent time there when he wanted to get away from "the city" (St. Petersburg).

"Ed Wright gave us the keys to his beach house," says Kathy Mortensen, former Mayor of Belleair Beach. "He trusted us with his personal house. All he asked was that we lock it up and keep it clean."

During the day, families pitched their chairs on the beach and on cooler days, started bonfires. At sunset, however, the adults would pack up and leave. As day turned to night, young people from Clearwater, Largo and Seminole High Schools streamed in. Amid sand dunes on the left and a field of trees on the right,

guys in their cars and trucks returned, like nesting birds, to their "usual" parking places. Hundreds of kids in the 1960s claimed Sand Key as their private "party island."

They brought firewood, and possibly some beverages and their dates. Their bonfires weren't the only things smoldering between the dunes as they romanced the night away.

Almost any weekend, there would be hundreds of cars creeping their way north to their "desired" parking space after sunset. After a night of fun and romance, they headed home, unless they got stuck in the sand - it wasn't called Sand Key for nothing!

"Belleair Beach only had one policeman—Sam Whitman, slightly reminiscent of Mayberry RFD. If anyone was going to catch you drinking on Sand Key, it was Officer Sam. But he did not bother us. He actually helped when we got our cars stuck," said Gordon Geissler, a longtime Belleair Beach resident.

Everything changed when Ed Wright died in 1969. The property was sold to various developers; US Steel bought 157 acres.

Over the next decade, the playground for hundreds of families and young people disappeared as Sand Key slowly converted into condo after condo, and a few large hotels. Today there are two dozen high rise buildings, with approximately 3,000 units that are home to over 5,000 people living on Sand Key. Only Sand Key Park at the northwest end of the island resembles the area's earlier party times.

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CREDITS



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 1
- Independence Day 4
- Fireworks Coachman Park 4
- Calvary Independence Day Concert 4
- Budget Delivered To City Commission 8
- City Commission Meeting 9
- MLB All Star Game 9
- Homeowners Happy Hour 11
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 12
- Presentation of Preliminary City Budget 17
- Pitch-For-Pink Spectrum Field 19
- City Budget Workshop 23
- City Sets Tentative Millage Rates 23
- BeachArtCenterCapitalFunShowOpens 22
- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 26
- Grouper Week In Pinellas Begins 26

AUGUST

- Sunset Run Sand Key Park 2
- School Supplies Sales Tax Holiday 2-6
- Magic and Mayhem Library Dance 3
- Coast Guard Anniversary 4
- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 4
- Grouper Week In Pinellas Ends 4
- IRB Community Clean Up Week 5-7
- Homeowners Happy Hour 8

- Greentown Kids Sunset Beach Pop-Up 9
- Tentative Budget Finished 9
- Action 2000 Meeting 12
- Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed 12
- City Commission Meeting 13
- Cool Art Show St Pete Coliseum 13-14
- Public School Begins 14
- Calvary Episcopal Fashion Show 17
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SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day 2
- Schools Closed 2
- Public Hearing To Adopt Budget 3
- A2K Service Saturday 7
- Grandparents Day 8
- Mondays With Mayor Kennedy 9
- City Commission Meeting 10
- Patriots Day 11
- Final Public Budget Hearing 17
- Homeowners Happy Hour 12
- Autumn Begins 23
- Clearwater Bast Friday 27
- Off Shore Super Boat Races 27-29
- Rosh Hashanah Begins 29

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!

Anona Elementary's Class of 2019



Here are the 5th graders are the Anona Elementary School "Class of 2019" They will graduate High School in 2026. This is four classrooms - 125 children in total - along with Charlie, their longtime Crossing Guard in the middle. Many of these kids live in Indian Rocks Beach.

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Did You Know

STUDENT WINS NATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD Indian Rocks Beach resident Gwynne English (16), a junior at Largo High School, won the 2019 Bertie Green Junior Travel Award. Presented by the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH), an honor society for high school students studying Spanish or Portuguese, the award is for her dedication to the study of Spanish and her excellent language skills.



The prestigious award, is awarded to only 24 students from over 2,400 SHH chapters across the country. SHH members submitted samples of their written and oral work in Spanish; the winners were chosen by a committee appointed by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. This month, Gwynne will travel to Peru for 10 days with the other winners.

RCS PINELLAS 90 CAMPAIGN RCS of Pinellas is raising funds and food donations to help end summer hunger. They plan to feed school children over their 90 day summer break. During the summer, many children who are not in school also do not have access to school provided breakfasts and lunches. It takes 131 pounds of food to feed a family of four during the summer. Unfortunately, donations drop off during the summer as people are busy traveling. This campaign kicked off June 1 to raise awareness. See RCSPinellas.org for more information. Call 584-3528 to make a donation

PAINTING CLASSES The Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC) is now offering painting classes for \$15 per session. There is no need to sign up in advance and you pay as you go. Students should bring their own materials.

The classes are being held at 9:30am on Tuesday mornings. For information, call the CCSC at 727-517-7776 or the instructor at 727-533-6958.


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



5K RUNS CONTINUE The Sunset 5K Runs held in Sand Key are underway. The four separate beach runs are held behind the Sheraton Sand Key on the beach at 7pm. Registration begins at 6pm on site. The Kid's Fun Run begins at 6:45pm.

The two remaining dates are: July 19 and August 2. A single race (no shirt) is \$20 advance, race day \$25. A single race with shirt is \$25, race day \$30. You can register online at SignMeUp.com/130284.

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NEW BIKE RACKS The City is installing brightly colored dolphin shaped bike racks on Beach Accesses. The one in the photo is at 27th Avenue. Look for others to appear soon.

CAPITOL THEATRE AWARDED Capitol Theatre was honored with the "Built Environment Award" at the Annual Future of the Region Awards hosted by

the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Built Environment Awards honor a project that demonstrates best practices, promotes compact development or redevelopment in existing urban areas, preserves history, beautifies public spaces, contributes to a unique regional identity, improves the health and well-being of people and has innovative infrastructure that deliver multiple benefits. "The Capitol Theatre is a shining jewel in our downtown area," said City Commissioner Hoyt Hamilton when accepting the award for the City.

PITCH FOR PINK July 12, the Clearwater Threshers are hosting the latest Pitch for Pink Game at Spectrum Field. This year's event is jointly sponsored by the Threshers and the Morton Plant Mease Foundation to raise money and build awareness for breast cancer and those it affects.

The first 1,000 women through the gate, will receive a sun hat. During the game, fans can participate in an auction including autographed jerseys, gift certificates, spa packages, autographed pink bats, and more to benefit the breast health services and programs of the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease. After the game, enjoy fireworks.

To buy tickets, visit ThreshersBaseball.com or call 727- 467-4457.

ARCHERY CAMP McGough Park is offering an archery camp two days this summer - July 20th and August 10 from 10 to 11am. The cost is \$5 per child and is for 9 year-olds and up. To reserve a bow, call 518-3047.

IRB'S FREE GARDENS

A new Free Garden project was launched in Indian Rocks Beach. Volunteers solicited donations to build wooden planter boxes, filled them with dirt and planted herbs and vegetables. Now, the mini community gardens are filled with free produce. "I picked the first pepper around June first," says Mayor Cookie Kennedy, who spearheaded the project. The grow boxes are at five Indian Rocks locations: Cookie Cutter Salon, 18 on the Rocks, Church of the Isles, Beach Art Center, and the Beach Food Pantry. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and pick some produce. Shown here is Trevor Hargett, watering on of the gardens.



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

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--Seth & Jackie

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Real Estate News

INDIAN ROCKS REAL ESTATE VITAL SIGNS

Mid-year pulse-check

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



Since we've passed the halfway mark for the year, now might be a good time to take a quick reading on the pulse of the Indian Rocks Beach real estate market. In all honesty, the market has "felt slow" of late but the numbers tell a different story...so it might just be the heat.

In terms of sales volume, Indian Rocks has reported 7 fewer total sales in the first half of this year as compared to last year. But, there were 9 more single-family sales. Despite this modest 7% reduction in total volume, sale prices continue to rise. Median sale prices for all IRB properties and for single-families were up close to another 9% year over year. While we are no longer appreciating in the 15-20% range, like early last year, we are outperforming Pinellas County's increase of 7%.

Through 6/30 last year, IRB single-family homes sold for 97% of list price. This year, sellers are getting 95% of what they ask. While buyers can at least take a breath before writing an offer and bidding wars may be a little less frequent, limited inventory will continue to hinder any serious negotiation.

With only 58 IRB properties listed in mid-June, good properties still don't last. While Pinellas County's listings are sitting on the market the same number of days as last year, IRB's average days-on-the-market has actually decreased by 25% or 20 days.

Cash sales have noticeably declined in Indian Rocks—down from 52% last year to 35% in 2019. It's a little soon to determine the role of the new tax laws in the equation but interest rates moving lower, despite predictions of an increase, has definitely come into play. More and more people are retiring still owing money on their mortgages and the fear of becoming cash poor while adjusting to a fixed income may be part of what's making financing more attractive...especially on larger waterfront properties.

Foreclosures are a surprise. Nationally, foreclosures are down 50%...but NOT in Florida. Nearly 70% more Floridians received a notice of foreclosure in February. In May, 1 in every 2,400 U.S. homes was in distress; in Florida, it was 1 in 1,200. Jacksonville leads the pack with defaults but the Tampa Bay Metro is #3. As of mid-June, IRB had three properties on the foreclosure auction docket with about a dozen more either being bank-owned, in some stage of pre-foreclosure or showing delinquent taxes.

Ever since the real estate train tapped its air brake at the end of last year, we've seen a gradual slowdown, bringing about a somewhat more balanced market. We would be well advised to embrace this trend as a much-needed "bubble preventer" instead of seeing it as bad news. Our sales continue to show positive momentum and a busy summer is expected; however, Hillsborough County's single-family median sales price showed its first downtrend in April--backing up .8%. Hopefully, the bridge traffic will keep that trend from traveling to Pinellas and making its way all the way out to beach.

Source: My Florida Regional MLS (1/1-6/30/18 & 1/1-6/19/19)

SAND KEY - AS THEY REMEMBER IT

In the 1950s, we used to go fishing on Sand Key. We would put our boats in at the Belleair Beach Causeway ramp and travel across the Intracoastal. What I remember most were the mosquitoes. They were so bad they would carry you away. Many times we had to jump in the water just to get the bugs off of us.

Charlie Harper, President, Largo Historical Society.

About 1961, when my girlfriends and I were 16 or 17 years old, Ed Wright had a big beach house on the Gulf side of

the island. It was a typical old-style Florida house with a big porch facing the beach. The inside was all cedar planks. We met Mr. Wright one day while he was home. He was a tall man, to us, in his mid-60s and a very nice guy for being so rich.

He said we could use his house for showers and bathrooms. All we had to do was lock it up and keep it clean. What I remember most about Sand Key was the sound the wind made as it passed through the Australian pines. **Kathy Mortensen, former Mayor of Belleair Beach**

As a youngster, we went up there with the Boy Scouts. Our parents used to drop us off at the north end of Belleair Beach with our troop leader. We would hike along the beach, about a mile north to our designated campsite for the night. One of the parents would drive up the dirt road and drop off our tents and lumber for our camp fire. If the weather got

bad, our parents would come and pick us up on the sandy road. **Gordon Geissler, longtime resident of Belleair Beach**

I moved to Clearwater Beach in 1971 and rented a house across from the Adams Mark Hotel. I remember going across the old, rickety wooden bridge to Sand Key to party on weekends. It cost a nickel back then. There was not a building anywhere to be seen. Even the Sheraton was not built yet. It was very dark at night. I was very young so my friends and I would congregate on weekends and party all night. There were bonfires, beer, booze, maybe some drugs and lots of fun. Occasionally the police would come and break up the fun—but we just came back next week.

Sharon James, VIP Realty 1

As kids in high school, we used to go to Sand Key, which was nothing but white sand and Australian pine trees. We used to hang out day and night. Some of my more adventuresome buddies could afford four-wheel drive vehicles. They would hang out and wait for someone to get stuck. Then, for whatever cash the victim had, they would pull them out of the sand. Some of those guys made quite a bit of money. If you were late getting home for curfew, you could just tell your parents you got stuck out at Sand Key.

Jerry Newton, Indian Rocks Beach resident

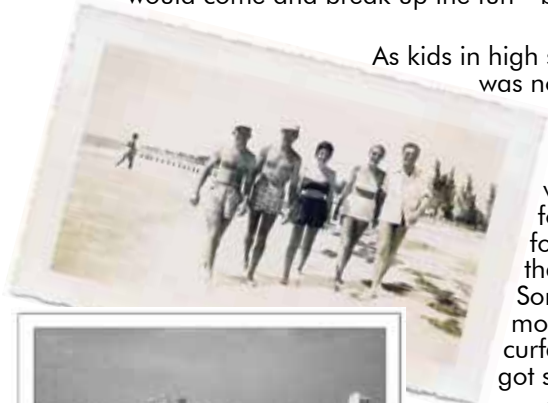
When I first arrived in the area, my fondest memory was playing Frisbee all day with my boyfriend on the beach at what is now Sand Key Park. You could park for free in the sandy lot amongst the beautiful pine trees. You could walk out on the sand to the water's edge or sit under the pine trees for shade. Occasionally, a car would get stuck in the sand and we'd all help to get it out. There was something magical about seeing all those pine trees, sand and water."

Lynn Ewonaitis, longtime resident

I grew up on Island Estates and still live there. When we were in our teens, we would go exploring in our jeeps and trucks on Sand Key in and among the dunes. Sometimes, we would take our 16-foot Wellcraft and get to the island on the Intracoastal side. Sometimes we even swam across the pass. Occasionally, we would spend the night camping. We normally had a large camp fire directly on the beach. Who was going to stop us? **Al Leon, Island Estates resident**

In about 1978, I started working at the Sheraton Sand Key. There was almost nothing there, development-wise. The land to the north (now Sand Key Park) and to the south was totally undeveloped. On the weekends, around midnight a party goer would regularly stumble into the Sheraton and ask if we knew who to call to get a tow truck. They were stuck in the sand.

Charlie Creel, Head Concierge, Sheraton Sand Key



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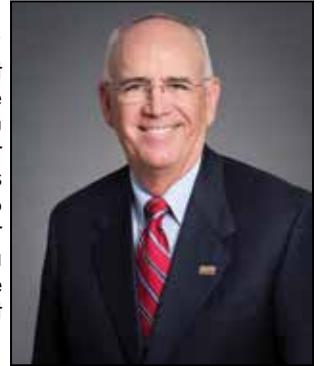
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ARETHA, PRINCE, TOM AND...YOU

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

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



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

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

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

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

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

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TWENTY YEARS WORKING ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE BEST IN GOVERNMENT

By Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can view the video story about Scott and our other employees by visiting Pinellas County's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/pccvt1.



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Restaurant News



BREAKFAST AT CADDY'S

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

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

See their complete menu online at www.Caddys.com. Find Caddy's at 20025 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores.

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

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



OFF THE GRID

Nestled in the back behind Aqua Prime, this little outdoor spot with umbrellas, is a unique food truck based concept, straight from St Thomas Virgin Islands. Enjoy their Gourmet Caribbean-Inspired BBQ and Burgers, plus they are always smoking something on site, including Whole Turkeys, Chicken Wings, Gyro Lamb, Pork Shoulder, Brisket, Chicken Thighs, Shrimp, Mahi, Mussels, and Peel & Eats.

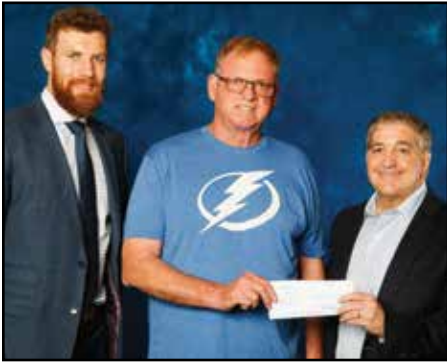
Here you order your food at the walk up to the window, get your drink and hang out at one of the picnic tables until they call your name. Afterwards, sit under the trees and play some corn hole, beer pong or even bocce ball.

They have Full Liquor - \$6 Signature Cocktail Drinks, \$3 Wells \$4 Calls, Draft beers and House Wine. They are open 7 days a week 10am - 10pm.

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.



Restaurant News



LIGHTNING HONORS LOCAL RESTAURATEUR

The Tampa Bay Lightning honored Frank Chivas, owner of Baystar Restaurants (including Seaweed) as the 43rd Lightning Community Hero during Game 2 of the Columbus

Playoffs. Chivas received a \$50,000 donation from the Lightning Foundation and the Community Heroes program for his works with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation and Clearwater Youth. The money was divided and given to the four charities

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

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

LIGHTHOUSE DONUTS While the business is nineteen years old, the present owner of Lighthouse Donuts, Chhay Siev, bought the business ten years ago. They tell us their corner location was sold last year, but the plan is to continue operating month-to-month for at least another year.

ALOHA ANSLEY In Hawaiian, Aloha means welcome. It is also the name of a new restaurant open just east of Belleair Bluffs. Aloha Ansley Hawaiian Fusion - Ansley is the owner - is both a sit down and take out place with limited seating.

The menu features Poke bowls. You may have noticed more poke (pronounced poh-kay and rhymes with okay) restaurants are opening. For those that are unfamiliar with it, the word poke simply means "chunk" in Hawaiian. Previously, poke was any meat or seafood cut into small chunks and marinated. Poke nowadays is generally seafood and more likely to be like a seafood salad.

In addition to poke, the new menu includes Da Hui Tacos, Oahu Sliders, and Blue Wave Nachos. They also have salads, many sides, desserts, beer, wine—and kid's plates. Find Aloha Ansley at 1931 West Bay Drive, near the stoplight on 20th. They are closed Mondays. Visit Alohaansley.com. Call Ansley at 953-3757.



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THE PLAZA 100'S OWNER DIES

David Berolzheimer, owner of Belleair Bluff's The Plaza 100 died on May 17, 2019. He was 84. Then a Largo resident, he purchased the shopping center in 1973. 46 years later, the stores in the Plaza and the property itself have been remodeled and upgraded.

During a recent interview, David told us, "The Galleries art store and a restaurant called Scrupples were my first new tenants. Scrupples later became Eugen's restaurant, which was changed to E&E Stakeout, as it is today."

The oldest existing tenant in The Plaza is Jim Dundee with Belleair Optical. He is retiring soon. "I remember many of the old stores that are not here anymore," says Jim. "Dave has been a good landlord and was and always will be a dear friend," he added. "He treated The Plaza like his second home."

"Dave was there to see me through my very nervous purchase of my first business, initially as my landlord. But through the years he became a confidant and was always there to steer me in the right direction" Jim continued. "My office will never seem the same without Dave in my backroom having our daily chats. 'Always in my chair' Dave had the merchants' best interest at heart and strived to make this a place people wanted to come. The plaza will miss Dave's many walk-throughs of his beloved Plaza 100," Jim concludes.

Brian and Cheryl Franzese, owners of Bella Vino remember him fondly as well. "Dave was a hard-working, dedicated, well respected businessman in the community. As a landlord, Dave was a man of his word and always looked out for his tenants' best interests. Because he was a proud man, his Plaza 100 was always well maintained - in fact the most well-kept shopping center in the community. Dave enjoyed fine wine and fine champagne, so we had many wine conversations with him over the years. He will be missed and always remembered."

Every December, David hosted a free Christmas Concert featuring members of the Florida Orchestra. It was a holiday favorite and always attended by many local residents. He was active in the community. In addition to his family, friends and Plaza family, his loss will be felt by many in the Belleair Bluffs area.

"Dave was an enormous presence in the City of Belleair Bluffs community. He purchased the 100 Bluffs Plaza in 1973 and has watched the city grow and change over the years," says Debra Sullivan, Belleair Bluffs' City Administrator. "He would stop by often to share stories, offer suggestions to make Belleair Bluffs a more bike friendly, event friendly, visitor friendly city. He loved the city and wanted to ensure that more and more people learned to love Belleair Bluffs as he did. We honored him last year at our Holiday Event as the Annual Tree Lighter, as a business owner who was so invested in his tenants and the city. Everyone that knew him adored him. I am blessed to have had him take time to visit city hall often and share his knowledge and experiences with me. He will be missed by so many."

"Dave was one in a million," says Bonnie Starr, his long-time companion. "We were together for 45 years, since 1974. Although we never married, he was a man I could not live without."

"His tenants at The Plaza were his friends," Bonnie went on. "He never considered them tenants. He liked them as much as they liked him. He will be greatly missed."



ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN SOMEONE CARES

By Erin Emmett, President Guardian ad Litem Foundation

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WHAT TO EXPECT

By Rebecca Geiger

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

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



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

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

There are many options for parents: "Mommy and Me" classes, Infant Swimming Resource (ISR), group, semi-private, or private lessons. The one that is right for you will depend on your comfort level and the speed at which you want your child to progress. Keep in mind, if your child can see you, it will double their learning time. If you are in the water with them it will triple it. The reason for this is simple. Your child is literally hardwired to cry/whine at a pitch that is excruciating for you. This is a survival mechanism. You are correspondingly hardwired to respond to their discomfort as quickly as possible to prevent your own discomfort. If they can see you, their mind will be focused on why you are not stopping what is upsetting them, giving you extreme discomfort by watching them without interfering. This is a hindrance to everyone while developing this vital skill.

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

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



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TIME TO THINK ABOUT HURRICANE SEASON AGAIN.



By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Business Briefs



MEET THE GRANGERS

Berangere and Gilles Granger recently bought Belleair Opticians. Jim Dundee has not left yet—but he will later this year. The Grangers are both from France. They moved from Paris to Harbor Hills, just south of West Bay Drive, four years ago. They love talking about their world travels and the differences between the French and American cultures, food and wine.

About a year and a half ago, the Grangers learned Dundee was retiring and they formed a partnership. Dundee agreed to stay to show them the ropes of running the Optical business and to introduce them to his clientele. But, the Grangers are not new to this industry; they were in this business for many years in Paris.

“We bring our passion of beautiful and well-made designer frames from Europe—mainly France and Italy but even the U.S.,” Gilles explains. “We offer exclusive brands available only here at our shop in Pinellas,” he adds. “Our goal is to serve our customers with the best quality and designs available. We promise to provide a personalized service based on your lifestyle and vision needs and to offer a unique shopping experience”

“Thanks to our past experience in the ophthalmic industry as researchers, we are delighted to bring our competencies and know-how about lens technology,” says Berangere. “We are able to explain the pros and cons of very complex high-end glasses which your eyesight deserves.”

The Grangers moved the shop in The Plaza 100 a few doors down to a larger space next to Belleair Coffee. The new space offers a more modern space with a beautiful touch boutique and now an eye doctor. Belleair Opticians has been recognized as a “Essilor Expert”, a rare recognition Tampa Bay.

“We love our loyal customers,” both the Grangers say. “And we look forward to meeting new ones.”

Belleair Opticians is located in The Plaza at 100 N. Indian Rocks Rd. Visit www.BelleairOpticians.com or call 584-0730.

DOG NANNY OPENS This new doggy daycare opened at 1511 Gulf Blvd. They provide half day, full day and extended stay services.



In addition to her new dog sitting business, owner MJ Arbutine volunteers for Suncoast Animal League. She has weekly shelter shifts, fosters dogs, assists with dog rescues, and helps with their local fundraising efforts. A handful of our local families have dogs she previously fostered.

In addition, for the last year she has worked with MEOW Now, a non-profit Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return program that takes in homeless pregnant cats and newly delivered litters. She provides them with love, food, a temporary home and socialization until can be adopted. Currently, she has a momma cat & kittens. They will be available for adoption in 7-8 weeks through MEOW Now or a partner organization.

You can reach MJ at 430-9729.

Business Briefs

NEW PONTOON BOAT ADDED

Outland Jet Ski Rentals has added a pontoon boat to its inventory of fun water rentals. The 24



foot long party boat holds up to 10 people. It is safe and stable and even comes with a slide! It costs \$125 an hour and comes with gas and a captain.

Outland Boat Tours operates behind the Holiday Inn Harborside, with a rental office at the south end of 2nd Street - near the History Museum. See their web site at OutlandBoatTour.com or call them at 301-6267.

PROTECT YOUR BOAT The weather experts are calling for a "slightly busier than average" 2019 hurricane season with 12 to 14 named storms, including five to seven hurricanes and two to four major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher. Boat owners know the issues of securing their boat, and trying to eliminate damages from swinging and the movement caused by storm force winds. Once the storm hits, thoughts of "I hope it holds up this time" are enough to make one sick until the storm passes.

Luckily, a unique and proven product that quickly and easily secures your lift and boat for hurricane conditions - SwingStopper, designed by Paul Wartens - is available. Produced in Ft. Lauderdale, it provides proven protection and has been FEA tested to withstand Category 5 Hurricane conditions, creating one solid structure between the four corners of the lift and its piling.

Michael Atwell, owner of Clearwater based, Propwash, LLC, recently teamed up with Paul and SwingStoppers LLC to bring this product to our area. Atwell says, "The success of this product over the past decade is unmatched in terms of ease of use, value, and peace of mind with regards to protection of vessels and property." Propwash LLC also provides complete marine management services including storm protection products, monthly management services, detailing, and general, overall care of your assets. For information, call Atwell at 727-512-4156.

NEW CRAFT BREWERY COMING TO THE BEACH

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



MARINE MAX TOP SELLER

Popular boat manufacturer Sea Ray, the world's leading creator of superior quality pleasure boats, recently celebrated 60 years in business. At the birthday party held in Texas last month, MarineMax Pompano was named the Top Selling Sea Ray dealer in the world—for the seventh consecutive year. Marine Max, the nation's largest recreational boat and yacht retailer, is headquartered in Clearwater. Visit MarineMax.com and SeaRay.com.

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ODEY O'DONNELL 98-YEAR OLD WWII VETERAN LIVING IN BELLEAIR

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

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

Today, Odey and his wife Lois, live a much quieter life in the Town of Belleair, but he still remembers his time "in the War."

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

Still wanting to serve, Odey promptly signed up with the Army Air Force and once again was a pilot cadet in training. However, when they discovered his navy experiences, they transferred him to Bombardier/Navigation School.

"I was trained on the B-24 Liberator bombers. They were relatively new at the time," Odey says. After his training, he was sent to where the action was - North Africa. To get there, they had to fly north to Newfoundland, then to the Azores - a region of Portugal, and finally Marrakesh, a major city in North Africa's Morocco.

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



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

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

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

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

Odey left Europe from Naples, Italy on his birthday, March 17, 1945 and headed home. Just over a month later, he and his high school sweetheart Elizabeth Winter, were married on April 21, 1945.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



GROUPEL TRIVIA CONTEST

Win A \$100 Dinner at Crabby Bills

July 26th through August 4 is Pinellas County's Annual Grouper Week. This week, Pinellas restaurants serving grouper will feature the locally caught fish served every way from sandwiches to formal entrees.

Grouper is found all over the world, but the waters off Pinellas County are some of the best areas to catch the fish. John's Pass is regularly referred to as "The Grouper Capital of the World."

Grouper is one of the main things we sell here at Crabby Bills," says owner Matt Loder. "Quality matters to us so much we actually DNA test our grouper to ensure we serve pure grouper."

Would you like to win a free dinner at The Original Crabby Bill's Seafood Restaurant? Answer the following questions and e-mail them to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com by July 9. July 10th we will randomly draw the lucky winner from the e-mails with all correct answers. That lucky person will receive an e-mail by July 11th

Questions:

1. Name four types of grouper.
2. What is the largest type of grouper in the western hemisphere?
3. How many calories are in a 4-oz. serving of plain grouper?
4. What percentage of grouper are born female?
5. Name five ways to cook grouper
6. What is the cost of a grouper sandwich at Crabby Bill's?

The prize is dinner for two at Crabby Bill's not to exceed \$100. Crabby Bill's is located at 401 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach. Good luck and thank you for reading and playing.

HOW A CAR'S A/C WORKS

By Earl Chambers, Goodyear (C & E) Tire and Auto Service

In 1939, Packard became the first automobile manufacturer to offer air conditioning in its cars. The new "Weather Conditioner" as it was called, included a heater, but with a price tag of \$274 (\$5,048.14 in today's dollars), it was not affordable for most people in the depression era.

In the refrigeration cycle, heat is transported from the car's interior to the environment. The system works by circulating refrigerant gas vapor to the compressor in the engine bay, where it is compressed to a higher pressure, resulting in high temperatures. The hot, compressed refrigerant vapor is then condensed into a liquid allowing the heat to be carried away by the air.

The warm air is therefore cooled, and also deprived of any humidity (which condenses on the evaporator coils and is drained outside the vehicle) To complete the cycle, the refrigerant vapor is routed back into the compressor.

Today auto air systems work harder than ever before with less Freon. When it's 95 degrees outside with high humidity your air conditioning is working at it's maximum. If the system does not keep up it could be a sign of a weak compressor, a leak, an overcharged system or even a dryer releasing moisture back into the system.

It is a good idea to have your car's A/C checked annually. Don't wait until it quits on you. We can do that for you at Goodyear (C & E) Tire and Auto Service at 11901 Indian Rocks Road North, across from Publix. We do more than tires. Call 596-9551 - no Appointment needed.



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Organizational News...

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

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

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

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

Upcoming events:

- July 4-5 - GTK will be participating in the HOA's 4th of July beach bag handout & cleanup
- July 24 - Sea Bird Sanctuary Member Meeting
- August 9 - Sunset Beach Pop-up (6:30pm)

Family Annual Memberships are \$20. Register at greentownkids.org. To receive our monthly newsletters and scheduled events, email: greentownkids@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF THE DOG PARK

Submitted by Wendell Schott

The dog days of summer got off to an early start from mid-May into June with a stretch of unrelenting hot, dry weather. Luckily every year we can depend on our rainy season when it's often “raining cats and dogs.” I've posted on the IRB Dog Park bulletin board a listing of tips to keep our pooches cool during sizzling days. There are also some photos of ways for our best friend to cool down like romps in small swimming pools. Our local social media (“Next Door”) has been abuzz about the dangers of walking your dog along hot pavements and sidewalks. A general rule is that if the surface is too hot for your hands or feet after 5-7 seconds, it's too hot for Fido's paws. Speaking of paws, our dogs are adjusting to the recently expanded coverage of small rocks along the south side of the Dog Park after it was closed for a full week for maintenance during May. With even less grassy areas for playing, that should cut down on muddy dog runs. Many thanks to all the thoughtful people who donated items including washing products, tennis balls, ropes, flying discs, toys, etc. These are found in hanging baskets along the fence area. Keep in mind that the park will continue to be closed all day every Thursday to continue to maintain the property. Have a good summer and keep your pets cool. Happy Tails To You!

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Organizational News...

FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

Submitted by Michelle Gardner

Magic and Mayhem Dance Party at IRB Library August 3 IRB Library's space-themed Summer Reading Program "A Universe of Stories" will finish this year with a dance party, pizza, prizes, and a funny, exciting performance by Magic and Mayhem that includes a Bunny in space.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of Indian Rocks Beach Library and we encourage you to join us at the IRB Library, 1509 Bay Palm Blvd., on Saturday August 3 at 2pm for a celebration of readers' accomplishments. All ages are invited!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Submitted by Patricia Burch

Community garden members got together in June to get the garden ready for the hot months of July and August. That means weeding and clearing out boxes that will be "dormant" for a month or two. Although we still plant heat loving vegetables like okra, beans, and eggplant, most vegetables don't do well in middle of summer. But when September comes around, we will be holding our annual "renew and replant" events at the garden to welcome the fall growing season. We still have spaces available, so if you've been thinking about joining, or if you are new to Indian Rocks Beach, come join us in early September. Times and dates will be posted on the City website.

ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH (A2K)

Submitted by Julie Hoofnagle

20th Anniversary Benefit Gala - Wow, what a spectacular evening! Our 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala was an evening to remember. Over 140 attendees came together to support our mission to preserve and beautify Indian Rocks Beach and enjoy a sunset cruise aboard StarLite Majesty.

Former A2K President and auctioneer for the event, Jim Labadie, passionately engaged the audience in a live auction and pledges resulting in a combined revenue of more than \$18,000!

All the event's proceeds will go to the Kolb Park Gazebo Upgrade Project. The kickoff for this project between the City and IRB Action 2000 is slated to begin late 2019. The refurbished gazebo and walkways will provide the ideal setting for concerts in the Park, art festivals, children activities and potential farmers market.

For pictures of the event and learn more about the Gazebo Upgrade Project, go to www.irbaction2000.com

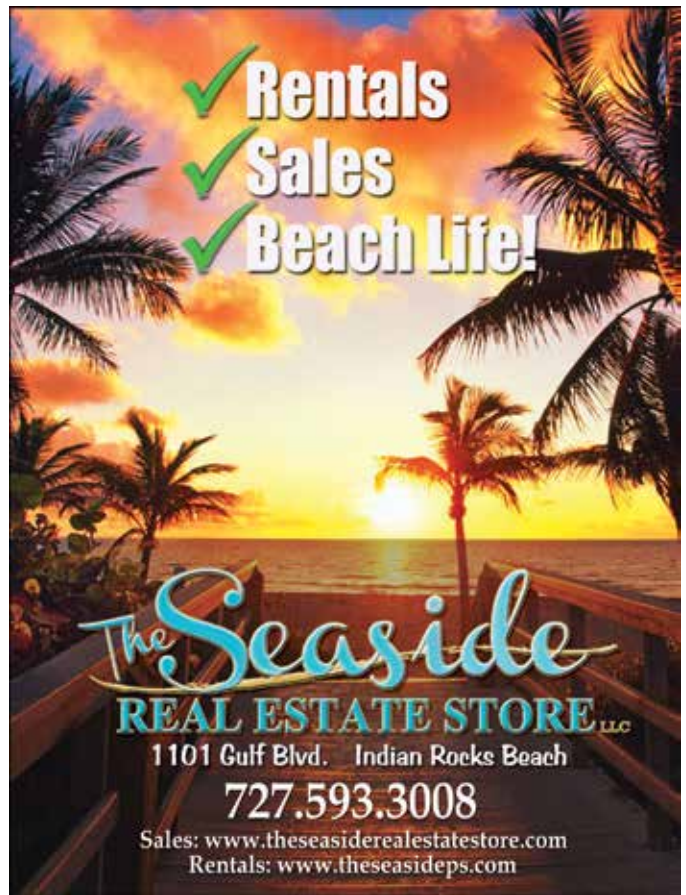
Get Ready for Oktoberfest - Action 2000 is gearing up for 18th Annual Oktoberfest! The Committee Chairs have been named and work is well underway for this charity festival that helps to fund community beautification projects. Oktoberfest will be held in Kolb Park on October 12th.

The Oktoberfest on the Beach festival is a traditional German harvest celebration of community with food, fun and brews. The one-day event features family fun, live music, outrageous games, face painting, contests & more.

Action 2000 is seeking sponsors and volunteers that share the desire to beautify our community and celebrate the special place where we live. Oktoberfest is one of the largest fall events in Pinellas County and draws over 5,000 visitors.

Oktoberfest is valued for the funds it raises for our community and bringing together families and friends for a unique traditional German celebration. We hope to make this year's event bigger and better than ever before.

Please join us - We hope to see you at our next Action 2000 meeting on August 12th at the Beach Arts Center, 6:30 pm.



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Organizational News...

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

Submitted by David Kline BCFP Director

On May 11, for the 27th year, the National Association of Letter Carriers sponsored their 'Stamp out Hunger' food collection drive. Postal Carriers made their rounds to pick up the bags of food donated by the residents. The containers of collected food started arriving at Calvary Episcopal Church at 2 pm and continued until 5 pm. We had a great collection of volunteers who unpacked, inspected confirmed expiration dates, sorted and stocked the hundreds of pounds of food products. These bountiful donations will allow us to support a portion of our client's needs for the coming months.

The Beach Community Food Pantry continues to be supported by our residents through food and monetary donations. We also are blessed with a number of individuals who devote their time to manage and work at the pantry, serving our clients, stocking the shelves, processing and packaging the monthly USDA deliveries, roving the county to pick up food from Feeding Tampa Bay and RCS and staffing our fundraising event---to all of you, our sincere gratitude for supporting our mission---you are making a difference!

We are always in need of volunteers, especially during the spring, summer and fall seasons. If you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, please contact BCFP Director Connie Curran at 727-482-6167 for more details.

We are also in need of drivers who would like to offer a few hours each month to pick up the food we receive. We have a new cargo van so there is no need to use your own vehicle. If you would like more details, please contact Jim Vacherlon at 319-213-5213.

We thank our friends at Publix for again supporting BCFP through their semi-annual "Food for Sharing" food drive. For 12 days in the spring and fall, Publix collects customers' donations. These funds are used to purchase non-perishable food that is donated to food pantries, including BCFP. This year through Publix, the community donated two pallets of food staples. Our friends at Home Depot helped load the pallets onto our vehicles. Our clients will have access to the staples for the next few months.

Our clients thank everyone for their gracious donations, to Publix, for sponsoring the event, to Home Depot for their assistance with loading and to our great team of volunteers who delivered, unloaded and stored the many cases of food!

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - FINE ARTS & FASHION

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

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

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

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

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

Organizational News...

THE BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Barbara Parker

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

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

Upcoming Gallery Shows - We have two shows this summer.

- "Americana" showing in July and celebrates: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the 4th of July. The show runs through July 19th.
- "Capital Fun" July 22nd through August 28th, will feature local artists for the benefit of our Capital Fund Raising Campaign. All the proceeds will go to the building fund. You are sure to find a wide variety of work, in all media; there is something for everyone.

Classes and Workshops - We are open all summer and are always adding more so watch our website beachartcenter.org

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

ART on the ROCKS - 6-8pm

- July 3: Peter Max Flag with Shawn Dell Joyce.
- July 11: Embossed Foil Designs with Cheri Connolly.
- July 30: Paint along with Bob Ross. Dress up as Bob Ross and put on your wig for an evening packed with lots of fun and you go home with your own painting. (odorless oil paint is used so dress accordingly)
- Aug 14: Mermaids & Dolphins with Shawn Dell Joyce
- August 27: Paint along with Bob Ross.

INDIAN ROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submitted by Terry Hamilton Wollin

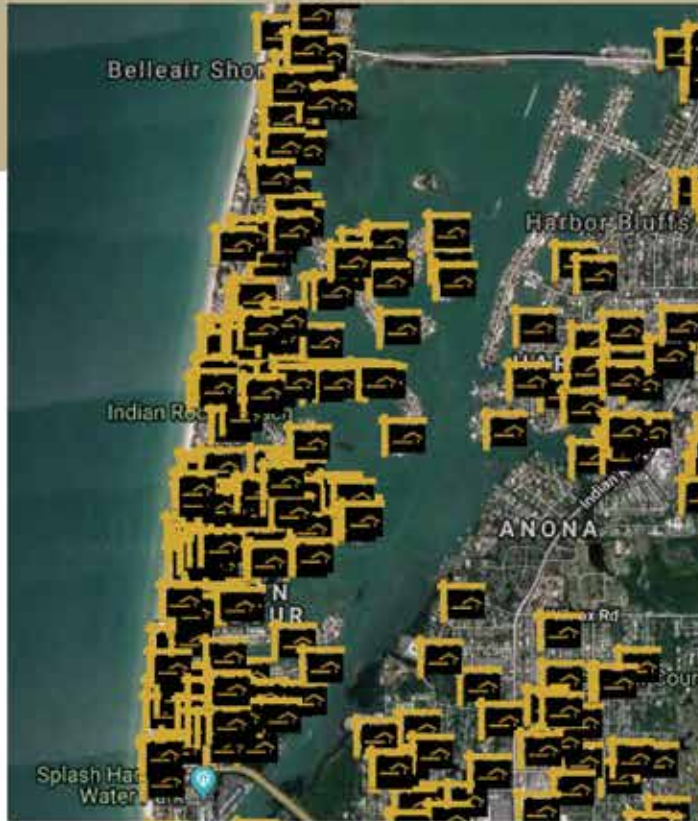
The IRB Historical Museum has completed their window replacement project. Stop by and see the results, and the latest donations to the museum: A George King original painting donated by the daughters of the late Helen and Frank Proctor; a charming Ohio baker's cupboard c 1930, and one of the original Indian Rocks Bridge lanterns.

The good news, we are "electronic" at last! Visit irbmuseum.com to donate to the Society using credit and debit cards. The link is on the home page. Our "History on the Rocks" and Pot Luck luncheons are made possible by donations and memberships. You will be able to tell us where you wish your money to be applied. The bad news is the Florida Legislature did not fund the Speakers Series as they have in the past. Donations help keep the Museum open and vibrant and pay our speakers.

The museum will be closed August and September.

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