

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine



## HENRY BRADLEY PLANT Ships, Trains and Hotels

**H**enry 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:



#### Holiday Lights in the Gardens

More than 1 million lights will sparkle in The Florida Botanical Gardens this holiday season. - **page 38**

#### Don't Miss Any Holiday Events

The Holidays are here and there are lots of fun things planned. We have a list of upcoming festivities that you don't want to miss.

- **pages 32 & 33**



#### Francis Wilson Playhouse

Celebrating their 90th year with an epic season.

- **pages 16**

#### Meet Roger Dow

A St. Petersburg resident, he works in Washington, D.C as the CEO of U.S. Travel, a trade organization that encourages foreign visitors to visit the U.S. and works to increase travel to all 50 states.

- **page 39**





This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to occupied residence and business in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Harbor Bluffs, and part of Largo. We are not officially associated with any city government.

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**BELLEAIR AREA**

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

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

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

Thank you for reading, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300 [bob@griffindirectories.com](mailto:bob@griffindirectories.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN  
IN FEBRUARY**

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**HOLIDAY EVENTS ON PAGES 32-33**

<b>DECEMBER</b>			
St. Patrick's Church Fun Fair Largo	5-8	New Year's Eve	31
Death by Chocolate Central Park	6	Fire Works Sand Key Park	31
Antique Alley Holiday Stroll	6	<b>JANUARY</b>	
St Pete Boat Show	6-8	New Year's Day	1
Sail-For-The-Hungry Yacht Club	7	Outback Bowl Tampa	1
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7	Dream Weavers Heritage Village	4
Train Weekend Central Park	7-8	Dunedin Art Show	4-5
Peace Memorial Church Concert	8	Epiphany	6
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	12	Public School Reopen	7
Gingerbread House Day	12	Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	9
RSVP Deadline: Belleair Gift Delivery	12	Largo Turtle Trot Run 5k	11
Tiny Bubbles & Big Reds	13	Peace Memorial Church Concert	13
Tour Of Homes Indian Rocks	14	Florida's Arbor Day	17
Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade	14	Martinis & Matisse	18
Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	15	East-West Shrine Game St Pete	18
Belleair Gift Deliveries	18-20	Martin Luther King Day	20
Winter Begins	21	Public Schools Closed	20
Holiday Camps Begin	23	Chinese New Year	25
Public School Close	23	Tampa Bay Home Show	25-26
Christmas Day	25	Gasparilla Invasion	25
Boxing Day	26	Belleair Sunset 5k And Fun Run	25
		Backwater's Chili Cook Off	26



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# Did You Know



**PUBLISHER PARTICIPATES IN GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN** Once again, our Publisher Bob Griffin spoke at two nearby schools during November's Great American Teach In. He spoke at Seminole High School to 10th graders and at Anona Elementary to all the 5th graders. "Speaking to 5th graders and 10th graders requires a totally different presentation," says Griffin. "Basically, I discussed where ideas for the stories in our News Magazine come from and described our creative process. I emphasized the importance of leaning how to write well and with the older kids, not letting text habits creep into their writing."

**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.

**SAVE THE DATES** The 2020 Sunday concert schedule acts will be announced soon. The dates are Sundays: February 9, March 1 and March 15.

**JACKETS NEEDED** As we approach the holidays, please think about donating new or gently used jackets to Clothes To Kids. The cool weather is here and Clothes To Kids has a huge need for elementary school children's jackets in all sizes! Many of these children, Pre-K4 and up, come to school shivering because they don't have a jacket. We also have a big need for elementary school shoes sizes 12 to 6.

**BELLEAIR SUNSET 5K & FUN RUN**  
Start off the 2020 season with the Town of Belleair's annual Belleair Sunset 5K & Fun Run Saturday, January 25, 5pm. Belleair residents may register in-person at the Dimmitt Community Center for a resident discount rate. Registration is now open in-person or at belleairrec.com.



residents may register in-person at the Dimmitt Community Center for a resident discount rate. Registration is now open in-person or at belleairrec.com.

# and More...

## HISTORICAL PLAQUE INSTALLED

The Clearwater Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution recently installed a commemorative plaque at the Belleview Inn



which incorporates a portion of the original Hotel Belleview that opened in January, 1897. The installation corresponded with Henry Plant's 200th birthday. He built the hotel, once known as the "White Queen of the Gulf."

**SAIL FOR THE HUNGRY** Ted Irwin Memorial Youth Sail-a-thon is a non-competitive event open to youth sailors for the purpose of "fun" and "paying it forward/giving back to the community." All participating Sailors will collect donations of money and food for the Beach Community Food Pantry. The four-hour Marathon Sail will be held Saturday, December 7 at the Clearwater Yacht Club. E-mail familysailingfun@gmail.com for more information.

**CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA** On Thursday, December 5th, from 6 to 8 pm, join them for a musical holiday celebration featuring the Fresh Brass of Belleair - A Brass Quintet consisting of local musicians who have performed and taught in Pinellas County over many years. Enjoy Strolling Carolers from Indian Rocks Christian School and refreshments while shopping at the stores offering holiday specials. The Plaza is located at 100 Indian Rocks Road N., Belleair Bluffs.

**BIKES ON THE BEACH** Recently, the Town Commission of Belleair Shore changed a longstanding ordinance banning bicycles and most watercraft on or near the beach behind the houses. People may now ride bikes along the beach as long as they stay below the high tide line. It is also okay to use their kayaks and paddle boards along the beach. It is still prohibited, however, to use motorized or electric bicycles.

**K-CUPS** Last year Keurig sold more than nine billion single-serve plastic coffee pods — or K-Cups. Placed end to end, they could circle the earth roughly 10 times. Zero could be easily recycled, so they generated substantial plastic waste.



While new K-Cups are advertised as recyclable, they are so small and light, they may not be captured at the recovery facilities. To recycle, you have to peel off the aluminum foil top and toss it along with the grounds and paper filter, then recycle the plastic pod shell - it's not the easiest thing to do. Even if they are recycled, remember the production of each one requires energy, materials, chemicals, water, and transportation

This doesn't mean you have to give up your Keurig - you can still use it to make a decent cup of coffee with reusable pods. And they can be filled with any coffee you want. It is cheaper and eco-friendly!

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

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## HENRY PLANT - THE MAN, continued

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regardless, he knew of Plant's reputation for reliable service and contracted Plant's company as an agent for the Confederacy. Plant was to collect tariffs and transfer funds, as well as to carry Army payroll and confidential dispatches

- and all Plant's employees would be exempt from military service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

*To be continued in the next issue.*

Photos courtesy of VisitStPeteClearwater.com;

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



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**RETIREMENT:  
A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



1. As everyone is in search of yield given the low interest rate environment, we fear that many folks will be subjected to BIG sales pitches about purchasing annuities. There are quality insurers still offering a 3% return for a 5-year annuity, but most of these require the investor to keep the money with the insurance company for the entire five years, otherwise there are surrender penalties which might be as high as 5% in the first year. A CD for a similar time period will provide a lower interest rate, but the surrender charge is generally less – usually six months of interest. Be careful as there are several sales people, especially those spending BIG bucks on TV, who are putting people into annuities with VERY long, VERY high surrender charges and with a VERY complicated set of rules about a promise to never lose money in a down market. If you hear of anyone subjected to these sales pitches, please ask them to come chat with us before moving forward. If someone wants you to buy an annuity please get a second opinion from us first.
2. According to the study from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute (part of the insurance industry), 56% of those between the ages of 55 and 64 say they want to retire at 65. Coincidentally, this is the year when Medicare eligibility occurs. However, it is not Full Retirement Age (FRA) for Social Security's maximum benefits, so those who take Social Security at 65 are foregoing income for the rest of their lives. Twenty-seven percent say they will work part-time after retiring and the remainder plan to continue to work on a full-time basis. We make this observation: 65 seems to be when people want to retire, but it remains to be seen whether they will be able to retire. Those who have not saved adequately will find a decreased lifestyle hard to swallow. Reality can be harsh.

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

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

*People in Our Community*



**TWO DEDICATED ANONA TEACHERS**

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

People probably think teaching elementary school children is hard work because it is, but Becky Kirn and Kathryn Adikes, both teachers at Anona Elementary make it look easy. Both live in Belleair - Kirn in The Bluffs and Adikes in Harbor Oaks.

Ms. Adikes teaches 4th grade and has been with the Pinellas County School System (PCSB) for twelve years, the last eight at Anona. She has 24 children in her class and over the course of a day, she teaches them language arts, social studies, math, science and more. All of that can be challenging.

"I love my job," Kathryn says. "I love watching the kids learn things. When they get it, you can see a light bulb go off in their little heads. The parents of the Anona children are very supportive," Kathryn adds. "They are very engaged in what we are doing and want to be a part of their kids' learning process."

"Kathryn Adikes is a remarkable educator!" says Anne Welch, Anona's Principal. "Not only does she raise the bar for her students – she raises the bar for her peer colleagues and the education profession. Her passion, drive and enthusiasm is infectious!"

Ms. Kirn teaches Physical Education—from Pre-K to 5th grade. She has been with the PCSB for 20 years and at Anona for six. Her days are nonstop. When one class leaves, another class is waiting. She coaches 40-60 kids at a time and works with all 470 enrolled Anona students every day.

"What you do with a first-grader is very different from what you do with a fifth-grader," Becky explains. "We expose them to different sports. For most, PE is the only exercise they get all day. Many go home, sit on the couch and watch TV or play video games. Many of their neighborhoods are not conducive to after school play," she explains. "I love what I do here," she continues. "I love the outdoors, sports and children. This job combines all three.

"I do a lot more than just coach. We teach life-skills like how to socialize and get along with others. Yes, my job can be demanding, but it is also very enjoyable," Becky says.

"Anona also has a Running Club," Becky adds. "Our track is the forest on the north side of the campus. The kids go through Fitness Testing - they are weighed, do sit-ups and push-ups, just like at a nearby gym."

"Becky Kirn is the type of educator who takes time to get to know each and every child on campus," says Principal Welch. "She willingly goes the extra mile every day to do whatever it takes to make a positive difference in the lives of her students."

Anona's recent student gains in learning have catapulted the school into the top 2% of Florida's schools. This in large part is due to the quality of the faculty and staff. They continue to emphasize their own professional development and seek out methods to consistently tackle the needs of each and every student.

So as they like to say... "We Can't Hide Our Anona Pride".

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## LONG-RANGE FORECAST: SUNNY AND BRIGHT WITH A CONSTANT CHANCE FOR FLURRIES

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

As a native Floridian, I'm like an excited kid when it comes to the thought of snow. It's magical stuff, bringing with it wishful thoughts of curling up by a fireplace with a cup of cocoa and a good book. This wishful thinking only intensifies when I see forecasts for flurries for our neighbors up north. The thought of snow always heralds the approaching holiday season for me even when we're drenched in sunshine and sand.

Here in Pinellas County, we have flurries around the holiday season too, although a different brand. There's the flurry of shopping, wrapping, baking, cooking and getting together with family and friends. There is also the flurry of giving.

You might buy holiday wrapping paper to help raise funds for the local high school. You may round-up your total at the cash register for a good cause. Or, you might donate your time to help others during the season of giving.

Our Pinellas County employees give too. During this time of year, along with most every workplace in the county, employees choose to give of themselves to provide holiday cheer to those in need.

One of the many ways Pinellas County employees choose to give is the annual Christmas Bicycle Drive. Throughout the year, employees donate money to purchase bicycles for children of families who are clients of the county's Human Services department. The bicycles are put on display in the lobby of the county courthouse in Clearwater and then loaded up and delivered to these families, so a shiny new bike is under the tree. Last year, employees raised enough money to provide 100 bicycles to families and hundreds more through the drive over the last 32 years.

In addition to the bicycle drive, employees also contribute to individual department campaigns to bring cheer to families in Pinellas County. Some departments "adopt" a family and provide gifts for children and parents, alike. Many employees really enjoy this type of giving because they get to go shopping with a list and usually come back with more than was asked for, excited that they have made a child's and, most-certainly, a parent's holiday wishes come true.

Our county employees give throughout the year too. Last year they contributed 420 volunteer hours through paid administrative leave to mentor local students.

Some of you—1,524 citizens, to be exact—gave more than 204,000 hours of service last year to the county by volunteering. These volunteers gave their time across all areas of Pinellas County, including docents at Heritage Village, our Master Gardeners who take care of the Florida Botanical Gardens, caretakers at our Animal Services shelter and many more. Their contributions were valued at more than \$5.1 million in 2018.

This flurry of giving is heart-warming. It's a testament to the kindness and generosity of our employees and our volunteers.

Whatever you do this year to brighten the holidays for others, why not try to keep the flurry of giving going? If you don't already, why not pledge to give your time or talents to others throughout the year? I think you'll find giving is good for the soul. Your long-range forecast: sunny and bright, knowing that you gave something to others.

May your holidays be wonderful and bright with, perhaps, a flurry or two.

## JAMES CONLIN



James Conlin, a Senior Vice President of Raymond James, recently passed away after a long illness. He managed the Belleair Bluff's office on West Bay Drive.

Conlin was known for much more than his work. He was very involved in many area organizations, especially the arts community.

"He goes way back with us," says Sue Osbourne, with the Central Park Performing Arts Foundation. "Jim was one of our founding board members and was committed to the arts without question. He was the voice of reason on our board and a wonderful mentor and friend to me."

In 2017, Conlin was the recipient of the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce "Inspire" award, presented to him on behalf of his work with the arts in Pinellas County. "The award is for people who inspire others," says Tom Morrisette, president of the Central Pinellas Chamber.

He was also a board member of Ruth Eckerd Hall, the Florida Orchestra, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of the Suncoast, The Lions Eye Bank, Habitat for Humanity and Big Brothers / Big Sisters.

But, the people who will miss him the most are those he worked with at Raymond James for over 20 years. "I still cannot believe he is gone," says Lucia Mulcahy. "The entire office is devastated and we will all miss him. He brought a smile to everyone's face when he was around. He had a great sense of humor and was very witty."

Conlin lived in St Petersburg, with his wife Nora. He died October 24 at the age of 64. Donations in his honor can be made to Central Park Performing Arts Foundation, PO Box 1030, Largo, 33779

## RIDE WITH THE STARS

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will host the 26th Annual Ride & Run With The Stars event benefiting the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project.

The family-friendly event, which takes place at Fort De Soto Park, features biking, running, and walking races, children's activities, law enforcement demonstrations, a silent auction, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause and more community-building festivities.

Last year, Ride & Run With The Stars raised enough money to provide food, clothing, books, and toys to more than 370 underprivileged families and 1,002 deserving children whom Sheriff's Office members identified as homeless, economically stressed, victimized, or abused through their daily interaction in the community.

They request your assistance in making this year's Ride & Run With The Stars an even greater success through financial sponsorship or in-kind donation. No matter the size, every contribution is valuable and a treasured holiday gift to the less fortunate families in our community and thank you in advance for considering Ride & Run With The Stars and the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project to benefit from holiday giving.

For additional information, please call Sergeant Elizabeth Brady at 582-5729 visit [www.rideandrunwiththestars.com](http://www.rideandrunwiththestars.com).

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# Business Briefs



**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. Call 727-234-7204 or visit [www.largomovingcompany.com](http://www.largomovingcompany.com) to schedule your appointment.

**HELP AROUND THE HOUSE** Do you need a helping hand around the house? Someone who will climb that ladder to change smoke alarm batteries, light bulbs or air conditioning filters? Do you need a shelf or picture hung or a minor electrical or plumbing repair? Then Chris Noyes is your man. His company, Helping Hand Household Maintenance, specializes in small household jobs that get harder to do as we get older. They will clean windows or mirrors, paint, power washing, just about anything you need. All you need to do is just ask. You don't need to climb that ladder; they are here to help. Senior Assistance is Their Specialty!

Please call Chris with your "honey-do" list, 727-687-9892 or email [HHhouseholdmaintenance@aol.com](mailto:HHhouseholdmaintenance@aol.com).



**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 celebration of the holidays, scheduled for December 5th.

# Business Briefs



**YOUR CBD STORE OPENS** In an uncertain and unregulated CBD market full of brazen claims, fake CBD oil and regulatory scrutiny, your search for high quality hemp derived CBD is over! Your CBD Store, Largo, was the first and is the only dedicated CBD store in the Largo/Belleair area. The store is open to anyone and

everyone looking to learn more about CBD and purchase high quality third-party lab tested CBD products.

Owners Christopher and Jessica Hargiss are considered experts in the field. Jessica is a dentist and studied CBD for over three years in dental school for dental pain and anxiety. While working with world-renowned CBD researchers at the Lewis Katz school of Medicine at Temple University, Jessica became well trained in all its uses and benefits. Chris, an MBA grad, and former fly-fishing guide also became a CBD connoisseur after using the products on his bad back.

They encourage you to stop by the store, at 1901 W. Bay Drive or call them at 727-509-3403. Check out their reviews, some of their testimonials, or just come talk to them about any of your CBD needs. Get back to being you, because hemp doesn't get you high, it gets you healthy!

**SNOW AT THE MARKET** It will snow in the Belleair Market parking lot once again every weekend in December - up until Christmas. They are located at 510 Indian Rocks Road North.

**PELICAN GOLF COURSE** They have been playing golf on the new course for almost a year now, but the big club house is still under construction. The Ladies LPGA is scheduled there in May, so they expect it to be open before that. The golf course is private; you must be a member.

**PETDOCTOR.COM** Dr Lester Mandelker has been "The Pet Doctor" for over 25 years and has answered hundreds of questions about pet illness from pet owners. He is also The Pet Doctor Online at [thepetdoctor.com](http://thepetdoctor.com). His advice Online is free. if you have any questions regarding your pet's health, visit [thepetdoctor.com](http://thepetdoctor.com), operated out of the Community Veterinary Hospital in Largo.

Dr Mandelker is a pharmacology consultant and editor for the Veterinary Information Network, which in the last 20 years has answered over 25,000 questions on pharmacology from veterinarians around the world. He is a national recognized lecturer on pharmacology and nutraceuticals with a special emphasis on cellular medicine and mitochondrial dysfunction and disease. He has published over 175 scientific articles on the subjects.

Having been engaged in research for a new anti-viral drug Panavira, Dr Mandelker recently receive a grant from the American Association of Feline Practitioners to study it.

Community Veterinary Hospital is a specialty hospital that has advanced diagnostic equipment to help diagnose complex diseases and Dr Mandelker also owns the Paradise Pet Motel and Spa located next door. If you want a diagnosis for your pet's illness, contact him at the hospital at 727-585-2007 or [thepetdoctor.com](http://thepetdoctor.com).

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# Business Briefs



**PET AND FAMILY PHOTOS** Here is your chance to update your family photos. Saturday, December 14, Munchies Natural Pet Foods will be offering pet and family photos taken by Laura Allen Studios. Appointments are necessary and can be made between 10 am and 4 pm. The fee is \$8 for 1-2 pets; \$13 for 3-4 pets. There are two different background themes available and you can view your photos Online. This event sold

out last year, so reserve early. Munchies is located at 2895 West Bay Blvd, near Cody's Roadhouse. Call 584-5040 or visit LauraAllenStudios.com to RSVP.

**ANCHORS AWAY** This new travel agency is opening in Belleair Bluffs. Called Anchors Away Cruises and Tours, they already have three offices in Florida - Countryside area, The Villages and in Oxford. They advise on all types of travel and will book your cruise, tours, vacations, and more. Learn more about their services at AnchorsAwayCruises.com or call 1-800-951-2469. They plan to be open at 402 Indian Rocks Road North, near JK Flowers, by December 1st.

**CHLOE'S HAS NEW OWNER**

Terry Young, a longtime Chloe's vendor bought the business, located in Antique Alley, from Kay Davis. "I have known Kay and sold my stuff here for years," says Terry. "Kay told me she wanted to retire, so I bought the place." Chloe's is a home décor business specializing in re-imagined quality furniture and gifts. Find them in Antique Alley at 566 N. Indian Rocks Road.



**F45 CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY** Do you need a good place to work out? Look into F45 in Largo. Owned by Belleair Bluff residents Nathan and Carrie Temple, F45 studio offers 45 minute group strength training and cardio classes seven days a week, led by

certified personal trainers. "We opened this new concept gym just one year ago," says Carrie. "We love seeing our neighbors reach their fitness goals, living healthier lives and being role models for their own families." Visit F45/Largo at 2715 East Bay Drive or call 362-6408.

# Business Briefs



**ART AT KAHWA** Now you have another reason to go to Kahwa Coffee, located in the Bonefish Shopping Center. Local artist, Donna Malloy's art is featured in the store during December. Donna holds a BA of Fine Arts, summa cum

laude, from IADT in Tampa. Donna's acrylic paintings, photography and children's book, "Criss Crow, Flying on Sunshine," are also available for purchase. Check it out, while you enjoy a great cup of coffee.

**NEW OWNER'S** Richard's Foodporium next to Bonefish Grill has a new owner. Bulk Nation Foods of Florida, a large natural food store company, recently bought all the Richard's stores. The new owners plans to carry more local products. Richard's was founded in 1979 and operated 12 stores in Florida. Their home base was in Bradenton. Find Richard's at 2927 W. Bay Drive. The Website RichardsFoodPorium.com is still the store's official site.

**NEW CALENDARS COTTAGE**

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 Belleair Bluffs at Jana's Fine Consigner Apparel. They are also available at The Frame Factory in Largo.



**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. The land has been cleared. Look for construction to start soon.

**PLAZA REMODEL** The remodeling of the Bluffs Shopping Center commonly called the Bonefish Plaza is in full swing. The center changed ownership in February and the new owners are redesigning the facade and installing a new roof. "The work began at the west end, near Westshore Pizza and is progressing to the east—store by store," says Justin McSweeney, project manager for Cardinal Point Management. "We expect to be done by early spring."

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

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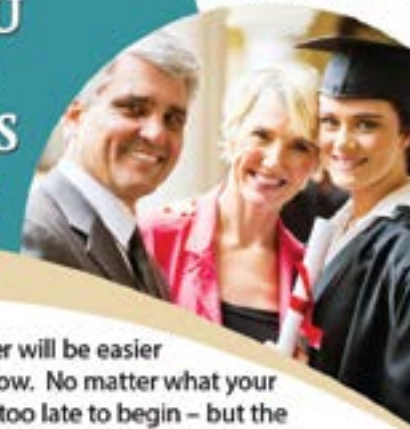
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Francis Wilson

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 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.

Harvey, the charming classic comedy by Mary Chase, centers on Elwood P. Dowd, a sweet, endearing man whose best friend happens to be a six-foot-tall invisible rabbit! Those around him, including his social climbing sister Veta, propose he go to a sanitarium, but in a comedy of errors, Elwood and Harvey eventually have the last laugh. If you plan to go, buy your tickets early last show, South Pacific, sold out half way through the run.

Back by popular demand on Saturday, December 21, they will host their classic holiday concert for the whole family. Sing along to your favorite Christmas Carols.

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!

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## ECKERD CONNECTS' RAISING HOPE

### Lucky 7 Casino Night Have a Heart Fundraiser

Eckerd Connects' Raising Hope will host its 7th annual "Have a Heart" event on Saturday, February 1 at 6:30 pm. This year's event will be a fun-filled casino night in Dunedin, the birthplace of the Raising Hope program 15 years ago. The event aims to raise money to continue to supply clothes, hygiene products, and school supplies to local foster children.

"The Have a Heart event is our largest fundraiser of the year," says Kelly Rossi, Raising Hope Director. "Everyone who attends truly 'has a heart' for the plight of foster children, and wants to help. Their caring allows local foster children to have the items they need and deserve."

The Casino Night will feature heavy appetizers, silent auction, fun casino games, and piano music, all in a roaring 20s theme. Attire is smart casual, business casual or your best Roaring 20s theme is optional!

Don't miss out on the early bird pricing for the Lucky 7 Casino Night Have a Heart fundraiser! Admission, if purchased by December 31, is \$70 per person or \$130 per couple. On January 1st, admission is \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Sponsorships are available at different levels. Buy your tickets or sponsorship level Online at [www.eckerd.org/haveaheart](http://www.eckerd.org/haveaheart).

Eckerd Connects Raising Hope provides emergency and comfort items for kids entering the foster care system. Every two minutes a child is removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect Kids do not ask to come into the foster care system; they are brought there as victims. Kids entering foster care often have only the clothes on their backs, seldom have a toothbrush, and they carry the few belongings they have in a trash bag. The process can be very traumatic and leave them feeling less than human as their belongings are treated like garbage. Providing these children with hope and dignity is essential to their ability to heal.

Rooms of Hope are set up like small stores and are filled with fresh clothing, pajamas, shoes, hygiene items, diapers, school supplies and other necessities. The kids come in and are able to "no-cost shop" for the items they not only need but deserve. Every child can receive a new duffel bag for their belongings!

Kids are able to have items to call their own when everything they have has been lost, plus they are able to retain their dignity and have hope during a very traumatic time in their lives. For more information about the organization, visit [www.eckerd.org/raisinghope](http://www.eckerd.org/raisinghope).

## GRAND PIANO FOR SALE

If you have ever wanted to own a Grand Piano, piano teacher Elizabeth Snedeker has one for sale - just in time for Christmas. It is a six-foot Yamaha, made in Japan, with the Everett label. She originally purchased it in 1986. Elizabeth teaches piano lessons in her home, so you know it is in excellent condition and has been tuned regularly. The selling price is \$5,500. Call Elizabeth at 221-9509. She lives in Largo.



## LANDSCAPE FORECAST 2020



By Randy Lee

1. A specific landscape style. The architecture and your personal style contribute to your landscape style. Is it traditional, contemporary, boutique or a combination? We tailor your style to a landscape style that works and appeals to you.

2. Sleek and modern. Contemporary, minimal and mid-century modern are all the buzz words. Hot for awhile now, this style will dominate the next several years. With modern, clean lines this style is simple, elegant and refined.

3. Natural stone. Stone, boulders and rock is everywhere now- it's sleek and modern. Color and texture can vary greatly here. Its labor intensive and expensive to use- makes sure it's right for you and it's used in an area that's free of leaves and debris.

4. More color. Gray is still popular but bold color and earth tones are popular again. Orange, red, purple, blue and soft pastels are great landscape and accent colors. Earth tones like beige, green, tan and brown are great colors to contrast with. Go with what colors you prefer and fit your style.

5. Popular plant choices. Succulents, evergreens, hedges and colorful perennials are all the rage. Low maintenance and low water requirements add to the popularity of these plants. Shape, texture and color are factors when deciding

which plants to choose. Again, personal preference plays a big part here.

6. Art in the landscape. Fountains, sculpture, custom pottery and mosaics are all popular. Art takes the landscape to the next level. We are using incredible outdoor sculpture in our landscape from local and national designers. These can be made from glass, steel or stone and all have great impact in the garden.

7. Hedges and privacy. Hedges are hot. Podocarpus and Clusia are the 2 most popular hedges used now. I use them on almost every job. Privacy and defining intimate spaces are often wanted in landscapes today.

8. Landscape lighting. LED lighting is very popular in landscaping- we want to see the home and landscape after dark. Custom fixtures like brass and stainless steel are available. Custom colored bulbs and colored lenses are also popular with this trend. This trend is also great for the safety and security of your home.

### October/November Checklist:

- Mulch adds color and a layer of warmth to plants and trees
- Prepare for cold weather and possible freezes
- Time to plant winter flowers
- Great time to plant shade trees
- Avoid trimming of plants

Landscapes By Randy Lee, Inc. is a full service landscape design company here to help you with all your needs- Call 727-421-2715 or visit online at [www.landscapesbyrl.com](http://www.landscapesbyrl.com)

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW DECADE!

### Looking Back at the Year 1920 - What a Difference a Century Makes

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Here it is, almost 2020—not only a new year, but a new decade. We tend to remember years by the events that happened during them and we thought it would be fun to look back 100 years to 1920 and see how far we have come.

The 1920s was nicknamed the Roaring Twenties because of the decade's exuberant, freewheeling, popular culture. Unfortunately, the decade that began with a roar, ended with the Stock Market Crash in 1929.

Also, known as "The Jazz Age," the 1920s began with the last of the American troops returning home after World War I. Most of the soldiers had never been far from home before and their experiences changed their perspective on life. After seeing Europe, they wanted the finer things for their families. Many were about to buy their first car, their first radio and their first telephone. This ushered in an energetic and stylishly higher standard of living, which kick-started a decade of change.

Jazz music and its dance styles were gaining nationwide popularity. Musicians like Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton were becoming household names. Young women who wore short skirts, short hair, and listened to jazz music were nicknamed "flappers."

The Art Deco style, which started to appear just before World War I, was becoming the rage. Its geometric forms and bright colors influenced the design of fashion, jewelry, buildings, furniture, cars, ocean liners, and everyday objects. It represented luxury and glamour.

The 1920 Census shows the U.S. population was 106,021,537. In Florida, Jacksonville was the most populous city with 91,558 people. It was the only Florida city in the top 100 U.S. cities. Pinellas would soon see people traveling to the area in droves. The first half of the decade led to a flurry of construction - roads, bridges, homes and buildings.

Specifically, the year 1920 saw many world-shaping events, including:

**League of Nations Was Established:** In 1919, shortly after WWI, and prior to the birth of the United Nations, President Woodrow Wilson proposed the idea of a worldwide organization of peaceful nations. On January 16, 1920, the League of Nations held its first executive council meeting. It consisted of 58 members, most of the major countries in existence at the time. Oddly, the United



States was not among them.

**Prohibition Begins:** The year before, Congress had ratified the 18th Amendment, which prohibited the manufacturing, transportation and sale of alcohol within the United States; it went into effect January 1920. The National Prohibition Act, popularly known as the Volstead Act, was enacted to provide the means of enforcing Prohibition.

**U.S. Essentially had a Female President:** In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a blood clot that caused paralysis, partial blindness and brain damage. For the remaining one and a half years of his term, his wife, Edith Wilson, pretty much ran the country. She controlled access to her husband and guided his hand as he signed important documents. She also made policy decisions and was known by insiders as "Madam President."

**We suffered the Worst Terrorist Attack in Our Then History:** On a busy day in September 1920, a horse-drawn cart, carrying a massive number of explosives was detonated on Wall Street. Thirty-eight people were killed, and hundreds of others were injured. This was our worst terrorist attack until the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing.

**J Edgar Hoover Starts the Precursor to the FBI:** After a series of bombings, the U.S. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer mounted a campaign to deport foreign radicals. Raids were organized by a young J. Edgar Hoover, head of the "Bureau of Investigations." The raids backfired and Mitchell Palmer was removed. Hoover went on to help form the FBI, which he ran until 1972.

**Women Gain the Right to Vote:** The Women's Suffrage Movement was born years before and by 1920 every state west of the Mississippi River

allowed women to vote. But, that was not the case for nine states to the east. One more state approval was needed for ratification of the amendment to make it law. On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee Legislature barely approved it—by a vote of 50-49 — but that was enough and the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified prohibiting the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex.

**The Lost Generation Transforms American Literature:** A group of writers, mostly living in Europe following WWI, became a force in American literature. "The "Lost Generation," as they were called included Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ernest Hemingway.

**The Ponzi Scheme Was Invented:** Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant, discovered a way to buy and sell "international reply coupons" to foreign investors. Word spread about this method of making money fast, leading investors to bring in more investors, which was essentially to continue funding commissions. The system ultimately collapsed, but the name Ponzi lives on to describe similar schemes.

**Media Was Born:** No other event in 1920 would have more of an effect on the future than the birth of radio. In November 1920, the first commercially licensed radio broadcast was heard, from KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The popularity of "the talking box" exploded and only two years later, 100,000 radios were sold. Soon, radio became a family experience. Everyone would gather around the radio and listen to the news, comedy shows, and music. By 1926, over 700 licensed radio stations were broadcasting in the U.S. This was certainly the beginning of today's media.

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## Bar & Restaurant News



**HEAD CHEF RETIRES** The award-winning chef at the Sheraton Sand Key, John Harris, who has been there for 30 years, recently retired.

He is well known for his skills and has won several awards. In 2019, Chef Harris and his talented team were honored with the eighth consecutive Golden Spoon Award from Florida Trend Magazine for Rusty's Bistro. The Tampa Bay Times also recognized Rusty's Bistro as one of the top 50 restaurants in Tampa Bay.

"John has been a tremendous asset to our resort. His outstanding leadership, culinary skills and dedication to this team for 30 years is unprecedented," said Kimball.

"It was an honor to work with this talented team and create life-long friendships. I will truly miss it here at Sheraton Sand Key, it has become my second home over the past 30 years," said Chef Harris.



### WESTSHORE PIZZA STILL OPEN

The owners of the Westshore Pizza in the Bonfish Plaza want you to know that they are open! With all the construction happening around their front door, many people

assumed Westshore Pizza was closed.

"It is not true," says Denise Gillis, one of the owners, "we are open. For a few months our front door was closed off. But that is over now and the contractor put up a temporary sign for us. It certainly hurt our sales this quarter, but we hope to make it back in the near future. And we certainly appreciate the support of our loyal customers."

Visit them at 2989 West Bay Drive or call for delivery at 585-6974.

**TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION AT RESTAURANT** TJ's Italian Cafe, located in Indian Rocks Beach, is once again collecting toys for the The Marine Corp's Toys-For-Tots program. This is more important now since the US Post Office no longer collects toys for the The Marines.

"After that change, our collections went down 80%," says Ed Zaleski, Pinellas County Coordinator, and resident of Sand Key.

The project is being hosted by Ava, owners TJ and Kim's 13 year old daughter. TJ's is located at 1515 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach.

**NEW BREAKFAST SPOT** Benedicts, now open in Largo, just east of Belleair Bluffs, is known for their breakfast and also serves a great lunch. This is their fourth Pinellas County location. They open at 7am, seven days a week.

Find them at 201 West Bay, just west of the railroad tracks or call 444-0371. See their menu at www.Benedicts.com.

## Bar & Restaurant News



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

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

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



**BAKED BATATA** This new restaurant opened in October at 321 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach 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, 11am to 7pm.

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### TURN RESTLESS, NOISY SLEEP INTO BETTER HEALTH AND HEALING

Every night millions of Americans pull pillows over their heads so they don't have to listen to their spouse snoring, choking, snorting or gasping in their sleep. All that pillow-pummeling is an attempt to block out the noises of sleep apnea, a dangerous and even deadly health problem. A person suffering from sleep apnea never gets a restful, healing night's sleep. As a result, their body is constantly stressed, which creates inflammation throughout. Sleep apnea is associated with a long list of serious health problems including Hypertension, Heart disease, Diabetes, Depression, Migraines, Chronic fatigue, Dementia, Fibromyalgia, Anxiety, Bruxism (teeth grinding) and Digestive disorders, including Acid-Reflux.



There are several types of sleep apnea, the most common is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) - narrowed or blocked airway. In some cases of OSA, the airway shrinks when the muscles in the back of the throat relax too much. In other cases, the airway is blocked when the tongue slips into the back of the mouth. The person cannot draw a breath despite the desperate attempts to do so. The brain signals an emergency, as oxygen levels of the blood drop, and the person partially wakes, gasps a few times and then lapses back into sleep.

Because of the serious effects of OSA, there several treatments that help people cope with the problem. Some patients are prescribed a mouthpiece designed to move the lower jaw forward, thereby keeping the tongue from blocking the airway. This is helpful, but can lead to TMJ problems.

Others sleep with a CPAP machine (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) - a type of pump that forces air into the airway, through a mask, to help keep the airway open. Many people cannot tolerate a CPAP, stop using it, and continue struggling with sleep.

A better solution is now available. Dr Rpddeghero, and his team, at Breathe Well Sleep Well have a non-invasive solution that gets to the root of the problem and solves it! Evolved from extensive scientific research that discovered the actual reasons for OSA - an underdevelopment or misalignment of the upper and/or lower jaws. It leads to a restriction in the volume of the airway and doctors can now correct the problem.

After years of work and testing, the Vivos™ oral appliance was developed. It is custom-designed for each patient and looks similar to an orthodontic retainer. Following the Vivos™ protocol, one experiences actual bone growth, even in adults.

Vivos™ helps a person experience more deep sleep, encourages nasal-breathing, and serious side effects can be virtually eliminated. Anyone who has suffered choking, gasping and struggling to breathe at night can find a real solution that handles the root cause.

Paul Rodeghero DDS, Michael Lewis DMD, and David Wagner DDS are excited to be treating sleep and snoring issues with the Vivos™ system. Screenings include a Home Sleep Test and 3-D Scan of the airway. For more information attend a FREE Patient Education Meeting. There you will hear the science and anthropology, and see case studies. They also treat children with many symptoms related to Sleep Disordered Breathing. Breathe Well Sleep Well is located at 209 S Myrtle Avenue, Clearwater FL 33756. Please call 727-314-4045 to schedule.

### FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI Impaired Driving Awareness During the Holidays

The holidays are a joyous time of year as friends and family share quality time with each other, and do good deeds for others. However, it can be a challenging time for some since there are men and women who have lost loved ones, separated from their families, or are going through a difficult time in life.

In either case, alcohol consumption increases around the Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's holidays. Sadly, we also see an uptick in DUIs. The U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that drunk drivers play a role in 40 percent of traffic-related deaths during the holiday season. In addition, an average of 27 people die each day in December due to drunk driving wrecks according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In an article on Psychcentral.com, Dr. Drew Edwards writes that many holiday drinkers don't drink often, so they have a lower alcohol tolerance. They often underestimate their impairment and drive when they shouldn't. Problem drinkers and alcoholics also drink more than usual, and drink and drive more frequently, because of all the social occasions.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office conducts several DUI Wolf Pack operations throughout the county year-round to reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with traffic crashes related to impaired driving, and the holiday season is no exception. However, deputies don't want to make DUI and DWI arrests if they don't have to. You have the power to prevent a tragedy. Drug and alcohol-impaired driving are easily preventable.

Make the holidays happier and safer by following these tips:

**1. Designate a driver before the party begins. -**

Going to parties with friends gives you an opportunity to use a designated driver. When carpooling, have one person abstain for the evening so that everyone gets home safe.

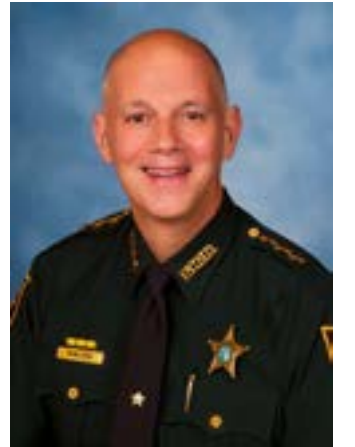
**2. Resist the pressure to drink or serve alcohol at every holiday event. -**

Alcohol is not a necessary ingredient for holiday cheer. Don't feel like you must drink because everyone else is, or because the host offers. Choose a non-alcoholic beverage instead.

**3. Use a ride-sharing app like Uber or Lyft. -**

Use a mobile app on your phone. Taxi services and ride-share programs are excellent options to get you home safely at relatively low costs—especially when compared to a \$10,000 DWI.

In this busy season of parties and travel, holiday plans could end in tragedy if you don't take the proper safety precautions. I urge you to be responsible, plan ahead, and **DON'T drive while impaired**—now, or at any time of year.



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## Organizational News...

**DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)**  
DAR is celebrating its 129th Anniversary this year. The Clearwater Chapter DAR will hold a luncheon meeting Friday, December 20 at the Belleair Country Club. Everyone is invited, but reservations are required. RSVP by the Monday before the meeting to Janee Francks (813)928-9513 or [jefrancks@gmail.com](mailto:jefrancks@gmail.com) Contact Elizabeth Werner at (727) 799-8488 for more information.

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

**BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB**  
They will celebrate the Holiday Season with a meeting being held at Cafe Largo Restaurant, 12551 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, on December 11th beginning at 11:30 am. A program focusing on Caring for Poinsettias, will be presented by Marva Perry, Master Gardener. Lunch will follow at the restaurant. They start off 2020 with the January 15th meeting at Sacred Land, 8389 Elbow Lane N, St. Petersburg, at 10 am with a 75 minute tour. Lunch will follow at Jungle Prada Tavern, adjacent to Sacred Land.

For more information on Belleair Beach Island Garden Club, contact Marjorie Rose at [rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com) or visit [belleairgardenclub.com](http://belleairgardenclub.com).

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

The December 3rd luncheon will be at the Belleair Country Club starting at 11:30 am. Luncheon at 12:45 pm, after a Fashion Show by The Sign of the Dolphin, featuring club members as models. Cards and games after lunch until 3:30 pm. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, November 26. Enclose a \$25 check payable to Welcome Newcomer Club.

The January 7 luncheon meeting will be at Clearwater Country Club. A speaker from the Pinellas County Speakers Bureau will explain the impact of the 2020 census on Florida's political landscape. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, December 31. Enclose a \$20 check payable to Welcome Newcomer Club.

RSVP for the above to Diane McCune, 301-693-0219 or [tucklove@brighthouse.com](mailto:tucklove@brighthouse.com). [WelcomeNewComerClub.com](http://WelcomeNewComerClub.com).

**BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**  
The December 6 meeting will be their annual Christmas party, with Christmas music provided by local band Kathy and Paul. Convening at the Belleair Country Club, they welcome Republicans from all surrounding communities. Registration and social hour begins at 11am, with the lunch and meeting following at Noon and adjourning around 1:30 pm. Reservations need to be made by 5 pm Monday, December 2, by emailing Renatta Cochran at [renfilco@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:renfilco@tampabay.rr.com) or by calling 727-595-6678. Cash and checks are accepted at the door.

## WELCOME BACK, EARLY SNOWBIRDS

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services  
It's the 2020 tourist season, and with all the northerners that are visiting Florida this year, it's predicted to be a record year for many northern families to change their residency and move to Florida permanently. The Chamber of Commerce and myself believe that Florida has more to offer than most of the northern states, and that is why I moved here from the north many years ago. Better weather, lower cost of living, and lower taxes are spearheading the increased number of families migrating from the north each year.

What does that mean for housing opportunities for those that want to settle along a waterfront attractive beach community in Pinellas County? When families that consider relocating for either a permanent or second home in Florida, most do their due diligence and compare both cost and quality of life issues in different areas of Florida. Housing cost is always a main factor, and it's easy to see that Pinellas County is considerably less cost than the areas of Naples and Sarasota. In addition, Pinellas offers close proximity to America's best airport, Tampa International, a quick way to get back home to visit the grandkids. Although we have traffic concerns during the tourist season, they are far less than the east coast communities or very busy Naples and Sarasota. Pinellas is definitely worth considering.

As many families have realized this and purchased homes in our beach communities these past few years, it has led to a housing shortage of properly priced attractive homes. Most of the remaining listings of the realtors are either overpriced or just not attractive. Most were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, and are not raised to FEMA standards, much less have 150mph windows and doors, are energy efficient,

or have today's desired amenities for room layout or in kitchens. That is why so many decide to construct a new home with everything they want when they decide to relocate. One family we are building for in desirable Indian Rocks Beach is constructing a beautiful new home on a non-waterfront lot for under \$700,000. Also, GHD has their furnished "Key West" model for customers that might want the lifestyle of a waterfront home with pool as well as a dock for boating to restaurants or fishing.

Choosing the right lot in the beach community of your choice is a main concern. There are a few vacant lots available, or maybe a very desirable lot that needs the 60 year home torn down. Site selection is what GHD Construction Services offers it's customers as part of their services for a new home. GHD has the only furnished model home along the beaches, so that customers can see the amenities offered in a new home today, as well as the quality of construction expected from families today. We offer "In-House" architecture included in the home price, so that families don't have to spend tens of thousands of dollars with outside architects and designers. GHD likes to consider itself a "One Stop Shop" for all your new home construction needs.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and announces our GHD Coastal Homes for the Pinellas Beaches. Come visit our "Key West" Home at 239 144th Ave. N, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD model, call at (727) 954-8345, or email to: [tweisser@ghdcsi.com](mailto:tweisser@ghdcsi.com). Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at [www.GHDcoastalHomes.com](http://www.GHDcoastalHomes.com).




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## Organizational News...

### THE BEACH ART CENTER

**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](http://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](http://www.beachartcenter.org). Space is limited. The documentary was shown 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 Workshops with guest instructors are weekend events. Space is limited, so reserve early:

- 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](http://www.beachartcenter.org).

### 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 Safaris. 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](http://www.Snowshark.org), email: [president@Snowshark.org](mailto:president@Snowshark.org).

## Organizational News...

### BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The January 9 after hours mingle will be hosted by Your CBD Largo at 1901 West Bay Drive from 5:30 to 6:30pm. All businesses regardless of location are invited to attend. You may bring a door prize and give a quick commercial about your business. It's a great way to grow your business contacts while enjoying refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere.

For more info visit [BluffsBusinessAssociation.com](http://BluffsBusinessAssociation.com)

### 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](mailto:Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org). Learn more at [ClearwaterYachtClub.org](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

### DEBUTANTE CLUB OF CLEARWATER

The Debutante Club of Clearwater stayed busy this summer as the young ladies enrolled in summer classes, internships, jobs, traveled and attended several debutante functions. A ladies luncheon was enjoyed at the Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater beach in honor of debutantes Kelsey Coletti, Kate Kudelko, and Laurel Wanger.

A "Breakfast at Tiffany's" gathering with exclusive access to the Tiffany & Co. store at International Plaza was a real treat for the debutantes, their mothers and grandmothers. It was a very special event where they were taught about fine jewels, pearls, and more.

Shortly before the debutantes returned to their fall semester studies, they were invited to a presentation at the Silver Queen in Largo where they enjoyed learning about the history, use, care, and collecting of fine china, crystal, and silver, together with challenging games on the etiquette of table settings and use of special silver pieces.

Later this year, there will be parties honoring the other debutantes leading up to the Debutante Courtier Ball on December 29, 2019 at Ruth Eckard Hall. The tradition of this event was established 60 years ago and has many local alumnae.

### PINELLAS WEAVERS GUILD

Their ROC Day will be January 4, 10am - 1pm at Heritage Village, Largo in the Daniel McMullen House. This is when all the holiday decorations are put away, until next year, and they bring their equipment back out and start working again. It is a lovely event for anyone interested in the fiber arts. All are invited to bring any fiber art they do and join them in "working".

They have been doing this for the last 10 years.

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*Community Veterinary Hospital.com*

## Organizational News...

### BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

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 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. 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.

- BCFP picked up 1-2 pallets of food from a local Publix store 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.

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 need drivers.
- Stocking inventory during opening hours

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

### BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB

They meet at 9am every Tuesday in the back of Panera Bread for coffee and socializing. They also meet for dinner at different restaurants on the first and third Sundays, and for lunch on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month.

This organization is open to all seniors, living in the greater Belleair area. There are no dues and couples are encouraged to join the fun. Call Marilyn Daminato, 585-9633.

### PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in downtown Clearwater is continuing their concert series. The free concerts are every second Sunday at 3pm.

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 other fun sing-alongs), plus Christmas selections from Handel's Messiah.

The January 12th concert will be: Voices & Spirits Soar by the Tampa Bay Spiritual Ensemble.

Peace Memorial is located at 110 South Ft. Harrison, one block south of Cleveland. Parking is available in the back.

## LEMON TREE

Its the most wonderful time of the year

For your Holiday gift giving  
In the Alley  
596 Indian Rocks Rd. N. | 727-240-4987

## Organizational News...

### GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

For more than 40 years, they have been awarding grants to local charities at their annual Daisy Grants Fashion Show and Luncheon, which is held in the spring. The charities can receive up to \$2000.

In order to receive a grant, the charity must be open to Pinellas County residents, a non-profit organization and the funds must be ear-marked for a specific use. Applications and rules are available at [GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org](http://GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org).

The applications must be sent by USPS, postmarked no later than January 9, 2020, and received no later than January 15, 2020. The winners will be notified in late February or early in March 2020, and the grants will be awarded at the Daisy Grants Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Belleair Country Club, on March 31, 2020.

The winners of the 2019 Daisy Grants were Lighthouse of Pinellas, Love our Neighbor, Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay and Starting Right, Now.

The GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club is a non-profit organization, whose members live the volunteer spirit. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from September through May; meetings are at the Clearwater East Library on the campus of St. Petersburg College, 2465 Drew Street, Clearwater, at 11 am, with social time at 10:30 am. For information, E-mail [MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com).

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

- December 7: Holiday Poinsettia Sale at Clearwater Garden Club, 10 – 3 pm.

- January 15: Sip and Paint BYOB all paint material provided by the instructor, Kathy Thomas an award winning artist and former High School Art Teacher. \$25 per person

- January 18: Floral Design & Demonstration with Marion Crane, Accredited Flower Show Judge at 10:30 am. Marion Crane will share Dos and Don'ts of Competitive Floral Design. This is a class for participants to learn from an expert and just in time for area flower shows. \$5 members/\$8 non-members. Light refreshments will be available and an opportunity drawing will be held. Grow and Share Table – Bring a Plant, Take a Plant!

- January 31: Game and Card Party with Lunch and Opportunity Drawings, \$15 includes Lunch

- February 7: Spaghetti Dinner with a 50/50 drawing, \$20.

- February 15: Carnivorous Plant Care and its History at 10:30 am. Learn carnivorous plant care and their history presented by a vegetarian! With over 650 species found globally, it's easy to find one that will grow for you. Kenny Coogan, of Critter Companions, is a local middle school science and agriculture teacher who co-founded a carnivorous plant club in New York. Coogan grows and sells carnivorous plants in the Tampa area, where he has lived for the past 7 years. Light refreshments will be available and an opportunity drawing will be held. Grow and Share Table – Bring a Plant, Take a Plant!

- March 7: Clearwater Garden Club Parking Lot Trunk Sale, 9 – 1 pm. Find a treasure just by walking through our lot and viewing the bargains that many will offer. If you've been paring down on your possessions to "spark joy" and want to sell from your car in our lot the cost will be \$25 per car. To sell inside our building the fee is \$50 per space (only 10 spaces available).

E-mail [ClearwaterGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:ClearwaterGardenClub@gmail.com), call 316-5504, or visit [ClearwaterGardenClub.com](http://ClearwaterGardenClub.com), for information.

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# AREA HOLIDAY EVENTS



## Now through 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.

## Through 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 - 8 THE NUTCRACKER

The Palladium  
This is St. Petersburg Ballet's 40th Annual Production with over 75 dancers ranging in age from 5 to 72 performing the full length "Nutcracker" ballet. Tickets are \$25; Seniors/Children \$15.  
www.MyPalladium.org

## December 6 STOLL AND SHOP

Antique Alley, 580 Indian Rocks Road N. Belleair Bluffs  
Enjoy the Alley shops, vendors, artisans, antiques, and local fare. This is a family and dog friendly event.

## December 6 - 6 to 8pm BELLEAIR BLUFF'S HOLIDAY EVENT

Belleair Bluffs City Hall  
The City's Annual Tree Lighting and Food Drive. There will be a band, hayrides and a visit from Santa. Bring a food item to donate and get a free ornament for your home's tree. Residents only.

## December 7 10:30am - 12:30pm BELLEAIR BEACH HOLIDAY PARTY

Community Center  
Featuring cookie decorating for the children and a visit by Santa Claus. Free for residents.

## 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 7 9:30 am BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Southwest Complex  
You do not have to be a resident of Largo, but you must RSVP. For kids 8 and under. \$8 children, \$5 adults.  
www.Largo.com

## December 7, 6pm BAD SANTA BAR CRAWL

Downtown St. Petersburg  
Start in front of the Lucky Dill Deli (277 Central Avenue) and visit the popular downtown bars. \$25. Santa costumes encouraged.

www.Spark5inc.com  
December 7, 10 am to 4 pm

## HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

See seven decorated Allendale historic homes and enjoy music and holiday snacks. This is the Florida Orchestra Guild's largest fund-raiser. Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 day of. Call or text 254-1176 for tickets.

## December 7 - Opens at 5pm HOLIDAY MARKET AND STROLL

Largo Central Park  
Find hundreds of local vendors selling gifts and stocking stuffers. After dark, the music begins with bands and strolling Christmas Carolers. The tree lighting is at 6pm. Parking (\$10) is very limited. No pets allowed  
www.Largo.com

## December 8 HOLIDAY PARADE AND PARTY

Hunter Memorial Park, Town of Belleair  
The parade is followed by a party in the park where you will find food, crafts, magical fun and even Santa. Residents, businesses and community partners can participate in the parade by registering at BelleairRec.com.

## December 8 - 4pm ANNUAL SANTA & SUDS RUN/WALK

Cleveland Street, downtown Clearwater  
Run dressed up in your best Christmas running clothes for charity - the St. Vincent de Paul Community Kitchen and Resource Center. The course crosses the Clearwater Memorial Bridge near sunset. 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 12-22 HOLIDAY SPARKLE

Opera Central, 2145 1st Ave S.  
There will be more gifts than ever before under the tree this holiday season! There will be candlelit cabaret tables and plenty of refreshments as they take you on a musical journey with soloists, chorus, and orchestra through the most wonderful holiday music, from the sacred to the popular - and everything in between!  
www.stpeteopera.org

## December 13, 6 - 9pm 37th ANNUAL BOLEY'S JINGLE BELL RUN

Albert Whitted Park  
This run features 1,500 luminaries, 15 bands, three glow zones and thousands of merry runners, walkers and joggers. Registration is \$30 in advance, \$35 race night. Children under 12 are \$25/\$30. Call 821-4819 Ext 5200.  
RunSignUp.com/BoleyJBR

## December 14 10am - 4pm HOLIDAY PET AND FAMILY PHOTOS

Munchies Natural Pet Foods, 2895 West Bay Blvd., Belleair Bluffs  
Laura Allen Studios will be available with two different themes to photograph your pet and family. Fee is \$8 for 1-2 pets; \$13 for 3-4 pets. Appointments are required and usually sell out. RSVP by calling 584-5040 or at LauraAllenStudios.com.

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

St. Jerome Catholic Church  
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

Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association partnering with the Beach Art Center and Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty host the tour highlighting 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 7, 9:30 am BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Largo Community Center  
Have breakfast with Santa, create memorable gifts and play games. You do not have to be a resident of Largo, but you must RSVP. For kids 8 and under. \$8 children, \$5 adults (in advance)  
www.Largo.com

## December 18-20 SANTA GIFT DELIVERIES

Town of Belleair Only.  
Sign up beginning December 3rd and expect a visit from one of Santa's elves. Spots are limited. Reservations can be made in person or at BelleairRec.com.

## December 21 - 7pm INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

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

## December 21 - 8 am ST NICHOLAS GOLF CLASSIC

At the Mangrove Bay Golf Course  
Dress in your favorite Santa or Mrs. Santa attire and play golf. Golf carts are also decorated. Benefits the Children's Dream Fund. Call 896-6390.  
www.ChildrensDreamFund.org

## December 21, Noon OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Downtown Largo, near West Bay  
This neighborhood parade will ignite your Christmas spirit! www.Largo.com

## December 22, 6:30pm REDINGTON/INDIAN SHORES HOLIDAY LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

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

## December 22 - 30 HANUKKAH

This eight-day Jewish celebration commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem

## December 23 - January 7 PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED

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

## December 24, 4:30pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach

## December 26 THE NUTCRACKER

See the original Moscow Ballet's great Russian Nutcracker performed live.  
www.TheMahaffey.com

## December 26 KWANZAA BEGINS

This week long celebration honoring African heritage continues through New Year's Day.

## December 31 FIRST NIGHT ST. PETE

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

## December 31 LIGHT UP CLEARWATER

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





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**UKULELE FUN IN INDIAN ROCKS**

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](http://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](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/GPSale2019)



**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.*

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## RESIDENTS AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK IN ROMANIA

Geris Espy of Sand Key and Christine (Chris) Michalek of Clearwater Beach/Point were part of a construction team of thirteen Friendship Force members (twelve women and one man) who recently spent a one-week collaborative volunteer project with Habitat for the Humanity building a 4-plex home in the village of 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 Geri Espy (Sand Key), Christine Michalek (Clearwater Beach/Point), Judy Ormsby (Dunedin), Karen Sheretts (Largo), and Marilyn Whelan (On Top of the World). Other FF clubs represented were: FF Dallas, FF Greater Denver, FF Minneapolis, FF Southern Oregon, FF Southwest Florida, and FF Solothurn Switzerland.

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

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

## AFTER 40 YEARS, CLEARWATER'S POST CORNER PIZZA SOLD

Post Corner Pizza, has been a favorite on Clearwater Beach since long before there were any high-rise condos and hotels. The restaurant would be celebrating 40 years on the beach on Thanksgiving Day, but they got that "offer they could not refuse" and decided to sell their property.

The last day of October - Halloween - 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.

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

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

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

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

## FRAUD AWARENESS AND PREVENTION IN BELLEAIR

The Belleair Community Foundation (BCF) and Belleair Police Department have partnered to take on a proactive approach to fraud education and prevention. Beginning in the spring of 2020, Belleair Police will begin offering a fraud education and prevention program to its residents.

"The fraud education and prevention program is being designed to assist and educate residents in town about the telephone scams, cyber crime, identity theft and other economic crimes that target residents," said Chief Rick Doyle.

After reviewing cases over the past 18 months, there was over \$250,000 reportedly lost to scams by town residents. The victims ranged in age from 17 to 90 years old; it is a problem because they target well intentioned individuals.

Belleair Deputy Mayor Karla Rettstatt, who also serves on the board of directors for the BCF, approached Chief Doyle after he reported the issue at a commission meeting. The BCF agreed to fund training for several officers in the field of Crime Prevention and Fraud awareness. In addition, the Belleair Community Foundation will provide funding to the Belleair Police to conduct seminars designed to get face to face with town residents.

The plan is to have Coffee with a Cop type of meetings that include a brief seminar outlining the scams and teach residents how to prevent becoming a victim, stated Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

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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**

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**“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](http://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](http://flbgfoundation.org) or follow them: [www.facebook.com/FIBotanicalGardens](https://www.facebook.com/FIBotanicalGardens).

**THE ALLEY HOLIDAY MARKET**  
Friday December 6th from 5-9

Time to celebrate the holidays and what better way than with a stroll through The Alley. Enjoy all your Alley shops, outside vendors, artisans, antiques, and local fare. This kid and dog friendly event will have you fa-la-la-laiing through the evening with shopping and great food. Wear your ugly Christmas sweaters and join them for cocoa and fun. They will even have a Christmas movie playing outside for the kiddos.

**MEET ROGER DOW - CEO OF U.S. TRAVEL**

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Roger Dow lives in Old Northeast, but he works in Washington, D.C. He is the President and CEO of U.S. Travel, the largest travel association in the United States—and possibly the world.

At 7am every Monday morning, you will find him at Tampa International Airport hopping on a jet to Washington or some other U.S. city. Then on Thursday afternoons, he flies back to Tampa, to spend the weekends in St. Petersburg with his wife, Linda, and friends.

U.S. Travel is not well known to people outside the industry. It is a trade organization for the entire United States whose mission is to foster and improve tourism from other countries and to increase domestic travel. They study the benefits and problems with travel, then lobby and communicate their findings to government officials and politicians. They work closely with thousands of U.S. hotels and tourism related businesses.

Dow helped create Brand USA, a marketing entity for the entire industry to use. The unique thing about Brand USA is that its \$200 million budget is funded by international visitors and the travel industry - not by taxpayers. They produce ads, TV commercials, billboards and more—seen all around the world—telling overseas tourists that the U.S. is still a great and cost efficient place to visit. “For every dollar spent on marketing, Brand USA adds \$25 to the U.S. Economy,” Dow declares.

“Half of our job is lobbying,” says Dow. “We are a trade organization and represent all related businesses in the U.S. Our mission is to increase travel to all 50 states.”

“We also work closely with major tourism destinations,” Dow adds. “Among the biggest are Tampa, Pinellas County, Orlando, Kissimmee, the Miami/Ft Lauderdale area, really the entire state of Florida.”

They work directly with the airport and airline industries. “We interact regularly with 15 major airports including Tampa’s,” says Dow. “We helped develop the TSA Pre-check and Global Entry systems now in effect.”

“We were involved in improving and extending the Visa Waiver program for other countries, making it easier for tourists from other countries to come here with little more than a passport.”

“We study the habits of foreign travelers and target our advertising to places where we get the most return for

our dollar,” Dow explains. “We found travelers from South Korea, China, Israel and Brazil spend more per visit than other countries. On average, overseas tourists tend to stay 16 nights and spend \$4,300 per person per visit.”

“As far as the amount spent, tourists from China are more attractive than Canadian tourists,” Roger explains. “A Chinese traveler will spend approximately \$6,700 per person per visit while a Canadian spends about \$1,200.

U.S. Travel also puts on the IPW, a major world-wide trade show held yearly in different U.S. cities. Orlando (Disney/Universal) and Miami have hosted it many times. Next year it will be in Las Vegas. It has been held for over 60 years and is a big event to educate and sell foreign travel agents on the travel opportunities in the U.S. In 3 days, they book over \$5 billion in future travel to the U.S.

“Basically, my organization, U.S. Travel, helps generate \$2.4 trillion (that is with a T) in economic outputs and supports 15.6 million jobs - 1 in 9 American jobs.”

In 2014, Dow and U.S Travel launched Project: Time Off. The initiative aims to shift culture so using personal time off is not considered frivolous, but essential to strengthening families and improving personal health—a business investment with proven returns and an economic necessity.

The average worker in America uses about 17 days of vacation each year. Approximately 52% of American workers are not using all their vacation time. They are leaving a whopping 758 million unused, paid vacation days on the table.

“Time off is understood by many but not practiced enough,” Roger explains. “Time off is essential to the personal well-being and professional success of individuals and their businesses. Plus, it benefits the travel industry.”

“Unused days off translate to overworked Americans who are stressed, unhappy, and less productive at home and at work,” says Dow. “Changing the mindset and behavior of our overwhelmed culture isn’t just a boon for the economy; it’s the right thing to do.”

Dow has been in tourism from the beginning of his career. While in college, he was hired as a lifeguard at one of the Marriott properties in Saddlebrook, N.J. At the time, there were only six Marriott hotels in the U.S.



Today there are over 7,000.

Long story short, he got a job in sales management with Marriott International and stayed with Marriott for 34 years. He rose to be the Senior Vice President of Global and Field Sales.

In 2005 and approaching retirement, he was offered the job as CEO of U.S. Travel, an organization he knew well.

Roger and Linda were looking for a place to settle down, but not in Washington. As CEO, he travels all over the U.S. and can really live anywhere. They looked at many cities including several in Florida. “We attended the Super Bowl in Tampa in 2009,” Roger explains, “and we were very impressed with the Tampa Bay area - especially St. Petersburg.”

“We found a house and renovated it in Old Northeast - just north of the Vinoy. We love the weather, the parks, the restaurants, all the things to do around here and the people.”

Where does the Dow family go for their vacation? “We enjoy Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where we have a second home. We like going there in December to enjoy a white Christmas every year.”

Get more information about U.S. Travel at [www.USTravel.org](http://www.USTravel.org).



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