

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

Clearwater's Fisherman's Wharf



The most famous Fisherman's Wharf is in San Francisco, but in the 1960s, Clearwater Beach had one, too. Owned by Dalip Tzekas and his family, it was located at the northeast end of the Clearwater Pass Bridge. Then, the wooden bridge was low to the water with a drawbridge section in the middle.

Tzekas, born in 1914, was Albanian. He was imprisoned in his native Yugoslavia (which no longer exists) because of his anti-communist sentiments. He escaped into Greece on foot enduring frostbite along the way. From there, he made his way to America where he had family members. He was forced to leave his wife, Rabije his and their three small children behind. He settled in the Chicago area and opened a truck stop diner. Eventually, he and his nephew opened a larger restaurant. It would be 13 years before his wife and children could join him in the United States.

In 1960, Tzekas moved to Clearwater Beach. Three years later, he partnered with Ed Ralston and others to open a restaurant called "Ed Ralston's Fisherman's Wharf." It opened August 23, 1963 and in 1968, Tzekas bought out his partners allowing his wife and children to join the business.

- Continued on page 7

Also in this Issue:



Mary Ellen Owens, 100 and Still Going Strong

In May, long time Belleair Bluffs resident and Morton Plant volunteer celebrated her socially distanced 100th birthday with two parades. - page 14

William Dean in a Pandemic

How do they keep making those beautiful chocolates during unusual times? Same as always, by hand, one at a time. However, there have been a few changes. - page 19



Are Your Hands Suffering From Using So Much Hand Sanitizer?

Dr. Kathy Anderson has some solutions. - page 30

Meet Mike Twitty

As the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, he is responsible for the appraised value of all the real estate in Pinellas County.

- page 24



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to 8,000 households 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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SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Town of Belleair is hosting its annual School Supply Drive for local students. Supplies will be collected through August 10th and will be donated to Belleair Elementary and Mildred Helms Elementary. They are accepting cash or item donations at Town Hall or the Dimmitt Community Center at 918 Osceola Road.

\$50 buys a full backpack kit or you can donate from the supply list found online at BelleairRec.com. Call

518-3728 for more information.

CANVAS WITH A CAUSE Our local Plein Air Cottage Artists' passion and dedication came to the attention of Roxanne Mannello, a final year film producing graduate of St. Petersburg College and WEDU. Mannello lived at Indian Rocks Beach and still returns frequently. After seeing Mary Rose Holmes and Helen Tilston painting and recording Indian Rocks Beach on canvas, she had a vision of a documentary that led to *Canvas With a Cause*. Their dedication, vision and involvement with the community and residents will be told on WEDU through that documentary filmed in February and March. The documentary *Canvas with a Cause* will air on WEDU this Fall.

MOSQUITO CONTROL Mosquitoes only need a quarter to one-half inch of standing water for larvae to survive. Keep containers dry: flower pots, garbage cans, recycling containers, wheelbarrows, aluminum cans, boat tarps, old tires and buckets. Clean roof gutters, which can become clogged and hold water. Flush ornamental bromeliads or treat with BTI, a biological larvicide available at home stores. Cover rain barrels with screening. Flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly. These easy steps will help minimize your exposure to these bloodsucking insects.



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BELLEAIR REC GOLF TOURNAMENT RESCHEDULED

Don't miss out on this amazing community event to be held on Thursday & Friday, September 24 and 25 at the Cove Cay Golf Club. The 9-Hole Adult/Junior Tournament will be held on Thursday starting at 5pm and the 18-Hole Scramble presented by Crown Automotive Group will be on Friday



at 1pm. Each tournament will be filled with games, post tournament dinner and awards ceremony, raffle and auction fundraiser, and a lot of fun! To sponsor or to join the fun, contact Special Events Coordinator, Rachel Hobbs at 727-518-3728.

and More...

MANAGER RECEIVES AWARD

The Town of Belleair's Manager JP Murphy recently received the Hometown Hero award from the League of Cities organization. He was honored for his advocacy of home role for Florida's municipalities.



Murphy has held the job since April of 2017 and is celebrating his third year as Town Manager.

BOATING SAFETY CLASS Due to COVID-19, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has discontinued in-person classes and replaced them with online Zoom classes conducted with the same instructors you would have had in the classroom. The next daytime classes will be August 22, August 23, August 29, and August 30 from 9am to about 11am. Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for the future class schedule at: www.clwboatingsafety.com, email clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com, or call 727-469-8895.

BACK TO SCHOOL PHYSICALS The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas is offering its annual free Back to School Clinic Services to students for the 2020-2021 School year. Children entering kindergarten through grade 12 can receive the free service.

The DOH-Pinellas School based health clinics provide school, sports and well-child physicals, including immunizations—at no cost—for clients in need. Vision screening will be provided by Preserve Vision Florida. Assistance for glasses and exams for qualifying clients will be provided.

The services will be provided at no cost by appointment through August 11th.

For appointments, call 249-7591. Appointment hours are 8am to 4pm. They are held at designated Pinellas High Schools. Visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

It's our rainy season, and sometimes the swimming pool gets too full and needs to be drained. Remember discharging chlorinated or salt water into the street or a body of water is illegal. Drain pool water through 12 feet of vegetated area such as lawns or gardens and ensure the chlorine level is below 0.01mg/L (simple test strip). These steps will protect our waters. For information visit: pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/stormwater.htm.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN OCTOBER If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at all City Halls, Panara Bread, The UPS Store and the Belleair Market. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few. Read this issue, and others, online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook for ongoing local news.

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Fisherman's Wharf, Continued

The Tzekases had three more children in the United States for a total of six: Ronnie, Emo, Enver, Artie, Sefer and Ferdie, their only daughter.

The entire family worked at the restaurant—from the kitchen to waiting tables to greeting diners. Tzekas, himself, was normally the host stationed at the front door. Ronnie ran the bar and later managed the front door. Emo and Enver ran the kitchen. Artie bussed tables and was a bartender. Sefer bussed tables and served food. Ferdie watched the cash register. Eventually, the grandkids worked there, too.

"Dalip always showed a willingness to help those in need and brighten people's lives," said daughter-in-law Sylvia, who married son Artie. He would always say 'God saved us. He gave me a second chance at life.' Everyone respected Dalip."

"We served a lot of people over the years," Sylvia adds. "We did have a lot of tourists, but the locals were our best customers."

After 27 years, the Trekas family closed The Wharf. In 1990, they leased the property and building to Leverocks Seafood, a chain of seafood restaurants based in St. Pete Beach. Leverocks added the lighthouse to the roof, the deck out back and a tiki hut bar near the water's edge. Leverocks closed many locations including that one, 13 years later.



Fisherman's Wharf in the 1970s



Leverocks Restaurant, circa 1980s

"That was clearly our most profitable store in the chain", says George Lewis, owner of Leverocks today. "Dalip was a gentle man and a pleasure to know."

"Dalip knew many people still living in Albania," Lewis explains. "He helped many immigrate to the U.S. If they had proper papers, we gave many of them their first job in one of our Leverocks restaurants."

In 2004, after Leverocks closed, Shells Seafood moved in to the Clearwater location. They only lasted four years before the company went bankrupt in 2008.

The last restaurant on that site was simply called "551," after the address of the property. It opened in 2011 with many upgrades and closed the same year, after the death of the new owner.

The Tzekas family still owns the 3.2 acres of waterfront property. The building, always known for fine seafood,

was demolished at the end of April. "It has been an emotional time for the family seeing the building being torn down," Sylvia says. "We had a lot of good memories, there."

The property is for sale for \$27 million, which is comparable to other waterfront commercial property. The most likely use will be a future condo or condo/hotel. It has been approved for 120 condo units or 150 condo/hotel units. It could also be a mixed-use development with retail on the ground level. If you are interested, call Georgette Gillis with View Point Realty at 448-3533.

Dalip Tzekas passed away in 2005 at the age of 90. Many of the Trekas children opened restaurants of their own in Pinellas County including Sea Sea Riders in Dunedin, Sunset Grill in Clearwater and Paradise Restaurant in Safety Harbor.



Dalip Tzekas owner of Fisherman's Wharf (circa 1980s)

AS THEY REMEMBER IT



1966

"They had the world's best seafood platter."
Lefty Dave Smith

"I was there a lot in the 1960s. They had great food and service." *David Dean*

"I worked there in the summer of 1965. The building had an unusual basement."
John Usher

"When I worked for the Clearwater Police Department, I had to check out the building because of a burglary report. I was surprised to find they had a basement."
Rick Stahl

"That was my first real job." *Brandi Carol King McDermott*

"My dad dragged us there every Friday night in the '70s. He loved that place."
Laura LaPorte

"I have known the Trekas family for years. Back in my early days, I used to sell them fish and seafood. Actually, I still do—at the restaurants they have today. They are a great family. They had a practice gun range in the basement. I used to go there with the Trekas brothers and practice shooting." *Frank Chivas, owner of the Baystar Restaurant Group.*

"One of my mother's favorite restaurants." *Janet Ramsdell Rockey*

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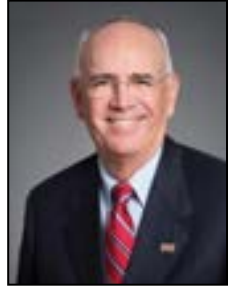
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MARITAL BLISS...DIVORCE (PART III)

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

In the previous two articles, we covered Death and Dementia. Now the third "D" – Divorce. Regardless of how long a couple has been married; divorce comes with emotional, physical and financial issues that are rarely easily resolved.



While you want to look for an experienced divorce attorney, try to avoid those that have a reputation as being combative. The longer it drags on, the more you end up paying. You might want to consider collaborative divorce, or perhaps mediation. Do not try to hide assets. Be truthful and flexible. While you might be mad at your spouse, trying to stick it to the spouse only makes the difficult conversations harder and adds to your stress. Consider hiring other advisors like a financial planner, mental health professional and/or a CPA.

Start with a net worth statement to understand the assets and liabilities. How are the assets titled? Not all assets show up in the net worth, i.e. term life and disability income insurance, future pensions, etc. Look back through all financial transactions over the past several years to see if there were any unusual transfers of money. Cancel credit cards in joint name and get new ones just in your name. However, you cannot get out of joint debt like a mortgage. Also, set up bank and investment accounts in your name.

In dividing assets, be aware that it might be equal, but is it equitable? Consider not just the value of the assets, but tax implications. Are the assets potentially non-taxable like cash, artwork, jewelry, etc. or taxable at either capital gain or ordinary income rates? What is the trade-off of giving up more assets to avoid greater alimony?

What are the living expenses and income expected after the divorce? In short, do a budget. Your financial planner can help with a written financial plan. How will health insurance, child support and educational costs be paid? What Social Security benefits might be available in retirement from the former spouse?

Complete a new set of legal documents with your estate-planning attorney and do not forget to change the beneficiary on insurance policies, annuities and retirement programs.

It is impossible to cover all of the unique issues in this article. Assemble a team of professionals to help guide you. Start by taking advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation.

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

**“SORRY YOU MISSED IT...”
FRED HOSLEY’S NEW BOOK**

Longtime Clearwater resident Fred Hosley recently published his first book, *Sorry You Missed It...* As Hosley explains:

“I wrote this book not for literary applause, but as a story to read; a trip down memory lane for readers of my generation and for younger generations, a peek at how we lived. The main characters are getting ready to start seventh grade at Clearwater Junior High in the mid-fifties.

In my young adult years, I loved to tell my children stories of my adventures growing up in Clearwater, a small beach town tucked between rivers, orange groves and wild country.

During my last five years of practicing dentistry, I studied writing—pushing journals aside on my library bookshelf to make room for new books on how to write fiction.

This book is the first fruit of my dedication to becoming a novelist.”

The story takes place in a small beach town in Florida, where twelve-year-old Matt Parker enters the mid-1950s full of life and confidence. Ready to enjoy the growing freedoms of a teenager as he and his buddies enter junior high, trouble appears—a surly ninth-grader named Wayne.

Matt receives a phone call that turns the opening weeks of school into an exploit he never anticipated. The boys set out to protect Billy, who is being threatened by Wayne. Along the way, they encounter an unexpected visitor as they search for buried treasure on Hog Island, try to catch a black snake named Lucille, and go to their first teenage dance party.

Sorry You Missed It... is a coming of age story of fun and laughter, sadness and tears—a dangerous adventure spiced with early rock n’ roll and the innocence of a blossoming teenage romance.

Writer Hosley was born in 1945 in Melbourne, Australia and grew up in Clearwater, Florida. His father was an Army Air Corps soldier stationed in Townsville, Australia and his mother, was an Australian “war-bride” who brought him to America on an ocean liner dedicated to bringing the brides and children of American soldiers to the United States after World War II ended and the soldiers returned home.

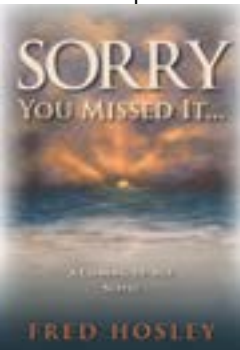
Fred’s dad was a young building contractor while his mom was a housewife. He attended South Ward Elementary School from Kindergarten through 6th grade, and Clearwater Junior High School where he was Student Council President in the 9th grade. During his three years at Clearwater High School he was Junior Class President, Senior Class President, captain of the CHS swimming team, and punter and defensive halfback on the CHS football team.

He attended University of Florida in 1963, but his education was interrupted when he was drafted and sent to Ft. Benning.

He served his two-year commitment at Valley Forge General Army Hospital in Pennsylvania. He returned to college and in 1976 graduated from the Emory School of Dentistry in Atlanta, Georgia.

Fred practiced dentistry in Clearwater for 35 years and he now lives on the backwaters of the Withlacoochee River with his wife, Camille, and their golden retriever, Sunday.

Sorry You Missed It... is available on Amazon.



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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

The current public health crisis has brought many changes to families throughout Pinellas County. While local restrictions may prevent individuals from participating in their favorite activities, visiting state parks and other landmarks to enjoy nature and culture throughout Florida may provide some enrichment for many. If you have plans to take a road trip this year, make sure you stay safe and are prepared while you travel.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) is urging Floridians to take extra precautions this summer and fall since not as many families are traveling out of state to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and roads may be busier. Follow the safety tips below; driving safely and considerately could save lives.

Slow down, stay cool – Follow the speed limit at all times. It doesn't matter how excited you are to get to your destination, speeding is extremely dangerous. If other people's reckless driving frustrates you, stay calm, and do not drive aggressively in response.

Never leave pets or children in a vehicle unattended – The Florida heat can intensify quickly and become dangerous. The temperature inside a vehicle can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes. Heatstroke deaths have occurred in Florida more than any other state except Texas. Leaving a child or a pet in a car for even a short period of time can be deadly. Cracking a window is not enough either. Make sure everyone stays with you when exiting the vehicle.

Drive sober and alert – Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or if you are too tired. If you are impaired, wait until you are sober or have another person drive for you on your road trip.

Register emergency contact information – The FLHSMV allows all driver's license and ID card holders to register up to two designated emergency contacts. Visit flhsmv.gov/eci to make updates.

Prepare for driving in bad weather – Hurricane season extends from June to November in Florida, and tropical storms and wildfires increase throughout the summer months. Be aware of evacuation routes, check road closures, and report unsafe road conditions by calling *FHP (*347).

Ensure your vehicle is safe to drive – Check all of your tires, including the spare, to ensure they are in good working condition and have the correct pressure. Windshield wipers and all of your vehicle's lights need to be working properly. To see if your vehicle has any recalls, visit safecar.gov.

Driving safely will not only make your road trip more enjoyable, but it will also help others on the road too. Remember, if you see something, say something.



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NEW TOWNHOME PROJECT Being built by Taylor Morrison in Indian Rocks Beach on Gulf Blvd. between 25th and 26th Avenues, the new development will have 32-townhomes. All are 3-story, approximately 1,900 square foot, 3-bedroom, 3-bath luxury townhomes with an elevator and a 2-car tandem garage. No pricing has been announced yet. Taylor Morrison is the same company that built The Cove, located at 7th Avenue. The project called THE WALK takes up a block and a half. For more information, call Molly Whalen at 866-495-6006. Visit www.TaylorMorrison.com/FL/Tampa/Indian-Rocks-Beach.

PLAZA REMODEL NEARS END Contractors remodeling the Belleair Bazaar Shopping Plaza, (Bonfish Shopping Center), told us they hope to be done this month. It has taken more than a year, but the new look is a nice upgrade. Once all the store front signs are reinstalled, it should be business as usual in the Plaza.

RAPUNZEL'S NOW DESANTI SALON Rapunzel's Salon, next to Indian Rock's Keegan's Seafood, has been sold. New owner Santiago Canepa bought the salon in late January—just in time for the shut down. Santiago used the time to remodel the salon and change the name to DeSanti Salon and Spa.

In addition to hair care, the full service salon offers skin care, make up, manicures and pedicures.

Call 727-517-7677 for an appointment. DeSantiSalon.com.



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

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Business Briefs




LANDSCAPES BY
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LAGNIAPPE INTERIORS

This new store specializes in custom home decor, furniture, and gifts. Located at 1901 West Bay Drive, owner Ava Mundy opened Lagniappe Interiors in July.

Mundy was born and raised in Pinellas County and recently relocated to Clearwater. She and her team offer custom furniture you will not find anywhere

else, as well as women's clothing, handmade local art and Dixie Belle paint. Ava is only 19-years-old and is still a full time college student. She already owned "Ava Mundy Furniture" and combined it with "Lagniappe Interiors". She wants to be your one stop shop for gifts and home decor.

Call her at 239-0190 or visit www.LagniappeInteriors.com.

MARV REALTY STILL COMING SOON Construction of new the Belleair Bluffs real estate office Marv Realty is "taking a little longer than expected," says owner Michael Hendzel. "The demolition inside went smoothly but getting the permit to complete the interior has taken longer than expected - mostly due to the shut down and getting the permits issued. Hendzel says now that they have the permits, it should be finished in two or three weeks.

Find them at 232 Indian Rocks Road or call 314-3942. Get more information at www.MarvRealty.com.

LEMON TREE SOLD Amy McDermott sold Lemon Tree Vintage Market located in the Antique Alley to new owner, Vanessa Wooding. She plans to reopen the small store around September 1st.

LALA'S IS TWO Laura Katz opened her shop LaLa's in The Plaza 100 two years ago in September. "My kids used to call my mother Lala (also Laura) when they could not pronounce her name," says Katz. "That is where I got the name." Lala's carries original artwork, gifts, home décor and other collectables.



There is a big Anniversary Sale planned for October. Find LaLa's next to Belleair Coffee. 240-1200.

CLOSED / OUT OF BUSINESS

Lee's Shoe Repair - Largo Mall.

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

Wagon Wheel Flea Market, open since the 1960s, closed for good in Pinellas Park.


Coast Dental, at 2715 West Bay, across from Publix Grocery

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Business Briefs

NEW MERRILL LYNCH MANAGER

Heather Weber, CPWA®, CRPS® is the new Resident Director of the downtown Merrill Lynch Clearwater office on Cleveland Street. She recently moved to Island Estates and serves in a dual role as she is also a Managing Director-Wealth Management Advisor with a practice area that focuses on business owners and executives of public companies, both active and retired.



Weber has been a Financial Advisor since 1997 and has been named by Barron's to their list of America's top Financial Advisors. She also earned one of the highest designations in the industry - the Certified Private Wealth Advisor® designation.

When not working, she enjoys jet-skiing, paddle boarding and kayaking around her beautiful Island Estates neighborhood. She is also a sustaining member of the Junior League of Clearwater- Dunedin.

CURBSIDE DELIVERY Richard's Foodporium is offering Curbside Grocery and Vitamins delivery. Call 727-584-9199 and they will do the shopping for you!

32 YEARS OF WOMENS FASHIONS Cassi's and Company has been in Belleair Bluffs 32 years. They originally opened in 1988. Marsha Uhler, manager at the time, bought the ladies wear store eight years ago, September. They are celebrating with lots of items on sale. Drop by and say Happy Anniversary. Find Cassi's in the Plaza 100 Shopping Center. 585-2011.

TOWNHOMES BY BEGGINS

Century 21/Beggins' owner/broker Jeff Beggins is building three separate townhome duplexes located one block from the beach in Indian Rocks Beach, at Gulf Blvd. and 22nd Avenue. Each building is two homes and is listed at \$1,200,000. One unit is a 2 bedroom 2 bath with 1,440 square feet. The other unit is a 3 bedroom 3 bath with 2,090 square feet. There is a deck on the top for sunbathing, but no pool, and garages underneath for two cars. Each building has an elevator.



You can live in one and rent the other side, or as short-term vacation rentals are approved, it can be two vacation rentals.

Call Jim Beggins (254-8144) or Julie Stilwell (389-4129) at Century 21 Beggins for more information.

DREAMVIEW HOTEL DEMOLISHED Demolition of the Clearwater Beach hotel is complete and construction of a JW Marriott is beginning. The mixed used concept will have both hotel rooms and privately owned vacation rental units. It is proposed to have 202 hotel rooms and 36 units available for purchase.

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BLUFF'S RESIDENT MARY ELLEN OWEN CELEBRATES 100

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

When Mary Ellen Owen was born - May 31, 1920 - Woodrow Wilson was President. That was 100 years ago. She does not remember much about Wilson, but she does remember parts of the 1920s—and a lot more. She packed a lot of living over her 100 years.

She was born right at the end of WWI. Wilson had just established the League of Nations. J. Edgar Hoover was starting the FBI. Women gained the right to vote the same year. Radio, known as the "talking box," was gaining in popularity and had been used during the 1920 Presidential Election.

Mary Ellen was born in St. Louis. But because her father was a "traveling" minister for the Methodist church, she lived in many different cities, most of them in North Carolina.

As a 10-year-old, she remembers the Great Depression and the sacrifices everyone had to make. During the 1930s, she remembers people begging for food at her parents' back door. She remembers her dad's first car—a Model T. Later he owned a "Jewett", a larger, five-passenger car.

While growing up, she studied history and practiced drama. A talent scout once offered her a part in a film directed by David O. Selznick - turns out it was "Gone with the Wind." She passed on that opportunity.

In 1940, she attended Duke University. Then, the campus was divided into separate Men and Women's Colleges. While at Duke, she met, and at the age of 18, married Richard Owen. Dick, as he was known, later worked for the American Tobacco Company in North Carolina and Richmond, Virginia. He bought and sold tobacco.



Mary Ellen and husband Dick

After they were married, Dick joined the Navy to fight in WWII. Mary Ellen continued her studies at Duke.

After WWII, Mary Ellen did some print modeling in New York and runway modeling in Richmond, VA. She was a docent at the Virginia Museum. Through the years, she traveled to England, France, and Russia many times.

After Dick retired, he developed some health issues, leading the couple to decide to move to Florida. After sampling many cities, they settled on Belleair Bluffs in 1970. This also put them close to their son Richard, who lives in Dunedin.

They were the very first to buy a condominium in the Harbour Club's Building A overlooking the Intracoastal. Mary Ellen has lived in that same unit now for 50 years.

Not one to just sit around, Mary Ellen got involved in her local community. She joined The National Society of Arts and Letters, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Pinellas Republican Women's Club. She is a Tri-Delta alumna, member of the First United Methodist Church and a longtime member of the Belleair County Club and its Book Club.

"Mary Ellen has been a member of this club for 43 years and I have known her for 23," says Ed Shaughnessy, Belleair Country Club's General Manager. "I knew her husband - a true gentleman before he passed away. She was very devoted to him and brought him to the club in his wheelchair many times for years before he passed. Her positive attitude, congenial personality and beautiful smile make her pleasant to be around. She is strong-minded, soft-hearted, and pleasantly old fashioned. Mary Ellen is deeply religious, and the world is blessed to have her influence for over a century."

Mary Ellen takes credit for naming the small park to the west of Harbour Club condos - Pelican Park - the first park Belleair Bluffs ever developed.

"When Dick got sick, he spent a lot of time at Morton Plant Hospital," says Mary Ellen. "I was so pleased with the way they treated him, I wanted to give them something back."

Twenty years ago, she started volunteering at Morton Plant. "I have done everything from working in the gift shop to working in the surgical waiting room and hosting the front desk."

"When you are around Mary Ellen, there is a certain aura," says Vicki Pikal, her Morton Plant Hospital Guest Services boss. "When she goes home, she leaves



Mary Ellen - 100 and counting!

some of that aura with us. She has the patience of a saint."

"In the beginning, I was there three days a week, then two and recently only one. I gave up my car a few years ago, and another volunteer would pick me up for my weekly shift," explains Mary Ellen.

Mary Ellen volunteered right up until March when the COVID-19 shutdown started, and Morton Plant Hospital temporarily furloughed all their outside volunteers. She is anxious to be called back to work.

Her 100th Birthday Celebration

Her birthday in May was full of surprises. Still practicing "Safer at Home," that morning her neighbors did a "walk-by parade" leaving cards and a cake at her front door. They all gathered at the pool so she could see them waving to her with signs and balloons.

In the afternoon, she went to Dunedin to spend time with her son, Richard (79) and his wife, Eby. To honor her, friends from DAR, Morton Plant and her church coordinated a birthday parade down his street, which also included fire trucks and Sheriff cars.

In addition to her son, she has two grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Her son, Richard, sums her up best. "I am blessed to have had a mother like her. She has certainly led a very happy and diverse life."

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 isolated from other patients. 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](https://www.baycare.org/emergency)




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HOW DOES SLEEP AFFECT US DURING THE PANDEMIC?

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.”

Our immune system is what keeps us healthy. Getting enough sleep and a good quality of sleep is vital. Too little sleep or a poor quality of sleep affects whether we contract a cold or a flu and significantly influences how well we fight those illnesses, once we get them.

The Texas Sleep Center cautions that if we’re not sleeping well or enough, our bodies won’t maintain fevers that are used by the body to fight infections.

Research suggests that the sleep-deprived are at a higher risk of dying from heart disease and diabetes. In fact the Houston Sleep Center reported that people with sleep disorders are “actually more likely than their well-rested counterparts to die from all causes.”

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

Learn how sleeping and breathing can strengthen your immune system. Get groundbreaking research explaining why our country suffers from an epidemic of children and adults with sleep disordered breathing. Find out what you can do to improve the quality of your sleep.

Call 727-314-4045 to arrange a meeting at the office or in home via your computer. Either way we’re looking forward to having you with us! Breathe Well Sleep Well is located at 209 S. Myrtle Ave, Clearwater.

EMS SERVICE DURING COVID-19

When someone calls 9-1-1, the operator will ask the caller if the person involved is showing signs of COVID-19. If they say yes or maybe, the responding EMS crew will be prepared and anticipate their special needs. They go to a higher level.

“Our people are specially trained to deal with the Corona Virus Pandemic,” say Chief Michael Burton, of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue division, located in Indian Rocks Beach.

The responding crew’s clothing is different than a routine call. They will have on masks and goggles. Immediately, they will perform a patient assessment noting their condition. The patient will be covered with special coverings. The emergency room will be notified in advance that the patient may have COVID-19, and confirm they will be ready and that there is room to receive another COVID-19 patient.

“The volume of calls has been manageable, so far,” Burton adds. “It was not too bad in March through June. The tourists had already gone—so there were less people. We have returned to our normal levels in the recent months, at least for this time of the year.”

At this writing, it is business as usual for all of Pinellas County. But that could change—before this news magazine arrives in your home.

NOTE: The Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue department serves the Belleair Beaches—as well as much of the surrounding area.

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THE CUSTOM LANDSCAPE

By Randy Lee

Landscaping much like a custom home or a luxury car now has many custom features and amenities. Landscaping has no limits- push button/remote control everything; luxurious materials and outdoor art, exotic palms and trees- this is no longer your ordinary garden. Here are ten custom essentials for today's landscape.

1. LED Lighting - All remote controlled with great finishes like brass and stainless steel. Bulbs and lenses that change color to enhance the landscape.
2. Irrigation System - Remote controlled systems that are more water efficient with sensors to turn on system when watering is needed.
3. Pots/Containers - Enhance pool and patio areas with pots made of clay, stone, composites that can be self watering. Colorful glazed pots are trending.
4. Water Features - Fountains, koi ponds, waterfalls and custom outdoor showers are very popular. These can be customized to the homeowner's taste.
5. Hardscaping like Driveways and Patios- Pavers, stone, tile and travertine are popular finishes. Outdoor furniture is a must here that is stylish and modern.
6. Pools and Spas - No limits on expense with the level of amenities offered. Push button water and fire; tile and stone choices- everything is custom.
7. Sod - New varieties that are modern and sleek. More drought tolerance and less mowing. We are using Zoysia, Bermuda and Seashore Paspalum.
8. Exotic Trees, Palms and Specimens - From all over the world, that have unusual shapes, color, and fragrance

with striking architectural contrasts that wow the homeowner.

9. Outdoor Art - Mosaics and tile features, sculpture and intricate patios and walkways that create pieces of art in the garden- think bronze, stainless and travertine.
10. Outdoor Kitchens - Something for everyone. Pizza ovens, grills, smokers, wine fridge and ice makers- many custom features and finishes that make the outdoors ideal.



These are the top 10 luxury items featured in our landscape designs today. My team and group of skilled contractors can make these a reality in your Custom Landscape.

August / September Checklist:

- Fertilizer ban in effect
- Lawn issues: heat, excessive rain and pests
- Great time to plant palms and tropicals
- Add color with bullet proof perennials
- Fix drainage issues when they arise

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WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES

How do they do that during a pandemic?

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Unless you are new to the area, you have probably seen William Dean Chocolates. If you have not bought them yourself, chances are you have received a box, containing a wide array of artistic chocolates, as a gift.

William Dean Chocolates is owned by Bill Brown. It is named for two special men in his life: William his father and Dean was his grandfather. The chocolate company has been operating in Pinellas County for thirteen years - eight of those in Belleair Bluffs on the east end of the Bluffs Shopping Center.

Brown maintains the artisan's tradition of creating chocolates in small batches, without preservatives. "We only use the finest ingredients and make all our chocolates by hand in our shop here in Belleair Bluffs," explains Brown. The result is an edible work of art.

"Like most businesses, this year has been a challenge for us," says Brown. "2019 was our best year ever and then COVID-19 hit. We shut our store for two full months. We were still making and selling some of our specialties, but those sales came to us over the internet."

William Dean's sales fall into four main categories. Retail, his largest portion of sales, are the customers buying products in his store from the display areas. Corporate sales, 20% of his total, are businesses that buy products for employees and clients. During the Christmas season corporate orders come from all over the United States. Online sales are daily, but again peak a few weeks prior to Christmas. Wholesale sales involve places like restaurants who resell chocolates to their customers.

"During any year, our best months are November and December, naturally," Brown says. "Our slowest time is the summer—June through August. One-third of my sales come in during Christmas and one-third of those sales are from corporations," Brown adds.

"Chocolate, when frozen, can keep up to 6 months. Chocolate bars can easily last 6-8 months," Brown explains. "However, we do not keep product for more than two or three months. To prepare for the Christmas season, we start prepping in September and October. We do a lot of planning."

Remember all of William Dean's creations are done by hand, one-by-one.

For each season, they look at what and how much was ordered a year ago — Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas— each is different. "But with the pandemic all the past numbers are worthless. This year, Valentine's Day was okay because it was before the shut-down, but Easter was a wash. Unfortunately, no one knows what will happen by November and December of this year, but we need to start ordering for it soon."

Brown produces three different products in his Belleair Bluffs factory:

1. Colorful Chocolates – The kind you see on display. They come in the special WD blue boxes and are 70% of his retail sales.
2. Gelato – According to Brown, "You may not know it, but we sell a lot of gelato. It usually sells for \$5, however, due to pandemic restrictions we are not selling it now."
3. Confectioneries – These are miscellaneous products such as candy bars and flavored popcorn.

Brown is constantly tweaking things. "We recently changed the packaging on some of gift boxes to see-through plastic," he says proudly. "In some cases, it increased the sales of those products by 500 percent! Those products have a long shelf life."

"We added a special new coffee espresso machine—just in time for the shut down," Brown says. "But for now, we can't have any lobby business to speak of, so we are not using it."

With the coffee machine, Brown had planned to offer a café-style breakfast with pastries, but that too, has temporarily been put on hold waiting for better days.

"Our Afternoon Tea was a big thing a few months ago," Brown says. "Most days, twenty or thirty people each paying \$15 or \$20 would enjoy our afternoon treats. That added \$600 a day to our bottom line. It too is on hold."

At the beginning of the year, William Dean employed between fifteen and twenty people. For the first few months after the shut-down started, Brown paid his staff, but he knew that could not go on forever. Today, Brown runs the entire store with two or three people including himself. "We do a lot of our production at night," says Brown. "During those days, we only have one person selling retail."

"We love being in Belleair Bluffs," Brown adds. "We have embraced the entire Belleair community and they seem to have embraced us."

William Dean Chocolates is located at 2810 West Bay Drive in the Bluffs Shopping Center. Call them at 727-593-0656 or visit www.WilliamDeanChocolates.com.



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Bar & Restaurant News



JAKE'S MOVES TO LULU'S LOCATION

"Lulu's Oyster Bar was experiencing great success and was loved by many. It ranked in the top one or two spots in TripAdvisor for years. However, the location was cramped and too small for the business. Changes to the facilities could not be

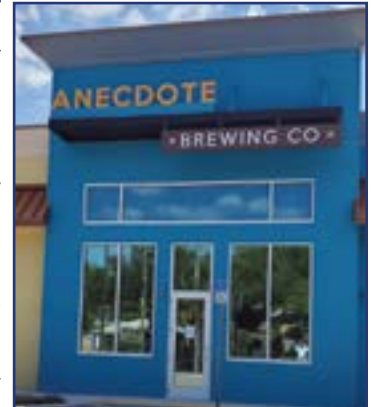
easily accomplished in our post Covid-19 world," says owner Matt Loder.

"We also had similar issues at Jakes Cantina - very popular and well frequented by guests, but small and tight. The conclusion was to move Jakes Cantina to the Lulu's location and make the changes to include spacing, southwest decor and comfortable outdoor seating. We broadened the menu to include more seafood, added great specialty margaritas, curbside pick-up, and online or phone takeout ordering, all new features to Jakes, which will become Jakes Coastal Cantina," Loder explains. "We have already been looking at a few new uses for Jake's space now that the move is done. Some of your Lulu's favorites will be added to the Crabby Bill's menu."

ANECDOTE BREWING REOPENS

Twice, they have barely opened a few weeks before being forced to close their inside seating due to Covid-19. Now, they are open for take-out only.

"Anecdote Brewing, like a good anecdote, is unique and memorable with beers that might just surprise you," says owner Philip Anderson. "The newest and closest brewery to the Gulf is proud to call Indian Rocks Beach its home and looks forward to putting the town on the map with the best brews in Florida," Locals are thrilled to get a craft beer on this side of the bridge. It is located next to the CVS store at 321 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rock Beach.



WING STOP Specializing in chicken wings, a Wing Stop fast food outlet opened in Largo, across from Largo Mall. Wing Stop is a dine-in/take out restaurant. They sell small (6), medium (8) and large (10) orders and larger packs for parties. They also serve loaded fries, fried corn, veggie sticks, and brownies. Find them at 10125 Ulmerton Road. Call 748-4500.

CLOSED / OUT OF BUSINESS

- Candy Kitchen** in Indian Rocks Beach will not reopen
- Los Mexicanos** located in Indian Rocks Beach at 301 Gulf Blvd, did not reopen after the Coronavirus closure.
- Lulu's Oyster Bar**, Indian Rocks Beach
- Panera Bread** The Largo Mall location is closed.
- Aqua Prime**, Indian Rocks Beach



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Bar & Restaurant News

BACKWATERS IS TWENTY

Backwaters of Sand Key will mark its 20th anniversary on August 17th. Each year, they normally, they have a three-day party to celebrate, but this year nothing is normal. The event may be downsized or even canceled depending on our "social distancing" guidelines in mid-August. If there is a party, it will be August 21-23. For updates, watch BackwatersofSandKey.com.



JEWEL CAFE SOLD

Jewel Café has had several owners and several names including The Black Cat and Pelelopes. Now, Chris Scott and Julie Champion owners of the Belleair Market have bought the small cafe located directly behind their store and have continued to run it as a small cafe. It is still open for breakfast and lunch. "We hope to offer it as a place for small meetings and receptions, as well", says Chris. The Cafe is located at 2601 Jewel Road, behind Belleair Market.

D.J.'S CLAM SHACK OPENS

You no longer have to travel to Key West to eat at D.J.'S Clam Shack, which was featured on the Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. We now have our very own location in Indian Shores. Owned by the same owners, this is a larger, air conditioned version of the Duval Street restaurant with the same menu - lobster and shrimp rolls, clams, cracked conch, shrimp, seafood tacos and more.



They are located at 19705 Gulf Blvd, next to Dog and Parrot Bar & Grill. See the complete menu at DJsClamShack.com. Call for take-out at 474-7407.

\$15 DINNERS AT SEAWEED Seaweed Grill in Belleair Bluffs is offering early bird dinner specials with 3-courses for \$15. The limited menu is available Sundays from 3pm to close, Mondays 4pm to close, and Tuesday-Saturday 4-6pm. Check it out at www.SeaWeedGrill.com.

NO MORE BREAKFAST After many years of serving one of Indian Rock's best breakfasts, JD's is no longer offering it. The good news is the music is back—inside and out. The bands on the back porch change out at 1 and 6pm. The Piano Bar is Friday and Saturday 7-11pm. They now open at 11am Tuesday through Sunday and Happy Hours are 11am to 6pm, daily. They are still family owned for almost 35 years. Find JD's in Indian Rocks Beach at 125 Gulf Blvd. or at www.JDsRestaurant.com.

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Bar & Restaurant News



E & E STAKEOUT - 35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

In September, E&E will celebrate their 35th Anniversary. Originally, the restaurant was "Eugen's." When head chef Erwin Scheuringer, joined owner Eugen Fuhrman, also the owner of Guppy's, the name was changed to E&E, for its two owners - Eugen and Erwin.

"We had planned to open the first weekend in September of 1985," says Erwin, "but that

was the weekend Hurricane Elena decided to visit the Pinellas coast. That Friday night, all of Pinellas County was instructed to evacuate. We had to put off our Grand Opening plans to the following week. But here we are—35 years later."

E&E Stakeout is located in The Plaza Shopping Center at 100 N. Indian Rocks Road. For reservations, call 585-6399. See their menu online at www.3BestChefs.com.

AQUA PRIME - OFF THE GRID Changes are coming to Aqua Prime. The owners told us they are redesigning the restaurant with a new theme and more. The Off the Grid Caribbean BBQ menu is moving inside and the name of the restaurant will change to "OTG." Remodeling is underway now. They expect the restaurant to reopen in the late fall.

KAHWA COFFEE Coffee lovers have probably noticed Kahwa Coffee in the Bonfish Plaza is still closed. It is partially related to the COVID-19 shut down and partially due to the remodel of the shopping center. "We are monitoring both and will make a decision of when to reopen when the dust settles," says owner Raphael Perrier.

CASA ITALI The newest Indian Rocks Beach restaurant, Casa Italia, survived its first year and what a year it was! The restaurant opened last year on July 12. Located at the north end of Indian Rocks Beach at 2699 Gulf Blvd., It is owned by Tony and Claudia Starova.

TASTE THE TOWN Sponsored by AMPLIFY Clearwater, this new restaurant event is being held August 10th through September 7th. The 4-week long culinary celebration offers 'foodies' an opportunity to experience top-notch dining and casual cuisine, at all of your favorite hot spots across Clearwater. Weekly menu specials will be shared on social media to help diners plan their dining strategy. There will be drawings and prizes for guests who dine at multiple locations.

Each week will be themed: Week 1: Drink outside the box! Week 2: Appe-TEASE the tastebuds! Week 3: Show us the beef! Week 4: SEA-food, eat food! For more information, visit amplifyclearwater.com/tastethetown

HELP WANTED Rich in history and tradition, the Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States. It is a private full service restaurant, and is always hiring different positions. If you are interested, please e-mail office@clearwateryachtclub.org with your qualifications and they will provide more information. The Club is located at 830 Bayway Blvd., Clearwater Beach.

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.

AUGUST ELECTION

August 18, Florida will hold a Primary Election. The deadline to register to vote has past, but you can still request a Mail In ballot until August 8. Early voting will be from August 8 until August 16. Currently over 685,000 voters are registered in Pinellas county (about 71% of our adult residents). Typically, 50 to 60% of the voters will vote in advance or by mail.

On the Democratic ballot there are two people running for Sheriff, two people running for Tax Collector and 3 people running for County Commission, District 7.

The Republican ballot contains two people running for Tax Collector.

Both ballots contain non-partisan races for Judges and School Board members

This is 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.

The Presidential election is Tuesday, November 3rd. If you missed the deadline to register to vote for the Primary Election, do it now to participate in the next election. Get more information or register to vote online at VotePinellas.com.

MARINEMAX DEDICATES NEW HABITAT HOME

For the third year in a row, MarineMax partnered with Habitat for Humanity to present a deserving family the keys to their new home in Clearwater, Florida.

"A Habitat for Humanity house dedication ceremony is life-changing," states Brett McGill, MarineMax Chief Executive Officer and President. "The pandemic presented challenges, but our leadership team came out to celebrate the occasion and honor the Taylor family."

On the morning of June 23, 2020, a single mother with twin 13-year-olds, an 11-year-old, and a 3-year-old received keys to their new home. MarineMax chooses to partner with Habitat for Humanity because their core values and mission are closely aligned. They wanted something that helps local communities and involves teamwork.

McGill continues, "when you take time to volunteer, you hear the history of Habitat, it's a moment that sets you back and makes you say – WOW! Their mission is very powerful. MarineMax has dedicated three houses, but we've been a part of two or three more builds. I started with them seven years ago because community service is significant to my family and to me. And it never gets old. Every year you see smiling faces from volunteers and you get to meet a new, deserving family."

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM WELCOMES RESCUED DOLPHIN

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is excited to announce it has been selected by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to be the forever home to a new rescued male dolphin. The new dolphin will provide a companion for CMA rescued resident Nicholas, another male Atlantic bottlenose dolphin.

In July 2019, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin stranded in shallow waters off Fiesta Key, Fla. When he was rescued, the dolphin was weak and was found to have severe pneumonia. After several weeks of treatment, the dolphin's health improved but further testing indicated he had hearing loss. Due to his ongoing health issues and hearing loss, NMFS ultimately determined the dolphin was not a candidate for release

Estimated to be approximately 26-years old, the dolphin weighs 700-pounds and has been named Hemingway. He joined Nicholas in CMA's new Dolphin Terrace.

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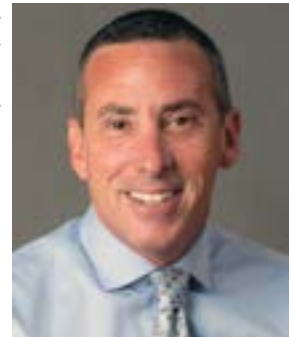
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MIKE TWITTY

Pinellas County Property Appraiser



Mike Twitty is the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, but do you know what he actually does?

Under Twitty's leadership, the Property Appraiser department evaluates, estimates, and officially certifies the value of all the properties in Pinellas County. Various taxing authorities and the Department of Revenue use that information each year.

Twitty, who was born and raised in Pinellas County and graduated from Largo High School and the University of Florida, supervises 130 staff members among ten departments. His team estimates the value of over 435,000 parcels of real estate plus 15,000 taxable tangible personal property accounts. In addition, his office is also responsible for administering all exemptions (such as homestead), the tax parcel maps, and maintaining ownership records countywide.

The Office of Property Appraiser is an elected position. Twitty, elected in 2016, is completing in his first term and will be on the ballot again in November. For 27 years prior to his election, Twitty was a professional property appraiser, appraising a wide array of commercial and residential projects in Pinellas County and across the state.

Many home buyers do not realize the "assessed value" of a home resets to its market value on the January 1 following its purchase. Out of state and first-time home buyers are surprised when it happens. You can estimate your taxes after purchase by using the "Tax Estimator" tool on the Property Appraiser's web site, www.PCPAO.org. The tool also takes into consideration homestead exemption and portability.

The deadline to late file for a 2020 Homestead Exemption is September 18. When making a 2020 application you need to also complete an extenuating circumstances form. Our COVID-19 disruption is a valid circumstance.

"Pinellas is Florida's sixth largest county, based on population, and the second to smallest in land area," says Twitty. "as a result, we are #1 in density. We have more people per square mile than any other county - more than twice the #2 county, Broward. For example, we have 3,500 people per square mile compared to 1,700 people per square mile in Broward (Ft. Lauderdale). As an effectively built-out county we must focus on responsible redevelopment."

"We are dedicated to producing fair and equitable Property Value Assessments within the county," adds Twitty. "I worked extremely hard during my first term to create efficiencies to improve internal operations and elevate our service to the public. I'm also actively engaged in the flood insurance arena as I understand the kind of impact it can have on our property owners and the equity in their homes," says Twitty.

Twitty was the catalyst for Constitutional Amendment #5 that will appear on the ballot in November. The amendment adds an additional year to the eligible portability time frame, guaranteeing a minimum of "two years" to transfer your "Save Our Homes" benefit and a maximum of up to 3 years, depending on date of sale. The current law allows two tax years, which effectively can be as short as one year and a day if a property is sold at year end.

For questions or more information, call 464-3207. The main office is located at 315 Court Street in Clearwater. There are three other offices located in Pinellas County. See their web site, www.PCPAO.org, for more information.

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PRESENTS A CONCERT SERIES IN NEW OUTDOOR VENUE

The Central Park Performing Arts Center is excited to safely welcome back customers with an outdoor Summer Concert Series presented on the newly-built Parkview Terrace. Come experience live entertainment again as we social distance with friends and family!

The three-show Parkview Terrace Summer Concert Series will showcase the Central Park Performing Arts Center's newest venue, the Parkview Terrace. Underneath a beautiful oak tree canopy and overlooking Largo Central Park, the new venue will have gated entry and extend across the Portico. Fencing will be installed around the venue for the duration of the Summer Concert Series, and tickets will be required for entry. Food for purchase, cash bar service and restrooms will be available indoors. An ATM will be available onsite.

Performers for the series include Reverend Barry & The Funk, an 8-piece funk and soul group featuring three Grammy-nominated artists, and Ronnie Dee & The Superstars, a local funk and rock band.

To preserve the health and safety of our guests and staff, four-top tables will be arranged six feet apart and sold only as a package to promote proper social distancing. Following the guidelines in Pinellas County's ordinance requiring face coverings, guests and staff are required to wear face coverings while inside the Central Park Performing Arts Center and while outdoors when social distancing is not possible from individuals outside of your household. All safety precautions are subject to change with updates to federal, state, or local guidance. For questions about the new venue, series, or seating, contact either the box office or the main office at (727) 587-6751.

Parkview Terrace Summer Concert Series Schedule, 8pm

Reverend Barry and The Funk: Saturday, August 1, 2020

TBD: Saturday, August 8, 2020

Ronnie Dee & The Superstars: Saturday, August 15, 2020

New Indoor Event in Addition to Series, 8pm

The Marlon & Carlin Comedy Show: Saturday August 29
Scheduled indoors inside CPPAC's Tonne Playhouse. Joe Beddia will perform hilarious tributes to legendary entertainers Marlon Brando and George Carlin in his "The Marlon & Carlin Comedy Show"

Tables of four for all indoor and outdoor events will be available for purchase as a package for \$80. Visit LargoArts.com or call the box office at (727) 587-6793.

The Central Park Performing Arts Center is a multi-purpose facility featuring a 443-seat theatre, a 200-person grand ballroom, and the Historic Largo Feed Store which holds 100. The Center promotes and encourages performing arts among the Tampa Bay community, hosting a variety of national, regional, and local artists and groups. Each space is fully equipped to rent for corporate functions, company meetings, receptions, and special events. Visit LargoArts.com.

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WHO IS GHD CONSTRUCTION SERVICES?

Sometimes companies tend to take things for granted, and aren't really empathic enough to realize that people are wondering about family owned businesses like GHD Construction Services. Maybe it's not that important when buying clothes or food from a local store, but after numerous customers kept inquiring about our company history, I thought I'd take this time to shed some light on our company. After all, when trusting a contractor with the large dollars needed for a new home to be constructed, it is very important to feel safe with that investment.

GHD Construction Services, Inc., begun as an "American Dream" of Tom Smith nearly 50 years ago, has constructed over 6,500 quality homes for families in Florida since 1971. After receiving an economics degree from the University of Florida in 1970, Tom began his homebuilding career in Pasco County, and now GHD is being continued under the leadership of the second generation, with son Brian at the helm. Brian also attended and graduated from UF with a finance degree, and has steadily and conservatively grown GHD over the past few years. Aside from the GHD homes along the Pinellas Beaches, under Brian's leadership GHD has become one of the largest producers of quality affordable apartments in the state of Florida, serving veterans and lesser income Americans. Providing safe and sanitary housing for families in need is an integral part of GHD's business plan to give back to those that served our great nation.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. is now branded as "GHD Coastal Homes" for our new waterfront home designs. In visiting the GHD model home, customers realize the Key West theme that resonates so well for our beach communities. Due to the volume of construction that GHD produces annually, and all the lessons learned from providing affordable housing, it became evident that quality affordable housing can be achieved for all price points of residential homes. With that in mind, GHD has developed

home designs for the Pinellas beaches that do not break the budget of those wanting a new home, either on the water or an interior lot in the Pinellas beach communities. GHD customers range from snowbirds now deciding to own a new home in Florida as a second home, to the many that already own homes here, but want a replacement upgrade on their existing home. For those families, GHD provides all the services necessary to demo their existing home, and work with designing a new home that fits their budget, then permitting and constructing their new home. GHD prides itself in being a "One Stop Construction Company", providing architectural services, permitting, design, and home construction, from start to finish, for customers to realize the enjoyment of a new Florida home with all of today's bells & whistles.

As a family owned business, we are very proud of what we have achieved in serving these thousands of Florida families.

GHD prides itself in being a "One Stop Construction Company", providing all of the many steps needed, including architectural services, permitting, design, and home construction, to realize the enjoyment of a new Florida home with all of today's bells & whistles

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and announces our GHD Coastal Homes for the Pinellas Beaches. Come visit our NEW SHOWROOM at 14995 Gulf Blvd., SUITE C, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD model, call (727) 954-8345, or email to: INFO@ghdcs.com. Meanwhile, look us up on our website at www.GHDcoastalhomes.com.

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Community News

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Denise Houseberg

The Beach Community Food Pantry, a mission of Calvary Episcopal Church, has been extremely fortunate to have loyal partners in and around their community. Recently, the BCFP requested funds from the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association, to purchase a backup camera plus installation for the food pantry truck and vinyl wraps imprinted for the barrels used in collecting food during local food drives. The IRB HOA honored the request and the barrels were recently used in our successful Spring Food Drives.

David Kline, past director at the local BCFP in Indian Rocks Beach, has been leading a small group of volunteers to ensure food is safely sorted, bagged and ready for pick up. As the need has grown, these food barrels have really helped the pantry acquire more food from local food drives.

"We can't thank the IRB Homeowners Association enough for their support," said David Kline. "Our gratitude is beyond measure for what they've been able to provide us in helping to serve food to over 26 communities in Pinellas County."

The hours currently available for pre-bagged food pick-up are Monday and Wednesday 10am to 12pm and Thursday from 5pm to 7pm. Clients are asked to 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.

BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB

They held their annual Installation at the Belleair Country Club on June 28th. Outgoing President John Funk presented Sebastian Berdychowski the President's gavel for the Belleair Rotary Club. John Funk received the Past President's Plaque for serving three times as Club President. Funk previously served three terms as the Clearwater Beach Rotary Club President.

The other officers are: Denis Demarino as Club Treasurer, Melissa Belus is the Club Secretary, Board members are Ulf Ambjornson - Public Relations, Hannah Al-Raee - Facebook/Special Events, Ken McCain - Vice President, Vickie Shire - YMCA /Special Events.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They are making tentative plans to begin their 2020-21 year with limited activities due to COVID-19. Please visit belleairgardenclub.com for up-to-date information on activity cancellations. The tentative fall schedule includes the following:

October 7- Field Trip to Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo
November 4- Outdoor meeting (weather permitting) Planned topic is Butterfly Safari

December 16- Outdoor meeting (weather permitting) Create Your Own Holiday Centerpiece (includes a fee)

For more information about these events, or for information on how to become a Garden Club member, email belleairgardenclub1@gmail.com.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are offering a membership special to make it easier to join the Club. With a \$500 deposit towards the initiation fee, you can make monthly payments on the balance of \$125 a month for twelve months. The initiation fee is \$2000, plus tax. This is available for a Full membership (\$185 a month) or Social/Seasonal membership (\$145 a month). Call 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

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Community News

BEACH ART CENTER

They are thrilled the Beach Art Center opened their new doors in July. They are following all CDC guidelines and safety protocols to ensure a comfortable and safe experience for all. They will be practicing social distancing and wearing face masks for your safety and theirs. Please know behind their masks there will be huge smiles greeting you. If you do not have one, they will be providing one.

The Gift Shop is stocked full of color and creativity; hand painted cards, gift bags, fabric art, jewelry, original paintings, pottery and more... all created by local artists.

Their art exhibit with the theme of "Art is Hope." opened July 13 and runs through August 28. Local artists are sharing what they've been doing since last they saw you. With this show all work is for sale.

The Pottery Studio wall was replaced to support their new windows. The construction meant they had to empty the studio which gave them a chance to clean house. When you return, you will see a newly reorganized area with increased space to work. Volunteers have built space specific shelving and organized all supplies and equipment. It is all very exciting. Ask for a pottery tour when you visit.

During their pandemic closure they offered online instruction through Zoom. While they hoped the impact on our lives would be temporary, they have come to realize we must adjust to living with this for a long time, so online classes and workshops will be a permanent part of their program going forward. They believe this will allow students to continue to learn and also offer students access to instructors unable to teach onsite. No matter where you are, with an Internet connection and a computer, tablet or smartphone, you can join the Zoom classes. Visit beachartcenter.org/classes for course offerings.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Belleair Beach Ladies Luncheon Club meetings are on hold until the virus threat is over. If allowed, they hope to start meeting again in the Fall, but it may be next year before large Luncheon meetings like theirs will be able to meet. They will keep you posted.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

The August luncheon is Friday, August 7, at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time starts at 11:30 am, with lunch at noon. August's program will be a Constitutional Primary Candidates Forum for Pinellas County Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections offices.

The September meeting will be held on the 11, one week later than usual due to Labor Day. The theme will focus on recognition of and honoring First Responders both from 9/11 as well as the pandemic. Speakers will be announced soon. The location for this program is also at the Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time will tentatively start at 11 am, with lunch at noon.

For both meetings, there is a mandatory pre-payment of \$25 for lunch, either check or cash, received by August 3 for the August meeting or September 7 for the September meeting. Payment should be sent to: BWRC c/o Linda Wade; 729 Creekside Lane; Palm Harbor, FL 34684. No credit cards will be accepted and no walk-ins will be allowed. Those attending are encouraged to wear masks and to practice social distancing by staying six feet from others who are attending, as well as observing other CDC safe practices so that there is a safe environment for all attending and serving.

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HAVE HAND SANITIZER DERMATITIS?

By Dr. Kathy L. Anderson, DO, FAOCD

Our world has changed since the beginning of the New Year! We are now wearing masks, using cleaning products constantly and using lots of hand sanitizer!! Our skin takes a beating with all the alcohol based products that are designed to sanitize and kill bacteria and viruses on surfaces and on ourselves. Our hands are saying "Ouch!" to all the washing and wiping!



According to the CDC, a hand sanitizer must have at least 60% alcohol to be effective against the Corona virus. Some products have more than 60%. That is a very high alcohol content to be bathing our hands in, over and over again.

Many people are finding their hands becoming dry, cracking and even bleeding, if it gets bad enough. And, those patients with Eczema will especially suffer as their hands will get very irritated and inflamed. What to do?

Well, first, we must keep up with the sanitizing and washing but, at the same time, let's think of ways to keep your hands comfortable while we work and take care of ourselves.

Keep your hands gloved while cleaning surfaces with cleansers or wipes. This will protect against some of the products. Change disposable gloves often.

Moisturize your hands after washing. Hyaluronic acid based moisturizers are great for keeping water content in the skin, but will not make your hands greasy. Neutrogena makes a good one called "Hydroboost." At night, you may want to try a heavier moisturizer like Aquaphor which will act as a protectant and barrier cream overnight. Aveeno also makes heavy duty moisturizers for people with Eczema, which are thicker and heavier for overnight healing.

Cortisone creams will help the itching and pain that can occur if your hands get really bad.

Over the counter cortisone might work, or you may need a stronger one from your dermatologist. Always put the cortisone cream on before your moisturizer. It will work best this way.

If you have eczema and your hands get REALLY bad with cracking and bleeding, you may need oral antibiotics from your doctor for a short period of time. This will help speed up the healing.

Remember, keep moisturizing and protect your hands! If hand dermatitis gets severe, it can be a difficult task to get hands back to a comfortable level, so prevention is the key! Keep moisturizers handy so you will not forget. Your hands will thank you!

To everyone: Stay safe, be aware, be kind and smile.

Dr. Anderson is a Board Certified Dermatologist who has been practicing dermatology since 1995 and has been in the Clearwater area since 1999. Find Dr. Anderson at 510 E. Druid Road, Suite A, Clearwater, or call her at (727) 462-5242.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION FOR HURRICANE SEASON 2020

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Benjamin Franklin was quite the wise man. In 1736, he famously penned “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” as an advisory to Philadelphians to prevent the many house fires of the era. Those few words neatly sum up the notion that it is far easier and better to stop a problem from happening than to stop or correct it after it has started.

Although we can’t avoid natural disasters like hurricanes, we can reduce their negative impacts by preparing as much as possible, especially in the era of COVID-19. Knowing what you can do today, before the danger is near, is the key.

As always, having a personal preparedness plan in place is essential, but since things have changed over the last few months, you may now need to revise your plan.

The best place to start a plan or make sure your plan is up-to-date is to download Pinellas County’s Hurricane Preparedness Guide - www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/allhazardguide.htm. The guide has everything you need to customize your family’s preparedness plan, including tips to deal with the still-present danger of COVID-19.

One of the first things you will need to know is your evacuation level and if you will need to evacuate. During a storm, it is essential that people shelter in structures that are built to withstand the winds and are outside of the risk of storm surge. If you do have to evacuate, this year more than ever, consider staying with family or friends, in a hotel or motel, or, as a last resort, at a public shelter. If you don’t have to evacuate and know someone who does, consider asking them to stay with your family during the storm. By doing that, you are helping create as much space as possible in our public shelters to maintain social distancing for those

with no other option.

Staying informed this year is very critical, as well. COVID-19 has presented many challenges that Pinellas County has had to adjust plans for, and new information emerges all the time. To help maintain social distancing, the Emergency Management team is currently updating the Pinellas hurricane shelter list to increase the amount of space allowed for each person or family. There may also be additional locations made available, known as non-congregant sites, and they are working through the details of this planning in conjunction with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management. Please continue to check Emergency Management’s website at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for updates.

Whether you evacuate or shelter in place you will need a hurricane kit. This year, we encourage everyone to add masks, hand sanitizer and wipes to their kit, especially if you will be sheltering with people from outside of your normal household.

Make sure you, and all of your family members, are signed up to receive emergency notifications from Alert Pinellas, that the settings to receive text notifications are activated, and that you keep your phones charged, on and nearby. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas to sign up.

In addition, the Ready Pinellas mobile app can help you complete your preparations with a personalized plan, checklist and helpful links. Ready Pinellas is available on Google Play or at the Apple App Store.

As you can see, putting in place an “ounce of prevention” this hurricane season will, no doubt, help you avoid that “pound of cure” Franklin warned about so long ago. Be safe and well.

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