

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

FIGHTER PLANE DOWN ON BEACH A pilot and a sunbather's worlds collide

By Nancy Obarski

It was a sizzling September afternoon on Indian Rocks Beach. The year: 1943. The location: behind the old Haven Beach Hotel near today's 7th Avenue Beach Access.

While the country was at war, a female sunbather stretched herself out on a blanket in the sand enjoying the lack of tourists and wading in and out of the bathwater-like Gulf of Mexico surf, attempting to cool off.

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Also in this Issue:

Local Mural Painter

Mike Jenney, a local mural painter has been painting walls around our area for over 30 years. You will find his creations inside and out many local homes and businesses.

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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?

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Noah Lyons Makes Olympic Bid

Clearwater Community Sailing Center member plans to compete at the Sailing World Cup Miami 2021 in the IQFoil class.

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Belleair Bluffs Cleaners

Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes after you drop off your clothes to be dry-cleaned? And why is it called dry cleaning? Find out inside.

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

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN AUGUST

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Did You Know



CONGRATULATIONS Like all other schools, Anona's Graduating Class of 2020 (5th Graders) could not have their normal final day celebration in the school's auditorium. Because of that, Principal Ann Welch, arranged for a drive by parade. All the fifth graders, and their parents, lined up in their cars and drove through the bus lane in front of the school. Their teachers and school staff were all there, socially distancing of course, to wish them good luck and goodbye. Four classes of fifth graders - 75 kids in all - will be moving on now to Middle School.

TOURNAMENT MOVES TO NOVEMBER The LPGA Golf Tournament scheduled for this month at Pelican Golf Club in Belleair has been moved to November 16-22. It is one of five rescheduled LPGA tournaments. Promoters say they will be contacting corporate partners, sponsors, ticket holders and volunteers with additional information. Visit PelicanLPGA.com or www.LPGA.com/tournaments.

SUMMER CAMP RESUMES Belleair's Parks and Recreation Department has announced plans to safely launch a limited summer camp program from June 1 - August 7. Camp will limit the ratio of participants to staff, restrict groups from intermingling with one another, and involve heavy sanitation of facilities. Belleair residents will have priority registration. View the announcement and roll out plan online at www.townofbelleair.com/covid

FIREWORKS Clearwater has already canceled its signature 4th of July fireworks show this year. As of press time, St. Petersburg and Largo were still undecided about their shows.

SEA TURTLES ARE NESTING The 2020 sea turtle nesting season has begun and turtles have already been seen on our beaches. Three of the world's seven sea turtle species, choose to lay their eggs in Pinellas County.



Human impact is a major contributor to the success of sea turtle nesting. You can help in a few small ways:
Reduce beach obstructions: Knock down sandcastles, fill in holes, remove trash discouraging scavenger species who eat the trash and baby sea turtles, remove chairs, tents, umbrellas, and sand toys
Reduce light pollution: When at the beach, turn off your lights and don't use flashlights. If you live at the beach, change your residential external light source to a sea turtle friendly option and close your blinds at night.

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and More...

A NEW CHILDREN'S GARDEN

A Children's Discovery Garden is in the works for the Florida Botanical Gardens. Its focus will be hands-on and experiential education in an outdoor setting. The two and a half acre area will include areas for unstructured play, engaging nature activities, seating, and amenities for parents and supervisors. A fun and engaging access to this area will be by a rope bridge through a stand of bamboo. Roots and Shoots is an area where children will be able to get their hands dirty by potting plants, sowing seeds and playing with garden tools. A hand water pump in this area will be a source for play and watering plants.



Support from the community is essential for making this a success. Individuals and organizations can donate by visiting www.flbgfoundation.org/CDGdonate or by mailing donations to the FBGF Offices, at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774. All contributions are tax deductible within the limits allowed by the law.

DON'T RECYCLE BOTTLE'S CAPS Did you know you are not supposed to recycle plastic or glass bottle's lids? They are considered contamination. Recycling processing facilities use optical readers to sort plastics and the caps often come loose. They are too small to be identified so they either end up being improperly sorted, which can lead to damaged equipment or being mixed with unlike materials. If the number of contaminated items in a pallet of "recyclables", reaches a certain proportion, the entire batch is discarded.

SALES TAX FREE Yes, school has barely ended and some people are already planning the start of the next year. Sales Tax Free School Supply days are August 7-9 this year. Check your local stores as many will be running specials that week, to help you save even more.

AUGUST ELECTION

In August, Florida will hold a Primary Election. The Ballot will include state and local officials and Circuit Judges. The following dates are important: Deadline to register to vote - July 20; Last day to request a Mail In ballot - August 8; Early voting August 8 - August 16; Election day - August 18.



This will be the first election overseen by our newly appointed Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, Julie Marcus. She replaced Debroah Clark who retired in March after serving 42 years.

Get more information about registering to vote at VotePinellas.com.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN AUGUST Read this issue, and others, online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook for ongoing local news.

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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.

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FIGHTER PLANE Continued

Second Lt. Robert A. Thornburg had a different sort of day on tap. His plan, as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps 400 Fighter Squadron based at the Pinellas Army Air Field in St. Pete, was a training flight over the Gulf. What he didn't count on was the engine of the P-40 fighter he was piloting failing in full flight, forcing an emergency landing in the same general vicinity as the sunbather.

Two brothers, Billy Bie (9) and his older brother Cappy (12) looked on as the plane came down—wheels up—in 3 ft. of water near the shore—sandblasting the unsuspecting sunbather in the process, before coming to a complete rest.

Cappy and Billy, recognizing the significance of the incident, immortalized it with a photo of Cappy leaning proudly against the wreckage. Some 35 years later, Cappy and Billy, with the help of their friend and former IRB Mayor Jim Driscoll, all three former Air Force pilots, obtained the Army's record of the accident. The report attributed the crash to

the pilot switching to the wrong fuel tank due to his relative inexperience with the equipment. In 2010, local artist Bill Brandon captured the scene in watercolor. Today, a print of his art hangs in the foyer of Gordon & Nancy Obarski's Beach Trail home, very near where the crash took place.



Even though the plane was a total loss, Thornburg suffered no injuries...a testament to his keen emergency skills as a pilot. He went on to complete a distinguished 27-year career in the Air Corps, retiring in 1971. The San Francisco Chronicle sadly reported Lt. Col. Thornburg's passing in 2002 at age 80.

Billy Bie, who witnessed the crash with his brother, grew up in IRB and remains today a cornerstone of our community. Billy's brother, Cappy, Major USAF Retired Otto Norman Bie, also a longtime IRB resident, passed away at age 83 in 2015.

Lest we forget our area's contribution to the war effort. Pinellas County tourism took a major hit, providing empty rooms for soldiers to occupy at area hotels like the Belleview Biltmore. St. Pete's climate was perfect for the Army Air Corps' basic training center. They also leased the St. Pete-Clearwater Airport, then called the Pinellas Army Air Base, for a fighter pilot training facility and Sand Key was used for training their air crews. Acreage north of the Belleair Causeway became a gunnery range for close air support using the P-40s six 50-caliber machine guns to drop practice bombs on the beach. At the end of the war, a different sort of explosion began in Pinellas County--the post-war boom in housing and tourism. And...as they say...the rest is history.

Special thanks to Billy & Shera Bie for providing the black & white photo and for their invaluable factual input.

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MIKE JENNEY, LOCAL MURAL PAINTER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Have you been seeing the big, brightly painted murals on the outside of many local buildings? There is an artist behind each of them and chances are, Mike Jenney is that guy. In 1983, Jenney who was born and raised in Pinellas County, was paid to create his first mural. His Clearwater Central Catholic High School art teacher recommended he be chosen to complete a painting on a wall near the art department. "The scene was a series of athletes in progression," Jenney remembers. "I wasn't paid much—just minimum wage—but it gave me my start."



"I have been interested in art since I was in kindergarten," Jenney says. "My first art teacher said I had an 'eye for detail,' and I always remembered that." He attended Holy Family Catholic School in St. Petersburg (grades 1-8) and earned a scholarship to Clearwater Catholic High School.

"I played sports in my early years, but I got hurt a lot—so I decided to stick with my art," Jenney chuckles.

"When I graduated from high school, I thought I wanted to go to the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota. But they teach more Fine Arts, which was not what I was looking for. I was interested in learning commercial art. After some research, I discovered Tampa Tech's program and enrolled there."

Jenney, who has been working in the commercial art industry for over 30 years now, says he has a natural ability for art and considers himself mostly self-taught. He is very talented in airbrushing which he love to do because of its versatility. He really considers himself really an "airbrush" muralist.

While he specializes in wall murals, he can paint anything on anything. He has worked on automobiles, trucks and structures including mailboxes. He has created marine-life replicas, painted fiberglass, and even custom 3D sculptures.

You will find Jenney's work in and outside many area restaurants, recreation centers, city parks, water parks, resorts, motels, and schools. He recently finished a wall mural inside the new Largo Speggtacular Restaurant. He also painted the mural inside Proino's Restaurant on Walsingham Road.

Recently, Jenney created the artwork at Off The Grid behind Aqua Prime, including the walls, tables and stools. He painted a wall at the Bay Pines Marina and Tiki Bar and another inside the Beach Pizza Plus in Redington Beach. He produced the mural outside the new St. Pete Beach Sea Hags, too.

In Clearwater Beach, the wall inside of Ryan's Café is his handy work, too.

In addition to commercial businesses, he has done hundreds of murals inside the homes of friends and acquaintances. All and all, Jenney thinks he has painted over 1,000 commercial and residential murals throughout the United States, with many here in the Pinellas area.

His prices range from \$500 to many thousands; it all really depends on the complexity, size and length of time needed to complete the project. The amount of time is dependent on several variables including of course size and subject, but also on whether he has to work on a lift or around obstacles. He completes 90% of his projects in less than two weeks.

Every mural is unique and designed by Jenney. He will be happy to give you a quote. "I work within everyone's budget," Jenney says. To start he would need a description of the project and its size.

"Trusting a mural artist with your home or business is a leap of faith. I feel extremely privileged to do this work and feel incredibly grateful to each and every client who has trusted me with their walls over my 30 years as a professional mural artist," Jenny says.

To see more of his work online, visit www.MikeJenneyMurals.com or his Facebook page MikeJenneyMurals. You can reach Mike Jenney at (727) 365-5639.

NICK MITSIDES (1952-2020)

Prior Venus Restaurant Owner Dies



In Roman mythology, Venus was the goddess of love. For almost 30 years, the thousands of customers who ate at Largo's Venus Restaurant loved everything on the menu almost as much as they loved owner Nick Mitsides.

Nick and wife Despina opened the Venus Restaurant on West Bay Drive, just east of Publix, April 21, 1986. They sold it in May of 2015. But to everyone who knew Nick, he was more than just a restaurant owner.

The couple were originally from Vavla on the Greek island of Cyprus, in the Mediterranean Sea. Legend has it the Goddess Venus was born on the same island. As the embodiment of love and beauty, it was a perfect name for their restaurant.

"We have many regulars," Nick told me with pride, before he sold the restaurant. "They are very loyal to us. Many come from the beaches. We see lots of snowbirds in the winter."

Nick and Despina started holding a small Christmas party for their family and their employees in the restaurant. Eventually, they started inviting some of their regular customers. The holiday event grew so large they had to move it from the restaurant to the Largo Community Center - then to Honeywell - before it ended up at the Greek Church on Gulf

to Bay. The annual event eventually grew to over 500 people and had a live band and Greek dancing.

"We saw many people who came here as children, now they are all grown up with their own kids," added Despina. "We feel grateful for all the wonderful customers and employees we used to have."

"I knew Nick very well," says Chris Arbutine, Mayor, Belleair Bluffs. "We coached our kids in youth soccer together. He was excited to be part of this community. I knew him to be honest and generally a really nice guy. His presence in the world will be greatly missed."

"Nick was a successful and caring family man, a loving and supporting husband, father, and amazing grandfather to his two grandchildren" says Despina. "He loved to interact with people and was well known for his kindness and generosity. We will all miss him."

Nick passed away March 18, 2020. Nick and Despina were married for 42 years. They have two children, Evie and Dino, and two grandchildren, all shown here.



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AT HOME...IN SAND KEY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

It was 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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BELLEVUE PLACE MOVES SALES CENTER

Now entering its final phase of residential construction, they moved the Welcome Center to



make way for the last two Carriage Home buildings. The Welcome Center is now located at the Carriage Home model home on 6 Hibiscus Lane, off Belleview Boulevard. The office will be open weekdays from 10 am until 5 pm and on weekends by appointment (727-469-7070). Safe distancing and sanitary precautions will be in place.

The last two Carriage Home buildings, one at the end of Belleview Boulevard and the other overlooking Country Club Lane, will offer a total of seven townhome-style residences. The carriage homes feature two-story, maintenance-free living with 2,142 to 3,306 square feet of living space, two or three bedrooms, private elevators and two-car garages.

SIGN OF THE DOLPHIN BRIGHTENS EASTER

What does a store do with Easter merchandise when as a “non-essential business” they are forced to close three weeks before Easter during the Covid-19 shutdown? It could have been packed up for Easter 2021, but Sign of the Dolphin decided to put a smile on the faces of children and their moms. In the course of a casual conversation, owner Linda Wolbert mentioned her store was closed and she had a lot of wonderful children and adults Easter items just sitting there and she would love to donate them to a worthy cause. Linda was immediately put in touch with Shepherd’s Village a place for single mothers and their children to find a second chance.

Unfortunately, with the COVID19 Virus, most of their single mothers are unemployed. Without Linda’s Easter donations they would have had very little to celebrate. Linda says, “The origination is full of such delightful people doing a wonderful job helping single moms.

For information about Shepherds Village, call 727.216.1402 x 508 or email info@shepherdsvillage.com. To make a donation to Shepherd’s Village, visit shepherdsvillage.com

LARGO HOLIDAY INN

When the Safer At Home restrictions were in place, they dropped to a 10% occupancy. Now that things opening again, 90% of the hotel’s rooms are occupied. They have instituted many changes and no longer offer free breakfast. Only one family can be on the elevator at a time, only ten people are allowed in the pool together, and all door keys are sanitized when returned.

FLUFFY PUPPIES IS OPEN

They are asking all their customers to please call ahead and stay in their cars. If you need supplies, they bring them out to your car. If you are bringing your pet in for grooming, they will come outside to your car and bring them in—without their owners.

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

Business Briefs

NEW SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

The merchants in the small shopping center on the corner of Indian Rocks Road and Mehlenbacher Road, have always wanted a sign, but the city's sign ordinances said no. Now, with the help of City Manager Debra Sullivan and Irena owner of Stefanec's Barbershop they found a way. The new sign is installed in front of Chez Colette French Bistro.



Property owner Annie Sebban and some of the tenants paid for the \$17,000 pole sign - everyone is very happy.

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM'S FUNDRAISING

Many are not aware CMA has a boat, car and RV donation program which can provide a much needed source of funding for animal care. Selling a car and especially a boat can be frustrating and time consuming. If you have a boat or car you no longer need, CMA can eliminate the hassle of selling. The "rescue, rehab and release" of your unneeded boat or car through CMA is a quick and easy way to make a difference for marine life and receive a tax deduction.

contact Randy Cooper, 727-441-1790, ext. 800, rcooper@cmaquarium.org or seewinter.com/donate.

BELLEAIR MARKET HELPS FEEDS THOSE IN NEED

In March, owner Chris Scott was able to purchase 2150 pounds of food from Sysco at deep discounts which he then donated directly to RCS Pinellas whose mission is to feed the hungry, help families facing homelessness return to self-sufficiency, and empower survivors of domestic violence.



Photo by Chris George

During the month of May, they were a drop off spot for the Neighbors helping Neighbors Food Drive. Over 1300 lbs of food was been dropped off by our generous community. That translates to over 1100 meals that RCS is able to supply to those in need.

Also throughout the pandemic, they have teamed up with people and organizations to help provide over a thousand meals to first responders and medical personnel.

GET FIT REOPENS They want you to know, they are strictly enforcing social distancing rules, and the gym is reduced to 50% of capacity, which is 50 people at a time. Members have access to every other piece of equipment and group classes are limited to 10 people. Of course they will continue to use enhanced sanitary practices.

CLOSED / OUT OF BUSINESS

Candy Kitchen in Indian Rocks Beach will not reopen

Pier One The store at Largo Mall is closing after a clearance sale. The 57 year old company filed for bankruptcy and is liquidating all its stores.

The Spot, the juice store in The Plaza closed. The space is

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BELLEAIR BLUFFS CLEANERS - HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Belleair Bluffs Cleaners may not be the only dry cleaner in town, but they are the oldest hands down. Gary Dawson, owner and third generation dry-cleaning operator, opened the storefront in June of 1981 - 39 years ago.

Most people have no idea what happens inside a dry-cleaning store. All they know is you drop your dirty laundry off one day and when you come back your clothes are clean, hanging on hangers and ready to be worn again. It is all pretty impressive.

Behind the scenes, what actually happens when you leave your clothes is a little more complicated. When you drop your clothes off, your order is checked in at the front counter. The number of items you have, what they are (shirt, dress, pants, etc.), and whether you want the items laundered or dry cleaned are noted. Any special items such as decorative bangles or sequins are noted too.

Each item is labeled because during the cleaning process it may be combined with other people's clothing. Then it is inspected for tears, missing buttons, or stains. Stains are pretreated. If you know there is a stain, it is best to point it out when you drop off your order. Avoid the temptation to treat a stain at home. You are more likely to make it worse by pushing the oil, dye, or food deeper into the fabric making it more difficult to remove.

Everything is then sorted and goes to different stations in the back, depending on what it needs. Employees are assigned a specific jobs at each station — dry cleaning, washing, ironing shirts, or ironing pants. Once a week they clean drapes and other household items such as bedspreads, comforters, blankets, rugs, and sheets.

The term dry cleaning is really a misnomer. The process cleans clothes and fabrics with a chemical solvent that contains no water. The solution is petroleum based and does not penetrate a fabric's fibers like water does in a washing machine. The process uses NO water - thus the name "dry cleaning."

The clothes are loaded into a drum laundry machine and gently agitated in the solvent to loosen the soil. The solvent is drained, filtered, and recycled. The clothes are "rinsed" in a fresh solvent to flush away any remaining soil.

The final step gets the garment ready to wear. They are steamed or pressed to remove wrinkles then hung or folded to await pickup. Normally the clothes are covered with a plastic bag to help keep your clean clothes clean until you can get them home.

Dry cleaning is typically used when fabrics cannot tolerate a standard home washer and dryer due to shrinking, fading or stretching. Plus, it preserves the lifetime of the fabric.

Belleair Bluffs Cleaners offers regular wet cleaning too for washable items like starched shirts, slacks, and household linens and can press 35-40 shirts per hour. Employees inspect each shirt for proper pressing, stains, and even missing buttons.

If you went in the back room, you would notice it is hot. Gary has added fans and some air conditioning, but it still stays hot. "We use a mixture of electricity and gas in our operation," Gary explains. "Our electric bill is around \$1000 per month, and the gas bill ranges another \$1800-\$2000 per month."

While the main part of our business is regular clothing, we see a lot of police, fire and sheriff uniforms," Gary says. "We also get a lot of medical clothing, like lab coats."

On a normal week, Belleair Bluffs Cleaners sees 300 to 400 customers - most are repeats. The average person brings in 5 to 10 items with each order so that can be up to 4,000 pieces of clothing per week. To cover that workload, Gary employs fourteen people. On any given day ten are on duty—spread out in the front and the back.

Normal cleaning time is three days. They do offer "Same Day Service" upon request on weekdays if your order is in by 10am. In addition to regular laundry and dry cleaning, they also offer cleaning services for suede and leather but it is not done in house; it is sent to a specialist.

"During this pandemic, we have seen more household items coming in," says Gary. "I guess people stuck in their homes are doing lots of housecleaning."

Find Belleair Bluffs Cleaners at 2924 West Bay Drive, near Panera Bread. Call them at 585-1101. They are open six days a week, Monday-Friday (7-7), Saturdays (8-5).



WHEN TREATING A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. EVEN DURING THESE TIMES.

Don't hesitate when it comes to getting emergency treatment.

Even during a pandemic, you still need to be treated immediately if you have an emergency. Debating whether or not to risk going to an emergency room during a heart attack, stroke or other health emergency—waiting even a few extra minutes—could be harmful. That's why in all BayCare hospital emergency rooms, patients who have symptoms of COVID-19 are screened and treated in a separate area. This helps keep emergency room patients and our team members safe. So if it's an emergency, don't wait. For more information: BayCareEmergencyCare.org



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EXECUTIVE MAINTENANCE

By Randy Lee



Landscape maintenance is the art and knowledge of keeping a landscape healthy, clean, safe and attractive. I would emphasize keeping the lawn, trees and shrubbery healthy while maintaining great curb appeal. Maintenance is ongoing and labor intensive. Integrating several variables will lead to success in the landscape.

Landscape maintenance includes the fertilization of trees, palms, the lawn, flowers and shrubbery. This is done several times a year-usually spring and fall. Trimming of trees, bushes, and the lawn is also included here. Mulching is done once or twice a year- this can be cypress mulch, pine bark or pine straw. Seasonal flowers are popular also. We do these two or three times a year based on the season. Irrigation systems should be checked quarterly for broken heads, time changes and to improve overall efficiency. Outdoor lighting systems should be checked at least two to three times a year for cut lines, to clean fixtures and for replacing bulbs. Pressure cleaning is usually done annually which may include driveways, docks, patios and pool decks. Leaf removal should happen yearly and weed control should be ongoing as needed. It is important to have a program in place for all the above landscape components.

Frequency of service depends on the size of the property, the seasons and how particular the client wants to get. Spring, summer and fall are the busiest months; winter is a great time to get caught up before the spring rush. These services are offered weekly, monthly, quarterly or biannually. Also, seasonal clients must rely on dependable companies to maintain their properties while away and to fix problems as they arise. We have started an Executive Maintenance Division which services properties throughout the county. We do not offer lawn mowing or the spraying of chemicals, though we offer everything else discussed. Great landscape maintenance is the key to keeping your property in perfect condition, to avoid costly repairs in the future and to protect your investment.

June / July Checklist:

- Summer is here- get ready for the heat
- Fertilizer ban in effect
- Perfect time to plant palm trees
- Summer flowers are in season- plant some
- Check irrigation systems now-water accordingly
- Landscape maintenance is in full swing

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FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE UPDATES AND VIRTUAL EVENTS

As Florida works its way into reopening safely, the All Stars of the Francis Wilson Playhouse are preparing a summer full of Friday Night Virtual Concerts on select Friday nights to keep us entertained and maintain contact with this diverse troupe of talented local entertainers.

The performers have missed their audiences and were delighted with the response to their first live streaming event on May 8 which featured songs from a wide variety of Broadway shows. Several of the final performances of Francis Wilson Playhouse's 90th Season had to be postponed to the summer of 2021 due to social distancing concerns and the support of the first virtual concert's audience was gratifying.

Did you miss the first concert? View it now on the Francis Wilson Playhouse FaceBook page or on the theatre's web site: FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org/concert. The newly scheduled summer series will also be viewable both places. Check the web site as summer progresses for the updated schedule. "Live" streaming occurs at 8 pm on Friday evenings. Get to know your SmartTV and access its Internet option to enjoy the concerts from the comfort of your favorite chair or recliner. Add popcorn – perfection!

May 29th was the first of the summer series: Comedy Tonight! - a little bit of Laugh In meets Francis Wilson Playhouse! This musical treat will include humorous Broadway songs, some on stage, some filmed remotely, interspersed with jokes and comedy bits. Expect video snippets of classic movie comedy as well!

The rest of the summer season is planned, but the dates are not finalized yet:

June is Bustin' Out All Over – a Broadway-style concert of summer and vacation themed songs and remembrances.

Red, White, and Blue Broadway – a patriotic celebration of America, with songs by George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin and many more.

Hello, My Baby – a lively celebration of the great songs from the 1890's to 1930's including pop songs, ragtime and selections from comic operettas.

Radio Days – An old-fashioned filmed radio broadcast, complete with great 30's/40's songs, commercials and a sound effects man!

Broadway in the 50's – the best songs from the Golden Age of Broadway, from shows including Damn Yankees, My Fair Lady, The Pajama Game, The King & I and many more.

Francis Wilson Playhouse is planning for its 91st Season – LIVE at the Playhouse. Auditions for the first production, the blockbuster Disney's Beauty and the Beast, are scheduled for June 14 and 15, with the highly anticipated opening date of August 20. Visit the Francis Wilson Playhouse web site for more details on this exciting upcoming season

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WHAT DO YOU DO WITH TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Many chose a walk or bike ride

During Florida's Stay-at-home order in April, people were looking for things to do and ways to get some exercise. With area gyms closed, and our beautiful spring weather, some people discovered the Pinellas Trail for the first time. Others began kayaking or walking. With the reduced numbers of cars on the road, hundreds of people began to walk and bicycle across the Belleair Beach Causeway Bridge. It is an ultimate stair-master. Some people walk, some jog, others ride their bikes over the bridge and back. You could find people there morning, mid-day, and even during sunset hours. With our cooler spring temperatures, everyone had their own preference.

If you start at Panera Bread and walk across the bridge to the Belleair Beach City Hall, and back to Panera Bread, it is 2.6 miles. From stop light to stop light it is 3.1 miles, a perfect 5K distance. Many people finish their trip with a cup of coffee at Panera or Kahwa Coffee.

When you walk, your weight and the distance walked will determine how many calories you burn. A rule of thumb a 180-pound person burns about 100 calories per mile while a 120-pound person burns 65 calories per mile. That doesn't seem fare though does it? The speed at which you walk matters less. If you really want to know how far you walked or how many calories you burned, there are numerous apps you can download to your smartphone that will give you exact numbers.

But in addition to controlling or helping you lose weight, exercise has many other benefits. It can help your body manage its blood sugar and insulin levels, improve your mental health and mood and reduce your risk of heart disease. So just because things are opening up again, there is no need to change your new exercise habits. The Belleair Bridge still awaits.



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**THREE SISTERS DONATE MASKS TO
THE BELLEAIR COMMUNITY**

When coronavirus closed schools and colleges, the Singer sisters decided they wanted to do something meaningful with their time at home. And when they learned they could acquire a bulk order of surgical masks through their father's work, the girls formulated a plan.

Over the course of two weeks in April, the sisters ordered, sorted, packaged, labeled, and distributed 3,500 surgical masks to organizations and individuals in the Belleair area.



From left to right: Kylie, Kasey, and Kendall Singer - with several hundred masks donated to the Belleair Police Department

They worked with Belleair Commissioner Mike Wilkinson, Police Chief Rick Doyle, and other Town of Belleair employees in order to get the masks to those who needed them the most. All masks were heat sealed into packs of two, labeled with a sticker from the girls, and handled with gloves and extreme caution throughout the process.



Each pack of two masks included a sticker explaining the Singers' desire to give back to the community

A bulk of the masks went to the (generally older and more at-risk) condo residents in Belleair, with each doorstep in the Residential Property Development (RPD) and Pelican Place condos receiving two masks. Masks were also donated to the RPD guard station, the Pinellas County court system, the Arc of Tampa Bay, local medical offices, and local businesses such as Belleair Market and Belleair

Coffee. Several hundred masks were also allocated to the Belleair Police Department for distribution to residents in-need and to the Recreation Department for inclusion in Belleair's Community Outreach Program for grocery delivery.

While the Singers did reach out to local hospitals and first responders, those organizations were not in need of this type of mask at the time.

Kylie Singer (23) recently graduated from Florida State University and is now gaining clinical experience in dermatology before starting physician assistant school. Kendall Singer (20) is an advertising major and entrepreneurship minor at Florida State University. Kasey Singer (17) is a high school junior at Clearwater Central Catholic.

"I've known the Singer family for a very long time. When they reached out to me about this project, I was blown away by their kindness, but knowing them I wasn't surprised." – Belleair Commissioner Mike Wilkinson

"The resourcefulness and generosity of these young ladies is a true example of caring for our community. Their efforts not only supplied masks to front-line workers and residents in Belleair, but they were able to assist with other medical providers and first responders around the county." – Belleair Chief of Police Rick Doyle



CLEARWATER'S WOMEN

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 who were first in their field. "Celebrating the Women of Clearwater," a profile of eight women, is the first new exhibit since the museum's June 2019 grand opening.

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.

These eight women are featured in the exhibit:

- 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.

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 recent events, the museum has been closed so the date will be extended past the original ending. Be sure to visit when the museum reopens at 610 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater.

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

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Bar & Restaurant News

FRESH MARKET AT SEAWEED Several Baystar Restaurants, including Seaweed, opened small Fresh Markets inside the lobby of their restaurants. In addition to being able to pick up takeout, you can purchase steaks, and fresh seafood. Fresh Market items can either be shopped inside the restaurant or you can call ahead and an employee will put the order together for you to pick up.



While it was closed, Seaweed underwent a face-lift to allow for better social distancing. It has since reopened following State guidelines.

GIVING BACK 14-year-old Ava, daughter of the owners of TJ's Italian Cafe' had some free time during the Safer At Home Order and wanted to channel her energy towards something good. She thought rewarding our First Responders was in order and asked her dad (Chef TJ) to help her. They decided to give 20 TJ's gift cards (worth \$20 each) to local responders. They delivered gift cards to Indian Rocks Beach Firefighters, Indian Shores Firefighters, Largo Firefighters and the Sheriff's Departments to thank them all for a job well done in keeping our community safe.

HUNGRY HOWIE'S PIZZA They got exceptionally busy during the Safer at Home time with the closing of so many restaurants. But, they want you to know they were and still are being extremely proactive with their cleaning. They sanitize every production table every 30 minutes. Drivers sanitize before they leave and again when they return to the store.

Hungry Howie's delivers lunch, dinner and late night. Call 727-596-1400 to order.

COLD STONE CREAMERY "I do not know which has been worse—this remodel or the shut down," says owner Vee. "People were surprised to find we have still been open." Customers will find a different look when they visit. They used the slowdown to remodel the inside of the store and their patio area just in time for their 14th Anniversary. They also added ice cream cookie sandwiches and ice cream cupcakes to their menu. All are made fresh daily in the store. You can order through Uber Eats & Postmates if you want them delivered.

RED LION RE-IMAGINED The Red Lion Pub got a new owner last year and this year it is getting a new look. Owner Tom George took advantage of the shutdown to gut and totally remodel the Indian Rock Beach Pub. The project includes new men's and women's bathrooms, garage style doors on the front, and moving the bar. Of course, new flooring, ceiling, paint, etc. are all be included, along with a new name.

CLOSED The San Diego based Sweet Tomatoes has permanently closed all their 97 restaurants. With the recommendation of discontinuing self-serve food stations including salad bars and buffets, their business model could not survive. The store in Largo Mall will not reopen.

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

FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

June is a significant month for Floridians since it marks the beginning of hurricane season. There are a number of things you can do now to prepare, so you aren't scrambling when the threat of a hurricane is just miles away. Here are a few tips to get your emergency planning started.

First and foremost, it's important to know your evacuation zone in the case of a mandatory evacuation order. This is different than your flood zone. Visit <http://kyz.pinellascounty.org/> or download the free Ready Pinellas app on your mobile device to find out which zone you are in.

Mandatory evacuations are issued when the probability of storm surge is high, and loss of life could occur if residents don't leave. These evacuations will be ordered up to a certain letter zone and will always include mobile homes. If your evacuation level is ordered to go, it is imperative that you move quickly but safely outside of the evacuation area. The Pinellas County Interactive Hurricane Evacuation Level Inquiry resource is also available to answer any emergency-related questions: 727-453-3150.

Make a plan in case you must evacuate. Stay with trusted family members or friends, if possible. As a last resort, you can go to an emergency shelter. A few of them are specifically designated for citizens with special needs and some are pet friendly. If you need transportation assistance to any Pinellas County shelter, register in advance at www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds.

If you live in a barrier island community, make sure you are registered for an emergency access permit. When a mandatory evacuation order is lifted, law enforcement officials will scan emergency access permits at designated re-entry points. Barrier island residents may register directly with their city government during its general office hours year round, so don't wait until an evacuation order has been issued to secure yours. If you registered for and still possess your emergency access permit from a prior year, you DO NOT need to register again. To determine if your city is included in the barrier islands, visit www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit, or call the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 727-582-6200.

Lastly, create a shelter-in-place hurricane survival kit by purchasing essential items now. The list below can serve as a guide as you prepare. Follow the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on Facebook @PinellasSheriff and Twitter @SheriffPinellas for timely information regarding preparedness tips and important safety alerts. You can also follow the #getreadypinellas hashtag to instantly view posts related to emergency preparedness. We are all in this together.

Hurricane Survival Kit Items:

1. Battery-operated radio
2. Extra batteries
3. Flashlights/lanterns
4. Candles
5. Matches/lighter
6. One gallon of water per person per day
7. First-aid kit: bandages, antibiotic ointment, hand sanitizer, soap, sunscreen, pain reliever
8. Non-perishable food: peanut butter, bread, dry cereal, rice, pasta, granola bars, canned goods
9. Rain gear
10. Mosquito repellent
11. At least one fully-charged cell phone
12. Sanitation products: toilet paper, wipes, plastic garbage bags, paper towels

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SCIENCE LINKS POOR SLUMBER TO A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM

**Weakened immune systems cannot
fight colds and flus as efficiently**

The COVID 19 pandemic has shepherded in a whole new level of challenges for all but an elite few. Health, emotional, financial and economic issues are every day companions for most Americans. These pressing issues can add up to worry, which can affect our ability to sleep.

It is estimated 22 million Americans, both children and adults, suffer from sleep disorders. 80% of them do not know they have the disorder and are not taking steps to protect themselves.

According to the Sleep Center at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, "sleeping well improves mood, reduces anxiety and better equips you to cope with challenges, including the challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic. Ample sleep also supports the immune system."

Johns Hopkins Medicine reports the immune system is a complex network of cells, proteins and organs that work together to defend the body from viruses, bacteria, toxins and fungi. The bottom line is our immune system keeps us healthy.

So we are smart if we do whatever it takes to keep it functioning well—and getting enough sleep and a good quality of sleep is a major step. It turns out that too little sleep or a poor quality of sleep not only affects whether we contract a cold or a flu. It also significantly influences how well we fight those illnesses once we get them.

It's well known that our bodies fight infection with fevers. If we are not sleeping, our bodies will not maintain the fevered state meaning we may not be fighting the infection as well as we should be, cautions the Texas Sleep Center.

Many people are surprised at how early in life sleep disorders can occur. It has been found that most adults already had the symptoms of sleep disorder as children. Dr. Karen Bonuk studied 11,000 children with sleep disorders for 6 and a half years and discovered that there is a 50% chance that a child with a sleep disorder will be diagnosed as ADD and ADHD and given a pharmaceutical. When Dr. Bonuk placed children in a room where those with ADD were mixed with children having sleep disorders, doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists who analyzed them and looked at their symptoms were not able to tell the difference between them. In short, children who are sleep deprived produce the same symptoms as children diagnosed with ADD and ADHD.

As these children get older, their issues lead to serious diseases. Research suggests that the sleep-deprived are at a higher risk of dying from heart disease and diabetes. In fact the Sleep Center reported that people with sleep disorders are "actually more likely than their well-rested counterparts to die from all causes."

So while you are hunkering down during the pandemic, please make sure you are getting a good quantity and quality of sleep.

Breathe Well Sleep Well offers a FREE educational meeting about the most frequent type of sleep disorder at 6:30pm in the office on Wednesday and online on Thursday.

We discuss your overall health and wellness where you learn how sleeping and breathing can strengthen your immune system. We share groundbreaking research explaining why we have an epidemic of children and adults with sleep-disordered breathing. Most importantly, find out what you can do about it.

Take that first step toward changing your life by securing your health. Call us, 727-314-4045, to set a time to meet at your convenience either at the office or in home via your computer, either way we're looking forward to having you with us!

Breathe Well Sleep Well, 209 S. Myrtle Ave, Clearwater

Organizational News...

In these challenging times, most if not all organizations have canceled their meetings and events and usually take the summer off. If your organization is not listed here, you can assume that is the case. While things are constantly changing, this is what we know as of press time:

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

A pandemic hasn't stopped them from planning for their next club year and future fundraisers; meetings are being held on-line. On-line meetings seem to have become a "sign of the current times" as so many clubs, organizations and business are conducting their meetings in the same way.

Visit GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org, their Club's Facebook page: GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club, or E-mail: MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com for information.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They celebrated their 70th anniversary at their annual meeting in February. Approximately 65 people attended with members wearing green and white, the Club's colors. President, Carol Frecker, offered a champagne toast honoring the efforts of those who contributed to the history of the Club and to those who will carry on in the future. Past presidents were acknowledged and presented a potted orchid. Following a presentation on the care of orchids by Michael Polen from Art stone Orchids and Statuary, participants enjoyed a light luncheon and cake. The Club meets monthly from October through May at their clubhouse located at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair. For more information, including how to become a member, visit www.belleairgardenclub.com.

WELCOME NEWCOMER CLUB

The Welcome Newcomer Club has not decided when their next meeting will be due to the pandemic. Speakers were lined up, etc., but the next meeting has not been scheduled yet. As many of their members are elderly, they are trying to err on the side of caution before scheduling the next meeting.

BEACH ART CENTER

While closed until further notice, they are excited to announce their new Live On-Line Art Courses. Join the BAC Instructors for FUN, informative, and interactive art sessions. On-Line ZOOM sessions provide a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with your friends from class and meet new art friends while staying in the comfort and safety of your own home!

Weekly Online Class with Shawn Dell Joyce include: Beginning Painting Next Steps; Beginning Drawing Still Life and Figure Drawing and Watercolor with Roberta Romeo. You must register in advance to receive the Zoom "invite" to join the class.

Stay in touch at www.beachartcenter.org/classes.

Due to safety concerns for students and instructors, and the ongoing uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19 virus, they made the difficult decision to cancel Creative Kids Summer Camp for 2020.

CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC

They have rescheduled their annual golf tournament event at Innisbrook's Copperhead Course to Monday, June 29th. Please stay tuned for more details about the event as they make adjustments to ensure everyone's safety. They plan to keep everyone updated with new developments. For now, you can help support by purchasing Helicopter Golf Ball Drop tickets! Each ticket gives you a chance to win \$1,000. Visit clearwaterfreeclinic.org.

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Have you been looking for a carpet cleaning company that cares about the quality of their work and cleans more than just carpets? KMC Tile and Carpet, a small beaches-based company, is just that.



KMC provides the same services the big box names offer, but with a personal touch. In addition to carpets, owner John Love offers upholstery and tile/grout cleaning. "If you are interested, we offer a free test cleaning of your tile, upon request, so you can see the difference," says Love.

"I like to say 'No One Cleans Like KMC'. We move all your furniture, then vacuum, then we treat the carpet with a special cleaning solution. Many companies combine those steps into one. Only then do we do the cleaning, with steam," explains Love.

"During COVID-19, we take special care to sanitize our equipment with a special solution — before and after each job," says Love. "We wear gloves and will wear masks, if you prefer."

KMC has been in business for over 30 years servicing residential homes and businesses. No job is too big or too little and they regularly work in area city offices. They operate Monday through Saturday, for those needing weekend work.

They offer free estimates—many times over the phone. Call 727-593-0113 and ask for John Love, the owner. Get more information at www.KMCCarpetCare.com.

Mention this Belleair News Magazine story and get 10% off your first service.

THE COLLECTION ON PALMETTO

The Collection on Palmetto is a newly-built, state-of-the-art museum located at 2116 Palmetto Street in bright and beautiful Clearwater. Rare, Brass Era automobiles drive the collection. The earliest vehicle is the 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen, considered the first modern car. The most recent acquisition is a fabulous 1952 Allard J2-X, the "pinnacle of '50s race cars." All of the automobiles are operational and have enjoyed award-winning restorations through the years.

Equally interesting are the antique steam engines, hand-painted murals and 1/8th scale steam train which encircles the five-acre property. A working machine shop and railroad exhibits will round out the collection upon their completion. The lushly-landscaped grounds are inviting, with a turtle-filled lake and picnic benches.

Visitors will enjoy self-guided audio-tours during operating hours, with docent-led tours available by appointment. Special events will be offered throughout the year.

Marvin and Linda Feldman are the founders of The Collection on Palmetto, a nonprofit organization intended to bring to light all the marvels associated with early automobiles, including methods of propulsion, innovation, technology and design. Marvin's interest in cars dates back to his teenage years. His father, David, had a strong interest in steam, a passion he conveyed to his two sons. Marvin and Linda together enjoy participating in car tours around the country, many of which have been completed in their beloved Stanley Steam Cars.

For more information, visit thecollectiononpalmetto.com. While their May Grand Opening has been delayed, due to Coronavirus concerns, the Collection on Palmetto looks forward to hosting visitors and groups in the very near future. What their Web site, or Facebook page for opening details.

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TIME TO THINK ABOUT HURRICANE SEASON AGAIN.

By Tom Smith, Owner of GHD Construction Services

In past articles, I have written about what new homes offer today with the increased Florida and Federal Building codes. As an industry in Florida, we are constructing homes that meet or exceed the 150mph wind speeds, to insure the best amount of safety and security for new homes. Some homes can be retrofitted to add some of these features, yet other homes remain susceptible to high tides and severe water damage. What can be done today for the homes along our beautiful coastal island communities?

Everyone is now aware that hurricane resistant windows and doors should be a "must" for any home. Those are the areas that will be first to fail when the high wind and water comes our way. Although pilings cannot be installed in existing homes with any practicality, they are very helpful in keeping the stability of the home sound, especially along the beaches. Then as I have mentioned in the past, the most important item for homes is that they are raised above FEMA standards, to keep the flood waters from ruining the home and furnishings. Sorry, but as I see homes playing the game of FEMA's 50% Rule, I can't help but wonder why families are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to re-build a home on grade. Not a good investment or decision!

Many of our home customers today are inquiring about whole house generators for their new homes. My wife and I are personally installing one in my new home, as it makes sense to protect against power failure, especially if you live in beach communities where power is the most likely to fail during a storm. A natural or propane gas system that fuels the generator can actually have enough power for the entire home, including air conditioning. I'm told by the gas company, that they do not turn off the gas after a storm, as it is necessary for hospitals and other first responder needs.

Sure, a gas generator can be temporarily used from your garage for the refrigerator and a few lights, but having the entire home uninterrupted after a storm is a major plus.

As I write these thoughts on building a strong home, it's funny, but I remember one of the favorite books that my mother read to me was the "5 Little Pigs". I don't know why this is in my memory 67 years later, but I guess it rang a bell in terms of building a home substantial enough to keep that "Big Bad Wolf" from destroying a home. Our wolf is the potential Florida hurricane. We all know it's coming, but we can't predict the year we will experience it.

If you are considering remodeling or building a new home, maybe some of the items listed above might give you cause to reflect on what items you want to install.

...keep that "Big Bad Wolf" from destroying a home. Our wolf is the potential Florida hurricane. We all know it's coming, but we can't predict the year we will experience it.

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FOOD DRIVES HELPS BEACH FOOD PANTRY FEED OTHERS

By David Kline

Families in Pinellas County are having difficulty getting access to food during the COVID-19 quarantine. At the Beach Community Food Pantry (BCFP), a mission of Indian Rocks Beach's Calvary Episcopal Church, they are proving success with two local food drives that replaced the canceled Stamp Out Hunger program sponsored by Postal Workers. Shelves are now fully stocked and ready to hand out pre-packaged groceries along with their choice of meat, produce, eggs, bread and even pet food. Due to the Coronavirus, pre-bagged items met the need for higher safety standards by making the least amount of contact handing out food.

On April 25th and May 9th, the BCFP was able to get food donations with the help from their friends at Action 2000 and Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association along with the entire community. Not only did these food drives help with goods, but also monetary donations have been plentiful making these food drives extraordinarily successful. Publix has also provided pallet loads of food through their donation program, Food for Sharing, while Home Depot donated the labor and truck for pickup and delivery to the food pantry.

David Kline, past director at the local BCFP in Indian Rocks Beach, has been working tirelessly with a small group of volunteers to ensure food is carefully quarantined, sorted, bagged and ready for pick up. As the need has grown, this food pantry participates in the USDA program allowing individuals to get one extra bag of food each month. To qualify, all you need to do is sign up.

"We serve 26 communities within Pinellas County area and are looking to feed even more people," said David Kline. Their goal is to not only drive more groceries into their food pantry but also engage those needing more food. "Our bags are ready to hand out this week and we want all of our visitors to know we can help." They ask that anyone with a fever or cough to stay home and send someone to pick up their groceries even if they do not live in your household.

The hours currently available for pre-bagged food pick-up are Monday and Wednesday 10 am to 12 pm, as well as Thursday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Clients stop by every other week to pick up bagged food at 1615 1st St., Indian Rocks Beach. The new phone number is 727-282-4085.



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DECKER ROSS INTERIORS' DESIGNS BELLEVIEW PLACE MODEL

Lead designer Marci Tempesta, of Decker Ross Interiors, created a beautiful contemporary transitional design for JMC's Carriage Home Model at Belleview Place. Marci's design concept compliments the carefree resort lifestyle with the Belleair Country Club and the Belleview Inn within walking distance.



The use of textural contrast enriches the overall design aesthetic throughout this lovely Carriage Home. In the Grand Salon, cobalt blue adds a rich accent to the neutral color palette, and dark hardwood floors offer a nice contrast to the light walls and white molding. A floor-to-ceiling stacked stone

fireplace wall flanked by custom built-in bookcases creates a perfect accent wall in the living area. In the adjacent dining room, a unique amber art glass chandelier provides an eye-catching focal point over the dining room table. The bedrooms and study continue the sophisticated design aesthetic throughout the rest of this lovely two-story home.

Established in 1993, Decker Ross Interiors is an award-winning, full service interior design firm specializing in both residential and commercial interiors. Led by Suzan Decker Ross, ASID, her talented design team is adept at creating interiors that reflect their client's individual taste and lifestyle. Senior Designer, Marci Tempesta, recently completed several residences at JMC's Belleview Place, along with the lobbies and common areas in the mid-rise buildings. Her spectacular design in the Carriage Home Model A (pictured here) won 2019 Parade of Homes (\$1.3 million + category). Photography by Rob Harris.

AMERICAN STAGE

American Stage will continue to postpone their programming at least through the end of June. When their doors do reopen, things will look a little different. They are planning for social distancing within the theatre, and will take every precaution to help us all feel safe and comfortable experiencing live performances together once again. They will have another update next month.

They plan to present FOOTLOOSE when they host American Stage in the Park and their GALA UNDER THE STARS in October. More details will be available as the dates grow closer.

They have officially launched their Virtual programming (both Stage and Academy) on their Web site. Their Virtual Academy gives students of all ages the opportunity to explore new people, places and ideas safely from home and will include their Summer Camp.

Visit americanstage.org for more information.

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CCSC'S NOAH LYONS MAKES OLYMPIC BID

By Noah Lyons

At the age of 6, I began my journey as a sailor and immediately fell in love with the sport. 13 years later as a college freshman, I can say I still love the sport just as much if not more. I raced in the optimist until I was 11, where I then discovered windsurfing. My youth windsurfing career led me to numerous different classes such as the Techno 293, RSX, Kona, and the Open Windfoil. Alongside my path as a windsurfer, there was also a path of sailing. After the optimist, I competed in the 420 from age 12-15, and from age 15-18 the 49er Olympic class skiff. Sailing the 49er brought opportunities to train on the US Sailing Olympic Development Team, and to compete against some of the world's best sailors. It was common at any 49er regatta to be racing against a boat that had been to the Olympics. My windsurfing journey was equally beneficial. I have competed in three world championships, two of which I placed third.

In January, I was invited to an Olympic development training for windfoiling to see how I stacked up against the nation's top windfoilers. I came out of this camp feeling confident and set my goal to attend Sailing World Cup Miami 2021.

Beginning in late 2004, the windsurfing Olympic class transitioned from the Mistral, to the RSX. After the London Olympics in 2012, Neilpryde (Creator of the RSX) changed ownership. Gear became horrendously unreliable, and extraordinarily hard to obtain when something would break.

Between the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, windsurf foiling began to rapidly gain popularity. Reputable companies began manufacturing foils, and people became "loyal to the foil" due to the adrenaline rush of foiling. Going 20mph in 10mph of wind is intoxicating, made even better by the smooth ride, as if you're riding on glass. It truly reinvented the sport and is drawing many retired professionals back into windsurfing.

This new technology, combined with a frustrated RSX community, led the International Olympic Committee to reevaluate the Olympic windsurfer for Olympics following 2020. The alternative chosen was the iQFoil - a one design windfoil class with the board and foil made by Starboard, and the rig made by Severn. It excels in almost every area compared to the RSX, except the iQfoil costs more.

My goal is to be the top American at the Sailing World Cup Miami 2021 in the iQFoil class. To achieve this, I have a few hurdles to overcome. I do not own any foiling gear. The only way I was able to race regattas in the past was through the generosity of friends letting me borrow their personal gear.

The iFoil board, and foil, are very similar to what I have sailed before, but the sail is quite different making practice time before Miami essential. I have been invited to three US Sailing Olympic Development Clinics specifically for the iFoil. Two are in Long Beach California, and the third is in Miami.

My home club will host approximately two to four windfoil regattas in the next ten months. This is excellent practice for the world cup as in all likelihood the top Americans will attend.

Finally, the Clearwater Community Sailing Center will be the primary training location for over 50% of the iFoil sailors in the United States, making us the primary U.S. squad. There will be no other place in the U.S. that will have the density of iFoil training partners, and that is something I greatly want to be a part of. Appropriately funded and equipped, I will be given the opportunity to meet and exceed my goal of being the top windfoiler in the United States.

Reach Noah Lyons at 727-479-5890 or Noahlyons797@gmail.com



THE RADIANCE SAFETY PROMISE
Our COVID-19 cleaning and safety policies

By Stephanie Schlageter, Owner and Founder & Erika Francis, MD Medical Director

At Radiance Medspa our top priority has and always will be your safety. We are committed to doing our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining our oasis for personal transformation. Following Governor DeSantis' executive orders, we re-opened on Monday, May 11. Under the expert guidance of our board-certified Medical Director, Erika Francis, MD, we implemented the following cleaning and safety practices in accordance with CDC, the World Health Organization, and Government Officials recommendations.

Patients and visitors are asked to come alone to appointments, wear a facemask, have their temperature checked upon arrival, and answer the following COVID screening questions: Do you have a new cough, new shortness of breath, or a new sore throat that you cannot attribute to another health condition? Do you reside with anyone who has tested positive for or been hospitalized for COVID-19? "YES" answers to the above questions or a fever will prohibit entry into our facility for a minimum of 14 days.

Our facility is set up to maintain 6' social distancing in all common areas. Medical providers wear certified PPE during all treatments and our support staff wears facemasks. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the facility. Treatment rooms, public surfaces, and common areas are thoroughly disinfected in-between each patient with medical grade disinfectants and deep cleaning and sanitizing takes place nightly. Our retail area and coffee bar are no longer self-serve and payments are processed using no-touch payment methods.

Radiance Medspa has proudly served the community for more than 14 years by offering state of the art non-surgical cosmetic medical treatments including BOTOX, Juvederm, Coolsculpting, Laser Hair Removal, and Peels to help our patients look and feel their very best. We have worked hard to build a reputation of safety, trust, and excellence and to earn our current position among the top 1% of Medspas in the Tampa Bay area and in the Nation. We are committed to protecting the health and wellness of our community while maintaining the highest quality of care for years to come.

To learn more or to book an appointment or complimentary consultation, please visit www.radiancemedspa.com or call us at 727-518-7100.

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