

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

## Ralph Finke Was IRB's Barefoot Mayor

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Ralph Finke was a mayoral two-timer. That is, he was the Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach at two different times—first in the 1960s and again in the 1980s. Combined, he was elected to four two-year terms.

In 1922, Ralph was born in Birmingham, Alabama, where he was raised. In 1943, he joined the Army's Air Corps and became a pilot. He flew a P-51 Mustang and was one of the first pilots to ever fly a jet airplane—the F-80 "Shooting Star."

After his service in the Air Corps, Finke moved to Tampa, went to Tampa College, and got a General Contractors license. He started a masonry company before moving to Indian Rocks Beach, in 1951. Here he and his wife, Avril, raised their four children - Rodney, Kennan, Karen, and Roy.

Finke proceeded to build "anything that brought in some money—houses, commercial buildings; he even cleared land," says his oldest son, Rodney. "He built many houses in Indian Rocks and some in Largo. Some he built for the family to live in, others were homes he was hired to build." - *Continued on page 3*



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#### Would You Jump Out of a Plane?

Clearwater Realtor Michelle Chenault went skydiving to celebrate her daughter's birthday. What did she learn?

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#### 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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#### Clearwater Jazz Reimagined

Now, a live music series of small-scale, socially distanced, and mostly open-air events. - page 30

#### Adapting to Serve Their Patients

Morton Plant is using telemedicine to offer patient care while keeping them safe during the pandemic. - page 19

**CREDITS**



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**MAYOR** - Cookie Kennedy

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Diane Flagg • Phil Hanna • Joe McCall

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Mary Beth Dunn, President - IRBHome.com

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Meets 2nd Mon each month Beach Art Ctr

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**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FOOD HOLIDAYS**

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

**NOVEMBER**

Calzone Day	1	Parfait Day	25
Men Make Dinner Day	1	Cake Day	26
Vinegar Day	1	Bavarian Cream Pie Day	27
Fried Clams Day	1	French Toast Day	28
Deviled Egg Day	2	Thanksgiving	26
Sandwich Day	3	Lemon Cream Pie Day	29

**DECEMBER**

Candy Day	4	Cookie Day	4
Donut Day	5	Sacher Torte Day	5
Nachos Day	6	Gazpacho Day	6
Stout Day	7	Cotton Candy Day	7
Bittersweet Chocolate Day	7	Bartender Day	8
Cappuccino Day	8	Brownie Day	8
Vanilla Cupcake Day	10	Pastry Day	9
Sundae Day	11	Lager Day	10
Pickle Day	14	Gingerbread House Day	12
Bundt Cake Day	15	Ice Cream Day	13
Baklava Day	17	Bouillabaisse Day	14
Homemade Bread Day	17	Cupcake Day	15
Vichyssoise (Soup) Day	18	Maple Syrup Day	17
Peanut Butter Fudge Day	20	Roast Suckling Pig Day	18
Stuffing Day	21	Oat Meal Muffin Day	19
Gingerbread Cookie Day	21	Sangria Day	20
Cranberry Relish Day	22	Fried Shrimp Day	21
Espresso Day	23	Cookie Exchange Day	22
Cashew Day	23	Date Nut Bread Day	22
Sardines Day	24	Eggnog Day	24

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

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

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

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

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

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

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN JANUARY!**

## Ralph Finke IRB's Mayor & Postmaster, cont.

The first of the family's homes Ralph built was on 18th Avenue. In 1959 he built their house on La Hacienda Drive. It was his "dream home" with air conditioning, a central vacuum system, an intercom in each room and a buzz-in front door lock—amenities way ahead of the times.

"Things went pretty well until the real estate bust in 1960," remembers Rodney. "Dad's company went broke and he took a job managing a convenience store. He also picked up miscellaneous jobs that allowed him to use his construction background, or his dump truck and tractor."

In 1958, people began to encourage him to run for the City Commission; he did - and he won. In those days, the commission and mayor position had no salary. In 1960, he was elected Mayor and was re-elected again in 1962. He served for two terms (1960 to 1964).

"He became known as the Barefoot Mayor," Rodney says, "because he came to the meetings and events not wearing any shoes."

Ralph Finke was also very involved in the Indian Rocks community. He was a volunteer fireman, coached Little League, was a Commander of the IRB American Legion (they once owned the Beach Art Center building), and he was very involved with the local Civic Association.

In 1968, Dad was nearly broke," says Rodney. "Indian Rocks needed a new Postmaster when Frank Brandon retired after 26 years. Dad was friends with Congressman Bill Young, who asked President Lyndon Johnson to appoint him the Postmaster, which he did. He held that position for 20 years."

"I remember Ralph well," says longtime resident Carol McGlaughlin. "One day I accidentally dropped some



Ralph with wife, Avril, and their four children - Rodney, Kennan, Karen, and Roy

important papers in a Post Office blue box in front of Archies Grocery store. I called and Ralph, the postmaster, personally came down and opened the box for me. That is one of the benefits of living in a small town like Indian Rocks Beach."

Ralph made a run for the Florida House but lost. In 1984, between Frank Proctor and Ed Piniero's terms, he ran and was elected Mayor again. He served two more terms, before leaving office in 1988, The same year he retired as Postmaster. Ralph died in 1993 at age 71. ■

*Photos courtesy of Indian Rocks Historical Society*

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# Did You Know



## 2021 COTTAGE CALENDARS ARE HERE

The calendars contain beautiful paintings created within the last year by the Plein Aire Cottage Artists - Helen Tilston, Mary Rose Holmes and Violetta Chandler. This year, Action 2000 is paying all the costs related to printing the calendars and will help with their distribution. All

the profits are donated, and paying for all costs, allows more monies to be donated. You can buy one at the Beach Art Center, History Museum, Welcome Center, Crabby Bill's, Kooky Koconuts, Café de Paris, Sandy's, Cookie Cutter Salon, The IRB Library, and Island Cove Beads.

All proceeds are donated to the Beach Art Center, History Museum, and to The Library to support their local projects. Get more information at [PleinAireCottageArtists.blogspot.com](http://PleinAireCottageArtists.blogspot.com) or contact Mary Rose at 813-294-2272, [HomesMR2@gmail.com](mailto:HomesMR2@gmail.com).

**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS** The City will still have a Christmas tree in the 12th Avenue Park this year, but there will not be a tree lighting event.

The Holiday Street Parade is still scheduled for Sunday, December 6th, beginning at 1pm. If you want to join in, contact Lorin in Public Works at 595-6889 or your local organizations.

This year, R.B. Johnson and his wife Sarah will be the Parade's Grand Marshall. R.B. Johnson served on the City Commission for almost 20 years, eight of them as Mayor.

**SEAFOOD FESTIVAL MOVES** For more than 30 years, the John's Pass Seafood Festival was held the last week of October. The planners have moved this year's festival to January 22-24. "We are thrilled that the tradition of the Seafood Festival will continue," says Bob Daniels, City Manager of Madeira Beach. "The City is ready to help the merchants of John's Pass Village and the hundreds of volunteers who make this event safe, fun and very successful in January."

## CITY CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers will be putting up our non-traditional Christmas Cards around Indian Rocks Beach on the day after Thanksgiving. The project isn't hard, and with enough people—about a dozen or so—it only takes 2-3 hours. To help, call Bob Griffin at 430-8300.



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# and More...

**GARAGE SALE** Indian Rocks Beach's community Garage Sale is Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22. The city advertises and promotes the event. The event not only promotes reuse, it also provides residents an opportunity to get rid of clutter. This fun community event is a chance to get to know your neighbors.



No registration is required, but be sure to abide by Covid-19 requirements!

**BEACH TOY BOXES** Last month, the City of Indian Rocks Beach, in conjunction with the IRB Greentown Kids, opened six Beach Toy Boxes. The Take-A-Toy Leave-A-Toy Boxes encourage families to reuse beach toys while keeping our beach clean.

IRB Greentown Kids will monitor the boxes and interact with the public on the importance of reuse and keeping our beach clean. The public is encouraged to donate clean, slightly used beach toys as part of this effort.

Beach Toy boxes are located at the 4th, 8th, 17th, 22nd, 24th and 27th IRB Beach Accesses.

**THRIFT STORE REOPENS** The Beach Community Thrift Store, part of Church of the Isles, is back in business. They spent the down time making some long-overdue changes. Come see what they have done – Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-2 and Thurs. 4-7. They are once again accepting donation during open hours. Find them at 210 25th Ave N, Indian Rocks Beach.

**DALI MUSEUM REOPENS** The Museum is implementing new health & safety procedures designed to protect the health and safety of visitors, volunteers, members and staff including new hours of operation: Wed-Sun from 11am-6pm (until 8pm on Thu and Fri). Special hours for Seniors are Wed and Thu 10am-11am. Pre-purchased online timed tickets are required and help control capacity as part of the Museum's health & safety measures.

**RECYCLE YOUR WIRE HANGERS**

What do you do with all the wire coat hangers the dry cleaner so nicely hangs your clean clothes on? Technically, you could put them in the recycle bin, however, whether they would be recycled is another issue. Most recycling companies will not accept wire hangers because they get stuck in the recycling machine. Even more, most recycling companies cannot handle their shape and material.



In the spirit of reduce, REUSE or recycle, there are two best options. You can return them to your dry cleaner to be reused by another customer or you can donate them to thrift stores who need them to display donated clothing for sale.

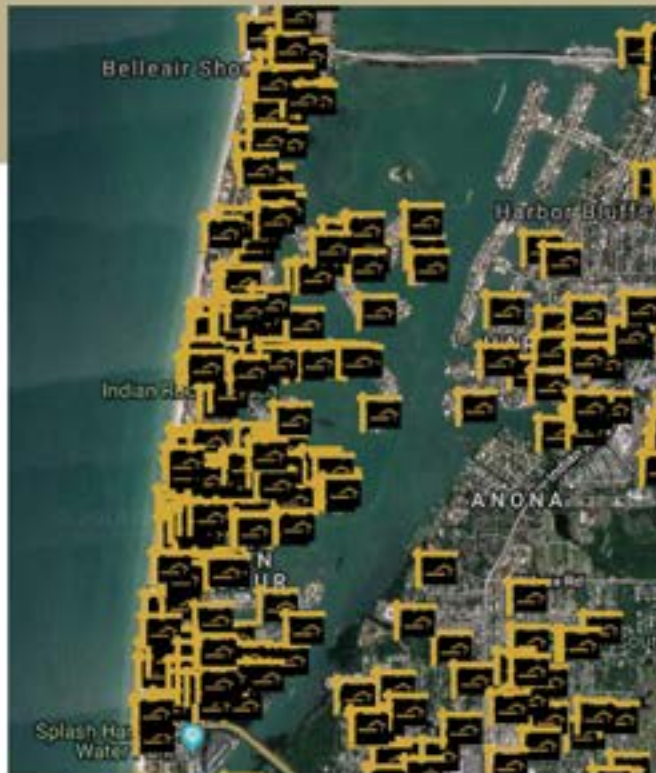
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## CUSTOM JEWELRY BY ROBERT YOUNG HOW DOES HE DO THAT?

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. ■

Find Robert Young Jewelers at 250 Indian Rocks Rd N, Belleair Bluffs. Call him at 727-584-1110



**Robert Young**



**Mark McKinlay**



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## BETTER TO GIVE

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

As we approach the holiday season, our thoughts turn to gifts for family and friends. Here are a few thoughts on financial gift giving.

In 2020, you may make a gift up to \$15,000 each to as many people as you want without incurring a gift tax. A couple can double that amount. Let us say you have three children. That means you jointly can transfer \$90,000 of wealth to them and another \$90,000 to their spouse and \$30,000 to each grandchild.

But it gets even better! Suppose you do this over a five-year period. If the child invests the money at a hypothetical return of 5%, it will be worth \$165,750 for each. In ten years, it will grow to \$377,300 and in twenty years it will almost reach \$1 million.

But it gets even better! If you have a grandchild attending private school or going to college and you make a gift directly to the institution for qualified educational expenses, regardless of how high, the gift is unlimited.

But it gets even better! In the alternative, you can contribute to a 529 education account that grows tax free when used for qualified education expenses. You can jump start this program by putting in five years of gifting at one time. The only catch here is that you cannot make an additional gift for the subsequent five years.

But it gets even better! Suppose you have a great deal of wealth and you want to give more than \$15,000 per year. Say you are age 65, expect to live at least another twenty years, and you want to give \$1 million. Then the first \$15,000 will be considered an annual gift and the remaining amount will use part of your lifetime exemption of \$11.58 million. There is still no gift tax, but you will have to file a gift tax return.

But it gets even better! That million dollars over the next 20 years at our 5% return grows to \$2.65 million. Thus, you removed not \$1 million from your future estate, but \$2.65 million. Assuming you have a taxable estate, this could save over \$1 million in potential estate taxes.

We have lots of other gift giving ideas, so why not give us call for a complimentary consultation in either our Clearwater or Tampa office. Happy Holidays!

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
ProVise Management Group, LLC  
611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756  
727-441-9022, info@provisemgmt.com



The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

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



## 30 YEARS OF THE PINELLAS TRAIL

Before there was a Pinellas Trail, walkers, runners, bikers, and skaters took their chances on our streets. It took the death of a young man on the Belleair Causeway to create the Pinellas Trail.

In 1983, Indian Rocks residents Bert and Patti Valery's son, Albert Valery Jr. was hit and killed on the bridge while bicycling coming home from his part-time job. The accident led his parents to create the Bicycle Advisory Committee and to lobby the Metropolitan Planning Organization for safer roads and pathways.

It took five years of relentless petitioning and campaigning, visiting and presenting to dozens of local municipalities, and twisting the arms of politicians and county department heads before the concept of a linear park, a recreational trail, a green ribbon running through the county—took form. In the late 1980s, it was suggested that it be paid for by Penny For Pinellas and The Pinellas Trail was born.

On December 1, 1990, the first five miles of the trail opened at Taylor Park in Largo (at 8th Avenue) and stretched south to Seminole City Park. It would eventually become today's 54 miles of connected roadway, reserved exclusively walkers, bicyclists, and skaters.

In 2003, the Pinellas Trail was designated as part of a National Recreational Trail within the National Trails System by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service and has twice received the "Best Trail of Florida" award from the State Office of Greenways and Trails.

Although the original trail was started with money from Penny For Pinellas, County, State and Federal agencies have invested more than \$63 million in expanding and improving the trail over the past 30 years. In 2022, when the San Martin Bridge/Trail is finished, connecting Roosevelt Blvd and 4th Street, the full loop will be complete.

In the last five years, there have been many improvements including:

1. Pedestrian bridge over Orange Street and Alt US 19
2. Tri County trail connection – trail spur completion of Pinellas County gap to Coast to Coast Trail
3. Clearwater Trail connection at Druid
4. Pedestrian bridge replacement over Alligator Creek at Northeast Coachman Park
5. NE Coachman Rd trail completion
6. Trail completion between US 19 pedestrian overpass to Sunset Point Rd
7. Trail completion between Sunset Point Rd and NE Coachman Rd
8. Trail completion along Belleair Rd and US 19 to Haines Bayshore
9. Reconstruction in Tarpon Springs near Live Oak St
10. Trail resurfacing in Dunedin and Ozona
11. Construction beginning for North Loop Gap between Enterprise Rd and John Chesnut Park. When done, this 6.8 miles will complete the northern gap.
12. Trail completion along Roosevelt Blvd
13. Installation of drinking fountains and benches

In the beginning, only three other places had any form of a community trail. Today, over 1,000 cities have them. Almost all have asked Pinellas County for input or visited to see our now famous Pinellas Trail.

Get more information about the trail and see a map of it at [www.PinellasTrails.org](http://www.PinellasTrails.org).

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# Real Estate News

## DEFYING THE REAL ESTATE ODDS If I Were a Betting Man

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



A pandemic. High unemployment. Tourism struggling. Businesses shuttering. Economy stuttering. All that points to a real estate market that, by all rights, should be in the very bottom of the tank. Instead, we are dealing with a blazing market that even a well-trained, long-distance runner is hard-pressed to keep up with and the reason realtor.com's "Market Hotness Index" exists.

After COVID arrived, the bottom dropped out of the real estate market in April. If I had been asked then to put money on Indian Rocks meeting last year's year-end sales figures, I would not have anteed up. But, by the looks of the pace at which our market is roaring back, I probably should have taken that bet...and maybe even doubled down.

In the first five months of last year with no pandemic, 85 homes and condos were sold in IRB. This year, during the same months in the grip of COVID, there were only 55 sales, putting us about 35% behind the 8-ball as of May 31. Now, roll the calendar forward to October. As of mid-October, the market rebounded to within 5 units of 2019's sales! And, if 4th Quarter follows the pattern of the last three years, we'll be raising our champagne glasses in a New Year's toast to a real estate market that is at least on par with last year as we say good riddance to 2020—with glee.

Property values have defied the odds, too. Nationally, the median sales price of a home exceeded \$300,000 for the first time in history. In IRB, the median sales price as of mid-October was \$595,000--nearly double the national stat and an increase of 20% when compared to the same 10.5 months last year.

Two reasons our real estate market escaped the tank: (1) a lack of inventory against pent-up demand and (2) super low interest rates producing the highest volume of new mortgages/refis in 30 years. How fast our properties are selling tells the story. The median number of days from listing to contract in 2019 was 47. This year, the median number of days a property is listed before going to contract is 27. We recently presented 10 offers to one seller with an aggressively priced property: 6 were AT LIST PRICE and 4 were OVER, resulting in a contract after only 5 days on the market.

The resiliency of our real estate market has amazed even the most optimistic. It took IRB years to recover from the Great Bubble Burst of 2007 but we're springing back from the Pandemic of 2020 in short order. A deluge of foreclosures isn't likely either since, surprisingly, a significant percentage of stressed borrowers got back on track.

Most economists and real estate experts expect ongoing growth at least into 2021. Scarce inventory will, more than likely, continue to offset health and economic concerns and keep the market steered toward sellers. Our strong housing sector is leading economic recovery and, if I were sitting at the blackjack table deciding whether to press up my bet, I'd move all my chips forward and go all in.

Source: Stellar MLS

## PROPOSED CITY ORDINANCES

The November 10 City Commission Meeting will have the first reading for four new ordinances. Each will have two readings before they become law. Below is an overview. Please read the complete ordinances on the City's Web site.

**On Street Parking:** The first ordinance will restrict on street parking east of Gulf Blvd. and north of 5th Avenue. Only residents with a valid parking permit decal will be allowed to park on the street from 9am to 5pm. All residents are eligible to have a free decal for each vehicle with a registration reflecting an address within the City. Contractors that are actively providing services, or repairs are exempt from these restrictions. Violators will be fined and or towed.

**Parking Fines:** The second ordinance adjusts parking fines from \$40 to \$75. It also restricts parking on the beach accesses, including spaces reserved for residents, between the hours of 11pm and 6 am to vehicles with temporary parking permits. The temporary permits are \$5 per night.

**No Trace Ordinance:** The third ordinance – called the No Trace Ordinance - is to keep the public beach and beach access areas free from personal obstructions. It states:

- Holes dug on the beach are required to be attended and filled prior to leaving the beach.
- Personal property cannot be left unattended on any portion of the public beach from 10 pm until 6 am. It will be deemed abandoned by the owner and removed.
- Open fires on the beach are prohibited

**Park Hours -** The final ordinance changes park hours. All parks in the city, except for the Beach Nature Preserve, the Indian Rocks Beach Skate Facility, and Brown Park, will be closed from 9 pm to 7 am daily. This includes Kolb and Keegan Clair Parks. Brown Park, the Nature Preserve and the Boardwalk will be closed from dusk until 7 am. The Keegan Clair Boat Docks will be open daily 7 am - 11pm. The skate facility at Kolb Park will be open daily 10am – 9pm.

The meeting begins at 7pm, with limited seating. For residents who wish to view the meeting from home, the City has Zoom information available. If you are unable to attend, but want to express your views regarding any of the above ordinances, you can email the Commissioners through the City's Web site at [www.indian-rocks-beach.com](http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com).

## SEASONAL RECLAIMED WATER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Pinellas County seasonal reclaimed water restrictions are in effect through Monday, Nov. 30. Enforcement of watering restrictions is currently being intensified to encourage responsible use of reclaimed water.

North County reclaimed water customers may irrigate two days per week based on property address:

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

Because irrigation is prohibited on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, the reclaimed water system will be shut down on these days, as needed. The system will also be shut down from 8 am to 4 pm on all days of operation for supply recovery.

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# Business Briefs

## PETAL AND VINE CLOSSES

Owners Jennifer and Nikki closed their garden shop, located in Belleair Bluff's Antique Alley, at the end of September. The shop was a popular place for 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.



## 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.



## PAUL ZAGAMI JOINS GORDON REALTY HOUSE

Gordon Realty House welcomes Sales Associate Paul Zagami. A long-time Indian Rocks Beach resident, Paul, along with his wife Patty, has bought and sold numerous homes and condos in IRB, and is currently building their dream home on 12th Ave. "Paul's energy is contagious and it doesn't hurt that he's an avid runner who can keep up in

this crazy, fast-paced real estate market," says Broker Gordon Obarski. Zagami, who holds an MBA and a BS in Pharmacy, is a member of Action 2000, Inc., the IRB Senior Softball League and Clever Training's Triathlon Training Group. When he's not out showing property, look for Paul out and about on the streets of IRB, cycling, running or at the dog park with his rescue dogs, Lola & Stella.

**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 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 Drive. Call Tina at 586-6559.

**NEW HOTEL** A Home Suites 2 hotel is opening 5 miles east of Indian Rocks Beach across the street from Largo Mall (near the closed Pier One) This mid-sized hotel is part of the Hilton group.

They have the usual Hilton amenities, including pool, wireless access, a common television area, outside grills, a 24-hour business center and free parking. They offer a complimentary 6 to 10am breakfast (if CDC allowed, due to the pandemic).

They expect to open any day. Call 855-516-1092 for information.



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# Business Briefs



**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 this month. She is very excited to be part of Antique Alley in Belleair Bluffs.

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

**ANCHORS AWAY CLOSES OFFICE** Due to Covid-19, the owners of Anchors Away Cruises and Tours decided to close their Belleair 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.

**ALOHA SUNSHINE VACATION RENTALS** Warren & Courtney Rogers spent their careers in the dental industry as owners of one of the larger North America dental labs. In 2019 they retired.

In early 2020, they decided to enter the Vacation Rentals business and purchased their first building in Indian Rocks Beach. The property sets on an inlet of the Intracoastal waterway with beautiful views and relaxing peaceful sitting areas for guest to enjoy. Over the last several months, they completely converted the building into four luxury vacation rentals called Aloha Sunshine Luxury Vacation Rentals, LLC.



Keeping with an island theme, each suite has its own Hawaiian name; Kalani, Kalea, Kapua and Kailani and each suite has its own unique luxury appointments including all new kitchens and baths.

"Our vision for Aloha Sunshine is to give each guest the most memorable, comfortable, safe, and best 5-star stay available. Particularly in these times, we are applying our knowledge and experience from the dental device industry for best disinfection practices and profession cleaning standards," the Rogers say.

For reservations, call 833-99-ALOHA.

**SURFSIDE FRESH PRODUCE CORRECTION** We used the wrong name for the new produce store at 1401 Gulf Blvd, near Pinky's Ice Cream. This may have affected you if you were searching for them on FaceBook where they post their daily specials. Their correct name is Surfside Fresh Produce. Find them on Facebook at Facebook.com/surfsideproduce.

Surfside is open seven days a week, 8:30am to 6:30pm. Call 219-7079 for more information.

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# Business Briefs



**BLVD BARBERS CELEBRATES SEVEN YEARS** Owner Joey has seen the tops of a lot of heads in Indian Rocks Beach these last seven years. In doing so, he has developed quite a local following and a great reputation. Next month will be Blvd Barbers' seventh year. Stop in and wish him well Happy Anniversary. Find Joey at 1401 Gulf Blvd, near Pinky's Ice Cream.

**SOUTH BEACH CONVENIENCE STORE** Gurbuz, better known as "Gee", decided to close his Baked Batata restaurant and reopen the space as a convenience store. It will

be the only one south of Walsingham Road in Indian Rocks. "The restaurant was not making it, so I decided to try something different," says Gee. He plans to carry the usual small grocery items, including beer, wine, cigarettes, and LOTTO. Look for this to open before the end of the year at 321 Gulf Blvd, south of the CVS store.

**COLD STONE CREAMERY HAS NEW OWNERS**

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

"We do not plan many changes," Santiago explains. "Cold Stone 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."

Cold Stone 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.



**THE WALK** Located on Gulf Blvd. at the north end of the city, this condo project is being built by Taylor Morrison who also built The Cove, at 7th Avenue and Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach. The Walk will be 32 three-story townhomes. All are approximately 1,900 square foot, three-bedroom, three-bath, 2 car-tandem garage units.

The Walk will encompass one and a half city blocks, just north of 18 On The Rocks, and include a pool and butterfly garden. For more information, call Molly Whalen at 866-495-6006.

**CLOSED** The Regal Movie chain closed its 536 US theaters again in October including their Largo Mall location. They had only been open for two months after the pandemic closure and still hadn't opened in New York state at all. The company did not give a date for reopening and will monitor the situation. Over 40,000 employees were laid off.

**BUSINESS NEWS WANTED** If you have news for this News Magazine, e-mail Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

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**WATER WISE**

By Julie Hoofnagle

I love working in my garden. I find great peace working there and my focus has been on planting native plants and attracting pollinators. I became a Master Gardener in 2015 and have applied those skills to benefit the community as well. In a June Master Gardener UF/IFAS Pinellas County Update, I learned about the Community Water Wise Awards Program for 2020. I cleaned out my six rain barrels and started to water all my plants in my yard exclusively from the collected rain water. Having no grass in my yard it requires less water and very little pesticides and herbicides. Since June I have been looking at my water bill and I have reduced my water consumption by half from the year before.



The Community Water Wise Awards Program is sponsored by Tampa Bay Water and was created to recognize individuals and businesses committed to conserving water resources and protecting the environment by implementing the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. The deadline to apply was August 31st. If you are interested in more information or applying for next year check out [awards.tampabaywaterwise.org](http://awards.tampabaywaterwise.org).

Everyone has a role to play in conserving our drinking water resources. To help our region conserve water, Tampa Bay Water is partnering with our member governments and the Southwest Florida Water Management District on Tampa Bay Water Wise, a regional water conservation program that offers rebates to residents, commercial property owners, contractors and builders who take proactive steps to reduce water use and demand on the region's water supply. The Tampa Bay Water Wise Regional Rebate Program is a year-round program. See if you can qualify for a rebate here: [tampabaywater.org/Conservation/Tampa-Bay-Water-Wise](http://tampabaywater.org/Conservation/Tampa-Bay-Water-Wise).

**TIPS TO AVOID GAS STATION CREDIT CARD SKIMMERS**

**Do a Scan:** Take a close look at gas pumps to see if they have been opened, are damaged, unlocked, or if tamper-evident security tape has been cut or removed.

**Pay with a Credit Card:** If you must use a debit card, choose to use it as credit, instead of selecting debit and entering your PIN. Use a credit card chip if available

**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.

If you suspect your card has been compromised, immediately contact your financial institution and local law enforcement.

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## Restaurant News



### JD'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT IS 35

When the Downing family opened JD's in November of 1985, it was just two months after Indian Rocks experienced Hurricane Elena. People were still recovering and cleaning up the damage.

Prior to JD's, that location was

Moodies Drug Store with a residence, then it was O'Neal's Restaurant operated by Jimmy and Dubie O'Neal. Tom Downing, the late patriarch of the family, bought O'Neals and renamed the restaurant after his wife, Jackie Downing (JD's).

Today, the family - Jackie, and children Leslie, Kip and Jay - still operate the restaurant. They have live music seven days a week and a piano bar on the weekends. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, they are no longer serving breakfast.

Find JD's at 125 Gulf Blvd. See their menu online at [www.JDSRestaurant.com](http://www.JDSRestaurant.com).

**VIP OPENING NEW RESTAURANT IN IRB** If you have ever been to the VIP Lounge & Mexican Restaurant in Treasure Island, then you know why everyone got so excited when the restaurant's owners announced they be converting Aqua Prime, at 213 Gulf Blvd., in to their second Mexican restaurant.

The Treasure Island VIP has been in existence since the 1970s, and although easy to miss, it is a landmark in Treasure Island. The menu is packed with everything from classic dishes to newer trends.

They hope to open the new location in early 2021 - just in time for Cinco de Mayo 2021.

**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.





# Restaurant News



**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 plans are underway for a grand re-opening. Beach Waves Grill is located at 2300 Gulf Blvd, in the strip center with Café de Paris and Sandy's.

**LIGHTHOUSE DONUTS** The owners of Aqua Prime also own the Lighthouse Donuts building. They did some minor upgrading and remodeling, both inside and out, and now it is available to be leased. They are asking \$4,000 a month plus you pay the property taxes (\$11,600/year). If you are interested, call Shane Crawford at 697-9724.

**HUNGRY CRAB** This new Cajun seafood restaurant is opening in the former home of Sweet Tomatoes at Largo Mall. Watch for them to open in three or four months. Hungry Crab Juicy Seafood is a chain with a location in Seminole at 8841 Park Blvd. See their menu on their FaceBook page.

**IT'S YOUR DAY GONE** Owner Mary Toll closed It's Your Day Café in Indian Rocks, next to Slyce Pizza when she bought "Wine Knot" in Redington Beach. "I thought owning a wine store would be more fun," Mary told us. Find her now at 17477 Gulf Blvd, Redington Beach.



**MIKE'S PIZZA 10 YEARS OLD** Sal, Jennifer, and their uncle Mike Dodaro opened Mike's Pizza on Walsingham Road in November of 2010. They later added the Sports Pub near the street. In those ten years, they have produced thousands of pizzas and Sal and Jennifer's five boys.

Find them at 14477 Walsingham Road and online at MikesPizzaandPub.com Call 724-4100 for delivery.

**CLOSED**

- BAKED BATATA - 321 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach
- GATOR'S CAFÉ, Madeira Beach, closed for the pandemic and decided not to reopen.
- THAI PAN ALLEY 2300 Gulf Blvd. New owners, new concept.
- IT'S YOUR DAY CAFE - 311 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach

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## PINELLAS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REALITIES

As I've spent time writing informational articles these past 4 years while contemplating the robust construction activity in Pinellas County, I keep going back to recurring concepts that I've discussed because they provide the most accurate information that I feel I can provide. The construction industry has been in full swing for the past few years, and with the influx of our snowbirds that have now turned into Florida residents, it seems inevitable that more increased activity will continue. Just this past year, three of my close friends from up north that have been renting here for the past years, have decided to purchase a home here in Pinellas. They have been going to open houses for years seeing what is available at what price, and have witnessed the large increase in home pricing due to inflation. Like everybody, they all said "Why did I wait these past years to buy, when I could have purchased the same new home for 10%, 15%, or 25% less"? Don't we often hear our friends say "I remember when I could have purchased a home in that neighborhood for \$380,000, and now that same home is selling for almost \$500,000". That is exactly today's reality.

Therefore, I'll re-state my prior concepts from past news articles that we discuss almost daily when customers come through our furnished model home:

- **Investing or Spending:** We all like liquidity with our savings, but lose ground each year when delaying a new home purchase. The stock market is hot now, but of course will have periodic corrections. Transferring some savings into a new Florida home and having a "hard asset" investment makes sense. Remember, you are not "spending" this money, but rather investing in Florida real estate that traditionally has increased in value well above savings accounts;
- **Inflation, Inflation, Inflation:** Is a new Florida home going to get cheaper? No. A new home constructed to elevated FEMA standards, with 150MPH hurricane resistant construction, energy efficient and all modern amenities, the "Supply & Demand" ratio greatly favors those

homeowners. The existing homes built 50 years ago to outdated codes and non-FEMA compliant elevations just do not enjoy the inflationary increase of new homes today;

- **Enjoy Your New Investment:** How many investments in a family's portfolio can be enjoyed as much as a new home, maybe on the Intracoastal with a new pool and dock, for the family to enjoy for swimming, fishing, and boating to restaurants? This point would not be valid if you were spending the family inheritance on a depreciable item, but a new Florida home has the luxury of an enjoyable family environment that has historically increased in value each year;
- **Hard to "Pull the Trigger":** I realize that it is hard to transfer the funds from savings to Florida real estate, but that big step pays many dividends for families;
- **Replacement Homes:** Those lucky families that already own a home on the water, but realize the age and non-FEMA compliant 50 year old home is not the outdated home that they want to live in for the next 20 years. These families only have to choose a new home, and replace it with a new family environment. This has become the main portion of construction for GHD these past few years.

New Florida homes are becoming increasingly popular, and many Realtors bring their customers to our furnished model home when they can't find a home that satisfies their customers' needs. We Co-Broker with Realtors around Pinellas, to show them an alternative to the existing 50 year old housing stock here.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971, and has the new showroom/office at 14995 Gulf Blvd Suite C, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to call at (727) 954-8345, or email to: [info@ghdcsi.com](mailto:info@ghdcsi.com). Meanwhile, look us up on our website at [www.GHDcoastalhomes.com](http://www.GHDcoastalhomes.com).

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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



*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.*

cardiologist, a heart surgeon and one 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). ■

## 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 bit 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 and will be looking for volunteers to help with the planning and implementation starting in March 2021

## 2020 PELICAN LPGA 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 the television schedule.

## Big Man's Moving Voted Best Moving Company

*Thank you to our customers who moved with us, recommended us to friends, and voted for us. Words cannot describe how grateful we are!*

In the Tampa Bay Times "People's Choice" Best of the Best, Big Man's Moving Company was voted the #1 Best Moving Company.

When we got engaged in 2016, we had a terrible moving experience of our own. Even though we hired a reputable company, the movers were hours late without calling, scratched half our furniture, and the final bill was double the estimate. There seemed to be a need in the market for an honest, reliable moving company. Following our wedding, we used our wedding gifts to partially fund our first moving truck and start Big Man's Moving Company.

With a lot of sweat equity (literally), building a great team, and referrals from customers and Realtors, we've performed over 2400 successful local and out-of-state moves since our opening in January 2017. Our goal was to create a different kind of moving company - one where you speak with the owner on the phone, get personalized service, and are greeted by a team of smiling, professional movers. We know our team of movers are special people, but winning "Best of the Best Tampa Bay" validates everything we've been striving for!

If a local, statewide, or out-of-state move is in your future, please complete the form on [Bigmansmoving.com](http://Bigmansmoving.com) or call us at (727)772-3458. Thanks for the opportunity to earn your business!

*We look forward to serving you - Josh & Brooke Anderson*



## THINGS I DIDN'T EXPECT WHEN I JUMPED OUT OF AN AIRPLANE

By Michelle Chenault, Clearwater Resident

Would you ever jump out of an airplane? For me, at 55, it was a distant thought on my fantasy bucket list! But last Saturday there I was, driving to the Lake Wales Regional Airport to the "Jump Florida" Skydiving Center with my kids and neighbors, on my daughter's 18th birthday, presumably to only WATCH! The week before I had sincerely tried to psyche myself up but I was truly scared, even having nightmares and losing sleep the days before. I didn't want to do it. But upon arrival to the huge airport hanger with 100+ people waiting to go, and large live stream videos showing the entire process, I soon developed a sense of calm and I began to believe it was not such a difficult feat. I signed up and I did it!

Here are the Top 3 things I did not expect when jumping out of the plane.

1. Absolutely No Skills are Involved: The Tandem instructor does absolutely everything! He attaches the harness, he jumps, he pulls the parachute, and he does the landing. My job was to relax and realize that I am like another backpack he was carrying. There is nothing for you to do.

2. You Don't Feel the Fall... You feel the Wind: Many people believe you get that roller-coaster drop feeling the entire time you are going down. But actually, that stomach drop feeling is caused by a change in acceleration and you only feel that feeling for a few seconds immediately after the jump. Instead, once you jump, the extreme wind in your hair, face, mouth, and body will be a memorable experience. Also, at 18,000 feet, you are so far above the earth that it doesn't look like the ground is coming toward you very quickly. And after the parachute is pulled, it is a slow, graceful, and very peaceful glide to the ground where you lift your feet up and the Instructor softly lands on his feet or bottom.

3. Skydiving is actually a very safe activity. While nothing in life is guaranteed, and accidents can happen. Tandem jumping is considered by experts to be a low-risk activity. Most tandem instructors have logged thousands of dives and typically do up to 25 jumps per week. Also, the tandem instructor is equipped with 2 sets of canopies – the main one that is deployed and a reserve one just in case. There is an electronic system inside every rig that automatically deploys the reserve chute if, for any reason, the main chute is not deployed by a certain altitude.

We went to Florida Jump Skydive who NEVER had an accident report in over 125,000+ jumps. That gave me a lot of reassurance!! If you decide to Skydive, do your research and always be safe. It is appropriate for any age 18-100. For us, it was a great family experience and a fabulous memory that will last a lifetime.



*Michelle Chenault's daughter Tammy Gemmell, celebrating her birthday.*

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## HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS

By Denise Hughes Conlon, LMCH MCAP

The holiday season will be here soon and for some this can be a stressful rather than a joyous time. To alleviate stress this season, concentrate on the joy of the season and even add to it.

Look for happiness. When you're shopping and people are angry or seem stressed, spread joy. Smile and merrily say "Happy Holidays." Sing your favorite Christmas song. Hug your loved ones and friends longer and more often.

There is an actual chemical response in your body when you sing, smile or hug loved ones. Your body releases, oxytocin and simply put oxytocin makes us feel warm and cozy. It chases the stress chemicals away.

So this holiday season look for a way to spread joy, something to be grateful for or someone to give an encouraging word too. Spreading the true meaning of the holidays will help you alleviate some of those holiday stressors.

If you should need help dealing with holiday or any other stressors, please contact me at 727-458-7775. I have a background in healing all types of trauma and I work on a sliding fee scale. My office is located at 1615 1st St., Indian Rocks Beach and I have evening hours available. You can also email me at [dhconlon27@gmail.com](mailto:dhconlon27@gmail.com).

## VIRTUAL SUNCOAST JAZZ FESTIVAL

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Suncoast Jazz Festival, which until this year has been held every November at the Sheraton and Marriot hotels on Sand Key in Clearwater. Not wanting to forgo celebrating its three decades of bringing jazz to its devoted audience, the festival will transition to a virtual experience showcasing a scaled-down roster of performers.

Over the course of the three day festival, from November 20 -22, performances will stream on Facebook Live, YouTube or [www.SuncoastJazzFestival.com](http://www.SuncoastJazzFestival.com). All festival shows will be free, thanks to support from sponsors and donors, ensuring that all musicians will be compensated. Interested individuals can still contribute to cover the musicians' fees via [SuncoastJazzFestival.com](http://www.SuncoastJazzFestival.com).

The performers participating include many favorites from years' past, including the Dave Bennet Quartet, who will be live from Michigan; Professor Cunningham and his Old School from Barcelona; Rossano Sportiello, Nicki Parrott and Eddie Metz live from the Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts in Winter Park, FL; La Lucha featuring James Suggs live from the Side Door at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College; Vivacity featuring Heather Thorn live from Timucua Arts Foundation in Orlando, FL; Tom Rigney and Flambeau; the Johnny Varro Trio; the Tarpon Spring Jazz Ensemble; Bob Leary live from Naples, FL; Bakey and Bette live from Orlando; and Nate Najar and Friends featuring Brazilian vocalist Daniela Soledade, Randy Sandke and Jeff Rupert, performing live from The Studio @620 in St. Petersburg. For more information, visit [www.SuncoastJazzFestival.com](http://www.SuncoastJazzFestival.com).

## COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ONLINE SAFETY CLASSES

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. 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 in the comfort of your home. No commuting.

**Times:** The November classes are scheduled 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.

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. Please contact your insurance agent for applicable discounts.

For information or to register, visit [clwboatingsafety.com](http://clwboatingsafety.com) email [clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com](mailto:clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com), or call 727-469-8895.

# HERE'S TO A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND COVID-SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

The holidays are here and I'm looking forward to some quiet time celebrating, but I'm also looking forward to 2021. As we all know, 2020 has been a year for the record books—and not the kind of records we want to ever set again. Between an active hurricane season, the pandemic and everything in between, we've been challenged to keep our spirits up and our bodies healthy.

Looking forward to 2021, there are many things we can do to make the new year a better one, especially concerning COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the best way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed. I know how worried everyone is. We appreciate the thousands of e-mails and citizens calling in to our Zoom meetings. I've read every e-mail. We are all weary from COVID-19 and the constant drum of the associated health and safety rules, but they are worth repeating and keeping.

To stay safe from possibly contracting the virus, avoid being exposed by maintaining a 6-foot social distance from others, wash your hands with soap and water frequently, routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, and by cover your nose and mouth with a mask when around others.

We understand that masks are uncomfortable, but everyone should wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live with you. Wearing a mask is especially important when you can't use proper social distancing measures, or social distancing is difficult to maintain. The goal is to protect the people around you and our most vulnerable populations: the elderly and people who may be immune-compromised.

I also want to remind you about Pinellas CARES emergency

financial relief programs. 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. Individuals can get financial assistance for overdue rent, mortgage and utility bills for those who lost a job or significant income due to COVID-19.



The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners approved expanded grant funding for Pinellas-based businesses most affected by the pandemic. In general, this includes businesses that were required to shut down or whose customers were required to shut down or stop doing business. Eligible business categories include food and beverage manufacturing, durable and nondurable goods wholesalers, retail businesses, transportation services, recreation and many more.

For more information about the Pinellas CARES programs and access to the application portals, visit <https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellas-cares-financial-assistance>. To read County ordinances and state orders and access a wide array of up-to-date COVID-19 information, visit [covid19.pinellascounty.org/](https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/).

I hope, if you need it, you will take advantage of these programs to get you back on your feet. I also hope you'll keep wearing your mask and thinking of others during this special time.

May your holidays be blessed with happiness, love and properly social-distanced celebrations with family and friends.

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# Community News

## IRB ACTION 2000, INC.

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

A2K keeps working! Adhering to social distancing, volunteers have continued to maintain our landscaping projects across the City. On October 3rd and October 22nd volunteers trimmed, weeded and mulched the Mini Park at 10th Ave and Gulf Blvd the 12th Avenue Park. Perhaps more than ever, these volunteer projects are creating a sense of community spirit as well as providing a welcoming spot to walk or relax. Learn more about how you can volunteer and make a difference at [www.irbaction2000/events](http://www.irbaction2000/events). No special skills needed and you can work at your own pace.

Kolb Park Gazebo Upgrade Project - Have you seen the revitalized gazebo at Kolb Park? On October 26th, an opening ceremony took place with City officials and A2K members. A plaque honoring the late Ralph Montgomery was installed honoring his legacy of civic leadership and volunteer spirit.

A2K donated \$50,000 to the City towards the expense of upgrading the gazebo and is an example of the continued partnership of the City and A2K. The City engaged Eric Meyer of Dynamic Property Services for the conceptual design and contracted with Caladesi Construction Company for renovations to the gazebo. The project included new lighting, expansion of the concrete area, energy efficient lighting and architectural enhancements.

Virtual Run/Walk Challenge - A2K is excited to announce their first Virtual Run/Walk Challenge. All participants will receive a cool event T-shirt, digital bib, medal bling and bragging rights! The global Challenge is set for December 1 - 10, 2020. Simply register and set your own challenge - run, walk, paddle, bike, yoga. Your way. Your time. Your pace. Any place. Exciting prizes will be awarded! Proceeds from the event will support the maintenance fund for A2K landscaping maintenance projects. Take the challenge in your own creative way and help to keep IRB beautiful! Learn more at [www.irbaction2000/events](http://www.irbaction2000/events).

## 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.

The Clearwater Yacht Club has a new General Manager - Joe Meyer. Joe began his hospitality and restaurant management career in the Florida Keys at the Ocean Reef Club as its Banquets and Catering Manager. He later became the General Manager at the Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club, the Treasure Island Yacht Club, and the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club where he worked for 15 years. More recently, he was a consultant managing director for a portfolio of golf clubs in Colorado.

"I am honored to accept the position of the Clearwater Yacht Club General Manager. I have 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," Joe says. "One of the first objectives of mine is to hire a Food and Beverage Director to fine tune and elevate the dining experience here at CYC."

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.



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[www.runsignup.com/A2Kchallenge](http://www.runsignup.com/A2Kchallenge)



# Community News

## BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Like many non-profits, income for the BAC has been greatly reduced due to the pandemic, as have their opportunities to hold fundraising events which are counted on to cover operating costs. \$20 for 2020 puts the "fun" in fundraiser!

What is \$20 for 2020? It is an online fundraiser - for each \$20 donated, the donor is entered into a raffle for several fantastic prizes. All prizes have been donated so 100% of your donation will help the Beach Art Center. One fabulous prize is a custom portrait by Award-Winning local artist Sheila Tolbert of your favorite pet. Sheila has a unique ability to capture the personality of all her subjects.

The \$20 for 2020 Raffle will be held at the end of the year. For more information or to purchase online raffle tickets, go to our website [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org).

Gift Shop & Art Gallery - Both are open Mon-Fri, from 9am - 4pm Looking for a unique, one of a kind gift this year? Would you like to support local artists and your local Art Center? Come check out the Beach Art Center Gift Shop and Art Galleries. Gift Certificates are available.

Fine Arts Gallery Holiday Show and Sale - Our art galleries will be filled with beautiful art, including some fantastic pottery. The show begins on November 9 and runs through Dec 23.

Classes are in full swing - Acrylic, Oil and Watercolor painting, Drawing, Pastels, Pottery, Jewelry Making...at all levels. We have Zoom, In-House and Hybrid (offering the choice of online or in-house) classes. Details are on the website.

All students must be registered for class prior to entering the building. Register online or contact our office by phone or email in advance. Covid-19 Protocols require that we limit class size, so space will be limited, best to register early.

Art on the Rocks is back - These are fun, evening, In-House sessions where you relax and create. All the materials and instruction are included, and you leave with a finished work of art!

Note: To protect our staff and guests, the Beach Art Center observes Covid-19 protocols including a requirement that guests wear a facemask or shield. Guests will also sign in and submit to a touchless temperature check. Details can be found at [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org).

## WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS 2021

Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 1615 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, will host its 16th Annual Winterfest On the Rocks 2021 event Saturday, February 13th from 10am - 4pm. The "family friendly" festival is an occasion to celebrate the neighborhood, children and their pets, and the city of Indian Rocks Beach. Special live concerts and entertainment will be presented in the Church Sanctuary and outside. There is no admission charge, but a "Free Will Offering" will be available.

The day will include a pet parade, arts and crafts booths, children's activities (such as creation and sailing mini sailboats on the pond), a silent auction, special drawings throughout the day (including a "Grand Prize"), a bake sale, food vendors and beverages (beer and wine) concessions, and more.

Calvary seeks to bring the beach communities together to raise funds to assist in its overall mission and to raise awareness to the Church's ongoing efforts to serve the poor through the Beach Community Food Pantry and its other outreach ministries.

For information, including sponsor and vendor opportunities, contact Calvary Episcopal Church at 727-595-2874.



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# SHOP LOCAL - SHOP INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Christmas is not too far off and with so much time on our hands, many people have already begun their holiday shopping. Why not buy that special person on your list something that says IRB? We visited our local businesses and found lots of ideas with IRB or Indian Rocks Beach written on it.

## BEACH ZONE

321 Gulf Blvd, next to Slyce Pizza.

They certainly have the largest selection of IRB merchandise. Items include stickers, magnets, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, other apparel, towels (some embroidered), and a lot of novelties items.



## CRABBY BILL'S GIFT SHOP

412 Gulf Blvd, in the middle of the two restaurants

Don't Worry...Shop Crabby this year. They have hats, shirts, and a few other unique ideas. Most items come with the name Crabby Bill's on them too—at no extra charge, of course.



## CVS STORE

353 Gulf Blvd, next to Crabby Bills

There are more IRB items here than you might imagine. Items include clothing, shirts, hoodies, toys, beach things, towels, and novelties. Their IRB T-shirts range in price from \$10-\$20.



## JIMMY GUANA'S GIFT SHOP

401 Second Street in the Holiday Inn

They have shirts, hats and more with both the Jimmy Guana's logo and Indian Rocks Beach printed on them.



## INDIAN ROCKS TACKLE

1301 Gulf Blvd at 13th Avenue

For over 65 years, they have supplied people with a complete line of custom rod and reels, rigging, and all types of casual angler's clothing with Indian Rocks on it.



## ISLAND ATTITUDES

1519 Gulf Blvd., near Keegan's

Celebrating their second anniversary, they sell T-shirts, decals, license plates, hats, key chains, magnets, and the cutest Indian Rocks Beach Christmas ornaments for your tree.

## ISLAND COVE BEADS

1519 Gulf Blvd, next to Keegan's

Island Cove has thousands of items that range from handmade IRB jewelry to ladies clothing. This long sleeve top (\$36) says Indian Rocks all over it. All their products are locally sourced.



## ISLAND SURF SHOP

309 Gulf Blvd, near Slyce Pizza

While they sell everything from shirts to surf boards, they are the go-to place for our IRB Logo decals. Their Indian Rocks Beach hats range in price from \$25 to \$30.



## NEKTON BOARD SHOP,

1311 Gulf Blvd

Nekton has the usual stuff—T-shirts, hats, and decals. They also carry hoodies, insulated cups, candles and towels in a variety of colors.



## PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

**Sunday, November 8 at 3 pm. Doors open at 2:30**

World renown jazz pianist, Johnny Varro teams up with his topnotch ensemble to bring you the best hits from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s.

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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# Community News



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**GREENTOWN KIDS**

*Submitted by Allie DeVore*

GreenTown Kids and the City of Indian Rocks Beach handed out 200 free pumpkins in October to help make the season special for the kids and residents of IRB. We are excited to announce we have BIG plans for our little IRB Community Garden! Over the next few seasons, GTK will be transforming part of the garden into a Children's Learn & Play Garden. We aim to create an outdoor space where our GTK kids and families can come anytime to learn about and through gardening, interact with nature, create, and play.

In lieu of a large Coastal Cleanup this year, we're asking our members and the community to take the time to do their own beach or neighborhood cleanups during the month of November to help keep our local environment clean and healthy. This December, we'll be hosting our 2nd annual Toy & Clothing Donation to benefit children and families in need. To learn more, join or support our organization, or receive our monthly newsletter please go to [www.greentownkids.org](http://www.greentownkids.org), follow us on Facebook & Instagram @GreenTown Kids, or email us at [greentownkids@gmail.com](mailto:greentownkids@gmail.com).

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH ROTARY CLUB**

*Submitted by Earl Wertheim*

With COVID 19, the services and help of the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is needed more than ever. This year we are placing a special focus of keeping the majority of the monies raised on projects locally. We can't do this without your support and help. Our major fund raiser for the passed 17 years has been the BIG GAME Fundraiser The winner has received 2 tickets to the big game, \$1,000 in cash, and 4 nights lodging. Our focus this year is not what you could be winning, but how you are helping out the people and projects in need during this unique time that will make our community & this world a better place. Please consider a donation of \$5 for one tickets or 5 tickets for \$20. Assisting us with the drawing this year will be Pete Koch a Retired NFL (Bengals, Chiefs and Raiders player) and Online Fitness/Food Coach, Actor, Producer, & Public Speaker. He will be at the December 13th drawing. Contact me or any member for tickets.

**ALTERNATE PRIZE CONTINGENCY:** Should the NFL restrict attendance at the event to the extent that obtaining tickets cannot be reasonably accomplished, the we reserves the right to substitute a prize package of reasonably equivalent monetary value. If possible the grand prize winner may receive tickets for the next year's event as an exchange or choose a Virtual Big Game Package. Ticket holder agrees that health, travel and economic conditions outside our control may result in prize substitutions and agrees to work reasonably with the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach to agree on such substitutions. No prize shall exceed the cost which would be incurred by the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach to fulfill the advertised prize, including actual cost of lodging and face value of the tickets.

**VIRTUAL BIG GAME PACKAGE:** Winner plans the Big Game Party of its choosing. The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach will provide an allowance for winner to purchase the equipment it needs for a memorable game experience. Imagine receiving a new large screen television or outdoor theater system of winner's choice, catering from winner's favorite restaurant, decorations themed for winner's favorite team/player, a gift card for incidental expenses and winner controls the crowd without leaving the comfort of home. Prize package valued up to \$6,000.00.

[indianrocksrotary.org/official-big-game-affle-rules](http://indianrocksrotary.org/official-big-game-affle-rules).



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1519 Gulf Blvd.  
Indian Rocks Beach**

# Community News

## BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Denise Houseberg

The Beach Community Food Pantry is getting their shelves and freezers ready for turkey and all the fixings to hand out for Thanksgiving during the first major food holiday during a pandemic. They have a few resources able to get turkeys but would like to ask the public for help in getting more. Because the food pantry is a mission of Calvary Episcopal Church, it operates via local good contributions, monetary funds, and grants. During the pandemic, families are suffering from not having income to feed their families. The pantry has found more food through local donations, and relationships with local purveyors but shortages of 16 oz. jars of peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned pasta sauce, tomato sauce and canned meats remain.

David Kline, the past acting director at the local BCFP in Indian Rocks Beach, stepped at the end of October. Connie Curran will resume Director duties full-time.

Through the end of the year, we will honor requests for holiday meals of frozen turkeys, boxed stuffing, canned gravy, instant potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce. If you would like to help, we accept donations in the blue barrel outside the pantry door at any time. Give your goods to a volunteer from 10 am and Noon on Wednesdays or 5 to 7 pm on Thursdays. The church office also accepts nonperishable donations from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Pre-bagged food pick-up is on Monday and Wednesday 10 am to noon, as well as Thursday from 5 to 7 pm. Clients may stop by every other week to pick up bagged food at 1615 1st St., Indian Rocks Beach. The new phone number is 727-282-4085.

## CHURCH OF THE ISLES

Submitted by Marty Synnottt

We are a member of the United Church of Christ, a denomination which teaches us how to Be The Church to: Protect the environment, Care for the poor, Forgive often, Reject racism, Fight for the powerless, Share earthly and spiritual resources, Embrace diversity, Love God, and Enjoy this life.

We learned these past many months of following CDC guidelines that we don't need to gather in our building to continue being The Church. Pastor Shelly creates inspirational virtual worship services every week available at [www.churchoftheisles.org](http://www.churchoftheisles.org). Monthly, we safely gather outside and receive communion. We are better about keeping in touch with one another. We continue to prepare and deliver food to Pinellas Hope. We've become acquainted with Zoom get-togethers for our meetings, Book Group, anti-racism study, and just to chat. Our dedicated green thumb angels have kept our Garden of Memories beautiful. We are not yet able to physically meet with our precious girls from the safe home for human trafficking survivors that we support, but are staying in touch and sent them "Christmas in July" gifts.

We sadly lost our wonderful organist, Don Hand, to COVID in July, and three of our members have tested positive – two hospitalized. This pandemic has deeply touched our church family. Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have been effected by this insidious virus.

We made the difficult decision to cancel the November 29th Sing-Along Messiah It was a wonderful community gathering last year, and we look forward to have you to join us next year.

We continue our virtual worship and on November 8th at 9 am, we will start having services in our parking lot. Check our web page for further information. Be safe and stay in touch.



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### HARVESTING MEMORIES NEW & OLD THURS., NOV. 5, 10 AM -12 PM

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## REIMAGINED 2020 CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY & INNOVATIVE OUTREACH

By Steve Weinberger, CEO

The tradition continues in its 41st year with a creative, live music series of small-scale, socially-distanced, and mostly open-air events starting October 15th.

"It's been a challenging year and very emotional for our family of support especially coming off our 40th year," says Steve Weinberger, Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation CEO.

"In the face of all the uncertainty, we simply dug in and got creative, adapting many of our education and outreach programs, and carefully evaluating various strategies for live events when the timing was right. Looking back over what feels like the longest year ever, we are so proud of, and inspired by, what we have accomplished, and we're ready to celebrate again with our fans."

Clearwater Jazz Holiday would have celebrated its 41st festival October 15-18 in Clearwater's Coachman Park.

"While we cannot do the traditional large-scale festival format this year, we feel we have put together something special that will keep the tradition alive, support local musicians, and help to increase awareness of our community programs which continue to make a meaningful impact."

The jazzfest organizers just recently launched "CJH Presents Wanderlust," a reimagined, live, in-person, music series, at various venues (in creative, mostly open-air settings) spanning mid-October through the end of the year, "and maybe beyond," adds Weinberger as he describes 11 of these small-scale events already confirmed.

There are six private beach events where attendees enjoy the music from socially distanced pods of lounge chairs, two rooftop concerts where fans purchase tables on a beautiful open air terrace overlooking the intracoastal waterway and Sand Key bridge, and three special engagements with Ruth Eckerd Hall.

"We've all be confined for so long, worried, and working hard. We know how moving, powerful and healing music can be and the magic of a shared music experience. That is Wanderlust. It is a creative opportunity to get out, explore a little, and go find the music again."

And like the larger scale annual festival, the lineup offered is fun, festive, and diverse with some wonderful gems.

Weinberger walks us through the billing: "We have local fan favorites, The Back Honkeys, Reverend Barry & The Funk, Ronnie Dee & The Superstars, The Ries Brothers, Have Gun Will Travel, Gloria West and The Gents, Ashley Smith & The Random Occurrence and Sarasota Slim

- some great jazz sets from The Latin Jazz Knights, Kyle Schroeder and the Reinhardt/George Group, a La Lucha 80's party featuring James Suggs and Ona Kirei, and a series of trios fronted by Jeremy Carter, Austin Vickrey, Pete Carney, Karen Benjey, Valerie Gillespie, and Brandon Robertson."

The Wanderlust Series also treats CJH fans to three very special engagements at Ruth Eckerd Hall's intimate but spacious Kate Tiedemann & Ellen Cotton Cabaret Theatre, including Carl Fischer's Sunshine City (Billy Joel's longtime trumpeter) and a very limited number of VIP Jazz Holiday second-row tables for back-to-back Chick Corea solo shows: "Chick Corea Solo Piano: From Mozart to Monk." The VIP tables include a special Chick Corea charcuterie tray, tableside service, and a signed CD for each person.

The Wanderlust Series also celebrates Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation's continued cultural impact in Tampa Bay and beyond. Its innovative adaptations such as the Young Lions Jazz Master "Virtual" Sessions, Stop-Time Series with Frank Williams, Drum Roll: Fun with Jazz & Drums, and others have served to continue the mission, enhance traditional programs, and support musicians who deliver the experiences.

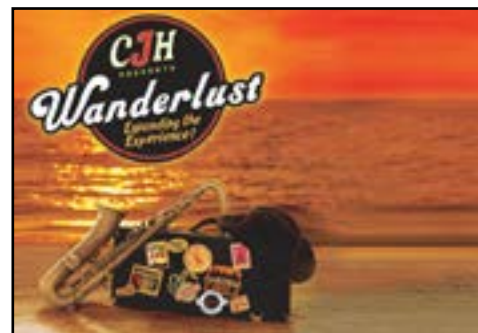


### Young Lions Jazz Master "Virtual" Sessions

The program engages musicians to offer live instrument sessions for beginners of all ages or those getting reacquainted with their instrument as well as Master Class Sessions designed for intermediate/advanced players and professionals. Sessions are offered at no cost, use the Zoom platform, and are approximately 45 minutes in length.

The Foundation also developed a rich and growing video archive of the recordings of these sessions. At the "THE STUDIO" students can watch the full recordings and take advantage of other free materials.

There are over 80 sessions since early May with more scheduled, over 600 live participants, and a rotating cast of incredible musicians and educators from near and far, including Wycliffe Gordon,



Frank Williams, Jeff Rupert, Valerie Gillespie, Dan Miller, Pete Carney, Michelle Mailhot, and James Suggs.

### STOP-TIME SERIES with Frank Williams

This new initiative complements CJH's popular History of Jazz Outreach program which has impacted over 30,000 students since 2012 with a free comprehensive visual and audio History of Jazz archive delivered in Frank's one-of-a-kind style.

Visitors can also enjoy listening to the Young Lions virtual sessions and the Stop-Time Series as part of our Young Lions Jazz Master "Virtual" Sessions Podcast available on most major platforms. There are already over 2,000 total plays on the podcast.

Weinberger shares, "These new resources are so inspirational. Not only are we regularly supporting musicians and educators with these programs, but I truly feel it is a labor of love for everyone involved. As we watch this treasure grow, it is exciting to see it all positioned to benefit thousands of students and really people of all ages."

Other Jazz Holiday virtual adaptations include a special guitar series for students in neighborhood family centers in economically challenged areas and a drum program themed around the history of rhythm, drums and Jazz to inspire early elementary school students. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation shows no signs of slowing down with talks of additional tweaks to its traditional programming and some more new programs, too.

"Like many, we have a lot of challenges to overcome, but with the continued help from our cooperate and outreach partners, volunteers, donors and fans, we will continue to inspire, educate, and make a meaningful impact. We just need to continue with the creativity, dream big, and work together – and we will keep the tradition alive for generations to benefit and enjoy."

To learn more about Clearwater Jazz Holiday and the Foundation's outreach, donate, or buy CJH Presents Wanderlust tickets, visit [www.clearwaterjazz.com](http://www.clearwaterjazz.com). ■

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*Magazine*

Wishing You  
and Your Family



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and Happy New Year!

Bob and Becky Griffin

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