

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine



Father Carroll

Photo credit: Indian Rocks Historical Museum



A church social in the late 1950s, at the Haven's Beach Canal location

ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH 70 years of service

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

While today, St Jerome Catholic Church is in Largo, it first opened here in Indian Rocks Beach in 1951. Initially, it was an expansion of St. Cecelia in Clearwater, within the Diocese of St. Augustine. St. Cecelia's Monsignor Thomas Colreavy began their first celebrations of mass in Indian Rocks Beach's American Legion Hall, home to several denominations, because it was available to anyone who wanted to rent the building.

In the beginning, the membership was about 25 families. Most of the attendees were retirees, but membership kept growing. By 1954, mass was held in the City's Auditorium and occasionally in the nearby Fire Station.

Msgr. Colreavy realized their attendance would soon outgrow their space. In 1954, he purchased two acres of land on 5th Avenue (Walsingham Road), at the foot of the Walsingham Bridge, where the old GTE building sits today - an area known as Haven Beach Canal. The purchase included a cottage, large garage, and a boathouse.

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Also in this Issue:

City's Recycling Program

Ten years later, 75 percent of the city's households are using curbside recycling. What is the biggest concern? - page 19

Children's Books

After Swarna Mohan retired on Sand Key in 2018, she began writing children's books based on videos of her morning walks she filmed and sent to her grandson.

- page 9



CJH Wanderlust Music Series Returns

Located in three different venues, we have the spring schedule and all the details - page 3

Whats New with Local Businesses?

Keep track of your neighborhood businesses comings and goings. Even during these trying times, new businesses are opening.

- pages 12-15

CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN MAY!

Wednesday, March 17th



CJH WANDERLUST MUSIC SERIES RETURNS

It was a challenging but inspiring year of creativity and innovation including new and adapted Education & Outreach programming and the launch of their CJH Presents Wanderlust events – a series of small-scale, open-air, and socially distanced concerts that served to unite our community of support, celebrate our impact, and raise funds for the Foundation.

These initiatives were also a lifeline to many professional musicians and music educators as the Foundation engages these musicians to deliver the year-round Education & Outreach programming, and the Wanderlust events supported more than 30 bands over 18 events at 5 different venues!

Now CJH Presents Wanderlust continues in 2021 at three exciting venues:

1. Backstage Bistro Experience, a dynamic experience, with an outside, socially distanced Bistro Vibe at Station Square Park in downtown Clearwater.
2. Evy's Bistro Rooftop Concert Experience on the 6th floor of the Hampton Inn & Suites on Clearwater Beach overlooking the Sand Key Bridge. Includes two complimentary appetizers per table, and table side food and beverage service.
3. Winter's Beach Club Music Series at the Winter The Dolphin's Beach Club on Clearwater Beach. Enjoy their private beach, a private lounge chair, complimentary appetizer, food and beverage wait service, and sunset.

Upcoming Backstage Bistro events are:

- March 6 - Have Gun Will Travel; Boxcar Hollow
- March 13 - Jazmin Ghent; Cienna Alida

Upcoming Evy's events are:

- April 9 - Acme Jazz Garage CJH Young Lions Presents Jazz Guitar Through the Ages featuring Larue Nickelson & Alex Malkovich
- May 14 - Greg Billings & Tony Wagner Acoustic Set, Rob Stoney & Angelo Colura
- June 11 - Hot Tonic Orchestra, CJH Young Lions presents Tenor Madness featuring Jeremy Carter & Alex Malkovich
- August 13 - Brandon Robertson Trio featuring Dan Miller, CJH Presents Young Lions – The Next Generation
- Sept. 10 - Jeremy Carter Rubber Band, Monk Funk – The James Suggs Quartet plays the Music of Thelonious Monk

Upcoming Winter's Beach Club events are:

- April 15 - Honey Island Swamp Band
- May 20 - Moonflower "The Spirit Of Santana" Go Go Beach Jam featuring Mark Feinman, Alejandro Arenas, John O'Leary, Jeremy Carter & Rochelle Siddiq
- July 15 - The Black Honkeys, Sax & Beats - Kyle Schroeder
- August 19 - Reverend Barry & The Funk, Kid Royal Band

An advanced purchased ticket is required to attend each show. No day of show tickets will be available. Tickets for all venues are available online at clearwaterjazz.com/wanderlust.html.

CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY 2021

Save the Dates! The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Music festival returns for its 42nd year - October 14-17, 2021!

In light of the Imagine Clearwater construction schedule in Coachman Park, the festival will be in a new and temporary venue to be announced soon and will be a reduced capacity event with social distancing and other safety protocols.

High Note Society members will again take advantage of our one-of-a-kind concert experience and memberships will open soon. As we continue all these activities in 2021, please stay connected with us at www.clearwaterjazz.com!

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Did You Know



ORCHID REPOTTING CLINIC The Florida West Coast Society will hold a repotting clinic at the Florida Botanical Gardens. on Saturday, March 13th from 9am to noon, inside the roundabout at the Walsingham Entrance, 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.

Free admission, free parking. Repotting is priced at \$1 per inch.

SAFE BOATING CLASSES The Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering "Boat America" courses on Zoom. With the same instructors that would be in the classroom, they allow for lots of questions and answers. In addition, because the classes are on the Internet, there's no commuting to a classroom – students can be anywhere in Florida!

Next scheduled is: Four weekend mornings, from 9 to 11:30am each day: Saturday, Sunday and the following Saturday, Sunday. March 13, 14 and 20, 21 from 9 to 11:30am. Classes are \$40 per student and include the books, supplemental materials and course completion certificates. Visit www.clwboatingsafety.com, or call 727-469-8895.

CHANGES TO BEACH ACCESS PARKING New city parking laws were recently enacted banning parking on the beach accesses including spaces reserved for residents between the hours of 11pm and 6am unless you have a temporary parking permit. The temporary permits, which are different than the parking decals, are available at City Hall for \$5 per day with a three-day maximum. The permits may not be used in Residents Only parking. The fine for violating the city's parking laws was raised from \$40 to \$75.

SUNRISE SERVICE Join Serenity Gardens Easter Sunday for an on-line Easter Sunrise Experience Sunday, April 4th at 7am. Enjoy the beauty of an early-morning sunrise on the lakefront of Serenity Gardens while we share in a service of music and the timeless message of Christ's resurrection. The link to view is live.anona.com

UPCOMING EVENTS The Florida State Fair has been moved from February to April 22-May 2. The Tampa Gasparilla Invasion was rescheduled to April 17, but now it and the Children's Gasparilla parade have now been canceled.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES RETURN

Yes, the Girl Scouts will be selling their famous Girl Scout Cookies this year—even with Covid-19.

If you work in an office, chances are a Scout's parent will have them for sale.

Neighborhood Girl Scouts may come knocking on your door—they call that "Cookies On The Spot" – as long as they feel comfortable doing so. You may see some scouts and their parents at your neighborhood Publix also. The Girl Scout Council is asking girls and parents to sell via e-mail when possible, and to wear masks, social distance, and wash their hands when working with the public. Support the Girl Scouts - buy a lot.



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SUNSETS AT PIER 60

Did you know Clearwater Beach's Sunsets at Pier 60 has been providing free family-friendly entertainment for over 25 years? And it is still continuing every night at Pier 60 with social distancing even with the Pandemic.



Sunsets at Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts-organization that operates year-round from two hours before until two hours after sunset, weather permitting. The nightly sunset celebration features local artisans, street performers and world-famous Pier 60 sunsets. Looking to sell your handmade treasures? Apply at www.sunsetsatpier60.com/p/artisans/artisan-application.

FLORIDA WAS NAMED FOR A HOLIDAY In 1513 Ponce de Leon arrived in the St. Augustine area shortly after Easter. He chose to name the land he claimed after both that holiday and the area's colorful plants – "Pascua Florida." The Spanish phrase is used for the Easter season and translates to "feast of flowers." Our state's name is the United States oldest name with European origins. That is probably because it was the first area to be visited by Europeans.

75 YEARS OF SPRING BALL IN CLEARWATER

The Philadelphia Phillies have been playing Spring Ball in Clearwater for 75 years—dating back to 1946 after the end of World War II. This year also marks 45 years that the Phillies Minor League team The Threshers have played in Clearwater.

Barring any Covid-19 postponements, Spring Training will run from February 27 to March 29. The Threshers will start playing in May, after Spring Training, at Spectrum Field at 601 Old Coachman Road.

NEW PARKING DECALS

The City has begun issuing the new Resident Parking Decals. No longer blue, the new ones are red and allow residents to park at beach accesses in Resident Only spots. City residents may pick up their parking decals, one for each vehicle including golf carts, at City Hall.



To qualify for a decal, you must own or lease a primary residence in Indian Rocks. Bring a copy of your State of Florida driver's license and auto registration with you to City Hall. Both must reflect the same address.

If you are not the owner of the property, a copy of your lease or a notarized letter from the property owner will be required. It must reflect at least a one-year lease term.

Get more information at Indian-Rocks-Beach.com or call the City Hall, 595-2517.

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

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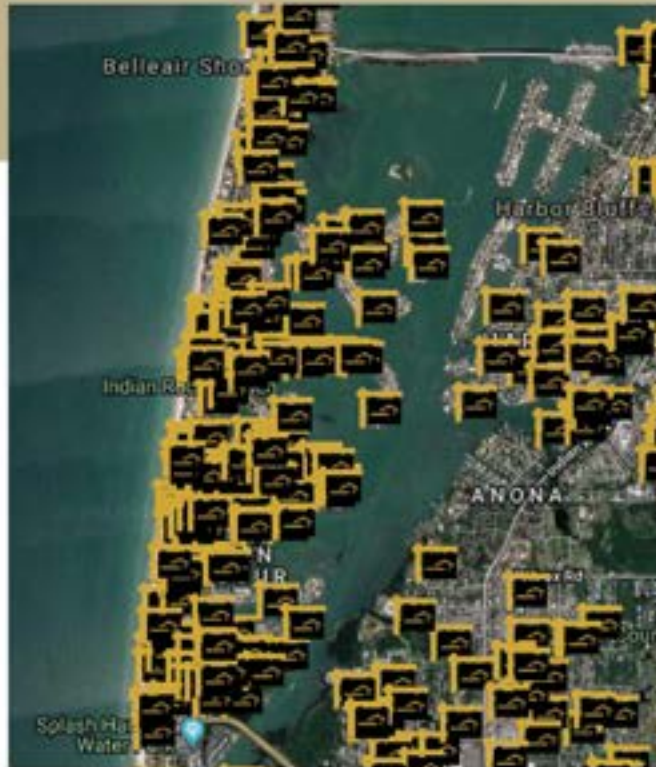
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ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH, CONTINUED

On January 4, 1956, the Archbishop Hurley, announced the Indian Rocks Beach Parish would be designated the St. Jerome parish. The parish was named after Saint Jerome, Doctor of the Church and Theologian Writer and Historian. Born in Strido, Dalmatia (Croatia) in 347, his greatest achievement was the translation of the Bible, still used by the Catholic Church, and setting the standard for the King James Version 1,200 years later.

Archbishop Hurley appointed Father William Carroll, from St Pete Beach, the new parish's pastor. By now, over 100 families were attending mass.

Father Carroll lived in the Haven Beach Canal cottage and held mass in the garage. Furnished with folding chairs, the new chapel could seat 60 for daily Mass and was the first official gathering place for the Catholic family in Indian Rocks Beach. Within two years, attendance had grown to 740. In 1957, anticipating future growth, the Diocese purchased 20 acres of land on Hamlin Blvd.

Shortly thereafter, Father Carroll, in failing in health, requested he be replaced. Father Roman Gromala became the second Priest for St Jerome Church. He saw the need for a larger worship space and began to raise money for a new building. The plans called for a building that could seat 600 people, plus a kitchen and social hall that held 250 people. The hall could also be used for classes. The estimated cost of the facilities was \$150,000.

Groundbreaking took place on Pentecost Sunday. The first mass was celebrated in the church at midnight Christmas Eve in 1960. The darkness was illuminated by car headlights and flickering bulbs attached to temporary generators. The church was dedicated by Archbishop Hurley on January 15, 1961.

They had one building housing the church, social hall classrooms and offices. Additions were added after 1974 including a new rectory building. Population growth was exploding along the beaches and in west Pinellas, and many were members of the Catholic faith. In less than ten years, church membership had grown from a handful to a church full.

Another expansion was needed and they broke ground on April of 1980 for the "Holy Family Chapel"- their pyramid shaped worship hall. It opened on July 15, 1982.

Father Gromala continued to serve for 23 years. Monsignor Brendan Muldoon replaced him in May of 1983.

Under Monsignor Muldoon's guidance and leadership, the church added the Education Building in 1989 and the Early Childhood Center in the early 1990s. New offices were built in 2004. Prior to that, staff operated out of a double-wide trailer.



Father Muldoon



1960 - Construction of the first church on Hamlin Blvd.

Father Muldoon brought many programs to the church. Most notable were the Lifeline program, collecting food and donations for their Feed the Homeless program, providing food to the homeless through Pinellas Hope and more.

His tenure also saw a new Senior Activity Center, a Teen Life Mass, and the Ed Kilroy Outreach Building which opened in 2008 and renovated of the main church building and a new altar. This was dedicated by Mass on December 17, 2011.

At the dedication Mass, Father Muldoon said, "For over fifty years, the people of Indian Rocks Beach and the surrounding area have given of their time, talent and treasure to build up the Body of Christ in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Ultimately, we thank God and His Blessed Mother for having us."

After thirty-three years of service, Father Muldoon retired in 2015. He was replaced by Father Thomas Morgan.

Today, St. Jerome is home to almost 2500 families and 7,000 parishioners. They conduct hundreds of marriages, funerals, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and Anointings every year. While things are different during the pandemic, they still offer in person and online Mass. They are restricting attendance to only 25% maximum capacity inside the church.

St Jerome Catholic Church is located at 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo. Call 727-595-4610 or visit www.stjeromeonline.org for more information.

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**NO BLACK AND WHITE
IN A GRAY DIVORCE**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Gray divorce is an increasing phenomenon among those over the age of 50. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the rate of divorce over the age of 50 is 10 out of 1000, double the rate in 1990 and over 65 it has tripled. Any divorce is complicated but divorcing a long-term partner is fraught with issues, both financial and emotional.



When we work with clients or prospective clients going through divorce, it is without judgment. There are almost always two sides. We encourage them to seek attorneys and other professionals who believe in the collaborative divorce process.

Still there are significant financial issues that must be decided in an equal and equitable manner. What is the difference? Assets can be split 50/50 and that is equal, but if some assets have a higher tax burden than others, it might not be equitable. Alimony is one of many issues which come with divorce, especially if one spouse is financially dependent on the other. How long will it last?

Front and center is the issue of health care, especially before Medicare kicks in at age 65. If the marriage has lasted more than ten years, each spouse can choose a Social Security benefit on his or her own record, or that of the former partner, whichever is greater. How will each fund their respective retirements? It could take a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) to separate these assets without tax consequences.

What about all those other assets they have accumulated? The primary home? Maybe a second home, boat, or RV? Jewelry? Long-term investments? Life insurance? Annuities? Then, there is the other side of the balance sheet -debt. Who will be responsible for the payments?

The estate plan will need to change. New legal documents need updating. Do not forget the beneficiary on the life insurance, retirement plans, annuities, etc.

The emotional toll on a couple who have been together for decades is a whole other issue. Being and living alone is not healthy. While the divorce ends the marriage, it does not end the emotional aspects. They should not hesitate to put a psychologist on the team. Then there are family and friends. Will they make a choice and choose sides? Can they possibly understand?

If you are contemplating divorce, take advantage of our complimentary one-hour consultation.

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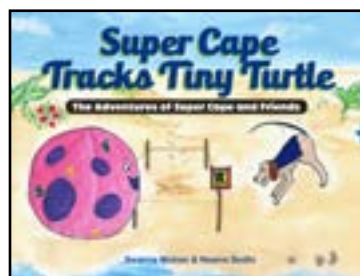
When Swarna Mohan and her husband were looking for a retirement home in Florida, they took one look at Sand Key and decided that this was where they wanted to be. They wrapped up their affairs in Kentucky and moved to Florida in early 2018.

Swarna's retirement plans included walking on the

beach, playing duplicate bridge, volunteering, and traveling. She managed to do all those things in 2018 and 2019. She took several trips, and everywhere she went, she made short videos for her pre-K grandson Rohan, who lives abroad and loves homemade videos. But then came 2020 and the pandemic, and all travel stopped. What didn't stop were Swarna's morning walks, which she combines with beach cleanup. She is amazed at the number of toys that are left behind at the beach. She washes the toys and donates them.

One day, she helped a fellow walker get some fish that were stranded in a tide pool back to the sea. "What a great story that would make for Rohan," she thought. Among the toys she had found were a toy dog with a cape, a pink ball, and a green rubber fish with stripes. These became the inspirations for Super Cape, Pinky Pink, and Stripty Fish. Swarna created additional props and made a video for Rohan, narrating how Super Cape and Pinky Pink rescue Stripty Fish. He loved the video, as did Swarna's grandnephews and grandniece. They wanted more stories, and Swarna turned to the beach at Sand Key for inspiration, where – from sponges, to wet rocks, to sand holes – there was no dearth of material. She created more storytelling videos. Then her friend Neena Sodhi, a retired allergist, suggested that she turn the stories into picture books, and offered to illustrate them. And thus were born The Adventures of Super Cape and Friends.

Each adventure is a rescue story on the beach. One 4-year old test reader wanted to know if Super Cape has super powers, and was thrilled to learn that what Super Cape has are super ideas. A second grade teacher gave her class the topic "How you can be a Super Hero" as a writing assignment, and used a Super Cape book as an example. The books focus on the power of creative thinking, learning from failure, and cooperating to achieve success.



Thus far, three titles in the series are available: Super Cape Saves Stripty Fish, Super Cape Finds Brother Blue, and Super Cape Tracks Tiny Turtle. Spanish translations of the Super Cape adventures are in the works.

The self-published books are available on **Amazon.com**. You can also find the books, information on the Super Cape team, and free fun activities for kids in the target age group of 3-8, at **SuperCapeAdventures.com**.

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Real Estate News

TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL? Most-Asked Real Estate Question of 2021

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



By all rights, there may never be a better time to sell than now. Prices rising the fastest in 6 years. Extremely low inventory meaning almost no competition. Quick sales and closings with less aggravation. Multiple offers...many over list price. Low interest rates. Folks moving to Florida in droves. Frigid temps up north. So, given this "perfect real estate storm," why aren't folks selling? Lots of reasons.

Pre-COVID, 45% of the country planned to move within 10 years, which was welcomed news given a serious housing inventory shortage. But then, the pandemic forced many would-be movers to sit tight. For the Indian Rocks real estate market to remain healthy, it is crucial buyers have more properties to choose from. So, what will it take to ramp pre-COVID "potential" movers back up into selling mode?

While more widespread vaccine distribution should push a few "would-be" sellers off dead center, it's too soon for an impact yet. The primary reason folks are reluctant to sell: Fear of not finding something to buy. So we remain caught in this chicken-and-egg conundrum: Can't sell because there's nothing to buy and there's nothing to buy because not enough folks are selling. There were 16 sales in IRB in the first 6 weeks of this year...a 25% drop from the same period last year. Certainly not for lack of buyers!

Nationally, 1 in 3 sellers cites a lower cost of living as a reason to sell. The rising cost of hazard insurances—homeowners, flood and wind—is presenting financial challenges for some retired waterfront owners, who are also grappling with the "heavy lifting" required to maintain a home on saltwater. But, they haven't reached that point where banking more profit than they ever dreamed possible outweighs the loss of their view.

Through mid-February, the average sale price in IRB increased 29% over the same time last year. Over half the sales were at or ABOVE list price. Properties were on the market an average of 18 days...down from 64 days during the first six weeks of 2020. Weary, street-beating buyers are less likely to ask a seller to absorb the cost of inspection repairs for fear the seller will simply say, "Next!" It might be a textbook seller's market but national trends show folks staying put longer. In 2010, owners stayed in their current homes 8.7 years. A decade later (2020), it grew to 13 years; 1 in 4 lived at the same address for 20+ years.

Last year lent new meaning to the word "homebody." Telecommuting. Distance learning. Zooming weddings, doctors' appointments, etc. Life, or some facsimile thereof, happened within the four walls of our homes. Housebound homeowners, who became more dissatisfied with their current homes, haven't yet taken action. New listings expected in January didn't materialize although January did see a 16% increase in the number of those who believe it's a good time to sell (Fannie Mae Home Purchase Sentiment Index). Experts predict more inventory later this year or in early 2022. Hope so. The continued robustness of our real estate market depends on it.

Source: Stellar MLS (1/1/20-2/16/20 compared to 1/1/21-2/16/21))



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PAUL ZAGAMI

Sales Associate

727.458.2618

paul@gordonrealty.house



Left to right, Andres Andrade, Patient Care Technician; Rachael Crue, ER Nurse Manager; Katie Garino, Clinical Nurse III; Jack Carvalho, Clinical Nurse II; Nicole Rodriguez, and Ellen Bowman, PA.

MORTON PLANT TEAM ATTENDS THE SUPERBOWL

When Morton Plant’s ER manager Rachel saw the email notifying her, she would be receiving a ticket to Super Bowl LV, she started screaming. “Katy! Katy! Katy! I got a ticket.” Katy is assistant nurse manager in the ER who later found out she too was selected to receive a ticket. “I was screaming so loudly I am surprised security didn’t come check on me,” Rachel said jokingly. Rachel calmed down just enough to call one of the nurses who was not working that day to see if she received an email as well. “I hung up on her. I had to check my email,” that nurse also named Katie confessed. Hands shaking, Katie’s eyes spotted the coveted email. “I read and re-read the email over and over. I could not believe it was true. I was going to the Super Bowl.”

Rachel, Katie and Katy are not the only members of the Morton Plant team who were sitting in the Raymond James stadium Sunday when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LV. The NFL invited 7500 vaccinated health care workers to the game and to a special gameday experience headlined by Miley Cyrus. Andre, a patient care technician, Jack a nurse, Nicole an intake specialist, and Ellen a physician’s assistant also work in the ER and were among the lucky ones to be offered a ticket.

“It was incredible what the NFL and BayCare are doing for us. We are so thankful and blessed,” Rachel said.

THE COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC,

Through this last year, employment decreased, and teeth grinding, chipping and breaking increased by more than 50% - resulting in many more people in dental distress and unable to afford treatment. The Community Dental Clinic enrolls 30 to 50 new patients every month and strives to provide a dental care to over 2,500 unemployed, underemployed, or disabled, adults, veterans and seniors who live in Pinellas County.

Throughout this pandemic year, Community Dental Clinic provided 7,264 procedures, and more than \$1,125,000 in free dental care for those who need it most. The clinic is grateful for the community’s help supporting their efforts, and sharing their information with those who find themselves in dental distress with no resources or insurance.

Want to have fun and help the clinic? Dine Out for a Difference in Downtown Clearwater (Cleveland Street) on Thursday, March 25, and the clinic receives 10% of the proceeds! Visit www.communitydentalclinic.com for more information.

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Business Briefs



NEW SUNSET CRUISES 2

Shea Charters is now offering sunset cruises on their newest Coast Guard certified vessel - "2 Shea's Stadium."

The Clearwater fishing and SCUBA diving charter

company, in business in since 2006, recently acquired the 46-foot, 2 deck boat from a company in Islamorada.

2 Shea Charters will be offering two-hour, Gulfside sunset cruises Thursday through Sunday (weather permitting) departing from Wet Lines Bait Shop at 200 Seminole Street. Each cruise includes a complimentary champagne toast for all guests 21 and over. Beer, wine, hard seltzer, and soft drinks are available for purchase on board. For more info visit clearwatersunsetboat.com or call (727) 798-1269.

FRAME FACTORY'S NEW SERVICES Frame Factory in Largo now offers:

- Media Transfers: Transfer your home-made super-8, 16mm, slides, or photos to a DVD. They also can copy records and tapes to DVD or CDs or files to CD.
- Giclee Printing: Transfer your original artwork to paper or canvas.
- Custom greeting cards: Choose a photo, maybe of your favorite furry friend, or original artwork for the front and personalize the inside with your own words.

Visit FrameFactoryLargo.com for more information or call Mary at 581-0322. Find Frame Factory at 600 East Bay Drive just east of Belleair Bluffs.

SALT ESSENTIALS WELLNESS OPENS While searching for alternative holistic approaches to alleviate her symptoms of severe allergy and asthma, longtime Belleair resident Karen Koch discovered halo (salt) therapy. After seeing significant improvement in just a few sessions, she was convinced of its effectiveness. When she discovered there was no dry salt therapy facility in our immediate area, she decided to open one. Finally, after two-years of planning, Salt Essentials Wellness opened in Largo last October.

Salt Essentials Wellness provides all-natural services to promote health and wellness. In addition to improving respiratory health - critical in today's environment - salt therapy provides positive results in skin, beauty and anti-aging, as well as easing inflammation and boosting the immune system.

They offer halo (salt) therapy for children and adults, massage, an infra-red sauna, and magnetic resonance therapy. They offer halo yoga classes and massage in their salt room. Salt Essentials Wellness is located at 1600 Missouri Ave N.

VACATION RENTAL COMPANY CLOSES OFFICE The Vacasa office, located at 309 Gulf Blvd, next to the Surf Shop has closed. The store front has been unattended for several months and the phones go unanswered. Vacasa, was Three Palm Vacation Rentals for many years before being sold to Vacasa, a large company located elsewhere.



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Business Briefs



CHALLENGE YOURSELF For more than 40 years, Oom Yung Doe has significantly improved the lives of millions of martial arts practitioners in the United States. A traditional martial art, Oom Yung Doe is a way to challenge yourself, or "win over yourself."

Traditional martial arts training can help you reach your fullest potential, your ultimate mental, physical, and spiritual development - your success. This success directly improves every aspect of your life - your inner peace, confidence, communication, relationships, even your mental and physical health. Throughout the centuries, Oom Yung Doe has been known to alleviate the stress of everyday life, as well as creating the ability to change bad habits.

Traditional martial arts techniques have been developed over the centuries to strengthen the practitioner's muscles and joints, increase flexibility, coordination, and body control. All age groups have unlimited potential to gain mental and physical strength through the practice of Oom Yung Doe.

Oom Yung Doe has been serving the Largo community at 11983 Indian Rocks Road for more than 25 years. Programs are adaptable to your own abilities, encouraging you to grow mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Stop by and try a free lesson or watch a demonstration. Call 727-596-6636 for more information.

TEN YEARS OF FINANCIAL PLANNING This month, Noelle Daniel Wealth Management is celebrating their 10th Anniversary of serving the Pinellas County Beach communities. Originally located in Indian Rocks Beach, they soon expanded and relocated to a larger space in Indian Shores. They enjoyed that Intracoastal waterview location for six years before relocating to their new professional office complex.

Noelle bought the property at 12651 Walsingham Road in Largo and completed an extensive renovation before moving in two years ago. Noelle Daniel Wealth Management is a full-service financial service firm specializing in financial planning, investments, retirement planning and insurance for families and small businesses. Visit www.ndwealthmanagement.com or call 727-408-5209 for more information.

NEW WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATE LOCATION Bill Brown, owner of William Dean Chocolates, is opening a second location in Tampa at the intersection of I-275 and N. Dale Mabry. He hopes to open in May or June. He plans to make this location into more than just chocolates. It will be a Parisian inspired café serving breakfast and lunch items including quiche, baguettes, sandwiches, salads and fresh breads.

The café will seat 14 people indoors with shady outdoor patio seating as well. Of course, there will be a well stocked display case for his signature chocolates, as well.

SHINY TEETH Shiny Teeth Pediatric Dentistry is opening this month at 1180 Ponce De Leon Blvd. Owner Dr. Gyles, DDS is board-certified and has been practicing dentistry for over 15 years. He lives in Sand Key. Get more information at ShinyTeethPediatricDentistry.com or call 310-0410

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Business Briefs

MORE THAN FRESH VEGGIES WITHOUT CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Surfside Produce Market is a new vegetable market in Indian Rocks Beach, but it is really a mini-grocery store. Opened last year on 14th Avenue in the shopping center, it is owned and operated by Morgan Myers and partner Danny Garqiulo.



Many people are surprised to find the market carries seafood. The variety of fresh seafood includes (when available) stone crab, oysters, clams, fresh fish, scallops, as well as live blue crab. The prices, including the claws vary but are cheaper than nearby grocery stores.

Stone Crabs, are in season until May 15th. Surfside carries floaters and medium sized claws; currently they have colossal claws, too.

They also carry ground beef, filet mignon, ribeye steaks, pork chops, and Boars Head meat and cheese.

It does not stop there - Surfside is the perfect place to grab a fresh smoothie too! "We take personal request if there is something you can't find in our store," adds Morgan. "We are very competitive with ALL of our pricing for seafood, beef, dried goods, and produce. We try our very best to have the best quality products available at affordable prices."

Open seven days a week, 8:30am to 6:30pm, Surfside Produce Market is located at 1401 Gulf Blvd. Call 219-7079 for information. Find them on FaceBook - Surfside Fresh Produce (Indian Rocks).

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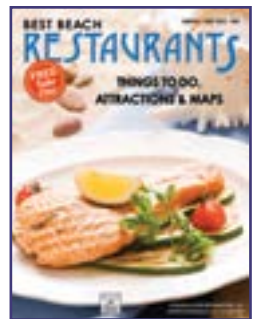
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SPRING EDITION OF BEST RESTAURANT MAGAZINE

Find out What's New with beach restaurants from St. Pete Beach to Clearwater Beach and find a list of the phone numbers of every restaurant all in the latest issue of Best Beach Restaurants—a publication of Griffin Productions. Now in our 19th year; this is the 45th issue.



Pick one up at CVS and The Welcome Center.

SALON DE SANTI HAS NEW OWNERS

Previous owner Santiago is gone. Dee Butera, a Salon de Santi hairdresser, and her husband Stephen, bought the business from him in January.

They plan to continue the hair salons operations with no changes, including the name Salon de Santi. Find them at 1519 Gulf Blvd, next to Keegans.

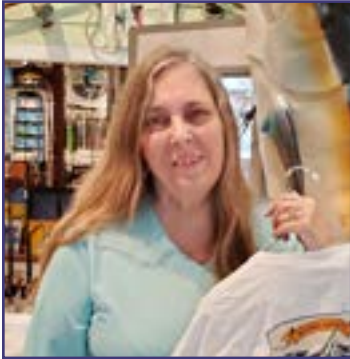
CLOSING SOON Symposium Wine Experience will close in six months. Owner Matt Feagin, tells us they will be demolishing the building to build condos.

PINKY'S ICE CREAM

Wendy opened her little Indian Rocks Beach ice cream store at 14th Avenue in 2006 - 15 years ago. She will be the first to tell you she sells more than ice cream. She has candy, bubble gum, old fashioned sodas and gifts. Find her at 1401 Gulf Blvd.



Business Briefs



OWNERS OF INDIAN ROCKS TACKLE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

When Donna and husband Bill Greenway, bought the small tackle shop in 1971 it was already more than fifteen years old. Now, the family is celebrating their 50th year in business. When Bill passed away in 2011, Donna continued to run the store by herself.

Indian Rocks Tackle is the oldest known continually operated business in Indian Rocks.

To celebrate, they are planning a party in conjunction with Pajano's Pizza. Both are celebrating 50 years this year. Plans are temporarily on hold due to Covid19.

EARTH FARE IS BACK The small well-known grocer, known for carrying organic and healthy options, re-opened in the Seminole City Center. Earth Fare opened its first store in 1975, but a year ago filed for bankruptcy and closed all 50 stores—including the one in Seminole. Now with a change in ownership, the 24,000 square foot Seminole store re-opened in January. They are located seven miles from Indian Rocks and deliver through Instacart.

ORDER EASTER DESERTS FROM THE PIE FACTORY Easter is the time the Pie Factory features their delicious coconut cake, coconut cream meringue and coconut del la cream pies. Their most popular lunch or dinner item this time of year is Shepherd Pie. It can be purchased to go as it is in a microwavable container containing cooking instructions.

THE WALK, COMING SOON This project being built by Taylor Morrison Development occupies a full city block and a half. Located just north of 18 On The Rocks restaurant, the development includes 32-townhomes - all three-story, 1,900 square foot, 3-bedroom, 3-bath units.

The Walk will offer two open-concept luxury townhome floor plans featuring a large living room, designer kitchens, owner's suites, and designer upgrades.

Other features include: 2-car tandem garages, a private elevator, impact resistant windows and 10 foot ceilings on the main floor. The planned community will have a pool and butterfly garden.

Sales have not begun, but the model center is under construction. Pricing should be released soon and sales are scheduled to begin in the spring.

For information, call Molly Whalen at 866-495-6006 or visit TaylorMorrison.com/FL/Tampa/Indian-Rocks-Beach.

CLOSED

YOLAND LOREN the woman's clothing store that opened in Belleair Bluffs just before the holidays has already closed.

SHEAR DELIGHT - a lady's hair salon at 80 South Indian Rocks Road.

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

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Restaurant & Bar News



NEW DECK AT BACKWATERS What is better than an outside deck? Two decks.

Backwaters Restaurant in Sand Key added a deck on its west side to accommodate more diners who want to sit outside.

"During the Covid-19 Pandemic, an increased number of our customers wanted to sit outside," says Backwaters owner Larry Edger. "The new deck, with 30 seats, will allow people to eat in a safely distanced environment." Planning began in July with permitting and engineering and construction in December and January. "There will be a promoted Grand Opening very soon," Edger says.

Find Backwaters in the Shoppes at Sand Key, 1261 Gulf Blvd.

SUSHI COMING TO THE PLAZA Erwin Scheuringer, owner of The Plaza, in Belleair Bluffs announced a sushi restaurant will replace AAA Travel that moved out in December.

Sekushi Sushi Bar is taking the empty space at the north end of the plaza. Owned by local Frank Manella, this will be his third sushi restaurants He has one in Las Vegas and one in Clearwater Beach. The restaurant is only in the planning stages. Look for it to open later this year.

BEST SANDWICH IN FLORIDA Food & Wine Magazine recently named the Columbia's "Original Cuban Sandwich" the Best Sandwich in Florida. "This is the same recipe my Great-Grandfather and Grandfather used dating back to 1915," says owner Richard Gonzmart. Try one today at their Sand Key location, which has been open for 32 years! "History never tasted so good."



VIP MEXICAN RESTAURANT Nick and Michele Rapisardi, owners of the VIP, say they hope to open "any day now." It all depends on their inspections. The restaurant has been approved for 250 seats, but only plans to open half of it for now. They want to ease into full capacity.

They are located at 213 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your business has news we can use in this News Magazine, e-mail Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

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Restaurant & Bar News



CRABBY BILL'S FIRE

On January 15, about 10:30pm, an electrical fire started at Crabby Bill's. Outside, patrons could see flames coming through the roof. The restaurant was quickly evacuated, and the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue arrived within minutes, as they are located only one block away.

With quick action by the local firefighters, the small fire was quickly extinguished. No one was hurt, and luckily the damage was minor. The restaurant was closed for a day to clean-up.

"We are extremely grateful for the quick action taken by the Indian Rocks Beach unit of Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue," said owner Matt Loder. "Their preparedness and service saved our family business from what could have been a terrible tragedy. We can't say enough good things about the team and their actions."

Damage was estimated at \$10,000.

CLEVELAND STREET DINING Due to its popularity, the City Council extended the closure of downtown Clearwater's Cleveland Street to car traffic through at least April 16. This allows restaurants to have dining tables in the street and gives customers room to social distancing.

The closure only applies to the 400 and 500 blocks of Cleveland. Local businesses urged the City to continue the closer due to the pandemic. The City encourages the plan and is supporting downtown business while adhering to the state, county and CDC guidelines. For more information on the Cleveland Street closure, email RoseMary.Damour@MyClearwater.com.

ANOTHER SLYCE Slyce Pizza is expanding again, This time into St. Pete Beach. Jack Bennett, owner of the now three Slyce Pizza restaurants, is opening a third Slyce Pizza at 6340 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, across from the Postcard Inn. The new restaurant will have 25 TVs and live music.

It is schedule to open any day. Get more information at www.SlycePizza.com.

RED LION STATUS Owner Tom George says they are finishing work on a Dunedin property that is scheduled to open March 15th. Once that is done, they will turn their attention to the finishing the Red Lion. "This was no small facelift," says George. "We gutted the place and started over—inside and out. Look for work to start in 4-6 weeks.

GROUPERS ON THE GULF

Although owners Mike and Betty Alfaro bought the Indian Rocks Beach restaurant early last year, they just recently got their gas line connected. Now they can produce their specialties. They still hope to have a Grand Opening celebration in the future, once they can include more people. See their extended menu at www.groupersonthegulf.com or stop in at 1401 Gulf Blvd. They offer curbside take-out and delivery.



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Waterfront Homes.... Why the Intracoastal?

When most people think of a beautiful waterfront home, right away their minds turn to a beachfront home. With beach averaging almost \$2,000,000 and a beach home costing maybe another \$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000, the thought of investing \$5,000,000 to live on the sand becomes out of reach. That's a lot of savings being spent when there are alternatives that offer greater rewards at sometimes only 25% of the cost to live on the beach.

There are many vacant waterfront lots and a great many 60 year old tear-down homes where a beautiful new waterfront home can be constructed for about \$1,300,000. (Home & Lot!). Beautiful waterfront opportunities are available in all of the beach municipalities between Clearwater and St. Pete Beach. The older housing stock is being replaced by FEMA compliant newly designed homes, that are energy efficient, meet 150mph hurricane requirements, and have all the amenities and luxuries of a new home. Literally every week I hear from customers that believe there are no housing opportunities on the beautiful intracoastal, yet that simply is not true. Yes, no existing homes exist for sale that conform to FEMA requirements, but building a new home is an opportunity for that piece of the "American Dream" at a price point that is acceptable for many families.

Many additional misconceptions prevail about an intracoastal waterfront home versus a home constructed on the beach sand. Let me outline my reasoning, and why I personally believe intracoastal waterfront homes are a superior opportunity, at a greatly lower cost. Here's my bullet point analysis of this opportunity today:

- ▶ **Much Better Water View:** Sorry, but looking out at the west horizon over the gulf really doesn't offer much. On the intracoastal, every day there are dolphins and boat activity, fun to watch from your balcony;
- ▶ **Better Hurricane Protection:** The big storm will eventually hit

Pinellas. A great deal of extra protection will be realized on the intracoastal due to seawall protection. There is a big difference in wind speed hitting your home between being on the east vs west side of Gulf Blvd. Sure, waters will rise, but your new home will be many feet above FEMA requirements protecting all living area;

- ▶ **Keep Your Boat At Home:** Why have your boat in a high and dry that you have to drive to instead of in your own back yard when you want to fish or boat?;
- ▶ **Boat to Your Favorite Restaurant or Beach Bar:** Don't fight the road traffic on Gulf;
- ▶ **Much Lower Real Estate Taxes:** Definitely. Why pay the much higher taxes each year;
- ▶ **No Late Afternoon Sun:** Some people flock to beach lots for the view, only to realize that they have to close the blinds as the west afternoon sun beats the windows. Very hot! Most intracoastal lots have east orientations, so an afternoon can be spent around a pool shaded by the home;
- ▶ **Lastly, No Sand Blowing Into the Pool and Patio:** Enough said.

... beachfront properties aren't the only option for your waterfront home!

How long will the opportunity exist for affordable waterfront homes with these positive features? Nobody knows, but costs are increasing between 10% and 15% annually, so the opportunity will become out of reach of many if they wait. Come by our newly finished sales office and see just what this waterfront lifestyle offers!

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 6,500 homes since 1971. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD showroom, call us at (727) 954-8345, or email to: Info@GHDCsi.com. Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at www.GHDcoastalhomes.com

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RECYCLING IN INDIAN ROCKS TEN YEARS LATER.

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

In January 2011, Indian Rocks Beach began offering Curbside Recycling. Before curbside, those that were motivated to recycle, had to separate their recyclables, and drive it to a recycling bin in the city, or elsewhere in the county. There were separate bins for green glass, brown glass, clear glass, paper, and cardboard. Needless to say, only a few residents took the time to do this.

When the City started its Curbside Recycling Program, residents were provided 8-gallon blue containers to use to carry recyclables to the curb – with no separating them. Aluminum and steel cans were also added to the acceptable items. Those that needed it, had two bins. Pick up was once a week. Two years ago, the city upgraded all residents to the bigger 65-gallon dispenser with wheels making storage and transportation to the street much easier.

So ten years later, how well is the City’s recycling program working? We decided to find out from the person in charge of it, Dean Scharmen, Indian Rocks Beach Public Services Director. Here are the answers to our questions.

Q: How many homes in the city participate?

A: About 70-75%

Q: How much recycling is picked up per month?

A: 65-66 tons per month.

Q: What happens to our recycling material?

A: The commodities are taken to a material recovery facility in St. Petersburg for processing. The recycling commodities (unless contaminated) are sent to paper, plastic, and glass processors to be incorporated into new products.

Q: Who picks up the recycling?

A: An outside contractor - Waste Connections of Florida.

Q: What do we pay them?

A: \$207,700 per year.

Based on a study conducted in October 2020, the contamination rate of recyclables collected in the Pinellas County was 19% (by weight). This means that nearly one in five pounds of collected recycling was either garbage or other unacceptable materials.



Contamination can damage equipment, endanger staff, and make quality recyclables unusable. Please do not put “contaminated” items in your recycling bins. The top recycling contaminates were: plastic bags, tangles (wires, cords or hoses), Styrofoam, food waste, food residue and yard waste.

Indian Rocks has a separate yard waste recycling program. Place your loose yard waste within 2 feet of the curb, and it will be picked up weekly. The City does not recycle bagged yard waste. All bagged yard waste needs to be placed at the curb and it will be removed on your scheduled garbage pickup day.

For additional information to recycle the right way, please contact the Public Services Department at 595-6889.

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WOMAN APPROVED MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

By Brooke Anderson

My husband Josh and I started Big Man's Moving Company four years ago following a terrible moving experience with a well known company. We used our wedding gifts to partially fund our first truck. With a lot of sweat equity (literally), we've grown to six new trucks and nineteen employees, and were voted the #1 Mover by readers of the Tampa Bay Times in 2020.

Adding a woman owner to a traditionally male-dominated industry brings a unique perspective. One of my responsibilities is screening and hiring the movers. I look for people who are upbeat with positive attitudes. Moving is a skill and can be taught. However, having an innate demeanor that fits our company's culture cannot (be taught). Our movers are the faces of Big Man's Moving Company and represent us. If I wouldn't send someone



to my 93-year-old grandmother's home, I wouldn't send them to your home. Josh jokingly says the team is "woman-approved." It's disappointing when we're fully booked and have to turn jobs away due to a lack of man-power. However, we are only as good as our weakest link and refuse to dilute the quality of our product.

Another benefit of having a woman owner is the cleanliness of the moving trucks and blankets. In my 20s, my roommate and I used the cheapest mover we could find. The movers, smelling like stale cigarettes, arrived with a disgusting, filthy truck that had probably never been swept. Did you know your furniture can get cockroaches from a moving truck? Believe me, it's true! At that time, I never thought I would own a moving company with my husband, but it was a great learning lesson. Cleanliness is our standard: for our trucks, our moving blankets, and our movers!

In fact, for the first three years we reinvested all of our profits back into the business and have four brand new trucks. Personally, we have never purchased a new car off the lot, but for our business, reliability is just as important as cleanliness. Many movers have trucks older than I am (ok, slight exaggeration), but take it from someone whose first truck was old-they break down-frequently. We have never canceled a move due to truck maintenance issues and don't plan to start.

A client's worst nightmare is being "no showed" on moving day. To give peace of mind, we email agreements to review and sign upon booking. This is unique to our business.

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PROVING THE UNPROVABLE - SUBSTANTIATING A NEGATIVE

How do you determine the influence the Coast Guard Auxiliary has in terms of preventing boating accidents and saving lives? Is it even provable? Probably not in "normal times." How can you figure how many lives were saved because a boater has the CG Auxiliary inspect their boat with a free vessel safety check and sharing of the educational exchange between the boater and the Auxiliarist? How can you calculate how many lives were saved because a boater attended a Safe Boating Class offered by the CG Auxiliary?

We all know that proving a negative is difficult and usually impossible. Attempting to determine how one's actions influence something that didn't happen, such as a boating accident, because of Safe Boating Classes or Vessel Safety Checks is not unlike trying to validate a negative.

However, COVID-19 and the subsequent CG Auxiliary stand-down have actually provided the opportunity to do just that. The virus had one "positive" outcome: it let us see what happens when the CG Auxiliary can't offer classes or inspect recreational boats. We saw what happens when the positive influence of the boating safety education is no longer available – it proves the negative.

Unfortunately, 2020 has yielded more boating accidents and a higher number of boaters not wearing life jackets. Yes, there are probably numerous factors that could explain these results. However, the obvious conclusion is boating safety suffers when the CG Auxiliary is prohibited from performing their missions. The accidents and low life jacket wear show that CG Auxiliary boating safety efforts are significant and have a measurable effect on boating safety.

There is a light at the end of this proverbial tunnel: the Coast Guard, the National Association of State Boating Law

Administrators (NASBLA) and the individual states all have a stake in keeping the local waters safer. They recognize that classes and vessel examinations are significant factors as preventive Search and Rescue. As a result, these entities have now modified the Coast Guard Auxiliary stand-down order and encourage the Auxiliary to teach virtual, online classes and conduct vessel safety checks in a one-on-one environment with proper PPE.

The upcoming virtual 2021 classes via Zoom are scheduled on either four consecutive evenings: from 7 to about 9:30pm or on two consecutive weekend days from 9am to about 11:30 am. All instruction, materials and final examinations are included for \$40 per participant. Students should contact their insurance agent for any applicable discounts.

The NASBLA and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) approve this course for content. Successful completion of the "Boat America" course satisfies the requirement in Florida for anyone born after January 1, 1988 to complete a boating safety course if they want to operate a motor vessel. Certificates are awarded to all graduates.

For additional information or to register for the program, please contact: the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, at: www.clwboatingsafety.com or by email at clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com or call 727-469-8895. Also, visit Facebook at #clearwatercgaux.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a uniformed civilian volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.

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FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

The Dangers of Cyber Romance



Online dating has become one of the most popular ways for singles to find partners. According to Statista, as of 2020, more than 32 million Americans are using online dating services, and the online dating service E-Harmony reports that there has been a 6% increase between 2013 and 2016 in 55 to 64-year-olds who use online dating.

Online romance is common today due to the prevalence of smartphone usage, and individuals are not always honest about their identities on the Internet. E-Harmony reported that 53% of people who use dating websites lie on their profiles. Although some of those lies may seem small, like their height or how much money they make, talking to or meeting strangers online can be dangerous.

One of the most common scams we see at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, especially among the elderly, is the romance scam. Predators can create fake identities to lure in victims to gain access to their finances or instigate sexually or physically abusive relationships. Once a relationship has been established online, the out-of-town suspect convinces the victim to wire money so the person can travel to visit them or help them with a dire personal emergency.

Fraud is a preventable crime if you know what to look for. Here's how you can keep yourself from becoming a victim:

1. Never send money.
2. Carefully examine people's profiles.
3. Use reverse image search on their pictures.
4. End the relationship if they refuse to meet face to face.
5. If you do meet the person, pick a public place and let a friend or family member know where you are.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. A loving relationship would never ask you to step beyond your personal boundaries financially or otherwise. If you are the victim of the romance scam, or any type of fraudulent scam, contact the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at (727) 582-6200.

DONATE TO CLOTHES TO KIDS

CTK welcomes the New Year and looks forward to helping our local families in need. They had a busy year providing Clothes To Go Bags to school-aged children, in need, in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Their success means that their inventory is low and they need clothing and shoes. How can you help? Are your children or grandchildren's clothes and shoes taking over the closets? Please donate any gently used clothing, shoes and jackets to Clothes To Kids.

They especially need elementary, middle and high school children's pants, shorts, shirts, jackets, and shoes in all sizes. What do children who receive a Clothes To Go bag receive? Each bag includes 5 pairs of new underwear, 5 pairs of new socks, 5 tops, 4 bottoms, 1 dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If your child attends a uniform school they may receive 3 uniform tops and 2 bottoms.

Tax deductible cash donations can be sent to Clothes To Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765 and will be used to purchase clothing in short supply. They accept drop off donations there from 9 am to 4 pm Monday - Friday. For for more information or Tampa and St. Petersburg location addresses, visit www.clothestokids.org or call 727-441-5050..



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GREAT TIME TO SPOT YOUNG OSPREY

Soon, you may see many young ospreys flying around. Osprey's have two primary hatching months - December and March. Within 30 days of hatching, the chicks will be 70-75% of their adult weight. They will begin to fly about 55 days after hatching but will use the nest as a home base until they migrate in September. Young ospreys will stay dependent on their parents until they are able to fish for themselves.

Osprey pairs are generally monogamous and often mate for life. There are an estimated 400 mating pairs in Pinellas County. Each year they usually return to their previous nest structures. If you watch a particular nesting site, you are likely seeing the same pair of birds each year.

The male selects the nesting site in a dead tree, or on a man-made structure over or near the water. Both birds collect the sticks and other nesting materials, but the female generally arranges the large and bulky nest.

The December chicks should be ready to strike out on their own a bit, and you will see them practicing their wing skills. There will be another group hitting the skies in May

NEW LIVING HOPE CHURCH

A new church recently opened nearby in Largo. Called Living Hope Church, Pastors Josh and Jill Heer and their two kids, Nolan and Emma, relocated here from Kansas City to start the Nazarene Church.



Their first service was in January.

Worship services are Sunday mornings at 10am. The relaxed contemporary services range from 60-70 minutes. Sermons are both Biblical and relevant to today's issues. Every Sunday at 11:30 am, they meet at the church for the Discover class. In these classes, you will learn about the vision of the church, how to get involved with the church, and also learn about the purpose God has for you. These classes will be 45 minutes and include lunch. Childcare will be provided.

Find them at 11633 137th St. N., just across the bridge in Largo, near the closed Burger King. For more information, visit www.LivingHopeTampa.org or call 517-2153..

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Community News



IRB ACTION 2000, INC.

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

A2K keeps working! On a cold January morning, over a dozen volunteers arrived at the 10th Ave mini-park with rakes, clippers and loppers! In just 2 hours this team transformed the park to a beautiful sanctuary. Check out the photos at www.facebook.com/irbaction2000.

March Annual Meeting The election of officers and new board members will take place at the March Annual Meeting on Monday, March 8th at 6:30 pm. The notice for the virtual meeting and voting process will be sent via email to members. We are excited about the potential our organization has for further growth and development under these new leaders.

2020 Preservation Awards Since 2007, IRB Action 2000 and the Plein Aire Cottage Artists have been presenting the coveted Preservation Awards to residences and businesses that are dedicated to the spirit of maintaining and preserving properties reminiscent of the small town atmosphere of Indian Rocks Beach. We are delighted to announce the 2020 Preservation Awards winners:

- The Arbors Seaside Cottages, 218 Gulf Blvd (Don & Debbie Gonterman)
- Neptunes Nest, 727 Gulf Blvd (Michael Schoen)
- Beach Trail Stone Cottage, 728 Beach Trail (Mary McKnight, Lorraine Traina, Robin Robertson)
- Pyles Boat Yard, 2081st Street (Jaqueline Dormeyer)

Discover the Charm of IRB As soon as you cross over the Walsingham Bridge, you know you've entered someplace special. The streets and cottages of IRB have stories to tell. Download the free app and take a self-guided audio and visual tour and learn about them at walkindianrocksbeach.com.

Take home your special memories of Indian Rocks Beach with the Plein Aire Cottage Artists 2021 Calendar. The colorful 12-month calendar, highlighting the paintings of the talented Plein Aire Cottage Artists are available at local shops and online at www.irbaction2000.com/shop. All proceeds support local nonprofits.

Want to learn how you make a difference in our community? Visit www.irbaction2000.com.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

Submitted by Sandra Sockwell

On Friday, March 5, 11:30 am-2 pm, Belleair Women's Republican Club will have as speaker Nick Adams, three-time best-selling author, commentator, and Founder and Executive Director of The Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness (FLAG), an organization that visits elementary, middle and high schools to provide "training to increase patriotic pride and bridge the civics deficiency that currently exists." His latest book, Green Card Warrior, details his journey to U.S. from his native Australia. The meeting is at Belleair Country Club.

No walk-ins will be permitted. A check for \$26, payable to BWRC, confirms a reservation and should be mailed to: Linda Wade, 729 Creekside Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34683.

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

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Community News

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

We have lots of exciting things happening at the Beach Art Center. Our Gift Stop is open for that special one-of-a kind gift. Our Annual Student-Teacher Art Show begins March 8th, stop by and see what our students and teachers have been creating. We are open 9-4 Monday – Friday and there is no charge to visit and view our Gallery Shows. Classes are going from strength to strength. A full calendar is available on our website, www.beachartcenter.org/calendar.

Art on the Rocks - We have a full schedule of evening Art on the Rocks Classes in March and April. The cost is \$38, all materials are supplied, and you finish a project in one session: SEASHELL & SEAGLASS WAVE MOSAIC, Friday, Mar 5th, 6-9pm, Shawn Dell Joyce

MUSTACHE FUN RESIN JEWELRY, Saturday, Mar 13th, 10am-1pm, Jackie Kaufman

FLORIDA SKY PALETTE KNIFE PAINTING, Friday, Mar 19th, 6m-90pm, Kathy Thomas

MANDALA ART (TRIVET), Saturday, Mar 20th, 6pm-9pm, Natalia Londono

Weekend Workshop - We are very excited to have artist and teacher Dick Ensing visit us in Indian Rocks Beach, the weekend of March 27th & 28th for a two-day workshop: "PAINT LOOSE AND FREE USING WATER-MIXABLE OILS"

This workshop is an opportunity for students to use provided water-mixable oils. This medium has such versatility and is a great way for watercolorists, oil and acrylic painters to experience it without great expense. The class will focus on how to paint an early morning landscape from beginning to end. Early morning colors are cool and late afternoon colors are warm. You will learn how to mix colors to achieve a dynamic feeling of the moment, how to understand perspective, to paint trees and grass, to paint without creating mud, to use the color wheel to your advantage, and gain an understanding of the five basic steps to painting.

2-Day Painting Workshop - Dick Ensing, Saturday & Sunday March 27th & 28th, 9am-4pm. Fee: \$250

All classes require that you register online in advance of the class. You may call or email for help with registration. Email: beachartcenter@gmail.com Phone: 727-596-4331.

To protect staff and guests, the BAC observes Covid-19 protocols including requiring guests wear a facemask, to sign in, and submit to a touchless temperature check. Details can be found at beachartcenter.org.

WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS 2021

Calvary Episcopal Church's "WINTERFEST" is ready to kick off its 16th annual event with a brand new twist! Located at 1615 First Street in Indian Rocks Beach, "WINTERFEST" will be Saturday March 13, 2021 from 3 to 6pm, inside the Church.

Due to the pandemic, a virtual experience will be presented via the Calvary Facebook page resembling a shopping network. An online Silent Auction with wares and talents contributed by artists and business owners, and Church parishioners. What fun to shop from the comfort of home in your favorite recliner!

The delicious "Calvary Pulled Pork" sandwich by Julie Heinicka and Co. will be offered as Take Out at a reasonable fundraiser price. Pre-orders are accepted and delivered to your car.

Interested in being a Sponsor, Vendor or Donor? Complete the online application. Call Calvary Episcopal Church (727) 595-2374 or (727) 580-8237. calvaryirb.org.

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Radiance Medspa has been accentuating beauty in Belleair Bluffs for nearly 15 years! Owner Stephanie Schlageter uses her background as a former Research & Development Engineer for a medical device company with a master's degree in Biomedical Engineering to ensure the treatments at Radiance stay on the cutting edge of innovation. The newest tool in Schlageter's arsenal, is the CO2 CoolPeel®.

If you have ever wondered how your 60-year-old friend looks like they are in their 40s - the result might be achieved with the CO2 CoolPeel® Laser from Radiance Medspa.

CO2 lasers have long been the gold standard in treating wrinkles, age spots, acne scars and other blemishes on the face, neck, and chest. Traditional CO2 lasers are synonymous with considerable downtime, but not the CO2 CoolPeel® Laser. Schlageter chose the CoolPeel because of the innovation, control, and precision it uses to deliver a fractional ablative treatment without causing thermal damage to the skin. This allows for beautiful results without the ugly downtime, and without the risk of traditional CO2 treatments.

The CoolPeel® is the first high peak power CO2 Laser to offer all the most modern advances in lasers in one simple, safe, and predictable procedure. The CoolPeel® CO2 laser treatment can only be done using the SmartXide Tetra CO2 laser, which is precisely why Radiance Medspa acquired it. The Tetra is the latest, most advanced CO2 laser from DEKA, a global leader in aesthetic technology. Only Tetra can deliver an impressive superficial, skin resurfacing result without the lingering heat that would traditionally damage the surrounding skin.



How is the treatment done? It first starts with a complementary, and sometimes virtual, consultation with one of our highly trained specialists to determine if your skin will benefit from this advanced form of laser resurfacing.

Who is a good candidate for the treatment? Anyone looking to reduce the appearance of fine lines, sun damage, and enlarged pores while improving skin texture!

On the day of the procedure a expertly trained, and laser certified, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, also known as ARNP, will perform the treatment. The procedure begins with one hour of numbing to ensure comfort throughout the entire treatment time. Once numbed, the ARNP will use the precision handpiece to deliver short pulses that create a controlled injury without damaging the skin, while the unique "spray" pattern of the CoolPeel® Laser shortens the overall treatment time. The delivery method allows the laser to

vaporize the aged skin, while leaving healthy tissue in the surrounding area.

About 30 minutes before the treatment is over, a Medical Assistant will enter the room and draw blood from the patient. The blood is then spun in a centrifuge to separate the PRP, or platelet rich plasma. PRP is then applied at the end of the procedure, topically to the treated area. Radiance Medspa uses PRP to accelerate healing and maximize results by using the patient's own growth factors, or as we like to call it "Liquid Gold" to nourish the skin and boost collagen production. The PRP also helps cool and calm, giving a relaxing conclusion to the treatment.

The client is then given a post care kit and is good to go home! In the days following the treatment the client may experience a similar sensation to that of a sunburn. We recommend that everyone who has a CoolPeel® treatment sleep with a clean pillowcase and avoid direct sun exposure for two weeks.



Typically, we recommend each client undergo a series of three treatments to ensure optimal results.

One of the main benefits of the CoolPeel® CO2 laser is the minimal downtime! After the treatment, clients report mild redness as if they have a sunburn for a day or two, but nothing that prevents them from returning to normal daily activities. Clients start noticing improvements after one week, with dramatic improvements as the skin heals. The treatment is so innovated that clients can experience the benefits monthly if they so choose!

CoolPeel® is the first high peak power CO2 Laser to offer the most modern advances in lasers in one simple, safe, and predictable procedure. The CoolPeel® CO2 laser treatment can only be done using the SmartXide Tetra CO2 laser, which is why Radiance Medspa acquired it. The Tetra is the latest, most advanced CO2 laser from DEKA, a global leader in aesthetic technology. Only Tetra can deliver an impressive superficial, skin resurfacing result without the lingering heat that would traditionally damage the surrounding skin.

Interested in learning more? Call 727-518-7100 to schedule a complimentary consultation at Radiance Medspa.



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SCAN ME

Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Mary Beth Dunn

This past year most of the HOA events have been canceled due to the ongoing pandemic and we don't anticipate being able to hold our large fundraising events until the middle to end of 2021 when the majority of the population is vaccinated.

In the meantime, we've had to rethink the way we raise funds and support our community. You've probably noticed that our annual turkey drive and toy drive looked a bit different this year. In an effort to maintain social distancing, raise funds and drive customers to local businesses our ever-creative partner, Kathy MacKinnon (Kathy Mac), from C21, came up with the clever idea to host the drives at various businesses around town. Our local businesses jumped at the chance to help out and the results were a resounding success. We were able to feed over 300 families at Thanksgiving and donate 213 bikes and truckloads of toys to the families of Shepherd's Village, Grace House, Miracle on the Bay, and The Beach Community Food Pantry to make their holidays a little brighter. We couldn't have done it without the overwhelming generosity of our community at large, our local restaurants, and our sponsors; C21 Beggins - IRB and Madeira, Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, ConvUrge Marketing, and Gulfstorm Films. Our local community never fails to come together in support; even in the midst of a pandemic, we received numerous monetary donations ranging from \$5.00 to \$1000.00. What a wonderful community to be a part of!

As a reminder, you do not have to own a homeowner to be part of the IRBHOA, we are a community group, and as such, all are welcome to join.

Stay tuned for the launch of our newly redesigned website, irbhome.com, and perhaps a fun, socially distanced, event of sorts this May.

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

They presented The Pineapple Projects with a donation of \$10,000 on December 28. The Pineapple Projects extends a hand to people in need by turning their houses into homes by providing essential furnishings. With gently used donations and thoughtful interior design, they transform empty homes into spaces to be proud of. Visit thepineappleprojects.org to learn more or to nominate a family.

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to join together to bring financial support to local, charitable organizations that have a 501(c)(3) status. Members commit to attending four meetings per year (one per quarter) and pledge to donate \$100 to an elected charity at each meeting. The members have the opportunity to nominate any organization, three of the nominated organizations are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013, the group has given \$296,150 to local charities. The next meeting (with options of Zoom or live) will be 7-8pm on Tuesday, February 16, at Cove Cay Golf Club, located at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6-7 pm at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information.

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People in Our Community



Featuring Kyle the Bait Guy

By Pete Magnani

If you like to fish but have spent too much of your day on the water searching for live bait to cast-net or pulling empty bait traps, Kyle the Bait Guy might be your new best friend. Finding bait is a time-consuming process, and in the fishing industry time is money. Recreational anglers who often find themselves with limited time would rather not waste “fishing” time finding bait. After following his future bride Amara to Florida from Northport, NY in 2016 and talking to local fisherman, Kyle realized Clearwater was a great market for live bait.

Kyle leaves the dock every day at 4 am on his custom 20-foot Wellcraft center console to pull bait traps full of grunts and pinfish, the bait of choice for both inshore and offshore fisherman. The boat has two live bait pens he designed and built himself, using fiberglass over a foam core. Pumps and aerators constantly cycle fresh saltwater through the tanks keeping his catch healthy until it is delivered to area bait shops and fishing boats.

June 1st is the opening day for both American Red Snapper and Gag Grouper in the Gulf of Mexico, and that is when Kyle’s operation goes into overdrive. During the busy summer season, he pulls and rebaits about 25 traps every day, carefully set a few miles off Clearwater Beach. He lands about 3500 bait fish each day, which he supplies to five bait shops and dozens of charter boats. Inshore, live bait is used for snook and redfish, while offshore pinfish and grunts catch anything from grouper and snapper to 50-pound amberjack.

Kyle himself enjoys fishing during his off time. “I grew up deep-water fishing up north, and love to fish offshore here [in the Gulf of Mexico], but now I also enjoy inshore fishing. Sight-casting redfish on the flats is so much different than what I’m used to.” He also looks forward to being able to teach Violet, his 9-month-old daughter, to fish when she gets a little older.

While his primary customers are bait shops and charter fishing boats, Kyle is permitted to sell to individuals. His phone number is (631) 838-0762, but if your bait shop is sold out on the busiest holidays and weekends, you will probably find Kyle on his boat heading under the Sand Key Bridge in Clearwater Pass.



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PROTECT YOURSELF, HOME AND BUSINESS FROM FLOODING

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

As a commissioner, protecting our resident's safety is my highest priority. That is why I want to warn you about the dangers of flooding. Anywhere it rains it can flood. In the blink of an eye, a heavy afternoon downpour can turn into a life-threatening and financially devastating flood. Hurricanes and tropical storms increase the danger from flooding. I encourage all property owners and renters in Pinellas County to find out about their risk for flooding and how much flooding could cost you. I also encourage you to purchase flood insurance and to understand what is covered under a flood insurance policy.

Remember, most homeowner's insurance does not cover damage from flooding and most flood insurance doesn't cover the loss of use, like paying for a hotel when you are repairing your flooded home. Low-cost, preferred-risk flood insurance is also available to owners/renters in low or moderate-risk flood zones. Because Pinellas County and most of its municipalities provide flood services and participate in FEMA's Community Rating System, residents and businesses may get up to a 25 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums. The savings adds up to more than \$25 million per year countywide.

Insurance can be a complicated topic. That's why Pinellas County offers free flood insurance technical assistance from professionals who provide reliable information about your flood risk and step-by-step advisement about purchasing and understanding flood insurance. Visit pinellascounty.org/flooding/advocates.htm or call (727) 464-7700 to get in touch with one of our flood insurance advocates.

Find out more about your flood risk by visiting floodmaps.pinellascounty.org. You can see if your property is in a

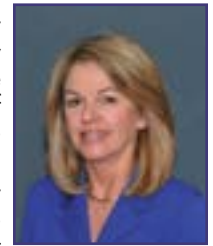
high, moderate or low risk flood zone or floodway, if it's in a storm surge area, how deep it could get and what your hurricane evacuation zone is. You can also see if there is an elevation certificate available for your property.

If you are building or renovating, consider improvements that protect your home from flooding. Be sure to find out what permits are required. Pinellas County enforces specific building regulations in floodplains to protect your investment. Consider raising your AC unit and other utilities to protect your home from flood damage. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/buildsmart.htm for more information.

Protecting yourself and your family takes a plan. Prepare ahead with the Ready Pinellas app, which has readiness checklists and allows you to create a plan for your family and your pets. Download the app for free on your mobile device through the Apple App Store or Google Play or visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/warning.htm for more information.

During inclement weather, tune in to local news stations or NOAA weather radio stations 162.450 or 162.550 to stay informed. Sign up for Alert Pinellas to receive text, phone and/or email notifications if flooding is expected in your area. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas for more information and to sign up.

I hope you never have to deal with the impacts of a flood. Do all you can now to prepare. As always, I welcome your comments and concerns. Please email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org.



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12th ANNUAL BEACHWALK WEEK!
March 20 – 27

This year it's going virtual! All participants receive a T-shirt and BeachWalk coupon booklet from local businesses. During the week of the event, everyone will set a two-mile goal of walking, running, jogging, biking, etc. (whatever your speed may be). Also during the week there will be an online auction happening. Bidders can watch their items, get notifications if they've been outbid, alerts when they've won, and instructions on how to receive their winnings. All proceeds are going towards The Homeless Prevention Project at Hope Villages of America (formerly RCS) to help families in the community that need a roof over their heads. Every year, this is one of the biggest events put on by Chapel by the Sea, driven by Island Estates resident Rick Owens. Due to the past success of this fundraiser, Chapel by the Sea is able to make a substantial contribution to the non-profit. It's been reimagined this year (as with everything) but the nuts and bolts are still there. The amazing benefit of a virtual event is that you can be a part of it no matter where you are! So, walk run, swim, or scuba dive. Take pictures and show them online! Come out the week of March 20th through 27th and make some waves in your community for the ones who need it.

To register for the event visit chapelbythesea.net and sign up! If you'd like to be a sponsor and get your businesses name out there, you can do that online too or contact the church.

TRIATHLON RESCHEDULED

The 38th annual St. Anthony's Triathlon weekend of events has been rescheduled to the fall, Oct. 1-3, 2021.

"This was a difficult decision to make but the safety of our athletes, volunteers, sponsors and fans is of the utmost importance to St. Anthony's Hospital and to our Triathlon team," said St. Anthony's President Scott Smith. "We will continue to monitor the pandemic and are hopeful that by fall we will present a safe and healthy race."

The Triathlon has been an annual tradition since 1984. The 2020 event was canceled due to the pandemic and the April 2021 dates scheduled pending pandemic status.

While refunds will not be offered for registrations made for either the 2020 or April 2021 dates, deferrals can be made to the 2022 event. Everyone who registered for this year's race or claimed their 2020 deferral is set for October.

Registration continues for the 2021 Triathlon at runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintPetersburg/StAnthonys. Events will include the Olympic, Sprint and Meek & Mighty triathlons. Registration is available at the lowest price. All dates for price increases are updated on SATriathlon.com.

For more information about the events, visit SATriathlon.com. Athletes and fans can be a part of the conversation on the St. Anthony's Triathlon Facebook page at Facebook.com/StAnthonysTriathlon by using the hashtag, #StAnthonysTri

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