

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine



HENRY BRADLEY PLANT Ships, Trains and Hotels

Henry Bradley Plant was born 200 years ago last 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:

The Census is Coming

What does the 1940 Census - the last one that has been publicly released - show about Indian Rocks Beach? There may be some familiar names included.

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Francis Wilson Playhouse

Celebrating their 90th year with an epic season.

- page 26

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 30

CREDITS



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Indian Rocks Beach's zip code 33785. We are not associated with the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

PUBLISHER

Bob & Becky Griffin

ART DIRECTION

Becky Griffin

SALES

727-430-8300

CONTACT INFO

P.O. Box 1314

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

727-430-8300

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MAYOR - Cookie Kennedy

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Diane Flagg • Phil Hanna • Nick Palomba

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Planning & Zoning: 517-0404

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AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS 595-1038

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Joe McCall, President - IRBHome.com

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IRB ROTARY, Bruce Sobut, 403-4060
Meets at Jimmy Guana's every Wed. 7:15AM

ACTION 2000 Julie Hoofnagle 400-6672
Meets 2nd Mon each month Beach Art Ctr

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

Karen Seel 464-3278

STATE:

Senator Jeff Brandes 727-395-2512
Republican, Dist. 24

3637 Fourth St. N., Ste 101 St. Pete
Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090
Republican, District 66

1940 West Bay Drive, Ste 4, Largo
nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov

Governor Ron DeSantis
Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- Property Tax Bills Mailed 1
- Indian Rocks Ladies Tea 2
- Garage Sale Belleair Beach 2
- Concert At Calvary Episcopal Church 2
- Art Harvest Dunedin 2-3
- Daylight Savings Time Ends 3
- Community City Wide Clean Up 4-6
- Taste Of IRB 9
- Veterans Boat Parade Madeira Beach 9
- Henry Plant Dedication 9
- Visit Egmont Key Days 9-10
- Veteran's Day Public Schools Closed 11
- City Commission Meeting 12
- Great American Teach In 13
- BCFP Turkey Drive 14
- Historical Museum Fall Luncheon 16
- Suncoast Jazz Festival 15-17
- Beaujolais Nouveau Day 21
- BAC Holiday Show Reception 22
- Festival Of Trees 22-24
- Enchantment Opens Tropicana Field 22
- IRB Citywide Garage Sale 23-24
- Camp Out At Bonner Park 25-27
- Turkey Trot 28
- Public Schools Closed 25-29
- Thanksgiving 28
- IRB City Hall Closed 28-29

- Botanical Gardens Lights Opens 29
- Hurricane Season Ends 30
- DECEMBER**
- St Patrick's Fun Fair 5-8
- Lighting Of City Christmas Tree 6
- Death By Chocolate Largo 6
- St Pete Boat Show 6-8
- City Christmas Street Parade 8
- Rotary Big Game Drawing 8
- Santa And Suds Run 8
- City Commission Meeting 10
- Homeowners' Toy Drive 11
- Tiny Bubbles Big Reds Wine Tasting 13
- Indian Rocks Holiday Tour Of Homes 14
- Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade 14
- Breakfast With Santa St Jerome 14
- Winter Solstice 21
- IRB Lighted Boat Parade 21
- Indian Shores Lighted Boat Parade 22
- Hanukkah Begins 22
- Public Schools Closed 23
- Calvary's Christmas Pageant 24
- Calvary's Candle Light Service 24
- Christmas 25
- Kwanzaa 26
- Boxing Day 26
- New Years Eve Fireworks Sand Key 31

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

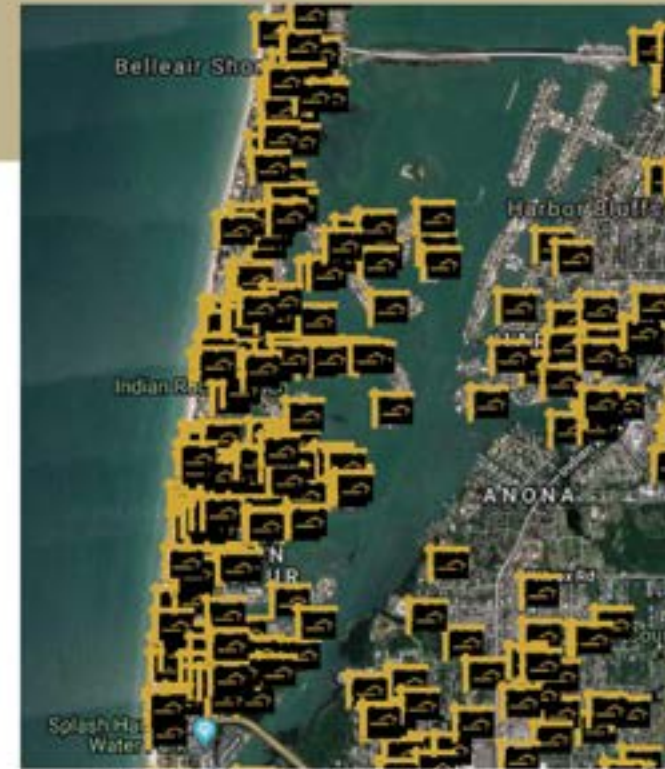
We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Thank you for reading,
Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300
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Did You Know



NEW COTTAGE CALENDERS 2020 is almost here and the new "Save Our Cottages" calendars are now available. Each contains beautiful paintings by the Plein Aire Cottage Artists - Helen Tilston, Mary Rose Holmes and Violetta Chandler.

Buy yours in Indian Rocks Beach at the Beach Art Center, History Museum, Welcome Center, Crabby Bill's, Kooky Koconuts, Café de Paris, Sandy's, Cookie Cutter Salon, Indian Rocks Library, It's Your Day Café, and Island Cove Beads. They are also at Jana's Boutique (Belleair Bluffs) and The Frame Factory (Largo).

MARTINIS + MATISSE This popular and always sold out event returns January 18, at Frank Crum 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.

SANTA'S NEEDED The Florida Botanical Gardens is looking for Santa Volunteers for their Holiday Lights event from December 2nd through December 24th. If you, or someone you know is interested, come join the fun! Please contact Joanne Peeck, at johali.peeck@gmail.com or 646-235-4876.

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.

NEW STONE CRAB TRAP LICENSES Recreational stone crab harvesters are now required to complete an Online, no-cost recreational trap registration. To register, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com and add the Recreational Stone Crab Trap Registration to your fishing license account.



Each person will receive five unique trap registration numbers. One must be permanently attached to each trap with the owner's full name and address.

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.

RIDE WITH THE STARS December 7th is the 26th Annual Ride benefiting the Pinellas County Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project. At this family-friendly ride/run, you can walk, run or ride a bike. There will also be demonstrations, a silent auction, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The event helps to provide food, clothing, books and toys to over 370 underprivileged families and over 1,000 deserving children. Visit RideAndRunWithTheStars.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 JANUARY Read this issue, as well as others, Online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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Erika Francis, MD, Medical Director

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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RETIREMENT: A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



- 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.
 - 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
ProVise Management Group, LLC
611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756
727-441-9022, info@provisemgmt.com



The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change. Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.

A REAL STORY OF HOPE

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

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Real Estate News

IRB REAL ESTATE GOBBLED UP

Where have all the houses gone?



By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker
Gordon Realty House

Over the last five years, 358 single-family homes were sold in Indian Rocks Beach. That's an average of 72 transactions per year or roughly 6 sales per month. Although there was more available real estate inventory in Florida this August (2019) than last August (2018), "the listing drought" in IRB continues. "Good" listings in this "seller's paradise" are being gobbled up shortly after they hit the MLS...often with bidding wars and multiple offers over the asking price.

Currently, there are only 23 single-family homes listed for sale in IRB. Do the math: That's roughly 3.8 months' worth of available inventory. (A "healthy" market is at least 6 months!) And, when you subtract the 9 "stale" properties that have been listed for 9 months or longer, you come up with just 14 "good" listings for buyers to choose from. About 1/3 of the total listings are priced above \$1.3 million and out of reach of many buyers. All but 1 of the "high-tickers" have been listed for 5 months or more.

So where have all the houses gone?

For one thing...people aren't moving. Nationally, the average time a homeowner stays put is 9 years, which is a record high compared to the 1980s with 6 years of "residential longevity." In IRB, "potential movers" are reluctant to sell before buying for fear of not finding what they want or maybe even ending up out in the cold entirely. Stuck in limbo are those who bought "starter" homes back around 2009 and then discovered they need more room. Some semi-bored retirees began working again part-time as consultants, etc. and have found themselves needing home office space. About 83% of retirees nationwide want to stay in their homes as long as possible and that is especially true in IRB. So the stalemate continues.

One factor known to alleviate a housing shortage: new construction. But, aside from the waterfront knockdowns at the high end of the spectrum, vacant land in 33785 is virtually non-existent. Statewide, single-family construction is expected to increase 80% over 2014 levels...just not here in IRB, where there is no room at the inn!

There is also a gap between what buyers want and what's for sale. Most houses in IRB are at that point of needing updating for the second or third time...something "retirement movers" would rather not tackle. Of the roughly 2 dozen current IRB listings, 43% were built in the 50s/60s and 24% were built in the 70s. Further reducing inventory are investors, who originally planned to flip a property, but have since found rentals to be more lucrative—especially AirBnBs—so they are holding onto their investments longer.

We can be thankful that fear of an economic slowdown has not affected the housing sector nationally or in IRB. And, even though economists predict another inventory drop in 2020, our property values continue to tick up ever so slightly...let us pray!

Source: Stellar MLS

IT'S MORE THAN STRAWS

By Becky Griffin

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

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

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

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

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

To be certified, restaurants MUST follow these five criteria:

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

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

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

Locally, the following restaurants have been officially Certified Ocean Friendly by the Surfrider Foundation: **Clearwater** - Bob Heilman's Beachcomber & Bobby's Bistro & Wine Bar; **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? Surfrider is 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 more information about their ongoing projects. Restaurants wishing to get Ocean Friendly certified can get information at go.surfrider.org/ofr.

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Restaurant News



BAKED BATATA This new restaurant opened last month at 321 Gulf Blvd. next to Beach Zone. It is named for a white sweet potato that is native to South and Central America, Cuba, and the southern West Indies.

"A batata is basically a baked potato, cut in half, scooped out, and filled with your choice of toppings, just like a pizza," says owner G. "There are over a dozen toppings to choose from. Then they are topped off with your choice of dressings."

The store sells a variety of batatas starting at \$7.99. There is also a kid's (2 topping) Batata at \$5.49.

They also have salads, hot dogs, and waffles covered with your choice of toppings—usually fruit and or nuts. They are open seven days a week, 11 am to 7 pm.

ANECDOTE BREWING COMPANY STILL COMING

"We are working hard and hope to be open sometime in December," says Phillip Anderson, the owner of the newest craft beer brewery on the beach.

Under construction in Indian Rocks, they plan to brew ales and lagers on site and sell take-out growlers. Watch for it to open at 321 Gulf Blvd, in between CVS and Beach Zone.



T.J.'S ITALIAN REMODELING

After 30 years, it is time for another remodel—and an expansion. TJ's Italian Gourmet Restaurant has started the remodel and is

expanding towards Gulf Blvd. The plan is to enclose the deck to get more air-conditioned dining space. Additional outdoor seating will be built.

T.J. wants you to know that they will stay open during construction. Find them at 1515 Gulf Blvd. Call them at 596-1515

FREE GROUPEUR BayStar Restaurant Group celebrates Grouper Day on your birthday. Come to any of their many Pinellas County restaurants on your birthday and you get a free grouper entrée. You must show a valid driver's license and purchase a second adult entrée of equal or greater value. Tax and gratuity still apply. This includes Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Seaweed and others. See all their restaurants on www.BayStarRestaurantGroup.com.

CLOSED

The Donut Experiment - Indian Shores.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 430-8300.

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.

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. Halloween was 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. 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.

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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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UKULELE FUN IN IRB

By Mike Hester

For many years, I have had a romantic daydream of playing ukulele on my boat with everyone singing along. Recently, I was talking to a friend about this and he told me about a meeting at Indian Rocks Beach Art Center where they teach you how to play the instrument. Living in Belleair Beach, I couldn't believe there was something so close to home.



Searching the Internet, I was shocked to find so many opportunities to learn to play. I even joined the Tampa Ukulele Society in order to find all of the places offering lessons, but the weekly meeting at the Beach Art Center seemed like a perfect place to learn to play.

When I arrived at the center, I realized that this was not an introduction, but a weekly meeting of established ukulele players that gather to play and sing. I immediately wanted to leave, but Brian, one of the players, asked me to stay and observe because it is a very informal group. He even tuned my instrument and showed me a couple of chords.

I had such a good time playing and singing. The chords and words were displayed on a screen and it really was quite easy to follow along. It made me want to attend an introduction class so that I can attend this weekly meeting, not only to better learn, but just to have fun.

Another pleasant surprise was all of the activities offered at the Art Center. On the same night, there was an art class in the room next to ours. I will be definitely be back!

Beach Ukulele IRB meets at the Beach Art Center, located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., next to the City Hall on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. All skill levels are welcome as they learn new songs together and make new friends. There is a suggested \$5 Building Fee donation. Visit www.beachukuleleirb.com.

GIFT & PLANT SALE

New Day! Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 am to 4 pm

More than 45 vendors will be on site at the Florida Botanical Gardens with an assortment of plants, including tropical plants, orchids, herbs, bromeliads, citrus, bamboo, begonias, and fruit trees. In addition, there will be specialty vendors with a variety of items for gift-giving: unique clothing, jewelry, garden art, ceramics, doggie treats, honey, body lotions, candles and more.

The Botanical Bounty Gift Shop will be open, offering exquisite botanically-themed products for your holiday gift giving needs.

The suggested donation is \$5 a person, children 12 and under and FBGF Members are FREE.

Free Parking is available at 12211 Walsingham Road and 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. This event is rain or shine, no rain date or refunds.

For vendors list, visit: www.flbgfoundation.org/GPSale2019

"HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDENS"
 By the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is proud to sponsor the 19th Annual "Holiday Lights in the Garden" Friday, November 29 through Saturday, January 4, 2020 including New Years Eve and New Years Day from 5:30 to 9:30pm. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 for those over 13.

The Gardens will sparkle with 1 million, twinkling, LED lights in a multitude of colors. Vibrant laser lights and lighted figures round our display to wow guests of all ages. The Train Guys, will be back again for the event's opening weekend. Their model trains will surround the 18 foot evergreen tree, bedecked in nature-inspired splendor, in the heart of the Wedding Garden.

Food, drinks, and ice cream will be available from our partner, St Pete Concessions. Light-up items for the kid in all of us will be available for purchase on the Botanical Bounty Gift Cart. In addition, nature-inspired seasonal gifts and décor will be available in our Botanical Bounty Gift Shop, located in the main building. Both will be open nightly.

To add to the sights and sounds, a variety of local volunteer talent will perform nightly. Check their website for a weekly schedule. Santa visits regularly through December 23, but call in advance to confirm. Updates are on the Hotline: 727-582-5800.

Please be advised, this is a high-volume event. To avoid crowds, arrive early or view on weeknights. The Gardens are handicapped accessible and most walkways are ADA Compliant: allowing access for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. However, they DO NOT have wheelchairs or scooters available. Well-behaved dogs that don't mind crowds are welcome, but they encourage you to attend on weeknights.

Parking, including handicapped parking, is available at the primary event entrance, at 12211 Walsingham Road. Additional parking will be available at the Ulmerton entrance, but parking is limited so come early or choose to visit us on our non-peak days— primarily weeknights. Groups are encouraged to contact our office in advance, so we can help make your experience a memorable one.

This event depends upon the support of hundreds of volunteers. Sign up at www.flbgfoundation.org/volunteer.

Proceeds provide financial support to the Florida Botanical Gardens to fund events, purchase plant, improvements, maintenance, renovations and Garden staffing.

After the lights are put away for the year, they hope you will return to the Gardens during the day to see their natural beauty. The Florida Botanical Gardens is located in Largo. For general information visit flbgfoundation.org or follow them: www.facebook.com/FIBotanicalGardens.

"AS PROPERTY VALUES INCREASE, SO DOES THE COST OF SELLING IT, UNTIL NOW..."

A new company aims to bring real estate into the 21st Century by empowering sellers. Real estate doesn't have to be a "one size fits all." Not everyone needs a full service listing agent so why pay for something if you don't need? Selling by owner is hard due to a lack of exposure, so Listing Buddy decided to open a brokerage that is the best of both worlds. For a flat fee, sellers can list their home on the MLS system to get the exposure they need and still remain autonomous.

With the substantially increased cost of Tampa Bay Area real estate, commission costs, which are based on a percentage of the home price, have also risen. At Listing Buddy, you pay a flat fee to list the property - NO listing commission. You only pay a Buyer's agent commission and you decide how much that will be.

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IRB HISTORY MUSEUM'S NEW DOOR

By Linda Newton

My mother Rose, or Gram Rose to her grandchildren, recently donated a front door to our History Museum. Rose is 93 years old and moved to Pinellas county in 1958. She purchased the solid Mahogany entry door with beveled leaded glass from The Door Place on 66th Street in 1996.



Rose worked hard on the door to sand and refinish it to make it a beautiful white finish. It was on her home until now. Indian Rocks resident Ron Sacra was given the door by my mom and recommended it be used at the Indian Rocks Museum, where he volunteers.

Gram Rose treasured the door and is so please Ron found a new home for it. Now, she is proud to see her door at the Indian Rocks Museum.

HENRY PLANT'S 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

If businessman Henry Bradley Plant, best known for his system of railroads, were still alive, he would have celebrated is 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.

PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in downtown Clearwater is continuing their 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.

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. ou can reach Bryant at 224-6775.




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Business Briefs



15 YEARS OF VACATION RENTALS
 Vacasa, formerly 3 Palms Vacation Rentals, has been serving tourists' vacation rental needs in Indian Rocks since 2004 - 15 years! And Angela DeCarolis (on the right) has been the manager since the beginning. Find them at 309 Gulf Blvd, near Los Mexicanos. Visit www.3PalmsPmg.com or call them at 596-0109.

FIREWOOD GOING FAST It is not too early to buy firewood for the season, and Duck's Firewood still has oak available. This special Florida dried oak, cut from area trees over the past year, has been curing for many months. A barrel full of firewood is just \$30. Find Duck's at 11396 Hamlin just south of Walsingham Road. His firewood always sells out, so call Jeff Trimble at 596-6087 first to see if there is any left.

PROPERTY FOR SALE Do you want to buy a large piece of prime commercial real estate in Treasure Island? It is the site of the Waffle House at 11185 Gulf Blvd. - but the Waffle House is not part of the deal.



This large parcel (.75 acres MOL) is zoned CG (commercial) and is appropriate for a 60-foot high building, that could be mixed use or vacation rentals. The site is waterfront with boat slips. The price is \$5.9 million.

If you are interested, call Chuck Olson at 248-5679 or e-mail Dean & DeWitt Properties, JDWhite01@gmail.com.

JUST 26 HOT YOGA & MEDITATION New business owner Justine opened Just 26 at 14100 Walsingham Rd Suite 15, Largo, earlier this year. Check them out at Just26.com.

TAKE 5 OIL CHANGE The site of the closed Checker's Hamburgers at the corner of Indian Rocks Road and Walsingham Road is scheduled to be a Take 5 Oil Change store. The Take 5 chain started in Louisiana in 1984 and currently operates in 18 states in the Southeast. Get more information at Take5OilChange.com. Look for construction soon.



ISLAND ATTITUDES CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY Owner Fred Bousfiha opened his Indian Rocks Beach store a year ago. The store is full of beachy items and things with the IRB name on it - things like shirts, decals, key chains and license plates. Stop by and wish him Happy Anniversary at 1519 Gulf Blvd, in the Keegan's Plaza.

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

Business Briefs

THE PLAZA 100 SOLD
 David Berolzheimer, owner of The Plaza 100, in Belleair Bluffs for over 45 years, died last spring. For months the tenants had no idea who the next owner would be, now they know. Chef Erwin, the main chef and co-owner of E&E Stakeout since 1985, purchased the strip center in the middle of Belleair Bluffs. It is home to over a dozen stores including: AAA Travel, Bella Vino Wine Market, Belleair Coffee, Belleair Opticians, Cassi and Company, Galleria Mistro Gallery, Harold Freeman Jewelers, Headlines Salon, Lala's Boutique, Melendy Real Estate, Shoes by Beverly and The Spot.



Erwin will continue the tradition of Christmas at the Plaza, a major celebration of the holidays, scheduled for December 5th.

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 Fysical Therapy 14280 Walsingham Rd. in Largo. RSVP to 727-596-2101.

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

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

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Holidays are almost here and we all know there is a lot to do in a short amount of time.



Shawn and Shawn, a local moving company that does much more than move, wants to help. Let them help you rearrange heavy furniture to accommodate your guests or your Christmas tree, transport items or holiday decorations to and from your storage unit, or deliver any small or large items you may need, allowing you to focus on enjoying the Holidays with your friends and family. Shawn and Shawn are Florida Registered Movers, #IM1528. Visit largomovingcompany.com or call 727-234-7204 to schedule your appointment.

CLOSED OR MOVED

CARIBBEAN CAR WASH - closed and is in foreclosure.

RAD BIKES - Nate Whittle moved his shop to Redington Shores at 18131 Gulf Blvd, next to Friendly Tavern. His phone number is still 727-754-4940.

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Organizational News...

INDIAN ROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submitted by Terry Hamilton Wollin

The Indian Rocks Beach Historical Society will host our semi-annual pot luck at the Museum on November 16. Penny Cooke, retired lieutenant and current Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Historian, will share the history of one of the county's oldest law enforcement agency including notable firsts and amusing anecdotes. The Museum is located on the corner of 4th Ave and 2nd Street, across from the post office. Bring a dish to share and reconnect with old friends and neighbors. Doors open at 11:30am. DO NOT park at the post office-You will be towed.

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

Submitted by David Kline BCFP Director

BCFP wishes to express our gratitude to Action 2000. At their recent Oktoberfest, through their 50/50 drawing, \$890 was donated to us. It is community support such as this, which allows us to continue to feed those in our area. Thank you so much A2K.

BCFP is entering a very busy holiday season and once again will be distributing turkeys to our clients for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It has been a BCFP tradition over recent years. Community support is an integral part of our ability to serve all who sign up for the holiday turkey distribution. Once again, the IRB Homeowners Assn. and Century 21/Beggins Realty are sponsoring a turkey drive. Details will be forthcoming. Keep an eye on Beggins' signage on Gulf Blvd. for dates and times or contact Century 21 directly at 727-596-1811.

Since our freezer space is generally full, it is difficult to accept direct turkey donations. If you wish to donate a turkey, please do so through Century 21. We are happy to accept non-perishable food and cash donations during our normal hours: 10am to noon on Monday and Wednesday and 5 to 7 pm Thursdays. Donations can also be given at Calvary Episcopal's main office, 1615 First St, IRB.

- Florida Dream Center, a local non-profit organization that provides a number of human services, including feeding the hungry, recently asked if we would like to take over their weekly food pickup at Walmart Neighborhood Market, Ulmerton and Starkey Roads. We eagerly agreed. This provides us with an additional 10-15 boxes of food. Thank you FDC!

- Calvary Episcopal was awarded a \$3000 Episcopal Diocese grant to benefit BCFP. The grant will be used for a large, secure food drop-off container at Calvary for non-perishable food donations at any time, day or night. The grant will also be used to buy food donation bins to be placed in approved public places (businesses, condos, etc.) for collections. The grant is reflective of the faith and confidence that the Diocese has in our pantry mission.

- BCFP will pick up 1-2 pallets of food from a local Publix store at the end of November as part of the Publix Corporation semiannual program, "Food For Sharing". The food is a result of the cash donations made at the checkout counter, during the two week event. Thanks to our friends at Publix and our gracious community!

We are always in need of additional volunteers to assist with:

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

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of our clients by donating food, money or volunteer time, we would welcome your participation. Please contact David Kline (727-418-1673—text or phone) kline22@tampabay.rr.com (e-mail) for more details on this rewarding opportunity.

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Organizational News...

ACTION 2000 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH (A2K)

Submitted by Julie Hoofnagle

Our 18th Annual Oktoberfest on October 12, was a success with another record breaking crowd at Kolb Park. Streets were filled with an amazing array of food vendors. Colorful arts and crafts booths were set up along the park walkways. The children enjoyed Kinderfest and the weather was perfect. We had great live entertainment from accordion player Vince Demor and Erica DiCeglie & Band. The Silent Auction was back in the beautiful IRB City Hall Auditorium and was a sell out! IRB Mayor Cookie Kennedy at the October 8th City Commission Meeting, proclaimed October 12th, 2019 be "IRB Action 2000 Day."

Oktoberfest takes about nine months to plan and over 120+ enthusiastic volunteers to make it happen. Thank you to all our volunteers, The City of Indian Rocks Beach and our many community sponsors that help support Oktoberfest, allowing our organization to continue our city beautification efforts.

We had some big winners at Oktoberfest 2019! Steve "Newport" Walluk from the IRB Softball Team was the winner of our 50/50 Raffle, bringing home \$4,450 in cash. The Beach Food Panty will receive 10% of the total proceeds of the 50/50 Raffle. The winner of the Stein Carrying Contest was Holly Estep from Largo, she said she loves IRB and that she is looking to move here. Jason "Farmer" Clemens, owner of the Dog & Parrot Pub, the winner of the Keg Toss Contest in 2014 returned to reclaim his crown in 2019 beating out 20 other competitors. Visit oktoberfestonthebeach.com to see great photos of the event taken by Phil Hanna and to support our community sponsors. Follow us on Facebook at @OktoberfestIRB. We have over 7.7K followers.

Join Action 2000 IRB to celebrate our success of Oktoberfest 2019 at our November 11th Social and Meeting starting at 5:30pm at the Beach Art Center. We are excited to help host the IRB Christmas Tree Lighting at 7pm on December 6th at the 12th Avenue Park. We hope you will join us for these fun fall events.

For more information on Action 2000 IRB check out irbaction2000.com and Action2000IRB on Facebook.

FRIENDS OF THE DOG PARK

Submitted by Wendell Schott

Fall is in the air and anxious snowbirds and "snow" dogs are flocking back. The dog park has been maintained weekly while our northern friends were away. It continues to be closed Thursdays.

On a personal note, I have quite a dog story to tell. Back in September, my 5 year old mixed chihuahua Tabby escaped without her collar from a fenced backyard of a good friend, in central Pinellas Park. Having been there many times, Tabby decided to take off and head for home. She dug under the fence and roamed several streets, crossing some wide intersections.

She was quickly ushered into a store at the corner of the very busy intersection of 66th Street and Park Boulevard! Luckily the store manager contacted Pinellas County Animal Services on Ulmerton Road. They arrived promptly and were able to identify Tabby by her microchip implanted when I adopted her as an adorable puppy from the Humane Society of Tampa Bay in May 2014.

Within an hour, I was contacted by Animal Services and by 24 Pet Watch. After my furry friend took a noisy ride with an assortment of other canines, I was able to pick her up - about four hours later. It was a happy reunion, to say the least.

The moral of the story: Have your dog microchipped, have it registered - and notify the pertinent agencies if you change your phone number! Without doing this, your chance of getting your pet back is far less. Unclaimed dogs get put up for adoption in 4-7 days. I feel so doggone blessed by this lucky outcome. My pooch Tabby is a happy girl back at home. - Happy Holiday tails to you!

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HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

Saturday, Dec. 14th, 12PM - 6PM

Tour a variety of homes in IRB decked out in their holiday finest

The Tour starts at the Beach Art Center where you can browse gifts made by local artists and enjoy light refreshments. Tour attendees must check into the reception to receive their wristband and keepsake booklet for entry into homes.

12PM: BEACH ART CENTER
1515 BAY PALM BLVD. IRB
Pre-Tour Reception & Shopping

1PM: TOUR BEGINS
6PM: HOMES CLOSE

Proceeds Benefit Beach Art Center & Community Projects
Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 day of event - Details at IRBHOME.COM

Organizational News...

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

The eagerly awaited 100th season of profession football is in full swing and those of us who live and breathe football could not be happier! The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is also "ready for some football," as it's 17th edition of our "Big Game Raffle," is rolling along.

This year's raffle will award five prizes including the Grand Prize of two tickets to Pro-football's biggest game, this year being held on February 2, 2020 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. 4 nights lodging at a home in Miami Gardens and \$1000 cash are also a part of the grand prize. Second through fifth prizes are: \$1000, \$500, \$300 and \$200.

Raffle tickets are available for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. They are now on sale from any IRB Rotarian, or by calling committee member, David Kline at 727-418-1673.

IRB Rotary will be holding the Grand Prize drawing party on Sunday, December 8, from 2:30 - 5:30 pm. Our friends at Slyce Pizza will be hosting the event. The community is invited.

All the net proceeds from this and our other two fund-raisers, "Rotary Runs the Beach" and our "Pancake Breakfast" support the following causes. By participating in these events, you directly support these outstanding organizations.

- Polio Plus: Rotary's initiative to eradicate polio from the globe: www.my.rotary.org/en/take-action/end-polio
- Holiday Meals: In partnership with Publix, the Pinellas County Sheriff's office and the Beach Community Food Pantry, provides meals to the needy—Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter
- Beach Community Food Pantry: a local, faith-based initiative to support our area's food-challenged: www.bcfoodpantry.org
- Pinellas Education Foundation: www.pinellaseducation.org
- Gift of Life International: www.giftoflifeinternational.org
- Habitat for Humanity
- Ridgecrest Elementary: trips for financially challenged students
- Rotary's ShelterBox initiative: www.shelterbox.org
- Rotary's Camp Florida: www.rotaryscampflorida.org
- Ready for Life: www.readyforlifepinellas.org
- Dictionary Project: www.dictionaryproject.org
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Navy Seal Foundation: www.navysealfoundation.org
- IRB Family Sailing Association:

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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

For the first time, they are offering a Winter Membership program beginning November 1. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$150, with no food minimum. Winter members can use day dockage, the pool, tiki bar, dining room and other amenities, including participating in weekly parties and host private parties. Best of all, you can meet new people. It is a great way to see for yourself how much fun it is, with no obligations. You can end your membership whenever you wish, or convert to a permanent member when the program ends March 31. Call Tom at 447-6000, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org.



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Organizational News...

THE BEACH ART CENTER (BAC)

Submitted by Barbara Parker

Holiday Show & Member Appreciation Reception - Friday, November 22nd 6pm - In addition to refreshments and a new gallery show, we will provide updates of what's happening at the BAC. Our Board of Directors extends their appreciation for your support throughout 2019 - it's been an amazing year! The Holiday Show runs through Dec 19

Gift Shop - If you want to Shop Local and support local artists, check out our Gift Shop during our regular operating hours, Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm. From jewelry to textiles, paintings to pottery, and everything in between - our shop is stocked with items created by local artisans - guaranteed to make a one-of-a-kind gift for someone special. We also offer gift certificates for classes.

IRB 4th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes - Saturday, December 14th - The BAC is proud to partner with Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association and Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty to host the Holiday Tour of Homes. The Beach Art Center serves as the starting point. Enjoy special activities, Holiday Art Exhibition and the Gift Shop. Pick up your tour booklet, which is also the event pass. Purchase tickets at www.IRBHOME.COM.

"Save our Cottages" Plein Aire Cottage Artists Art Exhibition January 02 - 24, 2020 - The BAC is honored to host the Plein Aire Cottage Artists in an exclusive Gallery Exhibition. The unique artwork of Violetta Chandler, Helen Tilston and Mary Rose Holmes will be on display and available for purchase.

"Save Our Cottages, Artists with a Cause" Documentary & Reception - Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 7 pm at Indian Rocks Beach City Hall. Advance tickets are required and available at www.beachartcenter.org. Space is limited. The documentary was show at the Gasparilla Film Festival and won the "People's Choice" for best Florida documentary. It will also be shown at the Sundance Film Festival.

A Grand Reception & Art Exhibit afterwards in the Beach Art Center is free & open to the public. Plein Aire Cottage Artists will be participating in a meet and greet and Bay Star Restaurant Group is sponsoring delicious hors d'oeuvres. Their restaurants include Salt Rock Grill, Rumba, Seaweed, Salt Cracker Fish Camp, and Marina Cantina. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Art Classes and More - Art-on-the-Rocks (also known as "Make and Take") are always fun, no matter your skill level. Full instruction and all materials are provided. Visit beachartcenter.org for up date information on all of our events. Currently scheduled:

- Nov. 7 IRB Sea Oats Painting
- Nov. 13 Pet Portrait for the Holidays
- Nov. 14 Cameo Jewelry Gift Sets
- Nov. 21 Pelican Watercolor Painting

Art Workshops with guest instructors are weekend events. Space is limited, so reserve early:

- Nov. 2 "Dye & Create Silk Scarves" - Sylvia Shanahan;
- Nov. 16 & 17 "Fill Your Paintings with Color & Light" - Margaret Bayalis
- Jan. 18 & 19 "Watercolor from the Heart" - Carol Carter
- Jan. 25 "Beginner's Palette Knife" - Kathy Thomas
- Feb. 21- 23 "Painting Alla Prima Style" Chris Brandley

Visit our website to find more information on our wonderful weekly classes covering Pottery/Ceramics, Mixed Water Media, Acrylic Painting, Watercolor, Oil Painting, Pastels, Drawing and the many new sessions such as "Absolute Beginners Painting" classes, and weekly Plein Aire Adventures scheduled for picturesque locations around Pinellas County. www.beachartcenter.org.



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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.

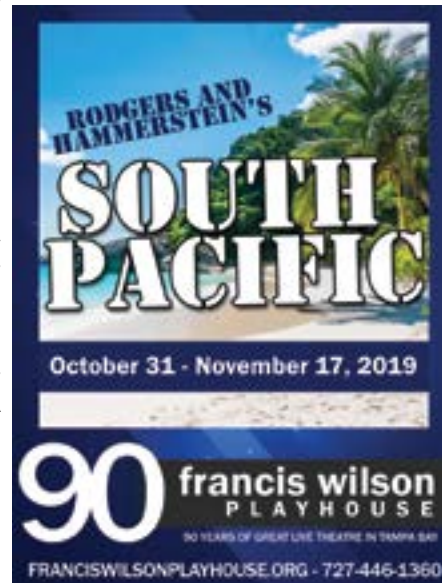
What has FWP been doing lately? Wowing audiences with the best talent of the Bay! Musicals, dramas, comedies, and concerts, all from the rich heritage of Broadway: Into the Woods, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Nice Work if You Can Get It, The Fantasticks, Carousel, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor 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 though 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.

Overture . . . Curtain . . . Lights !!!!! This Broadway star continues to shine!



Organizational News...

CLEARWATER/ST. PETE SKI & SPORTS CLUB

This all seasons travel and social club is currently looking for single roommates (male or female) and also couples for several 2020 Ski Trips and also for the African Safari. They offer a Variety of Group Trips: Snow Skiing, Safaris, New Zealand, Bike and Barge and other International destinations

Social club with events planned all year:

- Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, Diving, Snorkeling
- MLB Rays Games, NHL Lightening Games
- Picnics and Camping weekend
- Christmas Party and Monthly Social Meetings (dinner at Mike's Pizza Clearwater)

They are a volunteer not for profit club to promote snow skiing and other physical sports activities. Find them on Facebook or at www.Snowshark.org, email: president@Snowshark.org.

FRIENDS OF THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

Submitted By Michelle Gardner

Turn over a new leaf as an Indian Rocks Beach Library Volunteer! Volunteers are wanted for morning shifts of 10am-1:30pm and afternoon shifts of 1:30pm-5pm from Monday to Friday and from 10am-1pm on Saturdays to help with customer service and various library-related tasks. Training will be provided.

You can pick up an application at the IRB Library, located at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd., or call 727-596-1822 for more information. Please visit the IRB Library web page at http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com/irb_library.php

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.

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@brighthouse.com. WelcomeNewComerClub.com.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1501 Trotter Rd., Largo • www.stpatrickcatholic.org • 727-581-4865

A Very Merry FUN FAIR
December 5-8

Games for All Ages
Silent Auction • Raffles AND MORE!

- Delicious Food • Beer Garden
- Dessert Emporium • Entertainment
- Rides • Marketplace

TICKET OPTIONS

- 4 day night admission only \$15.00
- 1 day night admission only \$12.00
- Good for Thurs, Fri, Sat or Sun
- Food & game tickets \$8.00

FUN FAIR HOURS

- Thursday: 6pm - 10pm
- Friday: 6pm - 11pm
- Saturday: 11am - 11pm
- Sunday: 11am - 6pm
- (Kids open at 12 pm)

MARKETPLACE HOURS

- Saturday: 11am to 5pm
- Sunday: 11am to 5pm

TAMPA BAY'S PREMIER SHOWBAND
Performing at 7pm
Saturday • December 7
The Black Honkeys

Calvary Episcopal Church & Calvary Fine Arts Events present

Enchantment
A Concert of flute/piccorno & piano
featuring international artists
Angela Massey & Hsin-I Huang

Saturday, November 2, 2019 7 pm
Church Sanctuary - 1615 1st St, Indian Rocks Beach

A Reception Immediately Following Performance

Concert Passes for Parking & Admission Available at
Calvary Episcopal Church
Information 727-596-2574 - 727-580-8257
Free Will Offering

INDIAN ROCKS 1940 CENSUS DATA...NAMES YOU MAY KNOW

By Nancy Obarski

The 2020 Census is nearly upon us! For the first time, this "accounting" of our population, required by the Constitution every decade, will allow respondents to complete the census questionnaire online from any device—computer, laptop, tablet, phone, etc. And, when your "participation letter" arrives in mid-March, you need not have any concerns whatsoever about your personal information being made public. Your name, address, etc. are protected by the "72-Year Rule."

This 1978 federal law, passed two decades before Google was a thing, protects individual-record information for 72 years after each census. Since life expectancy is now 84 for females and 80 for males, anonymity during one's last decade isn't a given.

Individual-level Census records were released for the first time in 2012 for the 1940 Census. (1940 + 72 years = 2012) In 1940, "enumerators" physically went door-to-door and recorded answers to specific Census questions, which they scrawled on a "Handwritten Population Schedule."

Since today's City of IRB wasn't incorporated until 16 years later, our area was part of Clearwater Enumeration District 52 or ED 52. The City of Clearwater data includes this footnote: "Show separately each island"—which is where we fit into the picture.

Present-day Indian Rocks fell under ED 52-80 and was described as a "large unnamed island outside Belleair town..." Our district also included the Narrows (present-day Indian Shores) as well as "unincorporated Anona." Total population: 590. The barrier island from the northern

boundary of IRB to present-day Sand Key/Clearwater Pass ("Little Pass" on the Census map) is ED 52-79 with a population of 591.

If you visit the National Archives 1940 Census website for our area, you'll see names you may recognize...like real estate broker Norman A. Bie (44). His wife, Rita, responded to some supplementary census questions specifically for "all women who are or have been married." She verified that she married at 21 and did not have a Social Security number. Listed also were their children: Rita M., Ellen A., Georgine M., Otto, Norman and E. William, better known as long-time IRB resident Ernest "Billy" Bie, who was 5 at the time of the 1940 Census. The Bie family still owns the historic boathouse in the Narrows that Billy's father moved the family into from Tampa in 1938, making them the 11th permanent IRB family. Billy's wife, Shera, is one of the longest serving Board Members of the IRB Historical Museum.

On the "Sand roads through groves off Indian Rocks Rd.," you'll find bridgetender K.M. Ransom (64) and Willys Ransom, whose employment is listed as "fish market." Also "enumerated" is building contractor Leroy Wilcox and his wife, Mary, a citrus packer, in addition to a 31-year old meat-cutter and retail grocer named J.S. Walsingham.

While the National Archives Census website is not the easiest to navigate, it does provide insight into who lived in IRB in 1940, how they made their living and who we were as a community nearly 8 decades ago. National Archives 1940 Census website: <https://1940census.archives.gov>, (Search Enumeration Districts ED 52-79 & ED 52-80).



SHIFTING SAND

Our beaches are renourished every 4-5 years. Because it is paid for by a mix of Federal, State and County funds, only beaches that are open to the public and have adequate access and parking are renourished. Belleair Shore does not qualify.

Last summer, when the beaches were replenished, they skipped Belleair Shore. At the time, the difference in the city's shorelines was dramatic, but with daily tides and currents, it did not take long for the line between Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair Shore to become even again. Here are two photos taken one year apart September 2018 and September 2019.

The next beach renourishment project for our area is scheduled in 2023-24.

Photo by Phil Hanna, Indian Rocks Beach resident and City Commissioner.

RESIDENTS AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK IN ROMANIA

Gerri 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 Moinesti, (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 Gerri 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 Moinesti Mayor Valentin Vieru and the Moinesti 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."

FREE Beer & Food Run Walk Fun **STREET PARTY**

Sign up for early discount

Santa & Suds

Sunday December 8, 2019 - 4PM
Come enjoy a 5K run/walk across the beautiful Clearwater bridge and see the bay at sunset.

FREE T-SHIRTS
for PRE Registered runners

Santa & Suds 5k Run/Walk & Fun Street Party
400 block of Cleveland St, Clearwater
Registration: 2pm-3:45pm Race Starts 4PM
Register at santa5k.racehawk.com

AMERICAN STAGE AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR MODERN PLAYWRIGHT

"...SHEER MAGIC... BURSTS OF SMART, INFECTIOUS HUMOR."
— San Francisco Chronicle

SILENT SKY
By Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Kristin Clippard
NOV 20 – DEC 22, 2019

HOLIDAY EVENTS NEAR THE INDIAN ROCKS BEACH 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.GFWCPC.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 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 5 - 5 to 8pm CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA

100 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs

This popular annual event includes music, food and sidewalk shopping. The merchants are ready to welcome you with special holiday deals.

December 6 - 7pm CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

12th Avenue Park on Gulf Blvd.

Enjoy Santa, cookies, caroling and cocoa as the tree lights are turned on.

December 7 – 5pm MIRACLE ON CLEVELAND STREET

400 - 600 Cleveland Street

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.

December 8 - 1pm CHRISTMAS STREET PARADE

Beginning at East Gulf Boulevard, it weaves throughout each "finger" ending at Kolb Park, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard. Contact the City if you want to participate.

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 11 - 6pm TOY DRIVE

1511 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach

Bring a new, unwrapped toy or bicycle for a child who may not otherwise find a gift under the tree this year. Co-sponsored by the IRB Homeowners Assoc. and Century 21 Beggins

December 14 - 8 to 11am 28TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

St. Jerome Catholic Church, in Parish Center Children of all ages can enjoy breakfast, face painting, kiddie-crafts, and a visit with Santa. Open to the entire community. Advanced tickets \$7, or \$8 at the door. Call 596-9491 for additional information.
www.stjeromeearlychildhoodcenter.org

December 14 - 1 to 7pm HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association partnering with the Beach Art Center and Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty host the tour that highlights distinctive homes, each showcasing unique interior design and decked out in festive décor. \$20. www.IRBhome.com

December 14 ISLAND ESTATES HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

The largest and oldest Lighted Boat Parade in the Tampa Bay area, it starts at dark north of the Memorial Causeway and ends near the Clearwater Yacht Club.

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 21 – 7pm INDIAN ROCKS HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

The parade starts at the Holiday Inn Harborside and heads north. Watch the beginning behind Jimmy Guana's.

December 22 - 6:30pm REDINGTON/INDIAN SHORES LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

Viewing locations include Seabreeze Restaurant, Indian Shores City Hall, or Salt Rock Grill.

December 23 - January 7 PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED

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

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.

THANKSGIVING SAFETY

Thanksgiving is the number one day for cooking fires. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of residential home fires - more cooking fires happen on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year. It's important to monitor meal preparations. Most cooking fires start when food is left on the stove and people don't stay in the kitchen. Unattended cooking is a recipe for disaster.

The following safe cooking tips can help make your holiday dinner safe and enjoyable:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave, even for a moment, turn off the stove.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, towels or curtains - away from your stove-top.
 - Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
 - Wear short, close fitting or rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto burners and catch fire.
 - Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- If you have a cooking fire:
- When in doubt, just get out and call 9-1-1. Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
 - If you do try to fight the fire, make sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
 - Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is cool.
 - For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.

DAVID ARDMAN

IRB's New PSF&RD Commissioner

David Ardman with more than 30 years of experience with project coordination, public information and presentation, and client relationship management was appointed to serve the remainder of Laura Martin's term as IRB's Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Commissioner. Martin resigned when she moved out of town.

David began his public career as a Public Information Officer for the NYS Thruway Authority. After serving as Deputy Director of Public Information, David became Manager for Traveler Information Services and worked on the roll-out of the nation's first electronic toll collection system, known as E-ZPass.

After 11 years with the Thruway Authority, David worked in the NYS Legislature, serving as Press Secretary to the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Currently, David is employed by EXP US Services, as a Project Manager for their Southeast Construction Group in Tampa. David's projects include the conversion of existing overhead utility lines to underground along coastal regions in Florida.

David is also a contract consultant for Waste Connections, the third largest hauling company in the United States, for their operations in New York State.

Living full-time in Florida since 2015, David has certifications from FDOT (QC Manager and Advanced MOT), FEMA, FDEP (Stormwater Management Inspector) and the Florida Engineering Society. He also serves on the Economic Development Committee for the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce and on the Arts & Design Committee for the Skyway Marina District. While in New York, David also served on the board of the Albany Police Athletic League (PAL).

David and his life partner, Lisa Stratton, live on La Hacienda Drive in Indian Rocks Beach.



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Featuring the History and Recipes from 40 of our local Best Beach Restaurants

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Frenchy's, Dockside Dave's,
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Crabby Bills, Island Way Grill, Don Cesar, and more

**Order with the form below or online at
www.BestBeachRestaurants.com**

Mail to: Griffin Productions - PO Box 1314 - Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Name: _____ # Books: _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

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City: _____ Shipping & Handling per order \$4.00

State/Zip: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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_____ Billing Zip Code _____

\$20.00 Each* Plus tax & shipping/handling \$4 per order
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Erika Francis, MD, Medical Director

