

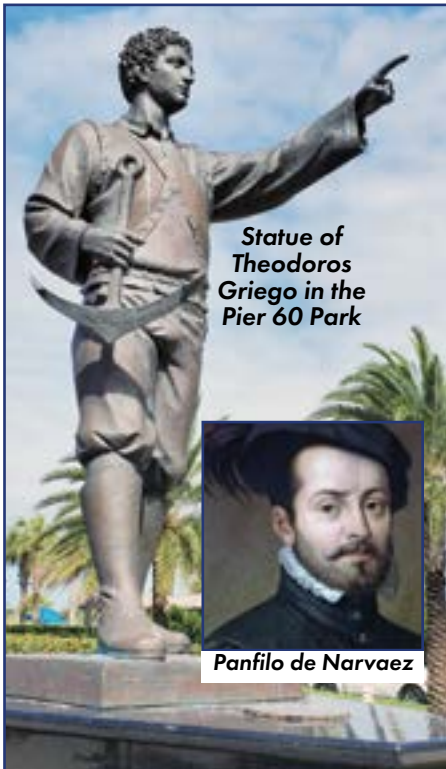
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

THEODOROS GRIEGO Pinellas County and Florida's First Greek Explorer

By Bob Griffin, Publisher



Statue of Theodoros Griego in the Pier 60 Park

Panfilo de Narvaez

If alive today, Theodoros Griego would be over 500 years old. Thanks to the efforts of Belleair Beach resident Michael Servos, Griego's memory is still alive and "resides" near Pier 60 in Clearwater Beach.

Theodoros Griego was an explorer and carpenter by trade. He relocated from the Aegean area of Greece to Spain, where the translation of his name was "Theodore Greek." In 1527, he joined a group of 400 Spanish explorers heading to the New World to look for gold with the permission of King Charles V of Spain.

In April of 1528, the group came onshore on a piece of marsh land due east of today's John's Pass. Led by their captain, Panfilo de Narvaez, a Spanish conquistador and explorer with a reputation for being unpleasant and quite mean, the group had 80 horses and numerous pit bull dogs.

After infuriating the native Indians by cutting off Chief Hirihigua's nose and killing his wife, they demanded to know "Where is the gold?" The Indians who spoke no Spanish, pointed north and said: "Apalachen."

Narvaez told the men still waiting on their five sailing ships to head north and meet them on the coast. The rest, mostly soldiers, saddled up and headed north through what they called "La Florida" in search of gold they believed was here. Among the foot soldiers was the ship's scribe Cabeza de Vaca and Theodore the Greek.

- Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:

Silver Springs

One of Florida's first tourist attractions, nearby Silver Springs still offers glass bottom boats rides in a beautiful "old Florida" setting. - page 28

Duffy's Golf Studio

Duffy's Golf Studio celebrated its tenth anniversary with a new owner - Nick Bocerra. But what happens at a Golf Studio anyway? It probably isn't what you think it is. - page 24



CJH Wanderlust Music Series Returns

Located in three different venues, we have the spring schedule and all the details. - page 11

Caladesi Island Nature Center

The Caladesi Discovery Center is expected to be completed in the next few months.

- page 26

CREDITS



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767 - about 5,000 households. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

PUBLISHER
Bob & Becky Griffin

ART DIRECTION
Becky Griffin

SALES
727-430-8300

CONTACT INFO

P.O. Box 1314
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785
727-430-8300

BeachNewsletters.com

If you are interested in advertising, we offer resident, multi-city and annual discounts. Ads need to be reserved one month in advance.

E-mail: bob@griffindirectories.com or visit beachnewsletters.com for more information.

© 2021 Griffin Productions, Inc.

CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it Neighborhood News because it is about your neighborhood - Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - about 5,000 households, six times a year.

You can pick up additional copies at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and 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.

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 JUNE!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
Mark Bunker - Seat 2	
Kathleen Beckman - Seat 3	
David Allbritton - Seat 4	
Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLY TROLLEY	445-1200
CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA	562-4955

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
Sharon Skinner 515-1532	
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	
Sam Hutkin hutloan@aol.com	
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	316-5504
ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
Mike Anderson, President 777-2787	
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Trisha Rodriguez, President 262-620-3866	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Linda Owens 260-894-0270	
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Allison Dolan 754-8017	

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO	464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276	
Karen Seel Sand Key 464-3278	

STATE:	
Senator Ed Hooper,	727-771-2102
Republican, District 16	
3450 East Lake Road Ste 305, Palm Harbor	
Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov	
Representative Nick DiCeglie	727-588-7090
Republican, District 66	
1940 West Bay Drive, Ste 4, Largo	
nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov	
Governor Ron DeSantis	
Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com	

FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:	
Marco Rubio	202-224-3041
www.Rubio.Senate.gov	
Rick Scott	202-224-5274
www.RickScott.Senate.gov	

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist	202-225-5961
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

Everybody Reads It!

Where Do You Read Yours?

beachnewsletters.com

Clearwater Beach Neighborhood News
Call NOW to reserve YOUR Spot in the June Issue! 727.430.8300



TARA BEHESHTI

COASTAL PROPERTIES GROUP INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

#1 Coastal Agent in Clearwater Beach 2020

TARA BEHESHTI
#1 CLEARWATER BEACH AGENT
COASTAL PROPERTIES 2020

TTBeheshti@aol.com • 727.417.6620

WITH LOW INVENTORY AND HIGH DEMAND NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO GET TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR PROPERTY

SELLING & BUYING A HOME IS A COMPLEX MULTIFACETED PROCESS. WITH A WEALTH OF LOCAL REAL ESTATE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND PROVEN TRACK RECORD, TARA BEHESHTI CAN HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS OF BUYING, SELLING OR INVESTING IN OUR BEAUTIFUL AREA!



Your Full Service Plumber in Pinellas

SINCE 1951

CLEARWATER PLUMBING

INC.

Service is our Salesman

Save flooring and landscaping - ask about pipe relining

Quality materials & workmanship for all jobs big or small!

follow us on Facebook

\$13 OFF ANY SERVICE
limit one per customer

Residential Commercial Industrial

Water Heater Experts!

www.clearwaterplumbingonline.com

2101 Calumet Street - 727.446.8355

Did You Know



MERMAIDS RETURN The Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, closed for a year, recently reopened with daily mermaid shows and swimming. The beach areas are open daily, but the water park is only open on weekends through May 29 when it will return to its normal summer schedule.

Visitors wanting to see the Mermaid Show are encouraged to arrive when the park opens at 9am as seating in the underwater theater is limited.

The park is open from 9am to 5:30pm daily and costs \$13 for adults/\$8 for children ages 6-12. It is located at 6131 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, 352-592-5656, weekiwachee.com

WORLD OF WHALES The Clearwater Marine Aquarium's new 20,000 square foot exhibit "Whales: Living with Giants" is a virtual experience with multi-media exhibits, an underwater virtual reality experience, a walk-through life-sized whale gallery and an interactive kid's zone.

This is not a permanent exhibit and will only be available at through August 31. Get information at www.SeeWinter.com.

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED Seasonal lifeguards are needed in Pinellas County at Pinellas County beach parks. Lifeguards will be stationed on county beaches at Fort De Soto, Sand Key and Fred Howard parks from April to September. Individuals who enjoy helping the public in a fast-paced, detail-oriented role are encouraged to apply.

Positions are available for full-time or part-time seasonal employment, with pay starting at \$13.95 per hour for new lifeguards and \$14.58 per hour for senior-level lifeguards. Lifeguards may work 10-hour shifts. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. To apply and see other necessary qualification, visit: www.pinellascounty.org/careers.

CHANGES IN THE WAY STORMS ARE NAMED

The World Meteorological Organization has decided to no longer use the Greek alphabet as a way of identifying tropical storms when the normal list of 21 storms is exhausted. The alphabet has only been used twice - last year when nine letter names were used and in 2005, another busy year.



The alphabet names proved to be confusing to the public and made it difficult for people to track the storms. Many confused the sound of the letters. More attention was focused on the alphabet itself than on the possible danger of the storm.

"Zeta, Eta, Theta" said Kenneth Graham, the director of the National Hurricane Center, pointing to three Greek letters used to name three of the last storms of the season. "People were mixing the storms up."

The World Meteorological Organization's Hurricane Committee has developed a backup list of 21 names that will be used in place of the Greek letters if needed.

30 Years in Island Estates

Island Estates Mobil

Family Owned & Operated

FREE Road Service
when purchasing our interstate battery

Same OWNERS and Same GREAT Service

Think of us as your alternative to going to your dealership. We can service any make and model

10% OFF Service Orders
when you mention this ad
not including gas, batteries or tires
\$50 maximum discount

Towing Services Available

50 Island Way, Island Estates, 446.1566

and More...

ALERT PINELLAS

Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Alert Pinellas, an emergency notification service for Pinellas County, Local Municipalities, and the Sheriff's Office. This service is FREE. Choose up to five different Pinellas County locations you want to receive alerts about. You choose how to receive your alerts - cell phone, landline, text, email – and you can enter multiple methods. Stay informed regarding local emergencies. Sign up at [.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas).



NO SUGAR SANDS Clearwater Beach's Annual Sugar Sand Festival was canceled for 2021. Due to the current health and safety concerns presented by the pandemic, as well as numerous travel restrictions that prohibit bringing in the talented sculptors from around the world, it could not take place as planned for April. These sculptors are an integral part of what makes this event SANDTASTIC! The Festival was also unable to obtain the necessary permits, which would allow the event to take place, due to restrictions on large events. They look forward to returning in 2022.

SOCK IT TO US

Clothes To Kids Clothes needs socks - than 80,000 pairs of socks. That is how many they give out each year to Hillsborough and Pinellas County school children. Join them in their "Sock It To Us" drive and donate girls no show sock sizes small, medium and large and boys and young men socks.



You can drop off packaged socks at any of their locations or the easiest way is to shop on the Clothes To Kids' Amazon Wish List. After check-out the socks will ship directly to Clothes To Kids.

For more information, visit our website at clothestokids.org or call 727-441-5050.

CARRY YOUR CUPS One small way to do your part to eliminate garbage is to carry a reusable travel cup. As just one example, Starbucks uses 8,000 paper cups a minute – that is more than 4 billion cups a year in our landfills (not to mention the dead trees!) If you carried your own travel cup it would make a big difference and save you money. By bringing in any personal cup to Starbucks, you qualify for a \$.10 off discount regardless of the size of the beverage. Other coffee retailers do the same thing.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JUNE If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS. 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.

UNITED TAXI
777-7777
 Commitment to Community
 Home of the
TAMPA AIRPORT
 1-4 People **\$40.00**
Special Rate

727-777-7777
www.GoUnitedTaxi.com

SLAUGHTER
PLUMBING
 RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
727-596-5663
 Family Owned since 1958
 24 Hour
 Emergency
 Service

All Plumbing Repairs
 Water Heater Repair & Replacement
 Faucet and Fixture Repair & Installation
 Water & Sewer Line Replacement
 Sewer & Drain Cleaning

\$10 OFF Any Service!
not combined with other offers

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Senior Discounts • Estimates

RF11067209
 C9501

Serving All of Pinellas County
 for 50 years

12920 Walsingham Rd Largo

MICHAEL SERVOS & CLEARWATER'S THEODOROS GRIEGO STATUE, continued



**Jungle Prada De Narvaez Park
Park St. & Elbow Lane N. St. Petersburg**

Along the way, Narvaez and his men encountered more Indians who had already been warned of evil men coming their way. They were attacked many times, losing soldiers in every battle while the Indians tried to protect their land and families.

Narvaez's troop dwindled as they traveled north along the west coast crossing the Suwanee River and then the St. Marks Rivers, after they turned west into the Panhandle. They ended up on the banks of the Mississippi River. At this point, they were down to 100 men and no horses. And of course, still no gold.

Narvaez decided to build some boats and paddle away from the land – hoping to find their waiting ships. Unfortunately, his ships were long gone. The ships' new captain assumed Narvaez and his men were long since dead.

Theodoros Griego was the only survivor with any carpentry skills. He supervised the weary soldiers as they cut down southern pines and lashed them together with deer leather and pine tar into four or five 30-foot seaworthy rafts.

They launched the rafts into the Mississippi where they were attacked again. Their bad luck continued with a major storm in the Gulf of Mexico that drowned most of the remaining men including Captain Narvaez.

Upon landing on a beach (probably near Louisiana), Griego went in search of water and was killed by waiting Indians. Only eight of the original 300 men made it to Mexico City. Just four made it back to Spain in 1537 almost ten years later.

Cabeza de Vaca, the ship's scribe, documented the entire trip and wrote a book in 1542 leaving us all the details.

Theodoros Griego is thought to be the

first Greek to visit Florida—and for that matter—America. Other Greek explorers followed, but it would be centuries before large numbers arrived. Today a statue memorializes him in the Pier 60 Park.

So how did that statue end up in at Pier 60? Michael Servos. He paid for it and in conjunction with City of

Clearwater, arranged for the installation of the 900-pound work of art.

Servos (73) originally from Greece and the owner of the Freightz Transportation Company, is a 30-year resident of Belleair Beach. He immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 14 and grew up in New York. He has promoted Greek culture and "Hellenism" in America for almost 50 years.

"Griego was the first Greek in America," says Servos with pride. "I thought we needed to remember him, so I planned and paid for this statue. It was built in Italy and cost \$100,000, which is \$140,000 in today's dollars. The statue was \$70,000; The base was another \$30,000. It was shipped to directly to Clearwater."



Painting of Panfilo de Narvaez and his crew on the beach

Servos points out the base is shaped like a ship's bow. "Theodoros is standing on the bow of a ship, looking for America," says Servos proudly. At the base of the statue is a plaque reading, "The history of Greeks (Hellenes) in America starts from here."

The City held a big ribbon-cutting in 2005 when it was installed and gave Michael Servos the Key to the City.

"Mike Servos has passionately represented the Greek community in Clearwater and Pinellas for decades. Many don't know it, but Clearwater has the largest

Greek population in Pinellas County. I supported the statue of Theodoros Griego because it honored our Greek heritage and the beginning of a strong Greek tradition in the U.S. and Florida. The statue also represented Clearwater's commitment to public art. It perks the interest of tourists and residents to seek

a little more history," says Mayor Frank Hibbard who was also the Mayor when the statue was installed.

In addition to the statue of Theodoros Griego in Clearwater Beach, Servos has inspired (and in many cases, paid for) many other statues in the U.S. and in several Greek cities. The list of locations is too long to include here.



Michael Servos

Locally, he started the Plato Academy Charter School. It operates nine campuses in Florida that teach the Greek language and culture. He is also the co-founder of the Athenian Academy Charter School in Clearwater and in Ft. Myers, in partnership with the Greek Embassy Department of Education.

He is a member and in some cases board member of several social groups devoted to the preservation of Greek heritage. He was founder and first President of the "Foundation of Hellenism of America."

"Mr. Servos has a special appreciation of the culture, traditions, and history of Greece - he epitomizes "Zorba the Greek" whose love of life is a testament to the spirit that is shared by those of Greek descent," says past Mayor George Cretkos.

He has already planned his final resting place—in Greece. He has a tomb waiting for him near the Central Square of his village of Sopik with his name "Plateia Michael Servos" inscribed in addition his personal saying: "Hellenism is the perfect method of thinking that was adopted by humanity."

He hopes to be remembered as an anxious revolutionary who refused to get down from the scaffolding of life by building projects to foster Hellenism. Get more information on Hellenism of America, online at www.Hellenes.com. You can reach Michael Servos by email at Dodonaios@AOL.com.

WARNING

**FATIGUE AND RESTRICTED
BLOOD FLOW**

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Chest pressure, a squeezing sensation or chest pain. These feelings may be angina, a symptom of heart disease.

Angina is your heart's warning system. It happens when part of the heart doesn't get enough blood and oxygen. It's also a symptom of coronary artery disease, a type of heart disease. It may feel like a pinching sensation in the chest, and could be accompanied by sluggishness and chest tightness. If you experience any of these symptoms, the experts at BayCare's Morton Plant Hospital can get to the cause and treat it with a procedure that's right for you. We use state-of-the-art technology to treat rhythm disorders and offer minimally invasive procedures for structural heart and valve conditions. Morton Plant Hospital provides care for heart failure through our Heart Function Clinic and BayCare's ventricular assist device program, has an accomplished open-heart surgery program and you can recover from heart issues with our cardiac rehab services. Our team is here when you need us. And we have enhanced safety measures to help keep you protected. Don't ignore your heart's warning system.

Get a cardiology referral: MortonPlantHeart.org





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 vis-a-vis 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

Waterfront homes • We build to suit • Build on your lot or ours • Custom affordable luxury

NOW OFFERING
Full-Package Listings
to help
SELL YOUR HOME!

Visit our
NEW SHOWROOM
14995 Gulf Blvd, Ste C
Madeira Beach

Let's get social!

#GHDCoastalHomes
GHDCoastalHomes
(727) 954-8345



NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE COMPLACENT

By Jevon A. Graham – Division Chief of Emergency Management, City of Clearwater

We have gone beyond a full year of living with and managing COVID - 19. Early in this pandemic, people were eager to do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID. Today, everyone is dealing with COVID fatigue and is physically, mentally, and emotionally stressed. Vaccinations are reaching the at-risk populations; however, they are not as available as we would like, and frustration is setting in. Efforts are being made, but the majority must wait and maintain the course until more doses are available to the public. During these times, we need to remember that restrictions are still in place and now is not the time to become complacent or relaxed in our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID - 19.

As of the writing of this article, the United States has surpassed 541,289 deaths and the numbers are still rising. Pinellas county has faced over 68,981 positive cases, and 1,531 deaths. While the current drop in cases is encouraging, there are variant strains that could make people sicker and vaccinations less effective. Complacency can be just as dangerous as the virus itself. Motivational speaker Paul Mahoney wrote a book about complacency called Man V Machine: Journey of Complacency. He points out that the best way to break the “culture of complacency,” is to be courageous enough, as individuals, to make the right decisions at the right time.

Now is not the time to become complacent! We must continue the efforts we took last year and maintain that resolve as we face more challenges in 2021. To protect others as well as yourself, you should at a minimum continue wearing masks. Remember, a properly worn mask is not a substitute for distancing and should be in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart, especially when indoors and around people who do not live in your household. Regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is also important, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Use proper cold and flu etiquette and always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Daily cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces also help in minimizing the spread. Finally, you must monitor your own health and be alert for symptoms. If you are sick, stay home and follow CDC guidance or the direction of a medical doctor.


The process of vaccinating the entire country will take time. These suggestions will not eradicate COVID-19, but while we work towards getting the country protected, following this guidance will help prevent spreading, and preventing COVID-19 from spreading is everybody’s responsibility.



MERRILL LYNCH
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

Now more than ever, personalized advice matters

We can provide customized, comprehensive advice and guidance to help you stay on track to pursue your goals. When the world changes, we're here to help. Let's work through this together.



The Weber Wealth Management Group

Heather Weber, CPWA®, CRPS®
 Managing Director
 Resident Director – Wealth Management Advisor
 727.462.2310 • heather_weber@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
 601 Cleveland Street, Suite 900
 Clearwater, FL 33755
fa.ml.com/wwmg

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BoFA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BoFA Corp.

Investment products: **Are Not FDIC Insured** | **Are Not Bank Guaranteed** | **May Lose Value**

The Bull Symbol is a registered trademark of Bank of America Corporation.
 CPWA® is a registered service mark of the Investment Management Consultants Association dba Investments & Wealth Institute. CRPS® is a registered service mark of the College for Financial Planning.

© 2020 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. MAP3081682 | AD-10-20-0860 | 472574PM-0520 | 11/2020

IS IT TIME TO RIDE THE GREEN WAVE?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



While 2020 had its fair share of buzz words, arguably none were bigger for the investment world than ESG. The acronym stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance and broadly refers to sustainably focused investing that considers the ESG impact of corporations. ESG investing is widely regarded as a “once in a generation” investment theme while we believe it will ultimately grow from a thematic afterthought into a core consideration.

Many are jockeying for position to ride this massive green wave, but investors must be aware of “greenwashing” in which some aim to slap an ESG sticker on everything, in what can be characterized as misleading at best. The well-informed, discerning investor can successfully navigate this fast-growing segment while having a positive impact on the environment and society as a whole.

So, what exactly qualifies as ESG? All ESG is not created equal and there are several different categories. Some ESG investing simply excludes certain industries such as businesses that deal in firearms, fossil fuels, or tobacco. Others fully integrate ESG criteria into all facets of the investment process and simply select the best-in-class operators in each industry. As mentioned, investors must be wary of false or misleading information about a company’s products or processes used to portray them in an environmentally or socially friendly light. The truth is that there is no regulatory body that verifies a corporation’s ESG claims nor are there standard disclosures required. This lack of transparency and accountability can cause confusion for investors. Positively, there are now a handful of third party (unbiased) data providers that are publishing ESG scores for public companies in an effort to bring more transparency to the market.

So, why invest in ESG now? Environmental and social advocates have long been on the fringes of the investment community and ESG investing has been popularized for at least 10 years now, but 2020 was a transformative year. In one of the most volatile years in recent history, it was really the first time the investing public saw ESG go through a bear market and it proved to be more than just a bull market luxury. In fact, ESG outperformed the traditional stock market last year.

At ProVise, we provide our clients with transparent, comprehensive ESG investments that are tailored to meet their financial goals. Call for a complimentary consultation.

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



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

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

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. Evi'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 Evi'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!

NATURAL & PROPANE GAS PROVIDER

Residential & Commercial

(727) 562-4980

<http://www.clearwatergas.com>

 **Clearwater Gas System**
Live Greener with Gas

NO ONE HAS SOLD MORE PROPERTY ON ISLAND ESTATES

I am BACK on the Island!

Local Expertise... Global Connections

Broker Assoc., G.R.I., CRS
Over Half A Billion In Sales
Waterfront Expert Since 1978
Certified Global Luxury Expert
International Sterling Society

Visit me at the Plaza! **JOANNE HILLER, REALTOR EMERITUS**

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Properties Group

136 Island Way, Clearwater Beach
727 460-5721 | JoanneHiller.com

Business Briefs



RADIANCE MED SPA CELEBRATES 15 YEARS They opened in 2006 and to celebrate, they are offering 15% off EVERYTHING (for a limited time). Eliminate smile lines, erase unwanted fat, contour your cheeks, smooth your wrinkles, tighten your skin, erase age spots, and give yourself the glowing radiant look you deserve and save some money too! Some exclusions apply and this offer expires May 15, 2021.

RICHARD'S MOVES Richards Foodporium, the local health food and vitamin store, left Belleair Bluffs. Previously located next to Bonefish Grill, they moved to Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton. They also have a new phone number—727-240-1324.

NEW WILLIAM DEAN 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 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.

Brown hopes to open in June or July. The exterior is almost done and they are finalizing the interior finishes now. Sean Ragan from the Wyndham Grand's Ocean Hai, will head the baking and savory program

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.

Changes are in store for the Belleair location too. They will soon be offering all of the baked goods there too and eventually, the kitchen space will be repurposed into additional seating with more savory items on the menu.

NEW MUNCHIES OWNERS

Lisa & Giovanni Senafe bought Munchies, the pet products store in the Belleair Shopping Center.

Lisa says, "We have owned natural pet food stores since 2008 because pets have been my passion since I was a very young girl." She adds, "We do not plan many changes, but want to add more variety of toys, chews, beds and other things customers need and want. We are big believers in being a part of the community and we look forward to being a part of the events and working with local rescues."

Find them at 2896 West Bay, next to Cody's or call 581-1000. Visit MunchiesNaturalPetFoods.com.



Business Briefs



LALA'S EXPANDS Laura Katz, owner of Lala's, located in Belleair Bluff's The Plaza, doubled her store's size when she acquired the space to the store's south. She has expanded her already large inventory of furniture, bed coverings, liners, draperies and more. Find Lala's at the same address, 100 Indian Rocks Road Call 240-1200 or visit LalasHome.com.

BLUFFS TACKLE AND MARINE COMING SOON Located on West Bay directly across from Publix, the store will offer bait and fishing tackle. Still under construction, they hope to open in a month or two.

SHINY TEETH OPENS Sand Key resident Dr. Gyles, a board-certified pediatric dentist with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, opened Shiny Teeth Pediatric Dentistry, a new state-of-the-art pediatric dental office, in the Belleair area. Dr. Gyles designed his new office with privacy and safety in mind. All dental care is provided in a dental treatment room - not in an open bay setting.



Prior to opening his own office, Dr. Gyles was the pediatric dental director of the NYU Langone, Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry's Florida residency program teaching the next generation of pediatric dentists.

Shiny Teeth Pediatric Dentistry accepts most insurances and is accepting new patients. Find them at 1180 Ponce De Leon Blvd (Suite 401). Visit ShinyTeethPediatricDentistry.com or call 727-310-0410.



LG NAIL SALON OPENS IN ISLAND ESTATES This new and modern salon offers nails (with dipping powder), waxing, threading, tinting, microblading, eyelash extensions, facials, and free champagne. If that is not enough—they are offering 20% off to get acquainted this month.

Find Lg Nail Salon at 134 Island Way, near Publix. Call 442-6789 for an appointment. Walk-ins accepted



Over 25 Years of Experience!

Affordable Care Assistance When You Need It

- Personal Care**
*Bathing, Grooming
Meal Preparation*
 - Light Housekeeping**
*Dusting, Vacuuming, Sweeping
Dishes, Laundry, Linens*
 - Transportation**
Appointments, Errands & Events
 - Companionship**
Conversation, Reminiscing
 - In-Home Respite Care**
Break for Primary Caregiver
- One Time, As Needed, or Daily Care
Available 24/7*



CARE PLACEMENT
Home Health Agency
Caring is Our Business

727-787-8677 • 813-884-6100
CarePlacementHH.com

Professional Home Care License #209660230 • Health Care License #209660466

RMF
Care Management, Inc.
Problem Solver for the Elderly

- Patient & Family Advocacy**
- Consulting**
- Care Management**
- Crisis Intervention**
- Placement Services**
(Skilled & Assisted Living Facilities)



"Our nursing team has provided professional guidance to our clients and their families for over 25 years."

Ruth Fanovich
RN, LHRM & Owner

727-787-8677 RMFHomeCare.com

LOVE THE LIFE YOU LIVE EVERYDAY
LET ME HELP YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE

AMBER DAVIS
 130 Island Way
 Clearwater Beach
 Florida 34707

SERVING ISLAND ESTATES AND THE BEACHES
CALL AMBER TODAY
727-743-2722

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
 REAL ESTATE = REAL INVESTMENT



4 STEPS IN SELECTING A MOVING COMPANY

By Brooke Anderson

With relatively low barriers to entry, there are literally 100s of moving companies across Tampa Bay. So how do you determine the “haves” from the “have nots”? Most consumers acquire 2-3 estimates before making a hiring decision. We asked Brooke and Josh Anderson, owners of Big Man’s Moving Company, for some must-ask questions when interviewing movers to compare apples to apples:

Step 1: Interpreting “Licensed and Insured”: Companies always say they are “licensed and insured”, however there is much more to the phrase. Company A is cheaper than the rest and their “licensed and insured” means they have a business license from the state of FL (Sunbiz.org) and insurance on their trucks. This does not protect the customer. Company B is licensed and insured with workers compensation on their W2 employees, general liability insurance, and cargo insurance. Company B will have a DOT #, and an IM # for intrastate moves, and an MC # for interstate moves.

Step 2: Who is coming into your home? Company A uses 1099 independent contractors (basically day laborers from Craigslist) who can be mowing lawns one day, bartending the next, and moving homes the following day. This information is never openly offered to the consumer. Company B employs full time, professional, uniformed movers who have been drug tested and background checked. They have a history of success with the company.

Step 3: Reliability: Has the mover ever “no showed” on moving day or canceled a move? Red flag!!! There are several factors that can give you peace of mind:

1. Agreement upon booking- Does the moving company send a contract to e-sign upon booking so they must legally show up? Do they take a deposit?
2. # of Movers- Some companies always send 3 movers on a truck. Why? If someone calls in sick, the move can still go on! This company will never cancel due to lack of manpower.
3. Reliable Trucks- When doing your research, did you see photos of the moving trucks? Did they look newer and well maintained? Another main reason movers cancel: truck maintenance issues.

Step 4: Research: Have you read reviews on Google, Facebook, Yelp, BBB, etc? Moving is a human business and sometimes mistakes happen, but reputable companies consistently maintain a 4.5-5 star ratings on all of the major sites. Has the company won any awards? Is it easy to research the company? Do they have a professional website? How does the owner or management handle disputes?

Big Man’s Moving Company has performed over 3300 successful local, statewide, and out-of-state moves since inception in January 2017 and was voted the #1 Mover in Tampa Bay. Bigmansmoving.com 727-772-3458.

The Locals Best Kept Secret!

Ryan's **Island Cafe**
 Clearwater Beach, FL

Google
 1,157 Reviews
 4.9 ★★★★★

SERVING BREAKFAST & LUNCH | BEER & WINE

432 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach

727-240-4799

Scan QR Code for FREE gift

Celebrating 6 Years in Clearwater Beach

Kilwins

“Sweet in every Sense since 1947”

391 Mandalay Ave ♦ Clearwater Beach
 (727) 400-6802 ♦ www.kilwins.com/clearwaterbeach

Business Briefs



JW MARRIOTT GROUND BREAKING

Work has finally started on a new JW Marriott being built on South Gulfview Blvd. This is a mixed used concept including 202 hotel rooms and 36 privately owned vacation rental units. Call 727-443-0321 for sales information.

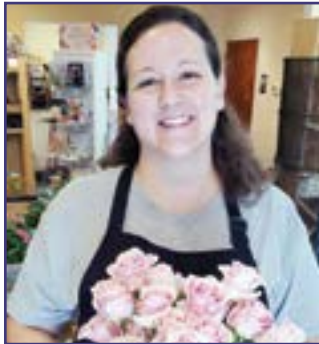
See their web site www.JWMARRIOTT.com.

95 YEARS OF FUN, MUSIC, AND GREAT FOOD The Palm Pavillion will be 95 on May 31. It is the oldest still operating restaurant on Clearwater Beach. The Hamilton family bought it on April 1st, 1964, 57 years ago and has owned it longer than any of the previous owners. In its beginning, The Palm was little more than a bath house to change your clothes, take a shower and buy a hot dog. Today, it is one of Clearwater's oldest and most beloved beach front restaurants.

CARLSON FLOWERS HAS A NEW OWNER

Kim Rocha, a longtime Carlson Wildwood Florist employee, bought the shop in January from Cheryl Pacheco. Otherwise, there are no other changes. Think of them when you need flowers - Mother's Day is coming soon, May 9th.

Call 446-4610 or visit CarlsonWildwoodFlorists.com.



EARTH DAY PLANT SALE Coastal Aire Design, now open in the location previously home of Petal and Vine, will be hosting an Earth Day patio party plant sale on April 22nd from 11am to 8pm. Find them at 596 Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs.

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP Francis Wilson Playhouse is offering an eight week three hour course featuring scene study, mime, improvisation and musical theatre singing. Included in the course: Cold Readings, Character Study, Scene Study from Classic Musicals, Vocal Technique, and Audition Preparation. This workshop will culminate in an on stage Showcase for a limited audience of family & friends. franciswilsonplayhouse.org



PATCHINGTON 35 YEARS

Belleair Bluffs was the first store in the Patchington company and has been open 35 years this month. It first opened in Clearwater in 1986 and later was moved to Belleair Bluffs. Besides selling ladies clothing and accessories, Patchington also contributes to many local charities, such as CASA and The American Heart Association.

Find them at 280 Indian Rocks Road North or call 586-6196. Pictured here is General Manager Emily Pavlinic.

MJ Detailing & Cleaning

Boat, Car, RV and Plane Detailing

Owner Mat Vasilenko Known for his Pro-customer High Quality Work




Mention this ad for \$100 OFF your first detail

- Topside Detailing
- Marine Ceramic Coating
- Top-of-the-Line Products
- Teak Restoration
- Engine Room Detailing
- Weekly, Biweekly, and Monthly Plans

Call Mat (941) 241-7687 or e-mail mjddlc8@gmail.com

TODAY'S MARKETS ARE WHY WE PLAN



R&A

FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Worried about your investments? A good financial plan takes the uncertainty out of tomorrow and lets you live your life today. It is never too late to begin, but the sooner the better. Please call me to find out more.

- ✓ Investment Planning
- ✓ Education Planning
- ✓ Retirement Planning
- ✓ Life Planning

Erin Emmett
Financial Planner
erin@roganfinancial.com

www.RoganFinancial.com

CALL 727.712.3400

Member SIPC

Summer Membership Special*

May 1 - September 30



Enjoy Waterfront Dining, Monthly Members Parties, Summer Events, Heated and Chilled Pool, Tiki Hut, Covid Safe Dining

NO Initiation Fee
\$200 a month
No Food/Beverage Minimum
Daytime Dockage as Available

*For use at CYC exclusively

830 Bayway Blvd., Clearwater Beach
(727) 447-6000 | office@clearwateryachtclub.org

Serving Clearwater Beach for over 30 years

The Harbor Barber

Walk-ins Only No Appointment Necessary

Owner/Barber Dan Beach



Specializing in Mens' Haircuts

Tuesday - Friday 7:30am - 5pm
Saturday 7:30am - 12 Noon
Closed Sunday & Monday

Clearwater Beach Marina
25 Causeway Blvd. #109 Clearwater Beach
727.442.6419 HarborBarberSalon.com

BIKES
Rental & Sales



CLEARWATER BEACH
PADDLEBOARD
&
RENTAL CO.

All Your Beach Rental Needs

Shop Our Retail Store
Patagonia • Costa • Columbia • YETI
OluKai • YOLO • Kala Ukuleles • Saltwater Hippie
Maul Jim • Ray-Ban • REEF • Gifts & More

Don't Forget Our Weekly
PADDLEFIT Classes

439 Poinsettia Ave. 727-444-0441
ClearwaterPaddleboardCo.com

PROUD TO BE ABLE TO CALL PINELLAS COUNTY A TREE CITY USA

By Pinellas County Commissioner Charlie Justice

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree."*

I thought the opening stanza from Joyce Kilmer's beloved 1913 poem *Trees* would put us in the right mood for this month's topic: Pinellas County's bountiful urban forest.

Our Urban Forestry and Landscape Services section is responsible for maintaining and managing a diverse, healthy, and sustainable urban forest within the county. While the division's responsibilities are far-ranging, its most acclaimed accomplishment is the national recognition we have received for our urban trees.

With Earth Day April 22, and National Arbor Day April 30, this is the perfect time to boast that Pinellas County has earned the Arbor Day Foundation's designation of Tree City USA for the fourth year in a row – plus the coveted Growth Award – for our commitment to urban forest management. What's more, Pinellas County has been named a Tree City of the World for the second year in a row.

The Tree Cities of the World program, an international effort by the Arbor Day Foundation in coordination with the Agriculture Association of the United Nations, recognizes communities committed to ensuring their urban forests and trees are "properly maintained, sustainably managed and duly celebrated." We were one of only 23 communities in the USA in the inaugural Tree Cities of the World class last year, and we're one of only 123 this year.

More than 150 Florida communities received the Tree City USA designation, including 11 Pinellas municipalities: Belleair, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, Seminole, St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs. We were one of only four Florida counties so honored.

The Growth Award is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement. The city of Tarpon Springs also earned the award.

Tree City USA is a national recognition program that began in 1976 and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. To qualify for the designation, a community must meet four standards:

- Have a tree board or department responsible for trees on city/county-owned property.
- Have a tree care ordinance that forms the foundation of a tree care program.
- Have a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita.
- Have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The much-coveted Tree City USA Growth Award celebrates continued improvement management efforts and skills beyond basic level of care. Our Urban Forestry team also received the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council. The award recognizes the design and implementation of our Urban Forestry services and education programs as exemplary among Florida State municipal programs.

As our forward-thinking Urban Forestry & Landscape Services section manager Michael DePappa recently pointed out, trees play a vital role in our everyday lives. When communities manage trees properly, our green infrastructure becomes more resilient, sustainable, and equitable. Trees planted today will offer social, environmental, and economic benefits for years to come.

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree."*

As always, if you have questions or comments, call my office at (727) 464-3363 or email me at cjustice@pinellascounty.org.

THE FUTURE OF NORTH WARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Two schools were built around the middle of the first decade of 1900, both serving the children of Clearwater. Called North Ward and South Ward, both schools were located on Ft Harrison Road. Children south of Cleveland Street went to South Ward and children north of Cleveland Street went to North Ward. It was that simple.

Both buildings are no longer schools. South Ward has been refurbished into the home of the Clearwater Historical Society Museum., North Ward however is whole different story. Built in 1915, the old red brick school building remained an operating school until 2009. Now, it stands as a vacant monument to ninety-four years of teaching and learning. Thousands of Clearwater children have walked its halls.

In 2019 the City of Clearwater purchased the 2-acre site at 900 North Ft Harrison from the Pinellas County School District for \$1.8 million. Now, they are trying to decide what to do with it.

"It might be best to register the building on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a time-consuming process but could protect the building's existence should an outside developer try to buy it," says Gina Clayton, the City's Planning and Development Director. "This could also help with future funding and grants or tax credits to developers."

"Our first step, since acquiring the old school is to stabilize the building and protect it," Clayton adds. The city approved \$75,000 to do that. The city also is hiring a consultant to study all the possibilities. They have offered nine case studies thus far, such as creating something like Armature Works in Tampa which houses a variety of users. It could also house apartments, a museum, a food hall or a variety of all of that. The City will decide North Ward's fate in the near future.

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

Seafood DIRECT

Dedicated to providing quality seafood delivered to your door

- Fresh and frozen seafood
- Fresh, high quality fish
- Large variety of both

Place Your Order Today
www.seafooddirectflorida.com
 (813) 310-8422

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for weekly specials

A SLICE OF ROME
 ROMAN-STYLE PIZZA

GET **25% OFF** YOUR ORDER*
MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT

727-281-3001
SLICE-OF-ROME.COM
 33 BAYMONT ST., CLEARWATER BEACH

*APPLICABLE TO DINE-IN & TAKEOUT ORDERS ONLY. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR REDEMED VIA MOBILE DELIVERY APPS. EXPIRES MAY 31, 2021

Buying? Selling? Leasing?
 Call Laura, the Beach Ambassador to make the process like A DAY AT THE BEACH!

BE CLEARWATER STRONG

LAURA YEAGER, REALTOR®
 813-431-2754
 BeachAmbassador@gmail.com

SAND KEY REALTY

Community News...

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County presented Baby Basics with a donation of \$11,050 on March 25, 2021. Baby Basics' mission is to provide free diapers, kindness, and a sense of community to low-income working families. All monetary donations go directly to buying quality diapers. This charity is simple but so very vital to these families. The group will also receive a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation.

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. For each meeting, the members have the opportunity to nominate a charity, three of the nominated charities 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 \$307,200 to local charities. The next quarterly meeting (with options of both Zoom and live) will be 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18th at Cove Cay Golf Club, located at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information.

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They are planning their 50th anniversary celebration luncheon on May 20, at the Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater Beach, from 11 am - 2 pm.

At this luncheon, in addition to the Fabulous 50th Anniversary celebration recognizing charter members, past presidents, and past and present Volunteers of the Year, there will be a DJ, playing songs from the past 50 years, a guest speaker, acclaimed author Ashley Rhodes-Courter and the Daisy Grants awards will be awarded.

There will be drawings for 50-50 and opportunity baskets. In an abundance of caution, reservations, sales of basket tickets and 50-50 tickets as well as donations are to be made in advance. This can be done online at GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org under the Events tab, or call 727-726-6410 or 813-765-6219 for more information and reservations. Credit cards are accepted. Admission is \$50, which includes lunch.

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key. Founded in 1991, current membership includes eighteen condo associations and nine businesses researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county and state levels. Our association participates in The Barrier Island Government Council and The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and also holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the board continues to meet via "Zoom" video conferencing; however, interested members may now also attend as observers. Look for a registration link in the e-mail announcing each month's agenda, or obtain the link at sandkeycivicassociation.org. Contact the secretary at skcainc@aol.com, with questions.

BELLEAIR WOMEN REPUBLICAN CLUB

For May's meeting, the Belleair Women's Republican Club will host Rep. Nick DiCeglie, a Republican member of the Florida Legislature representing the 66th House District, which includes part of Pinellas County. Rep. DiCeglie, a resident of Indian Rocks Beach, is a small business owner and has been a member of the Florida Legislature since 2018. He will give a post-legislative session summary.

The meeting will be held on Friday, May 7, from 11:30 am to 2 pm at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, FL 33756.

No walk-ins will be permitted. A check for \$26, payable to BWRC, confirms a reservation and should be sent to arrive by April 30th. Checks 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.

CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Clearwater Free Clinic's annual golf tournament fundraiser will be held Monday, May 24, in loving memory of CFC Board Member & community activist, John Meek. The Clearwater Free Clinic has sustained its operations throughout the pandemic, introducing telemedicine and a safe medication check out process. Their volunteer-driven, medical and mental health programming ensures our uninsured neighbors earning incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level have access to comprehensive, life changing healthcare. Attendees of the John H. Meek, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will enjoy 18-holes of golf at Innisbrook's Championship Copperhead Course, a casual cocktail hour and auction, plus plenty of fun and prizes! 2021 marks the CFC's 20th annual golf tournament fundraiser supporting the CFC's programs. Lunch begins at 11:30 am with a Shotgun Start at 1 pm.

For information, visit clearwaterfreeclinic.org/meekgolf or call 727-443-3504 & pledge your sponsorship commitment. Space is limited – please register soon!

CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY & RECREATION

The Family Aquatic Center is now open. This state-of-the-art facility includes six 25-yard lap swimming lanes, a large water slide, and a children's play area that provides squirting water fountains, a "raindrop" waterfall, a fiberglass frog slide and a water basketball goal. The pool depth ranges from 1'-3' in the children's area, and 3'-5' in the lap swim area. Tables with chairs and lounge chairs are available. Large shade structures offer protection from the hot sun. Visit MyClearwater.com for admission prices.

Hours through April 30: Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun., Noon to 5 pm. May 1-June 9: Mon. - Fri., Noon to 7 pm, Sat. & Sun., 10 am to 5 pm.

Pickleball - Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 am to noon. Tue. & Thu., noon to 3 pm. Free

Pickleball Lessons with Dan, \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour. Call Dan at 462-6138 to schedule.

Cardio BEST - Mon., 9:15 a.m.

Private Tennis Lessons - \$50/hour private lesson. \$25/hour semi-private lesson, call 462-6138 to schedule.

Yoga - Tue. & Thu., 9:15 a.m.

Personal Training with Kim, 45 minutes sessions 462-6138
Group Tennis Lessons - Monday evenings- call 462-6138

We're having our cake, and **gifting** you!

Did you know Radiance Medspa is turning 15!?

Let us celebrate! We are so grateful to you, our Radiant friends, for helping us grow year after year & become one of the leading medspas in the region. It has been our pleasure to help you look and feel great both inside and out for 15 years!

For a limited time, in celebration of our birthday, **we are giving you a 15% off everything all month long!** Let our expert medical staff help you eliminate smile lines, erase unwanted fat, contour your cheeks, smooth wrinkles, tighten the skin, erase age spots, and give you the glowing radiant look you deserve!

Come Celebrate with Us!

Some exclusions apply. Offer valid 4/1/2021-5/15/2021

Call **727-518-7100** to schedule a complimentary consultation today!



727-518-7100 • 2894 West Bay Drive Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770 • www.RadianceMedspa.com/covid19



Bar & Restaurant News

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 11AM TO 10 PM

WATERFRONT LUNCH & DINNER 727-517-7383

Backwaters

WATERFRONT GRILL & TAVERN

Where the Locals Eat & Drink!

Steaks - Seafood - Sandwiches - Fun
Happy Hour Daily 2:30 - 6:30

1261 GULF BLVD., SAND KEY ON THE BOARDWALK
KEEPING YOU SAFE THROUGHOUT THIS PANDEMIC



VIP MEXICAN RESTAURANT OPENS Nick and Michele Rapisardi, owners of the VIP, are undergoing a soft opening of their Indian Rocks Beach restaurant. Temporarily, they are only open 4 to 10pm with a limited menu while they continue to hire and train more kitchen staff.

While approved for 250 seats, they only plan to open half of it for now and ease into full capacity. They are located at 213 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach.

SEKUSHI SUSHI IN BELLEAIR BLUFF Belleair resident Frank Manella is opening his latest sushi restaurant in Belleair Bluffs at the north end of The Plaza, where AAA Travel was.

Frank says, "the new Sekushi Sushi restaurant will have a full liquor bar with plenty of outdoor dining. We will also have a dedicated area for curbside pick-up. We are shooting for an opening in late June or early July."

He has two other sushi restaurants - one in Las Vegas and one in Clearwater Beach. The Clearwater Beach restaurant is expanding by adding a rooftop bar.

CRABBY'S EXPANDING TO JOHN'S PASS Beachside Hospitality Group, the owner of eleven restaurants around the state including Clearwater's Crabby's Dockside, Crabby's Beach Walk, and Salty's Island Bar & Grille is expanding into Treasure Island. They recently announced they have leased the site of the former "Gator's Café" on the south side of John's Pass. Gator's closed at the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and never reopened.

The new restaurant will be called "Crabby's on the Pass" and will feature traditional American seafood in a casual waterfront atmosphere. You will still be able to go by boat and dock at their back door. They plan to have live music seven days a week, and will have for banquet and meeting rooms. "This is a long-term investment for us," says Julia Cassino, Marketing Director for Beachside. "Our goal is to be there for a long time."

Look for this location to open soon.

GOOD STUFF EATERY READY TO OPEN This new place for burgers on the south end of the beach is almost ready to open. Good Stuff Eatery, located on BeachWalk is on the west side of the Hyatt Regency on the ground level. It is owned by Dimitri Sioutis, who owns We The Pizza and Gondolier Pizza in Clearwater Beach.

HOGAN'S HANGOUT FINALLY OPENS Open from 11am to 3am with live music daily, they have a complete menu and also sell Hogan merchandise. They also offer a roof top bar. Get more information and see the menu at www.HogansHangOut.com.

Hogan's is located at 499 Mandalay Avenue.



Get a Taste of Sand Key

Rusty's
bistro

SHERATON
Sand Key Resort

marriott.com/tpasi
727-595-1611
1160 Gulf Boulevard
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

Bar & Restaurant News

HOOTERS DONATES \$53,000

Hooters of Clearwater presented a \$52,905 check to Moffitt Cancer Center as part of an ongoing fundraising promotion at all area Hooters locations, including Mandalay Avenue. The proceeds from the "GIVE-A-HOOT" promotion supports a grant through the V Foundation for Cancer Research. It will assist the cutting-edge work Moffitt, and its researchers are doing in the cancer research.



The February grant was awarded to Dr. Hatem Soliman, Medical Director of the clinical trials in Moffitt's Breast Cancer Oncology program, by Ed Droste, owner and co-founder of Hooter's Management Corporation in Clearwater.

Since 2002, Hooters has donated over \$912,905 to the Moffitt Cancer Center, thanks to the help of its customers.

NEW BEACH FOOD HALL The Clearwater Beach Marina building has a new concept, it is becoming a food hall. The three levels include six bars and ten individual concepts.

It is a food-lover's dream with the waterfront views at the Clearwater Marina. Choose from ten diverse concepts such as sushi, Mexican, stone oven pizza, good ole southern seafood cookin', ice cream, sandwiches and more. There is something for everyone, all at one convenient location.

GERSTLE'S OPENS

Located in the space previously occupied by Smoke and Barrel, Gerstle's Bar and Grill recently opened.



This is the second location for the Gerstle's. The first has been a fixture for decades in Louisville and dates back to 1924. "We plan to take some Kentucky flare from Louisville and bring it to Clearwater Beach," says Erik White, one of the owners. "We are also bringing that style of food as well as a selection of Kentucky bourbon. We want to keep everything you would find at Gerstle's in Louisville."

They have an open-air atmosphere, with live music every night. In addition, you will find ten indoor TVs, ten outdoor TVs, a 10-foot video wall and a large bar with full liquor.

They opened in March and when fully staffed plan to employ 30-40 people.

Gerstle's is at 735 Bayway Blvd., next to Brown Boxer South.

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.

Shorty's

ON THE DECK

PASTA DISHES
GROUPEr SANDWICHES
GOURMET DELI
CATERING



HUNGRY?
Breakfast **ALL DAY**
plus Lunch & Dinner
7 days a week/7 am - 11 pm.



FULL SERVICE GROCERY
Beer, Wine, Special Coffees,
Snacks, & More

In the Shoppes of Sand Key Next To Backwaters
1261 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater Beach
727-596-5100



Moonlight
AUTOMOTIVE
727-446-1800

Dependable Service for the Road Ahead!

Complete auto repair in a friendly atmosphere
with a courteous, professional staff to help
you with any questions or concerns.

10% OFF REPAIRS

new clients when mentioning the ad

All Repairs:
12 months, 12,000
miles warranty

FREE ESTIMATES



Moonlight Automotive - 727-446-1800
1172 Turner Street, Clearwater

Community News...

Celebrating 15 Years in Belleair Bluffs
BELLA VINO WINE & CHEESE MARKET
 EST. 2005



LARGE WINE SELECTION – LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN
ARTISAN CHEESES, MEATS, AND CAVIAR
CIGARS & CRAFT BEERS
BEAUTIFUL GIFT BASKETS
PREMIUM WINES BY THE GLASS
DELICIOUS LIGHT BITES
LOCAL DELIVERY PLUS WINE SHIPPING TO 39 STATES



Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market, 100 Indian Rocks Road, N. Belleair Bluffs
 Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, THURS-SAT 10am-7pm, SUN 10am-5pm | 727-594-0032 | www.bellavinowineandcheesemarket.com

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Annual Clearwater Garden Club Mothers Day Plant Sale is back. This year will be bigger and better than ever and it will be outside in their fabulous yard for good social distancing. The Club has held a plant sale around Mother’s Day for many years, this year they will feature hundreds of young plants and flowers locally grown by their members. Additionally, Clearwater Community Gardens will be offering hundreds of herbs and vegetables grown at the gardens for sale at very reasonable prices.

The Plant Sale takes place in the gardens of The Clearwater Garden Club located at 405 Seminole Street at the corner of Ft Harrison Ave on Saturday May 1st from 8 am to Noon. Most plants are locally grown and priced under \$5. This is a great way for you to say I Love You to Mom or to spruce up your flower and vegetable gardens with locally grown plants. In addition to the plants there will be tools, pots, gardening books, and vendors.

Plants are priced from \$1 to \$5 with a few higher exceptions. Available are flowers, herbs, plants, trees, vegetables and some tools! All marked and ready to go.

The Garden Club is celebrating their 71st birthday and is one of the oldest local Not-for-Profit organizations. Their Mission is to educate members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, artistic design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, garden therapy and environmental/nature studies. For more information, visit facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub/ or clearwatergardenclub.com. Contact Paul Keleti, Chairman, 727-316-5504, clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Join them for their 6th Annual Tour of Public & Private Gardens, Sunday, May 2nd from 10 am-4 pm. Docents will lead small-group tours between 10 am-12 pm at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. From noon to 4 pm, exceptional public and private gardens will be open for touring at your leisure, via a self-guided map, and using your personal transportation.

Cost is \$40 per person, Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Members receive a discounted price of \$25. Tickets: www.flbgfoundation.org/gardentourregistration

FREEFALL THEATRE COMPANY

During the pandemic, the theatre company has hosted a series of outdoor shows that the audience watches from their cars, similar to an old fashioned drive-in theater.

Their latest show *Leonard Bernstein’s New York* runs through May 9, Wed-Sun at 8pm. Order tickets online, freefalltheatre.com or via phone at 727-498-5205.

The concert revue explores the music of Leonard Bernstein and the city that inspired so much of his life and work. This is an evening packed with beloved hits from shows like *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, and *Wonderful Town*. Stellar voices, live band, and some of the greatest melodies written for the New York stage make this a rousing celebration of Broadway.

This production is on an outdoor stage with audiences experiencing the drive-in style from their vehicles. Combining live musical performance, audio storytelling, and multimedia elements, the audio for this performance will be broadcast to your vehicle via its FM radio. Please note that admission is by vehicle (up to 4 occupants) and general admission within two sections. To ensure the best possible experience for all patrons, vehicles will be parked in the best available spot in the chosen section, based on the size of vehicle

pizza | wings | salads | beer

CLEARWATER'S *newest* HOT SPOT

WE, THE PIZZA
with
SUNSET VIEWS



Directly across the sand on the ground floor of the newly restored Hyatt Hotel

727.437.4040 | wethepizza.com
 301 Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach

Community News...

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are pleased to offer a Summer 2021 Membership program, effective from May 1 – Sept. 30, 2021.

There is no initiation fee and dues are \$200 a month with no monthly food & beverage minimum. This membership is for use at CYC exclusively and includes daytime dockage at CYC when available.

At the close of the summer membership, the Summer Member in good standing may be offered membership in a class of their choice (Full, Social, or Junior) at the current offer rates for dues and initiation. Prospective members can only take advantage of one Summer membership program.

Call or email the office for more details 727 -447-6000 or office@clearwateryachtclub.org

Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country. You don't need a boat to join in their fun. As a private club, they offer monthly parties, waterfront dining, a heated and chilled pool and safe Covid dining.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Join them Sunday May 2 for a Trash or Treasure Community Yard Sale (11am-2pm) and a Pop-up Party (1-4pm) in The Market parking lot with entertainment and food and beverage sales. Bring your chair and spend the afternoon. All are welcome.

A message from the new President Michelle Chenault:

There are no words to adequately express how sad we are over the sudden loss of the sitting IECA President, Don Ewing, on March 10, 2021. He died of complications with pneumonia. This would have been his 6th year volunteering on the Executive Board of IECA.

As the new President, I want to express that Island Estates Civic Association is here to serve you. But lets be real . . . I am here to serve you and all of the wonderful Board members are here to serve you. We are people like you that live in Island Estates and LOVE this community!

My first objective as President, is to sincerely ENCOURAGE CONNECTION. It is a basic human need, but most of us are really bad at it. Like me, it is very easy to lose touch with your friends and neighbors when you work and other responsibilities take you away. With these current challenges of socializing, let's try to put connecting with our community in the forefront of our needs. I hope you will join me in reaching out to your neighbors to introduce yourself . . . GIVE connection rather than just wait to receive it. IECA gives just such an opportunity:

STEP ONE: Please connect to Island Estates Civic Association to learn more about how you can meet your neighbors and strengthen the community. www.myislandestates.org

STEP TWO: Give your neighbors your contact info so if they need anything, they know how to reach you and keep you in the know on happenings in the neighborhood.

DALI MUSEUM

Enrollment is now open for their Junior Docent Art Camp. At this week-long camp, children discover new ways to interpret and create art, meet new friends and have fun. This year's theme will focus on surreal inventions and the ways surrealist art reimagined the world. The Museum offers week long camps in both face-to-face and online versions.

Junior Docent Art Camp is open to Elementary and Middle School students, ages 9-14. Students will be divided into smaller break-out groups to allow for age-appropriate instruction and social interaction. Visit www.thedali.org.

Carlson Wildwood Florist
 Flowers and Gifts
 For all occasions
 in the Perfect Blend
 of Classical and
 Contemporary



10% DISCOUNT
 If you mention this ad

727.446.4610
 1488 Clearwater Largo Rd., Largo

Italian Restaurant and Pizza
 Open 8AM to Midnight Everyday

Celebrating 31 Years in Clearwater Beach



GONDOLIER

LUNCH SPECIALS!

Pasta - Pizza - Gyros
 Salads - Sandwiches
 Hamburgers
 Kids Menu

Variety of European Desserts

SERVING ALL DAY

-Domestic & Imported Beers & Wine-
BREAKFAST SERVED 8AM- 2PM

674 Gulfview Blvd. Clearwater Beach
 Phone: (727) 441-3353 Fax: (727) 443-2961
 Visit our Web site: www.gondolierpizza.com

The Bait House
 Tackle & Tavern

In the Clearwater Marina

Great Food
 Cold Beer
 Bait
 Charters



Fabulous Sunsets, too!

Serving Clearwater Beach for over 60 years!
 45 Causeway Blvd. Clearwater Beach
 Restaurant 446-8134 • Charters 647-2930
www.ClearwaterBaitHouse.com

How Do They Do That?

DUFFY'S GOLF STUDIO IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS

Last month, Duffy's Golf Studio celebrated its tenth year. John Duffy opened the small golf shop in the Belleair Shopping Center in 2011. As part of Duffy's celebration, he sold the business to Nick Becerra and retired.

Becerra was looking for a golf related business opportunity and saw Duffy's online Tampa Bay sales listing. He was immediately interested.

Growing up in New York, just north of Manhattan, Becerra played golf in high school. He was good and had a scratch handicap and a best ever score of 67. His handicap was .5—basically zero.

He attended the University of South Carolina where golf is a really big thing. "I bumped into Steve Spurrier on the campus golf course on many an afternoon after football practice," says Becerra about those days. "But I did not play on the school's team; I was never good enough to make the team there."

"I do really love golf," Becerra explains. "I knew I wanted to somehow be in the golf business." After college he started looking for opportunities.



Nick Becerra, new owner

With the help of a business broker, he found Duffy's and bought the business January 1st.

But what is a Golf Studio? And what does Becerra do?

"People who haven't been here before walk in the shop and ask, 'what do you do here?'. Most of them are golfers, of course," Becerra chuckles.



John Duffy, now retired

"Primarily, we analyze golfers and their equipment and help them form a better match," he explains.

"Many people think we sell golf equipment, like tees and balls. We do not. We do however sell clubs. But primarily, we fix, and custom adjust a player's equipment. We do not teach or offer golf lessons. Instead, we study our client's mechanics and adjust their equipment to match their swing," Becerra says.

"Every player should have their loft and lies checked," Becerra emphasizes.

The lie is the angle that the club shaft goes into the club head. Each club has a standard lie angle. Standard clubs can either be flattened or made more upright. Flattening the club will decrease the lie angle whereas increasing the angle will make a club more upright.

"It is important to have the proper lie because it effects the way you contact the ball. If your lie is off, your ability to find the sweet spot on the club will also be off," Becerra explains.

"Most golfers have clubs that are too upright," adds Becerra. "This makes playing golf harder. If the club is too upright, you will make contact with the ground toe first," he adds. "Toe first contact will open the face of the club and the golfer may miss the shot. If the club is too flat, the golfer will make contact heel first. Heel first contact will close the clubface and the golfer will miss to the left."

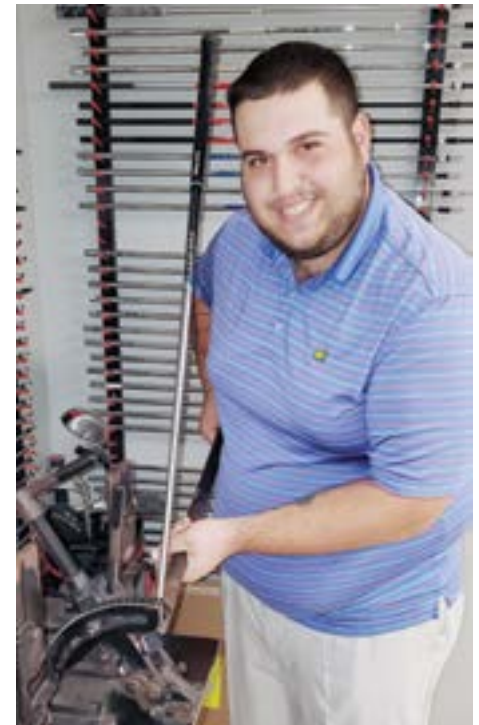
"When the club has the right lie, you will contact the ground with the center of the club sole, creating straighter and more powerful shots," he concludes.

Clubs can be ordered at a specific angle or standard clubs can be retrofitted to fill player's needs.

"Loft/Lie fittings are the most cost effective way to improve your game," Becerra adds. "I recommend you have a club analysis before you decide the solution to improving your game is buying a new driver."

Fittings can cost as little as \$50 and take about 30 minutes. You can schedule a lie fitting in person, over the phone by calling the store at 330-7830 or online by visiting www.DuffysGolfStudio.com.

Most of Becerra's customers (about 75 percent) book an appointment, but about 25 percent just walk in. Many



Becerra adjusts a club

are repeat customers.

Find Duffy's Golf Studio in the Belleair Shopping Plaza, at 2928 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs, next to Panera Bread. Stop by and welcome Nick Becerra to the neighborhood.



NORTH BEACH
 483 MANDALAY AVE
 CLEARWATER BEACH, FL
 (727) 441-6000



TheBrownBoxer.com



SOUTH BEACH
 483 MANDALAY AVE
 CLEARWATER BEACH, FL
 (727) 286-8906

LIVE MUSIC
 NIGHTLY

KITCHEN OPEN
 DAILY 11AM -2AM

HAPPY HOUR
 MON-FRI 11AM-7PM

CLEARWATER BEACH'S
 #1 PUB EXPERIENCE

FAMILY
 FRIENDLY



NATURE CENTER TAKING SHAPE ON CALADESI ISLAND

By Tom Germond, TBN Correspondent

Call it a labor of love. Construction of a nature center is underway on Caladesi Island after years of planning and fundraising efforts.

Design for the Caladesi Discovery Center has been completed and construction began in September. It is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer 2021, said Alexandra Kuchta, Florida Department of Environmental Protection deputy press secretary.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$1.6 million with about \$724,000 of that coming from DEP.

Friends of the Island Parks President George Skalkeas said the nonprofit organization has raised more than \$900,000 for the Caladesi Discovery Center since about 2010.

The center will be an open-air facility at the old observation tower site at Caladesi Island State Park.

A new observation deck at a height of approximately 25 feet above ground level will provide visitors a panoramic view of the undeveloped barrier island. The center will provide hands-on exhibits.

"We've got some ideas," Skalkeas said. "The concept of the project — why are we building this — we want to show the history of the people who live there. We want to talk about the habitat, the wildlife, all that kind of stuff, in general. The final exhibits, if you will, will be determined by the park manager," he said.

The 600-member organization had created a capital campaign over the years and designated proceeds from events such as Island Earth Days for the Discovery Center.

Since the facility has to be ADA compliant, one of the most common ways to accomplish that was to build a ramp.

"But we didn't want to do a ramp. Because it would have been as big as the structure and it would have been unsightly. And nobody uses the ramps anyway," Skalkeas said.

So the organization came up with the concept of an elevator, which drove costs up.

"We think it's vital to the project, and we think that it's going to be greatly appreciated by the park visitors," Skalkeas said.

The Friends were fortunate to have a benefactor, the

Francis and Gertrude Levett Foundation of St. Petersburg, he said.

"They have given us close to \$300,000, and that will be duly noted in the building itself. We certainly plan to make the world aware of that fortunate occurrence for us," Skalkeas said.

Admission fees are not expected to be charged for entrance alone to the center, said Skalkeas, who loves visiting Honeymoon Island and has been volunteering at the parks since 2004.

Bill Francisco, who is on the board of directors for the Friends, said the organization was glad that about a year ago the DEP said the Discovery Center met the criteria for being a state project and is supervising construction.

"We are really a citizens service organization," he said.

As a state agency, DEP does not solicit donations for construction projects, Kuchta said.

"However, we work closely with partner organizations, such as the Friends of the Island Parks, to advance our missions," she said.

Caladesi Island is one of the few undeveloped barrier islands on Florida's Gulf Coast, Kuchta said.

"The new Caladesi Island Discovery Center will provide our residents and visitors with an opportunity to connect with one of Florida's most unique natural

resources," she said. The project will preserve and restore the original observation tower site at Caladesi Island State Park. While some aspects of that site were updated or modernized, others — such as the original perimeter wall — were preserved, Kuchta said.

Skalkeas said the Friends will continue to raise more money for the exhibits and displays, yet to be determined, and will continue to help with elevator maintenance costs for the next ten years.

"We will be very proud when this thing gets done," he said.

Rendering courtesy of the FRIENDS OF THE ISLAND PARKS

The Caladesi Island Discovery Center is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer.





727-470-9237

We will take care of your dirty laundry

EVERY DAY 7AM-10PM OPEN



NOW OFFERING IN 3 EASY STEPS: NO CONTACT LAUNDRY SERVICE

- 1 CALL TO SCHEDULE PICK UP 813-304-0670
- 2 WE PICK UP & PROVIDE YOU LAUNDRY BAGS
- 3 WASH/ DRY AND FOLD TO YOUR DOOR

LAUNDRY SANITIZER AVAILABLE

BEST IN TOWN

CLEARWATER LAUNDROMAT 1499 S MLK Jr Ave Clearwater

Commercially, We proudly service Hotels, Nursing Homes, Air B-N-B's, using our trusted methods of sanitizing.

We can also take care of your dirty laundry, so you don't have to!



Pick up and Delivery Time 1pm-5pm www.ClearwaterLaundromat.com

Find us on Instagram and Facebook

WITH A VIEW LIKE THIS...



YOUR KIDS WILL WANT TO STAY TOO!



THE OAKS OF CLEARWATER

Call today for more information.

727-445-4069

All-Inclusive Living is closer than you think.

SCAN ME TO SEE PICTURES!

www.theoaksofclearwater.com

Sunset Cruises

off Clearwater Beach

2 SHEA CHARTERS



SCAN ME

Complimentary Champagne Toast Beer and Wine available

(727) 798-1269

www.clearwatersunsetboat.com

VISIT NEARBY SILVER SPRINGS - A FLORIDA CLASSIC

Story & Photos by Bob Griffin, Publisher
Have you ever been to Silver Springs? It is right next door to Ocala, Florida.

In March, my wife and I took our recently purchased camper-trailer to a Ocala campground to visit the Springs for the day. Before that, the last time I was there was over 50 years ago when I attended a statewide Boy Scouts Jamboree there. It is about 125 miles - slightly over 2 hours - from our house in Indian Rocks Beach. It may take a little longer if you are pulling a camper.

The history of Silver Springs goes back centuries. Evidence has been found that the first Neolithic people (Florida's cavemen) lived there. Later, Timucua Indians frequented the springs. The Spanish left relics during their reign (1560 to 1821). Before Florida became a territory, the Seminole Indians lived in the area during the early 1800s.



After Florida became a territory in 1822, the headwaters of nearby Ocklawaha River became important for shipping products and people in and out of Florida. This further developed in the 1850s. Pole barges and special steam steamships made their way from Jacksonville to the big spring and further after the introduction of railroads into the center of the State.

In the 1860s, Samuel Howse bought 242 acres surround the springs. After the Civil War, Silver Springs, as it became known, along with Ocala, began to attract tourists. The area received national attention through tourist journals and guidebooks and became a must-see stop on a Florida grand tour.

In 1870, Hullam Jones and Phillip Morrell fixed a piece of glass to the bottom of a small rowboat inventing their famous "glass-boat boat."

C. Carmichael bought 80 of the surrounding acres for less than \$3,000

in 1909 and retrofitted the tour boats with cushioned seats and canopies.

By 1924, Shorty Davidson and Carl Ray had acquired the rights to the park and improved the tourist attraction by adding gasoline-powered Glass Bottom Boats. They later added zoological displays and demonstrations.

Now famous herpetologist Ross Allen joined their team and opened "The Ross Allen Reptile Institute" with a reptile show. In 1932 the glass bottom boats were converted to electric motors.

Tarzan movies were filmed at the springs. The first one, in 1935, was "Tarzan the Ape Man." It was followed by five more, all starring Johnny Weissmuller, filmed between 1935 and the early 1940s.

Silver Springs was the set of about twenty other movies and TV shows, including "Rebel Without A Cause," the James Bond movie "Moonraker," "Creature from the Black Lagoon," and episodes of the TV show "Sea Hunt" (1958-1961).

In 1916, "The Seven Swans" was the first movie filmed in Silver Springs. It included underwater photography and cinematography and the equipment for underwater filming was invented in Silver Springs for that movie.

The area around the spring has troupes of wild monkeys. People mistakenly believe the monkeys escaped from the Tarzan movies. However, they were brought to the area in 1930 as an upgrade to the tourist attraction and allowed to roam free on an island for visitors to watch from boats. The owners of the park did not realize monkeys can swim. They quickly tired of the island and left. Today, their population is estimated to be 400.

In its heyday, Silver Springs was the largest tourist attraction in Florida, drawing over 800,000 people per year. At the time, the Florida was still segregated and the owners of the attraction created Paradise Park about a mile from the springs. The recreational facility was "for colored people only," as its sign said. It too had glass-bottom boats and herpetologist exhibits, and drew an additional 100,000 people a year.

Silver Springs began admitting Black patrons in 1967 and closed Paradise Park in 1969. Today it is covered in underbrush.

With the opening of Disney World in



1971 and additional tourist attractions in Florida, attendance started to wane.

The State of Florida bought the land around Silver Springs in 1985 and it is now Silver River State Park, fully protected from commercial development. The State later acquire the attraction, as well.

The condition of the water has been affected by fertilizer run off and septic outflow containing nitrates. This has led to an overgrowth of brown algae destroying the river's habitat. The schools of fish in the nearby Silver River has been noticeably reduced as well.

Today, the number of people visiting the park is a fraction of what it was. Regardless, Silver Springs still operates its Glass Bottom Boats seven days a week, with a nice garden area attached.

The cost of admittance to the park is only \$2. Kids are free. The normal 30-minute boat ride is \$11.



A special 90-minute boat tour operates Friday, through Sunday for \$25; Reserved in advance, though as it sells out quickly.

The park is open seven days a week, even during Covid-19 restrictions and also offers canoe, paddleboard and Kayak rentals. The park does offer camping, but like all Florida State Parks, camping sites are hard to come by.

You should see this nearby natural treasure. It is located at Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL 34488, www.SilverSprings.com

Marina Market & Food Hall

Eat. Drink. Fish. Party.

25 Causeway Blvd, Clearwater

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Marina Cantina | Salt Cracker Fish Camp | Poke Havana |
| Roundabout Pizza | Bar Tiki | Taco Willy's |
| Blowfish Sushi | Shuck It Raw Bar | Cool Cookie |
| Salt Cracker Charters | Causeway Bar | Beach Shoppe |
| Harbor Barber | Remax Realty | Pirate's Pantry |



Three levels. Six bars. Ten concepts.

A food-lover's dream with waterfront views at the Clearwater Marina.

Visit BaystarRestaurantGroup.com for all locations & details



FREERIDESUSA

CLEARWATER BEACH
FREE LOCAL RIDES
CLEARWATER BEACH
ISLAND ESTATES
SAND KEY
727.424.5458

Order a Ride - **DOWNLOAD 'FREE RIDES USA'**

Don't Drink and Drive...

FREERIDESUSA
CLEARWATER BEACH
727.424.5458

Order a FREE RIDE

Which would you rather ride in...
BOTH ARE FREE!

There's NEVER a reason to drive impaired!
We pick you up, drive you home, then take you back to your car
the next day...ALL FOR FREE!

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT \$49

ST. PETE - CLEARWATER AIRPORT \$35

Order a Ride
DOWNLOAD 'FREE RIDES USA'

727.424.5458

 @freeridesusa  Free Rides Clearwater Beach

"I MIGHT BE SCHIZOPHRENIC, BUT I'M NOT CRAZY"

By Francine Fuentes

The word "CRAZY" could apply to any one of us, at certain times in our lives. We are complicated beings. We could be a product of our upbringing or we might just be who we were destined to be. We all try to do the best we can, as I'd like to think my parents did.

My poetry speaks to my experiences before my brother was born, growing up with him, how I dealt with the fear of abandonment and continue to fight the effects of a dysfunctional family that tried to survive a lot of adversities. My words carry to the present day. This is how I feel. No one can tell a family how to be or feel. It can be a different experience for everyone.

Labels are for products, not people. Do we stereotype consciously or unconsciously? When we see someone for the time, have we already decided who they are, who they can be and what their limitations are?

Making a difference in someone's life for even a moment could be as simple as a smile, a blanket, paying for their ride to a shelter or showing them how to do something they thought they were incapable of learning. Remembering that often the mentally ill have no family or support of any kind. They are lost and often forgotten.

Unfortunately, preconceived notions can often impact how we relate to other people. And, when we talk down to people, it can affect the way they see their selves for their entire lifetime. I was one of the lucky ones. I have a voice as do you. No one should leave this world unnoticed.

I have always been drawn to helping those that struggle. Being told I was not capable of success from a very young age, I weaved a pattern of my own, showing others that they can learn, dream and be successful! In turn, it opened out of the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities for her. I earned a certificate in Business Entrepreneurship which helped shape my desire to write my first book and speak numerous times at colleges throughout Florida on the subject of judgment, labeling and making a difference in others' lives.

I was born in Philadelphia, but currently resides in Island Estates. Married to Al and mother of son, Gabriel I have quickly learned I don't have most of the answers although I certainly have experienced many of the lessons. My brother taught me a lesson - always notice the mentally ill and the homeless. They were born to someone. They deserve life. We all are looking for the perfect life and what we think the end product could be truly opens doors for the unexpected.

Move forward! Only look back when you want to be reminded of the direction you are not following! Mental illness shaped my world.

My book is about the heart, pain, and the sprinkles of lighter moments from my eyes. It is about my brother.

Available on Amazon.com - www.francinefuentes.com



MORTON PLANT HOSTS PATIENT'S WEDDING

When we are sick, we expect our nurses to excel in taking care of our physical needs, but often it is the compassion a nurse demonstrates that leaves an indelible mark on our lives. Those nurses who see patients as the individuals they are with fears, hopes, regrets and dreams are the ones patients remember forever, especially when they agree to plan your wedding.



The newly wedded couple the DeFlauns and Jessica Tootle, who performed the ceremony

Those are the nurses Raymond Scot DeFlaun recently met when he was a patient at Morton Plant Hospital.

"I was scared and confused when I came to ER, but within 24 hours, the fear went away," he said. "I didn't know my diagnosis, but I trusted every person I met."

Lying in a hospital room for several days, Scot thought a lot about his life and his priorities. He came to the realization that relationships were most important, and his most important relationship was with his longtime girlfriend, Kim. Though he had vowed he would never do it, now he had no doubts about marrying her. He also had decided he wanted to marry her at Morton Plant, where his perspective on life had changed.

Planning a wedding isn't a request nurses receive every day, but nurse manager Melanie Stalbird and her team couldn't let this special couple down. They quickly went into action so they could give Scot and his soon-to-be wife a memorable day. They reserved the chapel, bought a cake, decorated for a mini reception and helped secure the marriage license. When Jessica Tootle, a member of the guest services team who is a notary, brought Scot the paperwork for the marriage license, he asked if she would do the ceremony.

The DeFlauns were married in the Shirley Long Chapel. They brought recordings of their favorite songs, exchanged vows they had written to each other, enjoyed the special reception the team planned, and, most important, shared this special day with the team that showed them care and compassion far beyond what they imagined when Scot came to the ER.

SENIOR SOFTBALL

If you are you over 60 and want to play softball, the 3 Score Softball Club wants you. This group of Clearwater players is seeking new members.

The club is made up of about 200 men and women all aged 60 or better....hence the name 3 Score. The oldest players are into their 90s! This is a cross section of working and retired Florida residents and snowbirds, from all walks of life and professions. And, it's not just for Clearwater residents. Members come from as far away as New Port Richey to play.

They have two leagues. The American League plays three times a week and is a more physical group. Depending on the time of the year there are four to six teams. The National League members are 75+ and play on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Sid Lickton Complex, 714 N. Saturn Avenue in Clearwater. That field has shorter base lines and shorter fences. Games are played at 9am, with warm up at 8:30. Teams are redrawn each Monday. Play is a little more casual but no less competitive!

New members are always welcome and added to teams on almost a daily basis. New members should show up at the fields by 8:30 on game days and just ask anyone for one of the league officers. If you want to play make sure to bring your bat and glove!

For more information on joining the 3 Score Softball Club, visit www.3ScoreSoftball.org or call Sid Heuton at 727-238-9891 or Pete Winter at 908-310-6788.

Brian Pelfrey
OWNER/REALTOR®
727-871-0871



Brian@SandKey.com
BrianPelfrey.com

790 S. Gulfview Blvd.
Clearwater Beach

1261 Gulf Blvd., Suite 119
Sand Key



"THE NAME YOU KNOW,
THE REALTOR YOU DESERVE"

Now is the time to sell!
It's a SELLER'S MARKET!

With limited inventory in the area, home prices are rising. BRIAN is your local LUXURY & BEACH EXPERT and has the RESULTS to prove it.

Brian Pelfrey is in the Top 1% in the County for a Reason!

CABANA CLUB - SAND KEY - 1582 GULF BLVD #PH-1 - \$1,275,000
JUST LISTED WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SHOWINGS!



RECENT SALES by BRIAN PELFREY...



SOUTH BAY - SAND KEY - 1501 GULF BLVD #805
3BR/2.5BA, 1890sf, brand new impact sliders.
Sold \$874,950



BELLEAIR BEACH - 107 6TH STREET
3BR/2BA/2CG, pool, 1938sf.
Offered at \$759,000, Sold for \$800,000

SOLD! - 16133 4th St E, Redington Beach - Sold for \$867,500

SOLD! - 2700 Gulf Blvd #1 & #2, Belleair Beach - \$250,000

SOLD! - 51 Island Way #211, Island Estates - \$305,000

SOLD! - 736 Island Way #804, Island Estates - \$685,000

SOLD! - 1600 Gulf Blvd #518, Sand Key - \$775,000