

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

THE WOMEN OF CLEARWATER

In these turbulent times, it is comforting to know many of those that came before us struggled through difficult times only to find success at the end of their journey. To honor some of these courageous people, the Clearwater Historical Society has created a tribute to Clearwater's notable women. "Celebrating the Women of Clearwater," a profile of eight women, is the first new exhibit since the museum's June 2019 grand opening.

"Being the first annual event, we are honoring women of Clearwater that were first in their field," said Allison Dolan the President of the Clearwater Historical Society.

In addition to the eight highlighted women, the exhibit features other notable Clearwater women. These women made a significant impact to the greater good of Clearwater, Pinellas County and our nation. Included are Jean Homer - the first president of the Clearwater Historical Society, Nicole Stott - a Clearwater High graduate who worked for NASA and completed five space missions and Kathleen Bekker - Clearwater's first female police officer.



Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center as it looks today. It was previously the South Ward School. The inset photo is Jennie Plumb, Clearwater's first paid teacher, who eventually taught at South Ward School.

- Continued on page 7

Also in this Issue:

Being A Coffee Barista

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a coffee barista? Belleair Bluffs resident Sydney Barnes shares her experiences after working a year as a barista at Kahwa Coffee.

While it is a fun job, making those drinks isn't quite as easy as you might think.

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An Interview with Dewayne Staats

After forty one years, what does a baseball announcer do in the spring when there is no baseball?

- page 13

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Ten years later, what have we learned and where did all the settlement money go?

- pages 9



Business News

Even though most things are closed, there are still some businesses out there open. Find out what is going on in the neighborhood.

- page 13

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 JUNE!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
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Kathleen Beckman - Seat 3	
David Albritton - Seat 4	
Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
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PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
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PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
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BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
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FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLY TROLLEY	445-1200

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Linda Owens 260-894-0270	
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Allison Dolan 754-8017	

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist 202-225-5961	
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FOOD HOLIDAYS

With all the uncertainties and cancellations, we are unable to have a true event calendar. Instead, we thought we would give you something fun - a list of National Food Days.

APRIL		Mimosa Day	16
Jellybean Day	22	Armed Forces Day	16
Picnic Day	23	Pizza Party Day	17
Ramadan Begins	23	Walnut Day May	17
Pretzel Day	26	Devi's Food Cake Day	19
Prime Rib Day	27	Taffy Day	23
Shrimp Scampi Day	29	Wine Day	25
Raisin Day	30	Memorial Day	25
MAY		Brisket Day	28
May Day	1	Hamburger Day	28
Cinco De Mayo	5	Mint Julep Day	31
Hoagie Day	5	Macaroon Day	31
Have A Coke Day	8	JUNE	
Moscato Wine Day	9	May Day	1
Shrimp Day	10	Olive Day	1
Mother's Day	10	Hazelnut Cake Day	1
Hummus Day	13	Rotisserie Chicken Day	2
Apple Pie Day	13	Egg Day	3
Fruit Cocktail Day	13	Chocolate Macaroons Day	3
Buttermilk Biscuit Day	14	Cheese Day	4
Chocolate Chip Day	15	Cognac Day	4



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Did You Know



CONTINUING OUR MAGAZINE IN THE TIME OF CORONA As we go to press the second week of April, news of the pandemic's closures are constantly changing. We struggled with this issues - what should we print? Can we print? As you can clearly see, what was a 40 page magazine is now 16 pages. We finally decided to make this as normal of an issue as possible. No sad news or virus updates; there is plenty of that elsewhere.

We intend to continue printing our magazine as long as we can. However, if more businesses close, including our printer, mail-house or remaining advertisers, we may be forced to take a break. If we do have interruptions, rest assured we will be back in your home as soon as we can. In the meantime, stay safe and be healthy.

RECLAIMED WATER RESTRICTIONS Pinellas County seasonal reclaimed water restrictions went into effect on Wednesday, April 1, and will run through Tuesday, June 30.

North County reclaimed water customers may only irrigate two days per week based on property address, according to the schedule below:

- Addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, or 8) may water on Tuesday and/or Saturday.
- Addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, or 9) may water on Wednesday and/or Sunday.
- Parcels with mixed or no address, such as common areas associated with a residential subdivision, may water on Wednesday and/or Sunday.
- Watering is prohibited between 8 am and 4 pm on all authorized days.

CENSUS 2020 You should have gotten a letter from the US Census about 30 days ago asking you to complete the Census online. They have extended the deadline to complete it, but there is no reason to delay. It is very easy and takes about five minutes. if you haven't done it yet, please do it now at www.Census.gov. It is important to be counted.

DEBROAH CLARK RETIRES

Clark (71) has been the Supervisor of Elections in Pinellas County for twenty years, but worked in the office for a total of forty-two years. In February she announced she was retiring after the Florida Primary on March 31st. The Supervisor's position is an elected position and she has been elected five times.



"It has been a tremendous honor to serve the citizens of Pinellas County for the past 42 years," Clark says. "During those four decades I have seen many changes including the move from paper ballots to electronic voting. I am a real fan of mail-in ballots and voting from home."

Deborah has recommended her chief deputy assistant for her position.

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SUPPORT RESTAURANTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Are you social distancing yet still want to volunteer? Due to our area’s shutdown, Amplify Clearwater, the new Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, launched “Operation: Attitude of Gratitude—Fueling the Frontline.” This grassroots initiative is designed to support our health care workers, first responders and emergency services personnel—while simultaneously supporting our restaurants and food service businesses.

Amplify is coordinating with restaurants to provide meals for those on the front lines by purchasing meals from area restaurants with community contributions. The meals are funded through the attitudes-of-gratitude GoFundMe page. 100% of the proceeds will go towards the cost of providing meals to those in the fight against coronavirus.

If you are a restaurant interested in participating, contact Sydney Marks at sydney@amplifyclearwater.com or (727) 447-7600.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN Stormdrains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay, the Intracoastal, and the Gulf of Mexico without any treatment. Don’t blow debris into the street or gutter. Instead recycle those grass clippings and leaves into your yard and landscape beds. Don’t pour chemicals down the stormdrains. Dispose of swimming pool water properly. Turn off the chlorinator and allow levels to drop to zero before discharging into the landscape.

POSTAL FOOD COLLECTION

The 28th annual Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, scheduled for May 9, 2020, has been postponed. The National Association of Letter Carriers, as well as their national partners, are fully committed to rescheduling the food drive later in 2020. A new date has not yet been scheduled.



Food Pantries count on this drive to help them serve the community, and with so many out of work, they have seen an increased demand. They would appreciate any donation you can give.

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

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NEW CONSTRUCTION “FLIPPERS”.... CAN YOU DO THAT?*

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

With the higher price points and inflationary increases of a new Florida home on the Intracoastal, some of our customers are purchasing a new home from GHD Construction Services, only to “Flip” the home at a nice profit by the time the home is complete in 10-12 months. This is especially profitable to existing homeowners that own on outdated waterfront home, and have the opportunity to not only get the highest profit possible for their existing lot, but also make additional profit by selling a “Package” with the new home and lot included on their existing site. This has proven to be very profitable for these clients. There simply are almost no newly constructed homes for sale, raised to FEMA standards, on the market for buyers today. Almost all buyers today want newly constructed homes, with exciting Florida designs, energy efficient, built to FEMA standards. This housing product is almost non-existent today along the Pinellas beaches.

While doing my homework studying proposed home sales prices in MLS, I’ve noticed a quite large disparity in home pricing, from what a lot will sell for in a neighborhood, and what GHD charges for a beautiful new home. GHD has a furnished model of 5400sf under roof (30421a) that sells for only \$661,000, and by the time you place a value of the waterfront property at \$525,000 - \$700,000, add a pool, dock, new seawall, etc., the entire new package would cost about \$1,300,000. However, I’m seeing listings for new homes of this size at about \$1,675,000 asking price. Will they get that? I don’t know, but I do know that there is a nice potential profit for an investor to “Flip” a new home package at possibly a very nice profit. Also, some homeowners on interior lots opt to construct a much smaller home priced from the mid to high \$200s to increase their overall property value. That is

a definite opportunity for homeowners that own older homes on interior lots.

So many of our customers are searching for a way to invest funds from their lifetime savings, in what has historically been a very safe and profitable venture, Florida real estate. One of our customers remarked that even if the replacement home that they purchased on their lot doesn’t sell for his anticipated \$250,000 increased value, at least they have a beautiful new home to enjoy until Florida’s inflationary spiral continues to increase in future years.

As another alternative to purchasing a new home for a potential nice profit, some homeowners allow us to advertise their lot in MLS, with a picture and price of a newly constructed home on that lot. They list their lot as a “Coming Soon” package, complete with site sign and color rendering. GHD places the sign and markets the package with customers that come through our model daily, looking at various neighborhoods along the Pinellas beaches. We place the MLS listing which also gets published in Zillow and other social media, along with every real estate office looking for new housing product for their clients. It actually works quite well, and doesn’t involve the cash investment of purchasing the new home yourself. Of course, that homeowner does not have the opportunity for the “Up-Side Potential” of selling both the lot and home, but that is an alternative option available today for existing homeowners.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 7,000 homes since 1971. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to call Todd at (813) 956-8633, or email to: tnegoshian@ghdcsi.com. NOW, OFFERING VIRTUAL HOME TOURS: Visit our web site at www.GHDcoastalHomes.com and see “The Key West” & “Bahama Winds” homes.



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CLEARWATER'S WOMEN continued

These eight women are featured in the exhibit which abounds with rich detail and pictures.

- Mary Lou Baker the first female in Clearwater elected to the Florida House of Representatives and a Women's Rights advocate proposing bills that gave women the right to sit on a jury and take over their husband's business after his death.
- Annabelle Williams Foust the first African American female principal in Clearwater. She started the Williams School an African American school in Clearwater.
- Jai Hinson founder of Arts 4 Life and after school programs at the former Kings Highway Rec Center.
- Dr. Jean Lester Bennett the first woman to graduate from the University of Florida School of Medicine and a pediatrician in Clearwater for many years.
- Dr. Zena Lansky the first female surgeon at Morton Plant Hospital and the first woman head of surgery at Morton Plant.
- Betty McGraw Perkins a trained Civil Air Patrol pilot, started the Women's Sailing Club of Clearwater and brought busing to Clearwater. Her family started Greyhound Bus.
- Jennie Plumb Clearwater's first paid teacher starting at the Cemetery School while South Ward School was being built.
- Christine Wigfall Morris the first African American Librarian in Clearwater. She was based in the Greenwood Neighborhood's Twig library branch.



Mary Lou Baker

The exhibit also highlights the Women's Suffrage movement and some of its proponents such as Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton and Fredrick Douglas a human rights advocate and first black citizen to hold a high-ranking office in the US Government.

Due to the recent world events, the museum is closed. The exhibition date will be extended past the original May ending date. So be sure to visit the exhibit when the museum reopens at 610 South Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater.

If you know of a Notable Woman of Clearwater and would like to nominate her for next year's exhibit, nomination forms are available at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum when it reopens.

As a 501(c)(3), a copy of the Clearwater Historical Society's official registration (ch#58300) and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services on their website (www.800helpfla.com) or by calling toll-free 1 800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

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A NOTE OF THANKS!

Now that my term as Mayor of Clearwater has ended, it is hard to believe that more than 50 years have passed since I began as a student intern in a congressional office while at Davidson College. I will never forget Christmas Eve, 1970 when Congressman-elect C. W. Bill Young called me to offer me a position on his Washington, DC staff. Having earned my MPA, I was working for Congressman Bill Cramer who had been defeated in the November 1970, United States Senate contest by Lawton Chiles. Thus began a career and a new life blessed in so many ways, I do not know where to begin expressing my appreciation, so please indulge me as I reflect upon a few.



My parents and the community of Tarpon Springs with its St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral laid the foundation for those of us growing up in Tarpon then considered "miles" away from Clearwater and the rest of the county. Mom and dad worked hard so that my sister and I could concentrate on our studies and on having experiences they, as kids, could have only imagined.

Father Constantine Raptis and His Grace John, Bishop of Amorion continued to nurture me in my Orthodox faith and reminded me that the church wants good priests, but that society always needs "good servants."

Dr. and Mrs. John Karaphillis convinced my parents that I should go to Davidson College so they could take family trips to Charlotte, North Carolina. After my freshman year, however, their daughter transferred to another school. Nevertheless, I know now that being a Davidson alumnus was one of those blessings one does not necessarily realize until later in life.

How do you say "thanks" to Congressman Bill Young for a job that defined my life. It was a special privilege to have been able to learn from him and to have him as a mentor. He gave me the opportunity to serve the people of this congressional district, and I only hope that he is as proud of me as I am of him.

To the people of Clearwater and the city's employees, I extend my most sincere appreciation for the confidence expressed by allowing me to represent and to serve as a councilmember and as mayor. No doubt some may say "it's about time" that I am a private citizen; but, I hope that even they respect me for the way I approached my role as an aide and as an elected official.

Let me also thank Fred and Linda Horns who introduced me to Carolyn. From the very first time I met her, I knew she was the person I would want by my side for the rest of my life. She has endured and sacrificed; but, she has always been there. I give thanks every day for my being able to stand with her as her husband.

In conclusion, I have submitted this column only knowing that the COVID-19 virus has disrupted our lives and the world. Events change daily, and although it is unlikely that a cure has been found, I want to thank all who are working in their jobs and helping others. The events of the last several months have changed the fabric of this city, but Clearwater, like communities, individuals, and businesses across the globe, will not be overcome by this illness.

Again, thank you for your confidence, and may God's unseen hand bless, protect, and guide each of us now and for all the days of our lives.

George N. Cretkos, Former Mayor of Clearwater

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DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL TEN YEARS LATER

It is hard to believe it has been ten years since the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill happened. How the explosion of the oil rig and subsequent oil spill affected you depends on who you are and how you earn a living.

On April 20th 2010 when the oil rig, owned by Transocean and leased by the oil company BP, exploded 11 people died. The rig sank and for 87 days spilled an unknown number of barrels into the Gulf. It fouled the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The well was partially capped on July 15th and officially sealed September 19th.

So what has happened since the spill ten years ago?

The disaster was even worse than previously believed and may have released as many as 200 million barrels. Scientist have discovered the spill area was 30 percent larger than previously known and reached the Tampa Bay coastline. The discrepancy between previous official estimates and what is known today is the discovery that small concentrations of oil are invisible to satellite imagery. Satellites were used to track the oil.

BP subsequently committed tens of billions of dollars to clean up the mess and \$5.5 billion to compensate victims. It ultimately sold off its U.S. arm. Transocean reached a \$211 million settlement with those claiming damages, while Halliburton, who provided the cement intended to seal the well in the event of a disaster, reached a \$1 billion settlement.

All three companies were found to be negligent and four lower ranking BP employees were charged. BP was charged with gross negligence and paid \$4 billion in fines and penalties.

The spill had a strong economic impact to the Gulf Coast's economy effecting fishing, real estate and tourism. 86,000 square miles of commercial fishing areas were closed resulting in a \$2.6 billion loss. The US Travel Association estimated the economic impact on tourism exceeded \$23 billion.

A portion of the compensation was distributed in Pinellas County. Area businesses received differing amounts, but how much they received and what they did with it is private. However, we do know what local governments of beach cities did with their settlements. Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Beach and the Town of Belleair did not receive any money.

PINELLAS COUNTY RECEIVED \$7.1 MILLION.

"Pinellas County government received \$7.1 million in a settlement from the BP Trust Fund," says Bill Berger, Director of Office of Management and Budget. "We then invested that money in a variety of projects across the county. Additional funds are being invested via the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund."

Over 30 projects including library expansions, affordable housing, foster care, PSTA, parks, landscaping, sewer upgrades, ferry systems, and wounded warriors were funded. Some have been completed, others are ongoing. Get more information at www.PinellasCounty.org/BPUupdates.

CITY OF CLEARWATER RECEIVED \$6,400,000

"We received \$8,139,039 in the settlement with BP," says City Manager Bill Horne. "\$1,650,000 went for legal expenses to acquire the money. The balance, over \$6,480,000 was used by the City of Clearwater in a variety of projects after 2015."

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH RECEIVED \$982,000

"In 2015, the City Commission of Indian Rocks Beach, approved a settlement of \$982,000," says City Manager Gregg Mims. "This was worked into the 2016 operating and capital budget and used in a variety of ways."

\$471,110 was spent on street resurfacing and curbing, \$280,000 purchased a street sweeper truck, \$100,000 helped relocate the Solid Waste building and park renovations. The remainder bought a beach rake, tractor, and pick-up truck.

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MARITAL BLISS...DEMENTIA (PART II)

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



This three-part series deals with death, dementia and divorce and the devastating impact these three "Ds" can have on a marriage. In our last article, we covered dealing with the death of a spouse. Now we are covering when a spouse develops dementia, which primarily happens later in life, but can happen before age 60 as well. There are over 45 different diagnosis for dementia with Alzheimer's being the most well known. 5 million people in the US have this dreaded disease and in 30 years, this will swell to 16 million. The disease starts in the brain 15-20 years before the symptoms begin to manifest. Besides repeating themselves and obvious signs of short-term memory loss, one of the first signs of a potential issue is dealing with finances. It could include not paying bills, making bad investment decisions, and family members, people, or scammers taking advantage of the situation, etc. Usually, the spouse notices first.

When noticed, do not ignore it. Schedule an appointment with a neurologist to determine if there is an issue and if so, how advanced and what treatment, if any is appropriate.

Next, you and your spouse need to talk about the disease and the affects it will have on life while the two of you can do so. Not talking should not be an option. Update your living trust, will, living will, power of attorney, and healthcare surrogate. Be sure to name a back-up for these latter two documents. With your financial adviser, you want to discuss beneficiary designations, trusted contact information, account registration, etc. Look to simplify legal and financial matters. An excellent brochure to help with these matters is available Atalz.org/national/documents/brochure_moneymatters.pdf.

The same is true with your insurance agent for life insurance and annuities. Check with your health insurance agent about what is covered, or not, if you have commercial coverage. Learn about the benefits provided for doctors, hospitals, testing, drugs, etc. from Medicare, Medicaid, veteran's benefits and long-term care policy if you have one. Be sure to ask about a Special Need Plan (SNP) under Medicare Advantage as these plans are specific for those with dementia.

On a community level, explore services that are available such as adult day care and caregiver classes for the healthy spouse. It is important that the caregiver protect him/herself by staying healthy.

If you have a loved one suffering from dementia, please call to schedule a one-hour complimentary meeting to learn more.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.

Bar & Restaurant News



WINDWARD UP AND RUNNING

Last month, the Windward Bar & Grill, on Island Estates, had a fire. Their loyal customers were devastated thinking they had lost their neighborhood bar, but fear not, they were not closed long.

"Yes, we did have a fire," says

owner George LeFevre. "We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers and friends for their continued support during this very challenging time - with a special thanks to the Clearwater Fire Department for their quick response. As a result of that, we experienced no significant damage, and for that, we are eternally grateful."

During the stay at home order, Windward is open for take-out for lunch and dinner at 282 Windward Passage, 11am-10pm. The full menu is available and can be found at www.windwardbarandgrille.com. Curbside takeout includes cocktails, beer and wine. Receive a 10% discount when you mention this story. Call 442-5900 to place your order.

SAMGELO'S PIZZA OPEN IN OLD LOCATION

Samantha, owner of Samgelo's Pizza, was planning to move across the street, but like many things right now, that plan has been delayed. Look for it to happen by the end of the year. In the meantime, they are still open for pick up or delivery, 447-2020.

UNLIMITED COFFEE

Now you can get unlimited coffee at Panera Bread for only \$8.99 a month - the cost of three cups. Sign up with the free Panera card and they automatically charge your credit card once a month. Register at the store or visit MyPanera.com/MyPaneraCoffee for more information.



NEW PIZZA SPOT Our newest pizza place opened at the north end Clearwater Beach, . For now, Roman Pizza al Taglio, owned by Enzo Chiavatti, is open for take-out and delivery—dinner only. Call them at 281-3001.

SPGGTACULAR Clearwater's Speggtacular recently opened a third location on Indian Rocks Road. All three locations specialize in breakfast and lunch. Their breakfast menu includes benedicts, crepes, waffles, omelets and lots of fresh fruit. The other locations are in South Clearwater Beach and Ulmerton Road in Largo. View their menu at www.speggtacular.com. They deliver with Bite Squad.

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 The Windward remains open, fully staffed and ready to serve our community.

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As we look forward to a return to normal, please stay informed, follow guidelines and stay safe. - *The Entire Windward Staff*

282 Windward Passage, Clearwater - (727) 442-5900



WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A KAHWA COFFEE BARISTA

By Sydney Barnes, Belleair Bluffs

So, it has been a little over a year working as a barista at Kahwa Coffee, and what has the ride been like? Not coming from any sort of background in the food industry let alone slinging coffee, I've somehow managed to become a self-proclaimed "pro barista." I started my journey at Kahwa in January of 2019 and have since outlasted all my former coworkers that I started with and that trained me.

Because I've been at Kahwa for what seems like forever now, I have been able to form a lot of nice relationships with the customers that come into the store. Kahwa's coffee is so addictive that people come in day after day, sometimes even twice in one day, so there are bound to be regular customers. Of course, people being creatures of habit, most of the time get the same thing every time they come in. So although I might have known people by their drink orders when I was first starting out, I have now built friendly relationships with my regular customers and know them by name.

A longtime customer of mine Russell, who seems like he has been there since day one always gets a French vanilla latte every morning. There is James, who sticks to a cafe au lait and savory scone most nights, and Lynne, who gets her large extra hot non-fat latte, after afternoons of tutoring students. As a barista, it is nice to catch up with people on what they're doing in their everyday lives, even if it's just while making their coffee.

By now I have the routine of making coffee down to a science and could probably do it with my eyes closed. Not to say I won't fall behind a little in a long line of people (especially in the early mornings), but I try to stay on top of my game. If I see one of my regulars walking up from the parking lot, I'll try to start their drink or even have it finished before they walk through the door. Most of the time this pays off, unless when someone is feeling a little adventurous that day and gets something different, leading to a thrown away cup.

Although I am not a huge coffee lover myself, which I know is sacrilegious in this job, I do love working at Kahwa and with coffee. There is something interesting about making coffee and learning about the process of how to actually put the drink together. It seems like an easy enough job, but I bet you couldn't put the average person on the espresso machine and have them make a decent drink.



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SAND KEY REALTY 



AT HOME...IN SAND KEY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

It's April and Dewayne Staats expected to be somewhere between Port Charlotte and Tropicana Field in St Petersburg broadcasting a Tampa Bay Rays game like he has done every April for the last twenty-two years. A resident of Sand Key, Staats has been in sports broadcasting for forty-one years announcing Rays games since the team's inception.



Staats has a contract with Fox Sports to broadcast eleven spring games and drove to Port Charlotte for the beginning of the 2020 season. "I did five spring games. On Monday, March 16, we covered the Rays vs Boston game. After the game, the owners had a meeting with the Major League Baseball executives and decided to "shut it down," said Staats during a recent phone interview. "In all my years, I never imagined something like this happening."

"The first major sports league to react was the NBA. We knew it was only a matter of time until it reached baseball," Staats added.

Staats feels that once they let everyone go back to work, they will need a two to three-week training season. "Hitters can get up to speed in one or two weeks, but the pitchers need two to three weeks to get back into high gear."

As of now, there is speculation MLB may play an abbreviated season of maybe 100 games with a lot of doubleheaders to cram it all in. There has also been talk of extending the 2020 season. Until people are back to work, it is all guess work right now.

In the meantime, Dewayne and his wife Carla are spending their time social distancing in their Sand Key condo doing what we all are: reading, social media, staying in touch with friends and binge-watching TV shows and movies. Their condo faces the Gulf and they have a designated time every afternoon to go outside and "catch some Rays"—so to speak. "Carla is a great cook," Staats adds. "We have been eating well." They've made many trips to the nearby Publix and have enjoyed patronizing take-out at some of their favorite area restaurants. "We're taking long walks on the beach. We have avoided the gym in the building, but we do some stretching and exercise in our condo."

"The other day a dove landed on the patio handrail of our condo—16 stories off the ground," Carla said. "She came back two more days in a row. We were wondering was it a some kind of message," she said with a smile.

"How long will the shutdown last? No one knows. It could be two weeks, a month, maybe more," Staats goes on with uncertainty. "We are just like everyone else—we have to wait and see."

Meanwhile, Staats waits for the call telling him they are ready to play. "I look forward to going back to work and hearing the ump holler 'Play Ball'".

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Business Briefs



EM & MAC CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

This new children's clothing shop opened in the Bluffs at 596 Indian Rocks Road next to Petal and Vine. They are sharing space with a women's clothing store as well. They plan to be open most days beginning at 10am (Closed Mondays) but that may change due to

the Corana Virus. Call them before you drop by to say hello to new owner Kayla - 637-7757. www.EMandMAC.com.

CARE PLACEMENT SAYS "STAY HOME"

Care Placement Home Health and RMF Care Management remain open and providing services 24/7. The best way to protect oneself right now is to do what you would every cold and flu season. Stay at least six feet away from anyone who may be infected. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue that you throw away immediately afterwards and disinfect any objects or surfaces you touch. Of course, STAY HOME if you are sick.

Our nurses are available to provide Care Management Services, as well. This could be joining a client at a doctor appointment to make sure the right questions get asked, answered, and doctor's orders are carried out at home, and in home visits to proactively identify potential areas of concern.

OAKS OF CLEARWATER

They are offering short-term stays to 55+ members of the community looking for a safe place to live during the pandemic and are waiving the community fee. Admission is subject to a thorough screening and would be on a month to month basis. Furnished units are available. Please call 445-4069 and ask for Michael for more information.

BIG MAN HELPING

Although there is a pandemic, some people still have to move. Big Man Moving Company, based in Belleair is here to help. They are still operating 7 days a week and all trucks are equipped with cleaning solution and frequently wiped down during the day. If you need help with a move, call 772-3458 or visit www.BigManMoving.com.

ISLAND ESTATES MOBIL

With the current situation in our lives, Steve Collins with Island Estates Mobil wants you to know, their business is consider essential and they will remain open to continue to serve your needs You can still stop in and get your gasoline, but call ahead for an appointment for maintenance.

If you prefer, they will make arrangements to pick up your car and deliver it to you when the job is finished. They are trying to do their part to help you stay home and stay safe.

RADIANCE CELEBRATES 14 YEARS

Owner Stephanie Schlageter started her Belleair Bluffs Med Spa business in 2006. Today Radiance Medspa, ranked among the top 1% of Med Spas in the United States, has performed more than 40,000 wrinkle erasing treatments (think BOTOX and Juvéderm) and more than 10,000 body contouring treatments (think Coolsculpting, CoolTone, and Laser Lipo). Radiance Med Spa's medical team of 14, led by Dr Erika Francis, has been busy safely keeping our community beautiful! Find Radiance at 2894 West Bay Drive in the Bluffs Shopping Center. Go to www.RadianceMedSpa.com for more information.



SURF WHEELS 'N DRONES REMAINS OPEN

Though it has been challenging, Surf Wheels 'N Drones has remained open with modified hours in compliance with CDC guidelines.

"We believe we provide an important service to the local community, selling and servicing products that allow people to safely go outside for fresh air and exercise, while still following the social distancing guidelines. We remain committed to providing beach residents the opportunity to purchase E-bikes, E-scooters, E-skateboards and the new affordable Electric mini bikes. These innovative products give customers a substitute option to mass transit and allow them to enjoy the outdoors while still following the CDC's guidelines."



Surf Wheels 'N Drones offers online ordering with curbside pickup to reduce personal contact. They also provide on-site maintenance services such as brake adjustment or service, and tire repair or replacement.

"With the support of the Clearwater Beach community, we will continue to push our mom and pop store forward through these challenging times. We truly believe that together, we will get through this and come out even stronger. Stay healthy, stay safe, and God Bless."

See their product catalog at surfwheelsondrones.com. Find

the store at 474 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach or call 727-953-3521 or (407) 218-0012 with any questions. Mention this story and get a free helmet with the purchase of an E-Bike, E-Board or E-Scooter.



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BE CLEARWATER STRONG

Everyone by now knows what is going on with the CoronaVirus-19 pandemic. Most of us are huddled in our homes, missing our freedom of going to the store, a restaurant or even work. We are all in this together. One day it will be over, and we will certainly return to life as we know it. As for real estate...I am here for you. How can I help you?

LET'S KEEP CLEARWATER STRONG TOGETHER!

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SOLD - #305
Sold for \$1,019,500

SOLD - #1706
Sold for \$780,000



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1600 Gulf Blvd #517 - 2BR/2BA, \$699,000

1100 Belcher Rd #407 - 3BR/2BA, \$250,000

*Brian is truly here to serve
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