

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com *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**



### 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 32**

### Meet Dallas Saupe

Also known as the "human volcano" Dallas is a street performer appearing nightly at Sunsets Pier 60.

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### Also in this Issue:

#### Custom Jeweler Extraordinary

How do you make custom jewelry? Robert Young has been doing it for almost 50 years and walks you through the design process.

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#### 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 14**



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to 8,000 households occupied residence and business in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Harbor Bluffs, and part of Largo. We are not officially associated with any city government.

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**BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

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

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

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

**SEE YOU AGAIN  
IN DECEMBER**

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www.cityofbelleairbeach.com  
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Sheriff: 582-6200  
MAYOR - Joseph Manzo  
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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FOOD DAYS**

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

<b>OCTOBER</b>		Bologna Day	24
Homemade Cookies Day	1	Pumpkin Day	26
Fried Scallops Day	2	Mincemeat Day	26
Vodka Day	4	American Beer Day	27
Noodle Day	6	Chocolate Day	28
Chocolate Covered Pretzel Day	7	Oatmeal Day	29
Pierogi Day	7	Candy Corn Day	30
Angel Food Cake Day	10	Caramel Apple Day	31
Sausage Pizza Day	11	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Gumbo Day	12	Calzone Day	1
Yorkshire Pudding Day	13	Devised Egg Day	2
National Dessert Day	14	Sandwich Day	3
Cheese Curd Day	15	Hot Sauce Day	5
Take Your Parents to Lunch Day	16	Nachos Day	6
Pasta Day	17	Bittersweet Chocolate Day	7
Chocolate Cupcake Day	18	Vanilla Cupcake Day	10
Seafood Bisque Day	19	Sundae Day	11
Brandied Fruit Day	20	Pickle Day	14
Pumpkin Cheesecake Day	21	Spicy Guacamole Day	15
Nut Day	22	Bundt Cake Day	15
Boston Cream Pie Day	23	Baklava Day	17



# FEATURED LISTINGS!

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1340 Gulf Blvd. #16F, Sand Key  
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1250 Gulf Blvd. #606, Sand Key  
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1230 Gulf Blvd. #1708, Sand Key  
2BR/2BA, 1111sf, **SOLD for \$440,000**



17408 Gulf Blvd. #902, Redington Shores  
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# Did You Know



**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](http://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

[VotePinellas.com](http://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.

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** Belleair Bluffs is moving ahead with holding the Christmas Tree Lighting. They may make a few changes for social distancing. "There may have to be a few adjustments," explains Mayor Chris Arbutine. At this time, it is expected that the tree lighting, hayrides, food, music—and a visit by Santa, will all go forward. "Santa may be in a safe, elevated chair where the children can approach him without touching him," said Suzy Sofer, Commissioner.

**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](http://www.RMHCTampaBay.org/CoronaVirus).

### 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](http://2020census.gov).



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# and More...

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

The Salvation Army in Clearwater and Upper Pinellas County will continue USDA food box drive-through distribution at Ruth Eckerd Hall.



Food distribution was previously held in the morning, but will now be moving to 1 pm and last each day until all boxes have been given away.

During June and July, more than 3,500 boxes of food have been given to families in need. "On average, this equates to feeding more than 10,000 people," says Morris. "This includes a foster family of 14 teenage boys who remind us how much growing boys can eat." Boxes contain a protein (typically precooked chicken), milk, butter, cheese, fresh produce, and fruit. For more information call 727-446-4177 or visit [www.SalvationArmyClearwater.org](http://www.SalvationArmyClearwater.org)

**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.

**GARAGE SALE** Belleair Bluffs community Garage Sale is November 7th from 8am-2pm. No registration is required, but be sure to abide by Covid-19 requirements!

## 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.



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

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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](http://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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## LARGO FIREFIGHTERS HELP AFTER HURRICANE MICHAEL

October is peak hurricane season for storms in the Gulf of Mexico. These storms form in the western Caribbean and quickly move north. In 2018, Hurricane Michael did just that. It came ashore in Florida's Mexico Beach as a Category 5 storm. It was one of the largest hurricanes to hit the United States in both wind velocity and total damage and the first Category 5 to hit the U.S since 1992's Hurricane Andrew.



After the storm cleared, first responders arrived. Pinellas County sent over twenty emergency workers. The City of Largo sent seven people, an engine truck, and other equipment.

"We had two teams of people and vehicles," says Lt. Joe Ward, who lead the Largo group. "Firefighters signed up for seven-days—some stayed longer. The first week we sent four men. I was in the second group, seven days later. We met at Countryside Mall around 2pm and got up there after sunset."

"The first thing that hit me was how dark it was," Ward says. "They had no power, thus no lights. The Callaway fire station had a generator and was lit up like a Christmas tree. It stood out like a beacon in the night."

"The next morning, I could not believe what I saw," Ward recalls. "Everything was damaged - homes, cars, trees - everything." "This was the first BIG storm I experienced first-hand," Lt. Ward says. "I had never seen anything like it. It was like a war zone - like a nuclear bomb had gone off."

"The Callaway station housed about 30 firefighters, medics, National Guardsmen, and police. The police were there to protect and stop to looters. Every time a group of firefighters went out, a policeman followed for protection."

"We went to relieve local firefighters. One small fire station could not possibly do it all. In the beginning, there was little to do, until they started restoring electricity and gas. Then, we started to see a lot of small fires.

When they turned the water back on, many of the fire hydrants leaked or did not work. "During fires, we often needed a tanker truck," Ward adds.

"With all the cell phone towers down, our phone's GPS did not work. I had AT&T and for some reason it worked. But it did not help much - the street signs were blown away. It was hard to know where you were and where you were going.

"People lived anywhere they could. Some were in tents on the property where their homes had been. People camped in grocery store, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot parking lots. There they bought their food and used the bathrooms to clean up."

"People donated food and water, but no one was there to receive and distribute it. A church opened as a collection center, but they were quickly over-whelmed by people needing help. We stepped in and helped them get organized."

"The people were very thankful we were there. Everywhere you went, there were Thank You signs. If you went to a restaurant or convenience store, people wanted to pay for your purchase."

It is nice to know, if a storm like that were to ever hit here, first responders around the state, just like Lt. Joe Ward, will be here to help us, like Largo firefighters helped Mexico Beach.

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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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# Business Briefs



**ALLSTATE'S NEW OWNER**

Meet Laura Pell, the new owner of the Belleair Bluff's Allstate Insurance Company. Laura loves helping out the local residents with all of their insurance needs. Laura moved to Florida in 2005 and is married with 2 young boys. Along with her Insurance Licenses, Laura has an MBA and holds a Series 6 license.

AllState is located at 490 Indian Rocks Rd., 373-7240.

**SOLD OUT** All three of the buildings we mentioned in the last issue being built by Jeff Beggins, owner and broker of Century 21/Beggins on Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach, are sold. Each building has two units.

**CLIPPINGDALES MOVED** If you are looking for Clippingdale's Grooming — they have moved a half mile east of Belleair Bluffs, next to Papa John's Pizza.

Owner Tina was forced to close during the Safer at Home Order, from March-June, but it has reopened in the new location, Tuesday-Sunday. This is her 23rd year of operation in the Belleair area.

Find her at 1890 West Bay. Call Tina at 586-6559.

**LEMON TREE NOW "GOT"**

New owner of You GOT This, Vanessa Wooding was partnering with Lemon Tree owner Amy McDermott through her line of jewelry and accessories, when Amy decided to close her store. Vanessa jumped at the chance to have her own store. After much work the store reopened September 1st.



GOT is an acronym using the first letter of each of her daughter's names - Georgians, Olivia, and Tahlia.

Wooding has a curated space for local artists and local business owners. They plan to host events with the first one in October. She is very excited to be part of Belleair Bluffs.

McDermott is considering opening a Lemon Tree Market in a new location closer to her home.

**PETAL AND VINE CLOSSES** Owners Jennifer and Nikki closed their garden shop, located in Antique Alley, September 26. The shop was known for its floral arrangements and unique gifts.

While they have enjoyed their time running the shop, due to the recent restrictions, closings and overall adversity to in-store shopping as a result of COVID-19, they felt they needed to close. They would like to thank everyone for their business and support throughout the years.

**ANCHORS AWAY CLOSSES OFFICE** Due to Covid-19, the owners of Anchors Away Cruises and Tours decided to close their office and work from home. They are open Monday-Friday from 10am until 2pm to answer any questions you may have. You can reach them at 727-812-1089.

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## 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 community to feel good about our new salon," adds Santi. "We will do our best to serve them as they would expect."



## SOUTHSIDE VEGGIES

Now you can buy fresh veggies - on the beach. Southside Produce Market opened in August in the 14th Avenue Shopping Center in Indian Rocks Beach. It is owned and operated by Morgan Myers and Danny Garquilo.

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," 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. Call 727-219-7079.

**WINTER THE DOLPHIN'S BEACH CLUB** Clearwater Beach's newest family and eco-friendly hotel is open, named in honor of CMA's famous dolphin, Winter. An existing Choice hotel underwent an extensive renovation and re-haul with a focus on sustainability and conservation including sea turtle safe lighting, elimination of single-use plastics, and special window treatments to reduce energy use. Funds from each room night will go towards the care, education, research and conservation of marine mammals. The 91-room beachfront hotel is located at 655 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach.



# 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 Road and online at [www.FloridaPiesandCakes.com](http://www.FloridaPiesandCakes.com).

**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.

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. [getfitnessclubs.com](http://getfitnessclubs.com).



### STONE COLD CREAMERY HAS NEW OWNERS

Janardan and Viren sold their store to Ricardo Nadal on September 1st. Nadal also owns a Miami Stone Cold. New manager Santiago Velez, also from Miami, moved to the area last month.

"We do not plan many changes," Santiago explains. "Stone Cold Creamery is known for its family atmosphere and a different kind of fresh

made ice cream. Many people do not realize we also make and sell custom ice cream cakes."

Stone Cold Creamery has seven employees and is open seven days a week, noon to 10pm in the Bonfish Plaza, just to the right of Bonfish.

They have a new phone number – 727-270-7010.

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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](http://www.irbssl.com), like us on Facebook or contact Earl Wesson (813) 220-8589 or [ewesson@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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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# 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/pinellascareindividual](http://www.covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascareindividual) 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/pinellascarebusiness](http://www.covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascarebusiness).

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](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org).

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## EIGHT LANDSCAPE TASKS FOR FALL

By Randy Lee

Fall is finally here in Central Florida - gone are the hot temperatures, high humidity and frequent rainstorms. The weather is ideal and a great time to get back into the garden. Below is a list of things to do in the landscape during the fall.

1. Fall is the perfect time to pressure clean the house, driveway, walkways and pavers. The wet weather has left hardscaped areas damp and dirty - pressure cleaning will brighten everything up for the fall and the holidays.
2. Fertilize lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers at this time of year. The fertilizer ban has been lifted, so now is the time to fertilize. Use a quality fertilizer since this will be the last time to fertilize before spring.
3. Remulch all landscaped areas at this time. The heavy rains have washed much of the mulch away and discolored what remains. A fresh layer of mulch will keep weeds down and insulate plants during the colder months ahead.
4. Replant pots and containers at this time. Fall is the perfect time to spruce up containers with new flowers and herbs. Be sure to keep them watered.
5. Plant roses and strawberries during the fall months. This is the ideal time to start strawberries and to plant roses- who can resist roses and strawberries? Remember to amend the soil for roses when planting.
6. Plant an herb garden. The weather is great during this time of the year for herbs. Herbs need at least four to six hours of sun a day to thrive. Basil, chives, fennel, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme are all good choices. You can plant herbs in a container or pot, a raised bed or directly into the ground.

7. Plant a vegetable garden. In Central Florida, October is usually the month to start vegetable gardens since the summer heat is gone. Remember, however, to water when needed since these months are drier. Most frequently planted vegetables include broccoli, spinach, onions, carrots, cauliflower, okra, corn, cabbage, lettuce, peas, beans, squash, peppers and tomatoes. Many people are now using raised beds for vegetable gardens.

8. Now is the time to plant fall flowers or "bedding plants". October and November are ideal months to plant fall annuals. Remember to amend the soil, fertilize regularly and water when needed for best results. The most popular annuals we use at this time include geraniums, begonias, snapdragons, petunias, alyssum, pansies, impatiens and salvia. Many of these varieties will last well into spring if properly cared for. These eight garden tasks will keep your landscape looking great for many months ahead so get out and enjoy the great weather!



### October/November Checklist:

- Start of the dry season
- Fertilizer can now be used
- Time to plant fall/winter flowers
- Great time to plant larger shade trees
- Avoid hard trimming of plant

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# Bar & Restaurant News



**JEWEL CAFE SOLD** Jewel Café has had several owners and names including The Black Cat and Pelelopes. Now, it is the Belleair Café

Chris Scott and Julie Champion owners of the Belleair Market, bought the small cafe located directly behind their store and are continuing to run it as a small cafe. "We hope to offer it as a place for small meetings and receptions, as well", says Chris.

The newly redone Belleair Cafe is nestled in the Jewel Antique Mall, just behind the Belleair Market. Combining a new, mouth watering menu with cozy ambiance, they are already a local favorite for breakfast and lunch. Stop in and try their fresh salads, avocado toast or French dip, and find out why they are quickly becoming our Neighborhood's hidden Jewel! The Cafe is located at 2601 Jewel Road, in Belleair Bluffs.

**ANTHONY'S DELI** Billy DeGironemo (Billy D), owner of Anthony's Deli, is celebrating the Deli's 8th Anniversary. Billy previously owned Billy D's on Clearwater Beach, a popular restaurant and night club. He sold it in 2014, before opening his a deli/pizzeria/bakery concept in Largo. Anthony's Deli has long been a hidden gem and it has a 5-star rating on Google.



Anthony' Deli is known for the many offered specialties, such as, in-house baked turkey, ham, roast beef, homemade Italian sausage, meatballs, fresh mozzarella, creative subs, calzones, stromboli, homemade tomato sauce, fresh baked bread, salads, imported olives, cheeses, Italian desserts and pastries - tiramisu is their signature dessert - and of course, pizza!

Recently, Billy added a "touch of New York" with Italian beef and sausage sandwiches, New York Cheese dogs, soups and NY chili with cheese and onions. He also added Chicago style hot dogs, too.

"I am looking for a second location, hopefully on the beach," says Billy. "Don't forget—we deliver and cater, too." Find Anthony's Deli/Pizzeria/Bakery at 1435 Clearwater-Largo Road, about one-half mile north of West Bay. Call them at 581-4400. [www.AnthonysDeliLargo.com](http://www.AnthonysDeliLargo.com).

**CLOSED / OUT OF BUSINESS/ MOVED**

- KAHWA COFFEE** Bonfish Plaza is not reopening
- CARI JEWELERS**, 13684 Walsingham, near Starbucks.
- PICK-A-DELI**, 13664 Walsingham, next to Starbucks.
- THE COFFEE MILL**, moved to 13128 Indian Rocks Rd.



**FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI**

For 26 years, Ride & Run With The Stars has brought the community together in December to participate in athletic competition, a silent auction, and a special delivery of Mr. and Mrs. Claus via helicopter. We look forward to this holiday fundraiser every year, which is why the decision to cancel this year's event was a difficult one. However, we must consider the health and safety of our community during these trying times.

Despite not having an in-person event, I hope you will consider supporting Ride & Run With The Stars' charity—the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project. Last year, we raised enough money to provide food, clothing, books, and toys to more than 384 underprivileged families and 862 deserving children whom sheriff's office members identified through their daily interaction in the community as homeless, economically stressed, victimized, or abused.

Every year, dozens of deputies and other sheriff's office members participate in a holiday shopping event at Target. Each deputy receives a wish list, created by a parent or legal guardian of the child, filled of items like diapers, dolls, or school supplies. Then the items are hand-selected at Target and delivered to the families along with holiday meals.

To keep blessing these struggling families with gifts and essential items they would not be able to afford otherwise, we encourage you to consider making a donation this year, or adopting a family by purchasing all the items on a family's wish list.

Here are a few ways you can support the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project by December 1st:

- Mail your check made payable to Ride & Run With The Stars to P.O. Box 2500, Largo, FL 33779 Attn: Sergeant Elizabeth Brady
- Make an electronic payment at <https://www.rideandrunwiththestars.com/>
- Adopt a family by contacting Sandra Garcia-Olivares, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate, at [sgarcia-olivares@pcsonet.com](mailto:sgarcia-olivares@pcsonet.com) or 727-582-6465

No matter the size, every contribution is valuable and a treasured holiday gift to the less fortunate families in our community, especially after this challenging year. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated by our members and the families we serve.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



**NEW JAKE'S OPENS** The new Jake's Coastal Cantina, moved into the old Lulu's location at 416 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach.

"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 Indian Rocks community in this wonderful new space."

See their menu at [JakesCoastalCantina.com](http://JakesCoastalCantina.com) for take out. They also offer catering.

### GROUPERS HAS NEW OWNERS

The restaurant was sold and new owners Mike and Betty Alfaro reopened as Groupers on the Gulf, shortly after Labor Day with a quick redo.



It is a true family affair, as their three sons are also involved. They modified the kitchen and added more cooked and fried seafood, soups, salads, beer and wine to the menu. They offer delivery to the Belleair Beach area.

Find them in Indian Rocks Beach at 1401 Gulf Blvd. in the corner of the shopping center. Visit them on Saturday, October 3rd for their Grand Opening event



### THAI PAN ALLEY SOLD

For the restaurant's 30th Anniversary, it got new owners. Owner Joey Buck bought it seven years ago; now he has sold it to Michael Fisher, Michael Lowe, Leonard Tenderholt, and James Tenderholt.

The name is changing to Beach Waves Grill and so is the menu, but they will still have a handful of local favorites in the Thai Pan corner of the menu.

They are working hard to get the place open and plan their Grand Opening, the weekend of October 3rd. Beach Waves Grill is located at 2300 Gulf Blvd, in the strip center with Café de Paris and Sandy's.



# Bar & Restaurant News



**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](http://www.cafelargorestaurant.com) to view their menu. Call 727-596-6282 for reservations (50% dine-in capacity) or to place a carry out order..

**CODY'S 18 YEARS OLD** Cody's opened in Belleair Bluffs, October 2002 -18 years ago. The Sofer's bought it five years later in 2007. Open for dinner nightly, and lunch on Friday and Saturdays, you can find Cody's in the Bluff's Shopping Center, near Panera Bread.



**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](http://TheHausCoffeeShop.com)

**CHANGES AT THE CLEARWATER MARINA** The new Roundabout Pizza, located at the northeast corner of the Clearwater Beach Marina, and Poke Havana have been combined into one storefront. Both, owned by Baystar Restaurant Group are open. The spot previously occupied by Poke Havana will be reopening as an ice cream store. To order a pizza for pickup, call 441-3020.

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

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# MORTON PLANT HOSPITAL'S STRUCTURAL HEART CLINIC ADAPTS TO SERVE PATIENTS DURING PANDEMIC

Sitting in their home in St. Simons Island, Ga and staring at a screen on a random Wednesday afternoon, Jack and Lynda Sterrett weren't just watching television or checking email. They were "at" Jack's follow-up appointment with Joshua Rovin, MD, FACS, Cardiovascular Surgeon and Medical Director, Center for Advanced Valve and Structural Heart Care at Morton Plant Hospital.

Rewind the clock a few months and this follow up would have been in-person at the structural heart clinic. Though some primary care visits were happening via telemedicine, heart patients typically were seen in-person. Then came COVID-19, changing business as usual around the world and at Morton Plant Hospital.

Though most transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) surgeries, like Jack's, were delayed in March when BayCare postponed elective surgeries, the need to evaluate and possibly treat patients did not disappear. Heart issues did not go away, and some needed immediate treatment.

When BayCare offered physicians the telemedicine option, the structural heart team didn't hesitate. They recognized the opportunity this presented offering patients the care they needed while keeping them safe during a pandemic.

Within a day, the team was seeing patients using BayCareAnywhere®, a telemedicine healthcare app that individuals can download to a smartphone or tablet.

Patients and families who would have been in the office were now on a large screen while a cardiologist, a surgeon and a nurse practitioner sat together discussing the patient's condition and medical history.

While many structural heart clinics across the nation closed in April, telemedicine allowed Morton Plant's clinic to continue meeting the needs of its patients. In April, the clinic saw more than 90 percent of its patients using telemedicine.

Being out in front is nothing new to Morton Plant's structural heart team. They brought TAVR surgery to the Tampa Bay area in 2012, and in the ensuing years, the team has performed more than 1,500 surgeries while keeping abreast of the latest breakthroughs to ensure each patient has the best hope for a successful outcome.

While telemedicine may seem minor

compared to the complex surgeries that have been performed and medical strides that have been made, the team recognized that a successful outcome had to start with an initial visit that kept the patient comfortable and safe.

"Technology gave us the opportunity to continue to provide our experience and expertise to help individuals with heart valve disease even during a worldwide pandemic," said Rovin.

Not only did the team consider patient safety when offering telemedicine, but it also made patient satisfaction a priority. The clinical team, of the structural heart program, creates a BayCareAnywhere® account for patients and sends them an email with all their information. The patient simply opens the email and clicks the link. Someone on the team also calls the patient to walk through the process and offers to do a test call if it makes the patient more comfortable.

"We can use telemedicine to see patients for all appointments except the one closest to the surgery," said John Ofenloch, MD, cardiovascular surgeon and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Morton Plant Hospital. "This help provide a level of comfort for many patients."

While all patients, unless otherwise requested, continue to have a one-week follow-up appointment via telemedicine, most patients have resumed coming in-person for the initial consultation. That doesn't necessarily mean less use of telemedicine as the team continues to find new ways to use technology to satisfy patients.

Many patients want more than one family member to participate in the consultation, but guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention only allow one visitor with the patient. The team has begun to bring the additional family members into the visit virtually. They can see the clinicians in the examination room, ask questions and offer information to help the doctors make a better decision.

Putting the patient's needs first has always been one of the driving forces of those who are a part of the Structural Heart Clinic.

"From the outset, we have stuck to a multi-disciplinary approach with a cardiologist, a heart surgeon and one



*AVR patient Jack Sterrett and his wife Lynda attend his follow-up appointment with doctors from Morton Plant Hospital's structural heart team. Cardiovascular Surgeon Joshua Rovin, MD, uses BayCareAnywhere® for TAVR patient Jack Sterrett's appointment following surgery.*

or two nurse practitioners working as a team to assess each patient," said Rovin. "Then, the surgeons and cardiologists meet weekly to discuss each case and decide the best option for the patient."

Technology has begun to play into this as well. If someone cannot be at the team meeting in person, they can join via Microsoft Teams, adding additional knowledge and experience to each patient review.

"The benefit for our team is that the cardiologist and doctor who saw the patient will present the case to the other 10 people on the team to get everyone's opinion," said Michael Kayatta, MD, cardio thoracic surgeon and member of the Morton Plant Hospital Valve Clinic Team.

Many may think the use of telemedicine means a less personal approach, but patients at Morton Plant Hospital's Center for Advanced Valve and Structural Heart Care would disagree.

Just ask Jack. Originally scheduled for April 1, his TAVR had to be postponed until May 5 because of the halt to elective surgeries. "They called weekly to check on me and everything was perfect," he said. He reported he had almost no recovery. He spent eight days total in Florida, and within a week of returning to Georgia, he was back to walking three miles each day.

Speaking up on the screen in the office, he told his team, "You guys have been wonderful. Thank you."

To learn more about TAVR at BayCare hospitals, go to [www.BayCareHeartValve.org](http://www.BayCareHeartValve.org). ■





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**NOVEMBER BALLOT INITIATIVES**

Everyone knows there is a presidential election next month, but few people have heard of the six Florida ballot measures. In addition to all the Federal, State and local candidates running for election, the following amendments will also be on your ballot.

Amendment 1 The Florida Constitution currently says, "Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered. This ballot measure, would change it to say, "Only a citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered." This was a citizen initiative.

Amendment 2 Increases the state minimum wage presently \$8.56 per hour, to \$10 next September and by a dollar more each year until reaching \$15 in 2026. This was a citizen initiative.

Amendment 3 Establishes a top-two open primary system for state office primary elections. It does away with political party primaries for Governor, Cabinet and the Legislature and replaces them with primary elections open to every candidate and to every voter, regardless of party. The top two winners would then face off in the general election. This was a citizen initiative.

Amendment 4 Requires voter-approved constitutional amendments to be approved by voters at a second general election. Currently in Florida, if voters approve an amendment with a 60% supermajority vote in one general election, it becomes part of the constitution. The 60% supermajority vote would apply to both elections. This was a citizen initiative.

Amendment 5 Increases the period during which a person may transfer "Save Our Homes" benefits to a new homestead property from two years to three years. Referred by the Florida Legislature.

Amendment 6 Allows a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran. Referred by the Florida Legislature.

Make sure to research these amendments in advance, as their short descriptions don't always tell the whole story.

**CLOTHES TO KIDS**

Back to School is here! Brick and mortar or virtual, kids still need clothes. Children Pre-K4 through seniors in High School who are eligible for free and reduced priced lunch or in-crisis can receive a Back-to-School bag from CTK. Each Back-to-School bag includes 5 pairs of new underwear, 5 pairs of new socks, 5 tops, 4 bottoms, 1 dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If your child attends a uniform school, they may receive 3 uniform tops and 2 bottoms.

**CTK Needs Clothing & Shoes.** Our inventory is low especially for elementary school children. CTK needs new or gently used school clothing and shoes. We especially need boys' medium tops, boys and girls shorts and pants sizes 6 to 16 and shoes sizes youth 12 to adult 12.

Please clean out your closets and donate today to any of our three CTK stores. Drop off donations from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday at any of our three stores: Clearwater - 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Tampa - 5011-H W. Hillsborough Avenue, and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street S.

Monetary donations can be sent to Clothes To Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765. Donations are tax deductible and will be used to purchase clothing in short supply. Visit our website at [www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org) or call 727-441-5050.

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## HOW IS OUR REAL ESTATE MARKET?

By Bonnie Lanners, Smith & Associates Real Estate

Curious how the real estate market is performing in and around Belleair? Allow me to share some insight. As of mid-September, from Harbor Bluffs to Harbor Oaks, there were 8 active, 8 pending and 25 sold waterfront homes. In May and June, the prestigious Bluff View Drive respectively reported its two highest recorded sales: \$3,650,000 and \$7,900,000.

What's driving the market? Mortgage rates have fallen to historic lows. Simultaneously, inventory of homes for sale is also at an all time low. Yes, the pandemic is the culprit to the current real estate environment. As a result, my business as a Realtor of 15+ years changed overnight.

Early March 2020, Sellers began temporarily taking their properties off the market. Those homes available to show often required, pre-approval letters and signed documentation of CDC compliance. My showings "toolkit" now includes masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and even shoe covers.

FaceTime showings have become and are still the normal. Like many business travelers discovered their jobs can be done from home, sellers and buyers are benefiting from the same convenience. Our new neighbors at 205 Rosery Road were in San Francisco while I did FaceTime showings for them.

Virtual Open Houses allow for one-on-one contact with the listing agent while a tour of the home is being presented. Listings not only include professional photography but offer a 3D virtual tour such as Matterport Tours which allows for a fully immersive experience of the home without being there. These are the new memes of real estate.

Skilled Realtors make for a win-win contract. Sellers need a seasoned Realtors with strong negotiating skills, buyers need skilled Realtors prepared for multiple offer situations. Competition for winning a contract is fierce: preparedness is key. You can reach *Bonnie* at [bonnielanners.smithandassociates.com](mailto:bonnielanners.smithandassociates.com)

## FIRE PREVENTION

October is fire prevention month. This year's theme is "Serving Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen."

### Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

### Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

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## 2020 HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN ARE CANCELED

By Vernon Bryant

Like many things in our world that have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of the Florida Botanic Gardens Foundation has decided that we cannot do our Annual Holiday Lights in the Garden event. The lighting of the Gardens for the holidays has been a tradition that started with the grand opening of the Gardens in 2000. Many things have threatened the event in the past, but the Foundation and Pinellas County worked together and found ways to make the event happen each year. This year, however, there are too many unknowns because of COVID-19. The decision to cancel was a difficult one, but it was deemed to be in the best interest of all of you our members, the Foundation, Pinellas County Parks and the general public to not do the event this year. This is especially difficult for the Foundation because the event generates a significant part of our annual revenue, so we are going to have to find ways to cover that loss revenue if possible.

We still have a number of smaller events on our schedule for this Fall, Winter and Spring, so watch for information on them. We are also on target to break ground for the new Children's Discovery Garden in December and are still working diligently to raise the balance of the funds needed for construction and programming for that Garden.

We will be sprucing up the Gardens a little for the holidays and invite you to come during the day to enjoy the Gardens in all of their winter beauty. We will plan to be back in 2021 bigger and better than ever and will be looking for volunteers to help with the planning and implementation starting in March 2021, so if you are interested drop us a note.

So in closing, we hope that you will help us spread the word. We wish all of you good health

## 2020 PELICAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE HELD WITHOUT SPECTATORS

The Pelican Women's Championship will be contested without fans in attendance when the tournament is held Nov. 16-22 at Belleair's Pelican Golf Club. The decision was announced by tournament organizers after consulting with public health officials and the LPGA.

"I cannot thank our partners at Pelican and the Doyle family enough for their commitment to providing a valuable competitive opportunity to our LPGA Tour players," said LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan. "We hope all of our fans will follow their favorite players on the Golf Channel and we look forward to a future opportunity to introduce Tampa-area fans to the world's greatest female golfers."

"While we are disappointed we won't be able to host fans for our inaugural event, the health and safety of our community and the women who compete on the LPGA Tour come first," said Dan Doyle Jr. "We are honored to provide this opportunity for the world's best female golfers and look forward to crowning our first champion this fall."

The Pelican Women's Championship is the LPGA's annual tournament in the Tampa Bay / St. Pete region and features 108 of the world's best female golfers competing over four rounds for a share of the \$1.5 million purse. All four rounds will be televised on The Golf Channel and coverage will also stream on The Golf Channel and the NBC Sports app.

Visit [www.PelicanLPGA.com](http://www.PelicanLPGA.com) for more information about the television schedule.

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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.**

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500+ homes since 1971. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to call Todd at (813) 956-8633, or email to: [tnegoshian@ghdcsi.com](mailto:tnegoshian@ghdcsi.com). NOW OFFERING VIRTUAL HOME TOURS: Visit our website at [www.GHDcoastalhomes.com](http://www.GHDcoastalhomes.com) to see the "Key West" and "Bahama Winds" homes.

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# Community News

## 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 pleased to announce that Joseph Meyer has been hired as General Manager. Prior to joining the Clearwater Yacht Club, Joe has managed clubs in the area for the past 25 years including Treasure Island, Pasadena Yacht and Country Club and Pass-a-Grille Yacht Club.

"I am honored to accept the position of General Manager for the Clearwater Yacht Club. I have truly enjoyed my time as a Club Consultant, and look forward to starting this new journey," explained Meyer. "I'm excited and honored to be given the opportunity to join the team at The Clearwater Yacht Club and to be entrusted to carry on the traditions of one of the United States' oldest and respected yacht clubs."

CYC is 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 members 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](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org), or e-mail [Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org](mailto: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](http://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 information about these events, or how to become a Garden Club member, email [belleairgardenclub1@gmail.com](mailto:belleairgardenclub1@gmail.com).

## BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

Belleair Women's Republican Political Committee will host "All Aflutter for Fashion", a fashion show and luncheon on Friday, October 2, from 11 am-2 pm at Belleair Country Club, One County Club Lane, Belleair, FL 33756. Originally scheduled for April, the long-awaited fashion show will feature clothing and commentary by Colette's Fashions of Madiera Beach, as well as music and door prizes. A minimum \$50 donation per guest is requested to reserve a seat at the event. Reservations are required and no walk-ins will be permitted. All fashion show guests must practice social distancing and observe all CDC-recommended practices.

For the November 6 meeting of Belleair Women's Republican Club, Dr. Susan MacManus will be speaking about the recent election results/statistics, providing expert analysis of the whole process. \$25 per person.

Checks payable to BWRPC along with the sender's name, address and phone number should be sent to: Linda Wade; 729 Creekside Lane; Palm Harbor, FL 34683. Contributions are not tax deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

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## PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

**Sunday, October 11 at 3 pm. Doors open at 2:30**

Continuing to honor the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, they open their new season with a performance of the stunning Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, "Pathetique". You will also hear works by Chopin and Liszt. The rich acoustics of the Peace sanctuary and the full concert grand Baldwin piano will enhance your experience.

Pietro Iannotti will be the pianist. He is highly acclaimed, having started performing at the age of nine. He has been busy teaching and concertizing in Europe and the USA and recently moved to Florida.

Due to Covid 19 procedures and social distancing, reserved tickets are required this season. Please follow the link below to reserve a subscription, buy single concert tickets or to hear the concert virtually via our YouTube Channel. [www.itickets.com/events/449008](http://www.itickets.com/events/449008).

The Concert Series will be held at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (the pink church downtown) at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clearwater. There are four primary areas available for parking: 1) west and behind the church off of Pierce Street 2) directly east across Ft Harrison in large County lot - reserved for Peace church events on Sundays 3) in the lot north of the church fellowship hall and 4) west in the City Hall lot.

For more information, visit [www.peacememorial.org](http://www.peacememorial.org) or call Music Director Timothy Belk at (800) 479-8846 or Concert Series Chair, Beth Daniels at (727) 461 1818.

## THE WHOLE SHOOTIN' MATCH

Christmas is on the way and here is another excellent book by author Daryl May, one of the funniest, most ornery, retired deputy sheriffs in the world. He is soft spoken—a one of kind hombre—with an incredible gift of gab. Every so often an excellent unputdownable book slips through to make up for the hokey, contrived blood-and-guts, cops-and-robbers memoirs. Such is Daryl May's sequel "The Whole Shootin' Match."



As a Pinellas County deputy sheriff, May guarded John Kennedy on the Monday of the week the president was murdered. He dueled an Angus bull with a cop car, considered pilfering guitarist Chet Atkins' coat, and nearly knocked down Mafia boss Santo Trafficante by accident. As a vice detective, he chased dopers, busted hookers, messed with the mob, and nearly died in a muddy, water-filled ditch along US-19 one rainy night fighting for his life. Hearing May croon, Merle Haggard said, "If the (expletive) can sing like that--what's he doin' bein' a cop?" Later as a singer-songwriter-standup comedian, May hooked up with Johnny and Tommy Cash, Marty Robbins, Faron Young, Hank Jr., Shel Silverstein, and other Nashville greats. He performed on cruise ships, Australian ski resorts, wrote a hit song for recording artist Mel Tillis, and got waylaid with Harry Bee, a Jewish harmonica player, during a shooting coup in Haiti. Jack Daniels even made him an honorary Tennessee Squire.

Tampa Bay Newspapers says: Entering the world of Daryl May is entering a world of extremes. He is a man who has been a lawman, an entertainer and now an author. His personality is as eclectic as his life.

NOTE: Author Daryl May lives in Belleair with wife Brenda and is working on a novel called *Poolside with Picasso*. Signed copies of *The Whole Shootin' Match* and his Amazon bestseller, *Chasing Shadows*, are available at [darylmaycomedy.com](http://darylmaycomedy.com) or by messaging him on Facebook. His books are also available on Amazon.com & Nobles

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## CUSTOM JEWELRY BY ROBERT YOUNG HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

Hi, It's Robert Young here. I have been designing and creating custom, one-of-a-kind fine jewelry pieces for almost 50 years. With such a long time doing this, there are probably enough of my creations out there to fill a pickup truck with cool pieces. Many of you may already be enjoying my jewelry or are likely too, or know someone who does.

Exactly what is custom jewelry? Well for me, it is not simply ordering a bunch of parts nor pre-made stock molds from a manufacturer. That might be "custom" for some, but I have something more interesting in mind. Ever since getting started designing jewelry, it has been amazing that I can imagine a work of art and bring the design into fruition using gold and platinum. Although some of these designs are just those using metals themselves, most of my pieces feature gemstones, either those that I provide or those of my clientele. It is a great way to incorporate family gems or to reinvigorate tired pieces you already have.

Ok, so how does this "Custom Design Process" work? I realize that the idea of trusting me to create some fabulous and valuable treasure is sometimes unnerving. I know it is often difficult to feel comfortable about the custom design process - especially since it starts only on paper.

Since I am not a mind reader, I am always concerned with finding out from you what you want. You will find, I am really good at that! It is kind of an interview. It is personal because jewelry is personal, so much more so than ordering new kitchen cabinets. And often there is so much more at stake. The piece that I am going to design for you might be your lifetime wedding and engagement rings, maybe it is a special pendant to hold your mom's diamond or it might be a present for someone you love. Yeah, I know that a jewelry gift is always for someone you love. That is what makes jewelry so important to you and to me.



**Lena Sanford**

Recently, besides the wedding and engagement items there have been many graduation presents and "Push Presents," you know, a special gift to your wife commemorating your family's new arrival. Some of these "Push Presents" are as you might expect - diamonds, but it is also a great opportunity to design something incorporating a birthstone gem.

In order to explore design possibilities and so that both you and I understand what to expect, we will look among my showcase pieces and through the multitude of original designs on my computer for inspiration.

If you are interested, I will show you through a significant collection of colored gemstones, diamonds, and pearls.

To crystallize your design concept, I will sketch an actual size color rendering showing you exactly what to expect.

Since this design activity is a process, it takes some time. Often you will sit across from me while I draw numerous actual size renderings. And often too, I will draw more designs after our first meeting to better show you additional drawings after thinking about it some. Yes, it is a process that requires thinking. We can put our heads together and I will be able to create a concept that can be a perfect design for you. All this is not scary at all, as I have done this throughout my professional career. I am very patient and I listen very well, and I am extremely easy to talk with. I speak a plain language and you will get some great conversation - yeah, humor too!

Importantly, as we are discussing your design, we will consider costs; most design ideas provide flexibility in order to best fit your pocket. Again, this is not scary. Jewelry is important, but so is your budget! After you choose a design, we determine a price based upon design, materials, and the work involved.

Our turnaround time is usually about three weeks. Once we decide on a finished delivery date, I keep to that schedule.

In order to be able to create these works of art, there are of us working as a team. Lena Sanford keeps everything in order and creates a very hospitable store environment. At our goldsmith's bench is Mark McKinlay, a true master craftsman. He is responsible for just about every treasure created in our studio. If you wish, you can view the progress of your piece as it evolves.

Some of the designs are forged and soldered directly from the metal itself. Others are created using the "Lost Wax Process." Lost wax casting has been a metallurgic technique used for millennia. Even King Tut's golden mask was created this way about 1300B.C. (How's that for old school?) I will be happy to show you around our workshop to explain how these treasures are realized.

There is something else that I haven't let you in on yet - I love this jewelry creating process. My appreciation for Art, for Processes and my true interest in you will be apparent from the start. This is a fun and rewarding job!

Earlier I said that I was not a mind reader, but why not stop in to see if maybe I am just a wee bit clairvoyant while creating a design for you that you will love for a very long time.



**Robert Young**



**Mark McKinlay**





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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.



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Breathe Well Sleep Well has their facility at 209 S. Myrtle Ave., Clearwater. For more information on the Vivos appliance, call 727-314-4045 and/or visit [BreatheWellSleepWellClearwater.com](http://BreatheWellSleepWellClearwater.com).

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### WOMEN'S DIVE DAY 2020

By Pete Magnani

Women's Dive Day was conceived in 2014 by members of the Professional Association of Dive Instructors, one of several internationally recognized SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) training and certification agencies. Six years and over 4000 international events later, Women's Dive Day was celebrated locally in an event that united several local dive charters, clubs, and associations, bringing almost 90 women (and a few guys) out to enjoy the underwater sites off the coast of Clearwater Beach.

Always one of the most popular dive days, the pandemic was an additional obstacle for event planners. Brian Mahardy of B. Mahardy Adventures, Mica Neal of Next Level Dive Club, and T.J Shea from 2Shea Charters organized and coordinated the day's events. Divers were split into morning and afternoon trips on local dive boats to maintain social distancing and ensure a safe experience. "We were a little worried about the logistics of an event of this size during these strange times," said organizer Mahardy, "But it's a testament to the strength and versatility of today's participants that we were able to recognize our local women's diving community safely, in accordance with CDC guidelines."



Divers met at Wet Lines Bait and Tackle at the KSK Marina in Clearwater and were divided among boats from 2Shea, Tanks-A-Lot, Off the Wall Adventures, Gulf Cat, and Gulfport Charters. Once everyone was geared up, the boats departed and headed for different dive locations such as the Veteran's Reef, Circle of Heroes, and

the Rube Allyn. The sites are all part of Pinellas County's Artificial Reef Program, begun by the Pinellas County Division of Solid Waste in 1975. It now consists of 42 artificial reefs made from inert debris including: concrete pipes, steel beams, barges, and sunken ships.



The morning divers returned to the dock around noon and met with the afternoon group for a barbecue lunch. The second group then loaded up and headed out to get their dives in before the afternoon storms rolled through. The weather held out just long enough and everyone had a great time.

Brenda Letts and Erin Langenburg, two of the proprietors of Letts Dive!, a majority women-owned dive shop in St. Petersburg, brought a group of divers on the morning trip. "Women's Dive Day is a wonderful celebration of women in a sport that was, in the past, male dominated," said Langenburg. "At Letts Dive!, we celebrate women in diving every day with our Sisters of Sedna dive group - and I feel honored to be able to dive and connect with such a great group of women." (Sedna is the goddess of the sea and marine animals in Inuit mythology.)

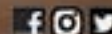
Despite its challenges, the day was an overwhelming success and planning is underway for next year's event. Organizers look forward to an even bigger and better celebration of the Bay-area women's dive community in 2021. Visit [www.2sheacharters.com](http://www.2sheacharters.com) or call (727) 798-1269 for information.

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## COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ONLINE SAFETY CLASSES

### A New Way to Learn for a New Group of Safe Boaters

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1, based in Clearwater, will be conducting a "Boat America" boating safety training program designed to appeal to fishing enthusiasts, personal watercraft operators, and all recreational boaters. This is a great program for prospective boat owners. Topics covered include current boating laws and the environment; safety equipment, both required and optional; safe boat handling; aids to navigation and navigation rules; potential boating problems; how to safely trailer your boat; storing and protecting your boat; and safety guidelines for fishing, water-skiing, and river boating.

**Location:** Online via Zoom. Because of COVID-19, all classes during the remainder of 2020 are online. Enjoy the training from the same certified instructors delivered via Zoom in the comfort of your home. No commuting to class, no need to get dressed up, all at your convenience.

**Times:** October's classes are scheduled on two consecutive weekend mornings: October 24th and 25th and October 31st and November 1st from 9am to about 11:30am. The November classes are schedule on four consecutive evenings: November 30th, December 1st, December 2nd and December 3rd from 7:00pm to about 9:30pm.

**Costs:** All instruction, materials and examinations are included \$40 per participant. This could also be a great gift for your loved ones to learn safe boating.

The National Association of States Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) approve this course for content. Successful completion of the "Boat America" course satisfies the Florida requirement for anyone born after January 1, 1988 to complete a boating safety course to operate a motor vessel. Certificates are awarded to all graduates. The CG Auxiliary teaches the basic rules of safe boating to thousands of students annually.

Please contact your insurance agent for applicable discounts.

To receive additional information or to register for the program, please contact: the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, at: [www.clwboatingsafety.com](http://www.clwboatingsafety.com) or by email at [clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com](mailto:clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com) or call 727-469-8895. .

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**Pay Inside Instead Of At The Pump:** It takes just seconds for criminals to place a skimmer in a gas pump, but it is far less likely that a skimmer has been placed on a terminal in front of the clerk inside.

**Choose Gas Pumps Closest To The Building:** Do not use gas pumps out of the attendant's line of sight, such as those around a corner or behind a building. Thieves don't choose pumps where the attendant may catch them in the act.

**Check You Statements Regularly For Fraudulent Activity:** Nearly every credit card issuer offers fraud alerts.

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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 priority. 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](http://www.DallasAndNick.com). ■



Dallas & Nick



## THE FOUR FRESHMEN PERFORM IN LARGO AT THE CENTRAL PARK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Central Park Performing Arts Center is excited to announce their latest addition to the 2020 show calendar with The Four Freshmen on Sunday, November 15 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, August 27 at 10am. To preserve the health and safety of our guests and staff, tables will be arranged six feet apart and sold only as a package (4 tickets) to promote proper social distancing. The show will be presented in a limited-capacity cabaret setting, indoors at the Tonne Playhouse. Tables of four will be available for purchase as a package for \$140. To avoid close contact with others outside each group, seats will not be sold individually. Tables will be available for purchase at LargoArts.com or by calling the box office at (727) 587-6793.



THE FOUR FRESHMEN have enamored listeners world-wide for years, while gaining recognition as one of the most influential vocal groups of all time. Their sound inspired The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson, The Mamas & The Papas, Frankie Valli and the Manhattan Transfer. The Freshmen have recorded over 75 albums, 70 top selling singles, and received 6 Grammy Nominations. The group has toured constantly since their inception, continuing to perform around the globe.

Following the guidelines in Pinellas County's ordinance, guests and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times, unless seated and consuming food or beverage, inside the Central Park Performing Arts Center or outdoors on the Parkview Terrace. Congregating on the dance floor is prohibited during the performance.

All safety precautions are subject to change with updates to federal, state, or local guidance. For questions about the new venue, series, or seating, contact either the box office at (727) 587-6793

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

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## CENSUS IS WRAPPING UP

Beginning in August, census takers will begin visiting homes to collect responses from those whom have not already responded to the 2020 census. 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, the census taker 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. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response

## CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM WELCOMES RESCUED DOLPHIN

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

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

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

## MARINEMAX DEDICATES NEW HABITAT HOME

For the third time, MarineMax partnered with Habitat for Humanity to present a deserving family the keys to their new home in Clearwater, Florida. "A Habitat for Humanity house dedication ceremony is life-changing," states Brett McGill, MarineMax Chief Executive Officer and President. "The pandemic presented challenges, but our leadership team came out to celebrate and honor the Taylor family."

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

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



**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!

**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 show "This Is America" will run through October 26th. Let your artistic imagination bring out the spirit of America. Artwork in this show was judged with cash and ribbons awards presented.

**Everybody's Reading**  
**The Belleair Area Neighborhood News**

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