

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

## INVASION OF CLEAR WATER HARBOR

By Charlie Harbor Harper,  
Largo Historical Society

Great naval battles have taken place that changed the fate of nations, won and lost wars, and have been immortalized in stories passed down through the generations. Trafalgar Jutland, and Leyte Gulf bring immediate visions of great navies, the roar of cannons and of admirals like Nelson, Jellicoe, and Nimitz. But have you ever heard of the naval engagements that took place in Clear Water Harbor and at Lowe's Landing? The incident that took place in February of 1862 certainly did not have famous ships or admirals, but it did have intrigue, dangerous weather and adventure.



The area we now call Pinellas County was not quite like it is today; no hotels, no fancy beach and almost no people lived here. A *New York Times* correspondent on board a U.S. Navy ship blockading the Tampa Bay area wrote in 1862: "What a miserable, God-forsaken hole, this portion of Florida is. The land of cadaverous inhabitants, land of mosquitoes and swamps." - **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 11**

#### Boating Safety

Are you one of Florida's 950,000 boat owners? Take a safety class now, before summer arrives - **page 30**

#### LPGA coming to Belleair

It is estimated 50,000 people will attend some portion of the May LPGA Golf Tournament at the Pelican Golf Club. Plans are underway to prevent local disruptions - **page 26**



#### Meet Rita Garvey, past Clearwater Mayor

Rita served four terms as Mayor, from 1987 to 1999. She was the second and last woman elected to be Clearwater's Mayor - **page 14**



CREDITS



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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

You can pick up additional copies of this magazine at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL!

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CITY HALL 562-4250
600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, clearwater-fl.com
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MAYOR - George N. Cretekos - Seat 1
CITY COUNCIL 562-4050
Jay Polglaze - Seat 2 • Bob Cundiff - Seat 3 • David Albritton - Seat 4 • Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5 (Vice-Mayor)
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Speaking of History Heritage Village 16
Presidents Day Public Schools Closed 17
Florida State Fair Closes 17
Deadline To Register To Vote 18
The Laser Mid-Winter Regatta 19-23
Spring Training Begins 21
Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade 22
Chemical Recycling Countryside High 22
Sea Blues Concert 22-23
Flamingo Festival Sunken Gardens 23
Fat Tuesday 25
Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins 26
Electronic Recycling Day 26
Blast Friday Clearwater 28
Wild Splash Concert Coachman Park 29-1
Leap Year Day 29

MARCH

Sunday In Belleair Concert 1
Beach Library Book Club 4
Women's History Month Exhibit Opens 5
Peace Memorial Church Concert 8
Daylight Savings Time Begins 8
St Pete Grand Prix 14-15

Safe Boating Classes 14-15
Beach Pool Opens 14
Saturday Speaker at the Museum 14
Speaking of History Heritage Village 15
Sunday In Belleair Concert 15
Spring Break Pinellas Public Schools 16-20
St Patrick's Day 17
Election Day 17
Spring Begins 19
Great American Clean Up 21
City's Electronic Recycling Day 25
Blast Friday Clearwater 27
Wine Walk in Belleair Bluffs 28
Chemical Recycling Countryside High 28
CBA Spring Picnic 28
Saturday Speaker at the Museum 28

APRIL

April Fool's Day 1
Census Day 1
Beach Book Club Meets 1
Good Friday Public Schools Closed 10
Sugar Sand Festival Begins 10
Easter Sunday 12
Dyngus Day 13



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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 windsurfing lessons and rentals, contact Clearwater Community Sailing Center at 517-7776.

**SPRING TRAINING STARTING** The Philadelphia Phillies play their spring ball at Clearwater's Spectrum Field from February 22 to March 23. Their first home game is February 23 at 1pm. More popular upcoming games include the Yankees on March 9th and Tampa Bay Rays on March 23.

**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.

**PICKLEBALL LESSONS** Pickleball is all the craze these days. While the game is easy to learn, there is some skill involved. The Clearwater Beach Rec. Center is offering beginners lessons with Dan, \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour. Call Dan at 462-6138 to schedule your lesson. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the Rec Center has free pickleball from 8 am to noon.

**SUNDAYS IN BELLEAIR** The outdoor concerts resume Sunday, Sunday, March 1 The Caribbean Chillers, Florida's Favorite Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show will play. March 15, Little Jake & The Soul Searchers will performing the music of soul, rhythm & blues.

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.

### TRANSFORM A LIFE

Sponsor a Southeastern Guide Dog puppy for just \$19 a month and join their joyful journey. You will receive regular Pupdates filled with news of your puppy's journey so you can follow along as your puppy grows up to become a beautiful working dog that transforms someone's life. You'll watch your puppy grow and learn as you hear about its personality and progress. After 24 months of training, your puppy may graduate as a guide dog for someone with vision loss; a service dog for a veteran with a disability; or a skilled companion dog for a child with significant challenges. Visit www.guidedogs.org to learn how.



## and More...

### THE SUNKEN GARDENS FLAMINGO

Sunday, February 23, 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.



**FREE CLINIC LOOKING FOR HELP** The Clearwater Free Clinic is looking for a few new volunteers at their Clearwater facility at 1218 Court Street. You do not have to be a doctor, nurse or even have medical experience. The Clinic is a non-government, non-profit organization, funded through community support. Call them at 447-3041 or visit their web site at www.ClearwaterFreeClinic.org.

**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.

### VOTE - MARCH 17

It is time for Clearwater's city election and three seats are open. There are also six referendum questions on the ballot. It will be conducted with the Presidential Primary election.



Seat #1 - Mayor. George Cretekos is term limited and will not be running. Qualified to run are: Elizabeth "Sea Turtle" Drayer, Frank Hibbard (former Mayor), Bill Johnson (former City Councilman), Morton Darrel Myers

Seat #2 - currently held by Jay Polglaze who is not seeking re-election. Those running are: Mark Bunker, Michael Mannino, Bruce Rector, Eliseo Santana, Lina Teixeira

Seat #3 - currently held by Dr. Bob Cundiff, who is running for a second term. Those also running are: Kathleen Beckman, Bud Elias, Scott Thomas

Each voter will vote for one person in each of the three seats. Get more information about voting and view a sample ballot at www.VotePinellas.com.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN APRIL** Read this issue, as well as others, Online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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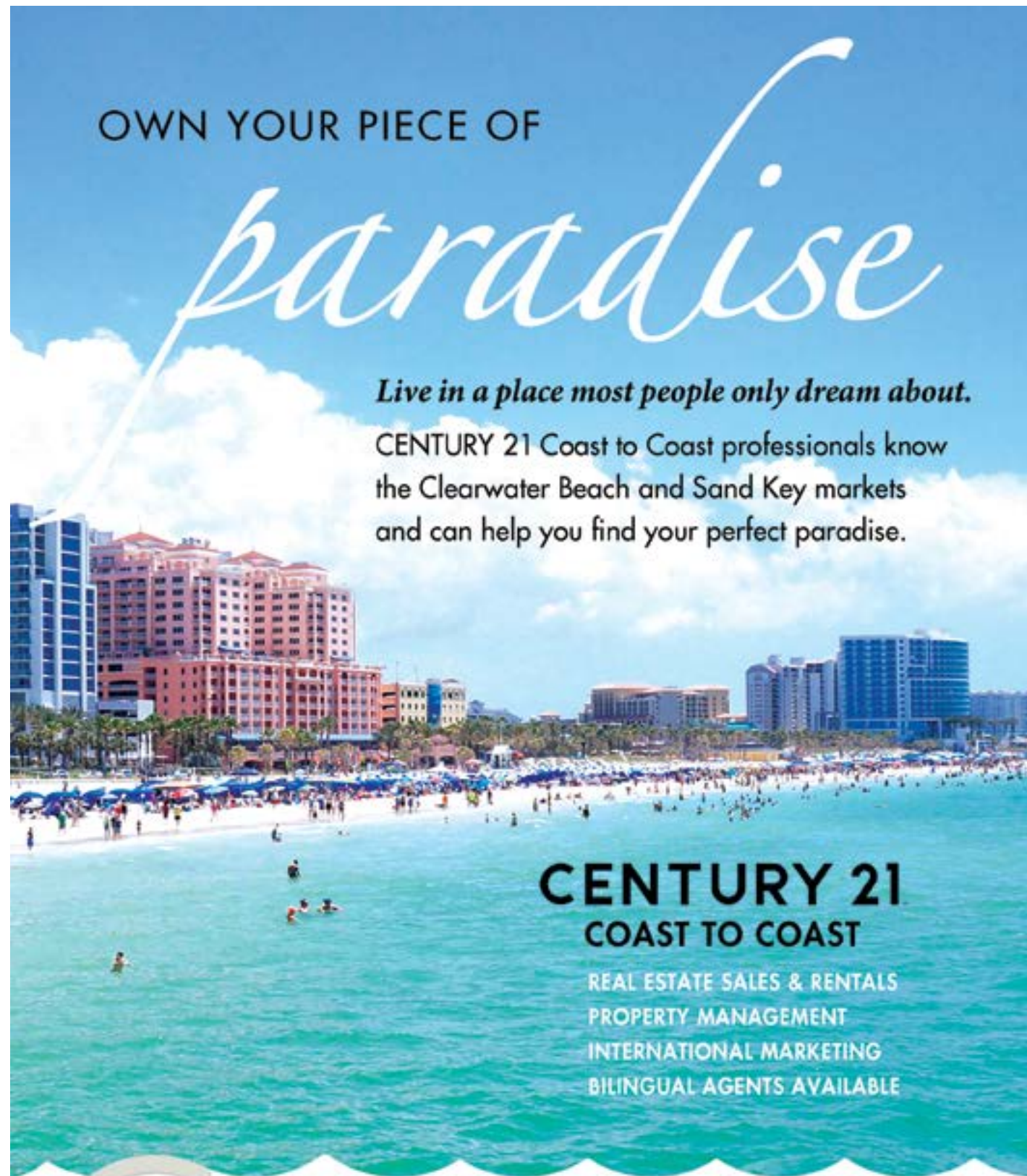
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## CIVIL WAR INVASION continued

There may have been 100 families scattered over the entire peninsula, we now call Pinellas, when the Civil War started in 1861. The only stores and gathering spots in the central part of the area were on the bluff overlooking Clear Water Harbor, and an even smaller community about four miles south down the bay called Lowe's Landing in today's southwest Largo. Both locations had docks or wharfs for coastal schooners to load and off-load cargo.

By 1862, the federal government had implemented a naval blockade of the South from Virginia on the north to Texas on the southwest Gulf Coast. The Tampa Bay area was included in the Gulf Blockading Squadron which used Egmont Key (and Ft De Soto) as a local staging point. The headquarters of this squadron was located in Key West. With its vast and mostly vacant coastline, Florida was used by the blockade runners throughout the war. Clear Water Harbor and Lowe's Landing were no exception. Fort Brooke, a Confederate stronghold, (in present day Tampa) was raided numerous times including two federal bombardments by gunships of the U.S. Navy. The small outposts along the Florida Gulf Coast were raided by the Federals for food and provisions as well as to stop the flow of military goods coming in and trade goods going out.

Most of the residents of this area of Florida remained loyal to the State of Florida and the Confederacy. There were, however, some in the area who chose to stay loyal to the Union. For the most part these "loyalists" found living in the area very difficult during the war; most moved to Key West, though some stayed on Egmont Key under protection of the Union Navy. Some who stayed were Union spies or informers. When ships came into Clear Water Harbor or Lowe's Landing these Union spies would on occasion make contact with Federal ships, giving locations and what stores were being loaded and unloaded.

On the cold and windy morning of February 17, 1862, the Federal gunboat *U.S.S. Ethan Allen* anchored north of Clear Water Harbor; the mission was to pick up a local Union Spy, Mr. Girard, who would pilot the *Ethan Allan* down the coast and into the narrow passage (Little Pass) of Clear Water Harbor. On the same day, the *Allen* would be supplied with provisions by another local agent of the Federals, a Mr. Griner. Due to the strong winds and heavy surf, the *Allen* was delayed in picking up the spies, but by late in the day they were ready to head south toward Clear Water Harbor and a date with local history.

Leading the coastline around what is now Hudson, and heading south along the coast, the gunboat the *Ethan Allan*, under the command of Acting Volunteer Lt. William B. Eaton, made the entrance to the Clear Water Harbor just after sundown on the evening of February 18, 1862. Now was the moment of decision for the young lieutenant. As full darkness fell, Mr. Girard, acting as a pilot, started to enter the narrow passage. First, however, to avoid suspicion from the local residents, the *U.S.S. Allen* raised the Confederate flag and proceeded into the harbor. The gunboat carried a hand-picked crew. In addition to Lt. Eaton, Mr. George Faxon the Surgeon's Steward and Union refuge Mr. J.E. Whitehurst, there were ten well armed sailors. Under cover of darkness and flying the Confederate flag, the *Allen* sailed toward the dock at Clear Water. The crew, fully prepared to fight, was surprised indeed when it found no crews aboard the sloops *Atlanta* and *Caroline* anchored in the bay, or the schooner *Spitfire* that was tied to the dock. Working with full speed, the Yankee sailors took possession of the ships making them ready for sea. Leaving just two on board the captured ships, the *Allen* made its way south toward Lowe's Landing where Union spies had said yet another ship was preparing for sea. Arriving at Lowe's Landing early the next morning, the *Allen* found the sloop *Cayto* tied to the dock. Within moments *Ethan Allen* sailors boarded the sloop, took the supplies and burned the *Cayto*. A history of the Lowe family notes that J.T. Lowe's three-year-old son, Wesley, was hiding in a nearby mangrove and witnessed the Union forces board and commandeer his father's ship, the *Cayto*. He allegedly ran to his mother and said, "Cayto gone." With the *Cayto* burned, Lt. Eaton and his crew, had completed a very successful raid. They took the captured prize ships and headed back into the safety of the Gulf of Mexico. Not a shot was fired; the crew of the *Ethan Allen* captured or sank four Confederate ships. This brave action prevented the blockade runners from heading back toward Havana fully loaded with local goods to trade for arms and war supplies for the Confederate Army.

During the remainder of the war, the sleepy little town of Clear Water Harbor would be raided numerous times by Union ships looking for provisions and blockade runners. So far as we have been able to determine, Lowe's Landing was not attacked again. J.T. Lowe was off fighting for the Confederacy when his ship was taken. At the end of the war, Lowe was with Lee in Virginia. He and his brother, Alfred, had fought the good fight and now they walked home, all the way from Virginia. According to Lowe family history, when young Wesley Lowe saw a man with a long beard and as approach his home, the young child fearfully hid and his mother fainted. That bearded "stranger" was none other than Capt. J.T. Lowe returning to his homestead.

After war's end, Capt. Lowe returned to the sea, once again sailing in and out of Lowe's Landing, which would soon take a new name – Anona. The area so long lost to history is now known to be located in southwest Largo. Clear Water Harbor would be Clearwater, a major vacation and tourist location and the county seat of what in 1912 would become Pinellas County. And the land that the newspaper correspondent in 1862 called a "... God-forsaken hole..." well we all know what happened to that place, it is the most beautiful of all locations, Clearwater and Largo.

Grateful acknowledgment for his tremendous assistance goes to James A. Schnur, author, historian, and friend of local history buffs. The book, "Heritage Villagers," written by Schnur was quoted in this article. I also wish to acknowledge the assistance and friendship of local historian, Robert Delack of Clearwater/Largo. Material used in this article was also obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C. and from the book, "War of the Rebellion," by Charles W. Stewart, July, 1984.



**Captain Lowe after the Civil War**

*Photo Credit: Pinellas County History Society*

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### MARITAL BLISS...DISRUPTED (PART I)

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

This three-part series will deal with death, dementia and divorce and the devastating impact these three "Ds" can have on a marriage.

While death often is mostly associated with older folks, it can strike at any age. Our experience shows that most spouses are not prepared for the financial and personal issues.

Did you do any preplanning with a funeral home? Did you write an obituary and choose a picture? How will the long-distance friends be notified? Did you express a desire for charitable donations? What Social Security benefits will be available to the surviving spouse? Did you leave the passwords for all of your digital life, especially those involving money? There is much more to consider.

At the most basic level, it is important to have the current documents in place like a will, living trust, power-of-attorney for financial and health care, and a living will. Some may do it, but fail to update the documents on a regular basis. Go see your attorney NOW!

The first step following a death is to visit with the attorney, the accountant and the financial advisor. Do both spouses know who they are? Have both met with them? When is the last time you checked all of the beneficiary designations on your life insurance, annuities, retirement plans, etc.? Get copies of each beneficiary form.

A bank, savings or investment account with only one name is frozen and the surviving spouse will not have immediate access. If it isn't necessary to have the property in only one person's name, consider making the registration joint with rights of survivorship or tenants by the entirety.

Do you have enough life insurance to pay off the debts (mortgage, cars, student loans, credit cards, estate taxes, etc.?), provide for replacement of income, and perhaps to cover the cost of education for the children?

We advise surviving spouses to avoid making any major financial decisions for at least six months, perhaps as long as a year. This is an emotionally stressful time. Take it one day at a time.

One of the best ways to prepare for death from a financial standpoint is with a written financial plan. In one place you will have net worth statement, cash flow analysis, budget, tax information, retirement plans, life insurance, education planning, investments, estate plan and much more. Take advantage of our complimentary one-hour consultation.

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### GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

It's that time of year again; time to buy your Girl Scout cookies.

The Girl Scouts were started 107 years ago by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia. They were first called Girl Guides, but changed their name to Girl Scouts in 1913.

Girl Scout cookie sales is the major fund-raiser for our local scout troops. The girls have been selling cookies since 1917 when a troop in Oklahoma had the first cookie sale. In 1922, *The American Girl*, the Girl Scout's magazine, suggested cookie sales to other troops and provided recipes. The first recipe was a sugar cookie that the girls baked the cookies themselves. In 1933, the Girl Scouts organized an official sale of homemade cookies with displays in the windows of local utilities. By 1936, they started licensing commercial bakers to produce the cookies in mass production.

During World War II, the Girl Scouts sold calendars in addition to a few cookies. Because of shortages of flour, sugar and butter, baking was nearly impossible. In 1942, a box held 48 cookies - either chocolate or vanilla - and were limited to two boxes per family.

Nationwide, the Girl Scouts sell over 200 million boxes per year. The girls have always sold cookies to relatives, friends, and even door-to-door to their neighbors. In recent years, because of safety concerns, an increased emphasis has been placed on cookie booths, allowing girls to sell cookies from tables in public areas under the supervision of adult troop leaders and parents. Door-to-door sales are discouraged.

Each Girl Scout Council operates its own cookie sale. Approximately 70% of the proceeds stay in the local Girl Scout Council, including the portion that goes directly to the troop selling the cookies. Revenues at all levels are used to pay for Girl Scout events and activities, plus maintenance of the councils and Girl Scout camps. Many troops also sponsor a program that send cookies to troops overseas.

Companies, such as Little Brownie Bakers (owned by Keebler, part of Kellogg's), and ABC Bakers (a subsidiary of InterBake Foods) make and box most of the cookies sold nationwide.

Thin Mints are 25% of their sales. Other cookies include Caramel de Lites, Samoas, Peanut Butter Patties, Tagalongs, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Do-Si-Dos, Shortbreads, Trefoils, Thanks-A-Lot, Mango and others.

In addition to raising funds for each troop and the organization as a whole, the fund-raising is intended to teach Girl Scouts valuable skills in planning, teamwork, finance, organization, communication, and goal setting.

The Tampa Bay area is part of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. If you want to join the Girl Scouts locally, go to [GSWCF.org](http://GSWCF.org) or call 1-800-881-4475.

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### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

2020 is a special year for Ronald McDonald House Charities Tampa Bay (RMHC) as the organization celebrates 40 years of providing a "home-away-from-home" for families of children receiving medical treatment. Since opening the doors of its first St. Petersburg home to families in 1980, more than 50,000 families have found comfort and care in what has become a four-house organization, spanning both sides of the bay.

It took many hearts and hands to create the first Ronald McDonald House; it was the first house in the state of Florida, and just 17th in the world to open its doors. Since then, those initial families and sick children have grown and had families of their own. Some have become staff or volunteers, while others help to fundraise for Ronald McDonald House in their own community.

According to Executive Director Lisa Suprenand, "Our organization has grown so far beyond what our founders could have imagined. Providing four houses to families with sick children is only part of our story. We continue to look for innovative ways to extend our reach, through programs such as Meals on the Go, which distributes bag lunches to parents who are unable to leave their child's hospital bedside, and the F.R.O.G. cart to distribute meals and supplies to pediatric families inside the hospital."

RMHC Tampa Bay will focus its 2020 messaging on this important anniversary through a mixture of social media messaging, family narratives, video highlights and testimonials. One of the year's highlights will be Storybook Ball "Beauty and the Beast" on Saturday, May 16th at the historic St. Petersburg Coliseum, where original families and founders will be celebrated by the 500 guests in attendance. For more information, visit [rmhctampabay.org](http://rmhctampabay.org).

### CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS

- Growing up African American in Clearwater 6-7pm. February 21. Listen to the experiences of noted members of Clearwater's African American community. A part of the Storytelling Series. Co-sponsored by Clearwater Historical Society and the Clearwater Heights Neighborhood Reunion Committee. Suggested donation \$5. At the Clearwater Historical Society Event Center 610 S Fort Harrison Ave.

- Night at the Library featuring African American Legacy 5-8 p.m. February 28. A night to discover and shed light on the accomplishments of the African American community in Clearwater. Co-sponsored by Clearwater Historical Society and the Clearwater Heights Neighborhood Reunion Committee and held at North Greenwood Library, 905 N Martin Luther King Jr Ave. For more information call (727)-560-4970.

- Women's History Month Exhibit March 5-May 8 celebrating the women of Clearwater and their accomplishments. Suggested donation \$5. 10 am-2 pm Thursday-Saturday, Clearwater Historical Society Museum, 610 S Fort Harrison Ave.

- Fashion Revisited 1900-1920 May 14-30. See interpretations of vintage clothing. Suggested donation \$5. View during regular business hours, 10 am-2 pm Thursday-Saturday at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum 610 S Fort Harrison Ave.

- Clearwater Historical Society Fish Fry 11:30 am-1 pm May 2. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under, in advance. \$15 at the door. At Ross Norton Complex 1426 S Martin Luther King Jr Ave. See [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org).

- Saturday Speaker Series at the Museum: Starting March 14 10-11 am the second and fourth Saturdays. Learn about area history. Suggested donation \$5. Clearwater Historical Society Event Center, 610 S Fort Harrison Ave.

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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!

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**CLEARWATER SEA-BLUES FESTIVAL**  
 Blues Music and Fresh Seafood

A weekend full of authentic blues music served with a side of fresh, mouth-watering seafood - the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival is one of Tampa Bay's most anticipated annual events. The 2020 Sea-Blues Festival will rock Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater Feb. 22-23.

As always, general admission to the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival is free, with the option to purchase VIP, reserved seating or Captain's Krewe ticket packages. Doyle Bramhall II was originally slated to perform, but due to personal reasons will not be appearing at this year's festival. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Sea-Blues.com.

Tentative Schedule for Artists (Subject to Change)

**Saturday, February 22**

- \* Allen Stone - allenstone.com
- \* Southern Avenue - southernavenuemusic.com
- \* Brandon Santini - brandonsantini.com
- \* RJ Howson - facebook.com/rjhowsonmusic
- \* Reverend Barry & the Funk - reverendbarryandthefunk.com
- \* Someday Honey - somedayhoney.com

**Sunday, February 23**

- \* Tab Benoit - tabbenoit.com
- \* Victor Wainwright & the Train - victorwainwright.com
- \* Heather Gillis - heathergillisband.com
- \* Betty Fox Horn Band - facebook.com/bettyfoxband
- \* The Broadcast - thebroadcastmusic.com

**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 the cooperation between the public and law enforcement, we can reduce crime. As always, report suspicious behavior.

**EVENTS AT THE ALLEY**  
 IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS

First Saturday of each month Pet Adoption, 10am - 1pm (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

**KATHLEEN BECKMAN**  
 RAISING THE BAR for Clearwater City Council



Kathleen Beckman is a retired high school English teacher and a lifetime public servant who is running for Seat 3 on the Clearwater City Council. A full-time, hands-on volunteer, Kathleen helps families and neighborhoods to improve their quality of life through a variety of non-profit organizations.

Kathleen is running for office to RAISE THE BAR on what is expected of council members and their accountability and transparency to residents, and true collaboration with neighborhoods. Skills she honed teaching and volunteering will serve her well in collaboration with diverse communities, and in communicating both expectations and results.

In her extensive community outreach, Kathleen knows that residents have numerous concerns: traffic, parking, safety, ordinance enforcement, short term rentals, over-development, and sustainability of our environment that is so vital to our health, quality of life and economy.

Suncoast Sierra Club has endorsed Kathleen, recognizing her as a leader in the community to protect and preserve our beaches. Kathleen recognizes that the economic driver of Clearwater is its environment, and she is committed to protecting it for our future.

Kathleen has been, and will continue to be, a strong voice for continuous accountability and transparency of city plans, actions and spending. Being accountable to residents is essential for a fully functional city government.

Kathleen loves hearing from residents. Contact her via email - KathleenforClearwater@gmail.com or phone - (727)266-0822. Follow her on Facebook - KathleenBeckmanForCityCouncil and her website, KathleenforClearwater.com

Vote for Kathleen Beckman on March 17, 2020!

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Kathleen Beckman for Clearwater City Council.

**JR BEACH LIFEGUARD CAMP**



Ever thought about becoming a beach lifeguard? Think you have what it takes but don't know where to start? How about becoming a Jr Beach Lifeguard with the Clearwater Beach Patrol?

Learn, train and work alongside of an actual lifeguard. More than just a summer camp, participants will gain a wide variety of skills, knowledge and valuable experience

which builds self-confidence and skills for life. Receive valuable knowledge on area beaches and waterways. All participants are required to pass a swim test prior to registering for the program. Testing, registration forms and payment are due before the start of the camp.

Session 1: June 15-19 ages 8-12  
 Session 2: June 22-26 ages 13-16  
 Hours are 10 am-3 pm. The cost is \$165 per child or \$150 with Rec Card  
 Participants must be able to:

- Swim 100 yards unassisted
- Tread water for 5 minutes
- Swim underwater for 10 feet



Email Patrick Brafford patrick.brafford@myclearwater.com, Konrad Ciolko konrad.ciolko@myclearwater.com or call the Beach Lifeguard Station, 727-462-6963, for information.

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### WHEN I WAS MAYOR

#### An Interview With Rita Garvey, Past Clearwater Mayor

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In March, the City of Clearwater will pick a new mayor - its 34th. Last month, I sat down with Rita Garvey, Clearwater's 30th Mayor, to find out about her experiences. Garvey, now 74 and widowed with three grown children, served four terms between 1987 and 1999. Following Kathleen Kelly, she was the second and last woman to be Mayor. She preceded Brian Aungst (1999), Frank Hibbard (2005) and George Cretokos (2012).



1980 - Garvey's first year as Commissioner, with Mayor Charles LeCher, Paul Hatchett, Marvin Moore, and Bill Stephans

#### WHY DID YOU RUN FOR MAYOR?

I felt that I could make a difference to the City of Clearwater. I was always active in my community and as I had children, we were active in the Library. That was a big part of it because I always felt Library service should be available to all, yet then there were no libraries west of Highland Avenue. I was elected to the City Commission (it was still called that then) in 1980 and served as a City Commissioner until 1986. I first ran for Mayor in 1983 against Kathleen Kelly and lost. I ran again in 1987 and won. I eventually won four times!

#### WHAT DOES CLEARWATER'S MAYOR ACTUALLY DO?

The Mayor runs the Council meetings and interacts with the City Council, the City Manager, City staff and the general public. It is important to remember in Clearwater's system the Mayor is just one of five votes. We have a Council/Manager government, meaning the Council's decisions gives directions to the Manager who carries out those decisions. The Mayor has no additional authority.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT?

It's hard to say what my proudest achievement was, but working on the expansion of the City library system has to be a big one.

The first city library was built in 1916, on

the bluff site. There were many additions to the building over the years, and we finally built the new library in 2004.

But in the 1970s, the library system had only two locations: the Main downtown Library and the N. Greenwood Library on Palmetto Street with no library service east of Highland Avenue. In the '70s, after a push for library service in east Clearwater, the City Commission started a small library in a Fire Station east of the Clearwater Mall.

It wasn't until 1980s, when I was on the City Commission that the City Commission, passed a .25 tax millage to fund new libraries in east Clearwater and the Countryside area. That finally developed a library system available to all.

#### WHAT DO YOU RECALL ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF SCIENTOLOGY?

Scientology, as we know it today, got its roots in Clearwater in about 1975. They started buying land in Clearwater under other names - religious sounding names, such as United Churches of Florida. When he was in office, Mayor Gabe Cazares (1975-78) raised the first alarm. In 1976, Scientology bought the Fort Harrison Hotel. They started moving many properties off the city's tax rolls, claiming that they were "church" buildings and tax exempt. I was involved when the City successfully fought their religious exemptions for many of the properties. But they are still here in Clearwater and the issue continues.



#### WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS MAYOR?

I have so many good memories - too many to list or even remember now, 20 years later. Working with Clearwater's sister city, Nagano, Japan, are some of my favorite memories. When I was elected to the City Commission in 1980, the sister city program was inactive. Re-establishing the program with Nagano, Japan, was very important to me. And I am proud to say, it still continues today.

There were two different exchanges



1998

programs - adults and youth. In both, visitors stayed with Clearwater families. Over the years, we hosted many guests in our home visiting from Nagano. My husband and I also traveled to Nagano where we were guests in volunteer's homes. I know I certainly got a lot out of the program.

#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT MAYOR?

To be a good mayor, it is important to have a clear vision of the future. It is not good enough to think of the impact of decisions in five years; you need to have a vision of what it will mean ten or twenty years from now.

You also must engage the public - listen to your fellow citizens - and keep an open mind.

Find a way to make things work with all four of your other Council members. A vote of three members is needed to pass an issue, but a consensus is better.

Most importantly, remember you are working for the citizens of Clearwater. Your decisions set the future of Clearwater.

#### WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'm still involved in my community especially the Friends of the Clearwater Library. I am the current President and manage the Friends Book & Gift Store at the City's Main Library. I also coordinate our large book sales twice a year.



2020



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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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## Bar & Restaurant News



**DOWNTOWN PIZZA OPENS** Downtown Pizza Sports Bar & Grill on Cleveland Street (formerly Tony's Pizza) serves lunch and dinner. With plenty of seating, it is the perfect place to have a drink and watch a game. The restaurant features a full liquor bar and

TVs everywhere with more than just delicious gourmet pies. The menu includes pastas, Italian dishes, salads, wings, burgers, hot and cold subs, calzones, and more.

Located just minutes from Clearwater Beach, they provide free delivery within 5 miles (which includes Clearwater Beach) with a \$15 minimum. Call 441-2226 for delivery. Find them at 428 Cleveland St.

**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.

**SMOKE & BARREL OPENS** This is a fresh new take on steaks, barbecue and whiskey. The rustic western décor and old school juke box will certainly get your toes a tap'n while you enjoy their comfort food. Each day they smoke the best meats served with four unique house made BBQ sauces. Prime Rib is available every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, and they always offer a salad bar stocked with fresh greens. Find them in Pelican Plaza at 752 S Gulfview Blvd. on Clearwater Beach.

**SALTY CRAB OPENS** This new restaurant opened in Captain's Pizza former spot. They celebrated with a Chamber ribbon cutting January 23rd.

Owned by Beachside Hospitality Group, (the same people who own Crabby's Dockside, Crabby's Beach Walk, Salty's Island Bar and more) Salty Crab Bar & Grill isn't just seafood, they have a very full menu that even includes pizza. Find them at 462 Mandalay Avenue, across from the CVS store.

Their web site is SaltyCrabNorthBeach.com.



## Bar & Restaurant News

**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.

**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.

**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 Benedicts.com.

**FRENCHY'S TO GO** The Frenchy's group is opening something new. Sometimes called a "ghost kitchen," with no seats or tables, the new facility will only prepare delivery and take-out orders. Located at the corner of US 19 and State Road 580 in an old Chick-Fil-A building, not being on the beach will open up a completely new market for them. The concept is still being developed and is not open yet.

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## Bar & Restaurant News

### BEST CHILI WINNERS

January 26th, two dozen people competed in the annual Backwaters on Sand Key Chili Cookoff. The winners are:

- 1st Place - Carrie Anne Hillard
- 2nd Place - Rob Walsh (last year's winner)
- 3rd Place - Mary Lonnemann



This is the fifth time in five years Hillard, a resident of Seminole, has been a winner - three times she has been in first place. What is her secret?

"I am using a recipe I have developed over the past 8 years," says Hillard. "I cook the meat and chili for an hour, and then I remove the juices and put them in a second pot, add spices and make a rue. Then I add that back into the main chili and simmer for about 3-4 hours."

Carrie Anne says that she may not enter next year to allow someone else a chance take the Championship.

One family, the O'Briens, had entrees from three generations. Butch (the 2013 winner), his son Kevin, and granddaughter Caitlin submitted their best chili. Caitlin came in fifth.

Congratulations to all who participated and sampled.



### ROUND ABOUT PIZZA OPENS

Located in the Clearwater Beach Marina building, Roundabout Pizza offers both take out and delivery, and has several tables outside for you to enjoy your food.

Owned by Baystar Restaurant Group (owners of Poke Havana, Salt Cracker,

Marina Cantina, Island Way Grill and more), this is their first restaurant to specialize in pizzas cooked in an authentic Italian stone oven. They also offer other options such as salads and meatballs. When you order at RoundAboutPizza.com, you will receive 20% off your first online order or text ROUNDABOUTAP to 33733. Call Roundabout Pizza at 441-3020.

**MOVED** Samantha, owner of Samgelo's Pizza, moved her restaurant, but not too far. The new location, 643 Mandalay Avenue is just across the street from her old location. She hopes to have reopened by the time you read this. Her phone number stays the same at 447-2020.



## 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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# Business Briefs



**SURF WHEELS & DRONES** Do you want an E-Bike, E-Scooter, or a Drone? Surf-Wheels n Dones has over 20 models of AddMotor E-Bikes, as well as One Wheel E-Boards, EMove Electric Scooters, plus DJI Drones and GoPro Cameras to catch all the action. Owners Leo and Lea moved their

Orlando store to Clearwater Beach last fall. See their different models at surfwheelsndrones.com or stop by for a test ride at 474 Poinsettia Avenue, next to Irish 31, on the back side of Pelican Plaza. Mention this story and receive a free helmet when you purchase an e-bike or e-scooter. Call 953-3521.

**CIRCLE MART TO BECOME CHASE BANK BRANCH** While it doesn't look like one yet, the closed Circle Mart Convenience store at 601 Mandalay Avenue (across from Speedway Gas) is going to be a Chase Bank.

**BEACH PRINT SHAK CLOSES** Island Estates' Print Shack closed its doors last month and so did the Post Office inside. After over 10 years, owners Judy Weed and Linda Griffin said their landlord raised their rent and left them no choice but to shut down. "We are devastated to leave our loyal customers and friends," said Judy.

The store housed the only U.S. Post Office outlet on the beach, representing 33767. The nearest Post Office now is the main one on Cleveland Street.

The Print Shop will remain open and continue to operate remotely. This means your printing will still be handled by the owners. Just call them at the same number (449-8732) for pick-up service or email BeachPrintShack@TampaBay.RR.com.

"Thank you for all your support in this time of transition," says Judy and Linda.

**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.



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

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# 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 or call (727) 772-3458.

**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.

**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 for information.

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# Business Briefs



**SHERATON TURNS 45** When The Sheraton Sand Key opened February 19, 1975, Clearwater was just a small beach town. The bridge to the north over Clearwater Pass was still made of wood and there were few condominiums nearby. Russ Kimball was there on day one, but not as the manager. That happened six months later, and he is still the manager today – 45 years later.

Pictured here with Russ are Dominick Provenzano, General Manager, and most of his current staff.

**REAL ESTATE OFFICE OPENS** Berkshire Hathaway opened a real estate office on Island Estates, in the Publix Plaza near the UPS Store. Amber Davis and Ann Marie Krzesinski have moved their offices there.

**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."

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 N.

**MR. CLEARWATER** Jiffy Reprographics founder Bob Roperi was recognized as the 2020 recipient of the Mr. Clearwater Award by Amplify Clearwater, the newly merged Clearwater Chamber of Commerces. Roperi was recognized for his accomplishments and public service, and his history of community involvement and leadership. The award was issued at the first Annual Gala and Celebration held at the Wyndham Grand on Clearwater Beach last month.



The Mr./Ms. Clearwater is a prestigious award established in 1958 by the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce. Presented annually to an individual (or couple), it honors someone who has made substantial community contributions over many years.

Also awarded that night: Tim Johnson received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Haley Crum received the Carol Hague AchieveHERs Woman of the Year Award.

## 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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### 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, or request a meeting at our new model.



### 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.

### 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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### LPGA GOLF TOURNAMENT 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.

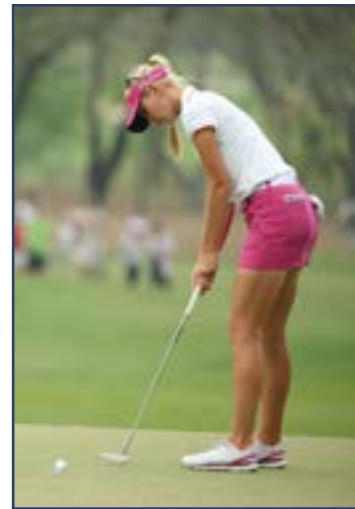
There will be closed player practices Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will be a Pro-Am round where local golfers can rub shoulders with the Pro Ladies. The actual tournament begins on Thursday. The field of 144 will be cut in half (72) by Saturday. The final day is Sunday, May 17th.

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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One of the greatest honors of my life was when my neighbors elected me as mayor in 2005. As a 40-year resident of Clearwater, it was a privilege to serve our community for two terms as mayor.

While I was mayor, I oversaw the development of the downtown marina, Clearwater's Beach Walk, Ross Norton complex in South Greenwood, the Senior Center at the Long Center and much more. Then in 2012 due to term limits, I was forced to step down.

Since I left office, the city's challenges have grown. Neighborhoods and business corridors have declined and the downtown area has not seen commercial growth. With the city manager and city attorney positions expected to become vacant in 2020, we'll need to lead a national search for the right people to fill those roles.

That's why I am running again. Clearwater needs someone with strong, proven leadership now more than ever to guide our great city through the future.

*I humbly ask for your vote and I truly hope you'll trust me to lead our great city into the future when Election Day comes."*

**FRANK Hibbard**  
FOR MAYOR OF CLEARWATER

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RN & Owner

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**SUNSET CINEMAS SCHEDULE**

Sunset Cinema provides free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday. Beach towels, blankets and low lawn chairs are welcome. Movies begin at dusk. Popcorn and beverages are available on site. See the schedule online at [www.SunsetsAtPier60.com](http://www.SunsetsAtPier60.com) or call 449-1036.



**FEBRUARY**

- 21: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (PG)
- 22: OPHELIA (PG-13)
- 28: THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR (PG-13)
- 29: LEAP YEAR (PG-13)

**MARCH**

- 6: MONANA (G)
- 7: WHERE'D YOU GO BERNADETTE (PG-13)
- 13: SING (PG)
- 14: MAMMA MIA (PG-13)
- 20: TEENAGE MUTANT TURTLES 2014 (PG-13)
- 21: IRON MAN (PG-13)
- 27: FROZEN 2 (PG)
- 28: UP (PG)

**APRIL**

- 3: A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (PG)
- 4: FINDING NEMO (G)
- 10: DUMBO 2019 (PG)
- Sugar Sands Festival Opens*
- 11: LION KING 2019 (PG)
- 17: DOLPHIN TALE (PG)
- 18: DOLPHIN TALE 2 (PG)
- 22: THE LORAX (PG) *Earth Day Celebration*
- 24: ZOOTOPIA (PG)
- 25 JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM 2018 (PG-13)

**BEACH LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Mah-Jong Club - Test your skills and luck as you play with friends and new acquaintances. All supplies are provided. Every Thursday, 2:30-4:30 pm.

Family Craft Time - This program offers families time to unplug, unwind and explore their artistic sides together. The library will provide a different craft theme each month and all the needed materials. All ages are welcome. Wednesday, Feb. 19, March 18, April 15, 4:30-6 pm.

Photography Class - Join local photographer Alex Casano for a workshop about basic camera techniques, composition, and daylight photography. Bring your own digital camera then get ready to create great photos. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2-3 pm.

Cooking with Chef John: Live'n Up Your Meat Dishes and Discover Root Vegetables - Join Chef John from Palate Culinary Services on a delicious journey as he demonstrates how to prepare and serve some tasty meat dishes sure to please your family and friends. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5-6 pm.

The Beach Book Club - Read contemporary, literary works and discuss them with interested readers the first Wednesday of each month. Wednesday, March 4, April 1, 4-5 pm.

Shorebirds & Wading Birds of Tampa Bay - Focus on local nesting species, a few migratory species, and Audubon Florida's programs. Presented by Holley Short, a shorebird biologist with Audubon Florida. Wednesday, March 25, 5-6 p.m.

Call 562-4970, or visit [myclearwaterlibrary.com](http://myclearwaterlibrary.com).

**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](http://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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Piloting a boat is just like driving a car. Except there are no turn signals, no marked lanes, no headlights or fog lamps, no seat belts or airbags, no impact-absorbing bumpers, no uniform child safety seat regulations, no four-way emergency flashers, no speed limits in large expanses of the waterways, and no back-up cameras.

Oh, and there are no brakes, either.

So before you back that boat down the Seminole Boat Ramp and head for the Gulf or before you decide that Caladesi Island State Park is a good place to try out the used ski boat you just purchased, it's time to go to class.

There's Driver Ed for all of those 16-year-olds raring to get on the road, and it is equally important for boat owners of all ages to get educated on the ways of the water before they take that maiden voyage. Wait ... given the no-brakes factor, it could be even more important.

The cooler and unpredictable days of winter are some of the best times to take a boating safety class. A class is a great way to prepare those new boaters for their first season on the water and refresh the experienced ones on the rules of the waterway road, and the latest in safety equipment and practices.

The Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering "About Boating Safely" taught by certified instructors at 510 North Ft. Harrison Ave, Clearwater. The class meets on the second weekend of the month from 8am to 1pm.

"We like to offer these courses throughout the year. Given the changeable weather in winter and early spring, our early courses give people plenty of time to prepare for the warmer weather boating season, instead of having to rush once the first nice weekend of spring gets here," said Karen Miller, the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education officer. "Learning about the safety aspect of boating first also gives them time to make sure they have the necessary safe boating equipment."

Boating safety is an increasingly important priority since strong boat sales mean more craft on the water. The National Marine Manufacturers Association recently announced that the 2019 sales figures show that approximately 280,000 new powerboats were sold in the year, the second-highest total since 2007.



Each season brings new boaters out on the local waters, and there is certainly a lot more to boating than they might realize," Miller said. "For those new to boating, the class is so important. The statistics show that people who take a safe boating class are less likely to be involved in any kind of accident on the water."

Coast Guard studies from recent years indicate that in cases where the boating instruction status of the boat operator was known, 74 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had not received boating safety instruction.

The boating safety class is also a requirement for many boaters in Florida. In the Sunshine State, anyone born after Jan. 1, 1988, must successfully complete a boater safety course approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in order to operate any boat powered by more than 10 horsepower, and they are required to carry their boater education card with them when out on the water along with picture ID.

Miller also said the safe boating course might be the best first step for anyone considering buying a boat since the knowledge they will gain from the class will make that a much more educated purchase. "It is a very good starting point for people who are thinking about buying a boat. They should do this first, to see what they are getting into," she said. "The instructors who teach the class are experienced boaters and can give information

on what kind of boat might fit each person's needs."

It isn't just new boats bringing a fresh crop of boaters to the waterways in the region since NMMA data shows that some 975,000 pre-owned boats were sold in the U.S. in 2019. The U.S. has an estimated 11.9 million registered boats, and about 95 percent of those are less than 26 feet in length and capable of being trailered. The boating industry expects 2020 to be another strong year for boat sales, given the solid economy and consumer spending numbers. Florida has more than 950,000 registered vessels and that doesn't include canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards!

Miller said that regardless of whether it is a new or used boat, and whether the boater is experienced or a rookie, taking the safety class is time well spent. "We cover the basics of trailering, launching and retrieving, along with boat ramp courtesy and the rules of navigation, but our main message is risk mitigation," Miller said. "We want to use the course to minimize the risk of an accident taking place, and minimize the effects of the accident. What to do in case of an emergency is one of the most important aspects of this class."

Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for boating safety classes at: [www.clwboatingsafety.com](http://www.clwboatingsafety.com) or by email at [clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com](mailto:clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com) or call 727-469-8895.



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### FLORIDA REALTORS FLY TO DUBAI

By Elle Arsove, Sand Key Realty

The Florida Realtors, including some from Clearwater, embarked on an historic trade mission to Dubai recently. It was the first of its kind to Dubai by a US Realtor Association.



Realtors on the bus, local residents Elle Arsove to the left and Marisol Davila right,

The group of approximately 300 Florida Agents were hosted by Century21 and UAE. Several local resident Realtors® were selected for the mission including me and Marisol Davila (MD Global Realty, LLC). Certified International Specialists, we were given the opportunity to take a course provided through the Dubai Land Department. Passing this class, I became a Certified Dubai International Property Consultant! Additionally, all participants were given formal recognition, as Real Estate Partners with Muscat Bay, The Sultanate of Oman.

Getting there was fun - all 14 hours. Emirates Air was great, with gifts and options for private sleeping cubbies! Joup, Kiev, Umm Lajj, Bengazi, Riyad, Tabuk, Shraz, Ha'il, Jedda were some of the cities not far from our flight path - quite exotic!

Why Dubai? The Dubai Land Department's vision is for Dubai to become the world's premier real estate destination, with goals of innovation, trust, and happiness. This is largely a result of efforts of the visionary King, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum. Dubai is an economic hub for the Middle East, with the world's busiest airport receiving approximately 78 million passengers last year. The corporate giants all have bases in Dubai: Citibank, Bank of America, Johnson and Johnson, Google, Amazon, McDonalds, KFC, Ace Hardware, etc. Most residents come from abroad and all religions are welcome. Additionally, despite its wealth of oil, Dubai is working to become a model green energy hub for the world. It is a city of creativity, tolerance and very low crime rate. With excellent infrastructure, clean technologies, and an eye on the future, Dubai real estate outperforms major cities such as London, Paris, and New York. There is no income tax, no capital gains tax, strong capital appreciation and high rental yields. Offerings by major developers include units with a guaranteed net return on investment of 8% for up to 12 years and other perks. In comparison, local rates of return here are approximately 3-4%.

How about a condo to match your perfume? Or, why not a unit by the world famous Architect Zaha Hadid? The Jetsons cartoon reality is coming true as structures by the Developer Omnyat will feature taxi drone landing pads, similar to those seen in the popular 1960s TV show. And surprise! Dubai is not just for millionaires. Prices range from under \$200,000 to over \$30 million USD.

If you have questions about investing in Dubai, contact me, elle@sandkey.com, floridacoastalhomes.us, or 813-606-0863.



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### 8th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting Clearwater High School Football

Saturday, April 18, at the Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club, where Florida golf doesn't get any better, the Clearwater High School Tornados are holding their 8th Annual Golf Tournament. The tournament begins at 7am with starting hole assignments, free range balls, a continental breakfast, contests, and raffles before the 8 am Shotgun start. Every golfer receives a goodie bag filled with food and drink coupons, automatic inclusion in the \$10,000 hole-in-one and a free round of golf at Bardmoor or any of their associated courses another day. At 12:30 in the clubhouse, enjoy a full hot buffet chicken dinner luncheon and awards banquet.

Prizes include \$10,000 cash, Gold and Diamond Source and IDC jewelry, Golf Foursomes at elite private courses such as Innisbrook, Copperhead, and Belleair, plus several courses around Tampa Bay, Gift Certificates to many local restaurants and businesses and more!

Register now, while early bird pricing is available. Early Bird Registrations is \$110 Per individuals or \$400 Team Foursome. Standard registration is \$125 per individuals or \$440 team foursome. Register at [attornadostrong.org/golf-tournament](http://attornadostrong.org/golf-tournament)

### 2020 BEACH WALK/WALK THE BEST YET!

Over 200 walkers and participants gathered at the Palm Pavilion on Feb. 1st to celebrate the 11th annual Beach Walk/Walk. The Beach Walk/Walk is sponsored through a partnership between Chapel By The Sea and RCS (Religious Community Services). Last year RCS provided food and shelter to over 160,000 residents. All proceeds from the event go to the RCS Food Bank and The Haven For Domestic Violence. Since its' inception in 2010 the Beach Walk has raised over \$135,000 in support of RCS activities.

At the Chapel finish line participants were greeted with cheers and a flurry of drum rolls provided by the Sheriff's Dept. PAL Drumline. Inside, all were treated to a hearty traditional pancake breakfast with all the trimmings provided by Clear Sky Café, followed by a lucrative silent auction. Last year's Beach Walk raised over \$18,000. According to Walk Director Rick Owens "In spite of the threat of rain and chilly weather we had a very enthusiastic turnout. The numbers aren't finalized yet, but all indicators point to another banner year for 2020 and RCS. Thank you to all of our sponsors and community members who helped support this worthy event."

### VOLUNTEERS & BOOKS NEEDED AT FRIENDS BOOK & GIFT STORE

Volunteers are needed to work certain days and hours at the Friends of the Clearwater Library Book & Gift Store at the Clearwater Main Library. (Monday – Thursday, 10am – 4pm, Friday & Saturday, noon – 4pm.) If you like to be around people and books this is a great opportunity. A short training session is required. The work hours vary, but are generally two to three hours a day once a week to fit your schedule. To volunteer, call 727-449-1243.

The Friends of the Clearwater Library Book & Gift Store (in the Main Library Osceola Ave.) needs donations of paperback books & recent hard back fiction, in good condition, for resale in the store. Bring your donations to the Main Library. Proceeds from the Friends of the Clearwater Library bookstores are used to fund programs and scholarships which enhance our Clearwater Public Library system.

The Friends are proud of their commitment to our public library system. Join the Friends and be part of the commitment.

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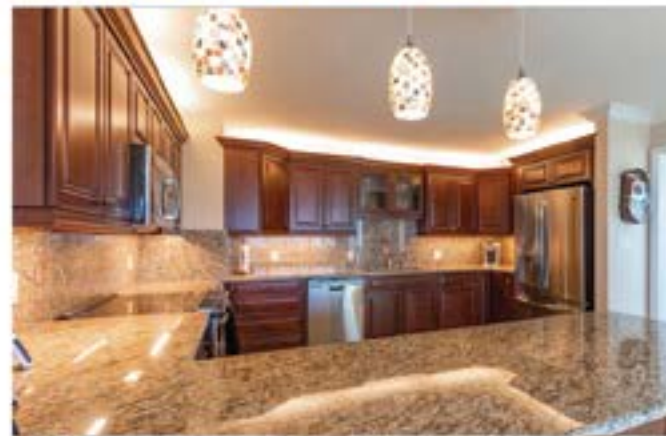


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**GET YOUR VIEW TODAY**

**CEO DAVID YATES LEAVING THE CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM**

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Before joining the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, all David Yates knew about aquariums is what he and his wife saw when visiting the Florida Aquarium with their four children.

Yates, a CPA by trade, was the former director of the Iron Man Triathlon when he became the CEO of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) in 2006. Now, after leading the team of employees, volunteers, board members and a lot of sea animals for the past 14 years, he says it is "time to leave the tank." March 15th is his last day.

"After 14 years of leading this amazing organization, it is time for me to transition-out as I have a few more things I want to do," says Yates. "However, I will stay involved until we open our game-changing facility and thereafter I will remain involved behind the scenes to work on future TV and movies projects for CMA. I transition out with a happy heart knowing CMA's best years are ahead."

"Leading CMA has been the joy of my life," Yates added. "We've come a long way since 2006, finding Winter and making Dolphin Tale 1 & 2. Working with the amazing team at CMA, we've been able to save thousands of marine animals while inspiring millions of children and wounded soldiers."

"Those close to me know that I plan a final chapter to my career, and I need to get on to it, which includes writing a number of books, public speaking, non-profit consulting, and producing movies and TV shows."

After his retirement in March, Yates will still be involved in the background. He plans to consult for the aquarium as it unveils its new facilities, which are now under construction.

Frank Chivas, Owner/Operator of the Baystar Restaurant Group has been involved with CMA for years and has volunteered to oversee many of the past construction projects. "David is a visionary...plain and simple," Chivas says.



"The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a longtime fixture for many of us in Clearwater. We watched the sea life hospital grow into the most amazing attraction while they continue to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured sea life. David Yates is very much responsible for this transformation," says Darlene Kole, past Executive Director of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. He has always had a strong vision for the marine hospital and his talents proved the popularity of today's aquarium. David turned rescued dolphins Winter and Hope into movie stars and their stories are now told worldwide."

"We are so proud of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium! David Yates, as the CEO, has provided a great vision and fantastic results. With his wonderful staff and board of directors, David set the standard for saving marine life and honoring our disabled citizens. Every day, the CMA is making a difference in our lives and our community," said Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner.

The Board has chosen Frank Dame to replace Yates. Dame has been with CMA, almost as long as Yates. He joined the organization in 2006, has been the Chief Operating Officer since 2008.

Previously, Dame has been Chairman of the Clearwater Jolley Trolley, Chairman of the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the City's Community Development Board.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected by the CMA Board to replace David Yates as CEO at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium," said Dame. "We are sad to see him go. He has left a legacy of success as our mission."

"David Yates took over the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in 2006 when our financial situation was literally 'in the tank,' and had a unique vision for this non-profit," says Dame. "His plan was to build a business model that would fund operations while using donations to expand our capacity to do our work. Winter's situation was so inspiring, he felt that using the media to spread Winter's story would inspire others as well. He was so interested in this story that he authored Winter's Tale - the rest is history. There were many obstacles and skeptics, but David stayed the course and remained optimistic. Through David's vision and perseverance, we have built a solid and professional team and the future remains bright."

Dame will usher in a new era for the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in 2020 with the completion of an expanded facility that includes five new dolphin habitats, an elevated deck, a new building for guests, and an educational space.

For information on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, visit [www.SeeWinter.com](http://www.SeeWinter.com).





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## Organizational News...

### GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

At a recent holiday luncheon, JoAnne Roby was awarded Volunteer of the Year for 2019 by the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club. She has been a member of the club for more than 10 years and is a past president.

Since her term as president, JoAnne has worked diligently and quietly behind the scenes and is a very important part of the club's fundraisers and activities. A very well deserved award, congratulations, JoAnne!

She will go on to compete with several other clubs in this area for the Volunteer of the Year award for District 14.

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.

For reservations (required) call 727-452-6452, visit [GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org](http://GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org) or the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club Facebook page, or e-mail [MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com). Credit cards accepted and you can pay on-line.

The GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club is a nonprofit 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).

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key. Founded in 1991, they currently have seventeen condo association and nine business members researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county and state levels. The organization participates in The Barrier Island Government Council, as well as The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and is a corporate member of the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

Meetings, including a monthly Clearwater Police report, are held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Clearwater Sailing Center on Gulf Boulevard. Guest speakers are often invited to brief on current topics or projects affecting Sand Key. Meetings are open to all residents of member condo associations and local businesses, and interested individuals are always welcome to attend as a guest and observe.

To learn more, visit [www.sandkeycivicassociation.org](http://www.sandkeycivicassociation.org) where upcoming agendas are posted, as well as minutes from past meetings and other community-related items. Businesses and condominium associations interested in joining can contact the organization's Secretary at [skcainc@aol.com](mailto:skcainc@aol.com).

Attend a meeting, meet the Board, and make your voice heard

### 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.

## Organizational News...

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

They welcomed in the New Year at the Belleair Country Club with 40 members and 10 guests in attendance. The buffet was amazing as it offered many salad selections and entrees that are New Year's Day traditions from all around the USA and Canada including carved Prime Rib, Hop N Jon Soup from New Orleans, French Canadian Meat Pie, Polish Sausage and Sauerkraut from Pennsylvania, Salmon, Chicken, St. Louis style barbecued ribs, and several other items. The dessert table did not disappoint with several selections capped off by an ice cream and toppings bar.

Each year the club prepares a budget for fixed costs and monthly events. At the end of the year, the treasurer does the tally and if we are favorable to budget, that amount is applied to the allocation for the New Year's Brunch. Because of our great performance, the club's charge to members was only \$10 and guests \$20. Congratulations to all who helped keep costs in line with the budget.

Upcoming events:

Feb 23 -- Day at the Races (@ Tampa Bay Downs)

Mar 14 -- Blind Auction

Apr 19 -- Brunch at Island Way Grill

Visit [www.islandestatesyc.org](http://www.islandestatesyc.org) for club information.

### THE BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

On March 10th, they meet at 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 Edmonds at 727-596-5710. Guests are always welcome. Reserve early.

For information about the Club, please call Sue Edmonds or Lois O'Donnell at 727-595-1349.

### THE BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

For the March 6, monthly meeting of the Belleair Women's Republican Club (BWRC), the speaker will be Arte Renee Pobjecky, Attorney & Counselor At Law at POBJECKY & POBJECKY, LLP, Winter Haven, FL. She is a practicing immigration and compliance attorney and is a nationally recognized professional speaker and published author on immigration law issues.

Programs are held at the Belleair Country Club; One Country Club Lane; Belleair. Registration and Social Hour begin at 11, with lunch and meeting noon to 1:30 pm. Necessary reservations need to be made by 5 pm March 2, email Renatta Cochran at [renfilco@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:renfilco@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-595-6678. The Club welcomes Republicans from all surrounding communities.

### PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERTS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 South Ft. Harrison, Clearwater, is concluding its concert series next month. The free concerts are the second Sunday at 3pm.

March 8 Honoring Ludwig: Closing out the season series, they 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, you will hear an inspiring Beethoven string work, plus selections by Gabriel Faure.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

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](mailto:rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com) or visit [belleairgardenclub.com](http://belleairgardenclub.com).



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- MIKE'S BUSINESS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**  
 Owns & operates a business with his wife Suzanne, Chief Financial Officer, Professional Coach, Past licensure as Financial Advisor & Realtor.

**Mike MANNINO**  
 For Clearwater City Council Seat 2  
[VoteMike2020.com](http://VoteMike2020.com)

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Paid by Mike Mannino, Nonpartisan, for Clearwater City Council, Seat 2

\*\*\* **VoteMike2020.com** \*\*\*

# Organizational News...

## CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

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

Their March 7 Clearwater Garden Club Parking Lot Trunk Sale, has been canceled due to a lack of parking.

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

## CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

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

Their annual spring picnic, in Triangle Park is March 28th from noon to 3 pm.

This neighborhood association promotes projects of a civic, recreational and entertainment nature and be a voice to City Government on issues that affect our community. Membership is \$25 per household.

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

## CLEARWATER/ST. PETE SKI & SPORTS CLUB

The Clearwater/St. Pete Ski club and Rapp Brewing Company are co-hosting a Girl Scout Cookie and Beer Pairing fundraiser to support the Bay Pines Disabled Vets on March 14, 2 to 6pm.

A discounted four flight of beers that pair with cookies will be available for purchase at the brewery. A suggested donation of \$5 for the cookie samples will support the vets when they attend the Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado. See co-hosts Facebook event pages or contact president@showshark.org for more information.

## THE NAVIGATORS

A mens club at St Brendan's Catholic Church of Clearwater Beach, they have numerous fund-raising events to gift to charities. St Brendan's is located at 245 Dory Passage, Clearwater. Behind Publix on Island Estates. Contact Dennis Murphy (313) 590-3754, the organization's President.

## 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.

E-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org, call Tom 447-6000, or visit ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

## CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

Island Estates resident Shelby Brown has partnered with the Sailing Center and is offering a Community Yoga Class on Monday evenings at 5:45 pm. The cost is \$7 (\$6 for CCSC members). She has been instructing yoga classes in Clearwater & Indian Rocks for 10 years and holds a professional certification as a Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance. In her "day job," she works for the City of Clearwater. For information call (727) 403-7516.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

## DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

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

## 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

## ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB

Tuesday March 17, is their annual "Spring Fling Scholarship & Fashion Show Fundraiser to benefit graduating Clearwater High women to further their college educations.

Membership is open to all women EVERYWHERE. They meet through May with a fabulous line up of monthly lunch venues, speakers, activities, happy hours, bowling and even an annual cruise in February. Please visit islandestateswomensclub.org for a schedule of events. For membership information, call Joan Landreth 727-812-8078. For club information, contact Club President, Karen Stevens 727-642-4711.

## 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@briighthouse.com.

After lunch there is bridge, mahjong, dominoes, etc. .

## ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Members are Island Estates residents and business owners, with a mission to promote the safety, welfare, spirit, and unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community. They meet monthly on the second Monday. Their membership drive is in full swing.

They held a license plate security event January 18th. Over 200 Island Estates residents vehicles were treated to secure screws on their license plates.

Island Estates Civic Association Please renew or join at myislandestates.org

# FEATURED PROPERTIES



521 MANDALAY AVE #611L, CLEARWATER BEACH  
3 BD | 3 BA | 2,087 SQ FT | \$1,185,000



1200 GULF BLVD #112, CLEARWATER BEACH  
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,821 SQ FT | \$849,000



670 ISLAND WAY #905, CLEARWATER BEACH  
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,854 SQ FT | \$425,000



501 MANDALAY AVE #1002, CLEARWATER BEACH  
3 BD | 3 1/2 BA | 14,192 SQ FT | \$2,174,000



608 N OSCEOLA AVE, CLEARWATER  
5 BD | 5 BA | 4,090 SQ FT | \$1,950,000



501 MANDALAY AVE #1009, CLEARWATER BEACH  
3 BD | 3 1/2 BA | 3,425 SQ FT | \$2,250,000



10 PAPA YA ST #1104, CLEARWATER BEACH  
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,675 SQ FT | \$399,000



608 N OSCEOLA AVE, CLEARWATER  
5 BD | 5 BA | 4,090 SQ FT | \$12,000



2724 VIA MURIANO #338, CLEARWATER  
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,760 SQ FT | \$238,000



31 ISLAND WAY #1202, CLEARWATER  
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,350 SQ FT | \$262,000



690 ISLAND WAY #507, CLEARWATER  
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,150 SQ FT | \$308,000



3650 DORAN ST, PALM HARBOR  
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,816 SQ FT | \$340,000



1901 OAK RIDGE CT, CLEARWATER  
5 BD | 4 BA | 3,946 SQ FT | \$575,000



202 WINDWARD PKWY #309, CLEARWATER  
3 BD | 3 1/2 BA | 2,000 SQ FT | \$675,000



11 SAN MARCO ST #402, CLEARWATER  
3 BD | 2 1/2 BA | 2,000 SQ FT | \$1,280,000



19730 GULF BLVD #500, INDIAN SHORES  
5 BD | 4 5/2 BA | 5,300 SQ FT | \$2,045,000

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