

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

The GARDEN SEAT RESTAURANT

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

At one time, "Garden Seat," later renamed "Siple's Garden Seat," was Clearwater's must-go restaurant. It was located high on the bluffs overlooking Clearwater Bay at 1234 Druid Road S. It opened in 1920 -100 years ago – by Mary Sheffield Boardman and stayed in her family through four generations, before closing in 1990.

Mary, born in 1867, was from the Boston area. She was married to Sam Boardman, and they had one child, Eleanor. Mary and Sam managed a small summer inn in New York's Adirondacks. In 1915, they became snowbirds living in Clearwater during the cold New England winters.

Mary always wanted to own a restaurant and when she found the old Boyd homestead overlooking Clearwater Bay, with a large plot of land down to the water's edge, she thought it would make a great restaurant. But a local banker turned down her loan request claiming, "it was too far out of town to start a business."

Mary Boardman was a strong-willed lady and at the age of 50, bought the property anyway.



Mary Boardman

- Continued on page 7



Would You Jump Out of a Plane?

Clearwater Realtor Michelle Chenault went skydiving with friends. What did she learn?

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Janna's Consignment Boutique

What is the difference between a thrift store and a consignment shop? Owner of Janna's, Lisa Hammock explains.

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Also in this Issue:

Clearwater Jazz Reimagined

Called Wanderlust and presented by Clearwater Jazz Holiday, this live music series of small-scale, socially distanced, and mostly open-air events continues through the end of the year.

- page 36



Shop Local This Holiday Season

We have put together a list of gift suggestions available from Belleair merchants. Find that perfect gift for that special someone here.

- page 24



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

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,
Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300
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**SEE YOU AGAIN
IN FEBRUARY**

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FOOD DAYS

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

DECEMBER		
Sacher Torte Day	5	Candy Cane Day 26
Gazpacho Day	6	Fruit Cake Day 27
Cotton Candy Day	7	Chocolate Candy Day 28
Brownie Day	8	Pepper Pot Day 29
Pastry Day	9	Bacon Day 30
Lager Day	10	Champagne Day 31
Gingerbread House Day	12	
Ice Cream Day	13	JANUARY
Bouillabaisse Day	14	Bloody Mary Day 1
Cup Cake Day	15	Cream Puff Day 2
Chocolate Covered Anything Day	16	Chocolate Covered Cherries Day 3
Maple Syrup Day	17	Spaghetti Day 4
Roast Suckling Pig Day	18	Whipped Cream Day 5
Oatmeal Muffin Day	19	Shortbread Day 6
Sangria Day	20	Tempura Day 7
Fried Shrimp Day	21	English Toffee Day 8
Date Nut Bread Day	22	Apricot Day 9
Pfeffernusse Cookie Day	23	Bittersweet Chocolate Day 10
Eggnog Day	24	Milk Day 11
Pumpkin Pie Day	25	Buttered Rum Day 17
		Popcorn Day 19

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331 Cleveland St #2006	\$ 600,000
1340 Gulf Blvd #16F	\$ 670,000
161 Brightwater Dr #6	\$ 670,000
1582 Gulf Blvd #1208	\$ 700,000
331 Cleveland St #1603	\$ 870,000
1200 Gulf Blvd #303	\$1,025,000
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PLAYGROUND DONATION Over the summer, the city received a \$50,000 grant for playground improvements. Now, through a "very generous gift," honoring longtime owner of The Plaza, David Berolzheimer, who died last year, the amount has been tripled. The \$100,000 gift in Berolzheimer's name was given by his longtime companion Bonnie Starr. City Administrator Debra Sullivan said the monies will be used as "a total renovation of our outside

area. This will give us money for a total renovation. We don't have to piece things together."

Starr said she and Sullivan have discussed how to spend the money. "I told her, it could be anything you might need, would like to have and don't have. I want to help you in that journey of creating something special for the community to enjoy," Starr said.

Mayor Chris Arbutine and commission members were very appreciative and discussed renaming the park the Dave Berolzheimer Park, in his honor.




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DALI MUSEUM REOPENS The Museum is implementing new health & safety procedures designed to protect the health and safety of visitors, volunteers, members and staff. In conjunction with the upcoming Van Gogh Alive exhibition, the Museum is open daily 10am-6pm (until 8pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

Pre-purchased online timed tickets are required and help control capacity as part of the Museum's health & safety measures.

NEW BANNERS The City of Belleair Bluffs is reminding residents to "Eat Local" by hanging new banners on Indian Rocks Road North encouraging everyone to "Dine, Shop, Stroll and Enjoy" while in Belleair Bluffs. "The signs will make our main road corridor awesome," says City Administrator Debra Sullivan.

There are 10 restaurants in Belleair Bluffs.

LIGHTED BOAT PARADES With the pandemic, will there be Lighted Boat Parades this year? Some cities are continuing the tradition, while others have canceled their's. Here is a short list.



- Clearwater Beach/ Island Estates - **Canceled**
- Treasure Island - **December 5**
- Madeira Beach - **Canceled**
- Indian Rocks Beach - **December 19**
- Indian Shores/ Redington - **December 20**

and More...

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



Proceeds are donated to the Beach Art Center, Indian Rocks History Museum, and to IRB Library to support their local projects. Visit PleinAireCottageArtists.blogspot.com or contact Mary Rose at 813-294-2272, HomesMR2@gmail.com.

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL MOVES For more than 30 years, the John's Pass Seafood Festival was held the last week of October. The planners moved the 2020 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."

RECYCLE YOUR WIRE HANGERS

What do you do with all the wire coat hangers the dry cleaner so nicely hangs your clean clothes on? People mistakenly believe they can be put in our recycle bin because they are metal, however, recycling companies will not accept wire hangers. They get stuck in the recycling machine in a big tangle. Even more, recycling companies cannot handle their shape and material.



In the spirit of reduce, REUSE or recycle, here 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. Either way, do NOT put them in the recycle bin.

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

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MARY BOARDMAN'S GARDEN SEAT RESTAURANT cont.

Mary quickly sold the land to the east (about half of her land) to a group building the "West Coast Hospital," which opened in 1916. It was eventually became Morton Plant Hospital.

With the help of her close friend, Clara "Aunt Lam" Lambert Rombach, Mary converted the home into a New England-style tearoom and restaurant. Clara would become Mary's close friend and financial advisor for the next 30 years and later ran the restaurant's gift shop.

The large house had five bedrooms upstairs, and in the beginning the restaurant was sort of a rooming house. Mary and Sam lived upstairs in the master suite overlooking the bay. They rented the other rooms to bring in extra money. A second building on the property had a garage, laundry and eventually, living quarters for some staff.

Mary and Sam continued to snowbird, managing the Adirondacks inn during the summers. They continued to remodel the old house during the winters.

The project involved a lot of plumbing, painting, and refurbishing. During those long workdays, they fixed their meals on the home's oil-fed stove experimenting with new recipes. They added a garden with trails leading down to the water, with benches, thus the name, "Garden Seat."

Mary finally opened her restaurant in 1920. The house's original parlor had a large fireplace and that became the restaurant's waiting room. There, guests mingled while waiting for their table. To Mary, they were all friends visiting her home.

The location of the "Garden Seat" was in the middle of the best section in town and it quickly became the place for the Who's Who of Clearwater. Many of Clearwater's well-to-do people, such as Morton Plant, Donald Roebling, Robert Brown, Dean Alvord, mayors, county commissioners, doctors, lawyers, and businessmen all ate there. The parade of well-known people continued for decades—through the 1980s.

In the beginning, "Garden Seat" was only open during the season—fall and winter. Tourists were not here in the summer, plus there was no air conditioning. Mary and Sam continued to snowbird, returning to the Adirondacks to manage the inn while the restaurant was closed.

Mary and Sam's daughter Eleanor and husband Frank Siple relocated from Boston to Clearwater in the mid-1920s to be near her parents. They had two children, Fraser and Richard.

In the 1920s and '30s, few people had cars. Many people in the area were out-of-state visitors staying at the nearby Belleview Biltmore, Gray Moss Inn, or other area hotels. Many of the restaurant's customers arrived in a taxi or in chauffeur-driven limousines, who were given free meals in the kitchen.

It was the "Garden Seat's" policy to serve only the finest food available. Being from the northeast, Mary believed that all good food came from someplace else. She imported all steaks and roasts from Boston. Her butter came from Wisconsin. The nuts for her famous Macadamia Nut Pie were shipped in from Hawaii. But the freshest fish were provided by local Clearwater fishermen.

Mary and Clara continued to operate the restaurant through the decades that followed: the land boom and bust of 1925-26, the depression of the 1930s, hurricanes and World War II.

After the second World War, business had increased so much Mary added the "Bay Room," a larger dining room facing west overlooking the Clearwater Bay. The parlor was converted into more dining space. After the renovation, they celebrated with a re-grand opening in 1953.

In 1955, Mary retired at the age of 88 and daughter Eleanor Siple and her husband Frank managed the restaurant. Mary



died a year later.

Eleanor changed the restaurant's name to "Siple's Garden Seat" and the gift store to the "Franelle Shop" a combination of their names, Frank and Eleanor.

Eleanor realized she preferred to manage the two on site stores—a gift shop and a dress shop and her two sons, Fraser and Richard, then in their early 30s, became the restaurant managers.

Older son Fraser enjoyed greeting guests and managing the dining rooms. The younger Richard got his start in the kitchen cooking and washing dishes. He remembers hearing the tall tales told by the chauffeurs eating in the kitchen.

In 1959, when air-conditioning became available, they began to stay open all year. Richard became the main manager and Fraser preferred running the gift shop and doing the accounting.

The restaurant was a labor of love. The building was enlarged. The foyer changed. They added a pub. The kitchen was relocated. All this accomplished without closing for a single day. It soon became a 7am to 11pm - seven day a week enterprise.

"I remember those construction years, laying bricks and concrete blocks by myself," recalls Richard.

Richard did a fine job of continuing his grandmother's dream. The restaurant maintained its reputation for excellent service, hospitality, gourmet food, specialties prepared table-side, and a long list of homemade desserts. Patrons would browse the lush gardens down to the waterside while waiting for their tables.

Richard and his wife LaVerne, with the help of their children Marvin and Caroline, ran the restaurant until it closed in 1990.

"We both worked for mom and dad in the restaurant while we were growing up," says Marv Siple, now 67. "We did everything from clearing tables to cooking to greeting guests. Caroline kept the books. I was 37 when Dad sold it."

When it closed, "Siple's Garden Seat" was one of the three oldest restaurants in the state of Florida, following The Columbia in Ybor City and Joe's Stone Crab in Miami. It was a winner of the "Golden Spoon Award" ten times and considered one of the state's best restaurants.

Richard and LaVerne sold "Siple's Garden Seat" in 1990 to the Morton Plant Hospital Foundation. Half of the proceeds of the sale was returned to the Foundation as a donation. Today the building is gone, and the land is an overflow parking lot and green space next to the Morton Plant Foundation building, near Morton Plant's heliport for emergency helicopters. ■

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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.

LET'S RING IN A NEW YEAR

By Randy Lee

The holiday season is upon us. It's time to have a good time and decorate and rethink the year. Wow - what a crazy year it has been! Both good and bad times, this year has been a challenge. Let's spend some time decorating the house inside and out and just relax.

Flowers, lights and functional spaces will add appeal to the holidays.

Light up your trees and entryways; get creative around the pool and dock if you have one. Bistro lights are very popular and add a great ambiance to the evening hours. Poinsettias and seasonal flowers are a great complement to the season. Live Christmas trees are a great focal point and can be decorated simple or fancy depending on your taste. They can be used indoors and outside as well. Do what makes you and your family happy and enjoy the season.

What a wild year it's been! Our business has been incredibly busy and we have worked nonstop. Many of people have worked from home and had to reevaluate their living spaces inside and out. Outdoor living/working spaces have been a popular design element. Your home not only needs to look great, but it also must be functional since you are spending more time there. It has truly been a year of transition and now we start a new one.

What can the New Year bring? Hopefully everyone stays safe and healthy. The outdoors will remain relevant and used more. Trends that are current and forecasting are as follows. Minimal and clean lines are the new normal - not

busy or cluttered plantings. Natural stone, boulders and wood finishes are continuing to be popular. More color- inside and out is being used - not just gray anymore. Hedges are still at the top of the list - many types: evergreen or tropical, everyone wants them.

We are using LED lighting on all our projects now. It sets a different tone and personality for the home. These systems can be very advanced.

These are a just a few new trends to follow into the New Year. Wishing everyone a great holiday season, a happy New Year and a terrific 2021!



December/January Checklist:

- Watch for freezing temperatures
- Ideal time to plant flowers and vegetables
- Great time to plant large trees
- Perfect time to install a new lawn
- Trimming, mowing and fertilizing are at a minimum
- Start thinking about landscape goals for 2021

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

December 4

CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA, 5:30 to 7:30pm
All the storefronts will be open to greet you, many with special deals and treats. The "Fresh Brass of Belleair" will play. Park across the street at the Bank of America building.

CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFF'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
6pm to 8pm - *This event is for Belleair Bluff's residents only.* Gifts from Santa, horse-drawn hayrides, freshly wrapped cookies, popcorn, and bottled water will be available. Music by the Belleair Bluffs Belles. Covid-19 Precautions in place. Bring a canned goods, other non-perishable food items, or a children's book to donate and receive the City's Annual Tree Ornament.

ANTIQUÉ ALLEY HOLIDAY STROLL, 5pm to 9pm
Music—food—and shopping! Most stores will be open and offering gift wrapping. Meet local artists and other vendors. There will be prizes, refreshments, and caroling. Don't forget to visit Coastal Aire Designs, the newest store in the Alley. Antique Alley is located at 596 Indian Rocks Road North.

HOLIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, 5:30 to 9pm
"Elf," \$5 per person.

December 5

HOLIDAY STROLLING MARKET LARGO CENTRAL PARK, 10am to 4pm
Stay local this Holiday Season and purchase your last minute Holiday gifts from a local small businesses. Vendors will be on-site selling merchandise for any last-minute holiday gifts.

SANTA PAWS - Largo Community Center, 10am – noon,
Bring your pup to pose with Santa. Onsite pet vendors, pet swag bag, and a family photo with Santa will complete your holiday season. \$8

PJS & PIZZA WITH SANTA - Southwest Rec. Complex, 4-6pm
Come dressed in your Christmas Pjs and enjoy pizza, Christmas crafts and a visit from Santa. \$8/child | \$5/adult

December 6

BELLEAIR HOLIDAY PARADE, 5:30pm

December 12

HOLIDAY TRAIN RIDES - LARGO CENTRAL PARK
View various holiday scenes, decorations and costumed characters. Santa, himself may make an appearance! Each child will receive a goody bag at the end filled with holiday treats and a take-home craft. \$10

December 15

SANTA'S CALLING 6-8pm
Create a wonderful memory for your child as he or she talks to the big man himself. If you are not available for a call, you may select to receive a personalized letter from Santa. Must reserve in advance. Call 727-518-3131.

December 19

IRB HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE, 7:00pm
The Parade line up converges at 6:45 pm 200 yards south of the southern end of the Holiday Inn. The parade will head north under the Walsingham/SR 688 Bridge and weave throughout the "fingers" finishing at Harbor Drive North.

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COASTAL PROPERTIES GROUP INTERNATIONAL **CHRISTIE'S** INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Business Briefs



COASTAL AIRE DESIGN OPENS

Jenni Martin and Chelsea Allison are bringing their vision of a beautifully curated furniture and home décor store to Antique Alley.

Coastal Aire Design will offer uniquely local home furnishings and design essentials for your home. They will be joined by the Potted Pair florist to continue the traditions of the space.

Jenni is the owner of Marcotte’s Design in Largo, a store known for coastal decor and custom-built furniture for the past 8 years. Chelsea joined the Marcotte’s team in May just as the mandatory shut down was lifted. Her background started in art and evolved into business ownership in the Clearwater area. It wasn’t long after Chelsea joined the Marcotte’s team that the opportunity for the two to start a new store came about, “the location spoke to us, we knew we had to carry on something special in this space.” Both are thrilled to be a part of Belleair Bluffs and the Belleair community.

Opened in the building where Petals and Vine used to be, they hope to become a fast favorite for area. Find them at 596 Indian Rocks Road North. Call 286-8686.

VIRTUAL MEDICAL VISITS December 9 to January 1 Peggy Cordle, Nurse Practitioner, Owner/Director of Urgent Care Housecalls will continue to take care of her patients, friends, and neighbors through Virtual Visits (telemedicine) ONLY. As many in our tight knit community already know, Peggy’s husband Brian has Leukemia and will undergo a Bone Marrow Transplant at Moffitt Cancer Center and Peggy will stay with him at Moffitt to take care of him during this time. She is incredibly grateful to her patients for making UrgentCare Housecalls’ first year of practice an amazing and fulfilling labor of love. Log onto urgentcarehousecalls.net and schedule a Virtual Visit for only \$59 and get the care you need including delivered prescriptions! Have a Happy, Healthy Holiday and Peg will see you for Housecalls in the New Year.

Reach *Urgent Care Housecalls* for trusted care anywhere at 727-403-5380.

HER SCAN This new Breast Screening Ultrasound business opened in Belleair Bluffs in November.

Ultrasound screenings are capable of detecting cancers that cannot be found by mammography and physical exams alone. HER SCAN will hold testing events in the area for women and takes merely 15 minutes. Visit www.HerScan.com for an event.

Find HER SCAN at 404 Indian Rocks Road, near Suzette’s and South Trust Bank.

AAA TRAVEL IN THE PLAZA CLOSING AAA is closing their Belleair Bluffs location December 4th. They still have other Pinellas County locations including Clearwater, Seminole and Countryside. The owner of the Plaza are hoping to replace AAA with a restaurant.

Robert Young
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HOMETOWN HERO

You might not think of a UPS delivery man as a hero, but many businesses in the area do, including Belleair Opticians. They participated in a contest sponsored by Maui Jim sunglasses in October that named Robert Fekete their 'Hometown Hero.

"We recognized Robert for the continuous service he provided us—and all Belleair Bluff's merchants—during the Covid-19 Pandemic,"

says Berangere Granger, owner of Belleair Opticians. "He was certainly an essential worker helping keep our business running. Rob impressed us with the way he stayed so positive through these tough times. He always brings a smile to our faces."

Robert and his family live in Belleair Bluffs and he has worked for UPS for 29 years. "I am proud of my husband," says wife Sharon. "It is incredibly meaningful to us to have one of his customers recognize him this way."

Rob was offered a chance to pick a pair of Maui Jim sunglasses that included a prescription - so he could read his UPS ipad.

SURFSIDE FRESH PRODUCE CORRECTION We used the wrong name for the new Indian Rocks produce store at 1401 Gulf Blvd. 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.

B

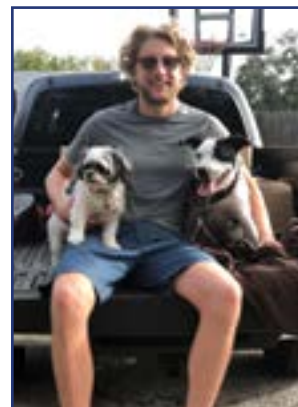
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BELLEAIR POSTAL COMPANY

Recently opened Belleair Postal Company is a delivery company. Whether it's a letter, package, or important paperwork, he will handle it for you. Owner Mark Kantzler, says "I will pick up and deliver any letters, posters, packages, or handle items you need taken care of. "I want to take care of the Belleair community that I've grown up in."

"I don't want you to have to purchase stamps, waste the little time you have in your busy lives, or risk your health during this pandemic. I am a pickup and drop-off company by nature, but I'm also a hometown boy so please call if there is anything I can help you with." Call Mark at 727-290-5667 or email mark@belleairpostal.com. His web site is www.belleairpostal.com .

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

Business Briefs



YOLAND LOREN OPENS IN THE PLAZA Yoland Loren, a ladies' boutique in The Plaza opened in November. The store is named after its owner Yoland who is from France and was a FIT/Parsons student. She also was a personal stylist for many years.

"What makes Yoland's special is our experience," Yoland says. "Women come to my store not just for clothes, but for our personal styling." She has a variety of styles from casual every day chic to evening attire that caters to any event. "I can also fit any body type," she adds. The holidays are a good time to discover this store. Find her in The Plaza, next to Bella Vino Wines and E&E.

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.

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, Indian Rocks.



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.

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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JANNA'S CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE - HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Janna's Consignment Boutique is not anything like a thrift store at all. It is truly a boutique shopping experience.

What is the difference between a thrift store and a consignment shop? Thrift stores accept donated items that are subject to less scrutiny. You may find treasures, but the stores are usually overloaded and disorderly, making shopping overwhelming. Consignment shops handpick their items. Each gently used item undergoes a complete inspection for damage or missing items. If it is not perfect, it will not be accepted.

Consignment stores have been around since the 19th Century and are a popular way of buying current fashions at a discounted price.

We visited with Lisa Hammock, owner of Janna's Fine Consigner in Belleair Bluffs to find out how a consignment shop actually works and what makes it a boutique.

Her store, Janna's has been open in Belleair Bluffs for 27 years, and Lisa has owned it for the past three. It is not the only clothing consignment shop in the area, but it is definitely the most upscale. The store only handles fine women's fashions - and the clothing and accessories must be in near perfect condition. It offers a great opportunity to buy designer brands at affordable prices.

"We are a small boutique consignment shop selling fashionable clothes," says Lisa. We consign an average of 1,200



Owner of Janna's Fine Consigner
Lisa Hammock



items per month with about 1,800 'active' consigners on record. Most of our consigners (vendors) are also our best shoppers."

Janna's carries a full line of accessories, too, such as handbags, jewelry, sunglasses, and miscellaneous women's accessories.

"Many of the products we get have never even been worn or used," says Lisa about her inventory.

Products come to her from people in the area—some from as far away as Tampa. "When the snowbirds arrive, we get a lot of their things. Then, they shop here too. During the pandemic, many people have used their time at home to clean out their closets.

People have discovered it is a great way to keep your closet under control and to make a little extra money to buy more. From the formal dress you only wore once to those must-have shoes that are unbearably uncomfortable, you have the makings of your first sale. So, how does it all work?

Putting your clothes on consignment at Janna's means you are allowing Lisa to sell your items for you, and you will be paid a percentage of the profit. That percentage is determined up front.

The first step is to make an appointment. They do not accept walk in consignments. It is time consuming and they need the proper number of staff available. They accept clothing and other items on Monday through Thursdays only. "It takes time," Lisa adds. "We go over all the items in detail checking for missing buttons, stains, tears and remove all pins."

The clothing MUST come on a hanger and be laundered, wrinkle free. It has to

be in excellent condition, or Lisa will not accept it. You are limited to 15 items per appointment. Accepted clothes needs to correspond to the upcoming season or selling period, meaning the store does not carry winter clothing in the summer. It must also be of current styles.

The store's seasons are just like the big box stores - Winter: September 15 through January 1st, Spring/ Summer: January 15 through July, and Fall: August 1 through September 15th.

Shoes and handbags must be scuff free, dusted, and removed from their boxes.

Jewelry cannot be broken or have any missing stones. Sterling must be polished.

Janna's prices the items accordingly and they are dated upon check-in. If it does not sell in 30 days, the price is lowered. After 60 days, it is offered back to the owner. If the owner does not want it back, Janna's donates the item to nearby charities, primarily Suncoast Hospice.

"Janna's Consignment and Lisa have been great to us," says Joan Spies with Suncoast Hospice. "Whatever she does not sell, she gives to us and those items are always top quality. We sell those recycled items in our shops and the money is used in the community at Hospice. Lisa is a wonderful person, and it is great that she thinks of the community as well as her own business."

"It is important to point out that we get new inventory daily," says Lisa. "If you don't see something that you want this week—come back next week."

Janna's is in Belleair Bluffs at 268 Indian Rocks Road North, next to Robert Young Jewelers. Call Lisa at 584-9222 for an appointment.

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care and access to clinical research trials, making the latest scientific discoveries available to our community long before they become available to the general public. You may be thinking about delaying your heart care due to COVID-19. Rest assured, as a heart and health care leader, we've put enhanced safety measures in place to help protect you throughout Morton Plant Hospital. And we always provide the high level of personal care that BayCare is known for.

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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/.

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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MOVING OUT-OF-STATE?

By Brooke Anderson

It's no secret: the local housing market is booming and homes are under contract in 7 days or less. Inventory is flying off the shelves faster than toilet paper during Covid! Our state welcomes 950 new inhabitants DAILY; many of whom are escaping high taxes and strict Covid protocols in the northeast.

What isn't being reported: this influx of north easterners has caused new trends among longtime local homeowners. Big Man's Moving Company explains, "Since Covid started, we have had a tremendous increase in out-of-state moves; locals moving to the mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee, northern Georgia, and South Carolina for less traffic and more space to social distance. The most popular destination is Asheville, NC," explains Josh Anderson, owner of Big Man's. "Homes in the mountains are selling just as quickly as homes here in Pinellas County."

You've found a home, now what? Big Man's Moving explains there are several options for interstate moving, and the options vary in terms of pricing, quality, and investment of "sweat equity."

The most affordable way to move is the "do it yourself" option- rent a truck, load/unload it yourself (or hire a mover), and drive the truck yourself.

PODS are another option. But, if more than one container is needed, the price adds up quickly.

"We acquire business from people who used van lines before, and don't want to use them again. Most semi companies give a 14-21 day delivery window, resulting in costly hotel stays (or sleeping on the floor). Also, semis move multiple homes simultaneously and don't necessarily deliver in the order the household belongings were picked up. This causes overhandling of furniture and breakage or lost items." Another consideration: many are brokers and contract the individual parts of your move to outside companies. For example, one company may load, another drive, and a third party unload (and there could even be another company involved if your items go to a warehouse in the interim)! Who is responsible if something gets damaged or lost?

The final option is hiring a family-owned business. Big Man's Moving Company, for example, has the same employees (covered by workers comp) load, drive, and unload. Moving is considered 1 of the top 5 most stressful life events, so familiar faces from start to finish is comforting. Big Man's uses one truck per household so items do not get lost or broken. They also provide an exact arrival time to load and unload. This option may be a little more costly, but it saves aggravation and headaches.

It is not uncommon for movers to claim they are licensed to move out-of-state, but truly they are not. How does a potential customer verify? Simply Google "FMCSA snapshot" and search the company's name. There should be a checkmark next to "interstate" and "authorized." Failure to hire a licensed interstate mover could result in the truck being stopped and the customer's items being stuck until a licensed mover can go claim them.

Big Man's Moving Company, a contributor to this article, was voted the #1 Mover in Tampa Bay for local, statewide, and out-of-state moving, 727-772-3458. Bigmansmoving.com



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Laura Smith, Vocal/Piano Instructor, has loved providing her students with music education, for over 22 years.

She can't decide which aged students are the most fun to teach. Her youngest beginner started at 3, while her oldest beginner started at 67 years of age.

Primary School aged students: For some, music lessons provide a gateway to their talent. For others, music lessons also teach them how to work hard.

Middle School / High Schoolers: Many have All State Choir in their sights, a role in the school musical, to participate in Laura's Concerts, or all three.

Adult Beginners: They excel quickly. Laura says, "It is a fable, the idea that adult students are 'bound to fail' - I challenge any adult to try my method."

Laura began teaching voice and piano, even to her fellow professional performers, after completing her studies at the College of Music, and the College of Education at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

You can reach Laura Smith 727-336-5919



CHRISTMAS CAROL, IN CONCERT December 11 - 24, 2020, Wednesdays through Sundays at 6:30 and 8:30pm

freeFall's beloved musical production of the Dickens classic returns for a limited engagement as part of their outdoor, drive-in concert series. Featuring songs from the production, performed by a cast of live performers along with multimedia and narration from the original novella, this is the perfect safe evening out during the holiday season. Relive the magic or share this beloved holiday tradition with the next generation.

This production is staged on an outdoor stage with audiences experiencing the performance drive-in style from their vehicles. The audio of the show is broadcast to the vehicle via the radio or a smart device via a free app.

Admission to this performance is per vehicle (up to 4 occupants) within two sections "standard" and "premium." Please only purchase one admission per vehicle. "Premium" admissions will park in one of the five central spots in each of the two rows of parking available. To ensure the best possible experience for all patrons, vehicles will be parked in the best available spot in the chosen section, based on the size of vehicle, on a first come, first served basis (based on the time of ticket purchase).

freeFall Theatre is committed to the safety of our patrons and artists. We have undertaken heightened cleaning procedures and policies to prevent the spread of COVID. We ask all patrons to comply with posted policies, including the wearing of an effective face covering if you choose to leave your vehicle for any reason. All concessions available at this performance will be by mobile order. Additionally please note that we are currently not offering in-person box office service. Please visit freefalltheatre.com for complete performance schedule and Order tickets via online or via phone at 727.498.5205.

Ticket prices are: General \$75 | Premium \$99 (per vehicle up to 4 occupants) Ticketing fee for non-members: \$2.50.

Community News

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Their after hours mingle will be held Thursday, January 14 from 5:30 to 6:30. Hosted by Mark Abdo with the City of Largo, it will be held at the Largo Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Rd, Largo, where attendees can experience the sport of FootGolf. All businesses regardless of location are invited to attend and make new business contacts. For more information, visit BluffsBusinessAssociation.com.

WELCOME NEWCOMER CLUB

They will not be meeting in December or January. Various groups with the club are meeting but not the entire membership. Dues paid for this year will be extended through June 2021.

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They are accepting applications for Daisy Grants of up to \$2000 to be awarded in May of 2021 at the Daisy Grants and 50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon at Sheraton Sand Key. These grants are awarded annually to local charitable organizations who have a presence in Pinellas County and prove a specific need for the funds. Grant applications, guidelines and rules are on-line at www.GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org.

Applications must be submitted USPS, postmarked no later than January 30, 2021; received no later than February 4, 2021. Grant recipients will be notified via E-mail by March 1, 2021.

The 2020 Grants were awarded to The College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc.; Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. dba Eckerd Connects; Starting Right, Now; and Voices of Hope for Aphasia. Due to the pandemic, rather than awarding the grants in person, the grant checks were mailed to the charities.

The GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club is a non-profit organization, whose members live the volunteer spirit. It is a member club of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. For more information, visit GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org, or on Facebook: GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club, or E-mail MoreCCWinfo@gmail.com.

THE BELLEAIR LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They will hold their first luncheon at the Belleair Country Club on December 8th. This will be the first meeting since the Covid pandemic. Registration is limited to forty members.

Their charitable project for the 2020-2021 season is Clothes for Kids, a nonprofit established in 2002, whose purpose is to provide a cheerful environment where families and children can shop with dignity and respect and receive school clothing free of charge. Members are requested to send donation checks to Treasurer, Deborah Hendricks, if they cannot attend the luncheon.

The January 12th luncheon is scheduled for Bon Appetit Restaurant and hopefully, more members will be allowed to attend. Contact Treasurer Deborah Hendricks, 737-453-2193, for further information about the Club.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION

Saturday, December 12, 10 am to 4 pm, an assortment of plants, including native plants, annuals, perennials, orchids, herbs, fruit and vegetables, as well as flowering trees and shrubs will be for sale. Specialty vendors with a variety of items perfect for gift-giving include: unique clothing, jewelry, garden art, ceramics, doggie treats, honey, lotions and more.

Suggested donation: \$5. Free Parking: 12211 Walsingham Road and 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. RAIN or SHINE.

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Bar & Restaurant News



PANERA NOW SERVES PIZZA There is a new place in Belleair to get your pizza fix. Panera Bread on West Bay now offers a single serving flatbread pizza. It comes in Margherita, Chipotle Chicken and Bacon, and Just Cheese options. Prices range from \$6.50 to \$8.00 each. You can eat in, take out and even have it delivered.

For more information visit PaneraBread.com. To order for pick up or delivery, download their app.

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.

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.

CLOSED / OUT OF BUSINESS/ MOVED

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

WESTSHORE PIZZA GETS A SIGN

Hurricane Irma destroyed the longstanding pole sign in front of Westshore Pizza. It has taken three years to get it replaced because of permitting and the ongoing remodel of the Bonefish Plaza. Now, they finally have their new sign, and all is good. Find Westshore Pizza at 2989 West Bay Drive.



SEAWEED Frank Chiva's first opened this restaurant in November, 14 years ago as Key West Grill. Four years later, the restaurant was rebranded as Marlin Darlin Grill. The restaurant reopened four years ago as Seaweed. Regardless of the name, the service and food has remained amazing.

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

Bar & 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.

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.

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 or call 724-4100 for delivery. and online at MikesPizzaandPub.com



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LOCAL ♥ GLOBAL REACH

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.

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.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF COOKING FATS, OILS AND GREASE

Prevent unnecessary holiday headaches for everyone

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) from holiday cooking can cause clogs in household plumbing and public wastewater systems, so it is important to dispose of FOG properly: in the trash.

When FOG is poured down the drain it can cause clogs in household plumbing and public wastewater systems, resulting in expensive holiday call outs of plumbers for homeowners and expensive holiday call outs of utility crews for customers.

The best way to prevent these headaches year-round is to properly dispose of cooled fats, oils and grease by placing them in disposable containers and putting the containers in the trash. If you would like to recycle your FOG, they can visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit for information about disposal sites and other options.

Even the smallest amount of FOG builds up over time causing problems and can create wastewater back-ups into homes and sanitary sewer overflows in the community. Another tip to reduce the possibility of clogs is to scrape solid food waste from cooking with fats, oils and grease into the trash.

By taking the extra step of properly disposing of fats, oils and grease in the trash, you can have a happier holiday while protecting your home, their wallet and our environment.

IF I RULED THE WORLD

By Kirk Ray Smith, President & CEO, Hope Villages of America, formerly RCS Pinellas

If I ruled the world, I would change many things. And I would start with me.

I would take my hand and wave away all my bad habits, proclivities, biases and tainted ways of thinking. I would also heal my wounds from past trauma that continue to echo and hinder my ability to trust those who deserve to be trusted. I would not be so hard on myself and enjoy life more.

Next, I would take my hand and use my power to wave away hatred, abuse of all kinds, poverty, homelessness, hunger, disease, despair, bigotry, racism, sexism and any other ism you can think of. I would bring back the art of building interpersonal relationships. I would eliminate our lower human nature and elevate and illuminate goodness. I would make words and behaviors such as love, gratitude, self-respect, dignity, faith, courtesy, beauty and resolve as natural as the air we breathe.

I would visit children in their dreams and inform them of how powerful they are and announce the unlimited potential inside of them. I would also visit the dreams of the brokenhearted, lost, depressed and discouraged, and remind them of their value and purpose. I'd give them a glimpse of the future, the other side of their situation.

I would even be gender-specific by telling young ladies that they are not less than men, nor are their bodies objects, but temples of grace and power to be treated with care. I'd speak in the hearts and minds of young men and tell them that you don't have to be the biggest and the most powerful to be great; as a matter of fact, it is not he who has the most stuff or is the strongest physically who sits in the highest places. Instead, it's he who's honest with himself and recognizes his weaknesses but can still move forward in the face of adversity who is strongest.

If I ruled the world, this would not simply be an opening to my President's Report; it would be the introduction of the world's operating procedures manual.

Answer the call to the cause by becoming the ruler of your world! I appreciate you!

Find out more about Hope Villages of America at RCSPinellas.org

ST PETE COLLEGE FOOD PACKAGES

The Pinellas community has experienced many economic setbacks in the past year, given the number of jobs lost in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the holidays approaching, money woes are even more exacerbated, and many may find themselves wondering how they will feed and provide for their families. In response, St. Petersburg College has partnered with Hope Villages of America, formerly RCS Pinellas, to offer food packages for SPC students, staff and the surrounding community

Funded by the Pinellas Cares grant, the program provided food for SPC's participating campus provosts, Student Life and Leadership teams and volunteers to work together to create packages that include non-perishable items including canned fruits, vegetables and meats, along with pasta and sauce. The boxes will also contain community resource flyers, including information for mental health care.

Each of the eight campuses chosen for distribution will have 150 boxes of food for pickup. According to Misty Kemp, SPC's Executive Director of Retention Services, anyone can sign up for a box, whether it be for themselves or someone else, though distribution is limited to one box per household

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Visit www.communitydentalclinic.net
Facebook Event Page: Reds, Whites & Bites

SHOP LOCAL - CHRISTMAS IN THE BLUFFS

Christmas is only a few weeks away but for some, shopping began weeks ago. What do you get for that special someone? Here are a few local suggestions from Belleair area merchants.

BELLA VINO WINE MARKET

The Plaza - 100 North Indian Rocks Road

A Bella Vino custom gift basket is a great option. Give them your list and let them create a beautiful basket, full of high quality products at an affordable price. This is the gift people love to receive. www.BellaVinoWineMarket.com

BELLEAIR MARKET

510 Indian Rocks Road North

They have so choices for Christmas presents, why not a Gift Certificate? They are 10 percent off through Christmas. Get a \$50 gift certificate for only \$45, \$100 for \$90 and there are no limits or expirations. They are also good at the Belleair Café next door. www.BelleairMarket.com

BELLEAIR OPTICAL

The Plaza 100 N. Indian Rocks Road

The perfect Christmas gift for her? The Cartier Women's CT0186S sunglasses. It is a modern yet elegant interpretation of the C Décor, in a feminine soft cat-eye shape. Frames are available in metal decors with precious finish in gold and platinum. \$490.

BOB THE FISH

If you have a relative or friend named Bob, what could be more perfect than a "Bob The Fish" shirt or hat? They also offer "Jim The Shark" and "John the Shark" shirts and hats, too. Fish with attitude! Bob Grover, owner of Bob The Fish, is a resident of Belleair Bluffs. Order at www.BobTheFish.com

CARLSON WILWOOD FLORISTS

This Christmas, Carlson's will deliver a box of chocolates with any local Christmas floral order, over \$50. Please mention this News Magazine when ordering. Orders must be placed on or before December 20th. Call 446-4610. www.CarlsonWildwoodFlorist.com

CASSI & COMPANY

The Plaza 100 N. Indian Rocks Road.

What about a beautiful soft Cashmere sweater? They have lots of fun colors. Prices vary but are about \$120 each. Don't forget stocking-stuffers – they have lots of ladies accessories that would fit the bill. www.CassiAndCompany.com

FLUFFY PUPPIES

1447 South Ft Harrison Avenue

Don't forget your pets this Christmas, they like presents too. They have hundreds of ideas for you - toys, fun collars, bandanas, food, treats and more. Get your grooming appointments made soon, so they look their best during the festivities, too! Come in and browse. www.FluffyPuppiesOfPinellas.com

FRAME FACTORY

600 East Bay Drive

What better Christmas gift than a framed picture of you and yours? This personal gift will last for years. They do not just frame photos—they custom frame things too. Bring them your Christmas ideas now and have them ready by Christmas. www.FrameFactoryLargo.com

JANNA FINE CONSIGNER

268 Indian Rocks Road North

They make something old new, again. A handbag is a great idea and they have hundreds to choose from in a variety of brands, sizes and colors. All are priced less than retail and are in almost new condition.

LALA'S

The Plaza 100 N. Indian Rocks Road

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LARGO FEED

210 West Bay Drive

With a full line of pet supplies, they carry Purina, Mazuri feeds, New Country Organics, and others. Ask about their CBD pet products for stress, calming, anxiety, pain, and barking. They also carry raw local honey— it makes a great stocking stuffer. www.LargoFeed.com

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2894 West Bay Drive

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ROBERT YOUNG JEWELERS

250 Indian Rocks Road, North

You know they have what everyone really wants - Custom Jewelry. Ask about the "Coral Reef Delight" designed by Robert Young. It is a bright blue-green opal in an 18K pendant with diamond accents. \$4875. www.RobertYoung.com

SUE THIBEAULT, HAIR STYLIST

205 Indian Rocks Road North

Treat someone special this Christmas, with a gift of beauty. Gift certificates can be made for any amount or service, just call and ask- 401-480-6823

SUZETTE'S ON THE ROCKS

400 Indian Rocks Road North

Try an accessory from the Teyros Collection. Each bowl, plate, tea pot, clock or vase is handmade, by pinching a ball of clay or cutting thin clay slabs and assembling them in assorted shapes. They create unlimited designs. See them at TeyrosCollection.com or in the store.

THE SILVER QUEEN

1350 West Bay Drive

Try a tree ornament from "Reed and Barton," maker of sterling silver flatware, stainless steel, silver plates and baby giftware, since 1824. The "Christmas 2020 Silver Bell" is \$29.95. They offer a money back guarantee if not fully satisfied.

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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.

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 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 staff and guests, the Beach Art Center observes Covid-19 protocols including a requirement that guests wear a facemask or shield. Guests also sign in and submit to a touchless temperature check. Details can be found at 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.



OFFER WHAT THE MARKET WANTS

By Tom Smith, Owner of GHD Construction Services

GHD Construction Services, Inc has been highly successful with its model home program serving the beach communities. We are the only builder along the beaches that has a showroom office open 7 days each week for our customers. Surprisingly, the market is telling us that “Bigger Isn’t Better”, so we are now in conceptual process with our latest model home, with 2742sf of living area. In addition to the smaller size, this new 4 Bedroom/3 Bath home is very unique, in that it has 2 Master Bedrooms and Baths, both overlooking the water for our customers that are replacing their 50-year-old waterfront homes with a new home raised above FEMA elevations. This new home will have more bells & whistles also, with even more glass for the water views on both the 2nd and 3rd floors, as well as a larger kitchen, pantry, an additional bathroom, and more decorative molding treatments to accent the interior. Of course, it will also have an elevator serving all 3 floors. The final challenge that we have addressed is that even though this new model will have a much smaller living area square footage it will feature a more usable veranda; it has been designed at a width to fit most of the narrow lots on the water. And yes, we make any custom changes that our customers desire for their new home.

Although we are working with our architect for a few different front designs to add to our popular “Key West” look, we are introducing today’s newest home design concept. This well-designed exterior is now the bestselling exterior home design

for the million-dollar homes in the Florida panhandle in the communities of Santa Rosa Beach, Watercolor, etc. This trend began in the panhandle in the community of Seaside and has become extremely popular with all of the communities in that area. GHD has decided to offer this design to our new home customers here in Pinellas, something that has not been available previously. We will still be offering our “Key West” design as well as a “Marathon/Mediterranean” design for those families that favor that look.

...“Bigger Isn’t Better” it is all about your use of space.

We hope to have the conceptual plans of our new home complete sometime in November, so that the “snowbirds” that have decided to have a beautiful new Florida home for next year can see this home and get a feel for the layout. Our existing showroom will remain open to showcase our interior finishes as they will appear in our “Coastal Homes” lineup.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,000 homes since 1971, and has a new Showroom at 14995 Gulf Blvd., Suite C, Madeira Beach. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to email me directly at: Tnegoshian@ghdcsi.com, or call and request a walk-thru meeting at one of our homes in-progress (727)954-8345.

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CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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

They are pleased to announce that Joseph Meyer has been hired as General Manager.

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

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

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

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

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

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

Belleair Women's Republican Club will host its festive annual Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 4, from 11 am-2 pm at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, FL 33756.

The New Year's first monthly meeting will be held on Friday, January 8, 2021, from 11:30-2 pm at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, FL 33756. The speaker will be Pinellas County Board of Commissioners member Kathleen Peters, who represents District 6. Commissioner Peters is also a former member of the Florida House of Representatives.

For both meetings, no walk-ins will be permitted. A check payable to BWRC confirms a reservation and should be sent to arrive one week in advance. Mail checks to: Linda Wade, 729 Creekside Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34683.

Both Christmas luncheon guests and January attendees must practice social distancing and observe all CDC-recommended practices, including wearing masks when not seated, to keep everyone attending safe and healthy.

BELLEAIR ROTARY CLUB

They meet weekly on Thursdays, from 12:15 – 1:00pm, at the Belleair Coffee Company & Roastery at 100 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair Bluffs. The last Thursday of the month, they meet at various local restaurants who have been supporting the club for years to celebrate their achievements and enjoy a social get together providing time for our members, their friends and family members as well to enjoy. Please join us.

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Community News

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Denise Houseberg

The Beach Community Food Pantry has been getting their shelves and freezers ready for turkey and all the fixings to hand out for the holidays 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 down 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 Synnott

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. 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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WORKING THE POLLS IN THE 2020 ELECTION

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

On November 3rd, I did something I had never done before - I volunteered to be an Election Day poll worker. I really didn't know what I was getting into, but with so many prior workers "sitting this one out" due to COVID-19, I wanted to help.

First of all - not all the people you see at your polling place are volunteers. I got paid. I was assigned to be an "Assistant Clerk," which is basically middle management.

Training was required. I attended a 5-hour class two weeks before the election to learn the procedures and how to operate the polling equipment. Prior to the class, I was instructed to watch a series of online training videos.

The main piece of equipment is called an "EVID" (Electronic Voter Identification Device). When you vote in person, it scans your driver's license. The title of the person operating it is called an "Inspector."

The process is straightforward--when your license is scanned, the EVID tells the poll worker if you are in the system (database) and at the correct precinct. Once that checks out, voters are directed to the person issuing ballots. Ballot in hand, voters then move to a nearby privacy booth to vote.

Once completed, the voter then feeds his/her ballot into the scanner themselves. If fed successfully, the scanner announces "You Voted" and you then get an "I Voted" peel-off sticker.

At my assigned location, the entire process took anywhere from 5-15 minutes per person - it depending on the voter's readiness and ability to read.

After working 12 hours (7am - 7pm), our precinct had 606 actual in-person voters. That translates to about 50 people per hour. We had a rush from 7:30am to 9am, and another one again in the afternoon from 4-6pm. A very few people voted from 6 to 7pm. Our line never went outside the building as it did at other precincts.

Part of our group - four of us - reported to the polling place the day before to setup the equipment and make sure everything was working. That took us about two hours. As we left, we were instructed to be on site by 5:15 am the next day, Election Day, as we had to be ready for the first voter at 7 am. Two people called 'deputies' controlled the lines, inside and out.

A team of twelve people were assigned to our polling place. There were two EVID operators, a ballot issuer, a machine manager who oversaw the two

scanners, myself (Assistant Clerk) and the Clerk (Site Manager).

A regional manager from the Office of Elections was on site 50 percent of the time. Two "Poll Watchers" from the two primary parties were also present to observe and keep an eye on things.

I helped check people in with the EVIDs and processed people that had a problem. We only turned people away if they were not registered in Pinellas County or were at the wrong polling site.

Of the 606 successful voters, less than a dozen were turned away.

I was amazed to see how many people either had the wrong address on their driver's license or had not notified the Supervisor of Elections office that they had moved. In most cases, if they had a valid photo-ID, we updated them in the database and let them vote. However, if they had moved, they were sent to their new polling place to vote and the EVID provided the address and directions to the new site. Most people understood and were grateful for the help. A few, however, were frustrated and stormed out.

I personally assisted four people needing special help. One was an elderly person that brought a relative to assist them. Another only spoke Vietnamese and needed a the help of a translator via phone.

Throughout the day, all our information was sent to headquarters, the Supervisor of Elections office - electronically. Thus, our results are basically known within minutes of the polls closing.

At 7pm we had no line and closed the doors. At 7:01, we started to break down the equipment and the tables. All the electronic equipment, EVIDs and scanners produce back-up tapes to record all the day's activity. That is used as reference in the event there is a problem calculating the vote.

We were packed up and out of there by 8pm - the end of a 15-hour day. It was interesting, that before we left the building, our precinct's results were being broadcast on television and available on the Internet.

As I said - I was paid. I received \$210 for my service. Considering my three days of service, that translates to about \$10 per hour. Some of my fellow workers were employed by local governments, which encourages participation (three were from the City of Largo). They received time off with pay from their jobs while they worked at the poll.

All in all, I was impressed by the checks and balances put in place. I saw virtually



no way for the wrong person to vote or to vote "twice."

Keeping the voter database current is a shared responsibility between the voter and the Board of Elections. If a registered voter moves without notice or does not vote for many years, they may not be in the County's database. That is why it is important to keep voter registrations updated so that voting in the proper precinct is possible.

I was also impressed with the attention to the health and safety of the staff and the voters. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were issued face shields and masks. There was hand sanitizer everywhere. Voters used a disposable Q-Tip-like swab to electronically sign, which was then thrown away.

For me, working the polls was a good experience, thanks to my great team.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer for the next election, visit www.VotePinellas.com and click on the link on the Front Page "Become an Election Worker" or send an email to PollWorker@VotePinellas.com.

NOTE:

Pinellas had 166 polling places serving 301 precincts. (Some were combined.)

Nearly 80% of registered voters voted in advance—in person, by mail or other means. That means only 20% voted at their precinct on election day.

According to VotePinellas.com, of 716,747 registered voters, 563,804 people voted in the November 2020 election. That is a 79% turnout.

Of Pinellas County's 563,804 voters, 49.2% voted for President Trump and 49.4% voted for Vice President Biden. While Biden had 1,241 more Pinellas County votes, President Trump won the statewide count.



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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 neighbor's 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.



Tammy Gemmell, celebrating her birthday while skydiving with Michelle Chenault.



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BELLA VINO CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

As of December 22nd, Brian and Cheryl Franzese will have been providing wine in Belleair Bluffs for 15 years.

Brian is from Hollywood, Florida. When he was young, his family moved to Pinellas County, where he attended school. That is where he first met Cheryl. 15 years later, Cheryl and Brian reconnected at a wedding in Weeki Wachi. 24 years later, Brian and Cheryl have 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

For almost 20 years, Brian worked for a major wine distributor, managing its fine wine division from Naples to Tampa. Cheryl sold her technology business and became a Realtor - now with 17 years experience. In 2005, Brian and Cheryl decided to venture out and start their own business, putting their passion for wine to work. They quickly decided Belleair Bluffs' Plaza 100 was the location with the best demographics. They also liked being next door to E & E Stakeout Grill; as a bonus it is also close to home.

"We gutted the place back to the bare walls," Brian recalls. "We replaced the drywall, floors, ceiling, electrical wiring and lighting, plus we added custom Napa wood wine shelving and a temperature controlled cellar."

The wine business, unlike others, is filled with an interest for knowledge and taste from new wine lovers to connoisseurs.

"We started Bella Vino from grass-roots. We did not buy an existing wine business," Brian continues. "Because we did not have an ready-made customer base we had to quickly learn the needs of the local wine community. We are thankful that our local residents discovered us and seemed to like us."

"Up front, we originally had a small service area for wine sampling and to sell a little bit of cheese. We also sold gelato and espresso drinks," Brian says.

"About ten years ago, we redesigned our upfront area to expand the wine bar, add seating, more cheese display space, and enlarge our gourmet food & cigar selections."

Bella Vino has something for everyone. "We have wine selections from one end of the price range to the other.

We have a wide variety of cheeses. You can sit at our bar and enjoy any wine, with cheese or a charcuterie plate."

"We see well over 1,000 customers a month and most are repeat customers. You can not imagine how many cases our little store goes through - several hundred - per week! "We sell a lot of wine online, too. We ship to nearly 40 states."

We typically have many special events, such as Wine Tastings and Wine Dinners, but due to the pandemic, we've had none since February. We hope to resume them soon, depending on the conditions. We were forced to postponed our 2020 Annual Tiny Bubbles & Big Reds event, which is one of the largest and best wine tasting events in Pinellas County. When we bring it back, it will be better than ever!

Bella Vino Wine Market is located in The Plaza at 100 N. Indian Rocks Road, next to E&E Stakeout. Find them online at BellaVinoWineMarket.com or call Brian at 584-5552.



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A small company of six, dedicated exclusively to adult and child airway management, Breathe Well Sleep Well has employed a new technology to assist those with sleep problems caused by restricted airway. The Vivos® airway management appliance differs from other sleep appliances in that it actually corrects the causes. This technology is for any adult or child who is experiencing sleep problems, including snoring, that has been diagnosed with sleep apnea or a child who still bed wets and/or has been diagnosed with ADHD.

The Vivos® appliance actually corrects the reason for the restricted airway. The appliance is worn every day while sleeping and some additional hours, for 17 to 30 months, during which time it actually stimulates the jaw to grow to the size it was genetically supposed to be, allowing room for the tongue and expanding the airway.



Unlike CPAP which can feel like a lifetime sentence, or the drugs for ADHD which are addictive and can trigger manic episodes, the Vivos appliance was created to correct the actual root cause of these diseases. Millions of people are diagnosed annually with sleep apnea and many more do not yet know they have it; millions of kids each year are put on drugs; the Vivos® appliance could be the natural, non-pharmaceutical solution to saving breath and lives.

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

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IS 2021 THE YEAR TO CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

If you've experienced:

- A marriage or divorce
- The birth of a child or grandchild
- A move out of state
- A change in your financial situation

Then 2021 might be the perfect time to update your estate planning.

This is a wonderful time of year, especially when so many of us will be spending it with friends and family even if the way we spend our holidays together may look a little different this year. With our loved ones around us and as we look forward to the coming year, thoughts of helping those closest to us are more prevalent than ever. If you worry about caring for a family member with special needs, or easing the financial burden of higher education for children or grandchildren, then 2021 is the year to update your current estate plan or even to create one for the first time.

Whether you're looking to enjoy retirement on the beach or welcoming a new member into the family, there's nothing more vital than making sure your wishes are clear. If you have a will that's over ten years old or from another state, your estate planning documents could be outdated and in need of change. Marriages, divorces, and even grandchildren can impact your estate planning and leave room for uncertainty and division in your estate.

Our firm has seen a number of cases where outdated or inaccurate wills only serve to draw out the probate process, which could mean undue stress and possibly even significant additional expenses for your estate and family. In this modern world, your family might be a mixed one with children from both previous and current marriages, wouldn't you like to be sure that your assets go exactly where you want them?

Call Castagna Law Firm to arrange a complimentary half-hour estate plan review, where an attorney will look at your documents with you. We offer both in-person and virtual meetings as our client's health and safety are always our number one priority. Whether you're updating an old Will or drafting one for the first time, our legal team will guide you through the process every step of the way. Edward Castagna Jr. Esquire is a former estate and gift tax attorney with the IRS with 20 years of experience as assistant general counsel for Shriners Hospital. There are many estate planning tools available to you such as a Living Trust or Special Needs Trust. Let us explain how these tools may be used to carry out your intentions.

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PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, December 13 at 3 pm. Doors open at 2:30

Let the Suncoast Bronze Ringers warm your holiday spirits as they ring the season's most beloved carols and songs.

Due to Covid 19 procedures and social distancing, reserved tickets are required this season. Reserve a subscription, buy single concert tickets or to hear the concert virtually via our YouTube Channel at 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 or call Music Director Timothy Belk at (800) 479-8846 or Concert Series Chair, Beth Daniels at (727) 461 1818.

DON'T WASTE GOOD RECYCLING

With the holidays upon us, this is the time of year people produce the most waste - at least 25 percent more than usual from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. That's about 1 million extra tons of garbage! To reduce the size of your trash load, be sure to place all clean and dry empty plastic bottles, metal cans, glass, cardboard and paper in your blue recycling bin.

You can recycle some types of wrapping paper if it is paper-based, able to be torn, and containing no glitter or plastic components. Please place the wrapping paper in the garbage if it is foil-based, cannot be torn easily, or contains glitter or shiny plastic details. Tissue paper, bows, and ribbon should be placed in the trash, too. Save gift bags to reuse for next year.

It's also important to break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycle bin. They can get stuck in your bin when recycling crews empty your bin if the boxes are not broken down. All recyclables should be loose in the container. Plastic bags should never be placed in your blue recycling bin; take them back to the grocery store instead.

FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE

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So for now, to satisfy your present angst for Musical enjoyment, FWP is currently offering FREE Online virtual concerts. Check out them out on their website: FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.Org.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER FUND RAISER

Every year, Chapel by the Sea partners with the good people at Rise Against Hunger to assemble meals for communities in need of food assistance. This year, the coordinators were afraid that this very popular (and typically crowded) fundraiser wasn't going to be able to happen. But just because we're in a pandemic doesn't mean the need for assistance goes away, so the determined team got to work reinventing this event.

What they came up with and what they were able to achieve was nothing short of incredible. In past years, the meals were put together in an assembly line type fashion by a hundred people or more. This year, they organized two groups of thirteen volunteers, all of whom had to be socially distant,

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 - Young men - sizes 18 to 46
- New underwear and socks
- Shoes Children's size 9 to adult
- Bras, belts, purses, hats, jewelry, backpacks

WHAT DO WE ESPECIALLY LOVE?

- Shoes
- Girls clothes
 - tops - sizes 5 to XL
 - bottoms - sizes 6 to 16
- Boys clothes
 - tops - size 5 to XL
 - bottoms - size 6 to 16
- Young women's pants - size 13 to 22
- Young men's clothes
 - tops - size 5 to XL
 - bottoms - size 18 to 46

WHAT WE DO NOT NEED ...

- Used underwear and socks
- Athletic uniforms or equipment
- Toys or books
- Used pajamas or swimsuits
- Excessively worn clothing
- Baby/toddler clothing
- Hangers

WHERE TO BRING?

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wear gloves, masks, and hairnets. These small teams were each able to produce five thousand meals, with a grand total of ten thousand between the two, in a matter of ninety minutes! \$3,500 was also raised to pay for transport and raw materials. The meals will be added to a shipping container holding 285,000 meals in total headed to a Country or location in the U.S. that is in need. The destination is yet, unknown.

2020 has been a long year of challenges and problems to solve but The Chapel by the Sea and Rise Against Hunger teams were able to keep the momentum going by their determination, ingenuity, and desire to make a difference.

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 that began in October.

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

The jazzfest organizers recently launched "CJH Presents Wanderlust," a reimagined, live, in-person, music series, at various venues (in creative, mostly open-air settings) through the end of the year, "and possibly beyond," adds Weinberger.

"We've been 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 an opportunity to get out, explore a little, and find music again."

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

The Wanderlust Series has been so popular, all the shows have sold out. As a result new Shows were recently added

The CJH Backstage Bistro Experience will be a dynamic, downtown live music experience, with an outside, socially distanced Bistro Vibe! This re-imagined music series takes place at the open-air Station Square Park in Downtown, Clearwater and features an exciting lineup. Come experience these new Saturday Backstage Bistro sessions.

- December 5 - Alex Harris Band and Julie Black Band
- December 12 - Joe Marcinek Band with two Sets
- December 19 - Holiday Jam with Allon Sams & Friends with two Sets

Self-Parking is available at the Garden Avenue Garage along with various other locations throughout Downtown, Clearwater

The just added Tommy's Tiki Tuesday Concert Series offers you the chance to kick back with your toes in the sand at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa. Next to Pier 60 against the backdrop of beautiful sunsets, this is an intimate and socially distanced music experience to remember – cabaret style seating in the sand with that one-of-a-kind CJH style!

- December 1 - Go Go Beach Jam featuring John O'Leary, Alejandro Arenas, Mark Feinman, Jeremy Carter & Shella Siddiq with Echoing Dream - Kevin Jordan Ries
- December 8 - Moonflower "The Spirit of Santana" with Rob Stoney & Angelo Colura
- December 19 - The Applebutter Express with Shaun Hopper Duo

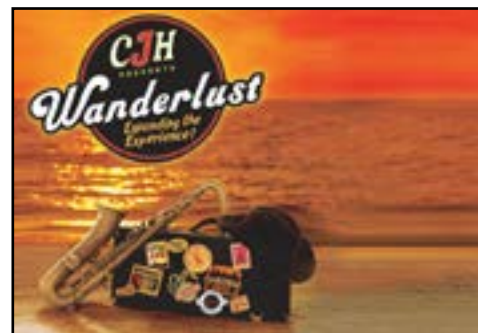
One complimentary appetizer per table of two or two complimentary appetizer for table of four. Food and beverages will be available for purchase through table service. \$10 Self-Parking is available at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa. At both locations, an advanced purchased ticket is required to attend each show, no day of show tickets, single or standing admission will not be available. Tables are socially distanced from each other.

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 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. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Magazine

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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.

SILVER SNEAKERS PARTICIPANTS CAN'T "WEIGHT" TO BE BACK

Before the shutdown in March, the Belleair Recreation Department had a booming Silver Sneakers Classic class with the highest number of participants ever. The class was a great way to meet new people, stay active and build friendships.

Eight months later, the Recreation Center is ready to bring the class back with many safety precautions. Phone calls went out last week to past participants, and many of them were eager to hear the news!

One Belleair resident said, "I'm definitely coming! I haven't done anything but go to the grocery store and post office. I am ready to get back into shape."

Many of the participants use the class not only for exercise, but for creating lasting friendships and have been staying in contact by phone during the break. Upcoming classes may look a little different than in the past, with everyone wearing masks, and chairs spaced far apart from each other; but that's not going to slow down the participants.

A class participant said, "We are used to the procedures by now, and are ready to see each other, from a distance of course."

The Silver Sneakers Classic class resumed on November 18, 2020 in the Recreation Center's basketball gymnasium. The class is held on Wednesday and Friday morning from 9:00-10:00 am. Silver Sneakers Classic class focuses on strengthening muscles, and increasing range of movement for daily life activities. Participants use hand-held weights,



Silver Sneakers Participants gathered at last year's holiday party after their workout class.

elastic tubing with handles and a Silver Sneakers ball. Often a chair is used for seated exercises or standing support.

A great aspect of the class is that it's open to anyone. Since it is an ongoing program, participants can join at any time and pay a drop-in fee of \$3 or FREE for Silver Sneakers Members. The recreation staff and instructor Kim Papi are excited to have the Silver Sneakers Classic class safely back in action!



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