

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine



Father Carroll



Photo credit: Indian Rocks Historical Museum

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

ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH 70 years of service

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

While today, St Jerome Catholic Church is in Largo, it first opened here in Indian Rocks Beach in 1951. Initially, it was an expansion of St. Cecelia in Clearwater, within the Diocese of St. Augustine.

St. Cecelia's Monsignor Thomas Colreavy began their first celebrations of mass in Indian Rocks Beach's American Legion Hall, home to several denominations, because it was available to anyone who wanted to rent the building.

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

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

- **Continued on page 7**

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 16

Children's Books

After Swarna Mohan retired on Sand Key in 2018, she began writing children's books based on videos of her morning walks she filmed and sent to her grandson. - page 29



CJH Wanderlust Music Series Returns

Located in three different venues, we have the spring schedule and all the details - page 23

Long-time Mayor Dies

Town of Belleair Mayor Gary Katika passed away in March. He was the longest-serving Mayor in Belleair's history. - page 14



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

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O'DEY TURNS 100 Longtime resident and World War II veteran, O'dey O'Donnell, turned 100 years old March 17, on St. Patrick's Day.

On his birthday — because of Covid-19 — friends and family planned a walk-by celebration complete with live bagpipe music playing Irish tunes.

A small gathering of close friends with birthday cake was held later in the evening. Happy Birthday to one of Belleair's oldest residents. He lives on Indian Rocks Road North.

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

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.



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SUNSETS AT PIER 60

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



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

75 YEARS OF SPRING BALL IN CLEARWATER

The Philadelphia Phillies have been playing Spring Ball in Clearwater for 75 years—dating back to 1946 after the end of World War II. This year also marks 45 years that the Phillies Minor League team The Threshers have played in Clearwater. Now that Spring Training has wrapped up, The Threshers will start playing in May, at Spectrum Field at 601 Old Coachman Road.

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

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.

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.

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

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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.

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ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH, CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Father Muldoon



1960 - Construction of the first church on Hamlin Blvd.

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

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


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

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

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

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

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NO BLACK AND WHITE IN A GRAY DIVORCE

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

By Randy Lee

We have spent the time and money and now we want our landscape to look perfect. There are certain guidelines to protect your investment. The overall landscape includes plants, trees, sod, lighting, irrigation and water features.

Landscape includes trees, palms, shrubs and flowers. They need to be pruned and fertilized at least once a year - preferably in the spring. A license is now required to fertilize plants and sod in Pinellas County. Annuals and perennials can be planted once or twice a year and they require maintenance as well. Hedges always require attention especially in the summer months.

Lawns in Florida require much maintenance - the perfect amount of TLC. The right amount of mowing, fertilizing, watering and pest control is essential. Make sure your lawn maintenance company has references and proper experience to handle your property. A pest control company usually will treat the lawn using fertilizer, fungicide and insecticide as needed. A license is required to use any chemicals on lawns, plants and trees.

Landscape lighting maintenance includes changing bulbs, fixing broken wires, cleaning lenses and repositioning lights as needed. A two to four time a year checkup is standard depending on the amount of lights used and the size of the property. This is a gray area for licensing, however, any high-voltage lighting must be licensed. If more than plugging a cord into an outlet is involved than so is the license.

Irrigation systems need to be checked periodically- checking once a month is normal. Heads need to be cleaned and adjusted, the timer checked for accuracy and any leaking or broken pipes fixed. Grass should be removed around all

sprinkler heads monthly. Irrigation work also requires a license in Pinellas County.

Water features are popular now and need to be maintained as well. Water features include pools, fountains and ponds. Some require weekly maintenance or checking water levels in the dryer months. Water may or may not need to be chemically treated as well. Hire someone with plenty of experience here.

Now that we have spent the time and money perfecting our landscapes, spend the additional time and money hiring trained, experienced and licensed professionals. Ongoing maintenance now could save you money later.



CHECKLIST

- Trim cold affected plants and trees
- Fertilize lawn, plants and trees at this time
- The dry season runs until May/June
- Refresh annuals, perennials and potted plants
- Get outside and work in the yard- the weather is perfect!

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How Do They Do That?

DUFFY'S GOLF STUDIO

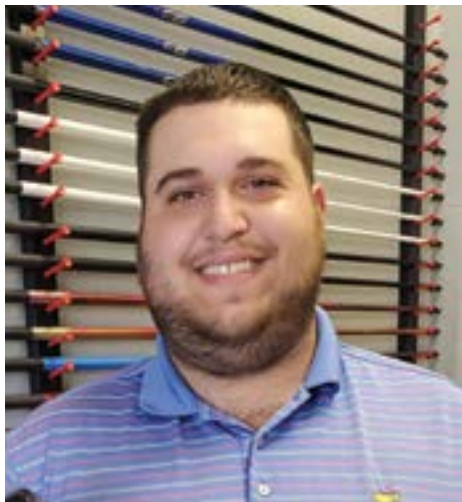
Last month, Duffy's Golf Studio celebrated its tenth year. John Duff opened the small golf shop in the Belleair Shopping Center in 2011. As part of Duff's celebration, he sold the business to Nick Becerra and retired.

Becerra was looking for a golf related business opportunity and saw Duff'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 Duff, 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 at www.DuffysGolfStudio.com.

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



Becerra adjusts a club

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.




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Business Briefs



LALA'S EXPANDS Laura Katz, owner of Lala's, located in the Plaza, doubled her store's size when she acquired the space to the store's south. She has expanded the inventory of furniture, bed coverings, liners, draperies and more.

Find Lala's at the same address, 100 Indian Rocks Road, Suite H. 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 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 where he was responsible for 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.

ISLAND PEST CONTROL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS Owner Tammy McCutchan has been chasing all kinds of bugs for 25 years.



"Bugs never take a day off in Florida," Tammy says. "I want to thank my hundreds of clients for their years of allowing me to service them—and for recommending me to their friends."

Island Pest Control serves most of Pinellas County, including Belleair. Call her at 727-596-7715.

BURN FITNESS OPENS Tom Gurganus opened The Burn Fitness Studio, at north end of The Plaza across from City Hall. Tom works with his clients one-on-one in his new studio. He offers a 5-day free trial and memberships at \$10/week. Visit TheBurnFit.com.

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.

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

Business Briefs



ATTENTION TO DETAILS

Some people think you can use ordinary cleaning supplies or auto products to clean a boat. This is not true. Boats have special needs due to the damage caused by natural elements – salt, sun, water. To properly maintain your boat yourself, you need cleaners for: gel coat, isinglass, mold and mildew, canvas, oxidation, bilge, and teak. You also need a shop

vac, a steam cleaner and a pressure washer. After reading that list, you can see this is a lot of work. Wouldn't you rather enjoy your boat and let someone else handle clean it?

With boat sales exploding during the pandemic, people are looking for help maintaining their boats. With high demand, people find a quick way to make a buck providing substandard work. When Mat Vasilenko could not find anyone with the level of service his family needed, he opened his own boat detailing business: MJ Detailing & Cleaning.

Mat only uses top-of-the-line marine products and not only provides topside detailing and teak restoration, he will also clean and paint your engines. While he admits his high-quality workmanship is a bit more expensive, his efforts and superior products show. Though he specializes in boats, he also does cars and campers. You can reach Mat at 941-241-7687 or e-mail mjdcllc8@gmail.com.

NEW OWNERS AT MUNCHIES

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



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 Emily Pavlinic, General Manager.

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LONG-TIME BELLEAIR MAYOR GARY H. KATICA PASSES AWAY

On the evening of Sunday, March 7, Belleair Mayor Gary H. Katica (87) passed away in his home, surrounded by loved ones. Mayor Katica served the Town of Belleair Commission for over 20 years, making him the longest-serving Mayor in Belleair history.

Mayor Katica was born in Newark, New Jersey and raised in Queens, New York. From 1952 to 1956, he served in the United States Air Force as a Control Tower Operator in the Korean War, and in 1957, he graduated from the Federal Air Traffic Academy in Oklahoma City and became an Air Traffic Controller in the New York Center. From 1957 to 1962, Mayor Katica attended C.W. Post College on Long Island University on a basketball scholarship. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Mayor Katica served as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Parks Commission for Port Jefferson New York and was later also elected as a trustee and appointed Police Commissioner.

In 1979, Mayor Katica, his wife Mary, and their two children Harry and Irene moved to Clearwater, and in 1984, to Belleair. Mayor Katica was first appointed to the Town of Belleair Commission in 2000 and elected Mayor in 2007 - a position he retained until his passing.

Over his tenure, Mayor Katica led the Town of Belleair through pivotal moments, such as the renovation of the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel to the Belleview Inn, the retention of the Belleair Police Department, and the construction of the Dimmitt Community Center. He served the Belleair Civic Association and the Town's Finance Board and Planning & Zoning Board. Mayor Katica was also well-known for his daily support of the Belleair community through his regular walks in Belleair, his continual advocacy for infrastructure

improvements, his efforts to build partnerships and relationships with neighboring cities, his support of sports leagues and special events, his commitment to supporting Town staff, and his long-standing role as Santa Claus each Christmas.

Mayor Katica's leadership inspired countless others to serve Belleair with diligence and compassion, which was memorialized on Mayor Katica's birthday this year. On January 28, dubbed "Mayor Gary H. Katica Day" by the Commission, the Belleair community came together for a special, socially distanced celebration. Staff, officials, and residents were provided commemorative t-shirts and asked to share their special memories and words of gratitude for the Mayor in what culminated to a YouTube video and a scrapbook for the Mayor (view the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU5ddR677Js>).

Mayor Katica will be remembered by us all for his years of service but also for the kindness, compassion, and love he shared with the world. He is survived by his wife, Mary, son Harry, preceded by his daughter, Irene, and survived by grandsons: Tyler, Michael, Nathan, Aaron, and Gary Jr.

Additional information is available at www.hubbellfuneralhome.com/obituaries/obituary-listings.



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Business Briefs



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

The Clearwater fishing and SCUBA diving

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

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

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.

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

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

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.



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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 visited 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

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BONSUE BRANDVIK HONORED BY TOWN'S COMMISSION

BonSue Brandvik left St. Louis in the early '70s. With a background in Civil Engineering, she arrived in Belleair in 1993

Brandvik first involvement with the town's government was when she was a member of an ad hoc committee tasked with hiring a new police chief. "That is when I got to know Mayor Katica and some of the Town's staff and others on the council," says Brandvik. "Mayor Katica later asked me to fill an opening on the Planning and Zoning Board". That was in 2006.

"Gloria Burton was the longtime chairman of P&Z and we worked very well together," Brandvik recalls. "One day Gloria asked me to take over the Chairmanship. I was hesitant because I did not have that experience—and it was a lot more work. But I made a deal with her, and we alternated the chairmanship, year-to-year. "

"We were always busy. We had two hurricanes in 2004 and then the real estate market crashed in 2008. When the Belleview Biltmore closed in June 2009, the owners of historic hotel tried to sell it. Most of the buyers wanted to tear it down and build condos."

"The hotel and surrounding area was zoned as a hotel, and historic at that. Half the community wanted to save the hotel; half endorsed a new start and added tax base of new condos. "

"It was a very hot issue in Belleair", Brandvik adds "and I was in the Chairman's seat. It was a very rough ride. We had several owners and would-be owners bringing us proposals."

The Board of Planning and Zoning is an "advisory board" only. Its purpose is to provide "clarity and insight" to elected officials, employees and residents through their understanding and enforcement of the Town's laws and policies.

Long story short - The hotel closed June 1, 2009. Developer JMC Communities bought the property in 2013, and began demolition in 2015. Part of the existing hotel was saved, relocated and reopened in December 2018. The majority of the condos being built on the surrounding the old hotel site are completed.

"To my credit, I was vocal and successful in getting Michael Cheezum, the developer, to save a part of the old hotel," explains Brandvik. The remaining structure has much of the look and feel of the old hotel built in 1896, but it only has 33 boutique rooms - the original had over 400 rooms.

After 14 years, Brandvik retired from the Planning and Zoning Board last year. She is a writer and today, she lives in a condo "in the shadow of the old hotel" - having written three books about the Belleview Biltmore. One is called "Spirits of the Belleview Biltmore" and is available on Amazon. She has also written two books for children.

The Town of Belleair presented BonSue Brandvik a plaque of appreciation at a recent Town Hall meeting thanking her for her 14 years of service (2006-2020).

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

MORTON PLANT TEAM ATTENDS THE SUPERBOWL

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

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

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

MY DAUGHTER’S CCSC EXPERIENCE

By Stephanie George

Words will never be enough to express our gratitude to Mr. Norman Olsen and Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC). Mr. Olsen opened my daughters eyes to the world of sailing. My daughter, Olivia (10 yrs old) decided to try sailing at CCSC last summer after Mr. Olsen and I had met and he told me about the club. Olivia has always been a water baby, but had zero experience with sailing and boats. After her first day of camp she was in love with sailing. Once she finished week one of camp, she begged me to sign her up for the entire summer. Once summer ended, she was begging me to sign her up for the Green Fleet sailing team.

Without Mr. Olsen sponsoring my daughter and introducing her to CCSC and sailing, she would never have found her new found passion. Olivia has made the best friends, gained independence, and become a very strong sailor. She is excited to practice every weekend and even stays after to sail or paddle board with friends. I always trust she is safe with her team, coaches, and staff at CCSC. We will always be grateful for Mr. Olsen, CCSC and other sponsors of this program.

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Bar & Restaurant News



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 plans to open half of it for now and ease into full capacity. They are located at 213 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach.

GROUPERS ON THE GULF

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



SEKUSHI SUSHI IN THE PLAZA 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.

GONDOLIER SERVING PIZZA FOR 31 YEARS

Gondolier Pizza on the south end of Clearwater Beach has been an "All In The Family" business for 31 years. Bill Sioutis whose real first name is Vasilios, immigrated to the U.S. in 1969, from Keramitsi, Greece.

Bill opened Gondolier Pizza January 10, 1990, and although it is an Italian restaurant, it is also known for its authentic Greek food and highly rated breakfasts. And yes, they serve delicious pizzas, too.

Now, sons Dimitri and Alex are adding three more Clearwater Beach restaurants to the family. All three are beneath the Hyatt Regency on the BeachWalk.

Their Beverly's Ice Cream store opened about 6 months ago. Then, We The Pizza opened in December. Good Stuff Eatery, featuring burgers, fries, shakes and beach food, is still under construction and with plans to open in April.

Gondolier Pizza is located at 674 South Gulfview Blvd. See their menu at GondolierPizza.com.



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Bar & Restaurant News



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

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

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

Damage was estimated at \$10,000.

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

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

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

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

RED LION STATUS Owner Tom George recently finished work on a Dunedin property and is turning his attention to the finishing and reopening the Red Lion on Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach. "This was no small facelift," says George. "We gutted the place and started over—inside and out. Look for work to start in 4-6 weeks."

FRESH SEAFOOD DIRECT Owner Mark Rose wants his customers to know, his expanded home delivery of quality seafood products is a hit. Seabass and salmon are the most ordered, but the shrimp and scallops are very popular as well. While the home delivery division is growing rapidly, usually he is still able to deliver the next day. Delivery is free on orders over \$50.

His website publishes weekly specials on different seafood items, check in for the latest deals, seafooddirectflorida.com. The SeafoodDirectFlorida Facebook page also has great recipe ideas.



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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.

CJH WANDERLUST MUSIC SERIES RETURNS

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Backstage Bistro events are:

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

Upcoming Evy's events are:

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

Upcoming Winter's Beach Club events are:

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

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

CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY 2021

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

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

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

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WOMAN APPROVED MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

By Brooke Anderson

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

Adding a woman owner to a traditionally male-dominated industry brings a unique perspective. One of my responsibilities is screening and hiring the movers. I look for people who are upbeat with positive attitudes. Moving is a skill and can be taught. However, having an innate demeanor that fits our company's culture cannot (be taught). Our movers are the faces of Big Man's Moving Company and represent us. If I wouldn't send someone to my 93-year-old grandmother's home, I wouldn't send them to your home. Josh jokingly says the team is "woman-approved." It's disappointing when we're fully booked and have to turn jobs away due to a lack of man-power. However, we are only as good as our weakest link and refuse to dilute the quality of our product.



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

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

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

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Community News

TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHREDDING EVENT

Bring your unwanted documents to a free shredding event hosted by the Town of Belleair Solid Waste Department and ProShred Security on Saturday April 10, 9am - 12pm at John J. Osborne Public Works Building parking lot, 1075 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. Staff will ensure all documents are disposed of safely, securely, and on-site.

Proof of Belleair residency is required. Residents may bring up to five 5 boxes each. File boxes, folders, and paper goods are all acceptable, but please do not bring magazines or newspapers, as these can be recycled curbside.

Due to COVID-19, all participants are asked to remain in their vehicles and to wear masks when interacting with staff. Staff will come to your vehicle to pick up documents from windows or trunks. For more information, call 727-588-3795 or visit www.TownofBelleair.com/shredding.

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. We hope to see you there! Lunch begins at 11:30 am with a Shotgun Start at 1pm.

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

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

They are still meeting and their next After Hours Mingles are:
 April 8: Island Pest Control (Residence, Indian Rocks Beach)
 April 13: Pioneer Mortgage, 311 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks
 May 13: Bender Chiropractic, 321 Indian Rocks Road N.

Social Hours begin at 5:30pm. To get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or Larry Bell at 644-9197, visit www.BBAStrong.com or emails to info@BBAStrong.com

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 as the May program.

The meeting will be held on Friday, May 7, from 11:30 am-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, to keep everyone attending safe and healthy.

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BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

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

Art on the Rocks - We have a full schedule of evening Art on the Rocks Classes in April. The cost is \$38, all materials are supplied, and you finish a project in one session.

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

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

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They are planning their 50th anniversary celebration luncheon on May 20, 2021, 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 given out.

There will also 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 of the event. This can be taken care of 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.

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

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

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to 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. Members have the opportunity to nominate any organization, three of the nominated organizations are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013, the group has given \$296,150 to local charities. Meetings, with options of both Zoom and live, will be at Cove Cay Golf Club, located at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6-7 pm at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information.



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Waterfront Homes.... Why the Intracoastal?

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

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

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

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

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

- ▶ Keep Your Boat At Home: Why have your boat in a high and dry that you have to drive to instead of in your own back yard when you want to fish or boat?;

- ▶ Boat to Your Favorite Restaurant or Beach Bar: Don't fight the road traffic on Gulf;

- ▶ Much Lower Real Estate Taxes: Definitely. Why pay the much higher taxes each year;

- ▶ No Late Afternoon Sun: Some people flock to beach lots for the view, only to realize that they have to close the blinds as the west afternoon sun beats the windows. Very hot! Most intracoastal lots have east orientations, so an afternoon can be spent around a pool shaded by the home;

- ▶ Lastly, No Sand Blowing Into the Pool and Patio: Enough said.

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!

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COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC RELIEVES PAIN - RESTORES HOPE

Throughout this pandemic year, Community Dental Clinic provided 7,264 procedures, and more than \$1,125,000 in free dental care for those who need it most. They are truly a community clinic, provided by our community for our community. With the



help of generous individuals, community partners, thoughtful foundations, local businesses and ever-determined volunteers, the Community Dental Clinic provides urgent dental care - free of charge - for the unemployed, underemployed, disabled, veterans and seniors in our area.

One patient, Herbert, a US Navy Veteran, is in the process of rebuilding his dental health after years of decline so that he can eat, sleep and work without pain. "I feel like a Six Million Dollar Man" he joked.

Another patient, Andrea, is temporarily homeless and lives with her family in a motel. To make ends meet, she works two jobs as a medical technician and a CNA caring for elderly patients. Her dental problems made it hard to do her job well until she came to the clinic. "I'm so glad they [CDC] were there for me. Their help makes me more confident and to speak better, pronounce my words better, and communicate. I am so thankful."

Through this unprecedented year, employment decreased, but teeth grinding, chipping and breaking increased by more than 50% - resulting in many more people in dental distress and unable to afford treatment. The clinic has enrolled 30 to 50 new patients every month and strives to provide a dental home to over 2,500 unemployed, underemployed, disabled, adults, veterans and seniors who live in Pinellas County.

The clinic is grateful for the help from the community in supporting their efforts, and sharing their information with those who find themselves in dental distress with no resources or insurance to seek care. There are loads of ways you can join in this mission.

Passing their information onto the industries that are most likely not to have insurance, such as lawn care services, painters, hair/nail businesses, tree trimmers, cleaning services, dock hands, and restaurant staff, to name just a few. Informing your employees, neighbors, co-workers and extended family of our free services, sharing our details on your social media channels to reach a broader audience, and participating in our upcoming sponsored events, they are open to the public, fun and engaging, will expand your network, as well as bring in the much needed support to continue their work.

Want to join an event, sponsor or volunteer, please email kimm@communitydentalclinic.net and follow their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/communitydentalcenterclearwater>, to find upcoming events like their Paddle Board competition. Watch the "Minute thru the Clinic" to learn more about how the operation works behind the scenes.

Visit their website for more ways on how you can be a rockstar, www.communitydentalclinic.net.

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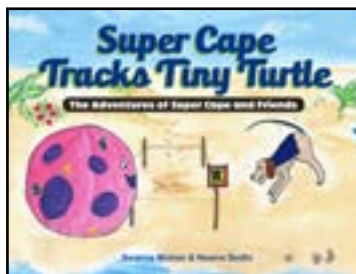
When Swarna Mohan and her husband were looking for a retirement home in Florida, they took one look at Sand Key and decided that this was where they wanted to be. They wrapped up their affairs in Kentucky and moved to Florida in early 2018.

Swarna's retirement plans included walking on the

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

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

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



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

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



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**GREAT TIME TO SPOT
 YOUNG OSPREY**

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

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

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

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

NEW LIVING HOPE CHURCH

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



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

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

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DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI Remembering Deputy Michael J. Magli

Though the sun was shining bright on February 23, 2021, it was the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's darkest day. Deputy Michael J. Magli was a true hero who saved countless lives and is an example of what it means to serve and protect with integrity and honor. Our PCSO family is heartbroken, but our lives will be forever changed and inspired by the legacy Deputy Magli left behind.

The support our community has shown the Magli family and our PCSO family has been overwhelming. Thank you for all the prayers, notes, and heartfelt acts of service these last few weeks. No motion of compassion and sympathy has gone unnoticed.

We also give special thanks to our law enforcement partners and others for their contributions to the service.

This is the first line-of-duty death in the sheriff's office's 109-year history. We never wanted this day to come, but we will continue to remember and honor Deputy Magli's life. His name will be inscribed on our memorial in front of the Sheriff's Administration Building, but more importantly, his name will be inscribed in our hearts forever.

The loss of Deputy Magli is a reminder of why our deputies wake up every morning. Their mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Pinellas County, and they put themselves in harm's way to save lives. Their oath is not limited to working hours; they are committed to protecting the public 24-7 and have a duty to act when evil enters their path.

Deputy Magli's example reminds us that a deputy's responsibility often goes beyond what is required of the uniform and involves matters of the heart. He cared about people and went out of his way to show it, whether it was telling a fellow deputy a joke when they felt down, taking extra time on a domestic call to ensure the couple was okay, or simply giving a citizen a bright smile as he crossed their path. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is leading the way in public safety, but just as important, we are making sure we show people we care.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is accepting donations on behalf of the Magli family. The Deputy Michael J. Magli Memorial Fund will serve as the official memorial fund for the Magli family. Those interested in donating can visit any SunTrust banking location or send checks to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Fiscal Affairs Bureau made payable to the memorial.

BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

With the advent of COVID-19, the Coast Guard Auxiliary discontinued in-person classes. The good news is they are now approved to conduct online classes. Classes are \$40 per student and include the books, supplemental materials and course completion certificates.

The Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the outstanding "Boat America" courses this quarter:

- Four consecutive evenings 7 to 9:30pm April 27 – 30, sign up deadline April 17th. June 22 – 25, sign up by June 12th
- Two weekend mornings and finishing up on two consecutive evenings May 22-23 from 9:00am to 11:30am. And May 25-26 from 7 to 9:30pm. Sign up by May 15th

The classes are offered by the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary on Zoom with the same instructors student would have had in the classroom and allowing lots of questions and answers. Because the classes are on the Internet, there's no commuting to a classroom – the students can be anywhere in Florida!

The boating safety class is required for boaters born after Jan. 1, 1988. Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, at: www.clwboatingsafety.com, call 727-469-8895 or email at clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com.

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