

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine



**Henry Plant teeing off at the Belleview Golf Course circa 1889**

## HENRY PLANT Built Hotels and Cities

In our last issue, our feature article on Henry Plant began with Plant's teenage years, when he headed off to work on a steamship as a deckhand. He went on to become the owner of thousands of miles of railroads and numerous ships. When we left him, he was looking for a southwest coastal city to build a port that could connect his ships to Key West and Cuba. After a false start in Cedar Key, he targeted Tampa – a city of only 700.

In December of 1883, Henry Plant made his first personal appearance in Tampa, traveling on his own railroad from Kissimmee to Tampa in only 15 hours—the fastest time anyone had ever traveled 70 miles. Within a few months, he would have a 100-mile route from Tampa to Sanford that took only 12 hours.

Plant made Tampa the end of his southern railroad and the home port of his new line of steamships sailing to Havana. This helped

Tampa experience an influx of new workers and created a boom for the Tampa economy - its first ever. In a flurry of construction, boarding houses and new stores popped up. Farmers and others started spending their hard-earned wages, causing prices to start rising. The cost of beef rose to a record 10¢ per pound—unheard of at the time.

With train tracks in place, Plant proceeded to make his Key West connection a reality. He established the Plant Steamship Line to Key West and Havana. His two ships, the SS Mascotte and the SS Olivette, both built in Philadelphia, carried people, freight and the U.S. mail.

- **Continued on page 7**

### Also in this Issue:

#### Everyone Counts

America gets one chance every decade to count its population and it is almost time to do it again during the 2020 Census. The results determine how many seats each state has in the House of Representatives, and the distribution of Federal funds.

- page 32

#### Happy February 14th

Considered by some as a festival of romance, Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Don't worry, we have you covered with suggestions for that perfect Valentine's Day gift - page 39



#### 2020 is a Leap Year

Find out what happens this month and why - page 10

#### Trivia Contest

Think you know all there is to know about Valentine's Day? Participate in our contest for a chance to win a \$500 gift basket.

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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 APRIL**

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464-3000

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Charlie Crist 202-225-5961

696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete

[www.Crist.House.Gov](http://www.Crist.House.Gov)

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY**

- Beach Walk Walk 1
- Ground Hog Day 2
- Super Bowl 2
- Florida State Fair 6-17
- Heart of My Heart Show Beach Art Center 7
- Tampa Bay Rays FanFest 8
- Sunday Concert In Belleair 9
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 13
- Valentine's Day 14
- FL Botanical Gardens Weddings 14
- WinterFest Indian Rocks 15
- Roaring 20s Gala Beach Art Center 15
- Speaking Of History Heritage Village 16
- President's Day Public Schools Closed 17
- St. Pete Conference on World Affairs 18
- Deadline To Register To Vote 18
- Rays Spring Training Begins 21
- Sea Blues Festival 22-23
- Ash Wednesday 26
- Blast Friday Downtown Clearwater 28
- Leap Year Day 29

**MARCH**

- Sunday Concert In Belleair 1
- The Alley (Antiques & Artisans Market) 1
- Lent Begins 2
- Mardi Gras Begins 4
- Belleair Bluffs Garage Sale 7
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 8
- Belleair Bluff's Garage Sale 9
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 12
- Shamrock Run Ulmer Park 14
- St Petersburg Grand Prix 14-15
- Sunday Concert In Belleair 15
- Speaking Of History Heritage Park 15
- Pinellas Public Schools Spring Break 16-20
- St Patrick's Day 17
- Election Day 17
- Spring Begins 19
- Great American Clean Up 21
- GreenFest Indian Rocks Beach 21
- Public Schools Closed 23
- Rays First Home Games 26-29
- Blast Friday Downtown Clearwater 27
- Wine Walk Belleair Bluffs 28



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Bruce & Deidra Livingston, Bellevue Place Mid-Rise Owners

The Livingstons moved to Clearwater Beach after selling their family home—a decision they quickly regretted. “It took us 30 minutes to get off the beach,” explained Mrs. Livingston. Now at Bellevue Place, the couple loves the central location and bright, airy feel of their Mid-rise home. “It’s like living outside,” said Mrs. Livingston, “And, it’s so nice being able to walk to the country club and live in a community that takes care of everything. Whenever we travel, we simply lock our door and never have to worry about a thing!” Come experience the low-maintenance, resort-style living that Bellevue Place offers: tour a Mid-rise model today!



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## Did You Know



**WINDSURF MIDWINTERS ARE MARCH 12-15**  
Clearwater Community Sailing Center's annual multi-class windsurfing regatta regularly attracts both national and international windsurfers. It showcases

remarkable skill and competition all while drawing appreciation to Pinellas County's beautiful intracoastal waters. For information about spectating, competing, or beginner windsurfing lessons and rentals, contact Clearwater Community Sailing Center at (727) 517-7776.

**SUNDAYS IN BELLEAIR** The outdoor concerts resume Sunday, February 9, with #No Filter playing high-energy, chart topping hits. Sunday, March 1 The Caribbean Chillers, Florida's Favorite Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show will play. The final show of the season is March 15, when Little Jake & The Soul Searchers will performing the music of soul, rhythm & blues.

Each Sunday, gates open at 3:30pm and music starts at 5pm. \$10 General Admission tickets can be purchased at Belleair Rec, Bella Vino, Belleair Market and at racehawk.com. \$5 Belleair Resident tickets can be only purchased at the Belleair Rec. Proof of residency is required.

**SPEAKING OF HISTORY** Heritage Village's popular lecture series, "Speaking of History" have moved to the nearby Pinewood Culture Center just east of Heritage Village. The events are still held on Sundays at 2pm and last about one hour. The next dates and topics are February 16: La Florida 1513-1607, Europeans, Africans and Indians - Historian Michael Francis explores early European settlements.

March 15: The First Ladies of Florida - Peggy McDonald shares stories about the early Florida Governors' wives, including Rachel Jackson, wife to Andrew Jackson.

For more information, go to [PinellasCounty.org/Heritage](http://PinellasCounty.org/Heritage).

**GRADUATES** Pinellas County Schools are celebrating a record high graduation rate for the 2018-2019 school year. Official reports show the district's graduation rate rose to 88.44%, up 2.44% from last year's record high, and more than 16.5% higher than 2013. Pinellas County achieved the highest graduation rate among the state's ten largest districts.

**THE SUNKEN GARDENS FLAMINGLE** Sunday, March 3, from noon to 4pm, show your love of flamingos, celebrate Sunken Gardens' young flock's birthday, and enjoy \$1 off admission. Kids' activities, face painting, and live music are free with garden admission. Beer and wine available for purchase. Please call 727-551-3102 for more information.



## and More...

### TEACHER OF YEAR NOMINEE

Cheri Connelly an Anona Elementary art teacher, is one of ten nominees for "Teacher of the Year." There were 131 other nominees from many different backgrounds and class levels.

"She is extremely talented and is able to bring out the artist in all the children," says Ann Welch, Anona's Principal.

The winner was announced January 29th after we went to press.



### VETERANS AND THE CGX

As of January 1, the Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges and MWR resale facility use to: Purple Heart recipients, former Prisoners of War, all Veterans with service-connected disabilities and caregivers registered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There is a Coast Guard Exchange located in Sand Key and downtown St. Petersburg. For more information on this, go to [MilitaryOneSource.MIL/Expanding-Access](http://MilitaryOneSource.MIL/Expanding-Access).

### FOLK FESTIVAL CANCELED

The popular Festival held every January in Heritage Village is again canceled. "We just do not have enough volunteers to host this major event," says the organizers. The Folk Festival is promoted and managed by the Pinellas County Historical Society who host meetings and other events at Heritage Village in Largo. For information on them, visit [PinellasCounty.org/Heritage](http://PinellasCounty.org/Heritage).



### MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION

Belleair Bluffs City Clerk Alexis Silcox will be president of the Pinellas County Municipal Clerks Association for 2020. Outgoing president Deputy City Clerk of South Pasadena Brianna Wetherwax was present at the meeting to formally congratulate her.

### DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS

Each day, the U.S. manufactures about 130 million pairs of disposable chopsticks. That translates to 45 billion pairs each year. Globally, 80 billion pairs are discarded each year. In China alone, the equivalent of 3.8 million trees are used to manufacture disposable chopsticks, yearly. That is a lot of wood being wasted, while the world is trying to increase its forest coverage.

Disposable chopsticks also pose risks to consumers. China has production standards, but very lax enforcement. Industrial-grade sulfur, paraffin, hydrogen peroxide and insect repellent are among the harmful chemicals Chinese investigations have exposed during production.

More and more, people are purchasing their own permanent chopsticks and bring them to restaurants when they dine out. They are easy to find, inexpensive and can be works of art. Quality bamboo chopsticks, made in the U.S., can last 2-3 years, but for health purposes, it is advisable to replace them every 3 to 6 months, depending on the frequency of use.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN APRIL** Read this issue, and others, Online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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**HENRY PLANT, CONTINUED**

By Bob Griffin

New shipping routes gave Tampa an added economic lift and encourage the cigar industry to move from Key West and Havana to Tampa/Ybor City. Shortly, two of the three largest cigar manufacturers moved their operations and employees to Tampa.

Plant knew having an hotel located at major rail stops encourage traveling and would be important for his company's growth. Around 1887, Plant built the Pico Hotel in Sanford, which had become a major Florida terminus for both his steamers and his trains. The Pico Hotel provided accommodations for his passengers as they traveled in Central Florida. It was so successful, he either built or purchased the Hotel Punta Gorda, Hotel Kissimmee, Seminole Hotel, The Ocala House, and the Ft. Myers Hotel.

In 1888, Tampa was hit with another Yellow Fever outbreak, earning it the nickname "Fever Town." No one knew the disease was caused by mosquitoes, and in fear, people began fleeing the small town.

Plant knew this was not good for his new jewel destination and announced he would spend over \$1 million dollars on a new port, wharf, and a bridge over the Hillsborough River. He also announced the project would include "the most luxurious hotel in the world." He single-handedly proceeded to create Port Tampa - then one of the most efficient harbor operations in the country.

The water at the port was too shallow for larger ships so he built a one-mile wharf extending to deeper water into Old Tampa Bay. On top of it, he built train tracks and the small Port Tampa Inn at the end. Guests could conceivably fish from their rooms.

Plant spent a million dollars in just six months and suddenly Tampa was back in boom times again with one of the most efficient harbor operations in the country, something Plant accomplished almost overnight. The Port of Tampa was fully operational by June of 1888. One month later, he started construction on his new Tampa Bay Hotel.

The Tampa Bay Hotel (now the University of Tampa campus) opened February 2, 1891. The massive hotel mixed Moorish and Victorian architecture at a cost of over \$3 million. Built on six acres facing the Hillsborough River, if you walked completely around the main building, you literally walked a mile

During construction, Plant hired hundreds of carpenters, masons, bricklayers, painters, plasterers, and plumbers, plus a new breed of workers - electricians. The hotel was completely electric, inside and out. Even the domes and minarets were illuminated at night. The hotel opened with 511 rooms, as well as thirteen domes and minarets. The interior was furnished with artwork, statuary, porcelain, and period furniture. Most of the furnishings were purchased in France by Henry's second wife, Margaret - at a cost of close to \$1 million

For the grand opening, Plant held a ball. People came from Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Every room was occupied. Guests arrived by passenger train - his, of course - that pulled up directly to the hotel. Plant invited Henry Flagler, his friend and competitor, to the opening. Flagler had a similar business and had been busy building railroads and hotels along the east coast of Florida. When Flagler received the invitation to attend the Grand Opening, he telegraphed back, "Where the hell is Tampa?" Plant responded, "Just follow the crowds."

The New York Times called the Tampa Bay Hotel "one of the grandest hotels in the country."

While the Tampa hotel was being built, Plant continued to expand his railroad system. His Southern Express Company added the Texas Express Company and several other smaller subsidiaries. By 1895, he employed over 12,600 people, owned over 24,000 miles of track in 15 states, 1,463 horses, and 886 wagons. The Plant Steamship Line stretched from Nova Scotia to Panama.



Belleview Biltmore under construction 1896

employees were brought to New York to help him celebrate.

The Big Freeze of 1894 killed most of Pinellas County's citrus trees and that became Plant's catalyst to extending his empire into Pinellas County. Because there was hardly any citrus to ship north, Peter Demen, who had operated a railroad from Tarpon Springs to downtown St. Petersburg, went bankrupt. Plant bought Demen's fledgling railroad operation for pennies on the dollar.

A new town had recently formed between Tarpon Springs and St. Petersburg called "Clear Water" and he bought most of the land on the bluffs overlooking Clear Water Bay. Doing what he always did, he built a small hotel, but it was very different from the all-brick structures he had been building. This one was constructed mostly from Florida heart pine with a Swiss-style architecture.

A nine-hole golf course, Florida's first, was built on the grounds. The hotel had only 134 rooms (compared to Tampa's 511). Like Tampa, the hotel was all electric; each room came with two light bulbs. Because of the hotel's impressive water views, Plant called it The Belleview.

Henry Plant was 78 years old when the hotel officially opened on January 15, 1897, six years after the Tampa Bay Hotel. He died two and a half years later at the age of 80 on June 23, 1899.

His many legacies live on. In Tampa, much of the Amtrak and CSX rail lines were formerly Plant rail beds. The University of Tampa, once the Tampa Bay Hotel, is a National Historic Landmark. Its minarets are Tampa's architectural icons and the City of Tampa seal contains Plant's steamship the Mascotte. Tampa and Port Tampa streets bear Plant and business associates' names. H. B. Plant High School, opened in 1926, is still a school today. Cities Auburndale, Plant City, Port Tampa, Sanford, and Trilby all attribute their beginnings to Henry Plant.



Tampa Hotel 1906



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**NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



It is that time of year again, when we promise to turn over a new leaf. Generally, eat healthier, lose weight, start exercising, etc. We want to share ten financial resolutions you should be making and most importantly, keeping.

- 1) RESOLVE to check Social Security (www.ssa.gov) wage information to make sure it is correct. It is much easier to correct mistakes today than at retirement.
- 2) RESOLVE to get copies of all beneficiary designations on life insurance, annuities, retirement plans, etc. to make sure they are correct. At a minimum name primary and contingent beneficiaries. Do not name your estate.
- 3) RESOLVE to see your attorney regarding legal documents and estate plan, if it has been longer than five years since you last updated your documents. It is best to refresh Power of Attorney, Health Care Surrogate, and Living Will every 3-5 years even if there are no changes.
- 4) RESOLVE to make sure that your financial advisor is CFP® fiduciary advisor who must work in your best interest at all times when providing financial advice. You can find one in your area by going to www.cfpboard.net.
- 5) RESOLVE to save at least 10% of income this year. This will help you towards having adequate resources for your retirement that could last 25-30 years. Anything less is inadequate. Better something than nothing, however.
- 6) RESOLVE to increase your 401k contribution to at least receive the match from the employer and/or increase contribution by 10% in any event.
- 7) RESOLVE to reassess your risk tolerance towards investing, especially in light of your current time in life and the economic environment. Then make necessary changes to your asset allocation, if needed.
- 8) RESOLVE to do a written financial plan or to update your current financial plan. With a written plan, your odds of success increase.
- 9) RESOLVE to make sure you have the proper amount of life insurance – too much, too little. Do you still need it? Do you have the right kind of insurance? Term insurance is generally preferred unless the need is permanent.
- 10) RESOLVE to create an emergency and opportunity fund with a minimum of 3 months of household expenses. This safety net will provide comfort in a time of need.

While there are plenty of other potential resolutions to add to this basic list, these give you a place to start and to take a pause. One of the best ways to follow through on these resolutions is to take advantage of a complimentary one-hour consultation with one of our fiduciary financial advisors.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
ProVise Management Group, LLC  
611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756  
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**VALENTINE'S TRIVIA CONTEST**  
Win \$500 in Prizes

Answer these ten questions related to Valentine's Day for a chance to win a Gift Basket with \$500 in prizes including:

- \$100 Seaweed Gift Certificate
- \$100 Radiance Med Spa Gift Card.
- \$100 Bella Vino Wines Gift Certificate.
- \$100 William Dean Chocolates Gift Certificate.
- \$100 Flower of the Month card from Carlson Wildwood Florist.

The winner will be randomly chosen (by the publisher) from entries with all ten answers correct. Only one will be to be the winner. E-mail your entry to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com Subject: Valentine's Day Contest.

**Deadline to enter is Valentine's Day - Friday February 14th. The winner will be notified by e-mail.**

1. Who is Valentine's Day named for?
2. Chocolate is a popular Valentine's Day Gift. From what bean does it come from?
3. Who is William Dean Chocolates named for?
4. What was the restaurant Seaweed's previous name?
5. Why are roses the traditional Valentine's Day flower?
6. Who is Cupid?
7. Who receives the most Valentine's Day cards each year
8. Why is the color red used for so many Valentine's Day gifts and cards?
9. Who is the Mother of American Valentine's Day cards?
10. When was the first Valentine's Day heart-shaped box of chocolates sold?

**VEHICLE BREAK INS:**

Recently, deputies have been responding to multiple "smash-and-grab" vehicle burglaries throughout Pinellas County. Vehicle burglaries are one of the most preventable crimes. Following a few simple steps can dramatically reduce your risk of being a victim. Follow these steps while your vehicle is parked at your home or public environments like shopping plazas, fitness centers, and parks.

- Always lock the doors to your vehicle and close all windows, even if you are away from the vehicle for a just short time. Set any alarm or anti-theft device that may be installed in your vehicle.
- Remove all valuables from your vehicle. If you cannot take personal property with you, lock the items in the trunk. Do not place them under the seat. This includes a purse or wallet, cash, keys, cell phone, laptop, garage door opener, gym bag, briefcase, jewelry, tools, and packages.
- Do not leave any mail in your vehicle, as these items could contain personal information.
- Park in safe, well-lit areas.

Through a cooperative effort between the public and law enforcement, we can reduce crime. As always, report suspicious behavior.

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### MAKING THE LEAP - WHY IS 2020 A LEAP YEAR?

This next year, 2020, is a Leap Year. That means this year, an extra day has been added to our calendar. While an ordinary year has 365 days, a leap year has 366 days. The added day, called Leap Day, is February 29th.

It takes the Earth approximately 6 hours longer than one calendar year to revolve around the Sun. The addition of Leap Day syncs the solar year of 365.242199 days with the 365-day Gregorian calendar year.

This added day occurs usually every four years, but it is complicated. It happens in most years that are divisible by 4: 2012, 2016, 2020, etc. But, years that are divisible by 100, but not by 400, are NOT leap years. Thus 1800, 1900, 2100 and 2200 are/were NOT leap years while 1600 and 2000 were.

The Romans were the first to discovered this during Julius Caesar's rule - in 45 BC. Their calendar, called the Julian calendar named February 24th as their leap day. Coincidentally, February was the last month of their year.

Pope Gregory XIII modified the Julian calendar, correcting problems that had caused a ten day shift over its many years, and introduced a new calendar in 1582. Called the Gregorian calendar many previous dates and months were changed. Leap day was established as February 29th in almost every fourth year. Initially accepted by the Catholic countries of Europe, it took three centuries for all of Europe to adopt it. Greece was the last European country to accept it - in 1923. During the 20th century, the calendar was adopted by most non-Western countries.

The calendar though close, is still not perfect. It is 27 seconds too long each year or adds one day every 3236 years.

A leap-year baby is a person born on February 29th. They are also referred to as a "leapling" or a "leaper." In non-leap years, leaplings celebrate their birthdays on either February 28 or March 1—then some like to celebrate only every fourth year.

This has produced some interesting fictional story lines. In Gilbert & Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance, the title character, Frederic, must leave his beloved and return to a band of pirates he is apprenticed to until age 21. Because of his February 29th Leap Year birthday, he won't hit 21 until he's actually 88!

Defying the odds, a Utah woman has had three leapling babies, two boys and a girl. They were born February 29th 2004, 2008, and 2012.

In some traditions, Leap Day is also referred to as Bachelors' Day. Custom dictates on this day, a woman may propose marriage to the bachelor of her choice. If the man refuses, he is obligated to give the woman money or buy her a dress. In upper class Europe, he must buy her 12 pairs of gloves - all used to hide the woman's embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. In Greece, it is considered unlucky to marry on Leap Day.

After 2020, the next leap year will be 2024.



### LPGA COMES TO BELLEAIR

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

The LPGA Golf Tournament is coming to Belleair May 11-17 and with it comes an estimated 50,000 people.

The new Pelican Golf Club, which is still under construction as of this writing, will be hosting the tournament with a field of 144 players and a purse of 1.75 million dollars.

The tournament is sponsored by Tampa's DEX Imaging, formerly owned by Belleair's Doyle family. 6,000 patrons per day are expected to attend, which is predicted to have a 15-million-dollar impact on our area.

The golf course green ways are finished and have been open to members, however, the clubhouse and restaurants are not. Construction is continuing and they plan to be ready for the tournament.

With 50,000 people expected to visit the Town of Belleair, promoters, golf course managers and the Town's police are discussing plans for a crush of people never before seen in this small town. Besides a successful event, the goal is prevent disruptions to the surrounding residents.

To help appease the locals, all residents who front on the golf course are being offered four free tickets to the tournament on the day of their choice - most will probably attend on Sunday.

The tournaments entrance will be at the corner of Poinsettia Rd & Golf View Dr. That is the only entrance and where the vendors will set up with their promotional signs. The usual bleachers will be located at the first tee and the 18th hole for those fans who like to sit and watch. Of course, other fans will likely roam and follow the golfers.

No fences will be outlining the course, so visibility will not be obstructed.

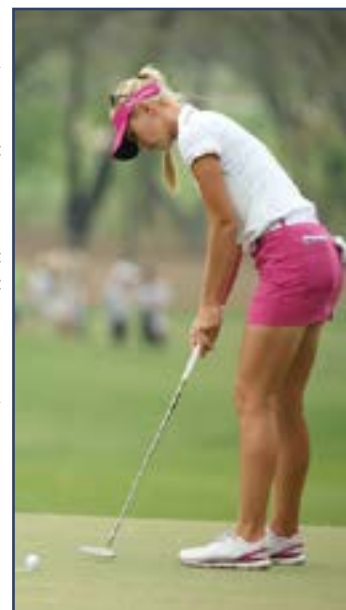
There will be closed player practices Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will be a Pro-Am round where local golfers can rub shoulders with the Pro Ladies. The actual tournament begins on Thursday. The field of 144 will be cut in half (72) by Saturday. The final day is Sunday, May 17th.

The biggest challenge is getting enough volunteers to work the entire week - they estimate they need about 600.

"We need volunteers to be marshals, standard bearers, walking scorers, to assist with transportation, hospitality and a variety of smaller functions," says Sam Mok of Eiger Marketing, who is responsible for that task. "We already have 200."

Volunteers pay \$55 to \$65 to volunteer, but they receive a few perks: a parking pass, a free shirt, a pre-party and a free round of golf. To register and get details, visit PelicanLPGA.com/Volunteer.

Planning for this inaugural event is on going. Get more information on the tournament at www.PelicanLPGA.com and more on the LPGA at www.LPGA.com/Tournaments.



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# Business Briefs

## URGENT CARE HOUSECALLS

Over the past 20 years, you may have seen Peggy Cordle on a paddle board with her dogs, walking the beach, or biking in the neighborhood. But what you may not know is your neighbor is also a nationally board-certified Emergency Medicine Nurse Practitioner who recently opened her own House Calls practice, the only MOBILE urgent care in our area.



Urgent Care Housecalls provides convenient, personalized patient care utilizing her years of hospital and clinic experience. Cordle saw a big need in our community for locals and visitors to get affordable, convenient, and trusted care without having to sit in a busy urgent care or expensive ER for minor illnesses and injuries. Urgent Care Housecalls comes to your home or workplace and can even prescribe and leave you with any needed medications, all of this at competitive prices.

Urgent Care Housecalls provides local, mobile, and complete care bringing back a simpler time with traditional house calls in your home or workplace. This saves you time and money with personalized care when and where YOU need it. Call 727-403-5380 or visit [www.urgentcarehousecalls.net](http://www.urgentcarehousecalls.net) to schedule your House Call or Virtual Visit.

## RYAN'S MEATS

A new meat market, Ryan's Meat Market and Deli, opened on Indian Rocks Road, in Largo, near Indian Rocks Beach. They offer typical meat market products including 100% Angus Beef, steaks, chicken, kabobs and more. They also offer shrimp, stuffed crab, seafood cakes, twice baked potatoes, and stuffed mushrooms. They are a deli, too and will deliver orders over \$40 with a \$10 delivery fee.



They are open Monday-Saturday 9am to 7pm. Sundays 11am to 6pm. Find them at 12788 Indian Rocks Road N. or call them at 210-3199. Visit [www.RyansMeatMarket.com](http://www.RyansMeatMarket.com).

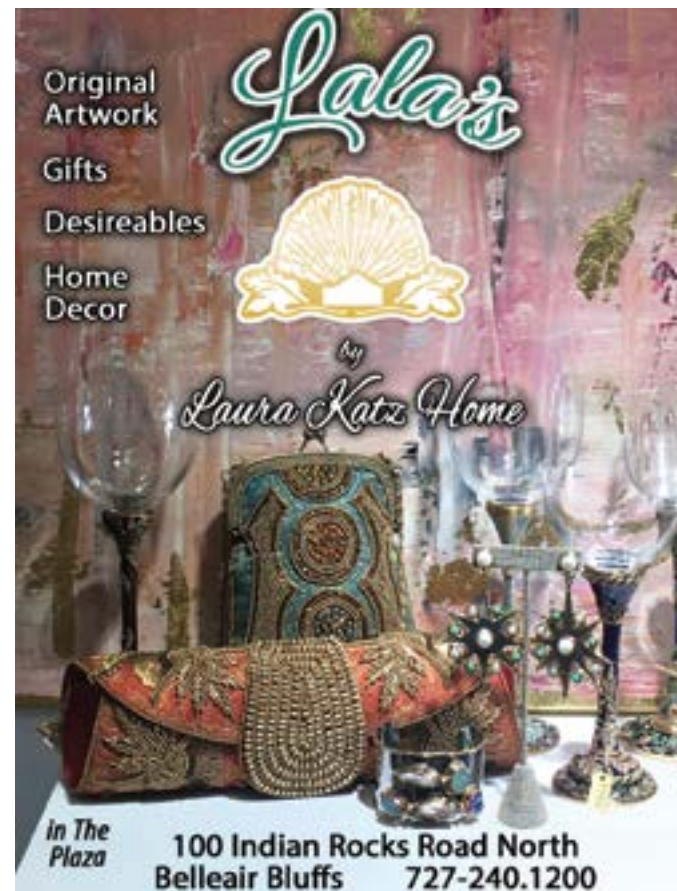
And as they say, "Compare their prices and quality to any supermarket."

**TOWN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION** The 32-townhome project long planned in Indian Rocks Beach on Gulf Blvd. between 25 and 26 Avenues has finally begun. All necessary zoning changes have been completed and the site plan has been approved by the City. Site clearing has begun.

**NEW HOTEL** Under construction at 10125 Ulmerton Road, near Largo Mall, a new Home2 Suites hotel by Hilton is being built with two restaurants - a Five Guys Burgers and a Wingstop. The hotel will be five stories and have 118 rooms. This project, being developed by Belleair Development of Pinellas Park, is slated to open in the Summer of 2020.

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# Business Briefs



**BIG MAN'S MOVING CELEBRATES 3 YEARS** In January 2017, we first introduced you to Josh and Brooke Anderson, newlyweds who used their wedding gifts to partially fund their first truck and to start Big Man's Moving Company. They had a terrible moving experience which prompted the idea to create a more customer-centric business. This month marks their 3rd anniversary. To celebrate, they bought another truck. That makes four trucks and over 1800 successful local and out-of-state moves. For estimates, visit [www.Bigmansmoving.com](http://www.Bigmansmoving.com) or call (727) 772-3458.

**PIANO LESSONS** Have you always wanted to play the piano? Piano teacher Elizabeth Snedeker has a few spots open for new students. She teaches in her home in Largo.

She also has a Grand Piano for sale. It is a six-foot Yamaha, made in Japan, with the Everett label originally purchased in 1986. It is in excellent condition and has been tuned regularly. The selling price is \$5,500.

Call Elizabeth for information about lessons or the piano at 221-9509.

**NEW FLOORING STORE OPENS** PTL Direct Source, the Florida distributor of top quality flooring products, recently opened a new showroom just across the Walsingham Bridge, near Shipwatch. Owner Patrick Rooney once lived in Indian Rocks and encourages all his old friends and neighbors to stop by. If you are looking for flooring this is your opportunity buy at wholesale prices. The locally owned and run factory direct flooring store offers engineered woods, laminate, porcelain tile, and luxury vinyl planks (LVP flooring) since 2004. Find them at 14680 118th Ave N #4, Largo, or call 727-458-5975. Visit [ptldirectsource.com](http://ptldirectsource.com) to view their products or to see their hot new style of the month.

**NEW CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE** A new children's clothing store, Em & Mac Children's Boutique is opening in Belleair Bluffs at 596 Indian Rocks Road next to Petal and Vine. The store is named for owner Kayla's children - Emmet and Macie.

They carry both boys and girls clothing and are sharing space with a second company selling women's clothing as well. They are finishing interior construction, with hopes for a Grand Opening on Saturday, February 8th.

They will be open most days beginning at 10am, except they are closed Mondays.

**BUSINESS NEWS WANTED** If you have news for this newsletter, please e-mail [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com) or call 727-430-8300.

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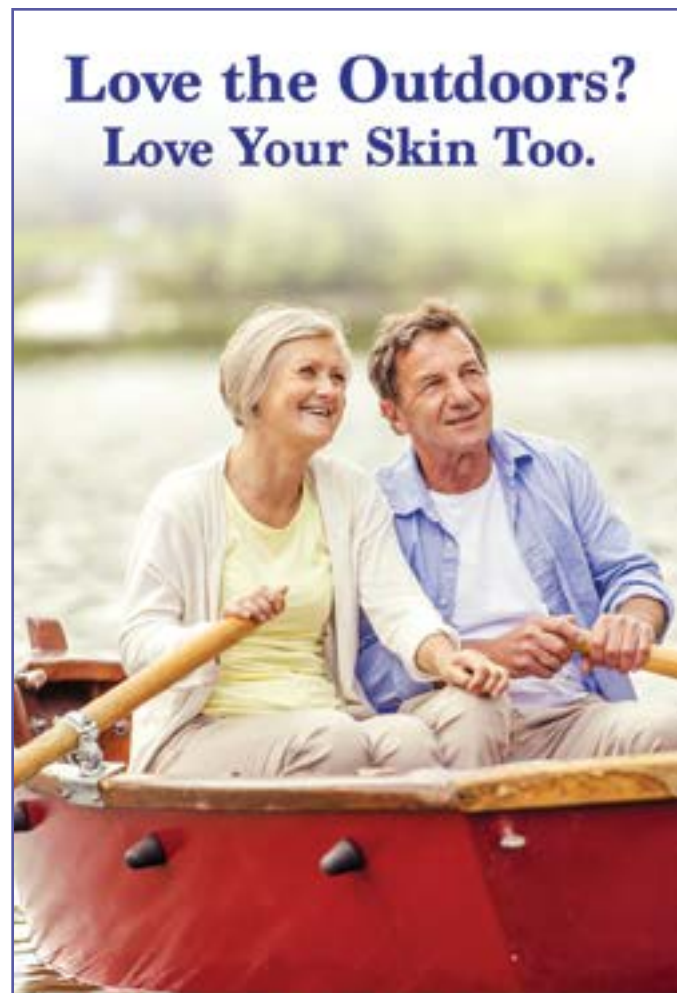
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# Business Briefs



**GET FIT'S NEW OWNERS** Meet the new owners of Get Fitness in Largo, Cyndy & Mike Dube. Since taking over ownership, they have renovated the club and purchased lots of new equipment. Updates include new LED lighting, new flooring, interior painting, deep cleaning, new HVAC systems, and new exterior facade with signage. Additional renovations will include locker-room improvements with more new equipment arriving in the coming months too.

Recently, Cyndy took 1st place as the overall champion in master's bikini at the NPC ultimate muscle extravaganza, 1st place in over 45 bikini division, and 3rd at IFBB Tampa Pro bikini over 40 division. She and her team have a passion for health & fitness by helping others achieve their wellness goals.

Get Fitness hosted their Grand Re-Opening in early January with various FREE opportunities.

Get Fitness offers basic month-to-month memberships starting at \$10.95, over 35 instructor led group classes each week, HIIT group personal training, and one-on-one personal training sessions. Their personal trainers have unique specializations in balance, stability, rehabilitation, endurance, strength building, and which help them meet the needs of every client.

**THE FISH WITH ATTITUDE** Who's behind those dark, mysterious shades, and wide toothy grins? Why it's Bob the Fish, Jim the Shark and John the Shark... the original fish with Attitude! Which one of these best fits the Bob, Jim or John in your life?

- If Bob ain't happy, ain't nobody happy
- S.O.B. sweet old Bob!
- Bob... the Man, the Myth, the Legend!
- Don't mess with Jim, he's got attitude
- Who's the man? John's the man
- You gotta love Jim
- It's all about John!



No matter what type of Bob, Jim or John you have, we got him covered! Be the coolest fish on the beach this season and put your Bob, Jim or John into a Florida state of mind. Get him a Bob the Fish, Jim the Shark or John the Shark T-shirt, hat, tank top, long-sleeve, or sweatshirt. They carry ladies, mens and kids sizes. Order securely Online at [www.BobtheFish.com](http://www.BobtheFish.com) with FREE SHIPPING! Check them out at [Facebook.com/bobthefish](https://www.facebook.com/bobthefish). If you need bulk discount pricing for a Bob, Jim or John party or group event, call 813-254-3636.

Live by their motto - "Attitude is Everything" and remember, if Bob ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!

**KAHWA DONATES \$10,000** St Petersburg based Kahwa Coffee donated over \$10,000 to "Blessings in a Backpack." A special one-day promotion tied to "National Coffee Day" in September raised the funds.

"We are grateful for the many customers and organizations in our community that share the same passion for philanthropy as Kahwa," says Sarah Perrier, co-owner of Kahwa Coffee. There is a Kahwa Coffee in the Bonefish Shopping Center.

# Business Briefs



**PET SITTER** Dr Cecily Pond Benga, better known as "CC" has been a professional pet sitter and caretaker for over 28 years. She would love to take care of your pets

while you travel. She has lived in the area for over 40 years and some may recognize her as a local bartender. Call, text, or e-mail her and she will give you a quote and supply you with her many references, 727-424-4589 or [cred1823@yahoo.com](mailto:cred1823@yahoo.com).

**NEW REAL ESTATE OFFICE** New to town, MavRealty is opening an office on the corner of Indian Rocks Road and Sunset Blvd , north of The Plaza.

"We should be open by March," says Michael Hendzel, owner/broker. "We look forward to serving the Belleair community."

Get more information on MAV at [www.MavRealty.com](http://www.MavRealty.com). Find them at 232 Indian Rocks Road North.

## BELLEVIEW PLACE

Construction continues at Belleview Place on the last two (of four) mid-rise condominium buildings. More than 100 residences have been sold (Carriage Homes and mid-rise condominiums) and residents have moved into the Allamanda and Brightwater buildings that sit in a semi-circle around the Inn. Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2021.



Buyers are enjoying access to amenities including the Inn, the resort-style pool with cabanas, and the Belleair Country Club (with two championship golf courses. The fact that Belleview Place is atop a 35-foot bluff means no flood insurance.

Belleview Place is located at 275 Belleview Boulevard, Belleair. Visit [www.BelleviewPlace.com](http://www.BelleviewPlace.com) for information.

**PLAZA REMODEL** The Bonefish Plaza (Bluffs Shopping Center) remodel is in full swing. The center changed ownership last February, and the new owners are redesigning the fascia and installing a new roof, throughout. "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 this spring."

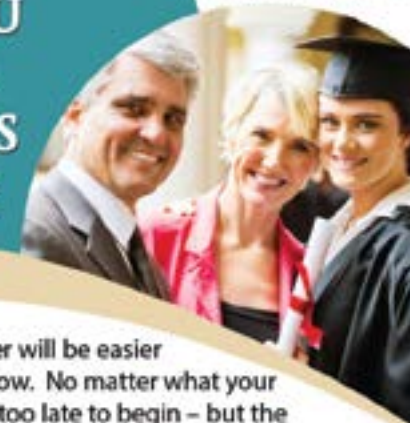
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# Business Briefs

**TRAVEL SERVICES** The Anchors Away Cruises and Tours travel agency, now open in Belleair Bluffs, is new to the area, but it isn't new to the business. They first opened in 1995 and with the Bluffs' office, they now have three locations in Florida including one in Countryside. "Most people are surprised when they learn about all our services," says owner Ed Mass, "and that many of those services are free. Normally, the cost of the trips we book for you come out less than if you booked them yourself Online. We are here to help."

Four employees work in Belleair Bluffs including manager Laurie Raver. They advise on travel and book cruises, vacations, and more. Ed and Laurie (both standing) are shown above.

Drop by the office for a Free Travel Calendar – with no obligation. If you are planning a trip, learn more about their services at [www.AnchorsAwayCruises.com](http://www.AnchorsAwayCruises.com) or call 1-800-951-2469. Find them at 404 Indian Rocks Road North, near Suzette's.



**NEW CLEARWATER BEACH HOTEL STATUS REPORT**  
**Marriott Courtyard**, 443 East Shore Drive; 139 units; in permitting  
**Hotel next to Pier 60 Hotel (previously Sea Captain Hotel)**: 40 Devon Drive; 98 rooms; no permits issued yet; site plan needs to be amended.  
**Chart House (replacement)**: 850 Bayway; 60 units; Hotel Density Development Agreement approved by City Council. Site plan not submitted yet.  
**Ocean Properties**, the developers of Opal Sands Resort, have purchased most of the block across the street, and plan to build a 248 room hotel with a walk-over bridge connecting the two hotels. The city considering the request.

**NEW RAYMOND JAMES MANAGER** Meet Paul Lentini, CFP, the new branch manager of the Raymond James office in Belleair Bluffs/Largo on West Bay. He already manages three Raymond James branches, including Clearwater, Trinity and Wesley Chapel. Lentini became the manager when Jim Conlin passed away in November. Lentini is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned in 1991. He previously worked for Prudential Securities and led the Wells Fargo Advisors in Pasco from 2012-2018. He joined Raymond James in August of 2018 and is Senior Vice President.



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

## LOCAL AUTHOR'S NEW NOVEL TOUCHES ON HIS CLEARWATER YOUTH

Fans of thought provoking and yet heartfelt stories will enjoy *Ages of Entanglement*, written by Dr. Robert Jackson. Robert was born in Clearwater and also grew up there before graduating from Clearwater High in 1994. His new book, *Ages of Entanglement*, is post-apocalyptic in nature, but is set in the southeast United States some time in the future. Through the tale of an individual's trek through a fallen world, the book explores the spiritual, psychological, and scientific entanglement between humans, and if we should and can truly escape it.

Robert's writing career had its beginnings in Mrs. Roby's English class at Clearwater High, where she entered his essay on sailing into a state wide writing competition. Although it did not win, it inspired him to continue writing through the years. His youth was spent sailing on the Intracoastal and the novel's final scene actually unfolds in a similar setting. The main character uses his sailing skills to survive and protect the ones he cares for. Robert's sailing interests started with lessons at the Clearwater Yacht Club, but he now sails mostly on landlocked Lake Martin in Alabama. Robert also competed on the CHS Swim Team and was an Eagle Scout of Troop 456. He remembers earning a sailing merit badge at Boy Scout Camp Soule in the heart of Clearwater. He also relishes memories of visiting Sandy's bookstore that used to reside in downtown Clearwater until sometime in the '80s.

In the novel, three decades have passed since a mysterious illness brought on by quantum entanglement suddenly decimated the human population. Quantum entanglement is a strange and counterintuitive phenomena, even though it is scientifically proven. This connection between two materials allows for instantaneous control regardless of the distance between the materials. By harnessing quantum

entanglement, mankind had tapped into a dangerous power able to alter the very matter of our existence. The story of the main character, Samson, explores the metaphorical relations between human connections and quantum entanglement. Samson long ago gave up searching for his family and now wanders the earth with no purpose, while avoiding entanglement with other souls. But then he meets Selene—an orphaned, but strong and independent girl. She sees in him what he has forgotten. Their journey together toward a utopian island merely rumored to exist. The only evidence is a brochure of the island's lighthouse and a handwritten message. Along the way they meet others also seeking to overcome the obstacles of the age, but in their own ways. This includes a village aiming to rebuild the world, a ghostly ferryman who carries his passengers across a glassy lake; a rock star without an audience, and gladiators of devolved sporting events.



Will Samson help Selene to make her way in this dangerous world, and will she help him to find his lost humanity? Or is Samson already too far gone, a relic of the previous age? *Ages of Entanglement* is available on Amazon.com.

Robert L. Jackson is a professor of engineering at Auburn University, a researcher, and a poet. He has published many scientific papers and poems. His work often explores the boundaries between art and science. He grew up in Clearwater, graduated from Georgia Tech, and currently lives in Auburn, Alabama



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Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) or sleep apnea is an all-inclusive term for breathing difficulties, ranging from mild snoring to severe airway obstruction during sleep. When your child's breathing is disrupted, their body recognizes the disruption much like choking, therefore, increasing the heart rate, raising the blood pressure, arousing the brain, ultimately disrupting sleep. The central issue is a compromised airway. If a child's airway is narrow, underdeveloped or constricted, the child will struggle to receive enough oxygen at night and may resort to mouth breathing.

Children's sleep apnea is a much more critical and common problem than what has previously been thought. It can manifest itself in a variety of symptoms easily overlooked, misdiagnosed and left untreated as "normal" conditions of childhood.

How can you tell if your child has sleep apnea? Loud snoring is a very apparent indication your child may have sleep apnea. Gasping and snoring sounds grinding teeth at night while your child sleeps may catch you off guard or even make you momentarily worried. These sounds stem from your child moving from deeper sleep to lighter (towards waking up) struggling to breathe.

Additional symptoms may appear in children suffering from sleep apnea, such as: Arrested growth, Nightmares, Crowded, maligned teeth, Swollen Adenoids/Tonsils, Teeth Grinding, Frequently waking, Restless sleep, Hyperactivity, Anxiety, Academic challenges, Fatigue, Behavior issues including aggression, Mouth breathing, Bed-wetting, ADD, ADHD, and Chronic allergies

Mouth breathing is not the same as nasal breathing and is a bodily compensation of airway insufficiency, often leading to a further compromise of the airway. This can prevent the proper functioning of the tongue and other orofacial muscles children need to speak, swallow, chew and function properly. Also, it can cause the delicate tissues of the tonsils and adenoids to swell.

Normal breathing is vital for living a vibrant, happy life. It is silent breathing through your nose and effortless. It allows your child to go into a normal deep, restorative sleep and to awake refreshed and ready for the day. Snoring and sleep apnea are not normal breathing and are not healthy. Unfortunately, many children (and adults) simply can't breathe normally – especially at night.

Until now, sleep apnea solutions focused on coping with the symptoms. For many children it meant a pharmaceutical option. Finally, there is a non-invasive solution that gets to the root of the problem and solves it! Finally, there is a healthy path to better sleep and improved health utilizing the Vivos oral appliance.

The solution to healthful sleep evolved from extensive scientific research that discovered the actual reasons for OSA. Briefly, OSA is due to an underdevelopment or misalignment of the upper and/or lower jaws. When these bones are undersized and not aligned, the airway is restricted by the tongue which doesn't have sufficient room and slides to the back of the oral cavity. Fortunately, this problem can now be corrected.

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, this device almost magically encourages actual bone growth, even in adults.

Finally, a solution to help a person breathe freely all night long, sleeping improves and the serious side effects can be virtually eliminated. Anyone who has suffered from that choking, gasping and struggling to breathe that is caused by obstructive sleep apnea finally has a real solution that handles the root cause.

Dr. Paul Rodeghero has been practicing dentistry in Clearwater for nine years and is excited to help his patients with the Vivos oral appliance. For information or to attend a free information seminar on the Vivos solution, please call Breathe Well Sleep Well at 314-4045

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### HIRE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR OR YOU MAY GET BURNED



By Randy Lee

We hire people every day to work on our homes. How many of these people have the correct credentials to do the work at hand? It is estimated that in Pinellas County 35% of all contractors do not have the correct license or insurance required or both. We are asked maybe twice a year to show our legal credentials-which is not enough. Never assume! Home owners need to be aware of this problem and that not checking credentials can have a negative impact on the job. Finally, only licensed contractors can pull a permit.

In the landscape industry in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties several licenses and several types of insurance are required. All lawn crews and tree trimmers must have a certification through Pinellas County on Best Management Practices (BMP). Additional certifications are required to spread fertilizer and to use round up. A business owner usually carries an occupational license in the town they reside in. Also, in the plant industry a company carries a stock dealer license to purchase plants and trees. Recently, we are required to have an agricultural bond as well - all of these licenses are expensive and are issued through the Department of Agriculture.

Insurance is another must have as a business owner. You must have a general liability policy and your workers must be covered by workers comp. A liability policy can cover many things and is best to have one that caps out in the 1-2 million dollar range. Every employee, no matter what size the company is, has to be covered by workers comp. It is also important to be working with a company that is current on their corporate license. These companies are usually an LLC or an S-Corp. Non-insured workers open the customer up to being sued if anyone should be hurt on their property.

One such example: Your lawn crew arrives with truck and trailer with 4 crew members ready to work at your property. Is everyone licensed and does the company owner have the proper insurances? You should check credentials carefully and make sure they are current. If someone is hurt on your property and there is no insurance involved, the owner will get a fine but the wealthy property owner will likely be sued and possibly for big dollars. It is up to the client to check all credentials and know who you are working with.

Checklist:

- Fertilize grass, trees and shrubs in March
- Add annuals and perennials at this time
- Trim winter damaged plants in mid-March
- Add a fresh layer of mulch in March
- Spring is right around the corner!

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### 14TH ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY GROUP WEDDING CEREMONY

Couples wanting to make the most romantic day of the year extra special, with a wedding or vow renewal, are encouraged to register for the Pinellas Clerk's 14th Annual Valentine's Day Wedding Ceremony. Up to fifty couples are expected to be joined together for one group wedding ceremony on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, 2020 in the picturesque Florida Botanical Gardens. Couples must register Online no later than Friday, February 7, 2020 at [clerkvalentinesdaywedding.eventbrite.com/](http://clerkvalentinesdaywedding.eventbrite.com/)

To be eligible to participate in the Valentine's Day Wedding event, application for a marriage license must be made between December 16, 2019 and February 7, 2020. The Clerk has waived the normal \$30 ceremony fee. Standard marriage license fees will still apply.

"Hosting this event is something we look forward to all year," said Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. "Helping local and out-of-state citizens get married or renew their vows is an honor." The Clerk's office is proudly showcasing the community event complete with an eye-catching window display at the downtown Clearwater Courthouse. Aimee Matsko and Shantel Griffin, owners of Bearer of the Bling Bridal in Kenneth City, volunteered to design and set up the Clerk's window display again this year.

The ceremony will take place at 2pm in the Wedding Garden of the Florida Botanical Gardens located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. All couples should arrive by 1pm on Valentine's Day with their marriage license and identification. Wedding photography packages may be purchased with cash, checks or any major credit card the day of the event or by visiting [www.clerkvalentinesweddingphotos.eventbrite.com](http://www.clerkvalentinesweddingphotos.eventbrite.com).

A single ceremony will unite all couples in attendance. Everyone will be serenaded with a cappella melodies performed by the Charmonizers Barbershop Quartet. In addition, the couples will be treated to beautiful melodies performed by Deputy Clerk, Wanda Humbert and Pinellas County employee, James Beaty. After the ceremony, the couples and their guests will celebrate with wedding cake and refreshments provided by local sponsors. Couples will receive a special Commemorative Marriage Certificate, which will be mailed within one week of the ceremony with the official Certificate of Marriage.

For information, contact the Clerk's office at 464-3008 or email [recording@mypinellasclerk.org](mailto:recording@mypinellasclerk.org). For information about the Florida Botanical Gardens, visit [www.flbg.org](http://www.flbg.org).

**City of Belleair Bluffs**  
CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE  
March 7, 2020 8:00am-2:00pm  
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Ruth Fanovich  
RN & Owner

### THE NEW ST. PETE PIER - IT'S ALMOST READY TO OPEN

The new Pier is scheduled to open this Spring, so it won't be long now until we can take our kids and grandkids to the fabulous playground, try our luck on the fishing deck, or simply stroll along the water. In the meantime, here's an update:

**PIER RANGERS** - Do you want to be a part of the new St. Pete Pier? The City is starting a Pier Ranger Outreach Program. This is an all-volunteer program of about 50 adults who are interested in supporting the City and its new pier. Individuals will help educate the community and visitors about the new St. Pete Pier. Rangers will be expected to walk (a lot), stand for long periods of time and talk to visitors during their shifts about various aspects of the City and the new pier.

Volunteer Pier Rangers must complete three hours of training (two hours in the classroom and one hour touring the site). Rangers must have access to a smart phone with mobile Internet capabilities while volunteering and must commit to at least four shifts of outreach. These volunteer opportunities begin with the Pier Opening, as a mandatory event, followed by other weekend activities culminating with the Fourth of July extravaganza. Rangers will be expected to walk, stand, and interact with the public during their shifts, often outdoors and in summer heat. Rangers are strictly volunteers (no compensation.) If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [Robert.Barto@StPete.org](mailto:Robert.Barto@StPete.org) to receive an application.

**PIER AMBASSADORS** - The city has already lined up twenty young people to work as Pier Ambassadors for when the Pier opens in the spring. This special group of teen volunteers from St. Petersburg junior and senior high schools will meet, host and tour visitors around the new pier. Trained and updated in local educational sessions, the students will know

the history of the former piers and talk about the development of the new pier and its surroundings. For more information, contact Leah McRae, Director of Education for the City, at [Leah.McRae@StPete.org](mailto:Leah.McRae@StPete.org).



**PIER VENDORS** - The pier may not be open yet, but the vendors are set. The city has accepted applications from 17 local merchants to operate in the Pier Marketplace, a shaded area near the entrance to the 26-acre district. Initially, the Marketplace will be open 10am to 6pm, Friday through Sunday. There may be extended hours on special days and with special events.

**PIER POLES:** Those towering poles hovering over the new pier walkway are the pylons that will support the giant net sculpture designed by artist Janet Echelman. They will help support the colorful and dramatic sculpture that will overhang the Family Park area of the Pier District. The construction started this month; watch for it to develop over the next month.

**NEXT STEPS:** Over the coming weeks, interior work will continue on the structures at the Pier. The Splash Pad, Playground and all associated landscaping will be completed. Public art will be installed. Trams will be tested. A new shade structure at Spa Beach Park will be installed.

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## Bar & Restaurant News



**NEW BREAKFAST SPOT**  
Benedicts, now open in Largo, just east of Belleair Bluffs next to the railroad crossing, is known for their breakfast and also serves a great lunch. They have beer and wine available with dine-in meals. "Benedicts is a great place for breakfast or lunch," says owner Ali Ismail. "We are known for our omelets and a great quiche," Ali adds. "Customers tell us we have the 'best quiche' they have ever had and we sell whole quiches to take home."

"We also have home-cooked breads," Ali continues, "and one of our most popular items is our signature cabbage brisket soup. The City of Largo was a pleasure to work with and the people here are extremely nice. Largo has welcomed us with open arms."

Ali came from Canada where from 1994 to 2001 he owned a restaurant called Briskets. He moved to Ohio where he opened the first Benedicts.

The Largo location opened in November with 17 employees. The new store is open from 7am to 3pm Mon-Sat and 7-2 on Sundays with a very popular Sunday Brunch.

This is their fourth Pinellas County location. Other locations include Pinellas Park, Clearwater, and Dunedin. Find the Largo restaurant at 201 West Bay, just west of the railroad tracks or call 444-0371. See their menu at [Bendicts.com](http://Bendicts.com).

**GREEK CITY** John Pappas, the patriarch of the Pappas family came to America in 1975 with little money and spoke little English. But armed with his family's recipes he opened a very success Tarpon Springs restaurant. John's son Nicholas is carrying on his father's tradition and is opening Greek City Café in the Largo Mall using the family's recipes. The restaurant should open in early 2020.

**HOOTERS GIVES-A-HOOT** Hooters recently presented a check for \$45,955 to Moffitt Cancer Center. The donation is proceeds from their "Give A Hoot" program and supports a grant awarded through the V Foundation for Cancer Research. The check includes \$10,000 from Hooter's management to support the effort.

Give A Hoot is held annually in honor of Hooter's Kelly Jo Dowd, once a Palm Harbor store's General Manager. She succumbed to breast cancer in 2007. Fund-raisers in Hooters nationwide that include buying pink bracelets, a percentage of proceeds from specific drinks, rounding up your check, and \$1 from every Hooters Calendar sold, raised the money.

Hooters has raised more than \$5.8 million over time to support the fight against breast cancer, much of it through the Kelly Jo Dowd Breast Cancer Research Fund benefiting the V Foundation for Cancer Research.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



**MAGGIE MAE'S CELEBRATES 11** Maggie Mae's on the Bluffs, has now been open in The Bluffs for eleven years. One of the most popular breakfast/lunch spots, each year they continue to win awards for both - Best Breakfast and Best Lunch (The Belleair Bee, People's Choice.) If you haven't been lately, stop in for a great meal. Find them in the Bonefish Plaza.

**GOLDEN SPOON AWARDS** The Golden Spoon Awards, a listing by Florida Trend Magazine, is out with their 2019 list of 100 Best Florida Restaurants. 21 are in the Tampa Bay area with three on the beaches. The three are Rusty's at the Sheraton Sand Key, Caretta's on the Gulf at Sandpearl, Clearwater Beach, and Salt Rock Grill, Indian Shores.

**ANECDOTE BREWING COMPANY** "We have had some delays, but we are opening soon...very soon," says Phillip Anderson, owner of the new craft brewery under construction in Indian Rocks. They plan to brew ales and lagers on site. "We plan a big announcement when we have a firm date." Find them at 321 Gulf Blvd, between CVS and Beach Zone.

**PICK-A-DELI** A new deli, called Pick-A-Deli, opened on Walsingham Road in the space formerly occupied by Subway Sandwiches, next to Starbucks. They call themselves a deli, but it is more of a sandwich shop, similar to Subway. They serve classic sandwiches with Boar's Head meats and cheeses and open at 7am with breakfast sandwiches. They serve soups and salads, too. Find them at 13664 Walsingham Road. Call ahead for pick up at 303-0056.

**NEW TO THE HYATT** Things are really moving quickly with 3 new eateries being built on the bottom floor of the Clearwater Beach Hyatt. Look for We, the Pizza, Good Stuff Eatery and World's Best Soft Serve to open in the near future.

**NEW HEAD CHEF** Well-known local chef Andrew Basch joined the Sheraton Sand Key as its new Executive Chef, following the retirement of Chef John Harris.

A Clearwater native, Chef Andrew honed his culinary skills in the Tampa Bay area's hospitality industry. He started cooking professionally at 14 years old for a catering company. He grew up with an Italian mother and a German father. His most popular dishes involve his heritage.

All Sheraton Sand Key's culinary operations will all be overseen by Chef Andrew, who will bring his own flair to the award-winning cuisine. At Rusty's Bistro, he will continue the fine-dining experience and introduce more international dishes. Chef Andrew will also manage the menus for the Resort's popular meetings and conventions.



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**DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**  
**Online Dating Safety**

The month of February is commonly associated with love and romance. On Valentine's Day, couples spend quality time together, family and friends exchange valentines, and lastly, many singles continue their search for the right partner.

According to a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, couples are more likely to meet a romantic partner online than through personal contacts or connections. Furthermore, the publication noted that a 2017 survey revealed that meeting online has become the most popular way couples meet, eclipsing meeting through friends for the first time in 2013. The dating app, Tinder, reported as of September 2019 that it had approximately 7.86 million active users in the United States.

However, online dating has its dangers. Predators can create fake identities to lure in victims to gain access to their finances or instigate sexually or physically abusive relationships. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes Unit works to prevent fraudulent scams, like the common "Romance Scam." Once a relationship has been established online, the out-of-town suspect convinces the victim to wire money so the person can travel to visit them or help them with a dire personal emergency.

Fraud is a preventable crime if you know what to look for. Here's how you can keep yourself from becoming a victim:

1. Never send money.
2. Carefully examine their profiles.
3. Use reverse image search on their pictures.
4. End the relationship if they refuse to meet you face to face.
5. If you do meet the person, pick a public place and let a friend or family member know where you are.

If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is. A loving relationship would never ask you to step beyond your personal boundaries financially or otherwise. If you are the victim of the Romance Scam, or any type of fraudulent scam, contact the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at 582-6200.

**LIONS AND TIGERS AND SAND SCULPTURES, OH MY!**

**Sugar Sand Festival Announces 2020 Theme**

From architectural masterpieces created from Clearwater's famous sugar sand to concerts, performers and daily entertainment – the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival Presented by Visit St. Pete Clearwater is a fascinating event attracting visitors from around the world each year. The festival returns to Clearwater Beach in 2020 for its 8th and biggest year yet with the theme "SANDimals, An Animal Adventure."

Fourteen world-class artists craft elaborate sand sculptures from Clearwater's internationally famous sugar sand. The works of art are on display in a 21,000-square-foot structure. More than 1,000 tons of Clearwater sand takes on a new life, bringing visitors on a "sandtastic" adventure. Last year's event drew more than 200,000 visitors throughout its 17-day run. Due to the overwhelming success of last year's Sugar Sand Festival and the 2020 Easter Holiday, this year's festival will stretch for 17 days again - April 10-26. This will allow people more time to visit and also give those visiting for the Easter holiday a chance to see this incredible and affordable festival.

General admission to the sculpture exhibit will be \$10, \$8 for children 4-10 years old and free for children 3 years old and younger. Tickets will also be \$8 for those 60 and older, military personnel, police officers, firefighters and teachers. These discounted tickets will be available at the gate only with proper identification. All other tickets can be purchased Online at SugarSandFestival.com.

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**2020 VISION**

By Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

For most people, the New Year signals a fresh start. It does for me. My "fresh starts" include attending my annual health appointments, including a visit to my ophthalmologist to get my vision checked. Over the years, I found out that I have glaucoma. It's treatable and my vision is good, but it is a good reminder for all of you to have your vision tested each year.

Technically speaking, the measure of 20/20 visual acuity—the clarity or sharpness of vision—is being able to see clearly at 20 feet away from what should normally be seen at that distance. Another way to look at it—pun intended—is to understand what 20/100 vision is. When you have 20/100 vision you must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 100 feet away. So, we want to be as close to 20/20 vision as possible.

Another type of vision relates to my role as a Pinellas County Commissioner. Every year in January, the Board and our administration revisits the county's strategic plan—the guiding principles that set the direction for the county through five strategic goals. They align with our values and help us fulfill our vision to be the standard for public service in America.

Much like the purpose of a vision test, we examine our plan to see if it continues to provide an accurate guide for the future. How do we know it is as accurate as possible? We ask you to be the lens that focuses our efforts through the annual Citizen Values Survey. This important tool provides valuable insight into how you view the quality of life in Pinellas County, what your priorities for future investment are and how much trust and confidence you have in Pinellas County Government.

We just completed this year's statically valid telephonic survey and it will help focus the Board's understanding of the priorities you reported. The results will be reviewed at our upcoming strategic planning session and, if recent years are an indicator, the survey has shown to be a good vision test of our efforts. We've had a consistent pattern of improvement over the years in meeting your expectations. You can view past Citizen Values Survey results by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/strategicplan](http://www.pinellascounty.org/strategicplan).

Another important survey is also coming your way: the 2020 Census. America gets one chance each decade to count its entire population. The 2020 Census is your chance to make sure we get our fair share as a community. The census count determines both the size of our state's political representation and how billions of dollars are spent on federal and local programs, like public transit, affordable housing, school lunches, Medicaid and SNAP nutrition assistance, among many others. This spring, your home will get an invitation by mail to take the census online. Your response is secure, confidential and protected by law. This short survey is a civic duty laid out in the Constitution and it's also vitally important to our community's future. To learn more, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/census2020](http://www.pinellascounty.org/census2020).

I hope you will help make Pinellas County count in the 2020 Census and I hope that Pinellas County Government meet your expectations in 2020 with an accurate vision for our wonderful county. As always, I welcome your feedback and concerns. Please email me at [kseel@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org).



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## Organizational News...

### THE BEACH ART CENTER

**The Roaring 20s Gala!** Saturday, February 15, 2020, 7-10pm. TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!! Join the Flappers & Dappers for our 3rd Annual Fundraiser. Put on your glad rags and join IRB's largest theme party with great food, live music, dancing, socializing and some amazing costumes, (there will also be a Speakeasy out back-but that's a secret!...shhhhh). Tickets are \$65 per person and must be purchased in advance at [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org) or at the BAC.

The Beach Art Center is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and this fundraiser provides a major source of funding in support of our mission to "inspire lifelong learning, empower the individual and engage the community of all ages in the creative arts". There will be a brief auction, offering both experiences and a few very special pieces of art.

**Art Gallery Show: "Heart of My Heart."** - February 3- February 21: Members and non-members are invited to enter their work. 2D and 3D Works accepted. The Artist Reception February 7th from 6-8pm is free and open to the public. Ribbon awards will be presented.

**Classes and Workshops:** We have many exciting educational offerings coming up for our members and residents to try.

Come check out our NEW ceramic class-"Sea Creature and More" with award winning Suzy Pease and Plein Aire and Pastels classes with Shawn Dell.

Art on the Rocks February 5 "Seashell and Seaglass Heart" and February 28 back by popular demand "Pet Portraits."

The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, [www.beachartcenter.org](http://www.beachartcenter.org).

### 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.

They would love to help you host your next family or High School Reunion, Celebrations of Life, baby or wedding shower, engagement party, rehearsal dinner, anniversary, birthday or any other event, personal or business. No membership is required. Room fees plus food and beverage costs apply.

Their Winter Membership program is continuing. 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), or visit [ClearwaterYachtClub.org](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month at the Belleair Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Members are 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.

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## STICKER SHOCK, YEAR AFTER YEAR.....

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

Although most real estate professionals tend to quote home values based strictly upon the living area square footage of a home, this is at best an "average" valuation that doesn't take into consideration many factors in a home. Is a home elevated per FEMA requirements, how many bathrooms, age of the home, and especially all the additional square footage of roofed area for porches, garages, verandas, etc., are all factors that have to be considered in order to obtain an accurate home value.

With that in mind, how does an informed customer determine a realistic value for a particular home? Equally important, how does a prospective home buyer accurately determine the increased cost of a new home in Pinellas from last year, this year, or a possible future cost should they decide to wait 12-24 months to build their dream home? There are in fact statistics that we see in the Sunday newspapers stating inflationary costs, and these prove to be somewhat accurate based upon the "average" living area square footage. However, what is a realistic and true cost increase for a new home today?

I'm glad you asked! Being the only builder with a model home along the beaches in Pinellas, for the exact same home with the exact specifications, I am experiencing inflationary cost increases each quarter, and the reasons for these uncontrollable additional costs vary. For instance, last year new building codes went into effect, mandating new construction items. Then, "creeping inflation" is the curse in our industry, as prices escalate based upon volume and supply and demand. Government has also been a culprit, as new impact fees get passed in certain municipalities raising costs sometimes thousands of dollars per home. Try as we do, these items are not controllable by contractors.

What does this mean in dollars and cents? Doing everything I can to keep costs as low as possible for my customers, our model home has increased about 11% this past year. That's great for those that already purchased at the lower price and are enjoying the 11% return on investment, much higher than they realize in their stock investment portfolio. It's not so good for those that are seriously considering a new home but did not pull the trigger last year. My best "guestimate" is that our industry will experience a 6% - 9% home cost increase in 2020.

Some folks are waiting for retirement which is understandable, yet many of my customers are buying at today's price, realizing that when the home is complete, they are one year closer to their retirement years. I realize how difficult a decision is to invest (transfer) savings into a new home investment, but remember that a new home along the Pinellas beaches will most probably offer a much higher return than today's stock investments. And..... you end up with a beautiful new energy efficient, hurricane resistant raised home for you family to enjoy for generations to come.

In March, GHD Construction Services Inc. will commence construction on a new waterfront home, with even more bells & whistles than our present model. Feel free to come by our existing model and speak with our sales team with any questions you may have for a new home.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,000 homes since 1971, and has a new model home at 239 144th Ave., Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to email me directly at: [info@ghdcsi.com](mailto:info@ghdcsi.com), or request a meeting at our new model.




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## Organizational News...

### ST. JEROME'S

The church is offering a program called Alpha, that is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question people may have about faith and is designed to create conversation about life's big questions.

"It is just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together," says Madona Jones, organizer. "There is no pressure and no cost."

Spanning eleven weeks, each week begins with dinner, a video, then a small group conversation. Everyone is invited, and you do not need to be part of the Catholic Church to participate.

The program is held on Wednesday nights. To participate, call Madona Jones at 537-0143. St Jerome's Church is located at 10895 Hamlin Road, Largo.

### BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY (BCFP)

Happy New Year from BCFP! Since 2004, we have continued to service those in our community who are challenged with food insecurity and 2019 was another wonderful year! We provided a food products, including Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and Easter hams, for an average of 800 family members per month.

We wish to thank the amazing number of individuals who provide cash donations throughout the year. You made 2019 a record year. Although much of our food is donated, there are many items that we must purchase in large quantities. Every dollar makes a difference! We are also blessed by donations of food and money from the following organizations: Action 2000 • Beggins Century 21 Real Estate • Calvary Episcopal Church • City of N. Redington Beach • City of Indian Rocks Beach • City of Indian Shores • Country Day Schools • Crabby Bills Family of restaurants • Doubletree Beach Resort, N. Redington Beach • Feeding Tampa Bay • Florida Dream Center • Griffin Productions Neighborhood News Magazines • Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association • Indian Rocks Family Sailing Assoc. • IRB Women's Tea • Pinellas County Sheriff Office • Plumlee Realty • Publix • RCS • Richard O. Johnson Tech High • Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach • Seminole High School • Silly Sinatra's Singing Group • Slyce Pizza Bar • US Post Office, IRB • Walmart Neighborhood Market Finally, we wish to thank all of you who donate your time to staff our pantry three times each week throughout the year. Without you, we would not exist.

### 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 Contact Elizabeth Werner at (727) 799-8488 for more information.

### THE WELCOME NEWCOMER CLUB

This social organization meets the first Tuesday of each month at different venues. Doors open at 11:30am, with a speaker at Noon. Lunch is served at 12:30 pm and is \$25 or less.

March 3 they will meet at Countryside Country Club for the Installation of Officers & a speaker from The Haven.

April 7 they will meet at the Dunedin Golf Club. A representative From Clearwater Aquarium will speak

Reservation deadlines are the Tuesday preceding the lunch and payment is due with a reservation. Reservations may be made to Diane McCune, 301-693-0219, or tucklove@brighthouse.com.

After lunch there is bridge, mahjong, dominoes, etc. until 3:30.



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## Organizational News...

### 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.

### BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB

The Club now meets at the Belleair Coffee Company on Thursday's at Noon. For more information about the Club, or to get involved, contact John Funk, floridafunks@yahoo.com

### PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

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

February 9th Cupid Does Jazz: The remarkable Peter & Will Anderson Trio (Clarinet, sax and guitar) will thrill you with their virtuosity. You will surely be put in a Valentine Day mood with their jazzy renditions of your favorite romantic tunes from the Great American Songbook. Selections are from Gershwin, Cole Porter and much more.

March 8 Honoring Ludwig: Closing out the season series, we welcome back the talented Con Brio String Quartet and Sheng-Yuan Kuan on piano. Honoring the 250th Anniversary of the birth of this composing titan, we'll hear an inspiring Beethoven string work, plus selections by Gabriel Faure.

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

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

- 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, call 316-5504, or visit ClearwaterGardenClub.com, for information.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

The February meeting will be held at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, beginning at 10:30 with a tour of the gardens and lunch to follow at a local restaurant.

In March they are back at Belleair Beach City Hall with a featured speaker and a catered lunch. Guests are always welcome and new members can join for the remainder of this garden club year for half price.

For further information feel free to contact Marjorie Rose at rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com

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## Organizational News...

**GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB**  
The Club presents JUST MY STYLE, the club's 49th Annual Daisy Grants Fashion Show and Luncheon on March 31, 2020 at the Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane in Belleair.

This event will feature fashions by Patchington, followed by a gourmet luncheon. Proceeds benefit the club's Daisy Grants program. The cost is \$45; patrons — \$70. To advertise in the program, e-mail: CCWCPR@yahoo.com or call 813 765-6219.

For information or reservations call 727-452-6452, visit [GFWCClearwatercommunitywomensclub.org](http://GFWCClearwatercommunitywomensclub.org) or the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club Facebook page, or e-mail [MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com).

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).

**BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**  
Friday, February 7 - Todd Jennings, Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee Chairman, will be the speaker. Mr. Jennings, a member of PCREC since 2012, was elected president in 2018. He served as president of the Pinellas County Young Republicans from 2011-2012. Currently, he serves as a commissioner on the Sixth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission.

Programs are held at the Belleair Country Club; One Country Club Lane; Belleair. Registration and Social Hour begin at 11 am, with lunch and meeting following at noon, adjourning around 1:30 pm. Reservations are necessary before 5 pm Monday, February 3, email Renatta Cochran at [renfilco@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:renfilco@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-595-6678. Checks and cash are accepted at the door, and the Club welcomes Republicans from all surrounding communities.

**BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB**  
February 11th the Club, celebrating their 61st year, will meet at Three Olive Restaurant - 13079 Park Boulevard N., Seminole.

Social meeting is at 11:30 am and luncheon is at Noon. A program will be presented by Julie's Cottage at Provence whose specialty is arranging beautiful silk floral bouquets, perfect for all occasions. The public is invited. Please contact Sue Edmunds, Treasurer, at 727-596-5710 for reservations and information.

On March 10th, they meet at the Cafe Largo, 12511 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, for lunch with owner and Chef Dominique, who will give a special presentation of how his luncheon menu is prepared. If you have never tried French cooking, he will be giving a step by step demonstration that is a fascinating lesson for beginners. For reservations please contact Sue Edmunds at 727-596-5710. Guests are always welcome. Reserve early.

**BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
After hours mingles:  
February 13, 5:30 - Melendy Real Estate, 100 Indian Rocks Rd N Suite 12, Belleair Bluffs  
March 12, 5:30 - Radiance Med Spa, 2894 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs

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).



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## PAT PLUMLEE 1939 - 2019

Pat Plumlee was a fixture in the Indian Rocks Beach community from the day she moved here. In 1990 (30 years ago), she opened Plumlee Realty on Walsingham Road – that was the beginning of what would become a major realty company for Indian Rocks and the local beaches.



Patricia Ann Plumlee passed away suddenly on December 10 at the age of 80. Pat was a force of nature and a pillar of her community. She was a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, broker, wife, partner, philanthropist, leader, manager, friend. She has been described as an elegant lady and a powerful woman.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, to Jack and Doris Collins, Pat grew up a city girl and got her first introduction to the business world at Ebbets Field in her father's office where he worked as the business manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

When she was 13, the family moved south to Clearwater, where they built the Sands Pointe Motel, this was the first taste of the real estate and vacation rental business for Pat. Over her life, Pat built quite a presence in the beach communities.

After college, Pat worked for the family real estate business with her parents. Soon she ventured off with her new husband, Ernest "Ernie" Plumlee (d.1994) and created a new industry in the publishing world. She continued to keep her real estate license active and obtained her broker's license in 1984. Not long after Pat and Ernie sold their publishing company, they founded Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty. Pat was proud of her 40+ years of real estate excellence and earned the Realtor Emeritus Designation by the Pinellas Realtors Organization.

Dedicated to her community, she received the Commitment to Excellence in Leadership Award from the Suncoast Firemen's Association. She was a proud member of the Clearwater Community Women's Club holding every office besides President over her 40 year membership, the Indian Shores Women's Club, the Belleair Women's Republican Club, La Sertoma - where she served as the President for four years, the Gulf Beach Chamber - where she served as President, and various condominium boards throughout the years.

She is preceded in death by husband of 32 years, Ernest Plumlee and survived by her love and partner Michael A. Petruccelli of 23 years, her brother John Collins (Gaye), her daughter Sandy Risberg (Rob) along with grandsons James and John, and her son Todd (Cris) along with grandson Tyson.

Donations in her name may be made to the Beach Community Food Pantry c/o Calvary Episcopal Church 1615 1st. St. Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785 or to the Kimberly Home Pregnancy Resource Center, 1189 NE Cleveland Street, Clearwater FL 33755.

Plumlee Realty will continue to be operated by her son and daughter, Todd and Sandy.



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## THE 2020 CENSUS COUNTS - TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

By Nancy Obarski

The U.S. Constitution requires that “we, the people” be counted “decennially”—every 10 years. The promotional media campaign for the 2020 Census begins this month, leading up to the arrival of “participation letters” in mid-March. This shall be our country’s 24th “counting of the population”...a massive undertaking, executed according to a 220-page manual. The goal of this largest peacetime government project is to accurately count each and every individual—only once—and in the right place...where they live. The results will quantify America’s changing values and interests and literally define “who we are” as a nation.

Why is the Census so important? Our Constitution framers insisted our governmental representation be based on population as opposed to wealth or land ownership, making a “body count” crucial. Population changes over the last decade will determine each state’s number of seats in the House of Representatives as well as the number of Electoral College delegates for upcoming Presidential races. And, since the migration appears to be South and West, the Sunshine State stands to benefit.

The Census is also important to the future of our hospitals, education, roads, infrastructure and other vital resources because it dictates how \$675 billion per year in federal funds get spent at the state, county and local levels. It is even more crucial for our area as it affects recovery after natural disasters...namely hurricanes.

An increasingly diverse population has made the sampling trickier and more expensive through the years. In 1970, it cost \$16 to reach each household; in 2010 it was \$92, thanks to a \$133 million advertising campaign designed to boost dwindling response rates. Even so, only 74% responded. Although citizens are required by law to participate, no one has been prosecuted in the last 40 years for failure to do so.



There have been many “technological tweaks” since the first Census in 1790. It was then called “the enumeration” and began shortly after Washington took office. Wouldn’t our forefathers be shocked that, for the first time in 2020, most respondents will be able to complete their questionnaire Online from anywhere at any time on any device in addition to mail or phone? Aerial imagery will reduce the number of workers needed to physically walk the streets verifying addresses, which is the first step in the census process. Another first: Census field workers will be equipped with iPhone 8s and mobile apps.

Most folks will be asked to complete the questionnaire electronically. But, 20-25%, in areas where demographics or limited Internet availability is an issue, will still get a paper survey. Your response is due on Census Day, April 1, after which two “nudge” post cards and a follow-up letter will be sent to non-responders before Census workers resort to an in-person, knock-on-the-door visit. The Census Bureau will count about 330 million folks in less than a year. And, on the last day of 2020, the final population counts, which are expected to be up by about 8%, get delivered to the President. The results of the first Census, some 230 years ago, were dispatched to George Washington on horseback. No cybersecurity concerns there!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

• **Everyone counts.** Everyone who is living in the United States on April 1, 2020, should be counted in the upcoming census. Unlike voting, this count includes everyone regardless of age, citizenship status or criminal history. Don’t forget to count children, extended family and non-family members living in your residence.

• **It’s about fair representation.** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

• **It’s about \$675 billion.** The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

1. **Education.** The census helps determine where schools will be located and if the school is overcrowded. It also provides data to allocate funds for Title 1 Grants, the National School Lunch Program and the Head Start Preschool Program.

2. **Economic Development.** Businesses use census data to decide where to build offices and stores, which create jobs. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

3. **Local Government.** The city of St. Petersburg uses census data to decide when a road is overcrowded, where to build parks and libraries, and provides funding for programs such as food banks and homeless shelters.

• **Your privacy is protected.** It’s against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any

way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics that are not accessible by any law enforcement agency. There is no citizenship question.

• **The Census is secure.** The census information technology systems are designed to defend again and contain cyberthreats. All data submitted Online is encrypted to protect personal privacy, and the census cybersecurity program meets the highest standards for protecting personal information. Online responses are encrypted; once submitted, your data is no longer Online.

• **You do not have to speak English to take the 2020 census.** The Online or call-in questionnaire will be available in Spanish, Arabic, French, Japanese, Haitian Creole, Polish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese. Language guides will also be available in 59 languages, including Braille.

There are many ways to fill out the 2020 Census:

1. **Online.** For the first time in American history, the census will primarily be completed Online. In March, residents will receive a postcard with a special code to enter on the census website to fill out the questionnaire.

2. **Phone.** Residents can call a toll-free phone number and answer the census questionnaire over the phone.

3. **By Paper Ballot.** Residents can call the toll-free census phone number and request a paper ballot be mailed.

To learn more, visit [census.gov](http://census.gov) or [pinellascounty.com/census](http://pinellascounty.com/census).



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### ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs returns to St. Petersburg February 18 - 21, 2020, opening at the Palladium, and continuing on the campus of University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), before closing at Eckerd College.

Now in its eighth year, the Conference features an opening address by Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) speaking at the Palladium on February 18. The Conference closes with a concluding speech by General John Nicholson (retired), recently the commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, February 21 in Fox Hall at Eckerd College. At USFSP, the Conference features more than 30 panels on February 19 - 21, covering many of today's hot button international issues. Panelists include diplomats, academics, journalists, and professionals in the arts, military and intelligence services.

Associated with the Conference is St. Petersburg International Week, February 15 - 22. Now in its second year, International Week includes theatrical & musical events, discounts at select local businesses and more.

For the latest information about the speakers and the program on the Conference and International Week, visit their website: [www.worldaffairsconference.com](http://www.worldaffairsconference.com).

### RESTORING ORAL HEALTH FOR THOSE IN NEED

Have you ever considered what life would be like if you could not afford dental care? What if you broke a tooth, developed a cavity, or suffered some other dental distress, but you didn't have insurance or the money to see a dentist? For many people in Pinellas - this situation is all too real.

Take Jesse, for example. As a single mom, she works hard to make sure her children eat right, stay healthy, and have the things they need to get a good start on life. Her income covers rent, utilities, car insurance, clothes, groceries and incidentals for her family of four - but just barely.


When her molars became infected, broken, and painful, she could not afford the \$1,000 needed to fix them. So she just suffered. She had trouble sleeping and eating. Her children asked why she didn't eat the fresh fruits and vegetables she served them (so why should they?)

Fortunately, Jesse learned about us, the Community Dental Clinic. As an independent nonprofit organization, we offer dental care for those who live within 200% of the poverty line and who have no dental insurance.

Jesse enrolled one day and was seen the next. We were able to fill or extract her diseased teeth, relieve her pain, and restore her oral health.


Now Jesse sets a good example for her children, eating nutritious (even crunchy) foods and maintaining a healthy mouth. She practices good dental hygiene and makes sure her kids do, too.

Want to help others like Jesse? Support their cause, volunteer, or find out about their exciting annual fundraiser: Reds, Whites, and Bites. A delightful evening of wonderful wines, delicious food, music and more to benefit the Community Dental Clinic, Saturday, March 14, 2020, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Achieva Credit Union Headquarters in Dunedin. Visit [www.communitydentalclinic.net](http://www.communitydentalclinic.net).



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### CIRCLE OF HEROES

The Circle of Heroes is the nation's first-of-its-kind underwater dive memorial honoring our veterans. It officially opened August 5, 2019, putting Tampa Bay in the national and international spotlight.

Located roughly 10 miles off the shore of Clearwater, Florida at a depth of 40 feet, Circle of Heroes is currently made up of twelve life-size concrete statues representing the men and women serving in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The centerpiece of the circle is a four-foot, 5,830-pound monument, featuring bronze crests to represent the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.

The idea to create the memorial is credited to longtime St. Petersburg College professor Dr. Heyward Mathews. The local biologist has been part of the diving community on the west coast of Florida for a half-century. Mathews wanted to honor the men and women of the military in a unique way, with a reef that serves our service members, environment and community.

Circle of Heroes is a therapeutic dive site for disabled veterans suffering from PTSD, depression and trauma. Since its opening, dozens of veterans have dived the site to feel a sense of peace and tranquility unlike any other. Not only does the memorial help veterans cope with pain and loss, but the statues will hopefully become an artificial reef to help sustain marine life in gulf waters.

People from around the world are already traveling to the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area to visit the iconic Circle of Heroes. The increase in dive-related tourism will help support and grow new local businesses. SCUBA diving is the fourth fastest growing sport in America. Circle of Heroes is expected to support 84 new jobs, with an economic impact exceeding \$7.6 million per year (Fishkind and Associates, 2017).

By the end of 2020, the goal is to add an additional twelve statues to complete the 100-foot Circle of Heroes. The next statue to be submerged will honor Seaman Apprentice William R. Flores. While serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, he died saving the lives of his shipmates.

When the Cutter Blackthorn was sinking off Tampa Bay's coast in January 1980, Flores didn't abandon ship. The 18-year-old stayed on board to help free as many shipmates as possible. Flores sacrificed his own life to save others, demonstrating extraordinary courage and devotion to duty, especially in light of his youth and limited shipboard experience.

It's these stories of heroism that the memorial seeks to honor, with a legacy that will be admired for generations. This treasure of the Gulf will forever remind us of their sacrifices and their service to our country. But finishing the memorial will not be possible without generous support from our community.

Private donations are essential to help fund and submerge the next 12 statues to complete the Circle of Heroes. Will you help us make history by finishing this one-of-a-kind memorial? For more information or to make a donation, visit [VetMemorial.org](http://VetMemorial.org).

### BLAST FRIDAY RETURNS

The popular downtown concert series, Blast Friday, returns in 2020 after a short break. Each event is free and, weather permitting, happens directly on Cleveland Street.

Here are the bands scheduled in the next few weeks:

February 28: JOHN WAITE

March 27: PABLO CRUISE

April 24: 10,000 MANIACS

May 29: HOME COOKIN' VI

Food and beverages are available for purchase. Each Friday, a Super VIP ticket package is available, priced at \$49, which includes a reserved seat in one of the first three rows.

Get information at [RuthEckerdHall.com/Event/Blast-Friday](http://RuthEckerdHall.com/Event/Blast-Friday)

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### FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE MID-SEASON UPDATE

The 90th Epic Season of the Francis Wilson Playhouse (FWP) is more than half over. Have you seen their dynamic presentations so far this year? Most have been sold out, with additional performances added – if you have the time, make an effort to see some, if not all, of the remaining shows.

Brigadoon by Lerner & Loewe welcomes Spring to the stage, opening February 20 and running through March 8. It is a classic musical fantasy, a feast for the eyes and ears. Set in a mythical cursed village in Scotland which appears only once a century, it is a love story for the ages. The classic score features such standards as Almost Like Being in Love, the Heather on the Hill, Waitin’ for my Dearie and many more. Come to the Fair and join in the fun, romance and timeless magic of Brigadoon.

Next on the calendar is one of FWP’s immensely popular one-day Broadway-inspired concerts: The Best of Times, March 14 (2 pm and 8 pm), celebrating music from the shows of Jerry Herman. Herman was a composer and lyricist best known for his hit Broadway musicals Hello Dolly!, Mame, and La Cage aux Folles. In 2009, he received the Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theater. In 2010 he was the recipient of the 2010 Kennedy Center Honors. Recently deceased (12/29/19), his impact on musical theater was tremendous.

In March, we are treated to a classic comedy by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart: The Man Who Came to Dinner, running March 26 through April 5. In this show, the renowned critic Sheridan Whiteside (based on Alexander Woolcott) is stranded in a small Ohio town due to an injury. To pass the time, he has the varied denizens of his world (all based on Broadway and Hollywood personalities of the 30s) come to him, wreaking havoc on the lives of the locals. Laughs abound in this madcap comedy.

The season’s grand finale is a more recent Broadway hit: Follies, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Goldman. The show will run from April 30 to May 17. An old theatre in New York City faces the wrecking ball, so a reunion of Follies girls descends for one last night in this musical drama. Ghosts of the past haunt the proceedings, causing many in attendance to reflect on the follies of the past while questioning the future. This blend of tuneful nostalgia, showbiz razzle dazzle and emotional regret won 7 Tony Awards, including Best Score for composer Sondheim. The Clearwater premiere is a haunting, wistful trip down memory lane, at times touching, funny, beautiful and melancholy.

The City of Clearwater’s recent renovations around the theatre have provided lots of convenient, well lit, FREE parking for the Playhouse. Ignore the signs stating you must pay when you come to a show!! A new sound system installed for this season has enhanced performances – there are no bad seats! If you have not visited recently, remember that the theater and lobby were remodeled in 2015!

Visit FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org, for tickets and more information. Performances are scheduled Thursdays through Sundays. Seating is reserved, and tickets can be purchased online (small service fee) or by calling the box office directly, 727/446-1360 (10:30 am to 5 pm). Stay tuned for coming announcements of the 91st season. Consider purchasing season tickets to guarantee your place with this vibrant, yet historic, theatre.

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### WINTERFEST IS BACK

Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 1615 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, will host *Winterfest on the Rocks 2020* on Saturday, February 15, 2020 from 10am – 4pm. The festival is a “family friendly” event celebrating the neighborhood, their children, their pets, and Indian Rocks Beach. Two special live concerts with the “Paradies Brass Quintet” will be presented at 11am and 1pm in the Church Sanctuary. There is no admission charge, but a “Free Will Offering” will be available to everyone.

*Winterfest on the Rocks 2020* will include bagpipes, a pet parade, arts and crafts booths, interactive children’s activities (such as creation and sail their own mini sailboat on the Winterfest pond), a silent auction, special prize drawings throughout the day with a “Grand Prize” of a motorized bike, bake sale, food vendors and beverage (beer and wine) concessions, and more! For further information, contact Calvary Episcopal Church at 727-595-2374 or 727-580-8237.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ALLEY IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS

**February 6-8** - Formal Gown event at Shabby 2 Chic.

**February 8th** - Em & Mac Children’s Boutique Grand Opening, 10 am

First Saturday of each month Pet Adoption, 10am – 1:00pm (weather permitting) with Pinellas County Animal Services

**Sunday March, 1** - Antiques and Artisans Spring Market 10am -3pm Shabby 2 Chic Big Sale

**Saturday March 7** - Painted Garden event, Provence Arts and Antiques and in The Alley.

**Saturday March 28** - Bluffs Wine Walk with live music in Alley Shops, 4-8pm

### FRIDAY PIANO EVENINGS

The Belleview Inn is hosting Friday piano nights with pianist Rod Keiser every Friday through Valentine’s Day from 5 to 9 pm. Beer and wine are available for purchase and complimentary snacks will be provided.

History tours are available at the Inn daily at 2 pm.

Find the Belleview Inn in Belleair, next to the Belleair Country Club. Call 469-7070 for more information or visit BelleviewPlace.com

### BLUFFS WINE WALK

The Bluffs Business Association will host the Bluffs Wine Walk on Saturday, March 28 from 4 to 8pm. Guests will pay \$20 in advance or \$30 day of event for the opportunity to sample wine and appetizers at over 40 businesses in the Belleair Bluffs community.

Guests may check-in at one of three sponsor locations: Belleair Market at 510 Indian Rocks Road, Creative Design Team at 321 Indian Rocks Road or Radiance Medspa at 2894 West Bay Drive. They will receive a souvenir wine glass, 20 wine tasting tickets, a wristband and a map showcasing all of the wine walk stops. Guest must check in by 6pm. The Jolley Trolley will shuttle guests to participating merchants on Indian Rocks Road between West Bay Drive and Mehlenbacher Road and on West Bay Drive west of Indian Rocks Road to Sunset Blvd.

Free parking is available at several locations throughout Belleair Bluffs. See the map on the website for the wine walk stops and parking locations.

Wine walk tickets are only available for purchase in advance Online at BluffsBusinessAssociation.com. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event with a credit card (no cash) only at Creative Design Team.

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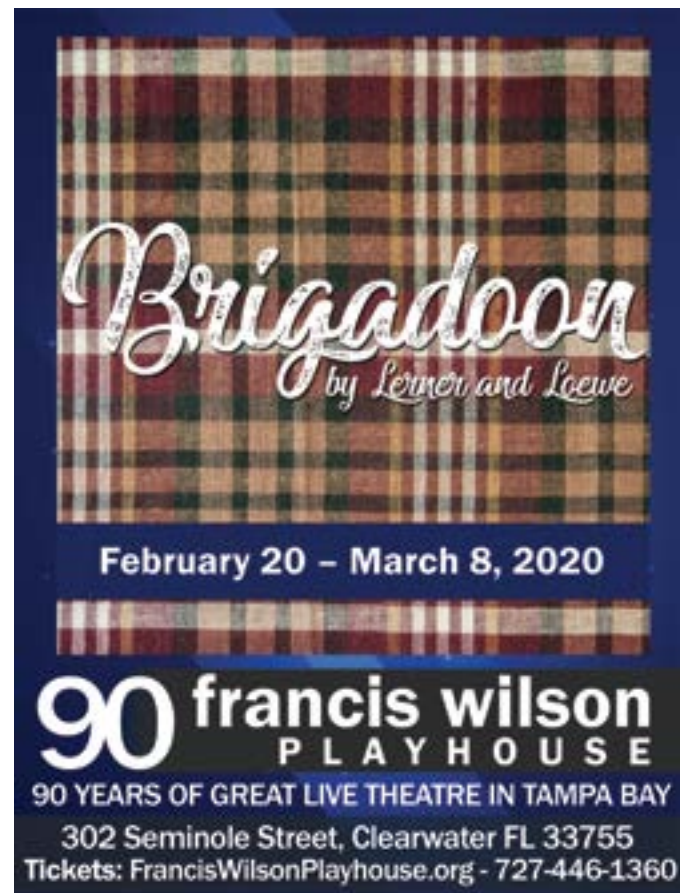
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Bluffs Wine Walk  
Belleair Bluffs, FL 33710  
Event Runs on 3/28/20  
Info: 727-466-8797

Online - In Advance sales end 5:00PM, March 28, 2020  
Day of Event at Site charge card sales from 4:00-8:00PM

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

**GATES OPEN AT 3:30 PM**  
\$ 10 General Admission

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Belleair Resident Tickets on sale for \$5 at Belleair Rec

**VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING SOON - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH**

If you looking for that special gift for your Valentine, here are a few ideas from the immediate Belleair area.

**ANCHORS AWAY TRAVEL**

Buy your Valentine a gift certificate for a trip, airline, hotel, resort, cruise, or just a weekend get-away. They can fill in the destination later.

Find them at 404 Indian Rocks Road N. or call 800-951-2469.

**BELLA VINO WINE MARKET (The Plaza)**

They make Valentine's Day easy, with their fine wines, Champagne, Lake Champlain chocolates, Toffee to Go, caviar, premium cigars, custom gift baskets and artisan cheese and charcuterie board.

Their Wine Bar will be open until 9pm on Valentine's Night. Call 584-5552

**BELLEAIR MARKET (Belleair Bluffs)**

You are sure to find an unusual or memorable gift at everyone's favorite neighborhood corner store. Browse Chris' amazing selection of wine, cigars and over 350 craft beers (mix and match to create that special gift). Call ahead to customize a basket with wine, beer, cigars and gourmet goodies. Julie can help put something together and have it delivered. Find them at 510 Indian Rocks Rd N. Call 727-584-3697.

**BELLEAIR OPTICIANS (The Plaza)**

Why not buy some red framed eyeglasses or fun sunglasses? They have over 100 styles to choose from. Call 584-0730. BelleairOpticians.com

**CARLSON WILDWOOD FLORISTS**

Nothing says I love you like sending flowers. Why not be different this year and send something other than red? Include a coupon for "Breakfast in Bed" or "Dinner and a Movie" at no extra charge. Just ask.

Please call 446-4610 to order, 48 hours ahead of time. Delivery is \$10 extra.

**CASSI & COMPANY (The Plaza)**

Roses are red, violets are blue. Their gift certificates make it easy to say "I Love You." Call 585-2011.

**FLUFFY PUPPIES (Clearwater)**

Give your dog, or the dog lover on your list, a valentine, too. They stock numerous choices for leashes, harnesses and treats. Find them at 1447 S. Fort Harrison. Call 446-7999 for more suggestions.

**FRAME FACTORY (Largo)**

Bring in any photo of your Valentine and they can frame it as a gift and create that special framed memory. Find them at 600 E Bay Dr. Call 581-0322.

**HAIR DESIGNS BY SUE**

Give the gift of pampering this year. Make her feel special with a gift certificate or get your hair ready for that special day with a whole new look. Sue Thibeault is inside Sydney & Company, 205 Indian Rocks Road. Call Sue at 401-480-6823

**JANNA'S FINE CONSIGNER**

Find some sweet deals that will surprise and delight that special someone with personal, friendly service. Shop for name brands at affordable prices featuring top quality clothing and accessories from their closet to yours! Find them at 268 Indian Rocks Rd. or call 584-9222.

**LALA'S (The Plaza)**

Find the perfect gift to says "Be Mine!" from their large selection of beautiful handmade jewelry, scarves and handbags or one of a kind gifts for the home. How about a pair of hand enameled and crystal Edgard Berebi wine glasses to toast yourselves with? They have home décor, artwork and desirables. Call at 340-1200.

**LEMON TREE (The Alley)**

Lemon Tree may surprise you with the many items your Valentine is sure to love - home decor, accessories, jewelry, candles, art, Cali-Girl Clothing and so much more!!!

They can help you pick out a special gift or create a gift basket. Call 240-4987.

**NEW APPROACH SALON AND SPA (Largo)**

Give your girl a gift certificate from New Approach Salon and let her pick from their many services. She will be oh, so happy. Located at 2130 West Bay. Call 584-8664.

**RADIANCE MED SPA**

Treat that special person or yourself, to a "Valentine Makeover." Buy a Radiance gift certificate. Purchase a \$100 gift certificate for any product or service, and get a \$20 bonus card FREE, through February 28. Not combinable with other offers. Limit one per person. Visit RadianceMedSpa.com or call 518-7100.

**RICHARD'S FOODPORIUM (Bonafish Plaza)**

Give the Gift of health. They offer wellness related gifts, Himalayan salt lamps, essential oils and a wide variety of chocolate covered fruits, nuts and candies.

Or give a gift certificates and let them decide. 2927 West Bay Drive. Call 584-9199.

**ROBERT YOUNG JEWELERS**

Custom jewelry is always nice, and if you need something special, he can make it, now. Call 584-1110. RobertYoung.com.

**SUZETTE'S ON THE ROCKS**

Get a free Brighton Sunflower tote bag with any \$125 Brighton purchase. The floral theme continues on all six sides, each one different. This tote is great for gifting to all the women in your life: mothers, daughters, and girlfriends, not to mention your own true love - YOU! Find them at 400 Indian Rocks Road. Call 595-8700.

**THE SILVER QUEEN**

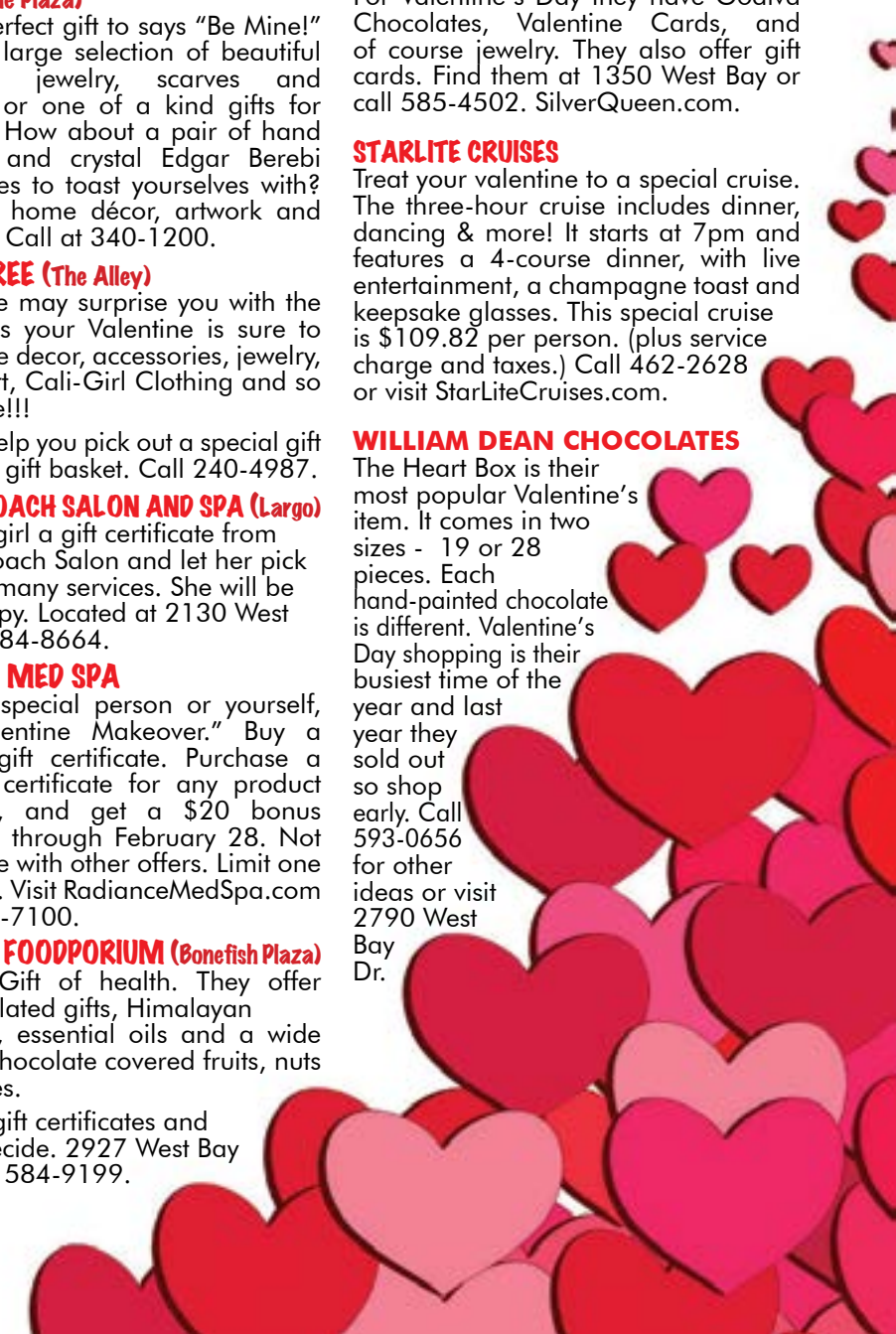
For Valentine's Day they have Godiva Chocolates, Valentine Cards, and of course jewelry. They also offer gift cards. Find them at 1350 West Bay or call 585-4502. SilverQueen.com.

**STARLITE CRUISES**

Treat your valentine to a special cruise. The three-hour cruise includes dinner, dancing & more! It starts at 7pm and features a 4-course dinner, with live entertainment, a champagne toast and keepsake glasses. This special cruise is \$109.82 per person. (plus service charge and taxes.) Call 462-2628 or visit StarLiteCruises.com.

**WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES**

The Heart Box is their most popular Valentine's item. It comes in two sizes - 19 or 28 pieces. Each hand-painted chocolate is different. Valentine's Day shopping is their busiest time of the year and last year they sold out so shop early. Call 593-0656 for other ideas or visit 2790 West Bay Dr.







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