

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

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**

Also in this Issue:

Chief Burton

Last fall, after Hurricane Michael devastated Mexico Beach, PSFRD Chief Michael Burton and a team of Pinellas County first responders were there to help. - page 16

Meet Olivia

She is a breeder for the Southeastern Guide Dogs and is helping to provide guide dogs to those in need. - page 24

Meet the Man Behind Doc Ford

Randy Wayne White's character has been made famous in his novels and the Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grill restaurants. One is opening in the new Pier. - page 30

Circle of Heroes

Located on Pinellas's Veteran's Reef, the first of its kind, offshore underwater Veteran Memorial is now open. - page 34





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BELLEAIR AREA

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

**SEE YOU AGAIN
IN DECEMBER**

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Sheriff: 582-6200

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Police Dept: 588-3769

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Charlie Crist 202-225-5961

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER		41st Country Jubilee	26
Rosh Hashanah Ends	1	Halloween Spooktacular Largo	26
Garage Sale Largo Narrows Park	5	Three Bridge Run	26
Walk to Remember Morton Plant	5	Halloween Event Belleair Beach	26
Blessing of Pets Calvary Church	6	Halloween Bash Belleair Rec	26
Yom Kippur	8-9	KONA Windsurfing Challenge	26-27
St Patrick's School Fun Fair	9-13	Pumpkin Fest FL Botanical Gardens	27
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	10	Antiques & Artisans' Market The Alley	27
CoolJazzConcertCalvaryEpiscopal	11	Halloween	31
Garage Sale Town of Belleair	12	Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends	31
Oktoberfest Indian Rocks Beach	12	NOVEMBER	
Chemical Cleanup Seminole High	12	Harvest Art Show Dunedin	2-3
Peace Memorial Church Concert	13	City Garage Sale Belleair Bluffs	2
HispanicHeritageConcertCoachmanPk	13	City Garage Sale Belleair Beach	2
Columbus Day Public Schools Closed	14	Concert Hunter's Park	2
Stone Crab Season Begins	15	Daylight Savings Time Ends	Sun 3
Clearwater Jazz Holiday	17-20	Henry Plant Dedication Belleview Inn	9
Johns Pass Seafood Fest	18-20	Taste Of IRB Indian Rocks Beach	9
Coastal Clean Up	19	Veterans Day Public Schools Closed	11
Blast Friday Clearwater	25	Visit Egmont Key Days	9-10
Owl-O-Queen McGough Park	25	Great American Teach-In	13
Chalk Walk Clearwater Beach	25-27	Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	14
Clearwater Stone Crab Festivals	25-27	Suncoast Dixie & Jazz Festival	15-17



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Mr. & Mrs. Petersen, Belleview Place Mid-Rise Residents

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Did You Know



10 YEARS LATER The City of Belleair Bluffs and the Town of Belleair entered into an Agreement for Fire Suppression Services with Largo Fire Department ten years ago.

Largo Fire leased the fire station located on Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs until 2015 when a new state of the art fire station was built on Bay Way Drive in Belleair Bluffs.

Station 43 on Bay Way Avenue in Belleair Bluffs now is the new home of the Largo Fire Department who serves the Town of Belleair, the City of Belleair Bluffs and the unincorporated area in our jurisdiction.

PINELLAS COUNTY HOMEWORK HOTLINE Students who need help with homework can call 727-547-7223 Monday - Friday from 5 to 8pm. This free service helps students with their math, science, language arts or social studies homework. Those that need practice reading, may also use the helpline to practice reading to an adult for 10 minutes each day.

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN On November 13, parents and local business people will share their careers and hobbies with area students and explain how what they learned in school contributed to their successes. Come talk about your life and set a good example. Call a school and talk to the coordinator. They will be happy to hear from you.

BLACK HONKEYS TO PLAY IN TOWN OF BELLEAIR The Belleair Community Foundation is sponsoring a free The Black Honkeys concert in Hunters Park on Saturday, November 2 at 3pm. Parking is available at town hall and around the Dimmitt Center. The Black Honkeys draw a big crowd, you may want to get there early.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary needs people to greet visitors, feed the birds, help with maintenance, work in the gift shop and answer calls regarding injured birds. If you have a desire to help, call 391-6211 or just stop by. They are located at 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores.



and More...

KIDS AND PHONES

The average 10 year old has a smart phone. 39% of kids create their first social media account around the age of 11 and begin using apps like Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat. This may expose them to harassment, cyberbullying, sexual solicitation, and illegal content. Dangers increases if they post their full names, address, photo, or school. To help keep their kids safe on social media, parents should ask the five Ws: Who are your kids talking to? What are they doing Online? Where are they accessing the Internet? When are they Online? Why are they Online?



Pinellas County Sheriff Deputy Skipper says it is incumbent upon the parent to control the social media applications and monitor their child's Online activity. "Be the administrator of any device your children use," Deputy Skipper said. "As the administrator, you can control downloaded apps, restrict content, and adjust parental limits. If you are not the sole administrator, then your children are by default."

JOHNS PASS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL The annual Johns Pass Seafood Festival has been moved to a different weekend. In the past it was always Halloween weekend, this year it will be one week earlier, on October 19-20. It is an arts and crafts show with lots of fresh seafood to eat. Parking is difficult, so we recommend taking the Beach Trolley. Get information at JohnsPassSeafoodFest.com

TRUNK OR TREAT IN BELLEAIR BEACH October 26 from 5-730pm, the City of Belleair Beach is holding a new Halloween Trunk and Treat event, providing a safe environment for trick-or-treaters. Residents will bringing their cars for children to trick-or-treat out of the decorated car trunks. There will be a costume contest. Call City Hall for details.

NEVER FLUSH CONTACT LENSES

Wearing contact lenses too long can cause all kinds of eye problems. We know they need to be changed on a regular schedule, but how you dispose of them it turns out, is important. Flushing contact lenses down the toilet or sink, as many of the approximately 45 million Americans who wear them do, hurts fish and ocean life. New studies show contact lens are making it through the filters meant to keep trash from escaping from sewage treatment plants. They sink to the bottom of the ocean, where they present risks to bottom-feeding fish. The lens fragment into shards of plastic and absorb high volumes of pollutants during their journey in the sewer, which are also ingested by fish or other animals.



While your pair of lenses might seem insignificantly tiny, they add up. Researchers estimate six to 10 metric tons of lenses end up in wastewater each year in the U.S. So, by all means, throw out your contacts when you're supposed to - but put them in the trash, not down the drain.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN DECEMBER Read this issue, and others, Online at BeachNewsletters.com.

Kathy L. Anderson, DO, FAOCD
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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 here.

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)."

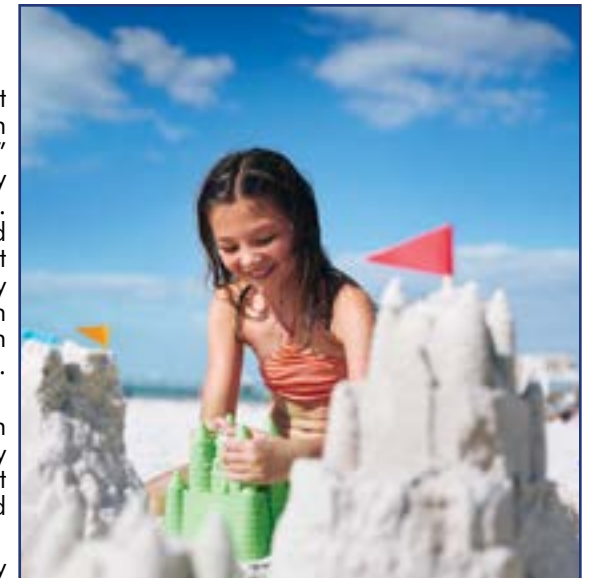
Pinellas beaches have been recognized recently by a variety of media and people, as the best beaches in Florida, the United States, and even the world.

"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.

One of the most famous rankers of area beaches is Dr. Beach, a.k.a



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.



Stephen Leatherman. He is an American geoscientist, coastal ecologist, and author. Every year, since 1991, Dr. Beach surveys and ranks over 650 U.S.

Photos courtesy of VisitStPeteClearwater.com;

Information for this article came from *The Gulf; The Making of an American Sea* by Jack E. Davis; published in 2017 by Liveright Publishing Corp.

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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.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

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

A REAL STORY OF HOPE

It all began in 2003 when Angela met a man that would impact her life in ways she could never have imagined. He was handsome and came from a wealthy family. He was magnetic, and people gravitated towards him. Angela thought he was her Prince Charming, but she could not have been more wrong.



Angela Emery

It started out as emotional and psychological abuse, with him telling Angela she was worthless, and no one else would want her. He verbally berated her and became possessive and controlling. Then, the abuse turned physical.

One night after years of enduring abuse, it escalated to a level where Angela knew that if she didn't fight back, she wouldn't make it out alive. As his hands were clutched around her neck, she used every ounce of her strength and broke free to call 911.

She was at the lowest point in her life: no home, no job, no friends. It was then that Angela found RCS Pinellas. She and her daughter came to the RCS Emergency Safe House. During her stay, Advocates helped her with finding a job, obtaining childcare for her daughter, and transportation assistance. During her stay, RCS provided for all of her and her daughter's needs. All services were provided at no cost.

After leaving the Emergency Safe House, Angela and her daughter entered RCS's affordable housing program, where she stayed for two years before purchasing her own home.

"I had been given the tools for success, and then it was up to me to take the necessary steps to start building a life for my daughter and I."

Fast forward to 2019, and Angela is now the Director of Development at RCS Pinellas.

"Having the privilege to work alongside Angela Emery, is just that - a privilege. It's also a gift because her presence is an everyday reminder of the power of hope restoration. What she and her daughter endured and overcame cannot be overstated. By the grace of God, and the unwavering commitment of RCS staff, volunteers, and donors, we would've missed out on this wonderful gift named Angela Emery," says Kirk Ray Smith, RCS President and CEO.

RCS Pinellas provides help and hope to more than 130,000 individuals each year through a variety of programs and services. RCS operates a certified domestic violence center, known as The Haven of RCS, which provides domestic violence outreach services in the community, as well as an Emergency Safe House for women and children fleeing domestic violence. RCS offers support groups for survivors, help with filing for injunctions for protection, support during court hearings, and prevention programs in the schools. RCS also provides emergency shelter for homeless families with children at RCS Grace House and the affordable housing program. The RCS Food Bank distributes more than four (4) million pounds of food every year to individuals.

"I am living proof of the impact RCS has on our community," she said, "and I couldn't be more grateful."

To provide help and hope to people in need, please go to www.RCSpinellas.org/donate. For the 24-hour domestic violence hotline, call (727) 442-4128.

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A LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE FROM THE PAST

By Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Recently, the executive director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History, Rui Farias, asked me to pen a letter for a time capsule the museum was burying. I gladly accepted. What a fun thing to contemplate. What would I want future residents to know about Pinellas County from way back in 2019? Here's my letter to be read in 2119:

July 23, 2019

Dear Future Residents of Pinellas County,

As Chair of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing on behalf of our current residents to send you greetings from the past. Just a few days ago, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of a transportation milestone: the Apollo 11 mission landing on Earth's moon. The words of astronaut Neil Armstrong as he stepped on the moon—"one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"—still resonate today. The achievement, to us in 2019, is still a marvel to be admired. No doubt, many achievements in space have been made since, with many more to come.

In 2019, Pinellas County has a population of approximately 970,600 and one of the largest challenges we face is transportation. The car is still the main mode of transportation; linking where we live, work, and play. Unfortunately, no matter how far we widen our roadways, there always seem to be a few thousand too many cars around at rush hour. Long lines of traffic snarl our highways, bridges and streets for hours each day. Our mobile devices have programs designed to help us avoid these "traffic jams," though they rarely help as much as we'd hope.

We tackled the challenge of space travel fifty years ago, and today Pinellas County is working to resolve our earth-bound

transportation issues.

Pinellas County experienced most of its development in the 1950s, when the car was king, and our transportation capacity exceeded our residents' needs. But, in 2019, we know that we must redevelop our housing and work centers around new modes of mass transportation.

Within the last ten years, there has been much lively debate among our residents about light rail and bus rapid transit systems. Recently, we have engaged diverse partners with new initiatives to use transportation as an economic development driver. Just as the space program sparked a modern technological renaissance, we believe that smart investments in our local transportation infrastructure can improve both physical and economic mobility and give us a safer and better-connected Pinellas.

As I write this, we have already made strides in our transportation network. Our Advanced Traffic Management System is reducing commutes by timing traffic lights to ease congestion on our major roads. We are on our way to completing the 75-mile Pinellas Trail Loop, which will provide a safe pedestrian and bike path that circles our entire peninsula. For long-term planning, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners founded Forward Pinellas to inspire and assess solutions for the future. Like Armstrong did on July 20, 1969, we're taking those small steps while aiming for a giant leap towards a smooth and seamless transportation system.

If you are reading this letter, you know the outcome of our efforts. I wish I could be there to see if the choices we made in 2019 succeeded in making Pinellas County the best place to live, work, play and visit.

To the next 100 years!

HENRY PLANT'S 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

If businessman Henry Bradley Plant, best known for his system of railroads, were still alive, he would celebrate his 200th birthday on October 27. To mark the occasion, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are installing an official plaque on the front wall of the Belleview Biltmore Hotel (now known as Belleview Inn) which he built.

The event starts at 2pm on Saturday, November 9. Afterwards there will be a reception at the Belleair Country Club.

Over the past three years, DAR Historic Preservation Chairman Linda Mintz has led the fund-raising effort to raise the \$4,000 necessary to pay for the plaque. "The application was 24 pages," Linda adds.

Marsha Uehler, owner of Cassi & Company was a major donor, contributing \$700 through two sponsored holiday events.

The Clearwater Chapter of DAR, formed in 1932, previously funded two other area markers - one on the site of the McMullen log cabin, now at Heritage Village, and the other in Phillippi Park at the homestead of Odette Phillippi, one of Pinellas County's first settlers.

Visit DAR.org, to learn more about DAR and the local chapter.

56TH ANNUAL ART HARVEST Popular art festival set to draw large crowds of art collectors and enthusiasts

The 56th Annual Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin (JLCD) Art Harvest will be held in Highlander Park, Dunedin at 903 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin, Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3, from 10 am to 5 pm. The event is free and open to the public, however, donations are appreciated. Parking is \$5.

Funds raised during the event supports JLCD's mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community with the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Festival attendees will have the opportunity to shop the work of over 200 artists and makers who work with an array of mediums from jewelry, fiber, glass, and ceramics to photography, watercolor, and mixed media. JLCD Art Harvest will also feature a juried art show in which artists will compete for over \$27,000 in prize money and awards in 13 categories including Ceramics, Digital, Fiber, Glass, Graphics, Jewelry, Metal, Mixed Media, Oil/Acrylic, Photography, Sculpture, Watercolor and Wood.

DR OTTO BAND BRINGS JAZZ TO CALVARY

Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 1615 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, is hosting an evening of smooth jazz music on Friday, October 11 in the church's Parish Hall. The event is FREE, but there will be a "free will offering" to offset expenses. Parking will be available. Doors will open at 7pm and the event will begin promptly at 7:30. Seating is limited and is first come, first served. Passes are available though Monday October 7 at the church, Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm and after Sunday services.

"Dr. Otto Band" from Orlando, will be the featured performers, headed by Dr. Otto Gomez on Trumpet, John Chacara, bass, Joe Lewis on drums and Matt Burke, Music Director at Calvary, on keyboards. The group will play selections familiar to smooth jazz enthusiasts.

For further information, please contact Calvary Episcopal Church at 727.595.2374.

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Business Briefs

BELLEAIR OPTICIANS ADDS AN EYE DOCTOR

Belleair Opticians, located in the Bluff's Plaza, has an in-house optometrist. Dr. Richard Wagner, a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry, celebrated his first anniversary at Belleair Opticians this fall.

Wagner relocated here from Chiefland, Florida. "I was virtually the only eye doctor in Chiefland, a town of just over 2,000 people," Wagner says. "In a town that small, you get to know everyone, especially since I worked there for 17 years."

Wagner has owned a condo in Sand Key for six years. "I have been coming here for years, loved it, and finally decided to retire in 2017 and move here, permanently," he says.

After he retired, Wagner was contacted by Belleair Opticians to work part-time in their store as their optometrist. He only works on Thursdays and sees 6-8 patients a day in his back room. You probably won't even see him, unless you have an appointment.

I love it here in Belleair Bluffs," Dr. Wagner says. "Every patient I have seen has been very nice. Belleair Opticians is special," he adds. "It is a high-end optical store with a focus on personal attention."

When he is not working, Wagner can be found playing drums in a band. "I have been playing for years—since 2004," Wagner explains. "I am part of a Gainesville band called *Root Redemption*, but I might start playing locally - just for fun."

BELLEAIR SHORES MAYOR BUILDING PROJECT Allen Goins of AG Development and Belleair Shores Mayor Bob Schmidt are teaming up to build a new mixed-use retail center in North Redington where the Wine Cellar once was. The first phase, a one-story 14,800 square foot building facing Gulf Blvd called "Redington Village" broke ground in August with hopes of opening before the end of the year. Planned shops will be Dunkin Donuts, Burrito Social Restaurant, Marcos Pizza, and Edin Nails Studio 400. Later, a seven-story condominium building will be built to the east.

Schmidt Investments of South Florida is the primary investor. Allen Goins owns a home in Indian Rocks Beach and has been involved in city development plans including a Publix project that was voted down by residents.

BLUFFS ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEW OWNERS

We reversed the order of the names in the last issue. Shown here left to right are Doctors Patricia Futoma, Patrick Brady, and Kristen Heatherly. Find them at 320 Indian Rocks Road North in Belleair Bluffs.



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.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT This year, there are a lot of changes to Medicare plans offered by companies and new rules to Medicare itself. Linda Bullerman, an independent agent with more than 20 years experience, will be hosting an Educational Seminar to help you understand the changes. Join her November 9, 10am to noon at Fyzical Therapy 14280 Walsingham Rd. in Largo. RSVP to 727-596-2101.

Each person has their own unique needs and an independent agent can help you navigate the choices at no cost to you.

NEW OWNERS Get Fitness is under NEW ownership. They have already started extensive facility renovations, updates, and equipment upgrades. New HVAC systems have been installed, interior painting is complete, and new equipment has arrived. Coming soon you'll be seeing new rubberized gym flooring, sign-age, exterior painting, and locker room renovations. They are adding massage chairs, hydro massage chairs and a Get FIT membership level which includes a nutrition program, group personal training classes, and Online live streaming group x classes. Find them at 13845 Walsingham Rd., Largo.

SURF STYLE'S 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. Thank you, Surf Style!



THORN'S LEMONADE STAND

Once again, Martha Thorn and The Thorn Collection of Coldwell Banker opened their annual Lemonade Stand on Indian Rocks Road, Thursday, September 12

and brought in \$ 34,000, all going to the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation. That is double their goal of \$15,000, which would have been enough to fund one child's treatments. That puts the total raised over the last 6 years at over \$109,000. 100% of the money collected went to the fund.

"Together, let's end childhood cancer," says Thorn.

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Business Briefs



IRB CROSS FIT If you are ready to get active, call Melanie LeBlanc, who just opened a new Cross Fit excise gym on Indian Rocks Beach. She offers exercise classes, both in her studio and on the beach. She teaches regular beach classes, open water swim workouts, paddle boarding workouts, Hoverball and beach volleyball. "Our goal

is to be outdoors and as active as possible," Melanie adds. See her web site at www.IRBCrossfit.com and find her on FaceBook. Her new studio is located at 321 Gulf Blvd, just south of the CVS store. Call Mel at 403-0466.

LALA'S GIVING BACK. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Lala's will be donating 10% of their profits during the month of October to The Susan Cheek Needler Foundation at Morton Plant. Stop in and see what's new for fall while supporting the cause. Find them at The Plaza, 100 Indian Rocks Rd N.

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.



BELLA VINO'S 14TH ANNUAL GRAND TASTING Tiny Bubbles and Big Red's, on Friday, December 13th, from 5:30 to 8 pm, is Pinellas County's top wine tasting event. It features a dazzling array of some of the world's finest champagnes, sparkling wines and "BIG reds." Held in the historic Belleair Country Club ballroom, guests will also enjoy live music and culinary delights including a massive artisan cheese display, a carving station, and more.

The evening includes over 100 different wines from world renowned producers of Champagne plus Cabernet, Syrah, Red Blends, and others. To help with your holiday wine shopping, representatives from Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market as well as wine stewards from top distributors and suppliers will be on hand to take orders. Guests from prior tastings know the pricing offered at this tasting makes it the night to buy!

Tickets are \$100 and must be purchased in advance at Bella Vino Wine Market, 727-584-5552 or BellaVinoWineMarket.com. This event usually sells out weeks in advance - don't delay - only 150 tickets printed. Contact Brian@BellaVinoWineMarket.com with further questions or comments.

MORE NEWS WANTED If you have news for this column, we want to know. E-mail Bob@GriffinDirectories.com, or call 430-8300.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ALLEY

Sunday October 27 10-4 - Antiques and Artisan Fall Market The Alley's annual Antiques and Artisans Fall Market has been going strong for over 30 years! With wonderful mementos from yesteryear to fabulous modern day finds, this is a great event for the entire family. Enjoy live music, giveaways, food and live art. It is the best of local antiques, crafters, makers, artists, and local businesses in Pinellas county.

Pet adoptions the First Saturday of the Month at The Alley. Through May, Pinellas County Animal Shelters will be at The Alley on the first Saturday of every month at 10 am. Come out and adopt your new best friend!

Friday December 6, 5-9, The Alley's Holiday Stroll Wear your ugly sweater and join them for an evening of shopping, music, food, and fun during the annual Holiday Stroll.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS PUMPKIN FEST

The third annual Pumpkin Fest is Sunday, October 27th, 12 to 4 pm, at the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. Start with a pumpkin and leave with a Jack-O-Lantern, just in time for Halloween. Templates, pumpkin carving stations and kid-friendly carving tools will be provided. Kona Ice will be scooping up shaved ice and St. Pete Concessions will be serving hot dogs. Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association will join the fun, hosting a Spooky Planter Workshop, to make your own ghoulish creations. Halloween-themed music will set the tone for our Scarecrow Contest, presented by 4-H.

Cost is \$5 per pumpkin, or you may bring your own. FBG Foundation members: first pumpkin at no charge. To register, visit: www.fbgfoundation.org/pumpkinfest. The Florida Botanical Gardens are located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.

BELLEAIR REC EVENTS

Community Wide Garage Sale: Saturday, October 12 8am to 1:30pm. Full map and address locations will be provided at www.belleairrec.com on Friday, October 11.

Halloween Bash: Saturday, October 26 4:30 - 8pm. Have a monster of a good time at Belleair's Halloween Bash. Join them for food, bounce houses, costume contest, treat stops and more!

Thanksgiving Adopt a Family: November 1-15. The Town of Belleair is adopting forty families from two local elementary schools for the Thanksgiving holiday. Help provide a full Thanksgiving meal and other household items. Drop off items or adopt a family for \$100. For a full list of items needed please visit www.belleairrec.com.

Socksgiving: November 1-30: Help the Belleair Teen Council collect new socks for all ages and genders. Socks will be donated to RCS and Hands Across the Bay. Drop off donations to the Dimmitt Community Center or Belleair Town Hall.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Largo Central Park will be transformed into a family fall festival for the Annual Halloween Spooktacular event on Saturday, October 26 from 12 -5 pm. There will be FREE Trick-or-Treating from 12 - 4 pm and carnival of activities from 12-5 pm.

A wristband (\$10 for sale, on-site) is required for carnival games, inflatables and petting zoo. A Preschool Tot Zone and Kid Zone will be available. Enjoy the free costume parade and costume contests.

Wristband pre-sale begins October 1st for \$7 (w/rec card) or \$8 (w/out rec card). Limited on site parking will be available for \$10. Dogs, alcohol, and coolers are not permitted in the park during large events. Email largoevents@largo.com for more information or call 727-587-6740 ext. 5014.

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CHIEF MICHAEL TACKLES HURRICANE MICHAEL'S DAMAGE



Pinellas County's First Responder Team & PSFRD's Chief Michael Burton

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Ironically, two Michaels hit the Panhandle last fall. The first one, a hurricane, wreaked havoc and destruction; the second, a first responder, arrived afterwards to help with recovery efforts.

When Hurricane Michael slammed into the Florida Panhandle on October 10th as a Category 5 storm, Mexico Beach, a community similar to ours, was devastated by its 160 mph winds. The storm, the first Category 5 storm to strike the United States mainland since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, has been ranked as the third most intense storm in recorded history. The most intense storm, 1969's Hurricane Camille also hit the Florida Panhandle, west of Pensacola.

Hurricane Michael came ashore southeast of Panama City and headed north through Panama City and into southern Georgia. Its wide path affected many cities, both large and small.

Michael Burton is the Chief of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue, which serves Indian Rocks Beach. In Burton's early days, as part of the St Petersburg Fire Department, he was dispatched to Miami after Hurricane Andrew. "That was my first exposure to a big hurricane," Chief Burton says. "I was part of a team of twenty from Pinellas. We set up a base camp in Miami at the Southwest High School and helped where we could."

Burton could not believe the level of Andrew's damage and destruction. He noted at the time, Florida did not have a plan and limited organization, making handling a major hurricane's disaster recovery difficult.

During the 2018 hurricane season, Burton volunteered to lead any team necessary. In early October, when it became certain Hurricane Michael would hit Florida, Burton and a small Pinellas

team were put on standby.

Three days after the hurricane hit Mexico Beach, Burton and his team of firefighters met at Countryside Mall at 2 am to caravan to the disaster site. The team consisted of five fire trucks, two emergency vehicles, and twenty firefighters (nineteen men and one woman). In addition to Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue, they came from stations in Palm Harbor, East Lake, Largo, Safety Harbor, St. Pete, and Lealman Fire Districts.

"Our mission was 'unspecified'," recalls Burton. "We drove through the night to the state's Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee and then on to the Tallahassee airport. There, we gassed up the trucks and headed to Springfield and Callaway, both small towns, east of Panama City."

"The Florida Division of Forestry plays a major role in hurricane recovery. They are the ones to tell us where the problems are and what to expect," explains Burton.

"The first thing we discovered was there was very limited to no cell phone service. Without cell phone service we struggled to communicate with one another," Burton recalls. "Plus, we had no GPS. When we were told to report to a house or building, we did not know where it was. Add to that most of the road signs had blown down! We had to go 'old school' and use paper maps."

When his team reached Springfield, they found the fire station was all but destroyed and they could not stay there. Temporarily, they set up in a nearby abandoned drug treatment center. The State supplied a generator, and they hooked up portable toilets. "It became our home-away-from-home," says Chief Burton.

The Florida Fire Chiefs Statewide Mutual Aid Plan calls for the initial responders to be self-sufficient for the first three days, so as

not to add additional burdens on the local communities. "That means food, water, and shelter," explains Chief Burton.

The local firefighters were glad to see the Pinellas team, especially because they had for their own families, houses and vehicles to care for, too. "They needed our moral support as well as our physical help."

The Pinellas contingent provided medical help wherever needed and arranged transportation of the injured without the high level of emergency transport services we normally enjoy. Because of the curfew imposed by the county, stores like Wal-Mart and Home Depot closed at 5pm to allow employees time to get home. This was a problem for Burton's crew who needed supplies around-the-clock.

The public's outpouring of love included donating food. "I have never seen more junk food in one place," Burton recalls. "We got cookies, cereal and sodas donated by nearby communities. A local restaurant, Mission BBQ, fed us an unlimited amount of BBQ!"

"Communications ended up being our biggest challenge. We finally got a few cell phones working, but the coverage was really spotty. We had to relay messages from one unit to another, almost like smoke signals," Burton chuckles. "Verizon was the main carrier in the area, but their towers were all down. The AT&T system worked much better. Our crew shared phones to call home and stay in touch with their families," Burton adds.

Most of the Pinellas crew planned to be there for seven days but it quickly became eleven, but no one minded. That is what they do - help in big emergencies.

"One day, what happened in Mexico Beach may happen here in Indian Rocks Beach," Chief Burton explains. "If that were to happen, someone from another city will come help us."



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WHAT DROWNING LOOKS LIKE

By Rebecca Geiger

Drowning is the number one cause of accidental death for children in Pinellas County.

- 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.

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.

OPERATION KID FLOAT

To ensure kids always wear a PDF while on a boat, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support Operation Kid Float — a boating safety education program that provides youth life jackets at no cost throughout Pinellas County. Families can borrow one or more for the day and return it after the trip.

Operation Kid Float kiosks can be found nearby at:

- Belleair Causeway Boat Ramp: 541S Belleair Causeway
- Bay Pines Boat Ramp: 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, Bay Pines
- Park Blvd Boat Ramp: 18651 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores

Florida law requires that one personal flotation device (PFD) per passenger be readily accessible on the vessel at all times, and children under age six must wear one while underway.

SEVEN FALL LANDSCAPE TASKS



By Randy Lee

Fall is finally here in Central Florida—gone are the hot temperatures, high humidity and frequent rainstorms. The weather is now ideal and a great time to get back into the garden. Below is a list of things to do in the landscape during the fall.

1. Fall is the perfect time to pressure clean the house, driveway, walkways and pavers. The wet weather has left hardscaped areas slick and dirty - pressure cleaning will clean surfaces for the fall and the holidays.
2. Fertilize lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers at this time of year. The fertilizer ban has been lifted, so now is the time to fertilize. Use a quality fertilizer since this will be the last time to fertilize before spring.
3. Remulch all landscaped areas at this time. The heavy rains have washed much of the mulch away and discolored what remains. A fresh layer of mulch will keep weeds down and insulate plants during the colder months ahead.
4. Replant pots and containers at this time. Fall is the perfect time to spruce up containers with new flowers and herbs. Be sure to keep them watered. There are many choices for use at this time of the year.
5. Plant an herb garden. The weather is ideal during this time of the year for herbs. Herbs need at least four to six hours of sunlight a day to prosper. Basil, chives, fennel, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme are all good choices. You can plant herbs in a container or pot, a raised bed or directly

in the ground.

6. Plant a vegetable garden. In Central Florida, October is usually the month to start vegetable gardens since most of the summer heat is gone. Remember to water when needed since these months are drier. Most frequently planted vegetables include spinach, onions, carrots, cauliflower, okra, lettuce, beans, squash, peppers and tomatoes. Many people are now using raised beds for vegetable gardens.

7. Now is the time to plant fall flowers or "bedding plants." October and November are the two ideal months to plant fall annuals. Remember to amend the soil, fertilize regularly and water when needed for best results. The most popular annuals we use at this time include geraniums, begonias, snapdragons, petunias, alyssum, impatiens and salvia. Many of these varieties will last well into spring if properly cared for. These seven garden tasks will keep your landscape looking great for many months ahead so get out and enjoy the great weather!

October/November Checklist:

- Start of the dry season
- Fertilizer can now be used
- Fertilize trees, shrubs, lawns and flowers now
- Time to plant fall/winter flowers
- Great time to plant shade trees
- Avoid hard trimming of plants

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CORRECTION:

Dr. Gerald Lee Founded Bluff's Animal Hospital

In our July/August issue, we stated Dr. Morgan started The Bluff's Animal Hospital in 1977. We were wrong.

Dr. Gerald Lee founded the Animal Hospital in 1961, before there was even a Belleair Bluffs. Gerald, his wife Lisa and their four children, moved here from Alabama (he graduated from Auburn) in 1961 and bought a house on the corner where today's Animal Hospital sits. The house had an attached building, where Dr. Lee created the Bluffs Animal Hospital.



The Animal Hospital and building is still located at 320 Indian Rocks Road North.

LPGA COMES TO BELLEAIR

The Pelican Golf Club in Belleair is not even finished yet and has already announced a major Ladies Pro Golf Association (LPGA) tournament - May 11-17, 2020. It and will be sponsored by DEX Imaging (formerly owned by the Doyle Family) and The Pelican Golf Club. "You will soon see the best female players on the planet being tested at this new world-class venue in the Pelican Golf Club," said Commissioner Mike Whan of the LPGA.

PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Downtown Clearwater Fall / Winter concert series is beginning.

The October 13 concert is Boundlessly Beautiful Brahms, a wonderful classical concert featuring violist Michael Klotz and pianist Grigorious Zamparas. They will present an afternoon of Brahms featuring two viola Sonatas, piano intermezzi, and Hungarian Dances in an arrangement of viola and piano. The afternoon concerts are free, every second Sunday at 3pm. Peace Memorial is located at 110 South Ft. Harrison, one block south of Cleveland. Parking is available in the back.

INDIAN ROCKS' OKTOBERFEST

The Annual Indian Rocks Beach Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday October 12th from 11am to 7pm at Kolb Park in Indian Rocks Beach. This one day event gets bigger and better every year and is fun for ALL AGES! Free Admission! Lots of delicious traditional Oktoberfest food and drinks, music, many specialty craft vendors selling their items to start your holiday gift shopping. From 11am to 2pm is the Kinderfest event for children to enjoy, bounce houses, face painting and fun games. Afternoon events include the Keg Toss and Stein Carrying Contests. German Music by Vince Demor from 11am to 1pm. The Erica DiCeglie Band will also perform your favorite songs starting at 1pm. Make sure to visit our world famous Silent Auction, set up inside Indian Rocks Beach City Hall with better than ever items up for bid and "buy now" pricing, open from 11am to 5pm. Last year's winner went home with over \$5K from our 50/50 Raffle. Make sure you purchase your tickets. Be sure to spend the day with us on Saturday, October 12th. For vendor and sponsorship opportunities please visit: www.oktoberfestonthebeach.com. Thank you to the City of Indian Rocks Beach and all of the sponsors and donors who make this event happen. All proceeds raised at Oktoberfest go back into the community. Visit www.irbaction2000.com.

THE COAST GUARD EXCHANGE ON SAND KEY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

There is a grocery store 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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Bar & Restaurant News



CASA ITALIA NOW OPEN

The newest restaurant in town opened in July with little promotion, but great crowds. "It took longer than expected, but I think it is worth it," says Tony. In the location of the former Stephano's Italian Restaurant, it looks nothing like its predecessor, inside and out, boasting a modern Tuscan feel.

Casa Italia is open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner only beginning at 4pm. Find them at 2699 Gulf Blvd. See their menu at CasalItaliaRestaurant.com.

CRABBY BILL'S OPENS IN ST. PETE

The Crabby Bill's Family Brands newest venture, Crabby Bill's Fish Camp, located at 10316 Roosevelt Blvd. N. St. Petersburg, is a family friendly restaurant offering daily specials and happy hour. The menu includes seafood with a southern element, and focuses on sustainability and eco-friendly ingredients. Of course they have your favorite Crabby classics, along with some unique twists. Restaurant hours are Monday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Sunday 11am-9 pm. To get in contact, call (727) 202-8954 or visit www.crabbybillfishcamp.com.



THE GLOBE This small restaurant on Indian Rocks Road is in the strip center across from Publix, near Anona Elementary reopened as the Globe. It was previously Europa and before that Boris Garden.

While owned by Nick & Despina Mitsides, who previously owned Belleair Bluffs' Venus Restaurant, their son Dino Mitsides, (not shown), is the manager.

The restaurant will be open 7am to 3pm. Breakfast served American style, will be available all day. They will offer many vegetarian and vegan menu items, too. Find them at 12125 Indian Rocks Road N.

AQUA PRIME KICKING PLASTIC

Aqua Prime Seafood & Steaks is proud to announce they are committed to Cleaner Ocean Water and are reducing their use of plastic. "The footprint we leave behind as individuals or as restaurants can be huge for our children and other generations to come. We are removing Styrofoam, plastic to-go containers and plastic souffle cups from Aqua Prime. We have already removed plastic to-go bags and plastic straws. We will continue to do our part to keep our oceans cleaner." They will soon be certified by both Sea Turtle Conservancy & Ocean Friendly Restaurants.

Find Aqua Prime in Indian Rocks at 213 Gulf Blvd. Go to this link to learn more, AquaPrimeFlorida.com/clean-water. Call 330-7724 for reservations and catering.



Bar & Restaurant News



LARGO'S HUNGRY HOWIES IS 30

Opened in 1989, the Hungry Howies Pizza store in Largo has been serving pizzas to Indian Rocks Beach residents from their Walsingham Rd. location for 30 years. Bill Kaiser, is co-owner and manager and has been there the last 20 years. In October, nationwide, Hungry Howies donates to Breast Cancer Research and has raised millions of dollars for research. Call Bill at 596-1400 or order Online at HungryHowies.com

ANTIDOTE BREWING COMING SOON

Still under construction, a new craft brewery called Antidote Brewing Company will be opening in Indian Rocks Beach. Owner Philip Anderson plans to brew ales and lagers on site and sell growlers to take home. "We are now shooting for a November opening," says Phillip. It is located at 321 Gulf Blvd. between Slyce Pizza and the CVS store.



DA POLLANI'S IN LARGO

Da Pollani's Ristorante Italiano opened in June in the former site of Mario's Pizza, at 13688 Walsingham Rd. Owner Falino Pollani is certainly Italian and the food is very authentic. Enjoy a full menu with a kids' menu. 12" Pizzas range from \$12 to \$20. They are open for lunch and dinner, delivery is available through delivery apps.

TJ'S ITALIAN CAFE REMODELING

The restaurant will soon be expanding the outer dining room to give them more air-conditioned dining space. The plan is to turn part of the covered deck into inside space and keep a portion for outdoor dining as well. Look for construction to start any day now at 1515 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach.

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.

KAIA BOWLS

Owners Linda and Tom Souza, residents of the Town of Belleair are serving bowls of Acai, Pitaya and Poke with Kombucha and CBD Teas on tap. Check them out in Clearwater Beach at 483 Mandalay Avenue, on the ground level of the Pelican Plaza. KaiaBowls.com.



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Lighthouse Donuts - After 20 years they closed August 1st. The property is owned by the LLC that owns Aqua Prime.

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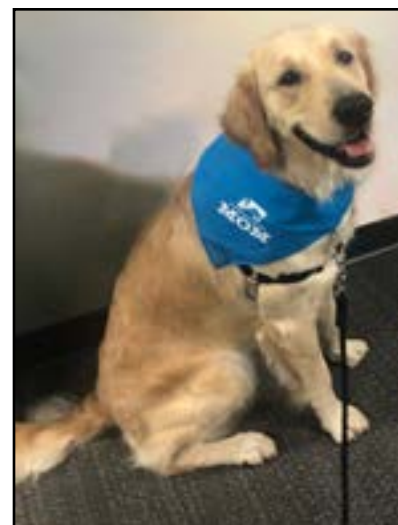


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Olivia

RAISING A SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOG BREEDER

By Erin Emmett

Meet 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 Raiser. 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

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.



Olivia and I at the office.

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Organizational News...

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

DAR is celebrating its 129th Anniversary this year. The Clearwater Chapter DAR will hold luncheon meetings at 11 am on: Saturday, October 19; Friday, November 15; and Friday, December 20, all at the Belleair Country Club. Everyone is invited, but reservations are required. RSVP by the Monday before the meeting to Janee Francks (813)928-9513 or jefrancks@gmail.com Contact Elizabeth Werner at (727) 799-8488 for more information.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

October 2 at 1 pm - General Meeting w/ presentation on Landscaping as Home Protection

October 9 at 9:30 am - Horticulture meeting on Cacti/Succulents

November 6 at 1 pm - General Meeting w/ presentation on Random Acts of Flowers

They meet from October through May at their Clubhouse, located at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair. The first Wednesday is a general meeting with a guest speaker followed by a tea/light luncheon. The second Wednesday is a horticulture presentation with coffee/pastry beforehand. Occasional field trips are planned in place of a meeting. All meetings and field trips are open to guests.

Visit their website for details and their schedule of events. Annual membership is \$50 per year per person, couples pay \$75. For more information email president, Carol Frecker at belleairgardenclub1@gmail.com or visit belleairgardenclub.com.

NEWCOMER CLUB

This is a social club to help relocated residents, and others in the area, develop new friends. The ladies meet monthly at different locations for lunch at 11:30am with guest speakers. Activities vary from card games to field trips and shows.

October 6, Luncheon 11:30 am at Dunedin Country Club. The program is: The Senior Ladies Happy Taps.

November 3, Luncheon 11:30 am at Island Way Grill. The speaker is Terry Fortner, great granddaughter of Henry Scharrer, a pioneer on Florida's Caladesi Island. She will speak on "Caladesi Memories".

December 1, Luncheon 11:30 am at Belleaire Country Club. LMB Boutique of Dunedin will put on a Fashion Show RSVP for any of the above to Diane McCune, 301-693-0219 or tucklove@brighthouse.com. WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

BELLEAIR ROTARY

They have moved their meetings from the Belleair Country Club to Belleair Coffee in The Plaza Shopping Center in Belleair Bluffs, at noon on Thursdays. Guests are always welcome.

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

VERNON BRYANT WEARS TWO LARGE HATS

Vernon Bryant, a Largo resident, is the leader of two very active organizations. He is the Executive Director of Largo's Florida Botanical Garden Foundation and in July, he also became president of the Indian Rocks Rotary Club. He is equally proud of both organizations.

The Florida Botanical Gardens (FBG), next door to Heritage Village, was created in 1999 by Pinellas County. Bryant was its Director of Operations from 1999 to 2012. In 2012, he left to manage the Ridgecrest YMCA. After four years, he returned to FBG in 2017 to lead their Foundation.

The Foundation manages the Gardens in partnership with Pinellas County government. The County does much of the heavy lifting and maintenance, but the Foundation has dozens of volunteers that keep the gardens looking good - picking weeds and cutting limbs. As CEO of the Foundation, Bryant primarily spends his time fund-raising and overseeing special events. He has set up many area businesses partnerships such as with the Florida Orchestra and Habitat for Humanity.

Their biggest and most well-known event is the "Holiday Lights in the Garden" that begins right after Thanksgiving and runs through early January. Even though it was hindered by six days of bad weather, Holiday Lights generated over \$250,000 last year. Though the County hosts a large, free wedding in the Gardens on Valentine's Day, weddings are not a big part of their fund-raising. Because there is no enclosed building in the case of bad weather, most people find other venues.

Using their revenues, the Foundation buys plants and helps with maintenance. "2020 is our 20th anniversary," explains Bryant. "We plan a year-long celebration."

Bryant's one-year term as President of the Indian Rocks Rotary coincides with the Club's 21st year. Each Rotary Club

is part of the larger, National and International Rotary organization with national and local goals and activities. Their motto is "service above self." Bryant emphasizes the "service" part of that.

On an International level, Rotary is helping to eradicate polio, in third-world countries, such as Africa and the Middle East. Locally, the Club focus on children. They distribute dictionaries to a variety of local elementary schools, host field trips, and award scholarships to children at the Beach Art Center's summer camps.

As a group, the Club donates time to Habitat For Humanity, hosts the Annual Rotary Runs the Beach, and quarterly they clean Gulf Blvd. in the County's Adopt-a-Mile program.

"We are starting an Inter-Act club at Seminole's new Jacobson Tech school," says Bryant. "Inter-Act is a junior version of Rotary for high school kids."

The Club's biggest fund-raising project, is its raffle for two tickets to the NFL's "Big Game." They also host an annual Pancake Breakfast at the Calvary Episcopal Church that gives 100% of the revenue to the Beach Community Food Pantry. The Rotary donates the food and the labor.

"I like Rotary's emphasis on service," Bryant adds. "We like to be involved in where the money we earn goes."

Get more Rotary information at www.indianrockslotary.org or for the Florida Botanical Gardens at www.flbgFoundation.org. You can reach Bryant at 224-6775.




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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They will meet October through May on the second Tuesday of each month. Dues are \$20 & membership is open to Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores & nearby communities. For information, call Sue 727-596-5710 & leave a message.

THE BEACH ART CENTER

The BAC invites you to reserve the evening of Sat, Jan 11, 2020 for a special gallery showing by the Plein Aire Cottage Artists. We are honored to be hosting a showing of "Save Our Cottages, Artists with a Cause." You will have an opportunity to meet the artists Mary Rose Holmes, Violetta Chandler, and Helen Tilston, marvel at their new works and enjoy the first IRB screening of the completed, award winning documentary. The Gallery Reception is free and open to all. Tickets for the screening, held in the City Hall auditorium, will soon be available for purchase.

• October: "Picture My Book"- Artists select a book and are challenged with creating artwork based on the book's title or theme. Gallery Reception: Oct. 18th, free and open to the public.

• November: "Holiday Show" - This festive show provides a wonderful opportunity to purchase unique one of a kind holiday gifts for friends and family. The show runs November 18th through December 19th. Gallery Reception: Nov 22nd is free.

Our adult classes are back, Pastels, Nocturne Plein Aire Painting, Pottery, Acrylics and Watercolor. On Tuesdays, the Ukulele Group meets at the BAC to play and sing at 5pm, the public is welcome.

• "Art on the Rocks" Mary Spires, Tue, 10/3, create a "Tulip Watercolor Giftbag" 6pm-9pm. BAC provides the supplies.

Call us at (727) 596-4331 or check us out at beachartcenter.org and follow us on Facebook IRBBAC to get all our events.

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. Their social activities center around regular parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki-Bar out back. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Fall is here and with that comes a new year of BBIGC events. They will be kicking off the new season on Wednesday, October 16th at 10:30 am at Belleair Beach City Hall with a program focused on Natural Solutions to Plant Diseases and Pests, presented by Davis Byrkit from Wilcox Nursery and Landscape. A catered lunch by Earthfare Market will follow.

A program focused on the Care of African Violets, presented by Terry Jordan, Master Gardener will be featured Wednesday, November 20th beginning at 10:30, once again at Belleair Beach City Hall. A Share-a-Dish luncheon with a Thanksgiving theme will follow.

Contact Marjorie Rose at rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Bluffs Business Association mingles are 5:30 to 6:30. All businesses regardless of location are invited to attend. Bring a door prize and give a quick commercial about your business. It's a great way to grow your business contacts while enjoying refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere.

October 10 – Hosted by Bayside Urgent Care, 1001 V. Ft. Harrison Ave, Suite 101, Clearwater

November 14 – Hosted by Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation. Visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com for location.

Organizational News...

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Talk about exciting news! The CCSC represented the USA in Russia and Italy this summer! Nine members from CCSC windsurfing team traveled to Europe in August to represent the US in the RS-X Youth Worlds, held in St. Petersburg, Russia and the Kona World Championships held in Lake Garda, Italy.

Teammates Alex Temko, reigning World Champion, and Maverick Putnam competed in the RSX Windsurfing U17 class in Russia early in the month, finishing 14th and 17th respectively. These boys have set their sights on the Olympics!

One week later, team members Adrian Winkleman, Bryn Muller, Anna Vasta and Joshua Temko joined them in stunning Lake Garda, Italy along with coach Justin Ahearn and US Windsurfing President, Jerome Samson to race with the world's top competitors in Kona Windsurfing.

CCSC team members swept the youth podium with Alex 1st, Maverick 2nd and Adrian 3rd! In overall standings Clearwater stood out with Alex 3rd, Maverick 4th, Justin 7th, Adrian 15th, Jerome 36th and Bryn 5th in ladies division. And Anna Vasta dominated the Silver division, winning 1st overall.

GREENTOWN KIDS

Their Restaurant Summer Challenge was very successful in encouraging area restaurants to become certified Ocean Friendly. Mark your calendars:

- Oct. 12: Kinderfest at Action 2000's Oktoberfest (11-2)
- Oct. 19: Coastal Cleanup Event (18th Ave Beach Access, IRB)
- Oct. 23rd: Eat for the Environment (TBD)

Join the fun - make a difference! greentownkids.org; greentownkids@gmail.com

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

Although we are based in Indian Rocks Beach, the majority of our clients come from areas throughout Pinellas County. We have no restrictions other than recipients must reside in the County.

Clients visit us every other week to "shop" for food products. Although our clients do not have to pay for any food they receive, BCFP offers a unique environment where we allow them to choose the type of meat, produce, canned goods, cereal, pasta, etc. that they prefer. Many food pantries assemble a box of food which may include items the client may not like or use, and may be discarded.

Thanks to donations from our friends from the Silly Sinatra's signing group, we are now providing eggs to all clients, which has proven to be very popular. Thank you Silly Sinatra's!

They would like to express our thanks to the community for their support and are exclusively funded by private donations of food and money. Food donations from our friends at RCS Pinellas, Publix, Crabby Bills' and the US Postal Service, NS monetary donations from Slyce Pizza Bar and the Doubletree Resort in Redington Beach and numerous donations from the community in general.

We could not do what we do without our volunteers. We are in need of additional volunteers to assist with:

- Distribution of food (Mon/Wed, 10am-noon Thu, 5-7 pm)
- Pick up of food inventory from regional food banks at RCS and Feeding Tampa Bay. We have a van, we just need drivers.
- Stocking of our inventory during opening hours

Make a difference in the lives of our clients by donating food, money or time - we welcome your participation. Volunteering is not difficult and the personal satisfaction is very gratifying. Contact David Kline e-mail kline22@tampabay.rr.com or 727-418-1673—text or call.

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RANDY WAYNE WHITE'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURES

The former fishing guide rides the tide to success with his best-selling Doc Ford crime novels and his Doc Ford restaurants - coming to the new St Pete Pier.

By Tom Scherberger

Randy Wayne White spent 13 years working as a full-time fishing guide out of Tarpon Bay Marina on Sanibel. He was on the water 300 days a year and had more than 3,000 paid charters when it all came to a sudden halt. It was 1987 and government regulators closed Tarpon Bay to power boats. White found himself suddenly out of work, with a wife and young kids to support. "So I wrote a novel," he says. "It was a great, yet terrifying opportunity."

And one that would change his life. White had already written numerous freelance articles for national publications and cranked out 18 crime novels in his spare time, all of them quickie books-for-hire under pen names. "The longest any of these books took me to write — on an old Underwood typewriter — was four weeks, always at night before charters," he recalls. "It was frustrating. I wanted to write books that would sell, but were also literate and literary."

Three years after the marina closed, White published Sanibel Flats, featuring Doc Ford, a former government agent turned biologist living on Sanibel.

It was a hit. White would go on to write 24 more Doc Ford crime novels. His books have not only been New York Times best-sellers but widely praised for their vivid descriptions of Florida. He has been called "a wonderful writer" by the writer Paul Theroux and "a fine storyteller" by Peter Matthiessen, the noted Florida author and fellow fishing guide. White has won the John D. MacDonald Award for Literary Excellence, and the Conch Republic Prize for Literature.

And now White is co-recipient of the Florida Humanities Council's 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award. "It still

hasn't hit me, the enormity of it," says White, 69. "My grandchildren will know it's a big deal. I'm very honored."

White grew up in Ohio and was working as a lineman and phone installer in the Midwest in the early 1970s when he decided he wanted to be a reporter. He started calling newspapers in the South. "No respectable newspaper would hire someone with no experience or credentials," he says. "I didn't go to college at all. I had nothing."

Somehow he talked his way into a job as a copy editor at the Fort Myers News-Press, even though he was (and still is, he says) a "terrible speller." He started writing feature stories for the paper in his spare time and soon was given his own column. He started working part-time as a fishing guide and eventually quit the newspaper to be a guide full time.

He kept writing, though, and one day submitted an unsolicited story to Outside magazine about a canoe trip from Pine Island to Key West. The story was rejected, but the editor liked it enough to ask him to write about "backcountry Florida, the Everglades to the Keys." He would go on to become a contributing editor for Outside.

His magazine writing has taken him all over the world, but Florida remains a source of endless fascination. "Florida is just rich and alive," White says. "I love roaming the backcountry areas of Florida and trying to record that original Florida voice If I lived to be 300 I would never run out of ideas."

White started writing while living in an old house on Pine Island, just north of Sanibel, on land where Calusa Indians once lived, "a remote place with an uninterrupted sense of history that reaches back thousands of years...I would remind myself that in that precise intersection people have been telling

stories for at least 4,000 years," he says. He still owns the house and visits often, but his success draws fans who want to see the cracker house where the famous writer lives. So he now lives in nearby Sanibel with his singer-songwriter wife, Wendy Webb. He has two grown sons, Lee and Rogan.

By now he has written 50 books and countless magazine pieces for national publications and has launched a new series of young adult fiction. But it's still a battle every time he sits down to write. "It never gets easier," he says. "It's just one terrifying freaking day after another." Still, he writes every day. "Seven days a week, no matter where I am," he says. "Once you get a hold of a storyline, if you take a break for three or four days you're in trouble."

An idea for a story usually starts with a place and grows from there. "I wish I could do outlines," he says. "Rarely do I know an ending." His stories feature adventure, exploration, history and spirituality. And finely etched, often quirky characters. "I write lengthy bios of all the characters," he says. "I want to know them better than any reader will ever know them." And White is his toughest critic. He once threw away 33,000 words of a Doc Ford novel.

He's also an adventurer. During the Mariel boatlift of 1980, White piloted a 55-foot boat to Cuba. He had planned to pick up the aunt of a Cuban-American friend but wound up returning with 147 refugees, jammed elbow to elbow. Another time, he was on an assignment in Colombia when he met some pepper growers. He wound up buying peppers they couldn't sell to make his own line of Doc Ford's hot sauce. The hot sauce led to another venture: Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grill, a seafood restaurant first in Sanibel and now with locations in Fort Myers Beach and Captiva. He figured getting involved in a restaurant would be a good way to sell hot sauce. Soon a fourth location will open in downtown St. Petersburg. "I have yet to make a cent on the hot sauce," he says with a laugh.

With his long sense of history, White is optimistic about Florida's future. "Florida is a liquid creature and it's a very tough place, very resilient," he says. "I think Florida is going to be just fine. I don't share the apocalyptic view of many people. Florida has survived human habitation and manipulation for 12,000 years. Florida is a survivor."

So is White. He has survived every terrifying day of writing and returned the next day for more. He's now working on his 26th Doc Ford mystery. It is set in Sanibel.

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IT'S MORE THAN STRAWS

By Becky Griffin

"Skip the plastic straw." Haven't we all heard that? In truth, it's much bigger than straws. In a perfect world it would be – "Skip the PLASTIC!"

Americans use 50 billion plastic water bottles each year. They dispose of 100 billion plastic bags - about 360 bags a year for each man, woman and child in our country. And what about those straws? Americans use 500 million plastic straws EVERY DAY.

Each year, 13 million tons of plastic finds its way into the ocean where it can be consumed by marine life - 50%-80% of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish. Researchers estimate over 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic are already in our oceans.

When the nationally recognized organization Surfrider Foundation realized how plastic was impacting our oceans, they created their "Rise Above Plastics" campaign. Knowing one of the best ways to stop a problem is at its source, part of the campaign is their Ocean Friendly Restaurants certification, stopping plastic pollution - one restaurant, one customer at a time.

Surfrider's restaurant campaign is a list of criteria that reduces a restaurant's use of plastic and that is a lot more than straws. Restaurants that follow all five of the main criteria, and two of the six optional criteria are Certified Ocean Friendly by the Surfrider Foundation.

To be certified, restaurants MUST follow these five criteria:

1. No plastic foam or Styrofoam is used. Take out containers, cups, plates, etc., must be in other forms
2. Proper recycling practices are followed
3. Only reusable tableware is available for dining in the restaurant. Disposable cutlery for takeout orders is only provided upon request
4. No plastic bags used for takeout or to-go orders - paper only
5. Straws are provided only upon request.

In addition, at least two of these criteria must be followed:

- No beverages are sold in plastic bottles.
- Discounts are offered for customers with reusable mug, bag, etc.
- Vegetarian/vegan food options are regularly offered
- All seafood must be certified as sustainable or be a "Best Choice" or "Good Alternative" as defined by Seafood Watch
- Water conservation, like low-flow faucets and toilets, are in use
- Energy efficiency efforts such as LED lighting and Energy Star appliances, are in use

Locally, these restaurants are officially Certified Ocean Friendly by the Surfrider Foundation: **Clearwater** - Bob Heilman's Beachcomber & Bobby's Bistro & Wine Bar; **Indian Rocks Beach**- Aqua Prime; **Redington Shores** - Broke N Bored Grill; **Gulfport** - Tangelo's Grille; **Dunedin** - The Honu Restaurant

Many other restaurants are in the process of making these changes. Those that can't adopt all the criteria are encouraged to adopt as many as possible.

What Can You Do To Help? When dining out, if you notice a restaurant following the criteria, complement them on their efforts. If you notice ways they can improve, mention that too. As restaurant owners realize this is important to their customers, they will do more. Hopefully, their increased awareness will cause changes and reduce our plastic footprint.

Who is the Surfrider Foundation? They are a national network of volunteers supported by legal, policy and science experts with 81 chapters around the country. They are transforming their passion into lasting protection for the ocean, waves and beaches. Visit www.Surfrider.org for information about their ongoing projects. Restaurants wishing to get Ocean Friendly certified can get information at go.surfrider.org/ofr.

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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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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.

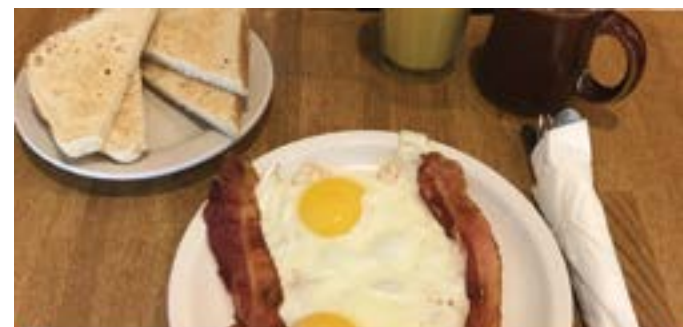


The project is not complete. Another twelve statues will be installed in 2020, including one honoring Seaman Apprentice William Flores, who was killed in 1980 when the USCG Cutter Blackthorn collided with a tanker and sank in Tampa Bay.

"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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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 family activities.

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, 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 am. There will be a Jam Session 10 am to 4 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 it in a small pond near the Boat House. Supplies are limited so get there early before they sail away. A \$2 Donation is requested for each boat.

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.

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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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."

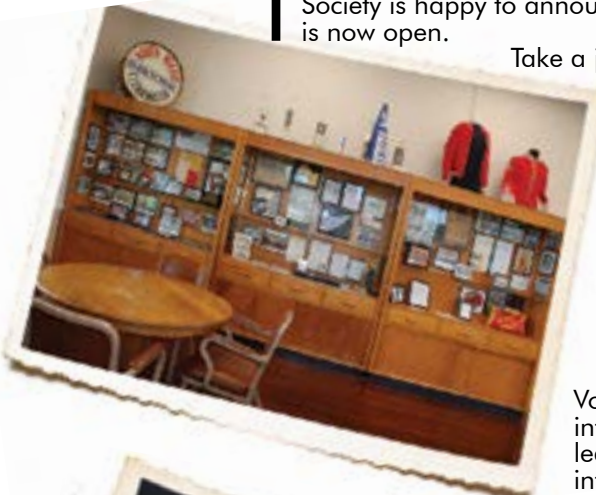
"This is just the beginning," she continued. "New exhibits and renovation of the other buildings on the campus are planned," she said. "And we always welcome new volunteers to help us as we continue to grow. Come join us. It's fun."

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, or call (727) 754-8019.

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This project was sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Artists Subject to Change

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IT'S ALMOST BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU TIME!

By Brian Franzese, Owner Bella Vino

Just past midnight on the third Thursday of each November, over a million cases of Beaujolais Nouveau begin their journey to restaurants and wine retail stores throughout the world. This amazing marketing phenomenon began in France's Beaujolais Region, just north of Lyon in the 1950s. A few growers in that area, notably Georges Duboeuf, recognized the potential for marketing Beaujolais Nouveau (initially as a cash flow concept), and prompted a race to Paris transporting the first bottles of the new vintage. This attracted much media coverage and the race spread throughout Europe, North America and Asia. "Beaujolais Nouveau Day" is always the third Thursday in November, so the wines are air-freighted to ensure they reach the global retail markets for availability to purchase and consume that day. Today, Beaujolais Nouveau accounts for nearly half of the regions total wine production.



Beaujolais [BOE-zjoh-lay] Nouveau is a light, simple, grapey, red wine produced from the Gamay grape that is meant to be consumed within the first 6 months of release, though in better vintages the wine will drink well for a year or so. It is different from most red wines as it does not go through a secondary (malolactic) fermentation. Because the only fermentation is whole cluster (or carbonic maceration), the wine does not take on the tannins or dark color of a wine made from pressed grapes. It is truly the "New" wine of the vintage.

Beaujolais Nouveau is a wine that you should drink slightly chilled and enjoy as a quaffing wine or with lighter cuisine. It is very popular on the Thanksgiving Day table, in part due to the release date, but also because it will pair well with turkey or even ham. This is not a wine for wine critics, so just enjoy it and don't over-analyze it! Most producers package the wine with colorful, artsy labels that sell for around \$12 per bottle.

When you see the colorful marketing signs in the window of your favorite neighborhood wine store (Bella Vino Wine Market) beginning this November 21st, stop in and purchase a selection or two and join the hype!

This year you will find the 2019 selections by Georges Duboeuf and Joseph Drouhin at Bella Vino Wine Market, located at The Plaza 100 Shopping Center at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, next to E & E Stakeout Grill.

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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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Kinderfest from 11am to 2pm
Stein Carrying @ 2:30pm & Keg Toss @ 3:30pm
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