

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine



HENRY BRADLEY PLANT Ships, Trains and Hotels

Henry Bradley Plant was born 200 years ago this month, on October 27, 1819. Throughout his life, Plant was a shrewd businessman, entrepreneur, and investor. In the late 1800s, Plant built (or purchased) most of Florida's railroads, especially those along the West Coast. Everywhere his railroads went, he built a hotel. His Plant System, later called The Atlantic Coast Railroad, came first to Tampa, then through Dunedin, to Clearwater and Belleair, and eventually ending in downtown St Petersburg. He built the Tampa Hotel (now the University of Tampa) on the banks of the Hillsborough River and the Belleview Hotel (eventually the Belleview Biltmore) on the banks of Clearwater Pass. He also owned several ocean-going ships. It has been said he was one of the founders of Florida tourism.

Plant, a self-made millionaire was born in Branford, Connecticut. His father Anderson Plant, and his mother Betsey Bradley were poor but respectable farmers. His father died when Plant was only six.

Although Plant never finished high school, his mother wanted him to go to college - to Yale. She offered to pay his tuition and all the costs, but Plant had other plans. At 18 and eager to get a job, he was hired as a captain's boy and deckhand on a New Haven-New York side-wheel steamboat. Plant's big break came when the ship's captain assigned him to handle the express packages carried by The New York - you might say it was the beginning of his transportation career. - **Continued on page 7**

Also in this Issue:

Helping Mexico Beach

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 26

Francis Wilson Playhouse

Celebrating their 90th year with an epic season. - page 30

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 next year, in St. Petersburg's new Pier. - page 14



Holiday Events

The Holidays aren't far off. We have a list of the upcoming festivities that you don't want to miss

- page 34

CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN DECEMBER!

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CITY COUNCIL 562-4050
Jay Polglaze - Seat 2 ● Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 ● David Albritton - Seat 4 ● Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5 (Vice-Mayor)
CITY MANAGER 562-4040
William Horne
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER 562-4040
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HUMAN RESOURCES 562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING 562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES 562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES 562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY 462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS 562-4980
SOLID WASTE 562-4920
PIER 60 462-6466
MARINA 462-6954
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VISITOR INFO CENTER 442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY 462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT 562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE 562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON 562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 447-7600
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POST OFFICE ISLAND ESTATES 449-8732
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Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM 441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates
JOLLEY TROLLEY 445-1200

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696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete
www.Crist.House.Gov

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER		
Stone Crab Season Begins	15	Garage Sale Belleair Beach 2
Clearwater Jazz Holiday	17-20	Art Harvest 2-3
Chalk Walk Beachwalk	18-20	Daylight Savings Time Ends 3
John's Pass Seafood Festival	19-20	Island Estates Civic Assn Town Hall 4
CBA North Beach Pub Crawl	19	Henry Plant Dedication Belleview Inn 9
Coastal Cleanup	19	Clearwater Historical Society Fish Fry 9
Beach Stone Crab Festivals	25-27	Visit Egmont Key Days 9-10
Tampa Bay Home Show	25-27	Peace Memorial Concert 10
Blast Friday	25	Christmas Under the Oaks 10
Three Bridge Run	26	Veteran's Day Schools Closed 11
Annual Country Jubilee	26	Great American Teach In 13
Electronics Event Countryside High	26	America Recycles Day 15
Kona Windsurfing World Challenge	26-27	Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic 15-17
Pumpkin Fest Botanical Gardens	27	Causeway Clean Up 16
City's Electronic Waste Disposal	30	Beaujolais Day 21
Halloween	31	Festival Of Trees The Long Center 22-24
Boo Bash Spectrum Field	31	Enchantment At Tropicana Field Opens 22
Trick Or Treat At The Beach Library	31	Public Schools Closed 25-29
Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends	31	Thanksgiving Thursday 28
NOVEMBER		Turkey Trot 28
Property Tax Bills Mailed	1	Black Friday 29
City Council Election Qualifying	1-15	Holiday Lights In The Garden Opens 29
		Hurricane Season Ends 30

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Did You Know



BOOK SALE The Friends of the Clearwater Library's book sale, at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola is the end of the month.

Thursday October 31, 10 am - 6 pm
Friday November 1, Noon - 4:30 pm
Saturday November 2, Noon - 4:30 pm

Proceeds are used to enhance the Clearwater Public Library System. They are always in need of donations of books, especially paperbacks and fiction in good condition, for resale in their sales and their stores. Bring your donations to the library or call for pick-up.

Volunteers are needed to work at the Friends' Book & Gift Store at the Clearwater Main Library. If you like to be around people and books, this is a great opportunity. A short training session is required. Work hours are variable, but are generally two to three hours a day, once a week, to fit your schedule. To volunteer, call Butch, 727-518-9824.

MARTINIS + MATISSE This popular and always sold out event returns January 18, at FrankCrum Complex in Clearwater! Get ready to sip & savor surrounded by beautiful donated artwork, all while supporting your neighbors in need at the Clearwater Free Clinic!

Becoming a sponsor is the best way to secure your space at this sell-out event and to make the biggest impact on Clinic programs, providing access to healthcare for uninsured Pinellas residents. Visit www.clearwaterfreeclinic.org, for more information or call (727) 443-3504.

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.

ELECTION MARCH 2020 Clearwater will hold a non-partisan Municipal Election in March to elect a Mayor and two City Commissioners. People wishing to run must register between November 1 and 15. Forms may be obtained from the City Clerk.

Mayor George Cretokos is not eligible to run due to term limits. Seat #2 is currently held by Dr. Bob Cundiff who is running for a second term. Seat #3 is currently held by Jay Polglaze who is not seeking re-election.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, be a registered voter, and have continuously lived in the City of Clearwater for at least one year. For information, call the City Clerk at 562-4093.



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.

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, as well as others, Online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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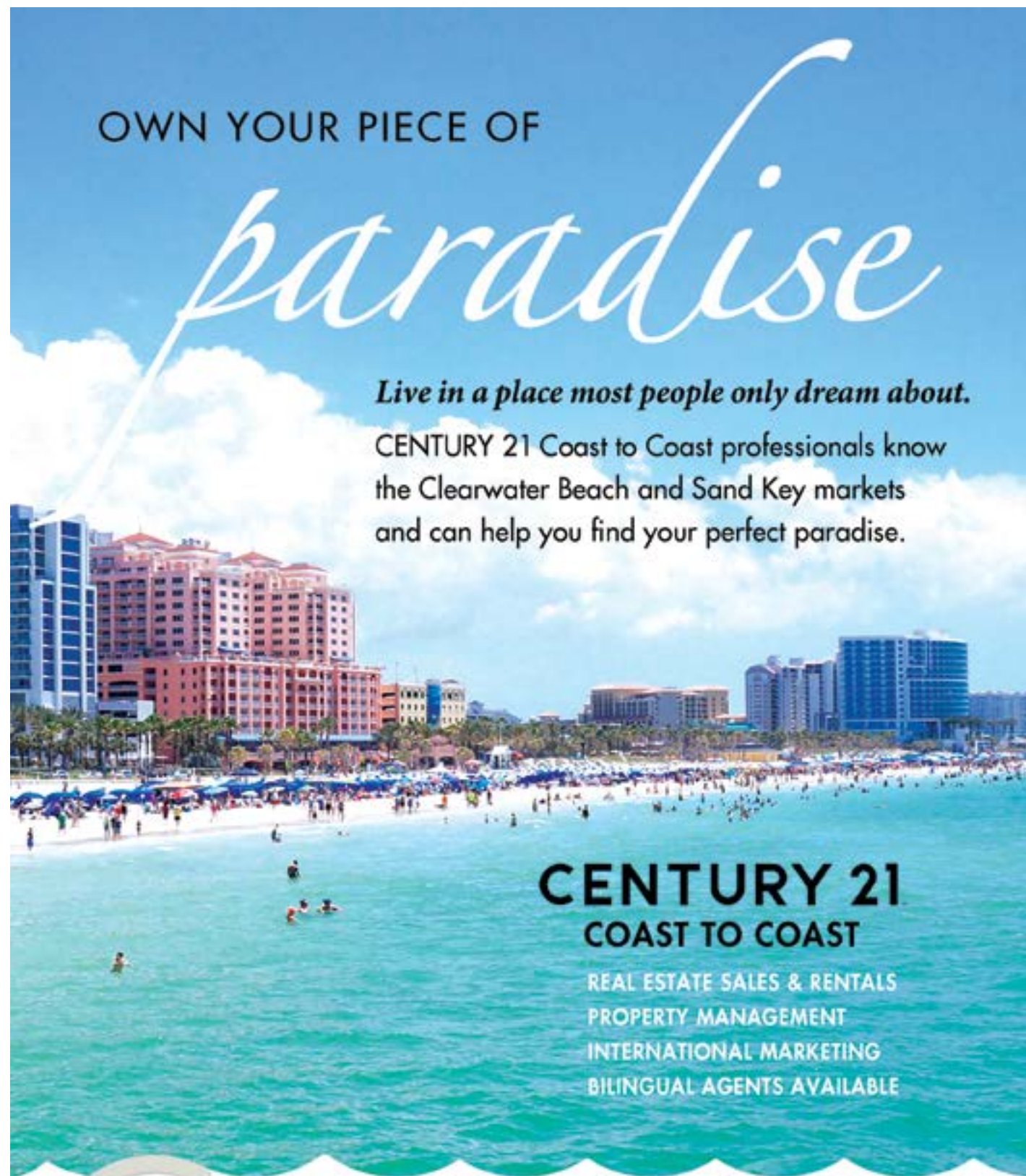
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HENRY PLANT - THE MAN, continued

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In 1842, when he was 23, Henry Plant married Ellen Elizabeth Blackstone, the daughter of State Senator James Blackstone, a well-to-do New Yorker. The couple lived and worked in New York. Plant got a job with Beecher and Company, moving from steamships to railroads.

In 1852, Plant, now 34, and Ellen had a son, Morton Freeman Plant. Soon, Ellen was diagnosed with consumption (today we know it as tuberculosis). She was ordered to move south for her health - the standard remedy for the time.

Plant picked Florida, as it reportedly had mild winter weather. It had only been a state for eight years and Plant was impressed with Florida's future development possibilities.

The Plants left New York on March 25, 1853, on a steamer for Jacksonville. The trip took eight days, which was quick by 1850s standards. Morton, only seven months old, was in tow.

By July, Ellen's health had improved, and they returned to New York. But the following winter, her health, deteriorated and they returned to sunny Florida.

Plant's employer was expanding into the South, especially North Carolina and Georgia. Plant, now 35, oversaw the company's southern business headquartered in Augusta, Georgia. He organized and extended express service, which included short railroad lines and numerous riverboat lines. Besides commerce, companies like his carried letters and packages more efficiently than the post office.

Plant traveled a lot and became one of the most well-known men in the South. He made friends in high places by doing favors for the right people - that would come in handy in the near future.

Seeing the approach of the Civil War and fearing confiscation of their southern assets, Plant's employer sold their railroads and real estate. Plant saw this as an opportunity but had little money. He found investors and raised enough to purchase all his employer's southern assets with a promissory note of only \$500,000.

After the election of Abraham Lincoln, the South immediately began to secede from the United States. South Carolina left the Union in December of 1860 and fighting began four months later.

In 1861, Plant incorporated the Southern Express Company under the laws of Georgia and declared himself president.

Jefferson Davis, the South's President, told friends, "Plant is the worst kind of Yankee—Connecticut born and bred." Regardless, he knew of Plant's reputation

for reliable service and contracted Plant's company as an agent for the Confederacy. Plant was to collect tariffs and transfer funds, as well as to carry Army payroll and confidential dispatches - and all Plant's employees would be exempt from military service.

When the Civil War began, most people originating from northern states, but living in the South, were forced to leave. Plant and his family, however, received a pardon from the Confederacy's Cabinet and stayed put.

The winter of 1861-62 was unusually cold and Ellen's health worsened - she died in February of 1862. She was buried in Augusta, but later her remains were moved to Branford, Connecticut. Their son Morton was only nine.

Plant, grief stricken, spoke to close friends of killing himself. He was diagnosed with "gastric fever," probably a peptic ulcer, and ordered to rest. He was granted a special passport by President Davis, which allowed him to travel to Bermuda, then Europe and finally back to New York while he recovered.

Robert E. Lee surrendered in April of 1865, ending the Civil War. Plant emerged as a financier to help bridge the gap between the North and the South. He convinced many Northern companies and friends to invest their money in the South.

Plant hired Colonel Henry Haines (Haines City's namesake), General Lee's rail chief. Together, they bought most of the southeast's bankrupt railroads. The Georgia Atlantic & Gulf Coast Railroad, was modified to reach Jacksonville via Live Oak, and renamed the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway. The Florida Central Railroad and various lines in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama were folded into the Savannah-Charleston Railway.

These purchases were the beginning of the Atlantic Seaboard System that grew to include fourteen railway companies, 2,000 miles of track, several steamboat lines and his prestigious hotels. In the process, Plant amassed a personal fortune of over 10 million dollars.

The Depression of 1873 forced many railroad companies into bankruptcy. Plant saw this as another buying opportunity. He began acquiring the defunct lines, but even at 10¢ on the dollar, it required cash. The cash would come from his wealthy New York contacts. He established an office at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street in New York to help that process.



During his period of rapid expansion, Plant met and married Miss Margaret Loughman, a New Yorker of Irish descent. They lived on Fifth Avenue, close to Henry's office. Plant, traveled more than he was home and created a mobile train car office called "Car 100." An office, bedroom and dining room, it was where he met with senators, governors and financiers. He traveled with two or three secretaries, which were usually men, and sent telegrams to his New York office every time he reached a train station.

The newly constructed and extended small railroads began to provide a continuous and reliable service across Florida. It became easier for Northerners to travel to Florida and for citrus growers to ship their products to northern markets.

Now with ample money, Plant and partner Haines decided to expand travel along Florida's West Coast. To encourage the building of railroads, the State of Florida promised 3,840 acres of land for every mile of track laid. Plant discovered another company had been promised 13,840 acres per mile for building a Jacksonville line. When that company ran out of money, Plant took it over in 1883 and began the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West rail-steamship line.

Tampa, a town of only 700, was their second choice as a port city. It was experiencing a deadly yellow fever outbreak, and since no one knew it was caused by mosquitoes, many people had left town.

Plant and Haines initially wanted the port at Cedar Key. The Florida Transit & Peninsular Railroad already ran from Jacksonville to Cedar Key, so they bought it. Unfortunately, though they thought the purchase included the Cedar Key port, the owner refused to include the terminal. Plant was furious and promised to, "Wipe Cedar Key off the map!" And he did - at least as a future port of entry.

Cedar Key's loss was Tampa's gain. Being Plant's southern railhead was a big boost to Tampa's declining population. Plant's new rail portion of the line that started in Jacksonville, came through Palatka, Sanford, Orlando, Kissimmee, and the future Plant City before reaching Tampa.

To be continued in the next issue.

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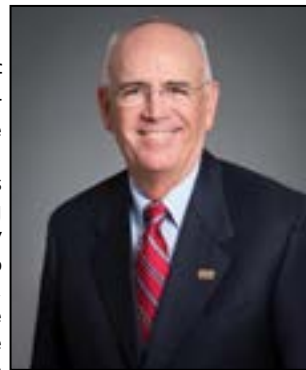
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RETIREMENT: A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



1. As everyone is in search of yield given the low interest rate environment, we fear that many folks will be subjected to BIG sales pitches about purchasing annuities. There are quality insurers still offering a 3% return for a 5-year annuity, but most of these require the investor to keep the money with the insurance company for the entire five years, otherwise there are surrender penalties which might be as high as 5% in the first year. A CD for a similar time period will provide a lower interest rate, but the surrender charge is generally less — usually six months of interest. Be careful as there are several sales people, especially those spending BIG bucks on TV, who are putting people into annuities with VERY long, VERY high surrender charges and with a VERY complicated set of rules about a promise to never lose money in a down market. If you hear of anyone subjected to these sales pitches, please ask them to come chat with us before moving forward. If someone wants you to buy an annuity please get a second opinion from us first.

2. According to the study from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute (part of the insurance industry), 56% of those between the ages of 55 and 64 say they want to retire at 65. Coincidentally, this is the year when Medicare eligibility occurs. However, it is not Full Retirement Age (FRA) for Social Security's maximum benefits, so those who take Social Security at 65 are foregoing income for the rest of their lives. Twenty-seven percent say they will work part-time after retiring and the remainder plan to continue to work on a full-time basis. We make this observation: 65 seems to be when people want to retire, but it remains to be seen whether they will be able to retire. Those who have not saved adequately will find a decreased lifestyle hard to swallow. Reality can be harsh.

These two brief items are all about retirement planning. If considering the purchase of an annuity, please seek a second opinion from us first. Social Security alternatives are complex and not for the faint of heart. A wrong decision on when and how to take Social Security can be very costly. You may always take advantage of a complimentary and no obligation meeting with us to discuss retirement and/or investment planning.

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.

AREA CHAMBERS MERGE TO CREATE "AMPLIFY CLEARWATER"

On October 1st, the two area Chamber of Commerces that represent Clearwater — the Clearwater Beach Chamber and the Clearwater Regional Chamber - merged. The new organization will be known as "Amplify Clearwater."



Amanda Payne on the left and Carol Hague on the right

Amanda Payne previously the President and CEO of the Clearwater Beach Chamber will be the President and CEO of Amplify Clearwater. Carol Hague, previously the President of the Clearwater Regional Chamber, has agreed to remain on the new team to ensure members will benefit from a smooth transition.

The Beach Chamber broke away from the Regional Chamber almost 25 years ago, because the beach businesses felt they were not well represented by a mainland Chamber. Now, they are back together to give it another try.

The decision to merge received unanimous approval by both Chambers' Board of Directors. A joint task force comprised of board members from both chambers explored the partnership and it will remain intact as an official board until January 2020. The task force will continue to review and discuss logistical issues related to the new structure and ensure a successful unification.

Before the merger, the Regional Chamber, with between 500 and 700 members, was the larger of the two. The Beach Chamber claimed about 250 members. Admittedly, many businesses that are members of both. The new combined membership number is not known yet, but it will be larger than either alone.

In comparison, the St Petersburg Chamber and the Greater Tampa Chambers each have approximately 1,000 members. The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber, based in St Pete Beach, has approximately 700 members. (Source: Tampa Bay Business Journal, June 2019).

"We've been discussing this for a long time," says Frank Dame, VP of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and Past Chairman of the Clearwater Beach Chamber (2016). "This community is too small to support two chambers. We felt it was in the best interest to merge - best for our membership and the community."

"There will be a merger of staff, functions, accounting, events and publications," Dame added. "There will be one Website and one Visitor Guide. But, there will likely be two offices. One will remain on the beach."

"The merger of the two Clearwater Chambers is what is best for the community and our businesses," says Jason Zelenak, current Chairman of the Beaches Chamber. "It will help bring the business community together and provide one strong voice for our business community. It is the right time for this unification, and we have great leadership to lead the new organization into the future."

The Chamber will complete the merger over the next few months and elect a permanent board of Directors starting in January. In the meantime, any upcoming chamber activities already scheduled will not be affected by the merger and will be open to members of both Chambers.

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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.flbgfoundation.org/pumpkinfest. The Florida Botanical Gardens are located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Largo Central Park will be transformed into a family fun 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 a 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.

PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in downtown Clearwater is continuing their Fall and Winter concert series.

November 10: Fall Back in Love. This jazz combo Swing State stars husband and wife duo Paul and Theresa Scavarda, plus accompanist and arranger, Michael Kramer on piano, and Ben Kramer on bass. This talented Group will bring us your favorite love songs from the "Greatest Generation".

December 8: Holiday Hits and Handel. To awaken your holiday mood, the December program will feature the beautiful voices of the Tampa Oratorio Singers. It is directed by Nancy Callahan, this excellent choral group will bring you popular carols and songs of the season (including some other fun sing-a-longs). Plus some Christmas selections from Handel's Messiah.

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.

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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 Sprintsail 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.

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.

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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. They Certify as Ocean Friendly restaurants that follow all five of the main criteria, and at least two of the six optional criteria.

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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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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Bar & Restaurant News

SPEGGTACULAR IS TWO How do you celebrate their two-year anniversary? With two eggs, sunny side up, of course. Speggtagular Restaurant has been serving an awesome breakfast and lunch since 2017. Two Years Now! If you have not discovered them on the south end of the beach, you owe it to yourself to give them a try at 770 South Gulfview Drive, between Cesare's and the Brown Boxer. They are open for breakfast and lunch only. You can also visit them in Largo, at their first location, which opened in 2016. The staff and owners would like to thank everyone for the support. See their special menu at www.Speggtacular.com.

PALM PAVILION'S MAKEOVER The Palm Pavilion, a beachside grill and bar on North Clearwater Beach, came into existence in 1926. Over the years, the owners have made every effort to maintain the structure's original charm and character. Until now, many of building's updates occurred with little fanfare or interruption to its customers. However, a rare thing happened in the middle of September, "The Palm" closed to replace the open wood decking in the interior portion of its building.



"Operating a business in a building dating back 93 years can be challenging when you need to make repairs," said Ken Hamilton, president of the Palm Pavilion. "As anyone who has done any type of renovation knows, you never know what to expect especially when you factor in sand, wind and salt air. Such was the case when we took a closer look and realized the complexity of this project and how it would impact our guest experience."

In late spring, a roof and retractable windowed walls were installed on the north half of the deck giving customers added comfort during inclement weather. The balance of this project is now underway. When completed, it will provide guests year-round access to dining on the entire deck along with views of Clearwater Beach and the Gulf of Mexico.

"Prior to the permanent roof, we've always made sure our climate-controlled room was available should inclement weather affect outside diners," said Hamilton. "As we will soon be able to enclose our deck for the first time, we can now accept holiday parties in our Tropical Room without any concern for the weather."

A number of other changes have also occurred over the years. A deck running the full length of the west side of the building was added in 1995 and expanded five years later. The Palm Pavilion's original small snack bar kitchen was removed in 2000, opening up the view to the beach. It was replaced with a much larger kitchen on the opposite side of the building to accommodate a larger menu.

The Palm Pavilion has the unique distinction of being the oldest operating beach pavilion not only in Florida but also in the entire Southeast U.S. Every visitor to the building walks beneath three of the original architectural elements – white archways.

The Palm Pavilion was sold to Howard and Jean Hamilton in 1964 by one of the five original owners. Second-generation Hamilton family members now own and operate the business.

The Palm Pavilion is located at 10 Bay Esplanade on North Clearwater Beach. For more information on the Palm Pavilion, visit www.PalmPavilion.com or call 727-446-2642.

Bar & Restaurant News



SHORTY'S MADE SOME SHADE Shorty's, the convenience store and gourmet deli in the Shoppes On Sand Key, has added a large awning over the boardwalk behind their store. Now, you enjoy a comfortable table in the shade and watch the birds, dolphins, and boats while you eat. Shorty's has a large menu and features breakfast. Check them out in Sand Key at 1260 Gulf Blvd.

SOUL SICILIAN FUSION Now open in downtown Clearwater, they combine Italian and Sicilian cuisine with a few American ingredients. With separate lunch and dinner menus, they always feature pizza and pasta. There is also a nice wine list. Find them at 516 Cleveland Street.

SMOKE AND BARREL Jay Thomas, owner of The Brown Boxers and Tap-and-Token, is making some changes. Tap and Token is moving from Bayway Blvd. to the store above the Mandalay Avenue Brown Boxer that was previously a gym. A new restaurant called Smoke and Barrel will open where Tap and Token was.



Smoke and Barrel will be a steakhouse featuring steaks and smoked Bar-B-Que serving lunch and dinner. At its new location, Tap and Token will become a Barcade and will be connected to the Mandalay Avenue Boxer with a staircase in the poolroom. It will have two lane bowling, a new full upstairs bar, over 70 games and a kids party room.

All this will happen in November just before Thanksgiving.



STONE CRAB FESTIVALS RETURN Stone Crab season is back – it opened October 15th. Many area seafood restaurants have stone crab claws back on their menu. October 24-27 Clearwater Beach will be host to three Stone Crab Festivals at: Palm Pavilion, Cooters and Frenchy's. Each will have live

bands and stone crab specials as long as supplies last.

Cooters' 26 Annual Crab Fest gets an early start on Thursday, the 24th with fresh stone crabs, plus Snow, King, and Dungeness Crab legs, all at wholesale prices. They are located at 423 Poinsettia Avenue.

Palm Pavilion, located at 18 Bay Esplanade, is back for their 5th Stone Crab Celebration Friday through Sunday, with live entertainment all weekend long, stone crabs and souvenir tee shirts all with wonderful sunset views.

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Business Briefs

JOHN FUNK EMERITUS Recently, the National Association of Realtors bestowed the status of Realtor® Emeritus on John Funk at their annual meeting.



The program is a special membership status honoring those Realtor® who have maintained their membership for 40 years or more. "September marks the 48th anniversary of my being in the business as a Real Estate Professional," he says.

John Funk lives and practices on Clearwater Beach and owns Beach to Bay Brokers. Visit WeWorkWeekends.com. Or call him at 599-3864.

FREE RIDES SERVICE Free Rides Clearwater Beach is a local service that provides free local rides in Clearwater Beach, Sand Key and Island Estates. Drivers work for tips. In addition to being a FREE ride share company, they are on a mission to eradicate drunk driving on our beach and beyond. They will pick up an impaired patron from a bar or restaurant, drive them home, then drive them back to get their vehicle the next day...ALL FOR FREE!

You can order a ride via their mobile app "Free Rides USA" or call 727-424-5458. They also offer a digital coupon app "Free Rides Hot Spots" for free drinks and food deals in town that is used in conjunction with their Key to the City Wristbands available from any local hotel or one of their drivers.

Enjoy their Free Rides Eats service with no food delivery fee or menu up-charge fee as long as the eatery you are ordering from is in their Free Ride Zone.

Their commitment to the city is important to them and is the reason why they reach out to the locals as enthusiastically as the tourists and many of their other services are designed with locals in mind. For more information, find them on Facebook at Free Rides Clearwater Beach.

FROM RAMADA TO HOLIDAY INN Remember the Ramada Inn on the south end of the beach? Jeff Keierleber, bought it 15 years ago this month (2004) and converted it to the Holiday Inn Clearwater Beach.



2004 was the year four hurricanes hit Florida—two near Clearwater Beach.

"We had just bought the Ramada," remembers Jeff. "It did a lot of damage; we had to gut many of the rooms. We basically rebuilt the whole place, then we rebranded it as a Holiday Inn in 2006."

Jeff and Decade Properties then bought the Chart House, built the Pier 60 Hotel, built the Edge Hotel, and bought the Captains Quarters. Now, he is adding a five-story parking garage south of Pier 60, building a 100 room hotel next to Pier 60 Hotel, and enlarging the Chart House.

Plans for the new Chart House, still in the approval process, is for an eight story, 60-room hotel, with a pool on the top floor. There is no restaurant planned.

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Business Briefs



50 YEARS LATER Island Estates Realty would be 50 years old this month! Joe King founded it when Island Estates was still being developed. He was joined by his son, Bill, and daughter Joanne Hiller. Joanne grew the business to a successful team of 15 agents becoming a highly respected

name in Clearwater Beach Real Estate with a reputation for ethics, professionalism and excellence. With sales over half a billion dollars, Joanne sold Island Estates Realty in 2015 to a company with parallel views to hers, and ranked #1 in Florida - Coldwell Banker.

Joanne is continuing the tradition of excellence, and is located at 468 Mandalay Avenue, Clearwater Beach. You can reach her at 727-460-5721 or visit JoanneHiller.com.

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.

MARINA BEACH SHOPPE CELEBRATES FIFTH YEAR

Pat Wolkowsky once operated a restaurant in same location, but when the Clearwater Beach Marina's building was remodeled about 7 years ago, Pat closed the 50-year-old Marina Beach Restaurant. In 2014, she came back and opened the Marina Beach Shoppe in her old space. The shop sells more than beach wares and gifts, there is a complete line of ladies' dresses and accessories. Find them in the center of the Marina Building on the first floor.



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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."

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.

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.

CLEARWATER'S PEDICABS Our last issue had a story about Clearwater's Pedicabs and indicated Scott Carpentier was the owner of "Fun Ride Rentals". He is the owner of "Fun Ride Pedicabs." Fun Ride Rentals is owned by Sandra DeBerzinae. Scott's phone number is 260-1414.

BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If you have news for this newsletter, please contact us. E-mail news to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

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AFTER 40 YEARS, POST CORNER PIZZA SOLD

Post Corner Pizza, has been a favorite on Clearwater Beach since long before there were any high-rise condos and hotels. The restaurant would be celebrating 40 years on the beach on Thanksgiving Day, but they got that "offer they could not refuse" and decided to sell their property. The last day of October - Halloween - will be the family's last day at the restaurant. The original owner, Jimmy Sofronas, came here from Greece in 1978. With the help of his wife Christina, he opened Post Corner Pizza on Thanksgiving Day, 1979. Jimmy passed away in May of 2017.

When we interviewed Jimmy in 2011, he told us, "Clearwater Beach was a lot different back then. The Adams Mark Hotel that was before the new Opal Sands, was a little gulf front motel called the Caribbean Gulf Motel. There were no condos, and only a few houses. You could pick one up for under \$45,000. The people have not changed much, but the bathing suits and tattoos sure have."

With Jimmy gone, the restaurant was run by his daughter Maria, her husband, Robert, and Jimmy's wife Christina.

Post Corner Pizza cooks and sells between 100 and 300 pizzas a day, depending on the season. With Jimmy's Greek connection, they have also always had a complete Greek menu. They serve breakfast daily.

Ocean Properties, the owners of Opal Sands across the street and the Sandpearl, is buying the site and surrounding hotels to build another large hotel. The restaurant might stay open under new ownership until construction starts. The date of the groundbreaking has not been announced.

For now, you can still find them on the corner at 431 South Gulfview Blvd. Be sure to stop in and say goodbye to Christina, Maria and their long-time staff while you can.



Maria, Jimmy and Christina

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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.indianrocksrotary.org or for the Florida Botanical Gardens at www.flbgFoundation.org. You can reach Bryant at 224-6775.



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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.

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.



Angela Emery

WELL KNOWN CHEF BECOMES CATERER ON CLEARWATER BEACH

by Anne McKay Garris

Over the years, anyone who often dines at a Clearwater Beach restaurant has probably enjoyed food prepared, or served, by a member of the Ken Hawi family. Ken's wife, Denise, who grew up on Clearwater Beach, was "Relish Girl" at the Clearwater Beach Hotel when she was only 13 years old. Her mother was a waitress there and Denise not only passed around the relish tray but was a "go-fer," she says, for everything else. When she turned 14, she moved up to the position of "Bus Girl" at Gino's Restaurant.

By 1982, Denise was working as a waitress at the Island House Restaurant where Ken Hawi was the cook, and they married in 1987.

Ken's first position on Clearwater Beach had been at the well-known Pelican Restaurant. Then, in February of 1985, he and his brother, Zach Hawi, were the cooks at Rajan's Restaurant when it opened on Mandalay Avenue.

Before he came to Clearwater, Ken had started his food service career as a dishwasher at the Stadium Restaurant in Sea Girt, New Jersey, operated by New York Giants Linebacker, Alex Webster.

"I started my career as a dishwasher in 1974," Ken says, "and worked my way up."

So now, you can enjoy their years of experience for your events as Ken has opened Ken's Classics A Catering Company. His services range from dropping off delicious scratch cooked organic food for you to serve as you please to a full-service buffet and plating service. They will even serve dishes if you wish.

As members of the Chapel-By-The-Sea on Clearwater Beach,



the Hawi family is well known for their delicious contributions to the pot-luck suppers there, so it is not surprising that Ken's first customers for his catering service were the monthly "Chapel Chicks" bible study group. Members of the Clearwater Beach Association have also enjoyed Ken's cooking at their pot-luck dinners.

According to Ken, his menus are basically classic cooking; pot roast, ribs, chicken in all its guises - Marsala, Piccata, or "whatever else the customer may request."

In addition to Ken and Denise, the catering crew includes their son, Zack, and their daughter, Sara, who Ken calls his, "good right hand"

Chef Ken can be reached at 727-278-3401, or at info@cateringclassics.com.

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.

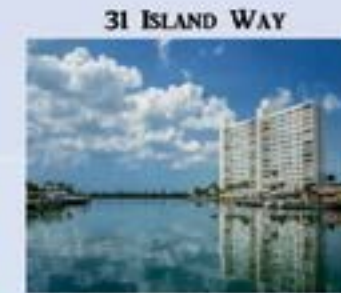
Most of the Pinellas crew planned to be there for seven days but it quickly became eleven, but no one minded. That is what they do - help in big emergencies.

"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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RESIDENTS AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK IN ROMANIA

Geris Espy of Sand Key and Christine (Chris) Michalek of Clearwater Beach/Point were part of a construction team of thirteen Friendship Force members (twelve women and one man) who recently spent a one-week collaborative volunteer project with Habitat for the Humanity building a 4-plex home in the village of Moinessti, (Bacau region) Romania, population 21,787. The team members consisted of two people in their 80s, two in their 60s and the others in their 70s.



The volunteers were not relegated to being sideline cheerleaders, snack-makers or water-servers. Picture Rosie the Riveter! Each member served as a hands-on construction worker and was involved in measuring, cutting, sawing and installing plywood, assembling steel scaffolding, screwing and hammering 2x4s, and drilling holes, screwing and tightening rebar between the first and second floor of the home.

Each worker came with a dedicated commitment to fulfill both the mission of Friendship Force - "promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay journeys and personal friendships" and Habitat for the Humanity's mission - "seeking to put God's love into action and bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope."

Friendship Force (FF) club members included: FF Florida Suncoast, under the leadership of Betty and Chuck Oldanie (Largo) with members Geri Espy (Sand Key), Christine Michalek (Clearwater Beach/Point), Judy Ormsby (Dunedin), Karen Sheretts (Largo), and Marilyn Whelan (On Top of the World). Other FF clubs represented were: FF Dallas, FF Greater Denver, FF Minneapolis, FF Southern Oregon, FF Southwest Florida, and FF Solothurn Switzerland.

At a closing reception and ceremony, the volunteers received certificates of appreciation from Moinessti Mayor Valentin Vieru and the Moinessti on-site Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator Victor Teris.

For more information about Friendship Force Florida Suncoast, call Betty: 727-727-542-1658 or Chuck: 727-580-2962 or e-mail boldanie@tampabay.rr.com or chuckoldanie@gmail.com.

NO TOYS FOR TOTS POSTAL DRIVE

Remember the Postal Toys for Tots' campaign? It is no more. To promote the regional event, each year the US Post Office would put a notice in your mailbox asking you to leave toys by your mailbox on the first Saturday of December, which they then collected. The campaign was coordinated by The Marine.

A few years ago, the US Post Office told the Marines that due to financial constraints, they would not be able to print or distribute the flier anymore. They told the local committee they needed \$8000 to provide that service.

"After that change, our collections went down 80%," says Ed Zaleski, Pinellas County Coordinator, and resident of Sand Key. "We still pick up toys. Now, we ask people to drop them off at a nearby Publix store and other businesses, too. Unfortunately, it is the kids that lose out."

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Francis Wilson

By Pat Vassar

Perhaps you have passed by the sign for the Francis Wilson Playhouse (FWP) at the corner of Seminole and Fort Harrison north of downtown Clearwater or seen the Playhouse building as you prepare to launch your boat at the Seminole Boat Ramp. What kind of plays are presented here? Only the best that Broadway has to offer!!

It all began in the early 1900s with a movement to expand cultural opportunities across America by establishing "Little Theatres" in many cities, including Clearwater. Early supporters Theodore Skinner (an early president of the company) and John Chestnut, along with officials of the City founded the Little Theatre of Clearwater. Productions by the Clearwater Players were held in a variety of venues around the city, including City Hall.

Into the mix of enthusiasts came a famous winter resident, Francis Wilson, a well-known New York performer. He advocated finding a permanent home for this theater company. Through the generosity of his friend Mary Louise Curtis Bok, who, with her husband, had built the Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, a permanent home for the Little Theatre of Clearwater was begun. Her gift of \$5,000 insured its future. Her main stipulation for this gift was that the theatre be named for Wilson, and it was. Wilson was present for the laying of the cornerstone in 1935 but did not live to see the first performance in 1936.

Through the years, thousands of folks have had a hand in the finished products we have enjoyed. Multiple generations of families are often involved as well as descendants of past performers. Their amazing talents, energy, creativity and vitality come together to transport us to other ages and times. One amazing person, Dorothy Ellison, was associated with the theater for over 30 years after having appeared on Broadway in "I Remember Mama" and touring nationally in "Life with Father." She performed and directed and served in many background administrative capacities at FWP.

The building we see is not the original, which was consumed by fire in 1942. Records and artifacts were lost except for the lobby fireplace, which remains today. The community rallied, and we got our theater back! Through the years, additions have been made to the original building to improve storage and rehearsal capability. Since 2015, the theater auditorium and lobby have been updated, as have sound and lighting systems. All seats in this intimate theater have terrific visibility and ticket prices have increased just a bit over time from under \$2 per seat to the current \$26 for mainstage productions. Still a marvelous bargain! The City of Clearwater is updating the

surroundings with new and improved parking and a new park below the theater, providing a fantastic vista for years to come.

For years, the FWP organization has given back to the community. Groups such as the Lions and Clearwater and Dunedin Historical Societies can "sponsor" a performance, using the proceeds over expenses to help support their own charitable functions. FWP also provides budding performers and technical specialists in area schools with the opportunity to hone their talents in a professional setting.

What has FWP been doing lately? Wowing audiences with the best talent of the Bay! Musicals, dramas, comedies, and concerts, all from the rich heritage of Broadway: Into the Woods, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Nice Work if You Can Get It, The Fantasticks, Carousel, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Hello Dolly!, Les Miserables, and Amadeus! The theater and its actors, staff and productions have consistently won Suncoast Theater STAR "Favorite" awards, the highest honors for local theatre. It is the "Little" Theatre of Clearwater no more!

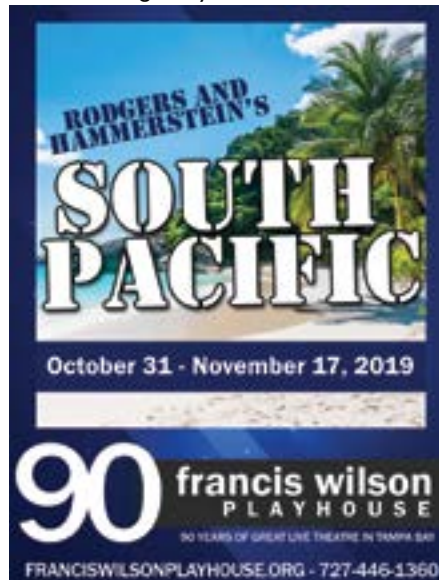
The 90th Season's first Mainstage Production, Titanic, The Musical, was a sellout, even after adding a 13th performance. The balance of the FWP season includes Born Yesterday; South Pacific; Harvey; I Do! I Do!; Brigadoon; The Man Who Came to Dinner and Follies. Interspersed through the theatrical season are five Broadway concerts, each one-day only with two performances. Over the years, these concerts have proven to be most popular and usually sell out quickly.

The next show is South Pacific, October 31 – November 17, 2019. This Rodgers & Hammerstein classic musical won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for its strong story and wonderful score.

Based on the book by James Michener, it is set in the South Seas and follows the stories of two star-crossed couples, both torn by the challenges of war and prejudice. With a score featuring Some Enchanted Evening, Younger Than Springtime, A Wonderful Guy and many more, South Pacific is an epic story of love, loss and redemption, played against the backdrop of World War II.

If you have never attended a FWP performance, this magical year would be a great time to start! If you haven't visited for a while, come on back. For more information and ticketing, visit FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org. The Box Office staff can also answer any questions you have: 727-446-1360.

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AMERICANS LOVE HALLOWEEN

Over \$5 billion a year is spent in our country celebrating Halloween. But how did traditions like asking strangers for food and dressing up as ghosts develop?

Halloween has its roots in an ancient harvest festival Samhain, held at the end of the Celtic year. It marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter. They believed spirits of the dead returned during Samhain to damage crops and play tricks on them. During bonfire celebrations, Celtic priests wore animal skins while sacrificing crops and animals to the spirits.

When the Romans arrived in England, Scotland and Northern France, they brought their own holiday, Feralia. Also in late October, it was the day they honored the dead.

In the eighth century, with the spread of Christianity, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 All Saints Day, likely to replace Samhain. It was a similar but holier holiday honoring saints and martyrs. Later, it was renamed "All Hallows" and Samhain on Oct. 31st began to be called "All Hallows Eve," before it was shortened to "Hallowe'en."

All of these holidays involved dressing up in one way or another. The celebrators of Samhain wore animal skins, those that observed "All Saints Day" dressed as angels or saints, some would impersonate the dead that day, explaining our ghoulish tradition.

The first trick-or-treaters were far from today's smiling children with commercialized costumes. They lived in Medieval England, and practiced "souling," in which poor people would beg for sweet breads, in return for praying for the families' souls. During the mid-1800s, Irish and English immigrants brought Halloween to the U.S., where trick-or-treating develop into their own version, but it didn't become popular here until the 1930s.

Fun Halloween Facts:

- 1) Halloween Is The Second Highest Grossing Commercial Holiday After Christmas - Between lights, lawn ornaments, costumes and loads of candy, the average American spends about \$65 on this holiday.
- 2) Harry Houdini Died On October 31, 1926 - The magician was accidentally killed by a student who hit him in the stomach repeatedly as part of a stunt. He died from a ruptured appendix when he refused medical treatment.
- 3) Phobias For That - Samhainophobia is an intense and persistent fear of Halloween that causes panic attacks. Other phobias for this time of year: phasmophobia (fear of ghosts), coimetrophobia (fear of cemeteries) and wiccaphobia (fear of witches).
- 4) Jack-O-Lanterns Weren't Always Pumpkins - Irish tradition was to carve faces of the dead on hollowed-out turnips, then later on gourds with candles inside to make them glow. Today's Jack-O-Lantern is usually a pumpkin, which most likely was grown in Illinois--a state that grew 556 million pounds of pumpkin in 2018.
- 5) A Quarter Of All The Candy Sold Each Year Is For Halloween - Four out of ten adults admit to sneaking sweets from the candy bowl. 90% of parents admit to sneaking candy from their kids' trick-or-treat bags. While Americans consume 20 million pounds of candy corn a year, Snickers Bars has been the number one Halloween treat for 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.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

The 2019 Holiday Boat Parade, organized by the Island Estates Yacht Club and co-sponsored by the City of Clearwater, is Saturday December 14.

Celebrating its 45th year, the IEYC Boat Parade is one of the largest and most popular marine parade events in the Clearwater Beach area. Spectators can view the Parade from Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater, as well as from some waterfront restaurants, hotels and private homes along the boat parade route.

Monetary Prizes are awarded in several categories and there is no entry fee. If you are interested in participating, or would like further details, contact the IEYC Fleet Captain Paul Lightfoot at either (727) 744-1728 or liteft@msn.com.

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HOLIDAY EVENTS NEAR THE CLEARWATER AREA

November 2 – January 6 WINTER'S WONDERLAND AT CMA

Visit the Aquarium as it transforms into Winter's Wonderland. Get your family photo taken with Winter Claus, experience Winter Wonderland with lights and décor all around, and watch special Santa dive presentations at Mavis's Rescue Hideaway

November 10 - 9am to 4pm 43rd CHRISTMAS UNDER THE OAKS

SP College Clearwater Campus
2465 Drew Street, Clearwater

An arts and crafts show with artists, crafters, and small businesses displaying a wide variety of great gift ideas. Show proceeds go to scholarships, grants and community service projects.
www.GFWCPWC.org/Events

November 22-24 FESTIVAL OF TREES

1501 N Belcher Rd, Clearwater

Hundreds of Christmas Trees, decorated by area clubs, businesses and individuals will be on display and for sale. All proceeds go to The ARC of Tampa Bay Foundation. Call 797-8712 for information, or to get involved. www.TheArcFoundation.com

November 22-December 29 ENCHANTMENT AT THE DOME

Tropicana Field, St Petersburg

This new event, dubbed as the "World's Largest Christmas Maze," will include a light maze, Christmas market, ice-skating trail, and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Tickets, on sale now, are \$60 with discounts available for kids, seniors and groups. Get more information on their Facebook page.

November 28 THE TURKEY TROT

Clearwater High School

There are 5 races: 1 Mile Gobbler \$18 (8:15 am), 4K Drumstick Run \$20 (8:30 am), 5K Wing-Ding \$25 (7 am), and the 10K Turkey Trot \$25 (9 am) or try the Clearwater Challenge \$45 (three races - the 1 Mile, 5K and 10K)
www.TampaBayTimes.com/turkeytrot.

November 29 BLACK FRIDAY

This is the day millions go shopping.

November 29 to January 4 5:30 - 9:30

HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN

Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo

The Gardens will sparkle with 1 million, twinkling, LED lights in a multitude of colors. \$5 suggested donation.
www.FLBGFoundation.org.

December 2 CYBER MONDAY

The day millions shop at home - Online.

December 2 - 5:45-6:45 pm HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH SUNCOAST BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Beach Library

Tap your toes to old-fashioned tunes with the time honored musical style of close barbershop harmony as they perform a variety of holiday songs and invite you to sing along. Fun for the whole family!

December 4 through January 5 HOLIDAYS AT THE VILLAGE

11909 125th Street N., Largo

Enjoy period holiday decorations, garland, and greenery throughout Heritage Village. Free.
www.PinellasCounty.org/Heritage

December 7 – 5pm MIRACLE ON CLEVELAND STREET

Cleveland Street between the 400 and 600 blocks

Downtown Clearwater's Cleveland Street will be transformed into a Holiday Wonderland complete with falling snow, a skating rink, horse and carriage rides, photos with Santa, Christmas carolers from the Clearwater Chorus, a giant gingerbread house, face-painting, a balloon artist, and inflatables. Free.
www.MyClearwater.com.

December 8 – 4pm ANNUAL SANTA & SUDS RUN/ WALK

Cleveland Street, downtown Clearwater
Run dressed up in your best Christmas running clothes for charity – the St. Vincent de Paul Community Kitchen and Resource Center. The course crosses the Clearwater Memorial Bridge near sunset with a 5k, 1-mile and Fun Walk. T-shirts are guaranteed to pre-registered runners only. There will be a post-race party with beer and food. www.Santa5K.RaceHawk.com.

December 9 – 3pm UGLY SWEATER DECORATING PARTY

Beach Recreation Center

Make your own tacky sweater for the holiday season or give it as a gift. You bring the sweater, they supply the scissors, glue, pom-poms, glitter and tinsel. Fun for the whole family. Please call to RSVP - 562-4681

December 11 – 7pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Chapel-By-The-Sea

The public is invited to this special Holiday Musical event. You do not have to be a member to attend.

December 14 ISLAND ESTATES HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

This is the largest and oldest Lighted Boat Parade in the Tampa Bay area. The parade starts at dark north of the Memorial Causeway, travels north through most of Island Estates, then to Coachman Park, and ends near the Clearwater Yacht Club, where the judging is held.

December 15 UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY

Started in 2011 by ugly Christmas sweater lovers to lighten up the busy holidays and show off their absurdly, ugly sweaters

December 18 – 4pm

THIRD ANNUAL GINGERBREAD BEACH HUT WORKSHOP

Beach Recreation Center

Build your own holiday Gingerbread Beach Hut at this workshop. Registration is required, 562-4681.

December 21 – 7pm INDIAN ROCKS HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

The parade starts at the Holiday Inn Harborside and heads north.

December 23 - January 7 PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED

If you want to find a kid's holiday camp, you should reserve now.

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY SERVICES

Chapel by the Sea
Family Service 4:30pm Eve
Candlelight Service 7:30pm Eve
St Brendan's Catholic Church
Masses (4:30pm & 9pm Eve)
Masses (7:30 am, 9 am & 11 am Day)

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

December 26 – January 1 KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a week long celebration honoring African heritage.

December 31 FIRST NIGHT ST. PETE

Downtown St Pete

The 27th Annual New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts: First Night St Petersburg rings in the New Year with eight hours of family friendly music, dance, aerial arts, an Interactive Art Park. FirstNightStPete.com.

December 31 LIGHT UP CLEARWATER

Bring in the New Year with fireworks. See them from Sand Key or anywhere along the southwest end of Clearwater Beach
www.LightItUpClearwater.com.

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Organizational News...

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club (CCWC) is a non-profit organization, whose members live the volunteer spirit. It is a member club of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. The meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from September thru May; most of the meetings are at the Clearwater East Library on the campus of St. Petersburg College, 2465 Drew St., Clearwater 33765 at 11 am; social time at 10:30 am.

Lucile Casey, a member of the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club, has received the prestigious Jennie June Award for GFWC Florida for 2019. She will go on to the competition for the Southern Region Jenny June Award in Charleston on October 19. The award is presented annually to recognize extraordinary clubwomen who demonstrate independence, courage and persistence with the volunteer spirit within the club, elsewhere in their community and with their family.



The name "Jenny June" was a pseudonym used by the General Federation of Women's clubs, Jane Cunningham Croly, who was an author journalist and editor of women's columns.

Please feel free to check their website: GFWCClearwatercommunitywomensclub.org or the club's Facebook page: GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club for information or e-mail: MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com.

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Organization is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization of residents and businesses, dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key by researching issues, distributing information and representing our members' views and positions. They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council, The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and maintain contact with the city and state departments that impact Sand Key. Some board members attend the three-day Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association conference that occurs yearly all over the state.

They support the Clearwater Sailing Center and they are corporate members. The welcome sign to Sand Key had been damaged and we now have two new signs for our island, thanks to the Association.

Meetings, often with guest speakers, are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in The Sailing Center on Gulf Blvd., and are open to all residents of member condominiums and businesses. Interested individuals are welcome to attend and observe. We're excited to have another new board, low condo membership fees, bylaw changes, and we are eager to initiate new plans to enhance our neighborhood.

They are now members of the Sand Key Sailing Club.

They are happy announce they have a presence on the Internet! Visit www.sandkeycivicorganization.org to view information of interest to all residents of Sand Key, including copies of upcoming meeting agendas, notes from previously held meetings, happenings at Sand Key and more. Come get to know the board, and help them grow! Introduce yourself at their next meeting!

For more information contact Brian Pelfrey, President, at skcainc@aol.com.

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Organizational News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

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

October 19, 10:30 am - Modern Floral Design with Floral Artist Dana Dineen, who began her career in floral arts in Los Angeles in 1992. Come hear how she treats floral as an art form with a great variety of styles or modes. Her execution is above and beyond keeping true to the standards of an artist. People who attend her events comment on them for years to come. Light refreshments will be served. Opportunity Drawings.

Call 316-5504, e-mail ClearwaterGardenClub@Gmail.com, or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.com, for information.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

GFWC NORTH PINELLAS WOMAN'S CLUB

November 10, from 9-4 they are sponsoring their 43rd Christmas Under the Oaks holiday market featuring an exciting line-up of new exhibitors - including an impressive array of local charities - food vendors and entertainment. GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club looks forward to hosting over 150 exhibitors and welcoming thousands of guests at St. Petersburg College's spacious outdoor Clearwater campus.

Holiday shoppers will be delighted by this year's marketplace of distinctive handcrafted wreaths and ornaments, beautiful jewelry, tasty artisan foods, wearable art, eye-catching pottery and glassware, home accents, and whimsical garden décor and many more unique treasures.

You will be dazzled by the offerings from their non-profit friends and, the best part: All of the featured non-profits are founded by local Tampa Bay women! Imagine how good you will feel knowing your purchases directly support orphans in Guatemala, Kenyans living positively with HIV, Syrian refugees and recovering addicts right here in Tampa Bay.

Visit www.gfwcnpwc.org.

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.

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@bighthouse.com. WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Upcoming events include:

November 4, 7pm - Island Estates Residents Town Hall Meeting, Island Way Grill

November 16, 8 - 10am - Quarterly Causeway Cleanup. Meet at entrance to Island Estates.

December 3, 5:30 to 7:30pm Winter Social, (IECA members only and those renewing/joining), Island Way Grill

December 12, Holiday Lighting judging of the front yard displays on Island Estates.

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

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DAR is celebrating their 129th Anniversary this year. The Clearwater Chapter meets monthly on varying dates at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11am followed by lunch at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to join.

RSVP for meetings with Diane Richardson at 871-9773 or BradSkate@AOL.com. Contact Cathy Athanson at 510-7135 or Dubinwv41@Gmail.com.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

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

On Saturday, September 14th, the IEYC Annual Progressive Dinner became a Harvest Moon Celebration. Over 70 people were in attendance. The delicious buffet was provided by Affordable Catering of Tampa. DJ Sam of Swing Time entertained the dancing crowd with lively moon themed music. Clipper Cove at 425 Island Way proved to be a perfect venue. Their multiple party house rooms were used for appetizers, dinner & dancing, and desserts.

The IEYC began as a yacht club with its members exclusively living on the Island Estates. It has since expanded its membership to those living throughout the Clearwater, Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs areas. The club provides a monthly social event for all club members to attend as well as other luncheons and gatherings to promote friendships and camaraderie.

They will host a Sleuth Convention Mystery Night on Saturday October 19th at The Brookside Club House in Clearwater. If you would like information about joining the club or attending an event, e-mail islandestatesyc@gmail.com.

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