

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

THE BELLEAIR BEE'S BEGINNINGS



Their office in the Belleair Bazaar shopping center

By Wayne Ayers

A major voice for community news began in a little one room office in Belleair Bluffs over 40 years ago. That's where founder Myra Chandler fulfilled her dream of opening a weekly newspaper to serve the Belleair communities, along with co-founders Bob and Wilsie Carr.

The production facilities were a typewriter, telephone and a notepad.

In a 2005 interview with the Bee, Chandler said her original concept for the Belleair Bee was simply "fun." She said, "We were all very altruistic at the time. We just wanted to do it."



The Bee's Founder, Myra Chandler

- Continued on page 7



Quality Boats

After 48 years, sons David & Dan (shown here) carry on their father Ted's legacy: "the difference is quality and foundation is family" - page 29

Founder of Ward's Seafood Dies

Millie and husband Johnie started Ward's in 1955. They operated it for 20 years, before selling it and retiring. - page 23

Also in this Issue:

Children's Garden

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) is adding a new children's garden area designed to entice, engage, and educate children through discovery and play.

- page 16



20 Years Serving as Mayor

Chris Arbutine is beginning his twentieth year as Mayor of Belleair Bluffs. As he starts his eleventh term, no other current Mayor in Pinellas County has been in office as long. - page 10



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

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL

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Fire Dept: 587-6714
Sheriff: 582-6200

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COMMISSIONERS — Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer
Jack Nazario • Taylour Shimkus

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www.cityofbelleairbeach.com
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Fire Dept: 595-1117
Sheriff: 582-6200

MAYOR - Joseph Manzo
COMMISSIONERS — Robyn Ache
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Glenn Gunn, Vice Mayor • Rita Swope

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Sheriff: 582-6200

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COMMISSIONERS — Mike Tolbert
Dorothy Niewlarowski • Deborah Roseman, Vice Mayor • Ray Piscitelli
Steve Bloom

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Police Dept: 588-3769

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COMMISSIONERS — Michael Wilkinson
Karla Rettstatt Deputy Mayor
Tom Shelly • Tom Kurey

CITY OF LARGO www.Largo.com

201 Highland Ave, Info: 587-6700
Fire Dept: 587-6714
Police: 586-7427

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VICE MAYOR - Curtis Holmes
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John Carroll • James Robinson
Samantha Fenger • Donna Holck

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Governor Ron DeSantis

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov

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AMENITIES INCLUDE: Under building parking, fitness center, billiard room, community room, pool, spa, ocean deck for lounging beach side, tennis court, shuffle board, bike storage, surf board, kayak storage all under building and the list goes on.

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NEW MURAL Marcia Dell has painted another mural on a building in Belleair Bluffs - a barber's pole next to Stefanec's Barber Shop at 772 Indian Rocks Road N.

Dell, a resident of Belleair Bluffs has been painting area storefronts and windows for years. "It is mostly a hobby for me," she says. "I see it as bringing people's visions to life." She says she has no formal training.

Dell paints storefronts during the Christmas season, such as Belleair Market, and

other projects including the new JK Flowers awning.

"I painted the original window sign for Stefanec's when they opened, adding that silver-outline lettering to make it special," Dell says.

"Everything she does, she puts her heart and soul into it," adds Irena, owner of Stefanec's.

Contact Marcia at 585-6912.

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 knock on your door—they call that "Cookies On The Spot" – if they feel comfortable. Starting on February 12th, you may see some scouts and parents at your neighborhood Publix. 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. Help the Girl Scouts - buy a lot.

PATCHINGTON FUND-RAISER During the week of February 2-8, Patchington will hold the "Give Love—Get Love" fund-raiser benefiting the American Heart Association (AHA). That week, Patchington will donate 5% of its profits to the AHA. To encourage lots of participation, they are offering 20% off any purchase of regularly priced items during the fund-raiser. Find them at 280 N. Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs.

ORCHID SALE The Florida West Coast Orchid Society will hold a plant sale at the Florida Botanical Gardens. on Saturday, February 13th from 8-11 am, inside the roundabout at the Walsingham Entrance: 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.



Enjoy orchid education classes, as well as a wide variety of orchids and other plants for sale by society members. Arrive early for the best selection!

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and More...

FIRE FIGHTER RETIRES

Joe Martin can name every street in Belleair Bluffs. That is because he has been a firefighter here for 38 years. He first started as a volunteer firefighter before being hired by Belleair Bluffs. 11 years ago, when Belleair Bluffs eliminated their fire department and began contracting with Largo for their fire service protection, Martin was hired by the City of Largo.



After serving the people of Belleair Bluffs, and the surrounding area, for 38 years, Martin retired January 21st. We wish him a happy retirement and want him to know, he will be missed.

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.

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!

There are two scheduled:

- Four consecutive evenings from 7pm to about 9:30pm. February 23 - 26 from 7 to 9:30pm, sign up by February 13th
 - 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. Sign up by March 6th
- Classes are \$40 per student and include the books, supplemental materials and course completion certificates. Visit www.clwboatingsafety.com, or call 727-469-8895.

ONLY RECYCLE EMPTY CONTAINERS

What is one of the most common recycling mistakes? Throwing plastic bottles into the recycling bin without emptying them first. If there is liquid inside, it can spill and contaminate other commingled materials such as paper causing it to be discarded instead of recycled. Additionally, containers carrying liquid are heavier than empty containers, and can cause to incorrect sorting.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN APRIL 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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Myra Chandler Founder of The Bee.

Chandler had previous newspaper experience. She had owned a group of seven papers in Michigan. The name Bee was inspired by the newspaper in California with that name, and was a perfect fit for the Belleair communities.

Chandler said the three partners owned the Bee. Co-owners Bob and Wilsie Carr “had the money and I had the knowhow,” she said. “We put it all together.” And they all had a role to play at the Bee.

“Bob (Carr) was business manager, Wilsie was the idea person, and I was the writer,” Chandler said.

Her resources were sparse. “I had a typewriter, telephone and a notepad. That was about it,” Chandler recalled.

The Bee headquarters was on the second floor of the building on the west end of the Belleair Bazaar shopping center, where Maggie Mae’s restaurant is now.

Asked about her priorities for the paper’s content, Chandler said the classified ads were the most important.

“My philosophy has always been, if you have strong classifieds, you’ve got a paper,” Chandler said in a 2005 interview with the Bee. Social news was also very important, she said.

“We covered politics on the cover, and the inside was all social. I was at the parties, all the ladies’ clubs. It was very important to get them all in,” said Chandler.

Local politics was a big part of the Bee’s makeup from the beginning. “I covered all the meetings,” Chandler said.

Putting out a paper that cared about the community was a prime goal for the Bee. “It is most important to care, and we did care. We were very into the community and we really wanted to do a good job.”

Chandler’s schedule was exhausting, but fulfilling. In addition to the Bee, for a time she also ran a basket shop called Wicker World which was on the ground floor of the building.

“We really did work hard,” she said. “I was exhausted and jubilant. I would sit up there in my apartment at 4 in the morning and see the sun come up.”

And the Bee concept worked. Asked how the communities (Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore) responded to the Bee, Chandler said, “Beautifully. They responded immediately. It caught on right away.”

The paper’s livelihood depended on ad revenue as it was distributed free, and the Bee hired Helene Sabala, who Chandler described as “a real go-getter,” to sell ads. As a result, she said the paper’s income “shot up like a bullet.” Chandler said she took pride that the Bee “never lost one dime from the day of conception.”

In addition to launching the Belleair Bee, Chandler expanded to include other papers such as the Largo Leader which are now part of the Tampa Bay Newspapers chain.

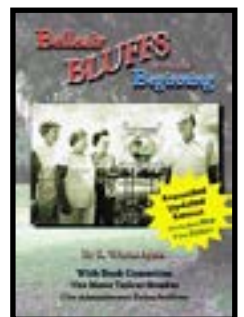
In the mid-1980s she sold the papers to help her son-in-law start a business, and planned to “just retire.” But that’s not what happened. She continued her leadership role at the newspaper until the late 1990s. She also was actively involved with many arts organizations and was a strong supporter of Ruth Eckerd Hall.

The Bee would later merge with the Beach Beacon located further south on the beach, and move to larger quarters on Seminole Boulevard. Today, it is part of Tampa Bay Newspapers, one of the largest groups of weekly community papers in the country.

Throughout her journalism career, Chandler was actively involved as a participant in the papers she founded and ran. She died on January 12, 2013 at the age of 93.

In her obituary, Chandler’s daughter Cindy Curls said of her mother, “She was always involved. She was always out there taking pictures, attending meetings.” The Bee reflected her strong community spirit through the years, which continues to the present day. ■

The story of Myra Chandler and the Bee is included in the book “Belleair Bluffs from the Beginning, The city’s history in words and pictures,” available at Belleair Bluffs City Hall and the Heritage Village gift shop.



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WHAT NOW MR. BIDEN?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



The election for President is finally over. Regardless of how you voted, now is the time for the country to come together and move forward. What lies ahead in a President Biden White House?

Much will depend on the outcome of the Senatorial elections in Georgia. The Democrats need to win both seats to control the Senate. It is likely that at least one of the Republicans will advance. Gridlock is something that the markets like and are counting on. If things work in the Democrats favor, there will be major changes over the next two years. If not, then it is unlikely that much will change.

Mr. Biden campaigned on raising taxes for those with more than \$400,000 of income by increasing the top rate to 39.6%. He would also eliminate the tax break for capital gains and dividends for those making over \$1 million. On the corporate side he would raise the tax rate from 21% to 28%. This is still below the 35% bracket that existed before the December 2017 tax act. Finally, he would roll back the estate tax rules to those that existed prior to the 2017 act, but this is set to happen in 2026 anyway.

Together these tax increases are expected to raise \$3.5 trillion dollars over the next ten years. Regardless of your views on these increases, tax increases are generally bad for the economy and the markets.

We expect a President Biden to be almost as tough on China as President Trump has been. His tone might be different, but he views China as a threat to the US both as a trading "partner" and for stealing our technology. The tariffs are likely going to stay in place for some time. His negotiations with the European Union will be much more conciliatory. Both developments should be a positive for our economy.

Expect significant investments into alternative energy sources, infrastructure, 5G everywhere, especially in rural areas, healthcare, an emphasis on made in America, and science and technology. Each of these areas will provide opportunity for investors, but clearly not without risk. There will be winners and losers.

The coming new year is the time to review your financial and investment plan. Take advantage of our one-hour complimentary appointment to help set the stage for the next four years.

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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.

THE WINTER LANDSCAPE

By Randy Lee

Winter gardening in Florida takes a much more relaxed approach. We have had a very cold winter for a change and it has not been as nice to spend time outdoors. Where has that sunny 70 degrees been? Here are a few ideas to catch up your landscape before spring arrives.

1. Prune crape myrtle and other deciduous trees at this time. Do not over prune like so many do. Prune to shape and to clear out any dead wood.
2. Prune roses. Cut half way back and mulch them. You can fertilize them as well now.
3. Transplant dormant trees now. We can transplant large trees at this time. Most growers dig and root prune large trees at this time to be sold in the spring and summer months. Palm trees are not transplanted at this time; however, this is done in hot weather.
4. Seasonal color is in full swing now. We are about half way through the winter color season. Plant until March and water and fertilize only as needed.
5. Vegetables and herbs continue to be planted now as well. They do really well until the summer heat hits.
6. Limit overall fertilizing, pruning and watering until March. Most plants and trees are dormant. Let them rest a few months.
7. Cover and wrap sensitive plants and trees if temperatures fall near freezing. Blankets, sheets and commercial covers work well- never use plastic since it will burn. Also remember to secure these items tightly

so they don't blow around.

8. Winter is a great time to plan for spring. Are you planning to landscape or hardscape a new area in the yard? Plan now and get it scheduled. By the time March hits, most contractors like myself are booked many months out.

Take a relaxed approach to winter gardening with the above ideas. Plan now for spring since it will not be long before temperatures rise and we will all be back in the garden



FEBRUARY/MARCH CHECKLIST

- Watch for freezing temperatures and plan accordingly
- Limit irrigation, trimming and fertilizing
- Plan for spring and the landscaping activities you want to accomplish
- Winter flowers are in full color right now
- Spring and warm temperatures are right around the corner

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MAYOR ARBUTINE BEGINNING HIS 20TH YEAR AS MAYOR



Mayor Chris Arbutine is currently the longest serving Mayor of any municipality in Pinellas County. He began his political career as a Belleair Bluffs Commissioner in 2000 with a one-year term. The next year he was elected the city's Mayor and has been Belleair Bluffs' Mayor ever since. He is about to begin his 11th term.

"I was hired in March of 2002 – just one year after he became Mayor in March of 2001 - so I have personally witnessed his leadership, his pride in community, and his devotion to the community, other commission members, and the staff," says Debra Sullivan, Belleair Bluffs City Administrator. "I literally could go on and on about all the achievements the Mayor has accomplished while serving the residents of Belleair Bluffs. I am proud to have served alongside him and this Commission who have sat with him since 2009 and 2010 and have joined in so many of these successes. Let's thank him and wish him continued success."



His willingness to serve was apparent when he was appointed to many local boards – the Pinellas County Mayors Council, Metropolitan Planning Organization (he served as the Chairman from 2009-2010), PSTA Board (2001-2008), President of the local Belleair Bluffs Rotary Club and the Pinellas County EMS Advisory Board.

He served on the Florida League of Cities Board of Trustees, the Florida League of Mayors, the Florida Municipal Pension Trust (Chairman from 2004-2008), the Florida League International Relations Committee, the Suncoast League of Cities Board (also was President) and has been awarded the highest level of elected official status from the Florida Institute of Elected Officials. He is an alumnus of both Leadership Pinellas and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Community Institute.

In the last twenty years, there have been a lot of issues, changes, and over all progress that have moved Belleair Bluffs forward. The Belleair Bluffs City Hall Community Center was the first major project he was involved in – built in 2000.

During his terms, Mayor Arbutine has seen:

- East side road improvements funded by Southwest Florida Water Management District
- New Belleair Causeway Bridge with the city owned decorative street light placement.
- The corner of West Bay and Indian Rocks Road was sold, and the Walgreens was built on that corner.
- The Belleair Bluffs 12-man Fire Department became a first-rate contracted ISO rated fire department housed in a fire station that Belleair Bluffs owns saving millions of dollars.
- Numerous hurricanes some smaller such as Frances and Charley and some as large and detrimental as Irma

"I will never forget what Chris told me when I first decided to get involved with the City of Belleair Bluffs," said Suzy Sofer Vice Mayor of Belleair Bluffs. "He told me to always remember that this city is not about one person. Every decision you make affects everyone, not just one person. So, when you make your decisions about the future of the city, keep that in mind. I have never forgotten that advice."

In addition to city projects, Mayor Arbutine hosted the first ever Hurricane Symposium for the residents of Belleair and Belleair Bluffs. He also initiated the Code Enforcement program provided by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office which maintains the integrity of the city.

"It is hard to believe it has already been 20 years," Arbutine says. Serving the residents and businesses has been a pleasure. Understanding the big picture - all local communities must work together to achieve the best results - is a key ingredient for future success. Keeping Belleair Bluffs a small, quaint, and vibrant community has always been the goal. Twenty years

later it is evident that everyone has worked together to keep Belleair Bluffs Our Hometown. "






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Business Briefs



VOICE AND MUSIC LESSONS

Experience Laura Smith's piano and voice teaching and you will surprise yourself. Your vision is her focus, and with 25 years of teaching children and adults, she knows how to be responsive to your learning style.

Teaching methods are geared towards various age groups,

backgrounds, and intelligence levels. "I personalize and fine tune my curriculum, no pun intended," Smith says smiling. "A professional performer has different expectations from someone attaining desired levels of reading and theory." She teaches all ages from beginners, up through the higher levels, including coaching professional singers and keyboardists, offering audition preparation sessions, and performance opportunities.

Now, it is easier than ever to get your dream started. During the Covid 19 pandemic, sessions are via Internet at 50% normal tuition. Treat your phone or computer as you would a plexiglass window at the store. It can change your life."

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION The BBA has made a few changes. Bonnie Trembulak retired from *The BEE*, but is still involved with the BBA. Larry Bell, of Bell Tech, is helping to organize things. He has redone the organization's website at www.BBAstrong.com and some social events. You can also find them on FaceBook. Their next After Hours Mingles are:

- February 11: The Haus Coffee Shop, Indian Rocks Rd.
- February 18: Shabby 2 Shek Grand Re-Opening
- March 11: Mingle at Robert Young Jewelers

Social Hours begin at 5:30pm. To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak, 686-8797 or Larry Bell at 644-9197, or e-mail info@BBAstrong.com.

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.

SHINY TEETH Shiny Teeth Pediatric Dentistry is opening next 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 www.ShinyTeethPediatricDentistry.com or call 310-0410.

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

Business Briefs



ARCHITECT WINS AWARD

Local Indian Rocks Beach Architect Scott Holmes of Holmes Architects (holmes-architects.com) recently announced they have been awarded a 2020 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Tampa Bay Merit Award for the design of The Coral Home in Tampa for the Lykes Family. Merit Awards recognize projects that demonstrate a commitment

to excellence in architectural design. This is the only new single family residence in the Tampa Bay area (Hillsborough/Pinellas) to win a Design Award this year and only the second residence to win since 2008. That other residence was also designed by Holmes Architects and is located in Indian Rocks Beach.

URGENT CARE HOUSECALLS Wouldn't it be better to stay home when you're sick or injured and have the medical office or Urgent Care come to you? Nurse Practitioner Peggy Cordle diagnoses and treats patients right in their homes. She founded Urgent Care Housecalls because getting convenient, personalized, and professional healthcare shouldn't be a thing of the past. There is a better way to feel better. Skip the waiting room and schedule a same-day appointment at urgentcarehousecalls.net or call 727-403-5380. Don't risk getting sicker in a waiting room, clinic or hospital. You deserve good care - let Urgent Care Housecalls come to you

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 a two-year planning and build-out process, 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.

Salt Essentials offers 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. They invite you to "get salted" in a meditative salt room. Just sit back in their zero gravity chairs, relax and deeply breathe it in. Salt Essentials Wellness is located at 1600 Missouri Ave N.

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

FOR LEASE The building behind William Dean Chocolates, at 80 Indian Rocks Road S, is available for lease. Previously Clippindales, the left side is 300 square feet, the right side is 2,000 square feet; lease both sides for a total of 2,300 square feet. If you are interested, call Jack at Bata Commercial at 727-304-3566.

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ADDRESSING HOMELESS FAMILIES' NEEDS IN 2021

Government contract ending impacts funding, but Hope Villages of America vows not to let the Grace House shelter close.

President and CEO Kirk Ray Smith of Hope Villages of America (HVA), formerly RCS Pinellas, announced today that the nonprofit is ramping up fundraising efforts in the community to address a potential funding gap caused by the end of significant government funding. "We believe housing is a right, not a privilege," said Smith. "To eradicate homelessness, it will take a Village."

After several years, the contract between the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (JWB) and HVA will end on February 28, 2021. The end of the contract leaves Grace House with a potential funding shortfall, which Smith hopes the community can help meet. "We're calling on individuals, groups, churches, business owners and corporations to join us in ensuring these vulnerable members of our community are protected and feel valued in these already unsettling days. We also want to say thank you to the City of Clearwater, City of Largo and City of St. Pete for their continued support of the Grace House."

Each year six Grace House staff and numerous volunteers serve homeless individuals and families with care and compassion. "Homeless families are one of the fastest-growing demographics we serve," Smith reported. "There are only 180 beds for homeless families in Pinellas County, which has a population of more than 1 million. Hope Villages provides nearly half of those beds, and Grace House offers dignified apartment-style emergency shelter to homeless families with children for up to three months. We touch more than 300 lives each year through Grace House—60 percent of whom are children.

"We certainly will not let the shelter close, pushing those families onto the streets—and neither will we lay off the Grace House case managers and other employees who serve them. All of these families need us now more than ever due to the pandemic."

Food, clothing and household goods are available to residents, and Grace House staff work one-on-one with families, providing case management, education, job readiness and helping guests save money to secure stable housing. When it comes to changing lives and ending homelessness, Grace House is a resounding success: "We are proud that 90 percent of families who complete the program move to stable housing."

"We're grateful for our longstanding and very positive relationship with JWB. We knew the contract was coming to an end, and we've been planning and working for this. Government funding, in our eyes, is always meant to get a program off the ground but not for long-term support—that's where we engage the community," Smith said. "In fact, we're pleased to announce that our longstanding community partner and major corporate donor Siracusa Staffing & Leasing have already committed significant financial support to meet this funding gap."

But that's just a small percent of the total annual Grace House operating budget of \$700,000. "We still urgently need our neighbors' help," concluded Smith.

Learn how you can support homeless families on their journey from Grace House to self-sufficiency at www.rcspinellas.org

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Business Briefs

FRESH SEAFOOD DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME

Mark Rose entered the seafood wholesale business over 30 years ago with a couple of trucks, a little office, and a small processing plant. Over the years, with a lot of hard work, he achieved success in providing quality seafood to his wholesale customers in the Tampa Bay area. Now, after the encouragement of many family, friends and clients, Mark with the help of his wife, Aileen and longtime friend, David Cornell, decided to expand into home delivery of his quality seafood products with his new Seafood Direct. They hope in these trying times, the convenience of ordering online and having quality seafood delivered right to your front door will allow you to feel more at ease, while enjoying delicious seafood that puts a smile on your face.



Visit www.seafooddirectflorida.com to place your order. Free delivery on orders over \$50.

NEW CONDO PROJECT The large restaurant at the north end of the Holiday Inn Harborside (visible from the Indian Rocks Bridge) closed ten years ago. Known as "Brewmasters" for many years, before it closed, it became "Marker 34" for a short while, named after the channel marker closest to the bridge.

Part of the Holiday Inn Harborside, it is owned by Jeff Keierleber, who says he has submitted plans to the City to level the building and build a part condo vacation rentals and part townhomes project. The plans are being reviewed and the number of units and the height of the building are still being discussed.



ATTENTION TO DETAILS

Mat Vasilenko, owner of MJ Detailing & Cleaning, specializes in detailing boats. He first decided to start his business after his family had a bad experience with a detailing company in Sarasota that provided unacceptable work using poor quality products for an inflated price.

Since the beginning, his current customers are thrilled with his pro-customer, high quality work. He has quite a few high-end yachts that he

services and not only does he provide topside detailing and teak restoration, he will also clean and paint your engines.

While he admits his high-quality work is a little bit more expensive, the superiority of his efforts and top of the line products shows; his customers would not change a thing. While he specializes in boats, he also does cars and campers. You can reach Mat at 941-241-7687 or e-mail mjdcllc8@gmail.com. He also is on Facebook at MJ Detailing Cleaning.

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CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY GARDEN

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) is undertaking the creation of a new garden within the Botanical Gardens footprint. The Children’s Discovery Garden (CDG) will be designed specifically to entice, engage, and educate children through discovery and play.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is a part of Pinellas County’s park system, and with no cost for admission, thousands of annual visitors from the Tampa Bay community and beyond are able to enjoy the Botanical Gardens. It is accessible to all those who live, work, and play in Pinellas County, and it provides an oasis for many looking to relax and escape.

The area proposed for the CDG is approximately 2.5 acres. Of which, 1.5 acres will be used for the site improvements and 1-acre will receive plantings and natural enhancements. A concrete walk running north/south divides the site into a 1/2 acre to the west and 2 acres to the east, and features the main entry, which includes ADA-compliant paths, a rain feature, benches and plantings. The west side of the CDG has hard surfaces of concrete and pavers, while the east is more natural with surfaces of turf, stabilized soil, wood fiber, pour-in-place play surfaces and mulch. Both sides provide for unstructured play, engaging nature activities, and seating and amenities for parents/supervisors.

The Music Forest contains a plaza of pavers among trees providing a shady space for play with oversized, stationary, musical instruments. A fun and engaging access to this section will be by rope bridge through a stand of bamboo. Pollinator Landing is a multi-purpose area for climbing, group presentations, puppet shows and theatre skits with seating. The east side of CDG features primary educational elements, as well as Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ exhibits.

Roots n Shoots is an environment where children can get their hands dirty, and includes a hand water pump, as a source for play and watering plants. A screened classroom will facilitate nature observation and create a location for structured programming. It will provide for both educational presentations and a space for children’s events and parties. Other places for play are provided by a large Beetle Climber and Trunk Jump. A loop path through the southern end of the site will provide for wildlife observation, as well as a location for children to display their artwork on an Artline.



You can become part of the CDG legacy by donating through a commemorative tribute. Each portion of the garden offers the possibility for tribute, with an engraved plaque to honor yourself, family or friends. A personal acknowledgment is sent to you or the family/individual being honored, with reference to the gift, and will be listed in the Foundation’s Annual Report. In addition to honoring a special person or occasion, commemorative items also support the Garden and build a tradition of joyful memories. Levels range from \$10 to \$1,000. Higher-level donor recognition begins with the Roots n Shoots potting area, and includes all proposed site locations. Visit: www.flbgfoundation.org/cdgsponsorship

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50 YEARS AS BELLEAIR'S MARKET

The Belleair Market has been in the heart of Belleair for 50 years with a few names and owners.

The neighborhood store was opened in 1971 by husband and wife, Joe and Maria Picun as "The Convenient Food Mart."

Robert David, formerly Public Works Director for the City of Belleair Beach, worked there in his younger years. "I would work at Public Works from 6am to 2:30pm and then I would go to work at the Food Mart," says David. "I was a cook in their back kitchen."



Owners Victor and Sam Suhweil shown below in May 2009 renamed it the "Belleair Food Mart."



In March of 2014, Chris Scott bought the store and renamed it "Belleair Market." With the new name came many upgrades: a large variety of beer and fine wine, a cigar room, and an upgraded deli.



Chris and Julie Champion have embraced the entire Belleair Community and likewise, the community has welcomed them. They are involved or a sponsor of almost every Belleair event.

Pictured above are Julie and Chris (center), Mayor Chris Arbutine (right of Chris) and Belleair Bluffs city officials, and first responders from the Belleair Community.

Find Belleair Market at 510 Indian Rocks Road N. in Belleair Bluffs.

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Bar & Restaurant News

10% OFF CELEBRATION

Bella Vino Wine Market is celebrating their 15th Year in business in Belleair Bluffs and you get the gift. During February, they are offering 10% off everything in the store with a copy of their ad in this News Magazine. Remember: Valentine's Day is this month. It is a good excuse for some fine wine and cheese.



BEACH WAVES GRILL OPENS TO RAVE REVIEWS

Thai Pan Alley is now Beach Waves Grill, a fun, casual new concept in the 23rd Avenue Plaza in Indian Rocks Beach. The restaurant specializes in fresh seafood and dishes made from scratch daily, but still has a few Thai Pan favorites on the menu. Eat in, take out or use their Free Delivery. You can order your meal online through Facebook or on their Web site, www.BeachWavesGrill.com.

They are open daily at 11 am. Beach Waves Grill is located at 2300 Gulf Blvd, near Café de Paris. Call 593-3663 for takeout and delivery.

ANECDOTE BREWERY SURVIVES A TOUGH FIRST YEAR

After years of planning, Phillip Anderson opened Anecdote Brewery in Indian Rocks in February of 2020, just in time for Covid 19. He partially re-opened in May with take-out beer in growlers.

Now he is open with limited inside seating Wednesdays through Mondays and closed Tuesday & Wednesday.

Give him your support, at 321 Gulf Blvd, just south of CVS. www.AnecdoteBrewing.com.



SANDY'S REOPENS AFTER A REMODEL

Owner Natasha Madelaine, who bought Sandy's from her mother Christine in 2014, felt it was time for an updated look in the restaurant. She decided to close for the month of November for a minor refurbish. She added a new ceiling, seating, flooring, and moved things around. She reopened December 1st with the fresh new look and feel. All

seating is six feet apart to follow CDC guidelines.

Check them out at 2300 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, near Café de Paris, open daily from 8am to 2pm.

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.

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 more information or Tampa and St. Petersburg location addresses, visit www.clothestokids.org or call 727-441-5050..

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Bar & Restaurant 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.

PAJANO'S PIZZA 50 YEARS OLD This month, Pajano's Pizza & Subs celebrates its 50th anniversary making it the oldest operating restaurant in Indian Rocks Beach. It was opened in February of 1971, oddly enough by a man whose last name was not named "Pajano." Owner Nick Faraone bought the pizza business for \$5,000, that was located inside of the Red Lion Pub building, before there was a Red Lion. He operated out of that 15th Avenue location for three years before moving to today's location. He picked



the new spot to be closer to the Indian Rocks Pier, at 12th Avenue. As luck would have it, the Pier collapsed the next year during Hurricane Elena, but Pajano's Pizza did not!

Nick met his wife, Monica, when she applied for a job while still at the 15th Avenue location. Of course, he hired her. They started dating and soon were married. While growing up, all four of their kids worked at Pajano's. Nick has passed away and today son Mike owns and manages the restaurant. His mother is also still involved. Pajano's is located 1305 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach still serves the area's favorite pizza and the best steak and cheese subs on the beach.

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."

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Bar & Restaurant News



VIP NEW LOCATION
 In September, the owners announced a new VIP Mexican Restaurant was coming to Indian Rocks Beach, exciting many locals that regularly visit the Treasure Island location. Currently

construction is ongoing to convert the Aqua Prime and Off The Grid restaurants into our newest Mexican restaurant.

At the December Indian Rocks City Commission meeting, The VIP received their liquor license. They have been approved for 250 seats but plan to only open with about 110 inside and 40 outside. They have not announced how they plan to use the Off The Grid space.

"This new site is nearly twice the size of our restaurant in Treasure Island," say owner Nick. "We need to start small before we expand."

They have already started to hire and plan to open at 213 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach on March 1st. See their menu at www.VIPlounge-fla.com.

SUSHI COMING TO THE PLAZA A sushi restaurant will replace AAA Travel that moved out in December.

Erwin Scheuringer, owner of The Plaza, announced Sekushi Sushi Bar is taking their space at the north end of the plaza. Owned by local Frank Manella, he has a few other sushi restaurants, 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.

RICK DADDY'S

Former Indian Rocks resident, Rick Brumfield is the owner of "Rick Daddy's Eatin' Fresh Seafood and More" open in the old Lighthouse Donut building on Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach. Rick owns another Rick Daddy's in Clearwater.

Rick plans to only serve lunch for a while. "When I get my beer and wine license from the City, I plan to open for dinner, too," Rick says. "It will probably happen later in the month."

The small 36-seat restaurant will offer take-out and dine in, but also has a large deck nearby. For now, there is no delivery. Find Rick Daddy's in Indian Rocks Beach at 215 Gulf Blvd.



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A BETTER YEAR AHEAD

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Who would have thought that 2020 was going to turn out to be such a horrible year for everyone around the world and right here in Pinellas County? And, although the coronavirus is still with us—and will be for a while—we are moving in the right direction. One bright spot is the development and distribution of the vaccine. Another bright spot is how the toughest of times brought out the best in all of us.



When I look back, I am amazed by all the hard work many in the county have been doing, and are still doing, to keep people safe, keep businesses going, keep our children educated and keep our sanity amidst this devastating crisis. Part of that work was accomplished by Pinellas County employees and our partner agencies.

As the news about the pandemic spread across the country in late February, teams across Pinellas County were already shoring up their plans and engaging our partners. Risk assessments, coordination of medical protocols, coordination of safety messaging for the public, call center operations to receive your many questions and more were already taking place and being implemented within the first week.

As the crisis wore on, Pinellas County worked with local health and social agencies, businesses and others through frequent conference calls to tackle the many challenges the pandemic presented. Many cross-functional teams from the county worked tirelessly with hospitals and nursing homes assessing their needs, local businesses helping get designs and manufacturing up and running to produce personal protective equipment and disinfectants for first responders, local food banks assessing where food supplies were needed and getting those supplies routed correctly, and others arranging sites where donations of supplies and personal protective equipment could be dropped off and dispatched to those in greatest need.

When I look back at all the work that was done and all the partnerships that were made for this common cause, I know that 2021 is going to be a better year. How could it not be with all that we have accomplished together. We are stronger because we met the challenge of the pandemic head on. We dug in deep and made the improbable happen. We lost many loved ones along the way, but in the end, we will carry on as a stronger county because of the pandemic and a stronger nation because of it, as well.

As we move further away from the darkness of 2020, may you and your family embrace and enjoy the coming light of 2021. Stay safe and know a better year is already here.

As always, I welcome your comments and concerns. Please email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org.

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Advanced timed-tickets are required for ALL visitors.

MILLIE WARD, FOUNDER OF WARD'S SEAFOOD DIES

We interviewed Millie Ward in June of 2016. Below is part of the interview.

Since 1955, Ward's Seafood has supplied the area with locally caught fresh seafood. Few people remember the folks who started it, Johnie and Millie Ward.

Johnie Ward grew up in Clearwater in a fishing family. His three brothers and later his son were all fishermen.

Early on, most people caught mullet. At certain times of year, thousands of mullet would school around Clearwater Harbor and Sand Key.

Fishermen used gill nets to round them up and pull them into their specially designed boats. The boat's engines were in the middle of the boats so as not to interfere with the nets in the back. Johnie would catch a boatload and sell them—usually to the Anderson brothers, who owned two area fish markets.

In 1954, Johnie met Millie. He was a young guy in his 30s; Millie in her 20 had recently moved to Clearwater from Indiana. She liked his dark tanned look, and he liked the way she smiled. Johnie loved to fish. Millie soon loved to fish, too. They got married in 1954.

At first, they sold the fish Johnie caught out of ice chests and buckets in front of their home. In 1955, after they built a house on the southwest corner of MLK South and Belleair Road, they decided to start a proper fish market like the Andersons. In 1956, Johnie added a 20'x20' building just to the north of their house and called it Ward's Seafood Market. Johnie and Millie ran the small fish house seven days a week.

"We sold fish - both retail and wholesale," remembered Millie Ward. "Johnie fished all day and sold the fish at the store. We got seafood from other area fishermen, too. I would help filet, display, and sell the fish, crabs, scallops and other seafood. Johnie used his truck to deliver seafood to area restaurants and bait shops. In the early days, we even supplied Publix."

"We delivered to so many restaurants that no longer exist today," Millie recalled. "I remember selling to Leon's, The Pelican, Fisherman's Wharf, The Garden Seat, The Palm Garden, Morrison's, and even the Safety Harbor Resort."

Word quickly spread that the Wards had the "freshest fish in town" and their business just got bigger and bigger. They made five additions to the initial building, but only had the one location. "We had all we could do," said Millie, "between fishing, delivering, and selling, we could not even think of expanding."

The Wards had ten employees-three were girls. Millie paid the bills, the employees, suppliers and billed the customers. "We owned a few trucks and kept them busy every day."

They sold grouper, snapper, mackerel, and of course mullet. "Mullet was very popular in those days - especially smoked mullet," Millie said. "We sold a lot of smoked fish - Johnie was a great smoker," Millie added. "We also sold shrimp, crabs and lobster, flown in from Maine."

In 1975, after 20 years, the Wards sold their business to Wayne Widmark, who sold it to present owners Rob and Michelle Cameron in 1990.

"Johnie kept on fishing, because that is what he did," Millie said with a smile. "I used to go fishing with him a lot. I loved fishing almost as much as he did."

Johnie died in 2007. Millie, 88, died on Thanksgiving Day.





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C02 COOLPEEL® HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

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 C02 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 C02 CoolPeel® Laser from Radiance Medspa.

C02 lasers have long been the gold standard in treating wrinkles, age spots, acne scars and other blemishes on the face, neck, and chest. Traditional C02 lasers are synonymous with considerable downtime, but not the C02 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 fines 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® C02 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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Community News

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

The Benefits of creating art reach far beyond the canvas. Several medical studies support the act of creating visual arts improves your mental health and wellbeing. During the pandemic, we can all use that more than ever. Three ways that creating art benefits your brain: Improves our ability to cope with stress, It can help reduce instances of depression and it can help prevent mental decline as we age.

At the Beach Art Center, we feel called to our mission to engage the community in creative arts now more than ever. We are doing our best to be available to the entire community during this time of pandemic. We made modifications to our classrooms and pottery studio to comply with CDC guidelines. Our gallery shows are available for you to view in our gallery AND online, and we have also added on-line (Zoom) classes to our schedule of In-House classes.

Weekly Classes allow you to sign up and attend as often as you like. Most are \$30 (\$24 for Members) and include, Pencil Drawing, Mixed Media, Watercolor, Oil Painting, Acrylics, Pottery, Plein Air Painting, and Pallet Knife Painting. Level of experience ranges from Beginner to Intermediate. Check out our website for classes as well as how to register. Class description indicates In-House, On-line (Zoom) or Hybrid (available both online and in-house).

Special Workshops – We have some fantastic visiting artists lined up for one of a kind all day workshops:

- Sat./Sun., Feb. 6th & 7th, from 9–5 “Impressionist Landscape Painting,” Violetta Chandler: \$325 Non-Members, \$300 Members.
- Sat./Sun., Feb. 13th & 14th, from 9 – 4 “Watercolors from the Beach” with Carol Carter Fee: \$350
- Sat., Feb. 27th 10 – 5 “Introduction to Scratchboard” with Sheryl Unwin Fee: \$100
- Sat./Sun., March 6th & 7th, 9 – 4 “Plein Air Color Bootcamp” with John Clayton: \$250

View the class calendar at beachartcenter.org/calendar. We hope you will enjoy visiting the gallery in person or virtually (on our website).

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

WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS 2021

Winterfest On The Rocks 2021, in its 16th year as a well known festival hosted by Calvary Episcopal Church, has a new date and a new direction!

The church, located at 1615 First Street Indian Rocks Beach, will be marketing vendors from near and far and local small businesses and their wares on its virtual platform. This will replace the usual outside event. You can “shop ‘til you drop” and support small businesses at the same time!

There will be a silent auction and a “Southern Hospitality” takeout meal (pre-ordered, prepaid and delivered to you in your car) between the hours of 3 to 6pm. Be sure to watch for the announcement of a very special “Door Prize.” All this and more will now be on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

For information, call Calvary Episcopal Church (727) 595-2374 or (727) 580-8237. calvaryirb.org

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Another Year, and more Challenges in the Building Industry...

Hard to believe that 2021 is now here, and Santa is back at the North Pole resting up for next year. Spring is just around the corner, and many families that come through our model center each year have now decided that it's time to build their dream home here along the Pinellas beach communities. Again, new home costs have increased due to inflation, supply & demand, and unfortunately in 2021 it is predicted that another round of increases will take place, now due to constant FEMA changes and a new building code revision that is just now being put into place (2020 7th Edition, effective 12/31/2020).

After the devastating pictures that we all saw with recent storms over the last couple years, it only stands to reason that the building industry cannot be allowed to construct homes using yesterday's codes. When the big one hits Pinellas, we will see the same devastation from the existing homes built decades ago. It's been 100 years since a direct hit hurricane came ashore in Pinellas County, but the odds are very probable of course. I hope to have 25 to 30 years left to chase my grandchildren around, and I hope that I do not witness a Pinellas direct hit, but the odds are probably going to catch up to us.

Specifically, the talk in the industry is that FEMA will enact even stronger standards for homes, for new construction and major remodeling. Some beach jurisdictions themselves are enacting even more stringent codes than FEMA requires. The so called "50% Rule" may become history, so remodeling homes using this loophole may go the way of the dinosaurs. I can't say I'm against that, seeing that if/when the storm comes, those family dollars now being spent for remodeling will be wasted as they will then be required to start over with an elevated home, at tomorrow's costs.

It's also predicted that this tourist season, a record number of snowbirds will become homeowners along the beach communities. The trends are high with people moving to Florida due to the Covid pandemic and ultra high tax laws in many other populous States. I personally enjoy seeing the new homes being constructed here by various builders in the many Pinellas communities. And thankfully, these newly constructed homes will weather the storm, being constructed under newer stricter codes to protect the homeowners investment and offering extremely lower flood insurance rates being that they meet the current code heights. Then too, these families that are now constructing new homes will appreciate many years of family enjoyment living in a new more modern home, as well as the peace of mind knowing the security of a new home, raised above the flood plain and constructed with today's more stringent standards.

... With new stringent codes, will the so called "50% Rule" become history?

GHD Coastal Homes, a division of GHD Construction Services, Inc., is now offering very attractive homes from under \$550,000. Of course, each are constructed with today's stringent Florida Building Codes as well as elevated to FEMA required elevations. Please visit our website for details.

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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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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QUALITY BOATS

A Family Run Business for 48 Years

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Ted Bair was a traveling paperboard salesman for the Chicago based Weyerhaeuser and regularly visited Clearwater to see his parents. In 1973, he saw a Chicago Tribune ad listing a marina for sale on Island Estates.

Bair had a young family with three small children—Diana 10, David 3 and newborn Dan. Being a traveling salesman, he was away from home much of the year and felt he was missing out on watching his kids grow up. He only had \$40,000 and no experience with boats or running a marina.

He told his wife, Linda “let’s give it a try!” He put down \$20,000 on the marine business; the other \$20,000 was a deposit on a Clearwater house. The rest as they say is boating history.

Ted’s boys, David and Dan, got an early start working at Quality. “We were always around finding odd jobs to do,” says Dan. “We had to clean boats and scrape barnacles.”

“In the early years, the boats were much smaller,” remembers David. “The typical boats were 17-18 feet long. We had them on trailers all around the building.” That changed about 20 years ago. Today, most of Quality’s sales are boats that are 30 to over 40 feet in length – and most are over \$250,000.

“As we grew, the need for a yacht line became more important,” said David Bair. “Many of our customers were searching for the next step-up in their boating experience. We are happy to offer some of the leading boat lines to new and old customers.”

They have expanded their footprint to 4 locations - Clearwater Beach, Clearwater (on US 19), Sarasota, and Englewood. They have approximately 50 employees at their 4 locations—15 work in Island Estates. Their inventory is usually about 80 new boats, valued at \$15-20 million, and represents the fine lines of Regal, Tiara, Grady-White, and Pursuit.

The location on US 19 is primarily for sales of new and pre-owned boats. The location on Island Estates, at 235 Windward Passage, housed in the island’s second oldest building, is used for service, deliveries, and parts.

Many publications serve the boating business; *Boating Industry* is a dominant one. Since 2007, *Boating Industry* has recognized Quality Boats as one of the Top 100 Dealers of the Year. In 2019, they selected Quality #1 overall in North America.

When Ted and Linda bought Quality Boats, there were about a dozen gulf side boat dealers in Clearwater Beach. Today Quality is the only one remaining.

Ted, a past president of the Island Estates Civic Association and the Island Estates Yacht Club, was one of the founders of the Island Estates Boat Parade before he passed away in 2004. Linda passed way a year earlier.

Today, sons David and Dan are co-partners running Quality Boats. David and his wife Aileen live on the north end of Clearwater Beach with their two children. He is primarily in charge of boat sales at their four locations. Dan lives on Island Estates with his three children. He is primarily in charge of operations and the financial side of the business.

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IS YOUR ESTATE PLAN READY?

By Edward Castagna Jr. Esquire

This is a wonderful time of year; spring will soon be here and with it comes opening the house and some spring cleaning. While you are refreshing your home, it might be a good time to refresh your legal documents too.



2020 brought many challenges. Did you experience any life changes recently? Maybe you have been blessed with the birth of a child or new grandchild. Did you recently marry or regrettably divorce? Maybe you have retired, or your financial situation changed due to a new job or the loss of an old one. Do you have a blended family with children from both previous and current marriages? All these are reasons to reexamine your Estate Planning Documents

With the recent Pandemic, thoughts of helping those closest to us are more prevalent than ever. If you were to get sick, do you worry about caring for a family member with special needs or easing the financial burden of higher education for your children or grandchildren? If so, then now is the time to update your estate plan or to create one if you do not already have one.

Do you have a designated health care surrogate? Now more than ever, this is vital. Part of your estate planning, this legal document gives a person the legal right to talk to your doctors and manage your medical care. They can make medical decisions for you if you cannot do so. According to AARP, "less than 40 percent of Americans have a health care surrogate. That means 60 percent of us are rolling the dice on what would happen if the unexpected occurred."

Whether you are looking forward to enjoying retirement or welcoming a new member into the family, there is nothing more important than making sure your wishes are clear. If your will is over ten years old or was written in another state, your estate documents may be outdated and need changes. Marriages, divorces, and even grandchildren impact your estate planning.

Don't leave room for uncertainty or division in your estate. Our firm has seen cases where outdated or inaccurate Wills drew out the probate process, causing additional stress and significant additional expenses for your estate and family. You need to make sure 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 - our client's health and safety are always our priority. Whether you are 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.

Find Castagna Law Firm, P.A., at 611 Druid Road E, Suite 717 Clearwater, FL 33756 | 727-446-6699 or online at castagnalegalteam.com.

MORTON PLANT OFFERS NEW TECHNOLOGY TO TREAT NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Morton Plant Hospital was the first hospital in the state and continues to be the only hospital in Tampa Bay to offer patients with debilitating neurological disorders such as Parkinson's and essential tremors a new technology that has the potential to significantly improve their quality of life.

The new Percept™ PC Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) system with BrainSense™ technology from Medtronic promises to give physicians the opportunity to learn what is happening in the brain when the patient experiences symptoms.

While surgeons at Morton Plant have been performing DBS surgery for years, the new technology goes a step further in personalizing the treatment.

"We have seen multiple patients' lives changed using the previous DBS systems, but with the added layer of BrainSense™, we have the potential to access brain information that we have not seen before," said Neurologist Kamilia S. Nozile-Firth. "We are expecting to be able to tailor the treatment to optimize each patient's outcome."

During DBS surgery, a neurosurgeon implants electrodes that are connected to a stimulator device into an area of the brain that controls movement. Similar to a heart pacemaker, a neurostimulator uses electric pulses to regulate brain activity and interrupt the disease signal. To ensure precise placement, the procedure requires a dedicated intraoperative team that includes a neurosurgeon with specialized training in stereotactic technique, a movement-disorders neurologist and an anesthesiologist.

A few weeks after surgery during an office visit, the neurologist begins to program the device to send small

electrical impulses through the electrodes to ease symptoms of movement disorders.

Previously, the only opportunity to see how the brain reacted to specific symptoms was at the time the neurosurgeon implanted the device. With the Percept™ system, physicians can continually track patient brain signals and correlate these with patient-recorded actions or experiences, such as symptoms, side effects or medication intake. This allows for a more precise adjustment of DBS settings for better symptom control and fewer side effects.

When asked about the difference in BrainSense™ vs. standard DBS, neurosurgeon Dean Gobo, MD, said, "This is the difference between the telegraph and the telephone. It is one-way communication versus listening and responding to what is being said."

Percept gives physicians information within a patient's brain that up until now has not been accessible. This is information that can be used to better target therapies and treatments and thus improve patients' lives.

Since 1916, Morton Plant Hospital has been committed to improving the health of all they serve through community-owned health care services that set the standard for high-quality, compassionate care. Their 613-bed hospital is proud to offer nationally recognized care delivered in more than 50 specialty areas. Morton Plant Hospital offers innovative, accessible, and quality services to provide our community with a lifetime of compassionate, convenient care. For more information, call (727) 953-6877, or visit them on Facebook or at 300 Pinellas St., Clearwater, Fla.

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