

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

## LA GRENOUILLE RESTAURANT



A waiter, dressed in their signature "French Sailer" uniform takes a woman's dinner order

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

La Grenouille was once a very successful French restaurant on Clearwater Point.

In the late 1960s, Martin Field, a Philadelphia developer, bought the land east of today's Sand Key Bridge and developed it into Clearwater Point. He built a large number of condominiums that still exist today.

Field was busy developing and selling condos at the southeast end of Clearwater Beach when he realized he needed offices and a sales center. With that purpose in mind, he built a five-story building at 850 Bayway Blvd. Today it is The Chart House hotel.

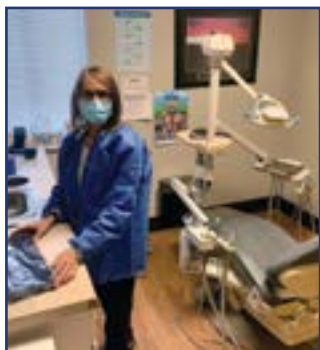
"All major developments need to have a sales office," says local Realtor Jim Robbins, who once worked for Field. "In those days, a 2-bedroom condominium sold for between \$27,500 and \$29,000, a 3-bedroom for \$39,000," explains Robbins.



Martin Field

The Sales Center building would also benefit the new residents, making it an additional sales tool. The ground floor housed a fitness center and Irving's Delicatessen, which also served as a ship's store with boating supplies. It was run by John and Mary Newhouse, who also owned another deli on Mandalay Avenue. There were a few hotel rooms on the higher floors, but the second floor became home to the French restaurant—La Grenouille, (pronounced "gren-ou-eeeye").

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### Community Dental Clinic

They have provided over \$5 million in FREE dental care to low income, uninsured Pinellas County residents. - page 18

### Also in this Issue:

### Local Artist Dies

A man of many talents, Larry Gerwig was an accomplished artist and active Board Member of the Beach Art Center. - page 28



### City Commissioner Wins Lottery

What is Hoyt Hamilton doing with his winnings? - page 16

### Teaching Challenges During Covid

Ann Welsh, Anona Elementary School's Principal, was charged with keeping the school operating safely in a pandemic. How did she do it? - page 24

**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.

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**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

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## Did You Know



### HELP NESTING SEA TURTLES

Our beaches are nesting sites to loggerheads, green sea turtles, as well as the critically endangered Kemp's ridley. It is estimated only 1 in 1,000 hatchlings will survive into adulthood. Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitors about 21 miles of beach daily during the nesting season, to help ensure our beaches are as safe as possible for the nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

They need your help! You can help protect a nest by purchasing a \$200 plaque to mark a nest and help protect sea turtles. All proceeds go toward supporting CMA's Sea Turtle Nesting & Conservation program.

The plaque with your personalized message will be placed at an area nest for the season. The nesting team will send you information about your nest, and at the end of the nesting season can keep the plaque. This is a limited program as they discover nests on our beaches.

**THE PLUMB CLOSET** A facet of The Clearwater Historical Society, the collection includes hundreds of gently used and unique pieces of clothing for sale. Proceeds benefit the Clearwater Historical Society.

All sales are in-person transactions at the Clearwater main Museum. They are open on Saturdays from 10-2. Come see what they have! Get a preview on their Instagram page [www.instagram.com/theplumbcloset](http://www.instagram.com/theplumbcloset). The Clearwater Historical Society Museum is located at 610 South Fort Harrison, Clearwater.

**TAKE THE JOLLEY TROLLEY TO JOHN'S PASS** Through a partnership between The Jolley Trolley and Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center in Johns Pass Village, you can take a trolley from Clearwater Beach to John's Pass. Catch the new ride at Pier 60 or when returning, in front of Spice and Tea Exchange in John's Pass Village. The Jolley Trolley will be in Clearwater Beach on the even hours and John's Pass Village on the odd hours, Friday – Sunday. Each leg in the trip will take 30 to 40 minutes You can buy a one-way ticket at [JohnsPassVillage.net](http://JohnsPassVillage.net) or [KissAGator.com](http://KissAGator.com). The service begins June 4.

### STINGRAY SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Stingrays are in area waters, so do the "stingray shuffle" when entering beach waters. By shuffling your feet in the sand, you will scare off any stingrays that might be around. If you do get stung, see a lifeguard. Those who get stung will be treated by the lifeguard, and then they will be transported to the nearest fire station for monitoring. Stingray season is expected to last through October.



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# and More...

## DISPOSE OF OLD GENERATOR FUEL

Hurricane season started June 1st and now is the time to dispose of old generator fuel. The shelf-life of gasoline is three to six months and up to one year for diesel fuel. Residents are encouraged to add this task to their annual hurricane preparations.

Pinellas County's Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center (HEC3) will accept old fuel Monday through Saturday, from 7am until 5 pm and is located at 2855 109th Ave. N., in St. Petersburg.



While you are there, you can also drop off electronics such as cell phones, computers, TVs, power supplies, and monitors. Chemical items accepted include automotive fluids, rechargeable batteries, fuel, paint, cleaning supplies, pesticides and fluorescent bulbs, along with other mercury-containing devices.

**LARGO'S GOLF COURSE** Rumors are swirling around the closing or sale of the Largo Golf Course. The par-62 "executive course" has been open since 1969 and while the City of Largo admits that the city's only public golf course is not making a profit, they plan to keep it open. City managers say the golf course loses approximately \$100,000 per year. Although it is a burden on the city's finances, the City Council has no plans to sell or develop it into houses or businesses.

## CLEAN & DRY RECYCLABLES ONLY

The Solid Waste & Recycling Department asks that your recyclables be clean and dry. The city's recycling program uses single-stream processing - all recyclable materials are mixed together. When plastic containers or bottles have leftover food or drink, they turn good recycling into garbage. A few drops of water here and there won't ruin the quality, but food and liquid can contaminate everything it touches not only in your container, but on the recycling truck that picked it up. Materials soiled with contamination - especially paper and cardboard - can no longer be turned into something new due to the loss of its quality, and may grow mold, have bad odors and attract pests. To make sure your recycling is able to be turned into something new - put only clean and dry recycling items in your blue barrel.



**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN AUGUST** 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.

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## LA GRENOUILLE, continued

Field previously built the Statler Hotel on the west side of the Sand Key bridge. We did a story about that hotel in our December 2020 issue – if you want to know more about it, you can find it at beachnewsletters.com. The hotel had two restaurants, both with “Frog” in their name – The Frog Pond and the Glass Pond. Jay Keyes, a Clearwater resident, was the hotel’s food and beverage manager. Field asked Keyes to oversee La Grenouille also.

As part of their pay, the condominium Sales Manager Ted Wrinkler and Jay Keyes both received a free hotel room in the sales center above the La Grenouille restaurant, which was located on the second floor

Grenouille is a French word meaning “frog.” Noting both the hotel restaurants also include “frog” in their names, Keyes chuckles, “He seemed to have an interest in frogs.”

Most of the locals simply called it “The French Frog.”



**Setting up for dinner**

“La Grenouille was one of the best restaurants in Clearwater, probably even Pinellas,” says Jim Robbins who was the maître d’ in its early years. “It was considered one of the Top 10 restaurants in the whole state—at the time. It was also one of the most expensive restaurants on the beach.”

Martin Field had his own person chef, Herbert Williams, who he brought from Philadelphia. Williams had attended culinary arts schools in Europe as well as the United States. When Field opened his French restaurant, he hired Williams as its head chef.

“It had a continental atmosphere with a nautical flair,” remembers Tom Nocera, who worked there between 1971 and 1973 starting when he was 21. “All the restaurant’s waiters were

men—just like it was at Tampa’s Bern’s Steakhouse. We all made good money - people tipped heavily.”

“There was a piano bar upstairs. They always had some form of live entertainment,” Nocera continued. “Sometimes it was national acts that were already famous, and some became famous later.”

Bob Singleton was the piano player. He had a big following and added to the restaurant’s success. He eventually left to become the music director for the Ritz Carlton Hotel chain.

Don Sherwood, owner of the Dinner Showboat Theatre on Ulmerton Road, bought a condo from Field. He used it as a place for his visiting star performers to stay. Many regularly ate in the restaurant.

“People used to come in the front door of the restaurant and ask, ‘are there any stars here tonight?’ and normally there were,” Robbins said. “If the star was a singer, sometimes they would sing a song or two at the piano bar.”

“The restaurant did not take reservations,” says Robbins. “Often there was a long wait. We simply took the guests names when they walked in and directed them to the nearby bar. That was good enough for most.”

“We all wore white shirts with stripes, white pants and a sailor’s cap,” Nocera recalls. “The color scheme was red, white, and blue—French colors. We looked like French sailors except Jim Robbins, the Maître d’, he always wore a tux.”

The walls were covered in a cork-like tree bark material. Each table had a brass lamp either on it or screwed to the wall beside the table. One of the most popular entrees was “Lobster Americana.” The restaurant was known for having the best French Onion Soup, prime steaks, and desserts. All the dishes were covered in “special sauces” like they usually do in French restaurants.

Field made a special effort to appeal to the boating community. The property contained 48 boat slips; ten were held open for guests of the restaurant.

“Martin wanted to get into the sailing society,” Nocera commented. “He bought a mid-sized sailboat and learned to sail. One day Ted Turner showed up at the restaurant during a St. Petersburg competition. I had my picture taken with him—long before he became famous for starting CNN.”

There was another more famous



New York restaurant named “La Grenouille.” Located on 52nd Street, it had opened in 1962 before Field had opened his restaurant. The New York owners sued Field and La Grenouille, and in January 1973, he was forced to change the restaurant’s name.

The new name became “Le Corsaire,” which is French for pirate—possibly for to the nearby Gasparilla festival.

There were also a few other changes. They kept the French navy theme going, but women were allowed to wait tables. Eventually, Chef Williams was replaced by Chef Marice and Chef Rau. Nancy Hemmert became the new maître’d and hostess. The sales and exercise areas downstairs were converted into “The Teddy Bear Lounge,” a nightclub for professional people in the thirty-five and up age group. The music was much louder than the piano bar upstairs, and people danced.



**Nancy Hemmert, maître’d and hostess in Le Corsaire’s doorway.**

As the Clearwater Point development project became sold out, around 1980, Field moved on and eventually the entire building became the Chart House Hotel.

Martin Field died in 2018 at the age of 87.

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# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE VIEW.....

As we meet customers interested in building waterfront homes, the common question is "where do I build to get a great water view"? Fortunately here along the Pinellas Beaches, there are no fewer than 13 municipalities that have residential properties on the water. Of course there are the beach front lots facing the Gulf of Mexico for those families with large budgets. Then there are the Intracoastal lots that are fair priced and offer varying views along the water. Most customers that I speak with realize that in addition to the high price for the gulf beach front properties on the sand, there are two major drawbacks to those properties. First, when it's time to relax and enjoy that glass of wine in the afternoon at your pool, the afternoon and setting evening sun in the west is punishingly hot. Even when inside those homes, shades have to be drawn on windows to keep the heat out. That eliminates the view entirely. Speaking of view, realistically, there isn't really much to look at except the horizon to the west when living on the gulf.

What about the Intracoastal lots? At a much lower price, these lots offer views with "movement" of boats, watercraft, and of course dolphins everyday and occasional manatees. Then too, you can have your boat in the back yard, ready for a fun cruise to a waterside restaurant or fishing. Better yet, most lots on the Intracoastal have their pool and decks overlooking the water to the east, thereby allowing the home to "shade" the important

relaxing areas in the afternoon and evening, free of direct sunlight. That's really a great advantage.

As I stated in my other articles, there actually are many lots available along the Intracoastal, and many opportunities to purchase a 60 year old home to demo and re-build. Many folks purchase the property now, and tell me they are going to build in a few years. That's fine, but they need to realize that inflation in home prices is a constant, and in 3-5 years, a new home will probably cost over 25% more to build. In 2020 alone, housing prices escalated 20.9% in Pinellas County.

Our sales associates can assist in both the lot purchase as well as help in finding the right size home for you, with the amenities you want, at a price within your budget. Feel free to call for an appointment.

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## CHANGES AT THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Rich in history and tradition, the Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States. Chartered February 14, 1911, at 110 years old, CYC is also one of the oldest organizations in Clearwater. During that time, there have had over 100 Commodores, each leading the organization in their own way.

Obviously, with that many years behind them, CYC has had some ups and downs, but 2020 was especially difficult due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Like so many other businesses and restaurants, CYC had to temporarily close its doors, before reopening for take-out only. Employees were laid off—and some did not return. Individual groups within Club did not meet; activities ended. Some remodeling projects were put on hold. It was unlike anything CYC had experienced in its long history and no one knew what to expect.



But as restrictions were lifted this year, the club started a comeback. The first step was hiring new General Manager Michael Ciaccio. He comes from Hope Valley Country Club near Durham, North Carolina and is a Certified Club Manager. He started in late February.

**GM Michael Ciaccio** To improve the food service, Michael Irwin, already a Club employee, moved from bartender to Food and Beverage Manager. He previously worked at Disney World in food management. He is an experienced chef - and recently filled in as the temporary chef while a search was underway for a permanent one. As Food and Beverage

Manager, he keeps an eye on the kitchen, while overseeing the service in the dining room.

“My goal is to make this a fun and friendly place to go,” says Irwin.

The final step in CYC’s full reopening was the hiring of Chef Jermaine Bass in May.

Bass comes to Clearwater Yacht Club from the Tampa Club. He is in the process of developing a new menu. In addition, the Club has been busy hiring and training many new staff members—both in the bar area and wait staff for the dining rooms, so expect to see some new faces. The postponed remodel of various parts of the building, including the restrooms and the docks, has resumed.

Mary Kay Delk became the Commodore in December of 2020 and has been leading the reopening efforts.

“We made it through the year of Covid and now Clearwater Yacht Club has returned to its fun, full-service club, says Commodore Delk. “Our members are operating races and cruises; our party schedule is full and we’re taking advantage of this great weather to hang out on the tiki deck. We have a new General Manager and Chef and are better than ever.”

Currently the Clearwater Yacht Club has about 450 members. They remind you that you do not need to own a boat to be a member, many members don’t. There is never a monthly minimum for food or drink. Once again, they are offering a limited summer membership. Call for details 727-447-6000.



**Chef Jermaine Bass and Michael Irwin**

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## RETIREMENT PLANNING ISN'T FOR THE TIMID

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



The process of actually planning to retire is not easy, but going into retirement with no formal written plan, or quasi-plan, makes the golden years a lot more complicated and unpredictable. It can all be a bit overwhelming both financially and emotionally.

For 40-50 years you have worked, earning a paycheck, a bonus (hopefully) each year, saved, invested, etc. and then one day the paycheck and the bonus stop. It is a pretty uncomfortable feeling. Maybe you are lucky enough to have a traditional pension, but then you have to decide what is the best way to take the pension. You probably have a Social Security benefit, but do you take it at age 62 (the earliest), Full Retirement Age (FRA) which is between 66 and 67, or do you wait until age 70 (maximum)? What about health care – use COBRA or Obama Care if under age 65, or switch to Medicare at age 65?

How much income do you need to cover expenses? Most people severely underestimate how much they spend. Break it down into fixed (must have) expenses and variable (like to have) expenses. Once you subtract out your fixed (pension, Social Security, annuities -if any) income, how much more income do you need? How much do you have in savings and investments? What return are you projecting? If the amount you need to withdraw is greater than 4-5% of your investments, you will likely have a problem down the road.

How could you have a problem if the amount you are projecting to earn is greater than the amount you will withdraw? First, what if the market is down in bear territory and your portfolio declines 20% or more in a given year, or perhaps over several years? How will you recover the lost value? Secondly, you will need to make adjustments for inflation over the 20-30 years in retirement. Either one let alone both will have a dramatic affect over that time period. So, let's begin with the end in mind – a happy stressless retirement both financially and emotionally. The best way to do that is with a written plan. Take advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation to learn more about creating a retirement plan. You are retiring for the first time; we have helped thousands achieve the retirement they always wanted.

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

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

## IS YOUR CAR'S AIR CONDITIONING READY FOR SUMMER?

By Keith Ringel, Moonlight Automotive General Manager

Florida's heat is upon us and it is time to get your car's air conditioning system checked to make sure you can stand the heat and stay comfortable during your commute.

Too often, when a system isn't cold enough, people think "I just need more freon in my system." They head to the parts store and purchase a recharge kit, connect it to their car and push the button.

What most do not know is a store bought freon kit is not the same as professional freon. Kits that can be sold to the consumer contain a "stop leak" additive that can cause expensive damage to your air conditioning system's major components, such as your compressor. Only a licensed professional can purchase regular freon. Also, if you overcharge your system with freon, it will not cool properly.

If you do DIY it, most repair shops will see a stop leak is in your system and will refuse to service the vehicle - stop leak can damage their equipment as well.

It is a best practice to have your system serviced by a knowledgeable professional able to leak test and determine any failure in the system, properly replace the part, and recharge your system to the correct level of freon and refrigerant oil to lubricate the moving parts. Too little, or too much refrigerant oil, will cause the compressor to fail.

Air conditioning is expensive. Do not make a mistake that could cost you even more. See a pro today and have your system checked properly. Moonlight Automotive would be happy to service your system. We are located at 1172 Turner Street in Clearwater. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 727-446-1800.

## CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS CLOTHING

Clothes To Kids (CTK) has been open and providing clothing to school children in need throughout the pandemic. Our three CTK Stores greatly need more school clothing and shoes. CTK needs new and gently used clothing and shoes, as well as financial donations to buy needed clothing when our inventory is very low. We need packaged underwear and socks, boys' and girls' pants and shorts, tops, uniform pants and shirts, dresses and shoes. Each year Clothes To Kids clothes more than 11,000 low-income and in crisis school children, PreK-4 to 12th grade for FREE. That means they start with small clothes and shoes and continue to clothe the young men and women into high school as well. Please check your closets and help the children in Hillsborough and Pinellas by donating today!

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or in crisis are eligible to shop with us. Make an appointment by calling 727-441-5050 or visiting [clothestokids.org/shop-with-us](http://clothestokids.org/shop-with-us). Each shopping bag includes 5 pairs of new underwear, 5 pairs of new socks, 5 tops, 4 bottoms (pants or shorts), 1 dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If the child attends a uniform school, they may receive 3 uniform tops and 2 bottoms.

Donations: Please go through your closets and donate any gently used school clothing and shoes for children PreK-4 to 12th grade. Monetary donations can be sent to Clothes To Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765. A \$50 donation provides one child a week's worth of school clothing. Donations may be dropped off from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at any store: Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater - 1059 N. Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South. For more information, please call 441-5050 or visit [www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org).

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# Business Briefs



**NEW CHASE BANK BRANCH**  
Chase is building a branch where the convenience store was located at Mandalay Avenue and Bay Esplanade. Demolition started recently and it should be open by the fall .

**THE SHOP AT RADIANCE OPENS** Radiance Med Spa has expanded into the space next door creating The Shop at Radiance. Featuring products from brands like SkinMedica, iS Clinical, SkinBetter Science, ZO Skin Health, PCA Skin, LightStim, Skinchies, Bourbon & Boweties, now all your beauty essentials are in one place. The Shop is open Monday – Friday 10am to 7pm and Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Whether you have problem areas you want to correct or just want to prevent future problems, they have it covered.

**AID COMING TO ISLAND ESTATES** A new Dental office specializing in dental implants is opening on Island Estates. Aesthetic Implant Dentistry (AID) is moving into the space where Postal Printing was located, next to the Island Market and Windward Bar & Grill. Coming soon. See their web site at [www.NewTeethNow.com](http://www.NewTeethNow.com).

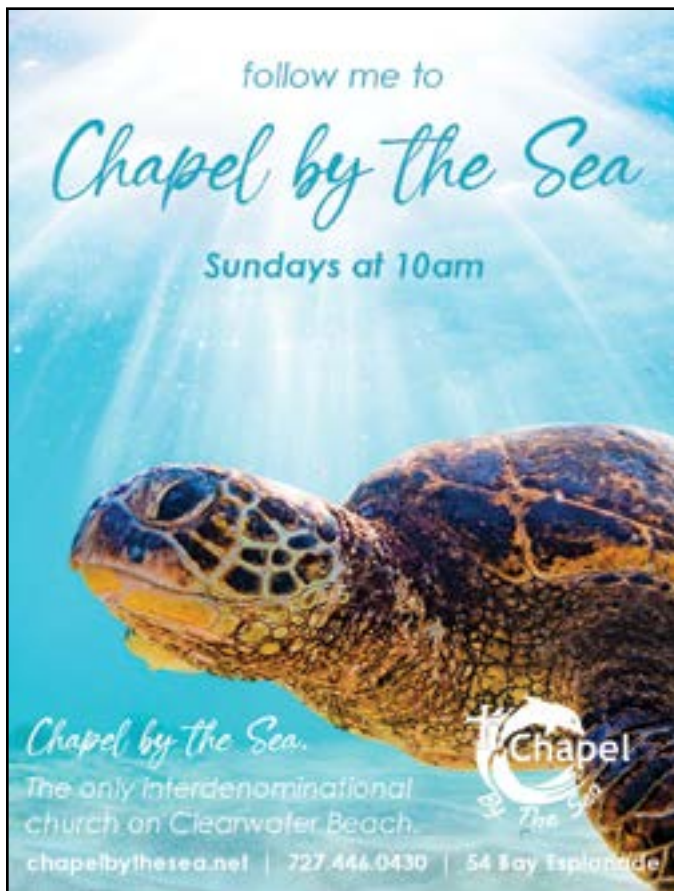
**BLUFFS TACKLE AND MARINE OPENS** Owners Frankie and Ryan opened their new fishing supply store in mid-May. Whether you prefer fresh or saltwater fishing, this store carries everything including a large selection of rods and reels, artificial and frozen bait, clothing, sunglasses, and tackle; absolutely everything that you need for a great day on the water. They are a 1/2 mile east of the Belleair Boat ramp on West Bay Drive just before Indian Rocks Road, across from Publix. They open at 7am and close at 9pm.



**TOP HEALTH SYSTEM FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR** BayCare Health System has once again been recognized by a leading, independent survey for excellence in clinical outcomes, operational efficiency, patient experience, financial health, and contributions to community health. The news comes from Fortune/IBM Watson Health®, which lists BayCare in the top 20 percent of large health systems in the country. This is the third year in a row BayCare has been recognized with this honor.

In addition to being recognized as a health system, Morton Plant Hospital made the 100 Top Hospitals list as a top teaching hospital.

**BUSINESS NEWS WANTED** If your business has news you would like to share with the readers of this News Magazine, e-mail [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com) or call 727-430-8300.



# People In Our Area

## MEET CORY FIELDS



The average fish tank holds about 30 gallons of water, and it takes about an hour of maintenance every 2 weeks or so to keep the water clean and clear. Now imagine the effort required to keep up with the approximately 2 million gallons of seawater in the habitats that house all the marine life at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA)! Meet Cory Fields, CMA's new Dive Coordinator. It is his job to coordinate the team of three

full-time staff divers and about 80 volunteers that tackle the gargantuan task of maintaining the marine environments at the aquarium using SCUBA gear, scrub brushes, and power-driven spinning brushes similar to a floor buffer.

Fields started at CMA about two years ago as Dive Lead, cleaning environments using SCUBA gear, scrub brushes, and power-driven spinning brushes similar to a floor buffer. He has performed in underwater presentations as a SCUBA diver and previously worked as a Divemaster, guiding SCUBA divers on tours.

Recently Fields was promoted to Dive Coordinator where he helps manage the upkeep of the various environments. Most need to be cleaned about once a week, with the exception of the dolphin exhibits which need cleaning two or three times each week to prevent growth of algae. The three other staff divers are supplemented by a team of about 80 volunteers who donate their time to do a dirty, but rewarding, job making sure the resident animals have a clean and inviting environment to call home.

CMA's recent expansion added 103,000 square feet of guest space, which means there's a whole lot more for guests to see and experience. It also added 1.5 million gallons of water for Cory and the team to keep clean and fresh. The new addition, which opened in October 2020, includes five separate but connecting habitats that are the home for CMA's five resident bottlenose dolphins, as well as their stage. Winter, Hope, Nicholas, PJ, and Hemingway entertain about 750,000 visitors each year. The aquarium also features two rough-toothed dolphins, Rex and Rudolph, as well as a cast of stingrays, sea turtles, otters, sharks, and pelicans. CMA's main mission is to rehabilitate, and release rescued animals, but those who's injuries or ailments prevent them from surviving in the wild are given a permanent home at the Aquarium.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm with extended hours during the summer months. In addition to the exhibits and educational programs, the Aquarium offers snorkel trips and "Sea Life Safaris" aboard their fleet of pontoon boats. They have Summer Camps for kids from K through 12th grade and many other programs both on and off site. For more information, visit [www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com).



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## **BAYCARE RECRUITING ALZHEIMER'S STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

BayCare Health System's Morton Plant and St. Anthony's hospitals are actively recruiting participants for a clinical trial using a non-invasive retinal screening process that potentially could help detect Alzheimer's disease possibly decades before symptoms appear.

Funded primarily by the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation, the five-year, \$5 million Atlas of Retinal Imaging in Alzheimer's Study (ARIAS) plans to enroll 330 individuals at three sites – Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Petersburg, and The Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital in Providence, R.I.

Candidates for this study should be between 55 and 80 years old. Potential participants range from cognitively normal (no memory concerns) to mild (early) Alzheimer's disease. First degree relatives of people with Alzheimer's disease are a key study group in ARIAS because they are naturally at higher risk of developing the disease.

Participants will be examined five times over three years. Each visit will include an eye exam, APOE genetic swab, cognitive assessments and retinal imaging, which is much like what is done during a visit to the eye doctor.

The goal of the study is to develop an inexpensive way to screen people for Alzheimer's, making it possible to identify who will get the disease long before symptoms emerge. Those individuals become candidates to receive potentially effective medications to stop or alter disease development.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease is not clinically diagnosed until clinical symptoms become obvious. By this time, too much damage is done to the brain and patients are experiencing loss to their quality of life. ARIAS will try to find ways to detect Alzheimer's early, before symptoms emerge and there is a decline in the ability to function. If proven effective, the retinal imaging used in the study can be done inexpensively on a visit to the eye doctor.

This study officially launched more than a year ago, but as was the case with many things in 2020, COVID-19 delayed enrollment. "We had hoped to have this study well underway by now, but the pandemic shifted everyone's priorities," said Stuart Sinoff, MD, co-principal investigator and retired medical director of Neurosciences for BayCare's West Region.

If you live near Tampa, Clearwater or St. Petersburg in Florida, and may be interested in participating, please call Catrina Montgomery at 727-298-6077 or email [ARIAS@baycare.org](mailto:ARIAS@baycare.org).

## **NEW DOCUMENTARY**

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) announced the new documentary, "Stranded: A Whale Rescue Story," is being released this Summer. It covers the rescue, rehabilitation, release, and tracking of the five pilot whales that stranded on Redington Beach.

In Summer 2019, CMA received a rescue call like none they had ever received before; five pilot whales had stranded on a beach just 14 miles south of its marine life hospital. Every decision from then on was made to ensure the health and safety of the whales, the staff working on them, and the community who came together to support their efforts.

This documentary includes original footage from the beach and the series of events that followed. Watch as a community of scientists, biologists and bystanders work to save the animals and gain information on why they stranded.

Visit [WhaleRescueTale.com](http://WhaleRescueTale.com) to see the trailer.

## BUDDY USCG STATION DOG

By Pete Magnani

About three years ago, the crew at the United States Coast Guard Station Sand Key approached their Commanding Officer CWO Tracy Randall with a request. They wanted to adopt a dog that would live at the station. She put out some feelers and friend told her about Buddy, a seven year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback mix who had been living with an elderly woman that had gone to a nursing home. CO Randall brought the dog to the station for a trial run and by the end of the first day the team agreed he was going to stay.



Buddy and BM2 Jamyson Trancoso

Buddy's first few years of life were not pleasant. He and another pup named Bocephus were found in Georgia by animal rescue volunteers. Both were emaciated; Bocephus at about 6 months old, weighed a mere 13 pounds. A veterinarian nursed them back to health. Buddy was adopted and brought to Florida, where he eventually found his place at Station Sand Key.

Buddy's first few days at Station Sand Key brought some excitement. He found a way around the station's fence at the seawall and escaped. He was eventually picked up by an Uber driver and brought to the pound. "Buddy spent one of his first nights as our station dog in jail," CO Randall jokingly recalls. After that, Buddy was there to stay. He quickly became a vital member of the team, going on patrol on the various response boats. He even had his own life jacket and tactical vest. His main job, however, is keeping up the morale of those assigned to Station Sand Key. Buddy was officially certified through the City of Clearwater as a service dog.

As he has gotten older, Buddy has developed a schedule. He eats breakfast with the crew, then tours the grounds. He makes his way to the Coast Guard Exchange (the station's general store) where he greets both active and retired Coast Guardsman who visit the station to shop. Eventually, he makes his way to CO Randall's office for his afternoon nap on the office couch.

CO Randall is retiring this month after 33 years of dedicated service. With her departure, and Buddy's advancing age, BM2 Jamyson Trancoso has volunteered to adopt Buddy and care for him in his later years. He still spends his days at the station, but now jumps in BM2 Trancoso's truck at the end of the day and goes home to sleep. She has two years left in her assignment at Station Sand Key and Buddy will move with her to her next duty station.

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## HOYT HAMILTON HAS THE WINNING MILLION DOLLAR TICKET

By Bob Griffin

What do you not want to do when you have a million-dollar winning Power Ball ticket? Throw it away, of course, but that is what Hoyt Hamilton almost did.

In April, Clearwater Beach City Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton bought a winning Power Ball ticket at the Island Estates Publix. On April 18th, not knowing it was a winner, he gave the ticket to the clerk to have it scanned. The machine generated a message to go to the regional office to collect his winnings—meaning he had won at least \$600.

When he got home, he decided to recheck the numbers on his computer; he always plays the same ones, a combination of birthdays and anniversaries. That is when he realized he never got the ticket back - he left it at Publix - the clerk must have thrown the winning ticket in the trash.

"It was like—get your ass back to that store NOW!," said Hamilton. "When I got there, I asked the clerk if she had emptied her trash yet. When she said no, I declared 'I need to see your trash can—NOW!'"

Hamilton and two Publix employees dug through the trash. After about ten minutes, Hamilton recognized his old ticket because he memorized his numbers. He went to his car and pulled up [www.FlaLottery.com](http://www.FlaLottery.com) on his phone and rechecked the numbers.

It was not the Power Ball winner, but he had picked five out of six numbers in Powerball. That added up to \$1,000,000 in winnings.

"I was in shock!" Hamilton says. He went home and showed his wife the winning ticket and said, "This is worth \$1 million!" They had talked about taking their kids on a cruise for

Christmas. The first thing his wife Sheryl said with glee was, "We're taking that cruise with all the grandkids!"

"I have played the lottery for years, but never won more than a few hundred dollars here and there," Hamilton explains.

After the state took 24% for taxes, Hamilton took home \$740,000.

The Hamiltons are putting \$50,000 in a college fund for each of their four grandchildren. The remaining \$540,000 is being put in their retirement investment fund. Then, they plan to do a little traveling and take the kids on that long talked about Disney Cruise.

Hamilton and his brothers own The Palm Pavilion. The family has owned it for over 50 years. He is a lifelong resident of Clearwater; he was born in Morton Plant and graduated from Clearwater High School. He first ran for the City Council in 2001 and served two terms. Then again in 2005 for a third term. Then again in 2014. He plans to retire from the City Council in March.



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For details on how we're keeping our customers safe, our hours and menu, please visit our website.



## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Clearwater Public Library System is gearing up for a summer of "Tails and Tales." These programs foster a love of reading. Continuing to read during the summer break is important for students to grow academically. This summer is especially vital, as students experienced new ways of learning during the pandemic.

New this year is a move to a virtual reading program for the whole family. Beanstack is a free, online service that offers unique and fun ways to connect children and teens with books and educational reading activities. Participants are matched by age and reading level. They can also choose areas of interest. The accompanying Badge Book is a reading log and calendar that is designed to match the online reading challenge. As participants track their reading on the Beanstack website and mobile app, kids between the ages of five to ten earn badges matched to stickers in the book.

In addition to our exciting online reading challenge, all Clearwater library branches will continue to offer a series of fun, engaging virtual programs presented by the city's youth services librarians. Keeping with the animal summer reading theme, "Teachers of Nature" will be taught by experts in the field and will provide virtual classes with live animals.

Enjoy the library's weekly take-and-make craft kits, nature scavenger hunts, story times, robotic animals and more. The summer reading program will conclude with the city's annual backpack, book, and school supply giveaway. The library staff is looking forward to a fun, interactive summer that connects children, teens and families with the library. Check out the library's Facebook page ([facebook.com/clearwaterlib](https://facebook.com/clearwaterlib)), YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/clearwaterlibrary](https://youtube.com/user/clearwaterlibrary)), and [myclearwaterlibrary.com](https://myclearwaterlibrary.com) for additional programs.

## CITY OF CLEARWATER OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES

The city of Clearwater Parks and Recreation department is hosting a free movie night series. Each month, a different community center will host a great movie Fridays at 6:30 pm, doors open at 6pm.

Ross Norton Rec Center - June 25, SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2  
 Morningside Rec Center - July 9, Movie: DESPICABLE ME 2  
 Clearwater Beach Rec Center - August 27, Movie: INSIDE OUT  
 Countryside Rec Center - September 24, Movie: SOUL  
 Long Center Rec Center - October 8, Movie: CARS 3

Bring blankets, chairs, food and drink. Please no glass, canopies, tents, or pets. Go to [myclearwater.com/movies](https://myclearwater.com/movies) to reserve your spot online. Please pre-register as a limited number of spaces will be available.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a low-stress environment, in a beautiful place, with wonderful people? Volunteer in the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop at the Florida Botanical Gardens!

As a gift shop volunteer, you will conduct sales transactions, help customers, and interact as a "goodwill ambassador" for the Florida Botanical Gardens and the Foundation. Year-round residents are preferred, for consistency. All sales proceeds benefit the Gardens.

No previous sales experience needed, but reliability is important. Shifts are 9 am-1 pm, Monday-Friday.

The Gift Shop is located in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

To volunteer, contact Communications Coordinator Emily Bloxam at [emilyflbgfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:emilyflbgfoundation@gmail.com).

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# The Community Dental Clinic

The calls never stop at the Community Dental Clinic in Clearwater where they provide free urgent dental care for Pinellas disadvantaged adults. Since they opened their doors in 2013, they have relieved the pain and suffering of low income uninsured adults by providing 13,060 appointments and 41,610 procedures equal to \$5.5 million in services – 65% of that in the last 3 years.

To qualify for services, patients must live in Pinellas County with household incomes less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line and without dental insurance. According to 2018 census data, that describes more than 100,000 people in Pinellas – and that was before the pandemic. Anyone who qualifies can simply call 727-216-6155 for an appointment.

“More and more people are finding themselves with a reduced income and no dental insurance. When they suffer from the pain and stress of a broken tooth, inflamed gums or an infection, they can’t afford to go to the dentist and pay hundreds of dollars or more for treatment,” explained Clinical Director, Sarah Valentine. “If they meet our criteria for enrollment, we try to see them and relieve their pain in 48 hours or less.”



**Their front desk and lobby with friendly, COVID safe check in**

The CDC enrolls 30 to 50 new patients each month and works to fit them into the schedule in one of their three dental chairs and one hygiene station. They provide the necessary exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions and limited root canals to resolve the immediate pain, then they correct any other issues that could result in future problems. When a patient needs care beyond the clinic’s scope of services, the clinic staff provides contact information for places that can help.

This summer the clinic will pilot an expansion of their services to include

dentures. They also hope to cover oral surgery costs where critically necessary. If all goes well, they will be able to help hundreds of people escape dental and financial devastation – for free.

The CDC is on a mission to improve the oral health and overall health of their patients. Numerous studies link dental decay to serious health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and arthritis.

“Tooth pain can be so debilitating that people can’t eat or sleep or care for their families. When that pain drives them to our clinic, we often find they need assistance with medical care, housing or food as well. We help with their dental needs, then recommend local programs and services that can provide a safety net of care,” said Executive Director, Pamela Iusi. “We are truly a community clinic provided by the community for the community. We are grateful for the dedicated dentists and other professionals who volunteer their time to help our patients, and for the gracious donations of caring individuals in our community who realize that dental care affects the entire person.”

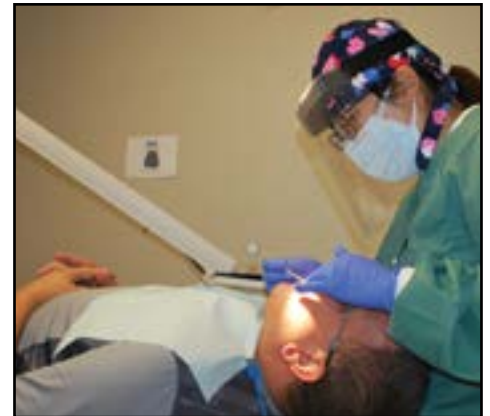
In addition to general donations, more than 300 generous friends participate in the clinic’s annual fundraiser, Reds, Whites & Bites, which provides about one third of the clinic budget each year.

Community partnerships and foundation grants also play a key role in the clinic’s ability to serve. Local hospitals help staff the clinic to provide services for those who turn to the ER for help when a dental clinic can better meet their needs. The Pinellas County Commission supports a Health Department dentist one day a week and a hygienist three days a week.

Grants from thoughtful foundations have funded dental assistants, critical equipment and needed supplies. Caring private foundations and local businesses provide critical financial and in-kind support so the clinic can provide critical community support.

The clinic works to ensure equitable services for their patients. They make the clinic experience very similar to that of a regular dentist. Patients are seen by appointment only, are treated in private rooms with up-to-date equipment, receive a comprehensive treatment plan, and are cared for with the utmost compassion and skill. Dental Director, Dr. Bao-Tran Dao (Dr. Tran), makes sure of it.

“Many of our patients experience great anxiety about visiting the dentist, and that has kept them from seeking regular dental care. We build their trust through



**Dr. Tran examines a patients mouth to determine the source of pain.**

compassionate service, and give them the knowledge they need to make good oral health decisions.” Dr. Tran said.

The clinic’s patients echo this commitment to care. Shannon, 48, says she harbored a lifelong fear of dentistry. Now she insists Dr. Tran has taken away her pain as well as her fear of dental care. “She made me laugh! She’s like a therapist and a dentist.”

Patients like Candace, 69, come to the clinic seeking urgent care, but what they receive—in their own words—goes far beyond that. Candace said the way she is treated when she visits the clinic helps her feel better as a patient who can’t afford dental services. “They don’t indicate in any way you are anything but a valued patient. They’re very kind and caring. They know your name, they know what you’re about. I’m just grateful 100 times.”

Compassion, care & community are the guiding lights of the CDC which was founded with heartfelt concern for the disadvantaged in our area.

“In 2009, The Salvation Army commissioned an independent survey to identify the community’s unmet social service needs. We were all surprised to find access to dental care was far and away the most critical,” says Paul Umberg, CDC Chairman of the Board. Through the shared vision of The Salvation Army, the Clearwater Free Clinic, and Arc of Tampa Bay, the clinic was founded in 2011 and, with the help of the City of Clearwater, opened in 2013.

In less than 8 years, the CDC is running at full capacity. They hope to provide more appointments for those who desperately need help by expanding their space to double their impact. If you would like more information or to donate to this important mission, visit [www.communitydentalclinic.net](http://www.communitydentalclinic.net) or call the clinic at 727-216-6155.



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# Bar & Restaurant News

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**NEW RESTAURANT CONCEPT** Rock House Live is the flagship location of a major new restaurant concept. "This is a first of its kind, a hybrid live and virtual entertainment themed restaurant, venue and bar concept, offering the culture of rock 'n' roll with live music, entertainment, great food, awesome drinks and instant live recording," says the owners.

Rock House LIVE opened in May just south of the Marina. Naturally, with a name like that, they have live music at night with food and a full bar.

This fun, open air spot with inside and outside tables, and lots of umbrellas is the place to Eat, Drink and ROCK.

Find them at 207 Coronado Drive, across from the Wyndham. Get more information at [www.RockHouseLive.com](http://www.RockHouseLive.com).

**BLESSED CUP CAFE** This small coffee shop replaced Basimo Beach Café. It is in the Pelican Plaza, 483 Mandalay Avenue, upstairs, at the south end.

**SWEET DREAMZ** This new ice cream spot is on the north end of the beach. They offer Hershey's hand dipped ice cream, soft serve, smoothies, Italian ice, sundaes, shakes, Philly water ice, and specialize in Dippin' Dots.

Find Sweet Dreamz Ice Cream and Dessert Parlor at 472 Poinsettia Avenue, near Another Broken Egg.

**CHIHUAS TACOS NOW OPEN**

Since May, this small restaurant has been serving great authentic Mexican food. Sure they have tacos, but they have so much more.

Dine inside or out, or take-out. They even deliver, too. Talk to owner Tino, (shown here) about catering.

Find them at 688 South Gulfview Blvd., next to Gondolier Pizza or call 600-8800.



**GIVE BLOOD - GET A \$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE** Frenchy's Rockaway is teaming up with OneBlood to do a blood drive in their parking lot. If you participate, you will get a \$10 gift certificate, a free shirt, a ClearSky coupon, and a free Covid-19 test, if needed. Plus, you have the opportunity to Save a Life.

The Blood Mobile will be parked near Rockaway on June 17th. Find them at 7 Rockaway Drive, near the Fire Station.

**SAVE THE DATE - BACKWATER'S 21ST** Backwater's in Sand Key will celebrate their 21st anniversary in August. Normally they have a big party to celebrate, but last year, their big 20th was canceled due to the Covid Pandemic.

This year they are excited to be able to celebrate, so it will be a big one. Save the date - this year's three-day Anniversary party is August 20-22.

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# Bar & Restaurant News



**FORMER GATOR'S LOCATION REOPENS WITH NEW OWNERS** Beachside Hospitality Group, the owner of eleven restaurants around the state including Clearwater Beach's Crabby's Dockside, expanded to Treasure Island. In May, they reopened the former Gator's Café on the south side of John's Pass as Crabby's On The Pass. Gator's closed at the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and never reopened. Crabby's On The Pass features traditional American seafood in a casual waterfront atmosphere. You can still go by boat and dock at their back door. They plan to have live music seven days a week and have 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."

**NEW GREEK RESTAURANT** Alati, whose Greek name translates to "salt" is Clearwater Beach's newest restaurant. The restaurant features authentic Greek food with a full bar and is open 2pm-11pm daily (except for Sunday).

Reservations are available through "Open Table" or delivery through GrubHub. Get more information on their Facebook page. Find them at 486 Poinsettia Avenue or call 230-3999.

**18 ON THE ROCKS CLOSSES** Owners Nancy Adani and Doug Thompson have decided five years is enough and will not be renewing their lease on the Indian Rocks property.

"Nancy (who is much younger than I) was undecided at first as to whether or not to continue, but she quickly climbed on board," says Thompson. "I, on the other hand have been in the business for 42 years and decided it was time to spend more quality time with my wife, adult children and (soon to be) 8 grandkids as well as my other business interests."

"We are simply leaving 18 On The Rocks and Indian Rocks Beach a better place than we found it! We had fun, met lots of lifelong friends, prepared the best food and drinks possible for ALL of our awesome guests and provided our employees a safe, fun and financially beneficial place to call home," Thompson concludes.

18 On The Rocks closed May 23.

**SECOND LOCATION** Coco's Crush Bar & Grill, on Coronado Drive, is adding a second location in Indian Rocks Beach. Coco's will reopen the recently closed "18 On The Rocks" after a quick paint job. It will be similar to their Clearwater location five miles away. Look for it to open soon at 2405 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks.

**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.

**CLOSED Basimo Beach Cafe** on Mandalay Ave. The Basimo Beach Cafe in the Shoppes of Sand Key is still open.

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# Community News...

## CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is celebrating their 71st birthday and is one of the area's 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/](https://facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub/) or [clearwatergardenclub.com](http://clearwatergardenclub.com). Contact Paul Keleti, Chairman, 727-316-5504, [clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com)

## ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB

The Island Estate Women's Club (IEWC) announced their eight 2021 Scholarship Winners. The deserving young ladies graduated from Clearwater High School this year and will receive a \$3,000 scholarship, to be used at the college of their choice. A total of \$24,000 was awarded.

The winners of the IEWC Charitable Trust Fund are: Lauren Lopez and Milena Kullaj. We are fortunate to have an anonymous IEWC member who awarded four scholarships to Jordan Clark, Ashly Sajeev, Dasia Crump and Alicia Galvan-Cruz. Two additional scholarships represent the IEWC Memorial Scholarships; these are in memory of two of our past members whose families fund these scholarships every year. The Marie Wadsworth Memorial Scholarship will go to Alexa Nicolas-Lara and the Rita O'Neil Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to Emily Pursley.

IEWC is very proud of their commitment to the community and education. Since 1997, they have awarded over 80 scholarships. The Club raises money throughout the year to support and fund these scholarships, including a March fashion show fundraiser luncheon.

The IEWC welcomes ladies from around the area and meets from September to June with monthly social luncheons, interesting speakers, fun field trips, and Friday night cocktails. To learn more about the The Island Estate Women's Club please visit [islandestateswomensclub.com](http://islandestateswomensclub.com).

## ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ORGANIZATION

2021 is a new year and as things continue to open up, IECA has been making plans but still working on a few details. Here is just a glimpse of what to expect this year.

- Causeway Cleanups - Each quarter, stay tuned
- Oktoberfest - Oct 17th, A Block Party in the Fall.
- Trunk or Treat - October 31st
- Annual Meeting (in Person) - November 9th, at TBA
- Winter Social Member Dinner, December 7th, at TBA

## ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The IEYC is Sailing Again! It was a beautiful day for a beautiful event. Thirty-one Island Estates Yacht Club members and four guests got together at the Island Way Grill on Sunday, May 24th for a fabulous brunch. The excitement was apparent as members saw friends that many hadn't seen in over a year. Raffles were held throughout the brunch to the surprise of the members. Everyone commented on how great it was to get together and looks forward to upcoming events.

The IEYC is in the process of planning events through the rest of the year, including a Newlywed Game (June), Threshers baseball game (July), Game & Trivia Night (August). Dates will be updated on the website when they are available. For informations, visit [islandestatesyc.org](http://islandestatesyc.org).

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# Community News...

## BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The Club's new officers and trustees were installed at the annual May meeting of the Belleair Garden Club. The Board includes Jan Bradish - President, Kathe Hardwick - 1st VP, Caroline Kaufman - 2nd VP, Michael Knight - Treasurer, Judy Hanks - Asst Treasurer, Al DeNeve - Secretary, Kathleen Knight - Corresponding Secretary, and Trustees Pat Acken, Daniela Boesshenz, Jackie Ceren, Judy Sorenson, and Carol DeNeve.

Held outdoors at the Belleair Picnic Pavilion, the meeting was a covid safe event. This new Board will direct the club and its philanthropic pursuits for the 2021-2022 club year. The non-profit organization hosts a variety of outreach programs to the town of Belleair and Pinellas County. The first fundraiser this year will be the annual "Junk & Jewels Sale" in October. Funds raised will support its scholarship program for post high school Pinellas County students and its historic preservation fund. To make a donation to this October sale, please leave a message at 727-586-4021 or visit [www.belleairgardenclub.com](http://www.belleairgardenclub.com).

## 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 currently offered 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](mailto: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.

## 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 fifteen condo associations and 7 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 the COVID-19 situation, the board continues to meet via zoom video conferencing so interested members can also attend. June 2, 2021 will be our last meeting before we adjourn for the summer. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2021. Look for a registration link in the email announcing each month's agenda, or obtain the link at [sandkeycivicassociation.org](http://sandkeycivicassociation.org). Contact the secretary at [skcainc@aol.co](mailto:skcainc@aol.co), with questions.

## MANAGING A SCHOOL DURING A PANDEMIC

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."*  
Charles Dickens, **"A Tale of Two Cities"**

"It was the worst of times and the best of times," says Anona Elementary School Principal Ann Welch, paraphrasing the famous line by Charles Dickens. "This year has been very different for me, the teachers, and the children," Ann adds, who is now in her sixth year at Anona located in Largo.

Last year, the Covid-19 Pandemic began in the middle of the school year—March of 2020. Anona students spent the remaining school year at home tele-learning on laptops and talking to their teachers over ZOOM.

The rapid closure of schools last spring took many families by surprise. Students were asked to learn from home, online, with assignments from the school. This was a new experience. It was not easy to convert homes into classrooms.

"The technology we had to quickly learn and infuse into our lessons is an example of how we adapted to this crazy year," Welch explains. "Our newer teachers became our technology leaders and supported others who were not as familiar with the tools."

The kids returned to Anona in the Fall, but to a school environment much different than they had ever seen. There have been a number of procedures in place to ensure the safety and wellness of students, employees, and ultimately, the entire community.

Anona has 470 students and 72 people on staff, including the front office, cafeteria, security, and maintenance.

"We took every possible step to make the learning environment both safe and effective for everyone - the kids, the teachers, the entire staff," explains Welch. "Their days are different beginning from their arrival until they leave the school grounds," she says.

"The kids spend most of their days inside their classrooms with desks as far apart as possible. They eat breakfast (if applicable) and lunch there" Welch says. "They must wear a mask all day. If they need a mask break - and many do - the teacher lets them take a break, normally outside in the fresh air. They go on bathroom breaks one at a time. At the end of the day, everyone stays in their classroom until their parents arrive and their names are called," Welch explains.

During the first part of this year, there was little or no outside activities. Recently, that restriction has been lifted and the kids get recreation time outdoors under the trees and in the recreation areas. Exercise helps them think better and physical activity is a natural way to reduce students' stress and prevent anxiety.

All these efforts seemed to have worked. Anona only had 15 positive Covid-19 cases among the students and another 15 staff cases and they have not had to quarantine any classrooms or buses. The first staff case was not until November 18. The first student case was a month later. Most cases turned up right after the new year. Welch suspects it had something to do with the Holiday break.

The district maintains a dashboard that lists the positive cases in Pinellas County schools at [www.pcsb.org/covid19cases](http://www.pcsb.org/covid19cases). It is updated each workday and is searchable by location and

date. Additionally, in an effort to keep everyone informed, principals send school-wide messages every time a positive case is confirmed in their school.

Anona has some of the lowest number among all the schools in Pinellas County!

"I want to believe this is due to the support from the children, their parents and my staff," Welch says with confidence.

"This was not easy, but everyone involved knew this was serious and did what they were asked to do without resistance in the interest of the children and learning."

"We also had fantastic attendance," Welch says. "Many schools saw parents keeping their children home and teachers afraid to come to work. It did affect our supply of substitute teachers—many of them are older and dropped out of the substitute teacher pool"

"I want to thank the community, my teachers and staff and all the parents who tried to understand and do what was necessary," add Welch. "This situation is serious and still is on going. We will continue to do what is recommended and necessary until we all get beyond this."

"All and all, I think this Pandemic actually brought out the best in people and our children," Welch reflects. "I am so incredibly proud and appreciative to be leading this wonderful historic school. This was a difficult year no doubt, but in my opinion it ended up being one of our best. The struggles we encountered at the start of the year bought our staff closer together. We had each other's backs and supported one another. We taught each other, so that we could give our very best to our students."

This year, just like last year, there will be no typical "Graduation Ceremony." Instead, the graduation will be a drive-by celebration on June 9th, beginning at about 12:30pm.

"To me, this year's fifth grade class is more special than most. Many students started their first year at Anona when I began six years ago," Welch explains. "They are a wonderful group of students who I have watched grow into talented and positive young people. It is amazing to see the growth between the ages of 5 and 11. We covered an awful lot of ground in those years and I truly appreciate the support I have had from their families."

"Our students have remained happy, engaged, and most importantly are making the gains they need to move on to their next year of learning. It has been truly inspiring each day for me to walk into the classrooms and see the high level of teaching and learning."

"What could have been the worst of times for our school, has indeed been one of our BEST!" Welch concludes.



Anona Elementary School Principal Ann Welch with fifth graders Liam Rock and Jade Darroch



# Marina Market & Food Hall

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| <b>Blowfish Sushi</b>        | <b>Shuck It Raw Bar</b>       | <b>Cool Cookie</b>     |
| <b>Salt Cracker Charters</b> | <b>Causeway Bar</b>           | <b>Beach Shoppe</b>    |
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## RECYCLE DO'S AND DON'TS

Have you ever wondered what things you should and should not throw in our big blue recycle bins? I have. Every time I toss in a plastic grocery bag or Styrofoam container from a restaurant, I wonder, is that supposed to be in there?

After some research, I have put together a list of some of the things you should not recycle at the curb. The first rule of thumb - look on the bottom of a bottle or food container. It will have a printed number that ranges from 1-7 if it is recyclable. If it doesn't, throw it in the garbage.

**PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS** - This is the #1 NO-NO. They do not want the plastic bags you get at grocery, hardware or other stores in the bins. They clog up the machines.

Take them back to the grocery stores where they have green bins at their front door, or put them in the dog bag stands around the city. Better yet, take your own re-useable bags to the store and say NO to plastic.

**STYROFOAM** - Styrofoam cannot be recycled. Many stores are recognizing this and are changing to paper/cardboard. In the meantime, throw it in your regular trash—not your recycling bins. Publix will accept Styrofoam egg containers and the trays used in the vegetable department. Styrofoam peanuts used for packing can be donated back to the closest UPS or packing store.

### BATTERIES -

Per Florida law, it is illegal to dispose of nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries in your trash.

It is OK to place normal alkaline batteries in the garbage, but never in the blue bins as it causes contamination. 20% of the recycled waste collected at the curb is contaminated and has to go through a separate, expensive, time-consuming process. Nickel cadmium and small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries need to be taken to a Chemical Recycling event or the Pinellas County's HEC-3 facility. Car & Boat batteries are normally recycled where you buy new ones and you pay a recycling fee. The following normally have a recycling bin: Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Target, Batteries-Plus, and some but not all Staples.



**PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS** - Even though they may be paper, they probably are not recyclable. Paper towels are made differently than newspaper or computer paper and do not breakdown. Instead, they tear in the machines. Many are contaminated by food products anyway. Do not recycle wax paper, either.

**BUBBLE WRAP** - Plastic bubble wrap and pillows used for packing should not be recycled at the curb. It is just like plastic bags, they clog the machine. Donate them to the closest packaging / shipping store.



**FOOD AND LIQUIDS** - Do not use your recycle bin as a trash can. Do not throw half-filled recyclable water/juice bottles in it. Empty and rinse them out first. Same with pizza boxes with partial food remains - that is garbage and can't be recycled.

**PLASTIC** - Just because it is plastic does not mean it goes in the blue bins. Plastic bottles and food containers with a 1 - 7 on the bottom are good, but not bigger items and hard plastics, like toys, tools and PVC. Some can be recycled, but not curbside.

**GLASS** - Not all glass belongs in your blue bin. If it came with food or drink inside, it is good to recycle. Other glass like mirrors, windows, drinking glasses, vases, etc. is unfortunately, just trash.

**METALS** - Here again, the only metal you can recycle curbside is metal that contained food or drink - aluminum or tin cans. No other metal, including pipes, faucets, nails and parts should go in the blue bins. They are normally recovered at the County's Waste-To-Energy Facility using magnets and other methods.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** - When your home fire extinguisher reads empty do not put it in the recycle bin. Do not take it to the fire station either. Instead, if you are sure it is totally empty, you may throw it in the garbage. To know for sure that it is empty, pull the trigger, outside.

**PINELLAS FACILITY** - The Pinellas County HEC-3 facility is located at 2855 109th Avenue North (just off 28th Street N. one mile south of Roosevelt Blvd.) in St Petersburg. They are open Monday - Saturdays. Call 464-7500 with questions.

For more information on what to recycle and what not to recycle, visit: [PinellasCounty.org/Recycle](http://PinellasCounty.org/Recycle), [PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/SwapShop](http://PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/SwapShop), [PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/GetRidofit](http://PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/GetRidofit) and [Publix.com/Recycle](http://Publix.com/Recycle).

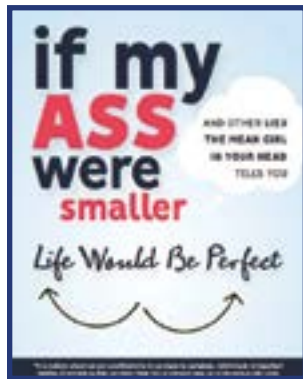


## NEUTRALIZE THAT MEAN GIRL VOICE IN YOUR HEAD

There is nothing worse than putting time, energy and sacrifice into changing the size and shape of your body, only to find out everything else in your life remained exactly the same. The same job. The same bank balances. The same bad habits. The same social life. The same dirty laundry. That is the problem with the Mean Girl in your head that tells you everything would be perfect if only...

In her book, "If My Ass Were Smaller Life Would be Perfect and Other Lies the Mean Girl in Your Head Tells You," Intuitive Eating Counselor and Anti-Diet Coach Julie Glynn, from Clearwater Beach teaches you how to neutralize that Mean Girl voice in your head.

With two master's degrees, one in education and one in health and wellness coaching, and years working in both fields, combined with her own life experience, Glynn has seen how the inner voice negatively impacts your thoughts.



Your Mean Girl might discourage you from taking risks, judge the foods you eat, cause you to doubt your intelligence or ability to succeed, or inflict excessive guilt, self-doubt, and critical judgment. You do not have to believe what she is telling you - not anymore. Each chapter of this book addresses a different lie Mean Girl tells us, some of which pertain to food choices, appearance, comparing ourselves to others, and doubting our skills and abilities.

Identifying, listening, and understanding the purpose of our Mean Girl, then creating an alliance with her and using her to our advantage can be life changing. Many people may not know this was even an option. Glynn wrote this book to enlighten readers of the possibility of not only quieting their Mean Girl but also helping them convert her into a voice of encouragement and support. Imagine a life where your worst enemy no longer lives inside your head and your best friend lives there instead.



But what about the conflict most of us feel about the size and shape of our body? Glynn shares her knowledge as an Intuitive Eating Counselor and simplifies what it means to eat intuitively, coming to terms with emotional eating and how to make peace with the one amazing body you have been gifted.

Glynn uses her sense of humor, and love of analogies along with a writing style that draws you in and makes you want to keep reading as she teaches the tools that can quite literally change how you think about yourself, view the world, and finally learn to be nice to yourself. Be sure to have a pen handy as you will likely want to mark it up and take notes.

Julie Glynn's self-published books are available on Amazon. You can also find her book as well as additional information about her on her website [www.GlynnGlynn.com](http://www.GlynnGlynn.com)

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## LARRY GERWIG: WORK HARD. PLAY HARDER. 1945-2021

By Becky Griffin

Larry Gerwig accomplished many things in his life. He served in the military during Vietnam, stationed in France. He worked for major construction companies building many big things. He was a long time Board Member and Past-President of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday. He was an artist. He loved to travel. He was a husband, married for 32 years to wife Linda. He was a father to two sons, David and Paul, and two step-sons, Mark and Michael. He was a grandfather to eleven grandchildren.

So often people are remembered for their jobs. Larry joined Creative Contractors in 1985. He moved up and eventually become their Executive Vice President. His 50 years of construction experience allowed him to work on projects throughout the state. On most days, if you traveled anywhere in the area with Larry, he would say with his famous grin, "I built that. And I built that over there, too."

"Larry was a trusted resource for clients and architects, and a mentor to many employees who followed in his footsteps. Larry possessed the unique talent 'to build a building in his head'. We will always remember him fondly," says Alan Bomstein, CEO, Creative Contractors.

Larry's last project was the new lobby for Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Decades early, he had supervised the building of the original REH as the project manager. His fondness for REH was so great that even while semi-retired, he remained involved on this recent project to make sure the expansion was on time and on budget.

"Larry was instrumental in every construction project at Ruth Eckerd Hall including the initial building. He knew our building literally from the inside out," explains Susan Crockett, the President and CEO of REH. "He approached his profession with an interesting mix of humor, preparation, detail and caution – the perfect recipe for someone charged with making sure every aspect of an extremely complex project is considered and accounted for. Knowing that left brain side of him, I was taken back with the first personal gift I received from Larry. It was a beautiful set of note cards featuring a cigar-rolling senora circa 1950

Cuba, an oil painting signed L. Gerwig."

Larry had many passions, and one was jazz music. He was a member of the Clearwater Jazz Foundation Board for 25 years and President from 2004-2005. He always looked forward to October in Coachman Park where he would volunteer and listen to his beloved jazz for four days.

"Larry was a dear friend and committed, long-time Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation Board Member. He has been with us at every step as we have grown and evolved," explains Steve Weinberger the CEO of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation. "We loved Larry - the experience and enthusiasm he brought to the organization and his passion for our mission of Music, Education & Outreach. Larry's legacy will inspire us as we carry on the CJH tradition; we are planning several meaningful ways to honor him."

Always ready for an adventure, for his 50th birthday, Larry decided to learn to sail and bought a sailboat named "Sea Venture." He took many trips on his boat including races to Key West. In 2008, he and Linda moved from Belleair Bluffs to Indian Rocks Beach and kept the boat behind their house.

Linda and Larry instantly fit into the Indian Rocks Beach community. He was a founding member of the Senior Softball League that formed ten years ago. One of his closest friends, Guy Coreno invited him to play.

"I asked Larry if he would like to join," Guy remembers. "He said he had never played organized sports before, but he would be willing to play. I was the pitcher, and he was the catcher. He learned to hit, run and catch. The problem was Larry had trouble throwing the ball back to me. We had no idea where his 95 MPH fast ball was going to end up," Guy chuckled. "Larry would laugh and smile the whole game. Everyone loved his enthusiasm and the respect he had for all his teammates."

Being semi-retired, Larry had some extra time and decided to learn to paint, first watercolor, then oils and perfected his portraits. He joined the Beach Art Center (BAC) for its classes and quickly joined the Board of Directors, volunteering wherever needed. His paintings won multiple ribbons

in various juried shows, all depicting subjects of his various travels.

"It was clear how committed Larry was to the Beach Art Center. He was prepared to do whatever he could to keep her going. He did more than most realized and did it with humility," explained Patricia Thomas, fellow BAC Board Member. "Larry made people feel 'seen.' When he thanked others for helping, it was with a level of sincerity I've rarely experienced. Larry recruited several volunteers and members to the Board and that changed the trajectory of our little art center."

"In March, Larry was re-elected to his fourth term on our Board," said Barb Parker, BAC Board Member. "His professional background was an invaluable asset to the art center. He was instrumental in our success with the recent capital improvements projects. Larry loved the art center and made it a mission to do everything he could to make it a great place for artists and visitors alike. We will miss him greatly," Barb concludes.

Larry loved people and parties, especially his famous Friday parties, though any occasion was a reason for a party! His drink of choice was a dirty martini with extra olives, unless of course it was Sunday. Those were reserved for Bloody Marys. In the last few years, Larry discovered Pickle Ball and loved it and the people he played with.

A few months before the Pandemic, Linda and Larry sold their home in Indian Rocks Beach and moved to Randolph Farms off Indian Rocks Road. During that socially distant time, he bought a "Green Egg" and explored recipes to perfect that talent, too. And he continued to play Pickle Ball with his new "Farm" friends.

Larry Gerwig touched many lives along his journey. He passed away April 21, 2021. A celebration of life was held at his beloved Ruth Eckerd Hall.

*We do not remember how we first met Larry. It could have been through the IRB Boat Club, or the Red Lion, or Clearwater Jazz Holiday, or a Homeowners event. All we know is we were soon drawn into his orbit of friends and parties and travel. We too will miss our good friend Larry. Godspeed. Becky & Bob Griffin*

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## Community News...

### 100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Brenda George and Julie Webster started "100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County" in February 2013 to raise money for local charities. The group has collectively given away \$307,200 in the last eight years. "It has been enlightening to learn about so many charitable groups," says Julie.

100 Women Who Care provides an avenue for women to make a significant impact on local charities. Members commit to attending only 4 meetings per year, and pledge to donate \$100 directly to an elected charity at each meeting. The charities are nominated and voted on by the members. The goal is to have 100 or more members, resulting in \$10,000 for the organization selected at each meeting. The founder of Best Buy, Richard M. Schulze's foundation can match up to \$5,000 of the group's donation. The concept is modeled after the original 100 Women Who Care, started in 2006 by Karen Dunigan, from Jackson, Michigan. Because it is so simple and effective, it has been implemented throughout the world. "The most exciting part is that we make a bigger impact when we all come together," says Brenda.

For more information, please contact Brenda George at (727) 515-1868 or Julie Webster at (813) 760-4749 or email them at 100WWCPinellasCounty@gmail.com. Find them on Facebook at 100+ Women Who Care- Pinellas County.

### GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club celebrated their club's 50th anniversary at a Fabulous 50th celebration luncheon on May 20, at the Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater Beach. It was a good time for all and a great tribute to all the volunteers who made up the membership of this club for the past 50 years!

The Fabulous 50th Anniversary celebration recognized charter members and past presidents. There was a Proclamation from the City of Clearwater (read by Mayor Frank Hibbard) and a Proclamation from Pinellas County. The DJ played songs from the past 50 years.

Guest speaker was Ashley Rhodes-Courter acclaimed author and advocate for children. Six Daisy Grants were given to local charities and the "Daisy Dancers" (club members) danced at their tables during the Celebration video. There was a slide show created for the event, that showed photos from all 50 years.

The GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club (CCWC) is a non-profit organization, whose members live the volunteer spirit. It is a member club of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest volunteer service organizations. Please feel free to check the website: GFWCClearwatercommunitywomansclub.org or the Club's Facebook page: GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club, or E-mail: MoreCCWCinfo@gmail.com for more information.

### THE WELCOME NEWCOMER CLUB

The Welcome Newcomer Club is a social organization that meets the first Tuesday of each month at different venues. The July lunch will be on Tuesday, July 6 at Countryside Country Club at 11:30 am. The program begins at noon with lunch at 12:30 pm. Lunch is \$34.50. RSVP to Carol Stephenson 734-558-9543 or carolynneparas@gmail.com by June 29, 2021

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# Community News...

**CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY & RECREATION**

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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.

**DALI MUSEUM**

- Van Gogh Alive Special Exhibit Ends June 13, 2021. Advanced-purchase timed tickets are required to visit The Dalí and this special exhibit, approaching its final weeks of display. The exhibit is included in the price of pre-purchased Museum admission. Advanced-purchase timed tickets are now sold out through the end of Van Gogh Alive.

- The new special exhibit, The Woman Who Broke Boundaries: Photographer Lee Miller, is launching July 3,2021-January 2, 2022. You can learn more at [www.thedali.org](http://www.thedali.org).

**BELLEAIR WOMEN REPUBLICAN CLUB**

They will host Ed Hooper, Republican member of the Florida Senate, as its June speaker. A resident of Clearwater, Senator Hooper retired after 28 years of municipal service, 24 of which were in the Clearwater Fire Service. He served as a Clearwater City Commissioner from 1996-2000, was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2006 & re-elected, serving as Majority Deputy Whip from 2008-2010. He has been a member of the Florida State Senate since 2018.

The meeting will be held on Friday, June 4, from 11:30 am-2 pm at Belleair Country Club. No walk-ins will be permitted. A check for \$26, payable to BWRC. 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.

**CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

They unveiled the Second Annual Women’s History Exhibit last month at the new Museum and Cultural Center, 610 S. Fort Harrison Ave. Clearwater.

The Society’s first Women’s History Exhibit hosted in March 2020 honored eight women for being first in their actions, their time in history, their profession or their accomplishments.

The Second Annual Women’s History Exhibit, continues the fine tradition of honoring women who have contributed to the greater good and recognizes their efforts, commitment, and dedication in shaping the community and its abundant attributes. A call for nominations identified exceptional honorees who contributed time, talent and treasure to create a place to call home and a worldwide destination.

Dedicated to the late Suzanne Lambert Ruley, who championed the Women’s History Exhibit, the 2021 honorees include Willa Carson, Ruth Eckerd, Barb Green, Cherry Harris, Jean Rees Homer, Blanche Littlejohn, Sallie Parks, Ruth Payne Stone and Margaret (Peggy) Word.

The exhibit features photos, archives, videos and artifacts that tell the honorees stories, individual contributions, challenges and triumphs.

The museum is open from 10 am – 2 pm on Saturdays.

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