

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

Florida's First President was a Whig

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

As most know, we are in the middle of a Presidential election. Since becoming the 27th state, Florida voters have participated in forty-two such elections; as part of the Confederacy, Florida did not vote during the Civil War. State voters have collectively chosen the winning candidate thirty-one times.

In Presidential elections, Florida voters have chosen sixteen Republicans, twenty-five Democrats, and one Whig. The first national election Floridians participated in was between Whig candidate Zachary Taylor, who was elected, and incumbent Democratic candidate James Polk who was defeated.

The Whig Party emerged in the 1830s as opposition to President Andrew Jackson and his newly formed Democrats. It was led by Kentucky's Henry Clay. The name "Whig" was derived from the name of an English party that was against absolute monarchy. The new party attempted to portray Jackson as "King Andrew."

The party pulled together members of the old National Republican Party and disgruntled Democrats. Whigs also had links to the defunct Federalist Party – the country's first political party. *- Continued on page 7*



President Zachary Taylor's official presidential portrait by Joseph H. Bush

Also in this Issue:

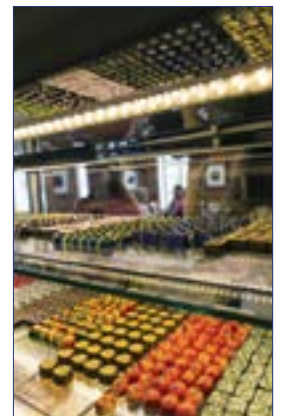


Our 9/11 Memorial and the Person Behind It

PSFRD sponsored a 9/11 Memorial in Indian Rocks and the driving force behind the project was Fire Inspector Robert Hill. *- page 19*

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 14*



Are Your Hands Suffering From Using So Much Hand Sanitizer?

Dr. Kathy Anderson has some solutions. *- page 24*

Ten Years of Senior Softball

A couple of retired residents wanted to play some softball. Six years later, over 90 members play on four different teams. *- page 20*

CREDITS



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PUBLISHER

Bob & Becky Griffin

ART DIRECTION

Becky Griffin

SALES

727-430-8300

CONTACT INFO

P.O. Box 1314

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

727-430-8300

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3637 Fourth St. N., Ste 101 St. Pete

Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090

Republican, District 66

1940 West Bay Drive, Ste 4, Largo

nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov

Governor Ron DeSantis

Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com

FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:

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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, Indian Rocks Beach Library.

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

Keep up to date with your local news; follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazine.

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER!

Everybody's Reading It! Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood News



Call NOW and reserve YOUR Spot in the November - Holiday Issue! 727.430.8300

SCANNING OUR HISTORY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Over the last 15 years, we have regularly needed historical photos for an article in this magazine. I would call one of several people who would search through drawers and boxes of stuff at the Indian Rocks Historical Museum, hoping to find what we needed. Now, that is a thing of the past.

Over the past year, volunteers and a few paid staffers have been sorting, scanning, and archiving pictures, articles, maps, and other items so it can be accessed and used in reproductions.

"I helped secure a \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy a few years ago to start this project," says History Museum President Terry Hamilton-Wollin. "Danice Sarcone, Jim Schnur, Nancy Ayers and I set up a plan of action in 2018."

"My job was to find the proper software, set up the electronic files and determine the searchable keywords to put into the database," says Danice. "We wanted to make the process user-friendly so it could be added to in the future."

"USF St Pete offered an intern majoring in history," says Terry. "He graduated in 2018 before finishing his part. To finish, Danice hired Gwynne English. She picked up the project over the summer and worked from home in her parents dining room."

"Basically, people gave me a lot of boxes of stuff," Gwynne recalls. "I had to sort it, scan it, database each item, and then categorize them all."

"There were categories, such as "bridges" or "beach" or "motels" and many others. We got many pictures dating from the early 1920s up to more recently in the '50s, '60s

and '70s. I had to put them in some sort of order."

"Some had info attached. Some had words written on the back. Some had no words at all. Sometimes you simply had to guess at the date or decade."

"We had many '50s and '60s postcards mostly from old Indian Rocks motels that do not exist anymore."

"We had many duplicates. In some cases, we went back to the people who donated the stuff to ask for more information," adds Danice. Shera Bie and Nancy Ayers helped identify documents, newspaper clippings and photographs.

When the major portion was completed, the grant money used to pay staff also ran out. But scanning will be an ongoing project, as additional old photos and artifacts are donated. The Museum would like to thank the many people who volunteered their time and worked on this valuable project.

Now, if you need a copy of something it is available through the Indian Rocks Historical Museum.




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Did You Know



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.

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.

OKTOBERFEST CANCELED For the first time in 19 years, Indian Rocks Beach Action 2000 has canceled this year's Oktoberfest, their largest fund-raiser of the year.

"We agreed that the risk was simply too great this year," says President John Ashby. "It is the right decision-based on what we know today."

Since Action 2000 relies on funds from this event to continue its beautification and preservation efforts, it is investigating a virtual event. An announcement will be come soon. For more information, visit www.IRBAction2000.com.

CITY WANTS YOU TO KNOW All vehicles on residential property must be in running condition and have current tags. All boats, trailers, and campers with current tags must be parked in your yard or driveway.

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. Visit pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/stormwater.htm.

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STILL TIME TO BE COUNTED!

Our community is currently under counted in the 2020 Census. To ensure an accurate count, part-time residents who own a second home need to take the census questionnaire for each location, but count their second home as having 0 occupants. Taking the census is quick and easy and ensures our communities get the funding they need for everything from roads to health care to education. For more information about taking the census as a second-home owner, please visit 2020census.gov.



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Because of the pandemic, the Ronald McDonald House had to suspend meal volunteer groups to maintain the healthiest environment possible. "We serve the most critical of kids in an already immune compromised environment," says Lisa Suprenand, RMHC Executive Director. An emergency fund has been created for meals and they are asking for donations. For information or to make a donation, visit www.RMHCTampaBay.org/CoronaVirus.

CITY GOES SOLAR In mid-August, contractors began the installation of solar panels to serve Indian Rocks Beach's City Hall Complex and the Museum. This project illustrates the City's continued commitment to energy conservation and reducing our carbon footprint. The list of previous and ongoing energy conservation projects include LED Streetlights, installation of solar pedestrian level lighting at beach accesses, LED lighting in City Hall, electric vehicles (EV) charging stations at City Hall and in the business district.

DROP OFF YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

If you are not comfortable voting in person, but do not want to mail your ballot, you can order a Vote-By-Mail ballot and drop your completed, signed, ballot in a locked ballot box. Pinellas County has designated drop boxes throughout the county. Find your desired location at www.VotePinellas.com, then click on your location to see available days/hours. An elections employee will deliver the locked ballot box to the Supervisor of Elections, daily. Visit www.VotePinellas.com within three days to determine your ballot was received.



The vote-by-mail drop box ballots are tallied before voting day ballots. With their permission, you can deliver friends and neighbor's ballots. You cannot accept money to do so. Deadline to register to vote for the Presidential election is October 5. The last day to request a mail-in ballot is October 24 and it must be received by November 3.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN NOVEMBER Read this issue, and others, online at www.BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazine - for ongoing local news updates.

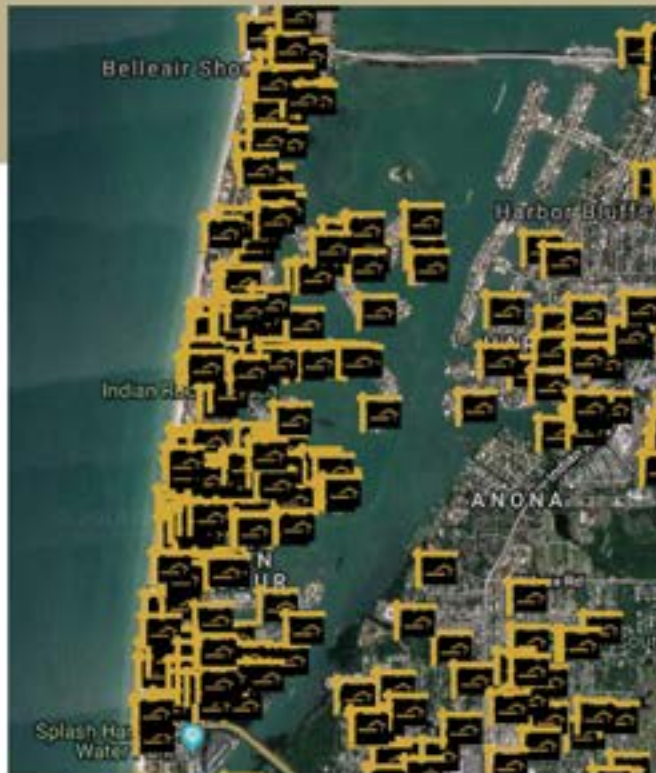
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Zachary Taylor-Florida's Most Forgettable President, cont.

The Whigs were an active political party from about 1833 until 1856 particularly thriving after 1840. They favored what was called the "American System" - protective tariffs, federal subsidies for infrastructure improvements, and creating a national bank. The party advocated modernization, rule of law, and protections against tyranny. The Whig's base of support was centered among entrepreneurs, reformers, Protestants, and the emerging middle class—but it had little backing from farmers and unskilled workers.

For those days, The Whigs were considered to be right of center. Democratic opponents often stereotyped them as the "party of the rich", but in reality, the Whigs were supported by an economically diverse group of voters, winning State and Presidential elections with mass support.

Whig candidate Zachary Taylor won Florida's first presidential election. The twelfth President of the United States, he was the second President elected from the Whig Party, and would become the second president to die in office. William Henry Harrison, the first Whig President had previously died in office.

Taylor was a military man. He served in the U.S. Army rising to the rank of Major General. He was a Captain in the War of 1812, fought under Andrew Jackson in the Black Hawk War (an Indian conflict), led troops into Florida during the second Seminole War, and led troops in the Mexican American War (during the annexation of Texas).

The Whig Party had to convince a reluctant Taylor to run for President on their 1848 ticket. The Whig National Convention picked Millard Fillmore as his running mate. While a well-known war hero, Taylor's political tenets were vague and not common knowledge. No other president had ever been elected without having held prior office. As it would turn out though, President Taylor would have a very short tenure.

Taylor took office on March 4, 1849. The country was only 73 years old and there were many controversies to deal with, but from the beginning, he kept his distance from Congress and even his cabinet.

There was much debate over slavery. The "Mexican Cession" was still an issue. Mexico had ceded land to the U.S. in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. Acquiring the land re-kindled the debate in Congress over slavery. Southerners hoped to enlarge the territory that would enter the union as slave states.

Anti-slavery northerners feared that very outcome. Despite being a southerner and slaveholder himself, Taylor did not push for the expansion of slavery.

Taylor urged settlers in New Mexico and California to draft constitutions of statehood, before new laws on slavery could be passed. When the "Compromise of 1850" (also called the Missouri Compromise) was introduced, the new law acted as a temporary truce on the issue of slavery, primarily addressing the status of the newly acquired territory.

On July 9, 1850, Zachary Taylor died, suddenly. It was reported after attending a Fourth of July event, he walked along the Potomac River eating large quantities of cherries and other fruits, while drinking iced water. A few days later he succumbed to what they called "stomach disease."

It was also reported he had ingested prescribed doses of opium, quinine, and calomel (a mercury compound). Some historians have concluded he was poisoned. No one knows the truth.

Due in part to his short sixteen-month term in office, historians ranked Taylor near the bottom of memorable Presidents, even referring to him to as the "Most Forgettable President in History."

Taylor was succeeded by his Vice President, Millard Fillmore who helped pass the "Compromise of 1850." That led to his defeat in the following election.

Already anemic, The Whig Party suffered a decisive defeat in 1852 due to divisions within the party. Tensions were mounting over the issue of slavery—as the country continued expanding to the west. For the Whig Party, the final straw was the signing of the "Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854" which overturned the Missouri Compromise and allowed each state or territory to decide for itself whether it would be a slave state or free state. The Whig Party collapsed.

Many alarmed Whigs formed the anti-slavery Republican Party in 1854. That newly formed party nominated Abraham Lincoln, who won the Presidential election of 1860.

Note: Key West is home to a Fort named for Zachary Taylor. The 54 acre Park and National Historic Landmark is located on the western tip of Key West. Construction began in 1845 and the fort was used during the Spanish-American War, World Wars I & II and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Today, it is known for its amazing snorkeling, fishing, and trails. ■



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SOCIAL SECURITY...

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by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Unfortunately, too many people just sign up for Social Security without realizing how many different alternatives exist. Even worse the Social Security Administration often gives faulty advice which can cost tens of thousands dollar or more over a recipient's lifetime.

You can start as early as age 62, but if you do then your benefit is reduced by 5/9ths for each of the first 36 months and 5/12ths for every month over that if you take it prior to Full Retirement Age (FRA).

The FRA is age 66 and 8 months currently. A \$1000 benefit at FRA is only \$717 at age 62. Additionally, if you are working and take the benefit before FRA and your earned income exceeds \$18,240, then your benefit is reduced dollar for dollar above this amount. There is no penalty once you reach FRA.

Then why would you even think about taking it early? You need the income, or you are in poor health and have a shortened life expectancy are two very good reasons.

On the other side of FRA, you might consider delaying until age 70. For each month after FRA you wait, your benefit increases by 0.66%. Thus, a \$1000 benefit at FRA could become \$1,266. If you do not need the income at FRA either because you are still working or have adequate cash flow, and especially if you anticipated a long life expectancy, then delaying might make sense.

If you are married for 10 years or more, you can take either 100% of your benefit, or 50% of your spouse's benefit whichever is higher. This option still applies, even if you are no longer married. Should the spouse with the higher benefit die, then the surviving spouse will get the higher benefit but lose their own benefit.

There is not enough room to delineate all of the alternatives and permutations. While the combinations are not endless, it can lead to over 500 ways to take Social Security according to www.bankrate.com. It is not something you want to do on your own. Without good software to guide you, you can be costing yourself a lot of money in retirement. Would you like to know your best alternative? For the first 25 people who call our office (ask for Beatrice or Oscar), we will provide you with a complimentary report.

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WEDU'S DOCUMENTARY "CANVAS WITH A CAUSE"

By Roxanne Mannello

In my final videography class at St. Pete College working towards my Associates degree in Digital Media, we were tasked with creating a local, art-related, 5-7 minute documentary for PBS/WEDU's Arts Plus program. Having previously been a resident of Indian Rocks Beach, I recalled the talented Plein Aire cottage artists that I had seen painting outside in their gay and stylish attire on several occasions.



Knowing how beautiful and colorful their paintings are of the picturesque beachside cottages, as well as the meaningful story of why they paint them – I knew they would be perfect for this assignment. Thankfully, my classmates Shance Youmans and Michael Dragun agreed, so after inquiring with the artists if they would be willing to be filmed, we began production in early February.

Meeting and filming the artists was truly one of the most special times of my life. Though I was not able to meet the third artist, Violetta Chandler due to scheduling difficulties, Helen Tilston flew all the way back from Ireland only a few weeks after leaving, in order to participate with year-round resident Mary Rose Holmes. I was so touched by their geniality – not only toward me but also to the many people that approached them for conversation or photos. I was, of course, in awe of their talent but also of their passionate devotion to painting every day and to doing all they can to save the cottages and history of IRB. I will forever be blessed with the memories of watching them fill their canvases with paint in the sunshine with the sea breeze whipping at their beautiful skirts, greeting passer-bys with smiles, and singing Irish melodies.

The weather, the setting, and the company was just delightful every time we filmed, I am sure it was every videographer's dream come true. In addition to the artists, we also interviewed and filmed numerous other residents of IRB – Billy & Shera Bie of Bie's Boathouse, Jim Labadie of Colonial Court Inn, Mary Wilkerson – of Sarah's Seaside, R.B. Johnson – former Mayor of IRB, Cookie Kennedy - current IRB Mayor, Dwight Holmes - Mary Roses' husband and IRB City Architect, Wayne Atherholt - St Petersburg's Director of Cultural Affairs, and Canadian tourist Ruth Collison. Though we were not able to include everyone's interviews in the short film, every single person we met was an absolute pleasure to talk to and obviously in love with the city.

As a result of so much cooperation, upon completion of filming in Mid-March we had literally hours of video that was masterfully edited down to six and half minutes by Shance. It tells the story not just of the beloved artists of IRB but also of the amazing character and beauty of the unique city itself and the hope that it will retain that history and camaraderie for future generations. We are delighted that WEDU was thrilled with our work and accepted our video to be shown on September 17th at 8pm. We hope the public will enjoy watching as much as we enjoyed filming!

An advertisement for 'Sign of the Dolphin' gallery. The top part features the title 'SIGN OF THE DOLPHIN' in large, stylized letters. Below the title is a photograph of the gallery's interior, which is filled with art, including a large painting of a boat on the wall and a sculpture of a dolphin. Text on the left side of the image reads: 'Internationally recognized, locally owned, AWARD WINNING Florida Lifestyle Gallery'. Text on the right side reads: 'featuring a collection of tropical home furnishings, clothing, wall art, sculpture, art glass, handmade jewelry, rugs and lamps.' At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the address '12999 Park Blvd. Seminole | 727-393-1400' and '1 mi. E of Park Blvd Bridge | www.SignoftheDolphin.com'.

An advertisement for 'R&A Financial Planners'. The top right corner features the logo 'R&A FINANCIAL PLANNERS'. The main headline reads 'TODAY'S MARKETS ARE WHY WE PLAN'. Below the headline is a photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) walking in a park with a dog. Below the photo, the text says: 'Worried about your investments? A good financial plan takes the uncertainty out of tomorrow and lets you live your life today. It is never too late to begin, but the sooner the better. Please call me to find out more.' On the left side, there is a list of services with checkmarks: 'Investment Planning', 'Education Planning', 'Retirement Planning', and 'Life Planning'. On the right side, the name 'Erin Emmett' is listed as 'Financial Planner' with the email 'erin@roganfinancial.com'. At the bottom, the website 'www.RoganFinancial.com' is provided, along with the phone number 'CALL 727.712.3400' and a small 'Member SIPC' logo.

Real Estate News

NOW YOU SEE IT; NOW YOU DON'T The Sight-Unseen Homebuyer

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



Did you ever think you'd see the day when a home or condo buyer bought a property without setting foot inside the front door? Me neither. But here we are... knee-deep in the era of "distanced" real estate buying with an estimated 20% of buyers signing on the line for one of their single biggest investments—sight unseen.

COVID-19 has altered traditional shopping behavior for most products and services: groceries, cars and the way real estate is "consumed." Let's face it, seeing a property in person before making a commitment is preferable. But, with COVID-19 limiting travel, out-of-town buyers have a choice: buying virtually or waiting until...until...until who knows when...to seal the deal in the flesh. One out of three buyers say they would opt for a distanced purchase rather than riding it out. That's especially true in Florida, where folks are coming to our state in droves from "somewhere else"—where they will soon be up to their armpits in ice and snow.

The pandemic gave real estate a swift kick in the technological rump. Static photos and virtual tours, once considered cutting-edge, are no longer good enough because they only show an "away buyer" so much. What gets the job done now is private video showings via live chat platforms like Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Skype, etc. Surprisingly, "video chatting" a prospective buyer through a home gives them a fairly good feel for the flow of the floor plan and the home's character, while allowing them to offer comments and ask questions in real time.

The "distanced" homebuying process is actually more efficient than the up-close-and-personal approach. It gives buyers the speed advantage required to keep from losing out on house after house in this fast-paced market. A buyer's physical presence is more emotional than anything so unless he/she is an appraiser or an inspector, they don't bring all that much objectivity to the party.

Two things a buyer CANNOT do without in a "distanced" transaction: the right facilitator--usually a real estate agent--and a top-notch home inspector. Dealing at a distance forces the buyer to place a heck of a lot of trust in the agent/broker since they are essentially the purchaser's "eyes and ears on the ground." Initially, it was a bit more responsibility than most of us signed up for and a little daunting, might I add. But, as it turns out, it's not all that much different than an in-person transaction.

Zillow claims the days of a family in a minivan touring open houses are over...and they could be right. Investors and international buyers have been buying properties blindly for many years. Now, in response to the pandemic, distanced buying has trickled down to the residential buyer and has contributed to homes and condos selling at the fastest pace in two years! Digital tools now provide enough confidence for a buyer to deal from afar so we can expect the percentage of sight-unseen buyers to do nothing but grow in the years to come. Meet the new real estate normal... which is anything but.



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BEACH ART CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Barbara Parker

When closed for Covid-19, the Beach Art Center offered online and Zoom classes. The Zoom classes were so successful we will continue to offer them as part of our permanent program. This allows students to join a class from anywhere and includes instructors regardless of where they may be, broadening our range of instructors.

Live on site classes returned at the end of August. We hold the health and safety of our staff and students in high regard and follow Covid-19 CDC guidelines, such as social distancing and mandatory masks.

You can see the entire schedule, pricing, registration and materials lists for live and online classes on our website, beachartcenter.org. Please register in advance, online.

Zoom (Online) Classes:

- "Paint Along With Barb" Acrylic Class - Mon.
- "Watercolor Step by Step" with Mary Spires - Wed.(and Tue. evening starting in Sept)
- "Exploring Watercolor Magic" with Roberta Romeo - Wed.
- "Pastel From Photos" with Shawn Dell Joyce - Wed.

You do not need to purchase a package; join us on a week to week basis. Classes are for all levels and mediums- Watercolor, Oil, Acrylics, Pastels, Water Media, Plein Air Painting, Drawing, Pottery & Clay Sculptures. Our pottery studio renovation is almost complete; watch our website for class restart dates. Pottery requires at least 3 classes to finish your projects.

Art on the Rocks These evening classes are 6-9pm and led by a talented instructor, all materials are included and at the end of the class you have a finished piece of art. It is typically \$38. Students often bring their own refreshments and experience is not required.... just come and have fun! Upcoming:

- Sept 1 Painting Knife Boat (different than the August class)
- Sept 4 Exploring Resin Jewelry
- Sept 18 A Sea Turtle painting

Special Workshops:

- Caroline Karp - "Sunflower Painting Adventure" Oct.17.
- Charlotte DiGennaro - "Paper Painting Collage" Oct.3 & 4
- Shawn Dell Joyce - "Figures on the Beach with Sorolla" Oct 25
- Violetta Chandler, well known Cottage Artist, "Impressionist Landscape Painting" Nov 7 & 8.
- Joye Moon "Large Luminous Florals" on Jan 16 &17 2021
- Carol Carter "Watercolors from the Beach" Feb 13 & 14
- John Clayton "Plein Aire Color Bootcamp", March 6 & 7
- Dick Ensing "Paint Loose & Free Using Water-Mixable Oils" on March 27 & 28.
- Suzanne Natzke "Light Up Your Watercolors" on April 24

Gift Shop If you are looking to Shop Local and support local artists, check out The Beach Art Center Gift Shop! From jewelry to textiles, one-of-a-kind paintings to pottery, and everything in between – our shop is stocked with items created by local artisans – guaranteed to make a one-of-a-kind gift for someone special. We also offer gift certificates for classes. Open 10am – 3pm, M-F

Art Gallery Exhibitions: Gallery shows are open and free to the public. Our next show, entitled "This Is America" will open on September 14th and run through October 26th. Let your artistic imagination bring out the spirit of America. Artwork in this show will be judged. Cash and ribbons awards will be presented. Artist may enter two (2) pieces per artist - artwork completed within the past 2 years. Please refer to Standard Gallery Requirements on the Beach Art Center website.

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Business Briefs



30 YEARS OF SWEET TREATS

The Pie Factory on the east end of Walsingham Road is surviving the pandemic, but just barely. "We supply almost 50 area restaurants with their cakes and pies," says owner Bobbie Barmore. "When they all shut down in March and April, they did not need our pies. That was a big chunk of our business."

But restaurants reopened, and other customers are once again visiting The Pie Factory just in time

to celebrate this month's 30th anniversary.

To make it easier for those that don't want to come inside, Bobbie opened a drive up window on the east side of the building. Call 593-1884 to order in advance for pick up.

Find them at 12777 Walsingham and online at www.FloridaPiesandCakes.com.

AMBROSIO IN INDIAN ROCKS

Frank Ambrosio, a Realtor/broker in Indian Rocks Beach for over 20 years, has had an office in town for ten of those years. First it was Prudential / Tropical, then it was Berkshire-Hathaway. In June, he became an independent and his company's name is now Ambrosio Realty. He has nine other Realtors working from that office, too. Find him at 1501 Gulf Blvd, just north of the old Red Lion. Call 433-0372.



SOLD OUT All three of the buildings, each with two units, being built by Jeff Beggins, owner and broker of Century 21/Beggins are sold. The development is at the south end of Gulf Blvd at 22nd Avenue.

DESANTI SALON Rapunzel's and owner Mary are gone. Now it is DeSanti Salon and Spa with new owner Santiago Canepa. Santiago is from Chile. He worked as an engineer in Brazil and Chile before moving permanently to Indian Rocks this year. His son attends college in Orlando.



His timing was not the best; he bought the business January 25th, started to remodel and March 17th the pandemic shut his doors until May 29th.

He used the two months to remodel the entire salon—new paint, LED lighting, bathrooms, furniture, services, and new products. During the transition, a few employees left and a few joined the new salon.

"We are a full-service beauty store offering hair, nails, makeup and skin care," Santiago says. "We want the IRB Community to feel good about our new salon," adds Santi. "We will do our best to serve them as they would expect."

CLOSED - Cari Jewelers, 13684 Walsingham, near Starbucks.



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Business Briefs



ALL WESTERN MORTGAGE INTRODUCES LOUIS IMBODY With over 40 years of experience in the industry, Louis specializes in reverse mortgages and down payment assistance. He is the Chairman of the Hope Expo and has counseled many first time home buyers. He is a valued source for understanding the details of reverse mortgages and helps people to retire easier using the equity in their home. He will explain the process clearly and walk you through every step of the way.

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Need cash now? Call or email today. Louis Imbody (NMLS #546381) 727-385-4301, Limbody@allwestern.com, All Western Mortgage is located at (ML #14210/MLS #1374312), 100 Corey Ave., St. Pete Beach.

GET FITNESS HAS NEW OWNER One thing new owner Dan Burke liked about Get Fitness is that it is not another run of the mill weightlifting gym. It engages members in training on their own or to join personal or group training and/or fitness classes. "There's literally something for everybody here," says Dan. Dan's son, James Burke, is the new on site manager.

"We have many SilverSneakers® members," Dan says. Silver Sneakers offers free access to Get Fitness members through a special 65+ Medicare Plan. "This gives our senior members daily classes and more to help stay in shape," said Dan. For fitness classes, members can sign up online making it easier to schedule smaller classes for social distancing.

Get Fitness is on top of the current COVID-19 restrictions. They rigorously sanitize equipment five times a day as well as having a professional cleaning each night. Masks are required to enter, but not during workouts. They offer private training in a sanitized location with a back-door entrance. Members have responded well wearing masks as needed and cleaning equipment after use.

Located in Barclay Square on Walsingham Rd. in Largo, Get Fitness is the perfect location for Indian Rocks residents. Now offering \$0 Enrollment for all memberships. Consider a free week at Get Fitness to see if it is right for you. www.getfitnessclubs.com.

SOUTHSIDE VEGGIES Now you can buy fresh veggies - without crossing the bridge. Southside Produce Market opened in August in the 14th Avenue Shopping Center. It is owned and operated by Morgan Myers and Danny Garqulo.

Southside gets fresh produce daily. They buy local whenever possible and guarantee their products. In addition to lots of vegetables and fruits, they also carry Plant City eggs, milk, bread, salad dressings, canned and jarred goods, Garlic Joy (garlic spread) and locally produced honey.

"We really love the people we have met here in Indian Rocks," says Morgan. "Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive."

Southside Produce is open seven days a week, 8:30am to 6:30pm at 1401 Gulf Blvd., near Pinky's Ice Cream. Call 727-219-7079.



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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, Belleair Bluffs in the Bluffs Shopping Center. Call them at 727-593-0656 or visit www.WilliamDeanChocolates.com. ■



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Restaurant News



NEW JAKE'S OPENS

The new Jake's Coastal Cantina, moved into the old Lulu's location at 416 First Street.

"Our move of Jakes Coastal Cantina to the new location is in response to the changes brought on by the Covid-19", says Matt Loder, owner of Crabby Bills. "Since opening on July 23rd, the guests have enjoyed a bigger, new space. They love the brighter

look, socially distanced space, dining area, hand-wash station, and the addition of several unique margarita choices. We are working on adding more staff and equipment as business has been very good. We are working on reducing wait times for our guests, too. We are very grateful for the opportunity to serve the IRB community in this wonderful new space."

See their menu at JakesCoastalCantina.com for take out. They also offer catering.

GROUPERS HAS NEW OWNERS The restaurant was sold and new owners Mike and Betty Alfaro hope to be reopening any day now.

It will be a family affair. Their three sons are also involved. They are modifying the kitchen and plan to sell more varieties of cooked and fried seafood. In addition, expect soups, salads, beer and wine. They will offer delivery to the local area.

Look for them to reopen by Labor Day at 1401 Gulf Blvd Shopping Center - in the corner.

THAI PAN ALLEY SOLD For the restaurant's 30th Anniversary, it is getting a new owner. Owner Joey Buck bought it seven years ago restaurant; now he is selling it. The deal closed just as this issue was going to press so few details are known yet. Thai Pan Alley is located at 2300 Gulf Blvd, in the strip center with Café de Paris.

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, Belleair Bluffs. For reservations, call 585-6399. See their menu online at www.3BestChefs.com.



Restaurant News



THE HAUS COFFEE SHOP

Replacing the Coffee Mill, owners Rhonda Bartz, her son Michael, and daughter Isabella may be new to the neighborhood, but not to the coffee business.

This is their second location, the first Haus Coffee Shop opened at 3690 East Bay six years ago. "The past six years have been an amazing journey, with a lot of hard work," says Rhonda. The new location opened in March. Find them at 12199 Indian Rocks Road, just south of Anona Elementary. Call them at 470-9151. When you visit, ask for their free coffee punch card Visit TheHausCoffeeShop.com.

\$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.

RED LION STATUS They have been waiting on Pinellas County to issue building permits. Halfway through the project the City of Indian Rocks Beach did away with their own building department and the bar owner had to resubmit the paperwork. There was already a backlog due to the shutdown. They hope to receive them soon.

LIGHTHOUSE DONUTS The owners of Aqua Prime also owns the Lighthouse Donuts building. They are doing minor work on the building inside and out. It is available for lease.



CAFE LARGO CELEBRATES 34 YEARS Dominique Christini, and his wife Kathy, opened Cafe Largo 34 years ago this month. This is one of the few French cuisine restaurants in Pinellas County and is always on the Tampa Bay Time's Top 50 list.

In addition to its classic French cuisine, the restaurant is known for its cooking classes and private wine pairing dinners, but unfortunately, both are suspended due to Covid-19.

Café Largo is located at 12551 Indian Rocks Road N., just north of Anona Elementary. Visit www.cafelargorestaurant.com to view their menu. Call 727-596-6282 for reservations (50% dine-in capacity) or to place a carry out order.

CLOSED

GROUPERS at 1401 Gulf Blvd, (Reopening soon).

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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 "3 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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9/11 REMEMBERED WITH A MEMORIAL IN INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Where were you when the World Trade Center Twin Towers were attacked on September 11th 2001?

Robert Hill (then 38) was living and working for both the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. About 6 am, local time (three hours different from New York time), Hill got a call from his boss, the Sheriff. "Come immediately and bring all your stuff," he said. The rest is history.

Hill retired in 2005, but his memories of that day are very vivid. Four years later, he moved to Pinellas County to be closer to family and took a job at the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District (PSFRD), as a Fire Inspector.

Building a PSFRD sponsored 9/11 Memorial in Indian Rocks Beach was a long time goal that spanned the terms of three fire chiefs. It was former Chief Rusty Livernois' brainchild who handed it off to former Chief Robert Polk.

Chief Polk, who hired Hill, became aware that they could acquire a portion of a steel beam from the World Trade Center. "It required a special request and acquisition from the New York Transit Authority," Hill recalls. Overall, it took a few years to transfer it to Indian Rocks, so there was time to develop a plan

Chief Polk recognized Inspector Hill's artistic and design skills and asked him to come up with a concept using the steel I-beam. The very next day, Hill had a rough idea of what you see today in front of PSFRD's Station 27 on 1st Street, behind Slyce.

The scope of the project grew much larger than anyone had imagined. Hill had designed a large structure using the actual steel beam in the middle with other aluminum siding in the shape of a 'V' sitting in a fountain. He contacted local Indian Rocks' artist and steel worker, Mark Wahol who added the idea of wrapping the beams in a colorful ribbon of aluminum representing an American flag in a fountain.

There were problems along the way—one being the cost, which grew to be much more than expected. "Just because you get a free steel beam, does not mean the expenses stop there," says Hill.

The memorial was not cheap - the entire project cost somewhat over \$15,000. Since there were no funds budgeted, Inspector Hill assumed the responsibility of raising the needed money.

"We used the existing Volunteer Fireman Association's 501-C corporation, to help raise money for this non-profit project," Hill explains. "We created a special 'firehouse' cookbook full of local recipes that we sold all over town and at local events for a donation," Robert explains. "Many local businesses graciously offered money for sponsorship. We displayed the beam, along with renderings and took donations at the Taste of IRB during the campaign. Even the Town of Indian Shores, also served by PSFRD, pitched in.

"Permitting was an enigma, too", recalls Hill. "The city struggled with whether to classify the project as a building, a pool or 'art in a public place'."

The memorial was dedicated on September 11, 2015, with a ribbon cutting that included many people who helped with the project. There was even a flyover of a large C-130 from the nearby Coast Guard Station.

19 years after the attack, the memorial still attracts a lot of visitors. People remember the event. Some were there. Some knew people who were there—and died. Many say they lost someone that day. Visitors throw money in the fountain. "Some people just hand us money - \$10, \$20 or \$50 - as a



donation", says Hill. The collected money is donated to various local Fire Department charities, such as The Children's Burn Center.

"There are so many people to thank who had a hand in this project," Hill says, "including contractors, plumbers, electricians, suppliers, pavers, and others donated their time and talents. This includes my wife Lynne, who added ideas to the project and came and helped stir the cement, set stones, and clean up."

"While everyone at PSFRD felt truly honored to have received a memorial section of the World Trade Center, it was through the vision, design and perseverance of Inspector Hill that the project was brought to life," says Father Bob Wagenseil. "His devotion to this memorial was and is exemplary."

We should all thank Inspector Hill, area contractors, businesses and members of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District for the beautiful and permanent memorial they created honoring the many people that died that day. ■

THE MEMORIAL HAS MANY SYMBOLIC REFERENCES

The Pentagon Shape: The Pentagon also attacked that day.
 The I-Beam: Actual steel beam from the World Trade Center.
 The Aluminum V: Outside of the World Trade Center Towers.
 The Keystone: The official symbol of the State of Pennsylvania.
 343 Brick Pavers: The 343 Firefighters who lost their lives.
 The Medallions: Each of the armed services.
 Herring Bone Bricks: Others who helped or died that day.
 The Pool of Water: The water surrounding Manhattan.



Photo credit: Bob Griffin

By Guy Coreno, a "Founding Father" & Chief Umpire

Have you ever just called a few friends for a pick-up baseball game? Ten years ago a group of guys, all over 60 years old - including me - did just that. The rest, as they say, is history.

Back in 2010, I bought a couple of softballs and gloves at the flea market. A short time later, our friends Sandy and Patti Sullivan, visited and after dinner, I asked Sandy if he would like to play catch. While we were throwing the ball, I remarked how great it would be if we could get more guys together and play softball. Sandy said his friend, Bert Valery, could help organize it and get more players. So, Sandy called Bert and that was the grassroots of Indian Rocks Beach Senior Softball.

Freddie Geissler, who had been a little leaguer on IRB's Campalong Field since he was 8, joined Bert, Sandy and I as we set out recruiting players, anyone! We gathered at the field and waited for players to show up and even tried to snag guys passing by, innocently walking their dogs. Our foursome became what is referred to by our team members as the "Founding Fathers." This year, we proudly celebrate our 10th anniversary as we look back at how it all began.

"Guy called me about playing and organizing shortly after I left the IRB City Commission so I made the request of the City to 'bless' our group," Bert Valery said. Today, with every swing of the bat, we are grateful to the City of Indian Rocks Beach for their support through the years.

Initially, it took quite awhile to form barely two teams. During the "first draft," Bert took Freddie; I took Sandy. When we were done, we only had six

(6) players per team so we played on only half-a-field, moving the pitcher's mound to 1st base. The first two teams were the Blue Team known as "Bert's Blues" under Coach Valery and the Gold Team a/k/a "Guy's Gold" with me as its coach. Our very first practice was held on September 10, 2010.

It had been many years since most of us had played ball; decades in most cases. Players would show up for the first time, hit the ball, make a run for

dropped the age below 60 and also allowed people from nearby cities to play as well as a few of the players' kids," Bert said.

With Bert's help, we are now incorporated as IRB Senior Softball with a nine-member board of directors led by President Earl Wesson. The league has grown to over 90 players on six teams. 33 players are over 70, seven of those over 80! Eight umpires officiate, three at each game, and we even have fans cheering us on from the stands.

Should you ever want to stop by and see us in action, our games are generally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5pm at Campalong Field, on the southwest corner of Kolb Park. We also play pick-up games on Sunday morning at 9:30am, if you'd care to "dust off your glove" and join us!

No matter where we go such as restaurants, shopping, city functions, etc., we run into other players and their families. We have built lasting friendships and are like family. Player Andy Heafner's

last request after his passing was to run his ashes around the bases - one last time. So, a group of players carrying his urn, with tears in their eyes, rounded 3rd and headed home.

And just think - it all started with two old guys wanting to re-live their youth playing a game of catch. It's still a thrill and an honor every time I get to holler: "Play Ball!"

Interested in playing in the IRB Senior Softball League? Visit our website at www.irbssl.com, like us on Facebook or contact Earl Wesson (813) 220-8589 or ewesson@tampabay.rr.com. ■



Founding Fathers - Guy Coreno, Sandy Sullivan, Freddie Geissler and Bert Valery

Photo credit: Ted Froberg

1st and down they'd go! But, despite the injuries, they kept coming back for the camaraderie and the love of the game! Finally, the number of players grew to field two full teams that played for the next two years.

















Through word-of-mouth, and while a few women joining in, we grew to four teams, playing a rotating schedule leading up to a championship game.

"Originally the concept was to form teams where everyone was a 'senior' (over 60) and from IRB only," recalls Valery.

"But, we had so few players, we

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LOCAL COUPLE MAKING FACE MASKS DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Pete Magnani

In late February, as the Covid-19 pandemic began spiraling, Eva and Waldemar Kubiak watched the news with trepidation. Italy went on lock down, and our Surgeon General was telling people not to buy masks - we needed to save them for the front-line healthcare workers. The Kubiaks did some research and discovered a gaping hole in the U.S. market for medical face coverings.

In their early 20s, the Kubiaks had emigrated from Poland to Chicago. There, they developed several successful businesses, including a riverboat tour, a granite company, and several indoor soccer facilities. (In Poland, Waldemar was a professional soccer player.) Two years ago, they moved to the Sunshine State, settling in Clearwater Beach and opened The Clearwater Fun Boat and Summertime Boat Rentals at the Clearwater Beach Marina. The pandemic lockdown temporarily closed both businesses.

In researching mask production, the Kubiaks found over 80% of the medical face coverings sold in the U.S. are manufactured in China. With trade shut down by the pandemic, Eva, whose mother was a nurse, felt an obligation to try and produce an alternative.



"My grandparents survived World War II and my parents lived through communism in Poland. I felt like this (the pandemic) is MY war," she said. The couple decided to manufacture

masks and began to acquire the necessary machines and materials.

Eva reached out to Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard, who connected the Kubiaks with the City of Clearwater Economic Development Team, and the Pinellas County Emergency Management Team. After several delays and roadblocks, the Kubiaks purchased the necessary machines and found a suitable manufacturing space at 2310 Tall Pines Drive in Largo. The next hurdle was locating the filtration materials for the three mask layers.



Outside China, the fabrics are only made in a handful of countries, with only two U.S. producers. It was important to the Kubiaks to source material domestically, and they were able to secure supply from both American companies. After receiving orders from Pinellas County and several private companies, production began and AmerMed was formed. It quickly grown to nine employees. They currently produce about 50,000 masks per day and can manufacture over 150,000 per day should demand increase. Their masks have completed two of three tests necessary for FDA approval and anticipate passing the third requirement shortly.

With the lock down over and tourism returning to Clearwater, the Kubiaks' boat businesses have reopened. Still, Eva and Waldemar hope to continue making a difference in the pandemic fight producing a quality product here in the United States.

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PINELLAS CARES ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

This year, I'm sure, will go down in the record books. Not only have we had the life-threatening coronavirus to worry about, we also had to close tourism venues, businesses and schools. With those closures came job loss or job suspension for many in Pinellas County.

To meet the growing need for financial assistance, the federal government provided funding with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March. Pinellas County received \$170 million to address the community's most pressing needs related to COVID-19. Thousands of individuals and local business owners have already received emergency financial relief through the Pinellas CARES program, but even more help is now available.

For individuals, families and our workforce, financial assistance up to \$5,000 per household is available for overdue rent, mortgage and utility bills due since March 1, 2020 for those who lost a job or significant income due to COVID-19. The application process has been simplified to make it easier to get help. If you need this type of help, visit www.covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascaresindividual to learn how to apply.

Financial assistance for nonprofit community organizations that provide critical services and investments in countywide COVID-19 response is also available. Through a partnership between Pinellas County government and Pinellas Community Foundation, \$29.7 million is available to support nonprofit organizations to cover increased demand for supplies and programs resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. To apply, visit www.pinellascf.org. You can also learn more about the application process and what you will need to provide by

visiting www.cares.pinellas.gov.

In addition to nonprofit organizations, child care providers can also apply for CARES financial assistance. Through a partnership between Pinellas County and the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County (ELC), \$4.6 million is available to help child care organizations whose business was negatively impacted due to COVID-19. The Pinellas CARES Child Care Program provides one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to licensed, Pinellas-located child care providers to cover expenses such as employee wages, vendor bills, rent, and health and safety investments. The ELC will contact all eligible providers directly via email with application instructions. If your business is eligible and hasn't received an email or you need assistance applying, contact the ELC at (727) 400-4436 or email ceckrem@elcpinellas.org.

As of this writing, more than \$16 million dollars in local business grants have already been issued in the first phase of the program and additional funding for business grants was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in July. The program is now open to a wider range of small businesses and primarily focuses on assisting businesses that were required to shut down or whose customers were required to shut down. For more information about the expanded Pinellas CARES Small Business Grant program, visit www.covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascaresbusiness.

I hope your family is doing well through this crisis and that, if needed, you get the necessary financial assistance. To learn more about the Pinellas CARES programs, visit <http://cares.pinellas.gov>.

As always, please email me with your thoughts and concerns at kseel@pinellascounty.org.

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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.

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Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HISTORY MUSEUM

Submitted by Terry Wollin

The Indian Rocks Beach History Museum will remain closed until October 1, 2020. Although closed to the public, they will offer personal tours as they have during hiatus in the past. In deference to the COVID 19 pandemic, a maximum of 4 people will be allowed inside the museum at any time. Entrance will be through the east side door and a mask for each person will be required. Staff will sanitize common areas between visits. The cost is \$20 for up to four guests. To reserve please call Carol at 727-595 – 9741.

Those wishing to become museum volunteers can arrange personal training on-site by calling Terry at 727-593-5021.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH ROTARY CLUB

Submitted by Vernon Bryant

Steve Dante is the new President.

They are rehabbing the Rotary Centennial pavilion in Indian Rock's Chic-a-Si Park. The project includes repairing and supplementing the support structure and redecking it with Trex.

They are sponsoring a teacher breakfast for Anona Elementary with the help of Crabby Bills.

They were able to participate in the first graduation at Richard O Jacobson Technical High School and presented their Student of The Year award to the first and only graduate, Clarissa.

They are continuing with their Big Game Raffle with the Grand Prize of a trip to the Superbowl here in Tampa Bay.

Their meetings are via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:15am and are looking for guest speakers. Their doors are always open to guests. Send inquiries to Vernon at vrbryant56@gmail.com

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country. You don't need a boat to join in their fun, most of their social activities center around parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki-Bar.

They are a private Club and for those members that prefer eating outdoors, they added a large outdoor tent on the Tiki Deck providing additional sun protection. In addition, they have now added Friday evening live music for our membership on the Tiki Deck and on Sunday afternoon. Their Sunday breakfast is back. Following guidelines, they will bring it to you instead of serving yourself at the brunch table. Come out for a scheduled tour or call for more information 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

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.

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BELLEAIR BLUFFS 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.” ■

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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CONNIE ALLEN DIES

Former Indian Rocks City Commissioner Connie Allen lived in Indian Rocks Beach most of her life. After raising twin sons, she became a two-term City Commissioner in 1989.



Connie and her sons

"It was not a great time for Indian Rocks", says her husband David. "There were problems with the City's management, the local police department and employee morale. At the end of her second term, there was not much left to fight for. That is when she got involved in Heritage Village and the Historical Society."

"I thought of Connie as a 'blithe spirit'. She was always happy and everyone loved her," says Terry Hamilton-Wollin, her neighbor for 25 years. "She was passionate about her city, Florida history and the cats she rescued from the animal shelters. Connie was also active in the City's Beautification Committee."

After her four years on the City Commission, she volunteered at Heritage Village and recently became the President of the Historical Society—the fundraising arm of the Village.

"She loved acting as a docent and taking visitors on tours in the Village," says Rosemary Kafer, who volunteered with her. "She also was helpful in protecting the Village's collections and archives," she adds. "Connie enjoyed working with the donations—from photographs to household items, such as clothing, furniture, glass and antiques—items big and small. She was enthusiastic and took that job seriously."

"We were more than co-volunteers," Kafer says. "We were friends, working as friends."

Connie was on the Collections, Christmas House Decorating, Flea Market, Jubilee, Scholarship, Budget, and By-Laws Committees. Last October, after serving on the board for over ten years, she was elected President.

"The PCHS has certainly lost a dedicated and dependable member—and I have lost a dear friend," Kafer says.

"She was my wife for 39 years and mother to our two boys," says David. "You cannot imagine how much we miss her." Her sons Gus and Sam, both 35, now live in Tampa.

Connie died June 17. David says a donation may be made in her name to the Pinellas County Historical Society.

CENSUS IS WRAPPING UP

Census takers are visiting homes to collect responses from those whom have not already responded to the 2020 census. If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response. Census takers will wear masks, follow local public health guidelines and take a virtual COVID-19 training before beginning to work in your neighborhood.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language. If no one is home when the census taker visits, they will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail. If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. A census taker will never ask for your social security information.

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) unveiled their new Dolphin Habitat, the Ruth and J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex, where Winter and the other dolphins will live. The Ribbon Cutting took place at the end of July. The complex, part of an \$80 million expansion project is the culmination of a fourteen-year dream of a state-of-the-art dolphin facility to house those dolphins who cannot be released back into the wild. Now, they have a forever home where they can enjoy a good and wholesome life in an enriched environment. The five pools in the complex, totaling 1.5 million gallons with nine viewing windows, were designed with the input and collaboration from some of the world's leading marine mammal veterinarians and scientists who provided their expertise. The Complex triples CMA's dolphin pool space, allowing for the care of additional rescued animals.



The nine viewing windows offer sweeping underwater views of all five residents Winter, Hope, PJ, Nicholas and Hemingway, including the 40-foot wide by 14-foot tall Kate Tiedemann and Ellen Cotton Main Dolphin Pool and Observation Window. It is also known as "The Window of Wonder." Weighing 52,000 pounds, it is one of the biggest acrylic windows in Florida!

Nicholas and Hemingway were the first to be relocated into the new pools. A few days later, Winter, Hope and PJ joined them in their pools. While these moves may seem like a non-event, they are not. It takes a great deal of pre-planning to orchestrate such relocations and the moves were made without incident through the coordination of their animal care team, dive team, veterinary team, facilities team, and volunteers.

"We are so excited to unveil this beautiful new space after fourteen years of planning and discussions," said CEO Frank Dame. "Each guest that comes through our doors allows us the ability to rescue, rehab, release, and care for our non-releasable resident marine animals." Dame continued, "With the additional capacity this beautiful and custom-made habitat affords us, we will be able to care for twice as many rescued animals and give them the best care available."

The opening of Winter's new home is the first in a two-phased opening for the Stone Dolphin Complex. It provides them with triple the space for the dolphins, five times more space for guests and almost 400 parking spaces for guest vehicles.

This fall, CMA will open the third-floor access to the Stone Complex with views of Clearwater Beach and the top of the dolphin habitats. Additionally, Phase II of the expansion project will also include a new entrance experience, new dining areas with locally-sourced food options and beer and wine, a new retail area, private event space with a ballroom and full prep kitchen, a high tech theatre, double the education space, four private meeting rooms, and five-times the guest space.

Due to the pandemic, all tickets, boat trip sales, and parking must be pre-purchased online or through a hotel front desk or concierge. Face coverings are required for all guests ages 5 and up. No exceptions. Limited capacity is in effect. Clearwater Marine Aquarium is located at 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater.

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DALLAS SAUPE - THE BUSKER OF PIER 60



By Bob Griffin

"I've been an entertainer all my life," says Dallas Saupe. "It started in the 5th grade and just got bigger year by year. I learned to juggle when I was ten. I come from a family of entertainers and was always the class clown."

Dallas is the guy at Pier 60 Sunset Festival who juggles, escapes, and balances things on his head as he entertains the crowds most evenings at sunset. In the classical sense, he is a street performer, but he likes to be called a "busker" - a person who practices the art of "doing things (entertainment) in public to collect money."

Dallas was born into a military family in Delaware and was raised in Illinois. He lived in Clearwater Beach for 19 years and moved to Dunedin 6 years ago.

Growing up in a small Illinois town, everyone knew everyone. His yard was the neighborhood's playground. His brother, who was four years older, juggled and performed physical tricks and Dallas tried to keep up.

"The tricks and the juggling started as a hobby, something to do with friends," says Dallas.

Each winter, his high school had a Middle Ages/Renaissance themed "Madrigal Dinner." The kids put on a show while the parents ate an eight-course meal. The event featured all kinds of tricks and entertainment and Dallas and his brother's style were a perfect fit.

One year, his brother played the Court Jester. Following in his footsteps, Dallas played the Court Jester four years later.

"In junior and senior high schools, we performed at half time between basketball games," recalls Dallas. As a high school freshman, Dallas and his buddies won the school's talent show.

After high school, Dallas joined the Air Force Reserves and was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi, a short hop from

New Orleans. "I was surprised how many street performers there were," says Dallas. "That is when I first realized you could make money at this".

In 1993, Dallas moved to Sarasota and got a real job. Nearby Bradenton, also known as "Circus Town," was where several circus performers spent the winter. One day, he saw an ad looking for jugglers with the "Roberts Circus." He was curious and went to watch. After watching the other guys try out, he borrowed some pins and showed them what he could do. The owner liked him, and Dallas literally ran away with the Circus.

The Roberts Circus was what they call a "Mud Show"—meaning they played a different city virtually every day. A year later after that got old, he moved to Clearwater. The City was in the process of creating its Sunsets at Pier 60. "Once again, I just went there just to see what it was all about," Dallas remembers.

"We had the pleasure of meeting Dallas, -also known as the human volcano, street performer extraordinariness, back in 1995. He was part of the opening team for our Pier 60 Concessions. Dallas was new to the area and worked part-time for our operation. During the evenings he would balance a lawn mower on his chin, with the grand finale of his 'human volcano' fire breathing as part of the Sunsets at Pier 60 Festival. Dallas has played a huge role in the success of the nightly sunset celebration. He is not only a seasoned entertainer, but more importantly a friend and someone who is passionate about Clearwater Beach," Lisa Chandler, Coordinator of Pier 60 Events explains.

The Pier 60 area was under construction and it was not anything like it is today. "The talent consisted of a juggler, named Dextre, and Wade Henry, a guy who juggled while riding a unicycle. Eventually, I was given the job of Busker Coordinator," says Dallas. "It was my job to find and review other entertainers."

"I have worked closely with Dallas, since 2000. He is an great asset to Sunsets Daily Festival. He always has the festival as his top priory. I look forward to working with him for many years to come," says Sunsets Pier 60 Manager Jean Hagen.

Today, Dallas and his oldest son Nick (28) work together at Pier 60. Even his youngest, The Great Carter (5) has a few tricks of his own.

"Traveling entertainers have a name for the venues where they perform - 'The Pitch.' My pitch is Pier 60," says Dallas. "The people here are honest, nice, and so

appreciative—and I never have to worry about someone stealing my stuff."

"The best day I ever had was in 2015—the day after Christmas. Even though it was threatening to rain and the crowds were small, the watchers were in the Christmas spirit. The people were very generous with their tips."

"America has become more of a cashless society. In general, this has hurt the tipping industry. People rarely carry cash and rely on credit cards and APPS. So, I have to have an APP on my cell phone to receive their tips."

"Those who come to the pier to watch sunsets are a mixed crowd. It has changed over the years and is probably 75% tourists and 25% locals. With the construction of new and more expensive hotels, the clientele has gone way up."

"I regularly perform at private events; businesses hire me for major corporate events. I do not do kids birthday parties—that is just not my thing. Sunsets at Pier 60 is my best event."

"On March 12th, the world as we know it changed due to Covid 19. Our festival shut down for three months and the entertainment still hasn't recovered. Many people have been forced to reinvent themselves. Nick and I don't get any satisfaction from doing Zoom or social media shows. We totally feed off the energy of a live audience. The Sunset Festival was allowed to reopen June 5th, but everyone must follow festival, city and CDC guidelines."

"For 30 years the goal was to get as many people as we could, as close together as possible. Not anymore. Now to do shows, we practice social distancing and cannot use audience participants in the show. Normally, in a street show, the audience is as big as a part of the show as the performer. But we are grateful we can perform, the three months without hearing laughter felt like a lifetime."

Learn more about Dallas' act at www.DallasAndNick.com. ■



Dallas & Nick

THE SHOW MUST GO ON! The State of the Francis Wilson Playhouse

By Pat Vassar

On select Friday nights, members of the FWP Musical All Stars safely prepare and present original, themed musical revues with Broadway connections to distract us from the events of the day. Did you miss them? The good news is anyone, anywhere with access to the Internet can enjoy these performances FOR FREE at franciswilsonplayhouse.org/virtualconcerts/#rewatch. Select a show and enjoy yourselves for a little more than an hour. Get to know your SmartTV and access its Internet option to enjoy the concerts from the comfort of your favorite chair.

Several of the final performances of FWP's 90th Season and the beginning of the 91st season were postponed to the summer of 2021 due to social distancing concerns. All scheduled have been rescheduled for the beginning of the 92nd season.

New virtual concerts will fill in some of the slack. The performers miss their audiences and were delighted with the response to their inaugural live streaming event in May, The Best of Broadway – Stay at Home Cabaret, which featured songs from a wide variety of Broadway shows. Additional shows include:

Comedy Tonight!: a little bit of Laugh In meets FWP! This musical treat includes humorous Broadway songs, some on stage, some filmed remotely, interspersed with jokes and comedy bits and video snippets of classic movie comedy as well!

Summer Holiday: A musical revue featuring the best songs of summer with a razzle dazzle patriotic finale.

Radio Days: Re-creation of a live old time radio show, complete with comedic characters, wacky sound effects, and swinging singers performing the Big Band hits of the 20s, 30s and 40s.

Disney on Broadway: Creative highlights from our favorite Disney shows adapted for Broadway.

Sign up for email updates as the fall concert schedule expands. The Playhouse welcomes you and appreciates any donations you can make as they work to weather the COVID uncertainties.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE HEALTH?

By Coach Mel, IRB CrossFit

What is fitness? What is wellness? What is sickness? If you draw a line with "sickness" on one end, "wellness" in the middle, and "fitness" on the opposite end, you would have a sliding scale in which you could measure your "health."

So, what is it that keeps YOU healthy? As a foundation its food. We should be eating proteins and vegetables, nuts and seeds, some fruits, little starch, with little to no sugars. Out of curiosity though, what is food? Food is fuel! Food allows us to have the energy that is needed to be productive throughout our day. And since ALL our lifestyles are different, there is no 'one' diet. You will need to find the fuel(s) and portions that support YOU and your individual lifestyle.

So, what about exercise? Well, what motivates you? Morning walks or runs? Cycling? A Zoom class? Swimming? A triplet of sit-ups, push-ups, and air-squats while watching your favorite show? Using your at-home gym equipment? Honestly, ANYTHING will work! However, only to a point. Whatever you choose to do, your body will eventually adapt to it, and in order to keep seeing improvements, you may need to do the things that you don't want to do. Run harder. Cycle farther. Do weighted sit-ups, push-ups, and squats. You may even need to hire a personal trainer to teach you some new movements or workouts, or just to motivate you! But whatever you do, ask yourself – "will this take me from wherever I am now, towards better personal fitness?" – "will THIS improve my "health"?"

You can reach Coach Mel at 727-403-0466.

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