

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

CLEARWATER SAYS GOODBYE TO RETIRING CITY MANAGER BILL HORNE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Since 2001 Bill Horne has been Clearwater's City Manager. He had hoped to retire last year, but like many things, the pandemic changed that plan. Now, he is retiring next month.

Last year, the City Council met by Zoom; City employees worked from home, unless they were essential. The City needed experienced leadership and conducting a nationwide search for his replacement was difficult, so Horne agreed to stay another year.

"During the Pandemic, 282 of our employees had COVID-19," says Horne. "Fourteen of have still not been able to return to work. The city basically shut down from March until the end of May, now the City is able to look for my replacement," Horne explains.

With or without a replacement, this time Horne is really leaving. His last day is September 3. After that, the city will be managed by one of the existing Assistant City Managers until a new Manager is hired.

"It will be impossible to replace Bill Horne. He has been an incredibly steady hand over the past twenty years and has led with integrity and vision," says Mayor Frank V. Hibbard. "During his tenure, Clearwater has progressed to become a world-class tourist destination and a wonderful community to raise a family, Bill's fingerprints are all over this progress. Mr. Horne leaves the city in a very stable and enviable financial position. I am grateful to him." - Continued on page 6



Also in this Issue:

Air Conditioning

Don't you love it this time of year! But, who invented it and how does it work?

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Concerned About Hackers?

Is your electronic information safe? Gets some tips to safeguard your online accounts

- page 27



Imagine Clearwater

Get a glimpse of what the project will look like when it is completed - page 10

Meet Julie Marcus

She is the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections. There is always news about voting these days. Do you know what she and her department do to make voting secure and easy? - page 24

CREDITS



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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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!

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William Horne	
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PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
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PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
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BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
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BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
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FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
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CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
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CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist	202-225-5961
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www.Crist.House.Gov	

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT

We are trying to bring back our calendar of events. There are a few scheduled, but as always this is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER		
Francis Wilson's TWO BY TWO opens	2	Taste Fest 24
20th Annual Gekofest in Gulfport	4	Florida Orchestra Season Opener 24
Labor Day	6	Off Shore Boat Races 24-26
Schools Closed	6	City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day 29
Rosh Hashanah	6-8	OCTOBER:
Buc's First Real Game	9	Fire Prevention Week 3 - 9
City Council Meeting	9	Dive-In Movies Morningside Rec Ctr 8
Dive-In Movies Morningside Rec Ctr	10	Beach Rec Center Pool Closes 10
Patriot Day	11	Columbus Day 11
NSA Softball Tournament	11-12	Indigenouness Peoples Day 11
Grandparents Day	12	Clearwater Jazz Holiday 14-17
Yom Kippur	15	Stone Crab Season Begins 15
National Clean Up Day	16	Buddy Walk Largo Central Park 16
Backwater's Trolley Ride	18	Big Cleanup - Clearwater Beach 16
International Peace Day	21	City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day 27
Autumn Begins	22	Halloween Juboolee Morningside Rec Ctr 29
		Halloween 31



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Did You Know



HISTORIC BELLEVIEW BILTMORE BRICKS The Greater Largo Library Foundation is selling original bricks from the Historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel. The hotel was built in 1897 and frequented by locals and tourists from all over the country.

Each one-of-a-kind brick is \$50 each plus tax, and comes with an attached commemorative plate and can only be purchased from the Greater Largo Library Foundation. Own a piece of local history or they make unique gifts.

The funds raised will go toward programs and services of the Largo Public Library. The mission of the Greater Largo Library Foundation is to support the Largo Public Library through cultivating funding resources and advocating for the library to enhance innovative library services for the community's educational and social enrichment. To learn more about the Largo Public Library visit www.largopubliclibrary.org.

To buy a brick, contact the Foundation at (727) 586-7398. For more information or visit our website at www.gllf.org.

PROTECT YOUR HOME The meter box in front of your home contains more than the meter. Inside is a valve, also called a curb stop, that — in an emergency — can shut off all the water to your home. In the event of a water emergency, having quick access to this valve is critical.

Next time you are working in the yard, take a few minutes to clean the sand out of this box and check your meter. If it's moving and all your faucets, hoses and appliances are off, you may have a leak costing you money.

GOLF TOURNAMENT RETURNS The 2021 Pelican Women's Championship (an LPGA event) returns to Belleair November 8 - 14. They hope to allow spectators at this event. For details, visit pelicanlpga.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger works hard to ensure our neighbors have the food they need to survive. They could not do what they do without the help of volunteers! Whether you can volunteer once a week, once a month or once a year, individually or with a group of friends, family or colleagues, whatever your commitment, every hour of assistance helps ensure hungry neighbors have access to food.



Thanks to dedicated volunteers, TBNEH provided over half a million meals to hungry neighbors last year across three counties. Volunteers donated 50,000 hours to help distribute food to families, seniors, and kids facing hunger in our community.

Many different types of volunteer opportunities are available. Visit Networktoendhunger.org or call 813-344-5837.

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MORTON PLANT HOSPITAL'S SEWING ROOM Many are not aware Morton Plant Hospital has a sewing room, but for more than 80 years, volunteers have faithfully made items to enhance the patient experience.

Recently, the department looked at what volunteers could make that best meets the needs of patients and visitors. Now, the sewing room will be producing stretcher blankets for the pediatric patients at Mease Countryside Hospital, teddy bears for Morton Plant Hospital's Emergency Department, chemo hats, newborn hats, heart pillows and the newest addition twiddle muffs designed to help prevent dementia patients from pulling out their IVs.

If you have buttons, ribbon, yarn or fabric you want to donate to the sewing room, please contact Volunteer Resources, 727-461-8010. Additionally the sewing room can always use volunteers; the ability to sew is not a prerequisite. Visit baycare.org/hospitals/morton-plant-hospital/volunteering.

BEACH WALK WALK In June, Chapel by the Sea held their annual "Beach Walk Walk" that raised over \$27,000 for Hope Villages of America. "It is because of the Palm Pavilion and our many sponsors that we were able to host such a successful event," says Richard Owens of the Chapel. Next year's event will be February 5th. www.ChapelbytheSea.net.

ELEVATE CHEMICALS

The most active part of hurricane season is approaching and now is the time to elevate any dangerous chemicals onto higher shelves to properly safeguard them. During storms, water can flow into garages, sheds, kitchens, and bathrooms reaching chemicals, such as fertilizers, paints, automotive fluids, pesticides and cleaners. Elevate them or get rid of those you no longer use.



You can take them to the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center, operated by Pinellas County, 2990 110th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. To see what the facility accepts, visit pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/hec3 or call (727) 464-7500.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN OCTOBER 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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CLEARWATER CITY MANAGER RETIRING, continued

Before managing the city and carrying out the wishes of the City Council, Horne served in the US Air Force. His last duty assignment was at Headquarters United States Central Command at Mac Dill AFB during a new wave of terrorist activities in Southwest Asia. He worked under two different Generals and was charged with staffing the headquarters with qualified military personnel from all military services.

Before that, he was Group Commander at Yokota, Air Force Base in Japan. That position is equivalent to a city manager. He retired from the Air Force after 26 years.

His retirement did not last long; he retired in 1998 and started working in the administration department of the City of Clearwater in September that same year. June the following year, he became an Assistant Manager under then City Manager Mike Roberto. When Roberto was let go in July of 2000, he filled the role of Interim City Manager for a year. After a national search, in July of 2001, he was offered the City Manager position.

As City Manager, Horne has served under three mayors: Brian Aungst (1999-2004), Frank Hibbard (2005-2011), George Cretekos (2012-2020) and currently Frank Hibbard again.



"I became City Manager during a very tense time," recalls Horne. "The prior city manager had been asked to leave. Beach development was being debated. There were a lot of pros-and-cons on downtown development. Everything we have today was up for review - the Main Library, the Memorial Causeway, Bright House Field, new recreation centers,

BeachWalk, Crest Lake Park and two new fire stations. At the time, the most controversial were redevelopment projects of hotels and condominiums. Of course, there were people on both sides of every issue, he explains. "And most of this was going on during the country's greatest recession in recent history."

"We just continued to pursue our agenda," Horne, recalls. "Beach redevelopment and downtown development were the two big things. Now, we have started the biggest project of all—Imagine Clearwater on Clearwater Harbor."

There were two major waves of development. The first included building The Hyatt Regency, Sandpearl Resort and Beach Walk. The second included the Wyndham Grand, Opal Resort and others still in planning phase or under construction. Now, Imagine Clearwater is beginning.

"On the beach, the biggest challenge to the future has got to be parking. We hope to add a new parking garage behind the Pelican Place Shopping Center," Horne says. "We are sensitive to the needs and comments of the residents as well as the businesses in that area."

"Chief Dan Slaughter became our new Chief five years ago. When we created BeachWalk, we increased the Police presence in that area," Horne explains. "For BeachWalk to succeed, we needed to make sure everyone felt it was a safe place to go. There is an increase of police staffing during major holidays and events. The Clearwater Police Department has continued to assess the needs and problems on the beach and responds to the needs."

"The City of Clearwater's success is in large part because of the calm, stable leadership we have had with Mr. Horne for the last 20 years," Chief of Police Daniel Slaughter says. "I have worked with many great leaders in my career, but Mr. Horne is by far the most intuitive in completely understanding what role I needed from him. He gave me direction when needed, freedom when I wanted it, correction when appropriate, and always trusted me. Mr. Horne's work ethic and caring demeanor for the community and employees always set a high benchmark for me to try and emulate.

"It's been a great ride," says Horne in



Horne receiving the "Marks of Excellence" award

retrospect. "But I didn't do it alone. We have the most talented and dedicated city employees of any city in the U.S. They are dedicated to what they do, and they have the achievements to prove their value. You cannot be successful as a city manager and have a tenure like I have had without the support of the City's employees. I am humbled by this and never take them for granted."

Horne was honored this year as a "Marks of Excellence" winner by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. "The Marks of Excellence Award is bestowed upon an African American Public Administrator who has achieved extraordinary success in the field of public management while demonstrating an unselfish commitment to the community. This prestigious award is NFBA's highest honor and is presented annually at the Marks of Excellence Gala during the FORUM."

Horne (72) lives in the Countryside area with his wife, Loretta and plans to stay there. He hopes to play more golf, do some volunteer work inside his church (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), and to travel - a lot.

"Bill Horne is a man of principle and dedication—he served our nation and our community admirably and is respected throughout the state and nation for his work in behalf of the City of Clearwater," says previous Mayor George Cretekos. "I am certain the entire community joins Carolyn and me in thanking him and his wife Loretta for their service." ■

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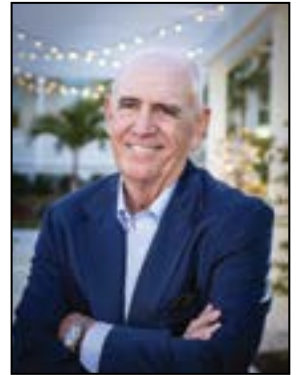
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RISK, INVESTMENTS AND RETIREMENT

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Throughout your working years, hopefully you were diligent in saving and investing for retirement. In those early years, it made sense to take a lot of risk because you were investing long term and had no immediate need for cash. As you got closer to retirement conventional wisdom says to take less risk and that generally means bonds and cash. But in today's world, cash is earning next to nothing and bonds are selling at high prices because of lower interest rates. Bond prices rise as interest rates go down and conversely, they go down when interest rates rise. Given that many believe that interest rates will rise significantly over the next couple of years, bonds may not be as conservative an investment as they have been in the past. As we write this in early August, the stock market is setting records and it too is high. So, what is an investor in retirement supposed to do?



First, as a Registered Investment Advisor practicing at a fiduciary standard of care, it is important to understand your risk tolerance. We use a tool with a series of questions to measure this and the lower the score the more conservative you are. However, it is only one element of risk that is important, we also need to know your risk capacity.

Risk capacity, i.e., your ability to take risk, is determined by the cash flow of your investments. If you are adding to your investments, your risk capacity is higher than if you are withdrawing from your investments. You may have a high-risk tolerance, but if withdrawing from the portfolio, maybe you shouldn't take the risk as you could diminish your nest egg as a result.

We believe that in retirement there is no need to take any more risk than that required to maintain the lifestyle to which you have become accustomed. In short, if risk does not add potential value to your lifestyle, why take it? In reality, people rarely run out of money. Instead, if your portfolio declines because of the added unnecessary risk, you cut back on how and where you spend money. In short, you cut your lifestyle. Who wants to do that?

As always, we offer a one-hour complimentary consultation to prospective clients. Why not chat with us about your risk tolerance and capacity.

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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.

NEW HABITAT HOMEOWNER

Michelle, a Certified Medical Assistant, has worked for Baycare for the past three years, and has been in the medical field for over 20 years. She is currently on her journey towards homeownership to give a forever home to her three sons. She has been accepted by the Habitat for Humanity program to buy one of their houses in Danville, an area of Largo.



Her oldest son, Erick, is now in college and is studying crime and forensics. Her son, Josiah, loves to play basketball, loves music, dancing, and playing video games. Her youngest, Sincere, loves to hang out with his brother, ride his bike, play hide-and-seek, and watch his favorite show Paw Patrol. Michelle says, "I am a hard-working mother who is always trying to do what's best for my boys. We love to spend time together with movie nights and more."

The family has been in their current apartment for three years and have experienced ongoing issues the entire time. "There are leaks in the living room ceiling when it rains, bad electrical wiring causes breakers to malfunction if multiple things are on, we have termites, and our outdated windows cause a very high electrical bill." While the boys love to play outside, they currently do not have a proper or safe yard to play in. "All of these things cause me to have concerns for my children's safety and health."

Habitat homes are sold to participants at no profit and are financed with a 30 to 40-year, 0% interest mortgage. Normally they are built with a team of volunteers; but due to covid, Michelle's home was built by subcontractors in the community. She helped with the landscaping.

All applicants go through the same process from application to acceptance. It takes about a year, but they set their own pace. They attend twenty homeownership classes on topics like budgeting, home safety and maintenance, plus normally volunteer 350-450 hours of "sweat equity". Each new homeowner contributes \$1000 towards their closing costs. Candidates must demonstrate need for adequate shelter, the ability to pay back a zero-interest loan and a willingness to invest sweat equity hours.

"When I was accepted into the Habitat program, I was excited and in disbelief," Michelle said. "I just imagine coming home every day to our beautiful, safe, and stable home that is built by the love, sweat and dedication of a great community. My home will be our sanctuary where great memories will be made. I will finally be able to feel complete."

"Don't wait to do tomorrow, what you can do today. Tomorrow is never promised," she explained. "These words of self-motivation helped me on this journey."

Since 1985, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties has served over 850 families and individuals through its new home buyer and exterior repair programs using locally raised funds. This fiscal year alone, they will have built 60 homes throughout Pinellas & Pasco counties and are the second largest Habitat affiliate based on home builds! For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties, call (727) 536-4755 or visit www.habitatpwp.org.

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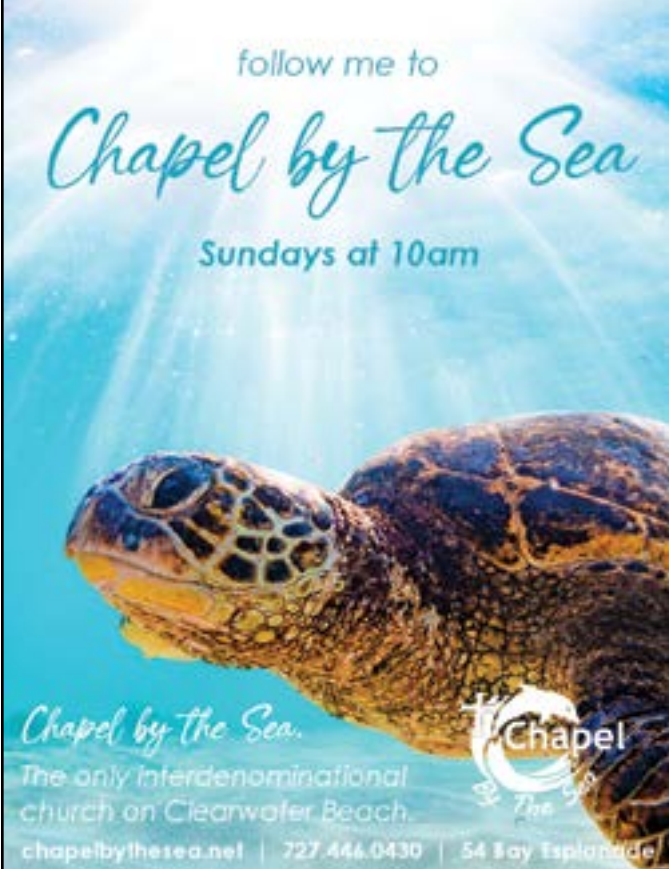
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NEW BOOK BY AREA RESIDENT

Clearwater Beach resident author Richard S. Hillman recently published his third novel The Condo. Here is a review by Jon Michael Miller:

"The Condo is a wry, ironic depiction of high-end condominium living on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Stan and Barb, successful New Yorkers, seek early retirement from the pressures of their professions as an advertising executive and a fashion model. So, they sell their brownstone in the Village and move to the coast near Tampa Bay. They are close to another NY couple, who also make a move to Montgomery, Alabama to become engaged in the struggle for racial equality. The two couples, intimately entwined, soon discover that the complexities they flee from are impossible to escape.

The narrative centers around Stan's irrepressible need to become involved with community affairs, in this case, the homeowners' association. Stress abounds even in Paradise—much of it comic with some underlying threats and a few surprising plot twists involving the Cuban Mafia, a Norwegian beauty, a transsexual, and some crazy tennis players. It's hard to imagine a more thorough and accurate presentation of the slings and arrows of upscale condo life. The accuracy and humor resonate."

"...an easy read, perfect for beachside or a long flight."
Readers' Favorite

"...echoes of Carl Hiaasen and Randy Wayne White."
Goodreads

The Condo as well as Hillman's FAPA-awarded novel Tropical Liaison and its sequel Finding Rafael are available from Amazon at: amazon.com/author/richardshillman.

When not reading or writing, Hillman can be found on the Clearwater Beach tennis courts or kayaking to Caladesi Island. He and his wife Audrey live happily in a Clearwater Beach condo.

ANGELS, LAMBS, LADYBUGS & FIREFLIES Brought to You by Chapel by the Sea

Over the last year, Chapel by the Sea has begun developing a robust children's arts program. The program began with a dance class for a couple of age groups, shortly after, a music class was introduced. The fledgling program was an experiment to see if the chapel could successfully offer enriching activities for the community beyond the typical Sunday routines. With a growing amount of young families with children moving to the beach, the chapel wanted to be able to offer more to the expanding community.

After the first season of classes ended, the organizers decided the program had tremendous value and put their heads together for what they could offer next. As summer comes to a close, the holiday season begins to come into focus, and so, a winter production was chosen. This December, the chapel will host a production of Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs & Fireflies.

Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs & Fireflies is a children's Christmas musical fantasy with insects, creatures, shepherds, and Mary & Joseph. The animal kingdom comes alive to tell the story of the Savior's birth. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. The arts program will resume meeting on Tuesdays for both dance class and music class October 12th and the production will debut Sunday, December 5th. The wonderful dance teacher, Justina Adams, will return to teach dance and choreography and the Chapel's Musical Director, Ron Neal, will continue to teach music.

If you've got budding performers interested in dance, music, or being a part of the play, please contact the office at Chapel by the Sea (727-446-0430) for more information. The deadline to sign up for the play is September 15th..

IMAGINE CLEARWATER

Imagine Clearwater is an investment in the redevelopment of Downtown Clearwater and its waterfront – including construction of a new 4,000-seat covered amphitheater in Coachman Park – that will be a must-see destination point in the Tampa Bay area.

Designed to connect the waterfront and the Downtown Clearwater community, Imagine Clearwater includes an expansive park and recreational spaces, a gateway plaza and bluff walk that connects the park to downtown, a bay walk promenade overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, a lake area with picnic shelters, and an ocean-themed play area with an interactive pop-jet water feature.

The additions to Coachman Park also include the amphitheater which will accommodate a year-round performance schedule that promises to continue the city of Clearwater’s reputation as a premier location for diverse live entertainment. Construction has already started and is slated to take around two years.

Here are some renderings of how it will look in the future:



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Business Briefs



WILLIAM DEAN UPDATE The Tampa store should open this fall, but no date has been finalized. New offerings for both the Tampa and Belleair Bluffs stores are being developed. Shown here is the new croissant cube which is currently available in the Belleair Bluffs store. Croissants, breakfast pastries, eclairs, pastries, quiche, sandwiches and salads as well as charcuterie are being added to the Belleair Bluffs menu starting in this month.

GALLERIA MISTO IS MOVING ONLINE The retail art gallery, next door to E&E Stakeout has closed and gone online. "Unfortunately, we could not survive the pandemic," reflects owner Loise Del Basso. "We reluctantly came to the conclusion that going online with the gallery was our best move. The last seven years have provided an excellent jump start to my career as a full time artist. I am looking forward to delving back into my art studies and doing what I love, producing a growing inventory of my own, and taking on additional commissions." The new website, www.GalleriaMisto.com, is under construction, and she plans to continue her framing services. You can still reach her at Louise@GalleriaMisto.com.

HAIR LOSS SOLUTIONS, A mother-daughter duo has been finding hair loss solutions that work since 2012. Now their Everyday Beautiful moved into a new Belleair location last month. Owner Laurie Chism says "Women having thinning hair is a very common problem no one likes to talk about.



It's almost like we feel we should be ashamed, but that is far from the truth. Male patterned baldness is actually a female gene. And it does not have to be something that anyone should be scared to face; we don't have to be ashamed of it." The store doesn't just sell wigs, they find solutions that work for your needs since each person's solution is a little different. For women thinning around the top, a topper is the perfect solution. They specialize in creating custom made pieces for both for men and women and the majority of their pieces are custom-made for the individual client. They also carry ready to wear wigs.

Find Everyday Beautiful at 2310 West Bay. Get more information at www.EverydayBeautifulWigs.com.

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 or call 727-430-8300.

Business Briefs



WOMAN BUSINESS OWNER HONORED

Local business owner, Brooke Anderson, was selected by Tampa Magazine as one of the "2021 Women to Watch". Four years ago, no one heard of Big Man's Moving Company. Today, it is the fastest-growing moving company in Tampa Bay completing 3600 local, statewide, and out-of-state moves and, employing 23 movers. "When the publication came out, we received (and are

still receiving) tons of calls from women who want to support women!" Anderson says. "Honestly, the support has been incredible; we are so thankful!"

Big Man's Moving was voted "Best Kept Secret" in the 2021 Suncoast News Readers' Choice Awards and 2020 #1 Mover in Tampa Bay by readers of the Tampa Bay Times. Being a woman owner in a traditionally male-dominated industry brings a unique perspective. One of Anderson's focuses is screening and hiring the movers. "I look for people who are upbeat with positive attitudes," she explains. "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."

According to Brooke, in moving, the difference between being "good" and being "great" is in the details. "That's one of my strong suits," Anderson says. "We train our movers to focus on the details, from making sure the legs of a kitchen chair are blanketed to ensuring that mattresses are protected."

Visit Bigmansmoving.com or call 727-772-3458.

MOSS AWARDED JW MARRIOTT CONTRACT Moss Construction company was awarded the contract for the second phase of the JW Marriott hotel construction.

The hotel will have 162 hotel rooms and 36 furnished residential units, a waterfront restaurant, bar, spa, meeting rooms, ballrooms, and gym. The swimming pool will be on the 11th floor.

This is the first JW Marriott with residence units in the United States. The hotel project is expected to be completed in early 2023

The property sits on 250 linear feet of waterfront, facing Clearwater Pass at 691 South Gulfview Blvd., just west of the Sand Key Bridge.

COURTYARD MARRIOTT

The next hotel to open in Clearwater Beach, the Courtyard Marriott on Mandalay Channel, is nearing completion.

The project includes a public boardwalk along the water and docks available for lease behind the hotel. It should open this fall at 443 East Shore Drive, east of The Beachcomber Restaurant.



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**WITH NEWLY ADOPTED MAPS
Do you know your current flood zone?**

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Many Pinellas County residents are still rebuilding after the damage from Tropical Storm Eta, which caused significant flooding in several areas around the county last November. That's why it's important for you to know what your current flood zone is, understand your flood risk and be prepared not only for flooding, but to get back on your feet after a flood.



Getting a flood insurance policy will help protect you from the financial devastation of flooding. We all live in a flood zone, which may be high, moderate or low risk. Most lenders require flood insurance if you have a mortgage on a home or business in a high-risk flood zone; however, almost a quarter of the claims submitted are for properties in low and moderate risk flood zones. Even if you don't live in a high-risk flood zone, flood insurance is recommended and is usually available at a highly discounted rate.

It is important to understand what is covered by your flood insurance policy. Many residents that were displaced from their flooded homes after Tropical Storm Eta did not realize that they did not have Loss of Use Coverage for the cost of other living arrangements while their repairs were made. There are also separate flood coverages for contents and building. Make sure you have enough coverage for both.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the coastal areas of Pinellas County. The new map is effective on Aug. 24, 2021. The map is used for three main things: to determine flood insurance requirements, flood insurance rates and building requirements. The new map is based on revised coastal flood modeling and may affect owners of properties susceptible to flooding from the Gulf, Tampa Bay, and inland areas near waterways connected to the Gulf or Bay.

If the risk level for a property changes on the FIRM, so may the flood insurance rate and the requirement to carry a flood policy. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is also changing the way they rate flood insurance policies starting Oct. 1, 2021, with a new program called Risk Rating 2.0. Talk to your insurance agent about getting a flood insurance policy in place before these changes happen.

View the new FIRM on the online Flood Map Information Service at floodmaps.pinellascounty.org. While you are on the map service also be sure to look up your hurricane storm surge risk and evacuation zone.

To be clear, flood zones are different from evacuation zones. I encourage you to learn more about your flood risk, know your evacuation zone in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane and purchase flood insurance to protect your home and business. It's the best way to ensure your family and future is financially protected.

If you live in unincorporated Pinellas County and have questions, you can call the Flood Information Services hotline at (727) 464-7700. Property owners within municipal boundaries should call their city.

As always, please send me any of your comments or concerns. You can email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org.

THE COAST GUARD STATION SAND KEY'S NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Senior Chief Timothy Abrams replaced Commanding Officer CWO Tracy Randall at the United States Coast Guard Station Sand Key on June 18 when CO Randall retired.

Originally from Charlotte, NC, 42-year-old Abrams joined the Coast Guard in 1998 at the age of 19. He has served in Morgan City, LA, Galveston, TX, Camp Lejeune, NC, Charleston, SC, and recently at St. Petersburg, FL. In addition to these bases, he has served on several ships, including the USCGCs Dauntless, Heron, and Pompano. His last move though was only 25 miles, from downtown St Petersburg to Sand Key.

The Coast Guard transfers people and commanders every four years, up from the previous three-year tours. CO Randall served two tours - six years in Sand Key.

"Tracy Randall is a friend and mentor," Abrams say. "It's an honor to relieve her."

In Sand Key, he supervises 35 active Coast Guard men and women and 34 Reservists.

"There are also over 300 active Coast Guard Auxiliary," Abrams adds. "They are volunteers, but we could not do our job without them. The main difference between St Petersburg and Sand Key is the Intracoastal Waterway, he explains. "We patrol all of the Intracoastal in Pinellas County."

In addition to the Intracoastal, the Coast Guard Station Sand Key station keeps watch over 4,000 square miles of the Gulf of Mexico. It is 80 miles of coastline and up to 50 miles offshore. They operate one 45-foot Medium Response Boat, two 29-foot Tactical Response Boats, and one 24-foot Shallow Water Skiff. They refer to their boats as "assets."

The Sand Key Station was established January 29, 1975. They originally operated out of a houseboat located near the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The Coast Guard station was established on Sand Key ten years later - February 13, 1985. That is when the name was officially changed from Station Clearwater to Station Sand Key.

"We interact with many local groups and authorities, such as, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, local police, The Sherriff's department, fire departments and others," Abrams says. "We will be involved in the Clearwater Beach Offshore Power Boat Races in September," he adds.

During hurricanes, the Coast Guard has a variety of responsibilities. Most importantly, they protect their boats and people. Some boats are pulled out of the water and stored on land.

During Hurricane Irma, the Sand Key station remained occupied monitoring communications during that storm. After the storm passed, they returned to their zone to do whatever is necessary.

Abrams lives in Lakewood Ranch near Bradenton with his wife, Erica and their two children, ages 16 and 19. He loves Florida, whether that be Bradenton, St Petersburg, or Sand Key. "I hope to stay in this area when my four years are up."

The Sand Key Station is located at 1375 Gulf Blvd, just south of the Shoppes on Sand Key.



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KY LEWIS - THE ULTIMATE FISHERMAN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Ky Lewis considered by most to be the best fishing charter captain in Clearwater, once was rated the number 1 skipper on Florida's West Coast and in the top 10 skippers in the state. Every fisherman has a fish story; Lewis has a thousand.

Lewis (78) was born and raised on a boat in Clearwater. Well, that is what he says, actually he was born in Morton Plant Hospital. He attended Admiral Farragut Naval Academy in St. Pete and Clearwater High School.

His father Bart Lewis was always on the water. Born in Philadelphia, he bought his first fishing boat about 1938. It was called the "Romana." In the Navy during World War II, he was Port Manager of Guam. Later he managed the Port of Tampa and owned one of the first charter boats in Clearwater. It was docked on the mainland in front of the old auditorium.

Lewis's parents married in 1940. His mother fished with his dad working the lines when he had a charter. They charged \$15 per day, per trip — ALL DAY! After one trip, when his mother made \$3 in tips, they partied on the boat for two days.

In the 1950s, his dad bought "The Hydeaway" - a personal, 34 foot runaround boat. Lewis's dad was always taking friends and family on the boat, up and down the coast. Lewis and his dad, mom and brothers made several trips on the "Hydeaway" from Clearwater all the way to Philadelphia.

"Sometimes we simply ferried friends from the Biltmore over to the Sand Key Cabana Club," Lewis recalls. "Back then, there were no bridges to Sand Key, just a sand road."

"I remember Sand Key when it was all just sand dunes with one dirt road down the middle," says Lewis. "We would go there to swim and used to find lots of unexploded bombs and hundreds of brass, 50-caliber shell casings from the war planes practicing shooting and bombing the bunkers built on the beach while they were getting ready for WWII. They flew from a landing strip at the Belleview Biltmore." Lewis laughs as he recalls, "my brothers Dusty and Fred, and I would bring all these things back to our house on 1336 Indian Rocks Rd in Belleair, which upset my mother."

Lewis started fishing on his dad's 26-foot Chris-Craft named "The Barky" out of Island Yacht Harbor. At the age of 19, he received his Captain's License and started his own charter fishing business. The next year, he bought his first boat, a 34-foot six-pack (meaning it held six people) from a local, Jake Kort. It was already named "The Daisy Mae" and turned out to be the first of many "Daisy Mae's."

In 1965, Lewis bought "Daisy Mae II," a 47-foot Carolina sportfisherman. Offshore in May of 1972 on "Daisy Mae II" at 5 am with 40 MPH winds and 15-foot seas, a friend woke Lewis to tell him they were sinking. All seven people aboard ran to the bridge while Lewis called out a mayday, which was answered. When he tried to respond, a wave washed them all overboard. They stayed in the water until that afternoon when the party boat "Double Eagle" stumbled across them.

Two weeks after losing everything, Lewis bought a 53 ft.

Pacemaker - "Daisy May III". It was a beautiful boat, but it had been worked too hard, so he sold it to build the "Lil Abner" - a 32 foot Seacraft. It was fast and fun, but too small for the offshore fishing, so he sold it to a mate.

In the 1960s and part of the '70s, Lewis spent winters in the Florida Keys, summers in Panama City, and spring and fall in Clearwater. In the early 1970s Lewis and others started working with Bureau of Sport Fisheries and the Old Salt Club to help learn what was happening in the waters offshore. Due to the cost of fuel and the size of their boats, they only fished about 70 miles offshore, which was 40 fathoms, so they were very helpful in the research.

Also, in the mid-1970s, Lewis and his wife Nancy started the West Coast Billfish Championship Tournaments. They created more tournaments because they could book more charters and win more money, which they did for sure! By now, he was fishing farther offshore - up to 150 miles and 800 fathoms. That is where Lewis caught Spearfish and Swordfish along with Blue and White Marlin, Sailfish, Tuna, Dolphin, and Wahoo.

In 1975 Lewis built the "Daisy Mae V" from scratch at Ross Yacht. Ten years later, he built a 44 Torres in the Florida Keys on Stock Island, which was the "Daisy May VI." That boat turned out to be one of the best tournament boats ever with Lewis at the helm. He held the West Coast Marlin record for a short time with a 637 pounder, caught by Mark Adams during the Old Salt Loop Tournament. That was an eventful trip when after traveling 130 miles offshore, gale force winds struck with ten foot seas. Several participating boats had to be towed in by the Coast Guard. Daisy Mae VI was fine.

He also had the first West Coast Grand Slam catching a Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Sailfish in a St. Petersburg tournament. He has placed and won tournaments in Pensacola, Panama City, Tarpon Springs, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Useppa, Marathon, Key West, and the Bahamas.

"I remember hanging around the marina as a kid and seeing the Daisy Mae return with what seemed like every fish in the gulf," said Marv Siple, a Captain himself

today. "Ky was always there - a fixture. If you didn't know him, you at least knew of him. There was ALWAYS a story! Fun times!"

Today, at age 78, after 59 years of fishing, Lewis has retired from the rat race of fishing charters, but still fishes in some tournaments. He and Nancy moved to Inglis (north of Crystal River) and live on the Withlacoochee River. He still gets calls for charters but now specializes in backwater inshore fishing and airboat ecology trips.

The Clearwater Historical Museum has a small version of the "Daisy Mae" parked on the grass outside the entrance on South Ft. Harrison. Capt Zack Lewis, Ky's son, found the boat. They felt it was doubly fitting to pay tribute to such a well known, and colorful fixture of the fishing and waterfront community. There is an exhibit inside featuring Ky Lewis and some of the fish he caught.

You can reach Lewis by email at CaptKyLewis@AOL.com. Look for Ky Lewis's book coming next year! ■





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JAW DROPPING NUMBERS

In 2020, the Coast Guard counted 5,265 boating accidents that involved 767 deaths, 3,191 injuries and approximately \$62.5 million dollars of damage. The fatality rate was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. Compared to 2019, the number of accidents increased 26.3%, the number of deaths increased 25.1%, and the number of injuries increased 24.7%.

Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning, 86% were not wearing a life-jacket. Over 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.

Florida has the unenviable role of leading all other states by over 100% in accidents, deaths and property damage! Where does Pinellas County stand? We placed third in accidents after Miami-Dade and Monroe.

These are not numbers to be proud of. What's the solution to safer local waters? Have everyone, regardless of age, wear a life jacket and have everyone, regardless of age, who operates a boat, take a Florida approved boating safety class.

The Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering "Boat America" taught by the certified instructors on Zoom, allowing for lots of questions and answers. This means no commuting to a classroom – the students can be anywhere in Florida! The next classes will be over two consecutive weekend days.

- August 28 & 29- Virtual Boat America, 9am to 2pm
- September 18 & 19 - Virtual Boat America, 9am to 2pm

The boating safety class is a requirement for many boaters in Florida. Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1988, must successfully complete a boater safety course approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in order to operate a boat powered by more than 10 horsepower, and they are required to carry their boater education card with them when out on the water along with picture ID.

Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for boating safety classes at: www.clwboatingsafety.com or by email at clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com or call 727-469-8895.

CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS CLOTHES

Families are again shopping at Clothes To Kids and our clothing and shoe inventory is low. CTK needs new and gently used clothing and shoes including boys' and girls' pants and shorts (it is hot out there), tops, uniform pants and shirts, dresses and shoes. Each year CTK clothes more than 11,000 low-income and in crisis school children, PreK-4 to 12th grade for FREE. That means we need small clothing and shoes and youth clothing all the way up to high school. Please 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. Each shopping bag includes five pairs of new underwear, five pairs of new socks, five tops, four bottoms (pants or shorts), one dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If the child attends a uniform school, they may receive three uniform tops and two bottoms.

Please go through your closets and donate any gently used school clothing and shoes for children PreK-4 to 12th grade. Kids come in all shapes and sizes, so their clothes have to as well. 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information or to schedule an appointment to shop, please call 441-5050 or visit www.clothestokids.org.

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PATRIOT DAY - SEPTEMBER 11

For some people Patriot Day is confusing because there are two separate holidays with very similar names. For many years, cities and states in the Northeast, especially Boston, celebrated Patriot's Day on April 19 (later the third Monday in April). It was in recognition of the anniversary of the American Revolutionary war Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. They were the first battles of the War and have been honored since 1894 in Massachusetts. Some states have declared it a holiday and many schools are closed. As part of Boston's celebration, they hold the Boston Marathon and the first Boston Red Sox game of the season on that day.

But, here is where it gets confusing. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Washington on September 11, a day of remembrance was established, called Patriot (singular) Day. It is to honor the memory of the people killed in the September 11 attacks of 2001. While Patriot Day is not a federal holiday there are many observances held throughout the country. Schools and businesses generally remain open,

Patriot Day was established in the memory of the 2,977 people who died that day. A bill was unanimously passed and signed by President George W. Bush declaring September 11th an official day of mourning. By presidential decree, the American flag is flown at half-staff on all government buildings and individuals are encouraged to do the same. There is a moment of silence held at 8:46 am (EST) each year.

More recently, there is a movement to also declare this a National Day of Service and Remembrance. People are encouraged to volunteer on that day to honor those who died. This year is the 20th Anniversary of the attacks.

42ND CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY October 14 - 17

Due to construction at Coachman Park, this year's event will be in the BayCare BallPark, an open air stadium venue in Clearwater. General Admission open seating is available with a seat. A very limited number of low-cost Standing Room Only tickets are available which grants attendees access to roam the stadium and viewing areas including the grass outfield berm behind the stage, the Tiki Bar, and various concourse high-tops and picnic tables. Blankets are permitted in the berm seating.

Headliners include: Kool & The Gang, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Gloria Gaynor and Snarky Puppy.

Ticket Options are: General Admission Open Seat, General Admission Standing Room Only, 4 Day and Weekend tickets (General Admission), VIP Hospitality Table of 2 or 4 seats.

See the full lineup and purchase tickets at clearwaterjazz.com.



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Bar & Restaurant News



MAGGIE MAE'S WINS BEST BREAKFAST, AGAIN! For the 12th straight year, Maggie Mae's in both Belleair Bluffs and Sand Key share the People's Choice Awards of "Best Breakfast" in all of Tampa Bay, as voted by readers of

the Tampa Bay Newspapers. They have won that award 12 years in a row, so you know it must be good.

Find them in the The Shoppes on Sand Key and in Belleair Bluffs at 2961 West Bay, next to Bonefish Grill. See their menu at MaggieMaesOnTheBluffs.com.

ANOTHER CLEARSKY You probably know the ClearSky restaurants in Clearwater Beach, Downtown Clearwater on Cleveland Street or in Dunedin. Each of the popular restaurants has a different menu. Now, there will be another Clearsky Restaurant opening in Seminole. It will be opening in the old "Three Olives" storefront at 131st Street and Park Blvd, just south of Seminole High School.

For now, they are remodeling the inside of the restaurant, but are already interviewing for new employees. If you are interested, e-mail GloreClearsky@Gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS Other area restaurants awarded the "People's Choice" as Best include:

- BEST Fine Dining: Salt Rock Grill (Redington)
- BEST Waterfront Dining: Backwaters (Sand Key)
- BEST Seafood: Keegan's Seafood Grill (Indian Rocks)
- BEST Steak: E&E Stakeout Grill (Belleair)

COCO'S OPENING IN INDIAN ROCKS

Coco's Crush Bar & Grill, on Coronado Drive, is expanding by adding a second



location in Indian Rocks Beach when they reopen the recently closed 18 On The Rocks restaurant. It will be similar to their Clearwater location five miles away. Look for it to open later this fall at 2405 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks.

CLEVELAND STREET REMAINS CLOSED TO CARS The City is planning for the indefinite traffic closure of the 400 and 500 blocks of Cleveland Street in downtown Clearwater, a move originally brought on by the pandemic. The area has been closed to car traffic since May 2020.

Since the closure, downtown businesses have enjoyed a surge in foot traffic, due to the expanded outdoor dining and live entertainment.

"I have to say, we've done a lot of different projects downtown, but this is the cheapest and most effective that I can remember," says Mayor Frank Hibbard.

CLOSED COUSIN'S MAINE LOBSTER, 309 Coronado Dr.

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.

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Bar & Restaurant News

ROCK HOUSE LIVE GRILL AND VENUE

Self described as an experiential live music themed restaurant, they focus on nightly entertainment featuring local, regional and national talent, combined with state-of-the-art streaming. But it is more than that, they have great food too! They boast the "Best Burger" on Clearwater Beach.



Find them at 207 Coronado Drive or visit RockHouseLive.com.

GREEK RESTAURANT OPENS Alati, whose Greek name translates to "salt by the sea" has opened a second location in Clearwater Beach. The first location is in Tarpon Springs. The restaurant is a warm intimate place to gather and enjoy great authentic Greek food & drink.

Known for their specialty cocktails, their menu features all the classic Greek dishes with a contemporary twist. As they say, their food is "established by the Greek God of The Sea." They are open 4pm-11pm daily. View their menu or make reservations online - www.alatifooddrink.com. Find them at 486 Poinsettia Avenue or call 230-3999.

BACKWATER'S IS 21 Backwater's on Sand Key will be 21 years old on August 17 and just like last year, there will be no anniversary party, due to COVID and employee shortages. They hope it will return next year.

They are however still planning to host their annual "Trolley Trip," September 25th.

"Our annual trolley trip heads to St. Pete Beach and many of the famous beach bars like Jimmy B's, Caddy's, and several others," says owner Larry Edger. "Guests pay \$35 for the cost of the private trolley, snacks and water. It's a chance to see other places all in one afternoon."

People must sign up at Backwaters - see a manager or bartender for information. "We have been doing this for 17 years except for 2020 of course due to Covid-19."

CABANAS COASTAL GRILL

Now open just inside of Winter the Dolphin's Beach Club, they offer a delicious fare with a local flair. Serving lunch and dinner, you can dine inside, at the bar, or on their covered patio. The menu features locally sourced and sustainable ingredients including their signature seafood, chicken, pasta dishes, seasonal specials and plant-based options. For a true island-style outdoor dining experience, head out back to the tiki bar - Cabanas Beachside - that offers light fare with a variety of appetizers, sandwiches, salads, and burgers, plus special kid-friendly favorites. Cool off on a warm day with one of their signature "Island Paradise" frozen drinks like Pineapple Mango Madness or the famous Cabana Banana. Find them at 655 S Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach. The restaurant is part of The Original Crabby Bill's Family Brands.



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Community News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Clearwater Garden Club is taking the summer off and will resume in October. There is still lots going on as they prepare for their Community Open House October 16th. They need volunteers to plan this event. To get involved, e-mail clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com.

They have rented their Clubhouse to "Dance It Studio" where you can learn to dance, meet lots of new friends, and even take a yoga class. They are also working on a community outreach initiative called Balcony Gardening. This will be introduced at their open house in October.

For information, visit facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub/ or clearwatergardenclub.com. Contact Paul Keleti, Chairman, 727-316-5504, clearwatergardenclub@gmail.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

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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.

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. Contact the secretary at skcainc@aol.co, with questions.

PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

They are holding a Membership Initiative for registered Republicans, Friday, August 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Learn more about becoming a Precinct Leader and member of the local Republican Executive Committee at Glory Days Grill, 4088 Park Street N. in St. Petersburg. Cash Bar.

Dive Into Opening Night

Season opens Sept. 24-26

Catch a wave of great music LIVE with Michael Francis and The Florida Orchestra as we return for a full season at full power at venues across Tampa Bay. The largest professional orchestra in Florida performs epic concerts, from Beethoven's *Fifth* and Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* to the Music of Star Wars and America's Wonders.

THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA
Michael Francis, Music Director

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Community News...

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

Monthly, the Club is accepting donations for their annual "Junk & Jewels" Fundraiser on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon at the Belleair Garden Club, 903 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Belleair. Drop off dates include: September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th. Dates will be member staffed.

Eclectic junk, jewelry, housewares, artwork, books, handbags, scarves, hats, belts, shoes and table top decor will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted are: furniture, electronics and appliances. Other items accepted on a case-by-case basis.

The Belleair Garden Club, a non-profit organization in its 71st year, raises funds to support scholarships for post high school students and historic preservation programs in the community. During the summer, social activities are presented and in October regular monthly club meetings are held. COVID safety practices are in place. For information, Leave a message at 727-586-4021 or visit www.belleairgardenclub.com.

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

They will be hosting a "Getting to Know Us" Brunch for potential members on Saturday, September 18. The event will be held from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center located at 610 Ft. Harrison Avenue in Clearwater.

Ladies who wish to attend are requested to contact Carolyn Phillips at moreccwinfo@gmail.com before September 10.

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. The remaining movies are:

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 to reserve your spot online. Please preregister - a limited number of spaces will be available.

MID-PINELLAS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The pandemic caused them to cancel last year's picnic, but they are resuming their Annual Politics In the Park Potluck picnic on October 23, 11 am - 2 pm in John Taylor Park, Largo, at 1100 8th Ave SW, Largo. Statewide and local Democratic office holders and candidates will be on hand to meet voters and speak. Register online at largodemocrats.org.

FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE

They are excited to announce TWO BY TWO, opens September 2 and runs the 18th in the theatre. Set sail with Noah and his colorful family in this rollicking musical comedy. Created for funnyman Danny Kaye, this intimate epic features music by Richard Rodgers (OKLAHOMA) and lyrics by Martin Charnin (ANNIE). It's a musical of biblical proportions and the perfect vessel for the rebirth of the Playhouse. Book your passage now for this amazing return to live performances.

Their Backstage on Broadway Zoom classes continue.

- SOUND OF MUSIC - Saturday August 21st 10 to 11:30am
- SWEET CHARITY - Saturday August 28th 10 to 11:30am

Watch for MAMA MIA live in the theater October 28 - November 14.

Call the Box Office Monday - Friday 10:30am to 5pm, 727-446-1360

MEET YOUR SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS - JULIE MARCUS

By Bob Griffin

These days, even when there is not an election underway, there is a lot in the news about voting. But when there is an election, Julie Marcus, the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, and her team are responsible for making sure people are properly registered and informed about the voting process. It doesn't matter if it is a municipal election in one of our small towns or a big Presidential election, held every four years, the responsibilities remain the same.

Marcus, 45, has dedicated her 18-year career to ensuring equal access to voter registration, ballots, and the integrity of the entire electoral process.

"The first time I remember voting was in 1996, when Bill Clinton ran against Bob Dole," recalls Marcus.

Originally from Rochester, NY, Marcus' interest in the process goes back to her days in college, at the University of South Florida, where she studied Political Science. Marcus graduated from USF where she was also President of the National Political Honor Society.

While at USF, then Supervisor of Elections Dorothy Ruggles, invited Julie to be part of a new initiative to reach high school students. The opportunity was for Marcus to create a new voter outreach department and it was her introduction into the Supervisor of Elections Office.

"The objective was to educate young people about the electoral process, register them to vote, and encourage civic engagement," Marcus said. "There has been an increasing turnout among the 18-26 year-olds in this county—partially due to these programs," Marcus adds.

Marcus launched her career in public service in 1998 by working as a district secretary with Frank Farkas in the State House of Representatives.

In 2002, Deborah Clark, then Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, appointed Marcus to develop and manage a new voter outreach department within her organization. During this time, Marcus developed the "Vote in Honor of a Vet" program. The program, which aims "to encourage voter participation among our senior high school voting-age population, as well as teach them about the sacrifices our veterans have made so we may continue to live in a democratic society" received the "Superior Award" from the National Association of County Information Officers.

Marcus was appointed Deputy Supervisor of Elections in 2007. As part of her new role, she led an advisory committee tasked with recommending the optical scan voting system that is still in use today. Five years later, Clark appointed Marcus Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections—that is second in command. This added greatly to her workload, including managing personnel and a multimillion dollar budget, plus ensuring laws are followed.

"Since 2016, cybersecurity has been on the forefront of our administration," Marcus said. She spearheaded rapid changes in this domain from a wide perspective, including a cybersecurity framework involving technological, physical, and human elements.

Cybersecurity is not limited to the Internet. It includes physical security of the equipment and information, and security

of people. "Security starts and ends with our people. From teaching prevention to training and planning for how to react and respond to a threat, our people are our number one asset. They are our front line to ensuring our cybersecurity apparatus is strong," Marcus explained.

Each employee is required to follow strict security protocols and access to certain areas of the building is restricted. Election equipment is always under visual security, from the moment it leaves the warehouse and goes to remote polling locations, until it returns to the County's warehouse.

In addition to threat prevention, detection, and response, recovery is a critical element in the process. "We have to be able to recover from an attack or threat," Marcus explains. "This is more than having everything simply 'backed up' or 'in a cloud' somewhere." Marcus cannot elaborate any details though because laws protect information regarding Supervisors' cybersecurity systems.

The State of Florida recently joined the Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC. "We are part of a 32-state consortium. We share information about registered voters to protect the integrity of the process. ERIC helps keep the voter rolls clean."

In 2019, Clark retired before her term expired. Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Marcus to serve the remainder of her term. In 2020, Marcus was elected as Supervisor of Elections—and was sworn in on January 5, 2021.

Over her 18-year career with the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office, she has administered more than 320 municipal elections and 25 countywide elections. She has conducted 15 machine recounts, 12 manual recounts, 37 post-election manual audits, and implemented two new voting systems.

Marcus oversees 45 full-time employees, housed in three offices throughout the County. The main office is in Largo (off Starkey Road). Other offices are located in downtown Clearwater and St. Petersburg.

The next big county-wide election is November 8, 2022, although there are many municipal and primary elections before that.

If you want to know more, register to vote, find dates of future elections, volunteer to be a poll worker, or have other questions about the process—visit the County's official election web site at www.VotePinellas.com.

NOTE: To prepare for this article, and to witness the process first-hand, I volunteered to be a poll worker during the November 2020, Presidential General Election. ■



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VOTING FAQs

REGISTERED VOTERS

The numbers are always changing, but as of August 1, 2021 there were over 700,500 registered voters in Pinellas County. During the last several elections, in our county, there have been slightly more registered Democrats than Republicans. The numbers total 248,500 Democrats - 35.4%, 245,500 Republicans - 35.0%, and 206,500 No Party Affiliation voters - 29%. Florida is a "closed primary state," which means during a primary, a qualified voter is entitled to only vote the ballot of the political party with which the voter was registered 29 days before the election.

VOTING BY MAIL

Voting by mail provides voters the flexibility and convenience to vote from their homes. Ballots may be mailed back or dropped off at any of the three County Election Offices. Any registered voter may request a mail ballot by calling the Supervisor's office at 727-464-VOTE (8683) or visiting votepinellas.com. A mail ballot must be requested at least ten days prior to any election.

In Florida there is no difference between an Absentee Ballot and a Mail Ballot. These two terms describe the same ballot because Florida voters no longer need an excuse to vote by mail. Mail ballots are issued for all elections held in the county.

Notify the Supervisor's office of any changes to your address. You can make that change online. The Post Office cannot forward ballots as the candidates are unique to different areas.

After you have completed the ballot. Make sure to sign the envelope. State law requires that a mail ballot envelope be signed by the voter and the signature will be compared to the signature on file. If there are any discrepancies or you forget to sign it, you can correct it by 5 pm on the second day after the election. Mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7pm on Election Day. Remember, the later you return your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature problems.

You may request a mail ballot for a family member. Call the Supervisor's Office and provide your name, address, and date of birth. Requests must be signed. You can also do this online. You can designate (in writing) a person to pick up a mail ballot for you beginning nine days before an election. Your designee will need a photo ID and a signed note from you, as well as a completed affidavit. Visit www.votepinellas.com for details.

If you requested a mail ballot but changed your mind and want to vote in person, you can still do that. Take your ballot (the entire kit) to your polling place. Poll workers will cancel the ballot and give you a new ballot on site. You cannot use the mail ballot in a polling place. If you do not have your mail ballot and the elections staff cannot confirm that your ballot was NOT received, you will be allowed to vote using a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be counted when your eligibility has been confirmed.

Mail ballots are collected daily as they arrive and can be opened and processed beginning 22 days before an election. The first results you hear released on Election Day are the partial results from the mail ballots. On election day, mail ballots are added to the election totals. ALL eligible mail ballots are counted, the same as in person ballots and early voting ballots.

During the last Legislative Sessions, changes to our election process were signed into law. These changes are working their way through the courts. Depending on the results, some of the above may change. For information or answers to other questions, visit www.VotePinellas.com or call 727-464-VOTE.

Francis Wilson Playhouse

GRAND REOPENING OF LIVE SHOWS!



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MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN
BOOK BY PETER STOKER

September 2nd - 19th, 2021

Set sail with Noah and his colorful family in the rollicking musical comedy TWO BY TWO. Created for funnyman Danny Kaye, this intimate epic features music by Richard Rodgers (OKLAHOMA) and lyrics by Martin Charnin (ANNIE). It's a musical of biblical proportions and the perfect vessel for our rebirth of the Playhouse after a catastrophic year. Book your passage now for this amazing return to live performances on our stage, and remember to arrive Two By Two.

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TIPS TO KEEPING YOUR CYBER WORLD SAFE

By Dena Perkins, Threat Angler

You have probably seen at least one, if not several, stories about cybersecurity breaches in the news. These threats are increasing over time. It can be scary to think about your personal information being stolen and you may feel powerless to combat the threats. Even for the technology savvy individual or those with a technology savvy friend or family member, technology is changing so rapidly, it is impossible to keep up with the latest cybersecurity threats and countermeasures.

While there is no perfect solution, there are some high impact, no cost solutions available. The single most effective and economical solution is what is called two-factor or multi-factor authentication. Two-factor authentication requires two types of credentials for authentication when logging into an app or Web site. This is most often in the form of the traditional username and password, plus a code received via text, phone call, or mobile application - the code is the second factor.

Most computers and web applications, such as a bank, email, or social media websites, requiring authentication provide a two-factor authentication as a no-cost feature. A Google search will often lead you to the instructions for your web application. For example, you can search "two-factor authentication on gmail account."

If a website requires authentication but does not offer a two-factor feature, find an alternative website if possible. If you cannot find an alternative, use a different username and password for less secure websites. Ensure your password is 12 or more characters long without any dictionary words and utilizing upper case, lower case, numeric, and special characters. Change this password at least every 90 days and use a calendar reminder to help you remember. Never write down your passwords. With two-factor authentication enabled, you can still be just as vigilant with passwords, but the need is less.

Most websites also allow you to see active and recent account authentications to check whether your accounts have been hacked. If you see authentications from geographic locations you have not accessed your account from, disconnect those authentications, change your password, and report this to the web application owner. You can search Google for phrases like "see recent activity on gmail account" for instructions.

You should not need to feel scared to use technology. Adopt basic cybersecurity practices like using two-factor authentication and be vigilant in monitoring the activity on your accounts. Report suspicious activity promptly to the website owner. Following these simple steps will mitigate a great deal of the risk.

Threat Angler is a local cybersecurity company based in Indian Rocks Beach. They service businesses of all sizes and enjoy helping those in our community and providing information about cybersecurity. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if they can be of assistance, www.threatangler.com.



Threat Angler owners John and Dena Perkins with their family

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AIR CONDITIONING WHO INVENTED IT & HOW DOES IT WORK?

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

We all know it is hot this time of year, all you have to do is go outside. Haven't we all wondered how people lived here without air conditioning? People in their 60s remember life in Florida with no A/C in their house or their car. They drove with their windows down, went to the local swimming pool a lot, and slept with a fan in each bedroom. They were just used to it. Today, every house, every business and every car has an air conditioner. Where did this magnificent invention come from?

Actually, air conditioning has its roots in ancient times. The Egyptians experimented with the hanging wet cloths over their doorways. Ancient Rome discovered that the circulated water moving through their aqueducts cooled the air. In about 180 A.D., the Chinese invented a hand-cranked rotary fan to move the air and produce a breeze.

In 1758, Benjamin Franklin and Cambridge University Professor John Hadley gave a presentation on the effects of evaporative cooling. They noted that evaporating certain liquids, especially alcohol, on the surface of water can cool an object to the point of freezing.

In the 1790s, Robert Morris experimented with "ice pits" built into large Philadelphia homes. They were a hole in the ground filled with ice in the winter that provided cooler temperatures in the spring and maybe summer until they completely melted. George Washington liked the concept so much he had one added to his home in Mt. Vernon. When they built the White House, John Adams had one added in 1800.

In 1820, Michael Faraday, an English inventor, performed experiments using ammonia, which was very volatile, to create cool air. Later, ammonia would be used in the first modern air conditioning units.

In the 1830s, Dr. John Gorrie, regarded as the "father of refrigeration," experimented with forms of "air conditioning." He was born in the West Indies but grew up in South Carolina—both areas are known for sweltering temperatures. In 1833, he moved to Florida's Apalachicola area where he was a physician at two area hospitals. His medical research involved the study of tropical diseases and it was the current belief that "bad air" caused these diseases. He urged

the draining of swamps and "the cooling of sick rooms" to clear the "bad air." He designed a method of cooling rooms with ice in a basin suspended from the ceiling. Cool air, being heavier in nature, flowed down across a patient and through a hole in the floor. Unfortunately, ice was not common in the 1830s. It had to be bought from northern farmers and shipped on boats and trains to the south.

After 1845, Gorrie gave up his medical practice to pursue refrigeration projects. In 1851 he was granted a patent for a machine to make ice. That machine is on display at the Smithsonian Museum today. Due to a variety of money and health problems, his work ended, and he died in 1855.

In 1881, when President James Garfield was on his deathbed, Naval Engineers tried Gorrie's concept and used a box filled with cloths soaked in melted ice water and allowed air to pass through the box. It lowered the ambient room temperature by 20 degrees. Unfortunately, it required an enormous amount of ice, but it proved that Dr. Gorrie had been on the right track.

The interest in air conditioning faded away for about 45 years until Willis Carrier invented the first real air conditioning unit in 1902. Carrier was an engineer by trade. In response to an air quality problem at Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing & Publishing Company, Willis created and submitted drawings for what later become recognized as "the first modern air conditioning system." The installation of that system is known as the birth-place of air conditioning.

After years of refinement, Carrier was granted Patent #808,897 for an "Apparatus for Treating Air." It was designed to humidify or dehumidify air, and to heat or cool water. In 1915, Carrier, with the help of six associates, chipped in \$32,660 and formed Carrier Engineering in New York, specializing in the manufacture and distribution of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). During the Great Depression, Carrier Engineering merged with two other companies and formed the Carrier Corporation.

The Great Depression slowed residential and commercial construction, and the use of air conditioning. The company moved to Syracuse, New York and eventually became one of the largest employers in Central New York. In



1939, Carrier invented a small air conditioner, known as an "Igloo," which gave people a glimpse of the future. It became popular during the 1950s post-war economic boom and today is a staple in most American homes. Air conditioning has contributed to the success of large movie theaters, shopping malls, airplane travel and even cools computers and the servers that power the Internet.

Understanding how an air conditioner works is fairly simple, and it may surprise you to learn that there is no single part of an air conditioner that makes the air cool. Instead, it takes advantage of a basic scientific process known as "evaporative heat" - when liquid converts to a gas, it absorbs heat. An air conditioner forces specialized liquids to do this over and over again, absorbing heat and expelling cool air in the process. It's actually a simple, but ingenious, concept.

To be effective, air conditioning must control temperatures, humidity and air circulation/ventilation. It also cleans the air. That is why you have to periodically clean the filter. Here is how it works:

1. The air conditioner pulls in warm air usually through a grille in your room.
2. A fans blows that warm air over the cold, evaporator coil full of the liquid refrigerant.
3. Since the refrigerant is cooler than the air, the warm air's heat is transferred into the refrigerant, leaving the air cool
4. A dehumidifier removes the air's excess water leaving it cool and now dryer
5. The cool air is sent back to the room through the ducts in your house.
6. The hot refrigerant, which is now a gas, is processed releasing the unwanted heat outside. The newly-cooled refrigerant (once again a liquid) is ready to return back to the evaporator, and chill more incoming air.

That's the basics covered! ■

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Community News...

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

They presented Cindy's Pets with a donation of \$11,650 in July. Cindy's Pets provides and delivers pet food for the pets of senior citizens in Pasco County participating in the Meals on Wheels program, thereby assuring that both the seniors and their pets have plenty to eat. The group will also receive a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation.

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to join together to bring financial support to local, charitable organizations that have a 501(c)(3) status. Members commit to attending four meetings per year (one per quarter) and pledge to donate \$100 to an elected charity at each meeting. For each meeting, the members have the opportunity to nominate a charity, three of the nominated charities are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013, the group has given \$318,850 to local charities.

The next quarterly meeting (with options of both Zoom and live) will be 7-8:00 pm Tuesday, August 17th at Cove Cay Golf Club, located at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6-7pm at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information or visit their web site at www.100womenpinellas.org.

TASTE FEST AT CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

AMPLIFY Clearwater is hosting their annual Taste Fest at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium September 24th, from 6 to 9pm. The evening features 30+ local restaurants from all over the Clearwater area, as well as wine and craft beers. Taste Fest will be waste-free this year! Sponsors include Clearwater Gas System, BayCare, Bob Heilman's Beachcomber and more.

"Taste Fest is a fun and exciting night, full of delicious food, entertainment and engaging in what this community has to offer," remarked Amanda Payne, President & CEO of AMPLIFY Clearwater. "AMPLIFY Clearwater is proud to be working with local restaurants to make this year's Taste Fest one to remember."

AMPLIFY Clearwater is pleased to announce that this event is in conjunction with Clearwater Offshore National's VIP Party and Meet & Greet! The VIP Party and Meet & Greet will also be held at CMA prior to Taste Fest. Come meet the incredible drivers of the Clearwater Hooters Offshore National's teams, and enjoy complimentary unlimited food and drink. This will be a special ticketed event.

For more information visit amplifyclearwater.com/TasteFest.

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

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.

CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY & RECREATION

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

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

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

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

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

Personal Training with Kim, 45 minutes sessions 462-6138

Group Tennis Lessons - Monday evenings- call 462-6138.

DALI MUSEUM

The Van Gogh Alive Special Exhibit Ended June 13, 2021. The new special exhibit, The Woman Who Broke Boundaries: Photographer Lee Miller, is running now through January 2, 2022. You can learn more at www.thedali.org.

Surreal Summer Nights returns on August 19. Simmer down with the melting clocks and stroll the Museum grounds to the tunes of DJ Fresh while you take in the works of Dalí and their special exhibition. Click here to reserve your ticket.

Partake in Spirits of the Age: An Evening of Art and Tastings. In partnership with local distilleries — Dark Door Spirits, Florida Cane, Kozuba & Sons Distillery, St. Petersburg Distillery and the Tampa Bay Rum Company — they invite you to a special evening of art and spirit tasting inspired by a rich period of history.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

A fun time was had at Dunedin Golf Club during the evening of Sunday, June 13, for Island Estates Yacht Club's June event – The Not-so Newlywed Game. The event was well attended with thirty-six members and thirteen guests.

After an excellent buffet provided by DGC's General Manager Chuck Croasmun and his staff, four couples – Linda & John Garrity, Lucille & Bob Covino, Sue & Scott Moncrieff, and Marsha & Eric Jones -- squared off against one another to see which couple could best predict their spouse's answers and win the grand prize selected especially for them.

All the couples did their best to answer some questions that required recalling memories from long ago, but no one could overtake the eventual grand prize winners, the Garritys, who had the correct answer for almost every question. The Moncrieffs and Joneses did their best but couldn't match the other two couples. Great job by all the couples, especially the Garritys. A big thank you goes out to the contestants.

There was a great turnout and great fun in the Threshers Club at BayCare Ballpark on Saturday, July 17 as club members watched the Clearwater Threshers and Dunedin Blue Jays play what, unfortunately, turned out to be one inning of baseball. The thunder, lightning, and heavy rain that arrived shortly after the first inning resulted in a 2.5-hour rain delay. Fortunately, a full evening of baseball-related activities were planned and enjoyed by all despite the delay, a power outage, and no air conditioning.

The IEYC is in the process of planning events through the rest of the year, including a Wine Tasting at Wine Society in downtown Tarpon Springs (August 22), a Chili Cookoff in Bellair (September), and our annual Blind Auction (October). Dates will be updated on the website when they are available. Please check www.islandestatesyc.org/ for more information.



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