

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

## McGOUGH NATURE PARK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher - Photos by Bill Woerner, local photographer

George C. McGough Nature Park, commonly called McGough Park, is also known to many as "Turtle Park" for its large turtle population. The 26-acre park is located just across the bridge from Indian Rocks Beach, on the Intracoastal Waterway north of Walsingham Road, at 11901 146th Street North, in Largo.

This is the 30th anniversary since it became a Largo public park. The area was originally owned by Chic Young, the creator of the Blondie comic strip, who also lived in Clearwater Beach. Former Largo Mayor George McGough bought the low-lying acreage from Young and donated it to the City of Largo.

The Park has miles of nature trails, including a comfortable rubberized walking trail that is a great way to see the natural beauty of Florida. One trail is a 1,200-foot tree-lined boardwalk a few feet above the natural habitat of Florida. There you can escape the hustle and bustle of city life while you stroll through the shady oak hammock and mangroves along the Intracoastal. A casual walk through the park may take between 45 and 60 minutes. Bicycles are not allowed on the trails or boardwalk. **- Continued on page 6**



### Meet Julie Marcus

Marcus 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 23**

### Also in this Issue:

### Ky Lewis and the Daisy Mae

Lewis began fishing Florida waters almost from the time he could walk. He and his bot Daisy Mae have some record catches and wild fish stories to prove it. **- page 32**



### The Hurricane Of 1921

100 years ago, this storm is still the last time a hurricane made land fall in Pinellas County. **- page 36**

### Fall is a Good Time to Landscape

Do you have some landscaping projects on your to-do list? Make sure you avoid these top landscape mistakes **- page 9**



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

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**BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300  
bob@griffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN DECEMBER**

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Fire Dept: 587-6714

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Fire Dept: 595-1117

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**PINELLAS COUNTY INFO** 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

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Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov

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Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090

Republican, District 66

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Governor Ron DeSantis

Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com

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Rick Scott . . . . . 202-224-5274

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**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Charlie Crist . . . . . 202-225-5961

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**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

*Dates may change.*

**OCTOBER**

- Largo Spooky Trail Fun Run 8
- Garage Sale McGough Park 9
- Market in the Bluffs 9
- Peace Memorial Concert Series 10
- BBA Mixer 14
- Columbus Day 11
- Indigenous Peoples Day 11
- Glaucoma Screening Belleair Opticians 14
- Stone Crab Season Begins 15
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday 14-17
- Buddy Walk Largo 16
- Clothes 2 Kids Kick Back One 21
- Belleair Rec Casino Night 22
- Clearwater Stone Crab Festivals 22-24
- OctoberFest on the Beach 23
- Bluffs Wine Walk 23
- Pumpkin Fest Botanical Gardens 23
- Halloween Spooktacular Largo 23
- Patchington Party with Purpose 26-1
- Ghouls Night Out Antique Alley 28
- Owl-O-Ween McGough Park 29
- Belleair Beach Pets/Pals Costume 30
- Halloween 31
- Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

**NOVEMBER**

- Property Tax Bills Mailed 1
- Household Recycling Largo HS 6
- Belleair Bluffs City Garage Sale 6
- Keep Pinellas Beautiful Events 6
- Food Truck Rally McGough Park 6
- Taste of IRB 6
- Daylight Savings Time Ends 7
- Harvest Art Show Dunedin 6 - 7
- Pelican Women's LPGA 8-14
- Veterans Day 11
- Peace Memorial Concert Series 14
- Market in the Bluffs 13
- Madeira Beach Veterans Boat Parade 13
- BBA Mixer 14
- Beaujolais Day 18
- Festival of Trees Long Center 19-21
- Suncoast Jazz Festival 19-21
- Garage Sale Indian Rocks Beach 20-21
- Turkey Trot 25
- Thanksgiving 25
- Black Friday 26
- Enchantment Show Open St. Pete 26



# Save a life. Starting with yours.

## Get vaccinated and stay safe.

More than a year into the pandemic, the science is clear: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine gives you the best chance of avoiding serious complications and hospitalization from the coronavirus. The new Delta variant is 50 percent more contagious and it's spreading rapidly through our communities, filling our hospitals with sicker, younger patients. Continue to mask up and practice social distancing, but give yourself the best chance to stay well by getting the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Protect yourself and protect your family. Get vaccinated. Learn more: [BayCare.org/GetVaccinated](https://www.baycare.org/GetVaccinated)



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# Did You Know



**BBA WINE WALK** Saturday, October 23 - 3 to 7pm, sip, smile and shop with over 40 businesses eager to welcome. Enjoy wine tastings, live music, food and fun with friendly people. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$30 day of the event. Get your tickets early, before it sells out.

Guests may choose from three convenient check-in locations where they will receive 20 wine tasting tickets, a complimentary wine glass, a wristband and a map showcasing all of the wine walk stops.

Guests may walk or take the Jolley Trolley to participating businesses along Indian Rocks Road and West Bay Drive in Belleair Bluffs. A docent on the trolley will announce each stop and identify business locations.

Anyone can attend however, only 21 and up can purchase a ticket and participate in the wine tasting, For tickets and more information, visit [bbastrong.com/winewalk.html](http://bbastrong.com/winewalk.html).

**MORTON PLANT HOSPITAL'S SEWING ROOM** Morton Plant Hospital has a sewing room where for more than 80 years, volunteers have made items to enhance the patient experience.

Recently, they looked at what volunteers could make to best meets the patient's needs. Now, the sewing room is producing stretcher blankets for pediatric patients, teddy bears for the 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](http://baycare.org/hospitals/morton-plant-hospital/volunteering).

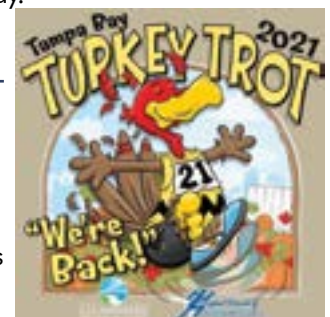
**PROTECT YOUR HOME** The meter box in front of your home contains more than the meter. Inside is a valve, also called a curb stop, that — in an emergency — can shut off all the water to your home. In the event of a water emergency, having quick access to this valve is critical.

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.

**THE FESTIVAL OF TREES IS BACK** The Long Center in Clearwater will once again have hundreds of beautifully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths November 19-21. All trees and wreaths are available for sale and will benefit the non-profit ARC of Tampa Bay.

For more information, visit [TheARCTBFoundation.org](http://TheARCTBFoundation.org).

**TURKEY TROT** The Tampa Bay Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 25 with the first race beginning at 7 am in the areas surrounding Clearwater High School at 504 N. Hercules Ave., Clearwater. Register at [runsignup.com/tbtt.com](http://runsignup.com/tbtt.com).





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# and More...

## VOLUNTEER BOATERS NEEDED

The 28th Annual Fishing Line Island Cleanup, organized by Tampa Bay Watch and Audubon Florida, will be Monday, October 4 to Monday, October 18. Volunteers with boats are being recruited to independently remove tangled fishing line from mangroves and shorelines of specific habitat locations. Advanced registration on [tampabaywatch.org](http://tampabaywatch.org) allows volunteer crews to remove fishing line from protected bird colonies that otherwise are off limits to the public. This cleanup, scheduled when most birds are not nesting, reduces the threat of entanglement for marine animals, including birds.



Registered volunteers choose their own locations and are provided information regarding data submission and monofilament collection. Additionally, volunteers are instructed on how to free any entangled live birds they may encounter and given information on local rescue groups that can assist. Visit [tampabaywatch.org](http://tampabaywatch.org) or call (727) 867-8166 x233 for more information on the event.

**GHOULS NIGHT OUT** To celebrate Halloween, the merchants of Antique Alley are hosting a Ghouls Night Out, on Thursday, October 28th. Come by for some devilish deals from 6-8pm at 596 Indian Rocks Road N., Belleair Bluffs.

**CASINO NIGHT** The Dimmitt Community Center's 15th Anniversary Casino Night is Friday, October 22 from 6 - 9 pm. Tickets are \$75 per person and include casino game cash, food, and festive beverages. Tickets can be purchased at the Dimmitt Community Center or Venmo @BelleairRec.

This is a 21+ event. Red, black, and white cocktail attire.

## ELEVATE CHEMICALS

October is still an active part of hurricane season 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, 2855 109th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. To see what the facility accepts, visit [pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/hec3](http://pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/hec3) or call (727) 464-7500.

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

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## MCGOUGH PARK Continued

The City of Largo built the park's Nature Center in 1990. It houses live animal exhibits of snakes and the Birds of Prey program that is home to twenty-two rescued, non-releasable birds, including owls, hawks, and even an eagle. Recent additions include red morph Screech Owls and a Barred Owl. Volunteers can be seen taking the birds out of their cages (while wearing special gloves) in the mornings.

The animals that reside there usually arrive injured. After they have been rehabilitated, they are unable to care for themselves in the wild.

The fully staffed educational center offers environmental education programs some of which are guided nature walks, "Look Alive" bird shows, and a Nature CSI. There are also hands-on children activities.

The Park has a butterfly garden, though they call it a pollinator garden because not all that frequent the garden are butterflies. Bees are just as common and are incredibly important, too. The pond at the park entrance is full of hundreds of turtles usually sunning themselves on the bank or the floating platforms. Visitors may feed them, which will really get them moving. You can buy turtle food at the information desk.

If you and your family would like to spend the afternoon in the park, there are four picnic shelters, bathrooms and a playground area that includes a children's zipline. The picnic shelters, playground and even the inside classroom can be reserved for special functions and are popular places for children's birthday parties.

The Park is free to visit but the birds of prey are cared for by a volunteer group – Friends of Largo Nature. 100% of the money they raise is used to feed the birds and to provide for their veterinary care. Food costs alone are over \$1000 per month and continue to increase as more birds arrive. Additional costs include vitamin supplements, handling and transport equipment, and the maintenance of the bird enclosures. There are donation boxes in the park or you can visit [www.natureparkfriends.org](http://www.natureparkfriends.org) to make an online donation or find mailing information if you prefer to send a check.

McGough Park is open Tuesday through Sunday, from sunrise to sunset. No dogs are allowed in the park, including service dogs, as it disrupts the resident birds.

For more information on this and other parks in Largo, visit [LargoNature.com](http://LargoNature.com) or [PlayLargo.com](http://PlayLargo.com). Call McGough Park directly at 518-3047.







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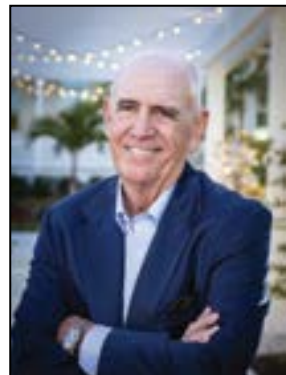
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**RISK, INVESTMENTS AND RETIREMENT**

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.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
 ProVise Management Group, LLC  
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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.*



## TOP 10 LANDSCAPE MISTAKES

By Randy Lee

1. Ignoring the curb appeal of the home. Curb appeal makes a statement about your home- it's the first thing people see and it's meant to draw people in.
2. Over watering the landscape. This includes the lawn, trees, flowers and shrubs. Over watering is worse than under watering. In the summer months you may want to turn your irrigation system off completely.
3. Not budgeting in advance or not having a realistic budget. Projects always cost more than you think and you may need another 30% as a contingency fund. Do the landscape design in stages- one area at a time if needed but do it correctly.
4. Choosing the wrong plants. I see this all the time. You must take into consideration shade vs. sun and dry vs. wet conditions. Right plant right place or your landscape will fail.
5. No fertilization plan. Trees, shrubs and sod need constant care and fertilization. Without a plan your landscape will not thrive. Sod also needs insect, weed and fungus control. Find a licensed spray company.
6. Planting too deep. This is a common mistake of home owners. Planting too deep suffocates the root system of plants and trees. Always plant at grade level- this means where the soil level is prior to planting.
7. Making patios and decks too small. A common mistake I see all too often; again proportion here. Always make larger than you think and remember where furniture will need to go and the space that it will take up.
8. No landscape lighting. Many beautiful landscapes have no lighting and cannot be viewed at night. Most of

our designs now incorporate LED lighting for nighttime viewing and for security concerns. Don't let your landscape go to bed after dark!

9. Not accounting for privacy. They say hedges make great neighbors! Areas where you want privacy- bedroom windows, around the pool and hot tub and driveways need to be thought out in advance, what materials to use and how to make these areas more private when designing the landscape.

10. Not hiring a landscape designer that can put a plan in motion. Make sure the contractor is qualified-licensed, bonded and insured is a good place to start. Make sure they have the knowledge to design a comprehensive plan for you and your family. I have many clients that call after landscaping many times and spending lots of money- do it right the first time.



### CHECKLIST

- Fertilizer ban ends October 1
  - Last chance to fertilize and prune before winter
  - Start of the dry season- normally
  - Strong storms may last into November
  - We plant winter flowers the beginning of November
- Landscapes By Randy Lee, Inc. is a full service landscape design company here to help you with all of your landscape needs. Call us direct at 727-421-2715 or visit us online at [www.landscapesbyrl.com](http://www.landscapesbyrl.com).*

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# Business Briefs

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**HEADLINES IS NOW "MY SALON"** In August, Tasha Johnson sold Headlines Salon in the Plaza to Alison Hall. Hall, who owned a salon east of the Belleair Bluffs on West Bay Drive, changed the salon's name to My Salon, but nothing else has changed.

**MESSAGE OFFICE RETURNS TO LARGO** Long-time massage therapist Lisa Gecelosky, LMT has moved her office back to Largo. As of mid-September, you can find her inside Salt Essentials Wellness, 1600 Missouri Ave N. in Largo.

Recently voted #1 in Alternative Medicine in Tampa Bay Newspapers Readers' Choice Awards, Gecelosky offers massage therapy and cupping, Reiki, and reflexology and has 25 years of nursing experience.

Gecelosky is an independent business and Salt Essentials does not book her appointments. All her services can be booked online at [LisaGMassage.com](http://LisaGMassage.com) or by calling 727-412-1444.

**FREE GLAUCOMA SCREENING** In honor of World Sight Day, Belleair Opticians and its local sponsors St Luke's Hospital, Belleair Coffee, and Lions Club, are offering a FREE glaucoma screening on Thursday, October 14th. Enjoy a cup of coffee with your screening.

Glaucoma is a (multi-factorial) complex eye disease that damages the optic nerve over time, leading to vision loss or complete blindness. More than 3 million Americans are living with glaucoma, yet understanding and awareness of the disease is low.

According to the American Optometric Association (AOA, 2014), 72% of Americans don't know glaucoma typically has no early warning signs or symptoms. That is why it is important to also have a regular eye exam with your Eye Care Professional.

Please make your appointment by calling 584-0730. Screening starts at 10am. Space is very limited. Take the opportunity to bring your old glasses in for donation and help people conserve sight throughout the world!

**CAPPELLO RETURNING** Cappello & Co Jewelry once was in The Plaza, but relocated to a Seminole location on Park Blvd. Now, they are coming back to The Plaza.

Owner and Belleair resident Joe Cappello is moving back, into the space previously home to Galleria Misto, next to E&E Stakeout. Construction has begun with a goal of a November opening.

"I plan to be open by the holidays," says Cappello. Call him at 585-5700 for more information.

**EM & MAC SOLD** Kayla, owner of EM & MAC Children's Boutique, sold her business to Meghan Boetje in August. Otherwise, nothing has changed. Find them at 580 Indian Rocks Road N., Belleair Bluffs or online at [www.EMandMAC.com](http://www.EMandMAC.com).

**MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT** October begins open Medicare enrollment. This year there are many new plans and options available and it can be very confusing. Independent agent and longtime resident Linda Bullerman works with different companies and is authorized to offer many options and plans. Consultations and services are free. Call her direct, 727-501-1444.

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# Business Briefs

## NOT YOUR ORDINARY BEACH SHOP

Sea Gypsy Beach Shop opened in June on the north end of the Gulf-To-Bay Realty building. The store is a family affair, operated by new Indian Rocks Beach residents



Kristie, Jeff and daughter Gracie Jenkins. They relocated here in April from South Carolina. They sell beach essentials and clothing, plus they rent bikes.

"We have a bit of everything you need for the beach," says Kristie. "We plan to rent paddle boards and golf carts soon," says Jeff.

Find them at 2701 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach.

## BIG MAN'S WINS #1 BEST MOVER

Annually, readers of the Tampa Bay Times vote on the best businesses in Tampa Bay. Big Man's Moving Company, based in our community, has won the #1 Best Mover in Tampa Bay 2-consecutive years!



Owners, Josh and Brooke Anderson, experienced a terrible local move themselves which fueled their desire to start a moving company. Using wedding gifts to purchase their first truck in January 2017, the fleet has now grown to 7 trucks. "Reinvesting into our business has always been a top priority. 5 of our 7 trucks are brand new, and this offers reliability for our customers." Big Man's Moving has completed 3800 successful local, statewide, and out-of-state moves and offers packing services.

"Neighbors have given us a chance, had a great experience, and told their friends. Their word of mouth and recommendations have been instrumental in the success of our business. We are grateful to have over 400 5-star reviews," says Brook

"Honestly, this award is dedicated entirely to our team. They are good, honest people who genuinely care and work very hard," says Josh. "The greatest challenge and reward in business ownership has been finding the right people with a positive attitude and mindset." Big Man's movers are all full-time, W2 employees covered by workers compensation.

Contact Big Man's Moving Company at Bigmansmoving.com or call 727-772-3458.

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

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## Business Briefs



**CHAPEL BY THE SEA SPONSORS RISE AGAINST HUNGER, 2021** The annual Rise Against Hunger fundraiser, hosted by Chapel by the Sea is November 6th, 2021 in the hall of the chapel.

Rise Against Hunger is an organization aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Goal #2: Zero Hunger. Chapel by the Sea has proudly contributed to this effort for many years. The organizers always aim for each food packing event to produce 20,000 meals for communities in need. Last year, due to the epidemic, the crew at Chapel by the Sea was dramatically reduced to 13 volunteers, yet was still able to produce 10,000 meals that went to Haiti as part of a shipment totaling 285,000 meals.

This year, the goal is, once again, to donate the full 20,000 meals. Each meal costs \$.34 so the chapel will need to raise a total of \$6,829.92 to cover materials and the cost of transport.

If you're interested in volunteering your time or donating, please visit [chapelbythesea.net](http://chapelbythesea.net), call the office at 727-446-0430 or email [churchoffice@chapelbythesea.net](mailto:churchoffice@chapelbythesea.net). Text "give" to 727-222-1336 and click on Rise Against Hunger to contribute.

This is a great opportunity for adults and kids to serve and give back to the those in need.

**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE** Patchingtons, the Belleair Bluff's ladies wear store is once again standing up to domestic violence and bringing awareness and support to our community. One in four women will become a victim to domestic violence in her lifetime, and for more than 21 years, Patchington has been bringing awareness to domestic violence and has contributed over 350,000 garments to local thrift stores to aid victims of Domestic Violence.

During the week of October 36 through November 1st, make a donation of \$10 or a new personal care item and receive 25% off your purchase. All donations from the Belleair Bluffs store will benefit Hope Villages of America,

Find them at 280 Indian Rocks Road N., or at [Patchington.com](http://Patchington.com).

**SENIOR ASSISTANCE** Trusted Senior Solutions, a family-owned and operated company founded by Largo natives provides personalized daily living assistance and home care for people who need help, but want to remain in their own home. Services include: emotional support and companionship, non-Medical 24-Hour live-in care, running errands, social outings, transportation to doctor and hospital visits, meal planning/preparation, and grocery shopping.

They hire experienced and compassionate caregivers and only select the top 5% that apply. All caregivers are employees of Trusted Senior Solutions, receive a level 2 background check, and are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Caregivers are provided with extensive ongoing training through The Institute for Professional Care.

Trusted Senior Solutions recognizes the value of living at home surrounded by all that is familiar and comfortable. They know that an individual's peace of mind, comfort, and independence is accomplished through their attention to detail, quality, companionship, and care. Call (727) 472-7516 for more information or visit [www.trustedseniorsolutions.com](http://www.trustedseniorsolutions.com).



# Business Briefs

## THORN COLLECTION RAISES MONEY FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER

In September, The Thorn Collection of Coldwell Banker held their 8th annual lemonade stand fundraising event for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation in Belleair Bluffs.



"This year we held the lemonade stand in honor of a friend, Jackson Broom (4 years old)," Thorn said.

"Jackson Cole Broom was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor (DIPG) on February 1, 2021 and ran into the arms of Jesus on March 5, 2021. He was a loving, kind, sweet, strong boy who loved his brothers dearly. He was the best friend to a select few but a wonderful friend to many. Jackson was full of life, love and joy that was contagious. Although his life was short Jackson impacted so many and continues to reach others bringing glory to God and furthering His Kingdom. Jackson is greatly missed and held in the depths of our hearts." Katelyn & Jeff Broom – Jackson's Parents.

Over the last seven years, Thorn has raised over \$135,000. Their goal for this year is to add \$50,000 to that total

**NEW FITNESS CONCEPT COMING TO LARGO** When Indian Rocks Beach resident Dan Burke purchased Get Fitness in Largo, June 2000, he had his eye on expanding. He wanted to create a fitness environment that was much more inclusive, and as a cycling enthusiast, he wanted to add Spin classes.

In October, Get Fitness is opening the new Surge Studio - right next door - a new concept in high intensity group training and technology driven spin classes. The studio is perfectly suited for the fitness enthusiast with heart-pumping music and inspirational lighting to spark enthusiasm. Burke spared no expense in the very best Precor equipment and technology. But Surge Studio isn't just for those already physically fit, it is also for anyone wanting to try something new and different from a typical HIIT or CrossFit session.

"It's a new fitness concept that we believe will catch on in a big way," Burke says. "Precor Studio 7 Training modules are all segmented workouts with a warm-up, fantastic workout, and a cool-down theme which can be modified for any fitness level." Precor is the premier fitness brand in the industry and offers boutique-style training programs and equipment.

Get Fitness also switched all their cardio equipment to Precor. This allows gym members to track their training efforts by instantly tapping on their Apple Watch. Members can also access visual workouts, Live TV, Netflix, Spotify and more to watch and listen while burning calories all on one touchscreen. Members can personalize workouts while staying connected on one device.

Burke is adding a smoothie bar inside Get Fitness. Surge Studio will be announcing new membership opportunities soon. Those that are already members of Get Fitness will have a chance to add on to their current workout routines and new members will be able to have dual membership at both Surge Studio and Get Fitness.

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# RED TIDE ORIGINS & SOLUTIONS AS DEEP AS THE GULF ITSELF

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

This year's red tide outbreak reminds us of the fragility of our coastal environment and its inhabitants. Seeing the thousands of tons of dead marine life taken by the blooms is heart-wrenching. Why these blooms keep happening and what makes them worse some years is a question scientists have been researching for years. Some of those scientists are right here in Pinellas County, specifically at the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, both with facilities in St. Petersburg.

I was fascinated to learn about a 2016 study authored by researchers from both institutions that investigated a way to predict seasonal blooms of *Karenia brevis*, the most common organism that causes red tide in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. The study reviewed 23 years of Gulf of Mexico loop current data and the current's interaction with the West Florida Shelf, the shallow underwater shelf that follows the west coast of Florida from the Keys to the Panhandle.

The study found in years when loop currents in the Gulf interacted with the slope of the shelf near the Dry Tortugas it created, what the authors called, a "pressure point" that set the circulation of the shelf in motion. The motion can lift inorganic nutrients from deeper depths across the entire shelf, changing the state of nutrients and suppressing blooms.

The study also found that there is a consistent pattern between the duration of the pressure point loop current occurrences and the severity of *Karenia brevis* blooms. Years with major blooms tend not to have prolonged pressure point contact near the Dry Tortugas, whereas years without major blooms tend to have prolonged contact with the pressure point. This identified cycle suggests that "resetting," or I might call it

"redistributing," the nutrients of the West Florida Shelf by this circulation pattern suppresses bloom formation.

A 2019 study conducted by researchers from the same institutions supported this conclusion, finding that the intense red tide bloom of 2018 was confirmed to have begun offshore due to the same circulation patterns noted in the 2016 study.

While man-made sources of nutrients do add to the intensity and duration of a bloom, research shows that the ecology of the Gulf is complex and is influenced by a multitude of factors that can result in devastating red tides or beautiful clear, blue water lapping at our sandy beaches.

Either way, Pinellas County and our partners work hard year-round to avoid or mitigate the impacts of red tide every day by implementing projects and programs to improve water quality, monitoring and assessing environmental conditions, and through outreach and engagement with our community.

If you would like to read the 2016 study, visit <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2016JC011938>. The 2019 study is also available by visiting <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2018JC014887>.

To learn more about the local research being conducted by the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, and the Florida Wildlife Commission, visit <http://ocgweb.marine.usf.edu/> and <https://myfwc.com/research/>. And to learn more about Pinellas County's efforts to mitigate red tide locally, visit <https://www.pinellascounty.org/redtide>.

As always, if you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [kseel@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org).



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# CLEARWATER COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

## Virtual Classes, A New Way to Learn

During the last quarter of 2021, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1, with operations based in Clearwater will be conducting a training program for people interested in improving their knowledge of boats and associated topics. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all sessions are conducted over the Internet using Zoom. These classes are not your standard webinar sessions where students sit at their computers and are lectured at. And they're not animated cartoon sessions where you have to keep pressing enter to get to the next topic.

The classes being offered by the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary are conducted on Zoom with the same instructors they would have had in the classroom and includes lots of questions and answers. In addition, because they're on the Internet, there's no commuting to a classroom – the students can be anywhere in Florida!

The Boat America virtual class consists of six lessons: Know Your Boat, Before Getting Underway, Navigating Your Boat Safely, Operating Your Boat Safely, the Legal Requirements of Boating, Boating Emergencies and Enjoying Water Sports with Your Boat. All materials are included in the cost of \$40 per participant.

When this program is completed with a passing grade of 80 or better, a certificate of achievement will be issued. Within approximately three weeks following successful fulfillment, the State of Florida will issue a permanent boating card. The National Association of States Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approves all of the program's content. As an additional bonus, boat owners may be

qualified for a discount through local insurance agencies. Successful accomplishment also meets the State of Florida requirements for operating a boat by persons born after January 1, 1988.



All sessions are held on Saturday and Sunday mornings, from 9am to 2pm. The dates of the program are:

- October 23 and 24
- November 20 and 21
- December 18 and 19

Join the hundreds of members of the boating public who have graduated with honors from these courses. Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for boating safety classes at: [www.clwboatingsafety.com](http://www.clwboatingsafety.com) or by email at [clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com](mailto:clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com) or call 727-469-8895. Also, find us on Facebook at #clearwatercgaux.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a uniformed civilian volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.

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**DROWSY DRIVING**  
**From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri**

On September 5, 2008, 8 year old Ronshay Dugans was on the way to an after-school program when the driver of a cement truck fell asleep behind the wheel and crashed into the back of her school bus. Ronshay was killed. Two years later, the Florida Legislature passed the Ronshay Dugans Act that designated the first week of September as "Drowsy Driving Prevention Week."

A survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, found at least 50% of adults have admittedly driven while drowsy, and 20% have fallen asleep at the wheel. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration there are about 100,000 reported crashes involving drowsy driving; the number is likely significantly higher since it is difficult to determine whether a driver was drowsy at the time of a crash.

Like drunk driving, drowsy driving kills. Prescription medications, lack of sleep, work, undiagnosed disorders like sleep apnea, and jet-lag can cause drowsiness. Drowsiness impacts your reaction time, decreases awareness of your surroundings, and impairs your judgment.

Before hitting the road, make sure you get enough sleep (seven to nine hours for adults, eight to ten for teenagers) and confirm that any medications you take don't cause drowsiness. For longer trips, schedule stops every 100 miles or two hours and ask a friend to tag along to help you stay awake and focused.

Once you're behind the wheel, monitoring yourself for warning signs of drowsiness is crucial. Some common warning signs are frequent blinking, difficulty focusing on the road, having trouble remembering the last few miles driven, drifting from your lane, and the feeling of restlessness or disconnected thoughts. If you notice yourself experiencing any of these pull over to a safe place to get some rest, stretch, or get a caffeinated beverage. Once you feel alert and refreshed it's safe to continue driving.

Crashes caused by drowsiness are 100% preventable. The rush to get to where you're going is not worth risking your safety and the safety of others. Taking the time to check your alertness could save you from a potentially life changing accident.

**FIRE PREVENTION FACTS**

Did you know if a fire starts in your home, you may have as little as two minutes to escape? With proper preparedness, you can help keep your family and friends safe from fire.

Fire safety measures include those that are intended to prevent ignition of an uncontrolled fire and those that are used to limit the development and effects of a fire after it starts.

There are many ways to increase the fire safety of a product, from its design to the material use and its application. Using flame retardants remains one of the most effective ways to prevent or slow ignition. Flame retardants are a critical tool that helps to inhibit a fire. Other tools such as the ones noted below, come into play after the occurrence of a fire.

Codes and Standards establish minimum performance requirements for how a product responds to ignition sources such as flame, spark or other heat sources. Properly placed smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors pay a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injury.

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District encourages you to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors each month to ensure they are working properly and that the batteries are still functioning. Make sure you have an escape plan in place for when things go bad.

Life Safety is our business, and your safety means everything to us.



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# BELLEAIR BLUFFS' CITY HALL'S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

While the City of Belleair Bluffs is 54 years old, their City Hall was only built two decades ago.

The City of Belleair Bluffs, originally known as Bayly's Bluff, was first a town. Towns are generally unincorporated areas with a name, but no structured government. When neighboring City of Largo wanted to annex their land, landowners on the Bluffs wanted to stop them and knew it was time to become a city.

A town meeting was held at the First National Bank building on March 4, 1963 to incorporate and form a city. A mayor, town clerk, marshal and five-member town council was appointed. The first mayor was C.L. Hewitt, Jr (1963-64).

"The Town Hall was an old strip center at 115 Florence Drive - today's Pet Supermarket. It was converted into our Town Hall, and more," says today's Mayor Chris Arbutine. "It was small, cramped, and outdated, even then."

Town Hall was so small, the City Commission meeting room had room for only three guest seats. The building also housed the City's Police Station, 6 employees and two cars.

Fire services were established in 1964, although there was no fire house. The fire truck was housed in Bill Johansen's building at the back of the Town Hall.

In early 1967, the new City Charter was

finalized, and the Florida Legislature approved it in June of 1967. One month later, residents voted to adopt it. With that, Belleair Bluffs was officially a city and the County's smallest municipality.

The first City Hall building on Florence Drive was acquired and paid in full by the end of 1973. By the mid-1990s, they had outgrown their run down and antiquated home at 115 Florence Drive. The City began looking for a location to build a larger city complex.

They already owned the land that they ultimately built on. When they proposed a new City Hall, some people opposed to spending that much money, while others donated to the building fund. When the then new "Penny For Pinellas" tax money became available, it changed everything.

The new City Hall Complex was funded through the combined efforts of the "Busy Bees," the Business Association, a resident committee, and City staff.

In 1999, ground was broken on the project and two years later on November 3, 2001, Mayor Chris Arbutine cut the ribbon for the new Community Center / City Hall.

City Hall and its Civic Center are now 20 years old and are located at 2724 Sunset Boulevard, in Belleair Bluffs.



The original City Hall



The ribbon cutting (Lt to Rt)

Commissioner Susan McElveen, former Mayor John Diller, Mayor Arbutine, & Commissioner Karen Hone.



Today's City Hall

Information and photos for this article came from the City's history book, "Belleair Bluffs from the Beginning," by Wayne Ayers. It can be purchased at City Hall.

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## ADDING A CHILDREN'S GARDEN TO FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (Foundation) is excited to share the plans to build a new children's garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. The 2+ acres site, located along McKay Creek, will feature a 600 sq. ft outdoor classroom, nature-themed play experiences, exploratory trails, a "Roots and shoots" potting area and Florida-Friendly gardens and exhibits.

In 2019, their fundraising effort commenced with an initial goal of \$1.5 Million to design, construct, operate and provide an initial programming budget. The Foundation intended to build the Garden in phases as fundraising efforts occurred. During this time, a wonderful donor, the Majeed Foundation came forward with encouragement and a donation of \$1 Million to build the entire children's garden, future enhancements and endowment.

Out of St. Petersburg, the Majeed Foundation has been instrumental in bringing positive change to the Tampa Bay community, through sponsorship of botanical beautification projects, food donation initiatives, and support of the arts, including the world-class Dali Museum. The Majeed Foundation was created by the generosity of Kamal Majeed, Ph.D, & Najla Majeed.

This new addition to the Florida Botanical Gardens will be named the Majeed Discovery Garden in recognition of the Majeed Foundation's generous gift and because the purpose of the Garden is to start kids on a path of discovery of nature and the environment.

Construction of the Majeed Discovery Garden is slated to begin in January, 2022, and be completed by late summer.

The new Majeed Discovery Garden will be under the auspices of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources department for general and landscape maintenance. Educational programming will be managed by the Foundation with support from the Pinellas County University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service.

Fundraising efforts will continue through the completion of construction as the Foundation must raise an additional \$500,000 to complete the garden due to a significant rise in construction costs.

To view the plans and for information about the Foundation and how you can support the new Majeed Discovery Garden visit the Foundation's website: [www.flbgfoundation.org/childrensgarden](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/childrensgarden). For information about the Majeed Foundation, visit: <https://www.majeedfoundation.org>.

## CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC: A SAFETY NET FOR UNINSURED FAMILIES

What does it mean to be a safety net? At the Clearwater Free Clinic, it is to serve the low-income, uninsured families in our community with comprehensive medical and mental healthcare. Clinic patients struggle to make ends meet even without the high costs of health insurance premiums and copays. This means that accessible healthcare is often out of reach. Many patients are working either full-time, part-time or are self-employed, which can disqualify them from government-funded, community-based healthcare resources. Others may have lost their job and their health insurance along with it. With health conditions and without any other options, where would you go for your care?

It is common for the uninsured to rely on emergency rooms for access to medications or treatment for non-emergent health problems. This is where the Clearwater Free Clinic comes

in! The Clinic is a medical home for the uninsured; nearly any service needed is delivered by CFC staff, volunteers, or community partners who donate life-saving procedures and diagnostic testing that are not available at the Clinic's facility. Yes, this includes just about every specialty! We work to keep the community moving by providing follow-up and preventative care through an integrated healthcare approach. Quality is not sacrificed because we do not charge a fee for services. In fact, many Clinic patients who were previously insured say they receive better care here than they ever did at a traditional doctors' office!

We are proud to have been a part of the community's health care system, helping our uninsured neighbors for 44 years. Want to know how you can help? Visit [www.clearwaterfreeclinic.org](http://www.clearwaterfreeclinic.org) to donate, volunteer



# 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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# Bar & Restaurant News



## ANECDOTE RAISES MONEY WITH MANGOES

What happens when you make beer with mangoes? If you are Phillip Anderson, owner of Anecdote Brewery, you make money for the Beach Food Pantry.

While bike riding on 11th Avenue, Anderson and girlfriend Kristin, saw a big mango

tree in Alex Dorman's front yard, with a sign that said, "take one." They did. Later, they came back and asked Dorman if she would donate a bunch—and they would make beer.

Together, they came up with the idea to use the beer as a fund-raising event for the Beach Community Food Pantry.

"I saw the tree and the sign, then we met Alex," Phillip said. "We took a bucket full - about 15-20 pounds."

"Making mango flavored beer is not hard," Phillip explains. "You sanitize them, remove the center seed, chop them, and mix them in at the end of the brewing process."

The special fundraising event, held Saturday, August 7, raised \$545 for the Food Pantry.

**HURRICANE EDDIES** Construction has finally started on the new "Hurricane Eddies", formerly known as The Red Lion Pub. It has been gutted and now they are putting it back together. Owner, Tom George, says he expects to finish work and reopen in about 90 days. They are targeting November.

The upgrades include keeping the red phone booth.

## CABANAS COASTAL GRILL

The Original Crabby Bill's Family Brands has opened a new restaurant in Clearwater Beach inside Winter the Dolphin's Beach Club. It offers the delicious fare, with a local flair, that you would expect from Crabby Bill's. 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.

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# Bar & Restaurant News



**CAFÉ LARGO CELEBRATES 35 YEARS** Chef Dominique Christini and his wife Kathy opened their French café that specializes in classic French cuisine in 1986. They have won many awards through the years and they have created the perfect spot for a romantic dinner or an evening with friends. They are located in a quiet courtyard in the Galleria Plaza at 12551 Indian Rocks Road, in Largo, just north of Anona Elementary School.

See their menu online at [CafeLargoRestaurant.com](http://CafeLargoRestaurant.com).

**GUILTY SEA PUB** The Original Crabby Bill's is adding a new restaurant to their portfolio, one block south of their main restaurant on Gulf Blvd. They are completely remodeling in the space formerly occupied by Los Mexicanos and opening a sports bar.

"It is going to be called 'Guilty Sea Pub and Sports Bar'," says owner Matt Loder. "We are updating the building, inside and out. It has not been remodeled since 1990. We are working with the architects, now. It is exciting, but it will take a few months as materials are in short supply."

**INDIAN ROCKS CAFE** Jeff Tacy and Jean Murphy met on May 1st and 12 days later signed a lease on a small space in Indian Rocks Beach. Now, they are both a couple and partners in the Indian Rocks Café, a small coffee shop between Surfside Produce and Groupers on the Beach. They opened June 16th.



Indian Rocks Cafe is a specialty coffee-pastry-smoothie breakfast and lunch restaurant. They serve coffees, latte, espresso, cappuccino, mocha, hot chocolate, hot or cold tea, and fruit smoothies. Plus, breakfast items like pastries, bagels and multi-grain breads. They also offer breakfast or lunch sandwiches, veggie wraps, and various fruits.

"I owned a Mexican restaurant in Asheville," says Jeff. "Jean has a background in business. We both wanted to do something different for a change."

"Our motto is 'Fast, Fresh and Healthy'," says Jean. "Our goal is to provide quality customer service, beverages and food items to the local and visiting community. We're a counter-service café with indoor and outdoor seating. We have dine-in, takeout and online ordering."

Find Indian Rocks Café at 1401 Gulf Blvd, in the corner of the shopping center. They are open from 8am to 2pm, seven days a week. See their menu at [www.IndianRocksCafe.com](http://www.IndianRocksCafe.com).



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# MEET YOUR SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS - JULIE MARCUS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

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 multi-million 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](http://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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## Bar & Restaurant News



### NEW SUSHI RESTAURANT

Sekushi Sushi owner Frank Manella, tells us construction is going well on his new sushi restaurant in Belleair Bluffs at the north end of The Plaza. He still hopes to open in November.

Manella says, "the restaurant will have a full bar with plenty of outside dining and a dedicated area for curbside pick-up."

The restaurant has already started accepting reservations for private holiday parties. See their web site and menu online at [www.SekushiOnTheBeach.com](http://www.SekushiOnTheBeach.com).

### BACKWATERS TAKES A TRIP ON THE TROLLEY

Thirty people started their day with Bloody Marys at Backwaters around 11:30 on Saturday, September 18th. They boarded a chartered Jolly Trolley and headed for one of the oldest restaurants in the area, Woody's on Blind Pass. By starting there they were able to visit other places along that strip including The Toasted Monkey, 82 Degrees, Oyster Shuckers and Buoys. From there they went to Ricky T's, Sloppy Joe's across the street and some went to the VIP for Mexican food next to Ricky T's. Then they headed off to John's Pass to visit The Hut, Hooters and several more while a few people went to the VFW at John's Pass. The last stop around 6 PM was the Dog and Parrot on Indian Shores where we could also get some whole belly clams at DJ's Clam Shack! Great trip with plenty of fun, dancing, eating and our their Trolley party!



### STONE CRAB SEASON FESTIVALS RETURN

Stone Crab claws will return to area restaurant menus beginning October 15th. Many local restaurants and seafood markets plan to offer them. The Red Tide's effect on this year's season is still unknown, but as of now, the conditions look good for a normal harvest. Supplies and costs won't be known until fisherman have their traps in the water.

The popular Clearwater Beach Stone Crab Festivals return this year on October 22-24 at The Palm Pavilion, Frenchy's, and Cooters.

**RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED** If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event we can use in this News Magazine, please e-mail it to [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com) or call 727-430-8300.

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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](https://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.

## PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES RETURNS

Join Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church for their season opening concert entitled *Russian Giants* on Sunday, October 10 at 3 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of classical works by Russian composers Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Seating is first come, first served and no tickets are needed but an offering will be taken (\$5-\$10 suggested). Doors open at 2:30 to avoid congregating at entries.

Con Brio String Quartet & Piano will be in performing. Based in southeast Florida, they perform individually and with the Symphony of the Americas, the Palm Beach Symphony, and the Florida Grand Opera.

CDC Covid-19 protocols at the time of concert will be followed. Also, to minimize risks, all must show full immunization (at least 14 days since final dose), a COVID-19 PCR negative test result within 72-hours, or a negative COVID-19 antigen test result within 6-hours prior to entering. Masks indoors and valid government issued ID required to verify required immunization status.

If you cannot attend, there will be an online concert option for a small charge. Follow the link on their Web site.

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (the pink church in downtown Clearwater) is located at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Avenue, at the corner of Pierce Street and Ft. Harrison Avenue. There are four parking areas: 1) West and behind the church off of Pierce Street 2) East across Ft Harrison Avenue in the large County lot - reserved for church events on Sundays 3) In the lot north of the church's fellowship hall and 4) West in the City Hall lot.

For information, visit [peacememorialpresbyterian.org](https://peacememorialpresbyterian.org) or call Music Director Timothy Belk at (800) 479-8846.

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**BUGLE PLAYER KEN DEKA DIES**

Ken Deka, well know for playing TAPS on the beach at sunset, passed away Friday, August 13, at his daughter's home in Michigan.

From December of 2014 until the Pandemic, Deka played TAPS exactly at sunset at the water's edge in Indian Rocks Beach's County Park. Earlier this year, Deka was diagnosed with terminal cancer and moved to Michigan to be closer to family.

Ken lived in Largo, and always arrived at the beach about an hour before sunset for a walk on the beach. Many locals would recognize him and stop him for a quick chat and to thank him for his nightly ritual.

Deka and his brother were both military veterans, serving in Vietnam in the late 1960s. He never played in a band and learned to play the bugle as a kid. "I liked it because it was loud," he explained. "While in the military, I always noticed the crowd's reaction whenever someone played TAPS."

"In the military you hear TAPS every night - my favorite time of the day," Deka continued. "For me, it was always a nice, quiet, peaceful time. It gave me a minute to stop and think and appreciate that 'Freedom is not Free'. A lot of guys did not make it home alive."

"I did not get serious with the bugle and playing TAPS until after my brother died," Deka adds. "The sunset is beautiful to watch and TAPS is a beautiful song to go with it. The perfect way to end the day and to remember someone you love."

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Pinellas County Schools College & Career Centers are a great way to make an impact in the lives of students. The Centers support the counselors and teachers by providing one on one support to students. One hour a week - possibly your lunch break - can make a difference between a student continuing their education after high school or not. Volunteers show them their options and how to pay for it. Pinellas County Schools provides volunteer training and a Center Manager is available to help you. Interested in learning more? Email Tiffanie Lopatin at [pcs.lopatint@pcsb.org](mailto:pcs.lopatint@pcsb.org). All volunteers must pass required background check.



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## 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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What is Kick Back One? A fun evening of networking, live music, food and open bar on October 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Hyde House. Kick One Back will greatly help raise awareness and funds needed in order to give each kid a pair of shoes that fit!! Purchase a ticket at: [www.clothes-to-kids-inc.networkforgood.com/events/33253-kick-one-back-2021](http://www.clothes-to-kids-inc.networkforgood.com/events/33253-kick-one-back-2021).

Clothes To Kids was founded in 2002 with a mission of providing new and quality used clothing to low-income or in crisis school-age children, free of charge. Students eligible for free or reduced priced lunch qualify to "shop" at Clothes To Kids. Clothes To Kids is privately funded and relies on donations of clothing and funding from the community to sustain operations. Since its inception, Clothes To Kids has distributed more than 160,000 wardrobes to children in need at its three stores. Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater - 1059 North Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South. Cash donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765 or dropped off at any CTK store. All donations are gladly accepted Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm. For more information about our mission visit [www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org).

**OKTOBERFEST ON THE BEACH RETURNS**

Mark Your Calendar - October 23, Noon to 6pm, when the 19th Oktoberfest on the Beach returns. The beachy version of the German festival will be held in Kolb Park in Indian Rocks Beach, across the street from City Hall.

Although the event this year may be a bit scaled back, they plan to have the same fun and excitement of past years. There will be a special silent auction for, an original Plein Aire Cottage Artist painting by Indian Rocks' very own artist, Mary Rose Holmes. Don't miss your opportunity to bid on it at the Action 2000 booth.

Emcee Mark Ralston will be the music DJ and announcer. There will also be German musicians and dancers to keep it lively.

The popular Oktoberfest games will continue with the Keg Throwing Contest, and Stein Carrying Contest...great enjoyment whether you're participating or a spectator cheering on the winners. The grand prize 50/50 raffle is a big draw, and the winner does not have to be present to win.

Food vendors will line the street, and of course it wouldn't be Oktoberfest without having brats and much more to feast on. A new addition to the Crabby Family, Pipo N Betty's Bakery will be selling some of their signature desserts too!

From noon to 6pm they will be serving cold Sam Adams Beer and Miller lite, along with wine. Sponsors are highlighted on their website and Facebook and promoted on the day of event. This community event would not happen without them.

For information about the event, or to volunteer, visit [irbaction2000.com](http://irbaction2000.com), or e-mail us at [info@irbaction2000.com](mailto:info@irbaction2000.com)



## FOUNDATION FINANCES BEACH-ACCESS MATS FOR AREA BEACHES

People come from near and far to enjoy Tampa Bay’s world-class shoreline, which boasts some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Now, a team of local activists is calling on city leaders to make Tampa Bay’s beaches the most accessible in the world by offering to fund a much-needed amenity: mobility mats.

Residents and visitors with mobility issues have long had difficulty accessing the waterfront. According to the CDC, 28% of adults in Florida live with a disability. Mobility challenges, the most common type of disability, affects 1 in 7 U.S. adults.

The Forward Foundation, a private foundation based in Clearwater, is partnering with Help Us Gather (HUG) and the Disability Achievement Center, two local nonprofits that serve individuals with special needs, to give area cities a unique offer: a blank check to every beach-facing city in the Tampa Bay area interested in installing a mobility mat.

Mobility mats are nonslip pathways that help individuals with mobility challenges avoid getting stuck in the soft, uneven sand, allowing them to access the beach safely and easily.

“Human equality is one of the cornerstones of our foundation, and right now people with mobility issues do not have equal access to Tampa Bay’s beaches,” says Robin Lally, Co-President of the Forward Foundation. “We want to see beaches that everyone can enjoy and the Forward Foundation is willing to write a big check to fund it. We are hoping this will be an offer the cities can’t refuse.”

“Some people can’t even get beyond the curb at beaches in our area,” says Michael Ciafone, a local activist with mobility challenges who has for years been advocating for local cities

to install mobility mats. “Seniors and people pushing strollers also use the mats to walk on the beach because it’s more stable. Everyone should have the chance to get to the beach and participate in family activities.”

According to one popular brand, MobiMat, only about 30 public parks and beaches in the state of Florida have a MobiMat installed. MobiMat reps say the average cost to purchase and install one of their mobility mats ranges from \$4,000-\$20,000.

“We have seen firsthand how important mobility mats are in creating equity for every person in our community,” says Jody Armstrong, Director of Outreach at Disability Achievement Center in Largo. “Cities that install mobility mats prove how much they value being inclusive for residents and visitors alike.”

Help Us Gather (HUG) is part of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Clearwater, Florida. HUG’s mission is to advocate for inclusion and connect individuals with disabilities to social events and activities. For more information or interview requests, contact HUG at (727) 489 - 5885 or email [events@helpusgather.org](mailto:events@helpusgather.org).



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# BELLEAIR BLUFFS NEWS

Join our E-mail list: Send your email address to [Info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov](mailto:Info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov) to quickly receive up-to-date information

## MAYOR'S CORNER:

Please attend a Commission meeting to come meet me and discuss any concerns or simply find out what is going on with the city. Business owners are welcome to attend as well. The Commissioners and I hope to see you. We look forward to the new playground and exercise equipment area being installed in October. Our Holiday Event is upcoming in December and the road improvement projects are being scheduled and completed. Call me if you have any concerns or questions – 727-458-2148



  
**Chris Arbutine**

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION - MARCH 15, 2022:

The offices up for election are for a two-year term:

Commissioner Joe Barkley

Commissioner Taylour Shimkus

If anyone is interested in further information, please call Alexis Silcox, City Clerk at 727-584-2151.

## EVENT INFORMATION:

### PUBLIC MEETINGS:

**Commission meetings** are held monthly at 6:00pm on the 3rd Monday in person in the Community Center.

The Fall/Winter Meeting Dates are as follows:

**OCTOBER 18, NOVEMBER 15, DECEMBER 13, JANUARY 10, and FEBRUARY 14**

### MARKET IN THE BLUFFS:

The Market in the Bluffs will be held the second Saturday of each month on Sunset Drive in front of Belleair Bluffs City Hall. The scheduled dates are **OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 13, and DECEMBER 11**.

Further dates will be determined. The market is free - be sure to visit all the surrounding area stores.

### BELLEAIR BLUFFS CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE:

**NOVEMBER 6, 2021 FROM 8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM.**

Permit fees are waived and staff will place signage throughout the city.



### ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AND FOOD DRIVE:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021**

The annual holiday tree lighting program and the arrival of SANTA will take place at City Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. As always, there will be plenty of treats and gifts for the kids.

We kindly ask guests to bring canned goods, boxed food, baby formula, flour, sugar, peanut butter, rice, pasta, canned juice, or fruit to donate.

Anyone that brings a food donation will receive the City's Annual tree ornament.

### SANTA DELIVERS GIFTS TO CHILDREN OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS:

**DECEMBER 23, 4:00PM UNTIL COMPLETED**

Bring ONE SMALL gift for each child (must be easily loaded on fire truck)

- Put delivery address and phone number on the package
- Put your child's name and age on the package.
- Under 12 years of age, put the parent's name on the package.
- BRING THE GIFT to City Hall – 2747 Sunset Blvd. 8:30am to 4:00pm, DECEMBER 6th through DECEMBER 17th (Last day to drop off gifts)







# BELLEAIR BLUFFS NEWS

## HURRICANE SEASON:

Visit our Emergency Preparedness page on our website: <https://www.belleairbluffs.org/hurricane-preparedness>  
 Please take a moment to watch the recording of the Hurricane Symposium, which offers helpful tips and valuable resources. If you think you will require evacuation due to medical reasons register for special needs pick up with Pinellas County IN ADVANCE.

The NFIP's Community Rating System recognized the City of Belleair Bluffs as a Class 7 for efforts that go beyond the minimum standards of the NFIP by reducing flood insurance premiums by 15% for residents in a SFHA (Special Flood Hazard Area) and a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums for those residents not in a SFHA. There are many ways to learn about your zone. Please visit our website and review the Emergency Preparedness Links at the bottom or download the mobile app "Ready Pinellas" at your mobile device's app store.

## COMMUNITY CENTER PARK IMPROVEMENTS:

The new children's playground will be installed in October. The adult exercise area will be installed as well. The park will be closed for just a few weeks. The wait will be worth it!



## NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR, RUSS SCHMADER:



### DOLPHIN DRIVE ROADWAY

RECONSTRUCTION – This project was completed on time and is an improvement over the former road condition. More projects are budgeted and are presently in the engineering stage. Look for beautification and road reconditioning

### Why Is Stormwater Important?

#### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

If stormwater only contained rain, our jobs would be simple. But stormwater contains more. Much more! Pollutants such as oils, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, lawn clippings, paints and other household chemicals, chlorine and even soil are picked up and carried along by stormwater as it travels

across lawns and other surfaces, down roadside curbs, into storm drains, and ultimately into larger water bodies such as McKay Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway that leads directly to the Gulf of Mexico. It is illegal to discharge chlorinated pool water into the curb lines and roadways.

What can you do?

- Please be sure to call Belleair Bluffs City Hall at 727-584-2151 if you notice anyone performing illicit discharge activities.
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials. Please visit our website at [www.belleairbluffs.org](http://www.belleairbluffs.org) to keep up with dates and locations of mobile collection events by the Pinellas County Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center.
- Prevent illicit discharges (items other than rain) by containing soil piles on construction sites and de-chlorinating swimming pool water before draining

## QUICK REMINDERS

**ALERT Pinellas:** Stay connected. Sign up for Alert Pinellas to receive text, phone and/or email notifications if flooding is expected in your area. Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas).

**Waste Management Increase:** Please remember to review your billing statement which indicates an increase effective October 1st. The current rate is \$23.67/month and will increase \$0.27 to \$23.94/month. For specific pricing, please view the schedule on our website.

There will be NO trash or recycling pick up on Nov. 25th Thanksgiving Day. Service will commence on the next scheduled pickup day.

Current Watering Schedule/Restrictions: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/water-restrict.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/water-restrict.htm).

# KY LEWIS - THE ULTIMATE FISHERMAN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

**K**y 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.



Lewis and passengers with the West Coast Marlin record catch at 637 pounds, caught by Mark Adams in an Old Salt Loop Tournament.

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](mailto:CaptKyLewis@AOL.com). Look for Ky Lewis's book coming next year! ■



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# Community News

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### **BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB**

They are gearing up for "Junk & Jewels Sale" and are now accepting donations for the big fundraiser to be held in January, 2022. Donations are accepted at the clubhouse, 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd in Belleair.

On the first Saturday of each month through December, you just drive up and we help unload your donations. Please come from 10 am to 12 noon. Proceeds from the January Sale support our scholarship and historic preservation programs. With any questions, call Jan at 727-412-2344.

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.

### **FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**Tour of Public & Private Gardens - Sunday, October 10th, 2021** from 10 am-4 pm. Start with a tour of the Florida Botanical Gardens and end with tours at any of the private gardens available. Schedule:

- Guided tours of the Florida Botanical Gardens are offered at 10:30 am, 11 am, and 11:30 am.
- From 12-4 pm, visit beautiful and varied private gardens on your own. Drive yourself to one or all of the private gardens and stroll at your leisure.

Registrants will receive a map of the gardens via email the week of the event, which also serves as their ticket. Hard copies will also be available the day of the event, at the Florida Botanical Gardens, to pick up before noon. Guests have the option to choose a tour time in the morning, but are not required. Registrants may begin touring private homes at noon.

Cost is \$40 per person, Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Members receive a discounted price of \$25, register at [www.flbgfoundation.org/gardentourregistration](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/gardentourregistration).

**Pumpkin Fest** - Every year, this family-friendly fall event has seen a wonderful turn out from the community. As they move into their fifth year, they are exploring ways to give more to its loyal attendees, starting with an expansion to a two-day event. This year's Pumpkin Fest will take place on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, October 24th from 12-4 pm.

Trick-or-treat! Come dressed in costume and take part in the TaleBlazer Scavenger Hunt to receive candy for an early Halloween celebration.

The event will reinstate pumpkin carving, as well as a pumpkin patch! So be ready to celebrate with the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, and see what other fun additions are in store. [www.flbgfoundation.org/pumpkinfest](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/pumpkinfest).

**Annual Holiday Lights** - They are proud to announce the dates and times for its annual Holiday Lights in the Gardens event. This year's celebration will begin on Friday, November 26, 2021 and conclude Sunday, January 2, 2022. The Gardens open every evening from 5:30 to 9:30pm for viewing. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10 per person, over the age of 13. In line with tradition, the Gardens will sparkle with 1 million, twinkling, LED lights in a multitude of colors. Vibrant laser lights and lighted figures round out the display to wow guests of all ages.

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH**

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**2021 OKTOBERFEST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**

**COLD BEER - MUSIC - FOOD VENDORS - GAMES**

German Music & Dancers Emcee Mark Ralston 

Stein Carrying @ 2:00pm & Keg Toss @ 3:00pm  
Plein Aire Cottage Artist Painting Auction  
50/50 Raffle Drawing



# Community News

## GREATER LARGO LIBRARY FOUNDATION

November 6th – November 13th, they will hold an online auction to benefit the programs and services of the Largo Public Library. Participants must register for the auction at [qtego.net/qlink/glf](http://qtego.net/qlink/glf) to bid on items. Online auction registration opens October 8th.

There will be a variety of auction items for everyone to bid on. Begin your holiday shopping from the comfort of your home. For additional information on the online auction or how to donate an auction item please contact the Foundation office at (727) 586-7398.

Career Online High School Graduation - Largo Public Library's Career Online High School 2020-2021 graduating class received their diplomas in a recent graduating parade.

With the Library's Bookmobile as the backdrop, graduates decorated their cars and drove up to received their diplomas. The graduation parade celebrated the accomplishments of ten graduates with families, friends and community members. There were 15 total graduates for the 2020-2021 class.

Andrea Hartmann, president of the Greater Largo Library Foundation delivered a congratulatory speech and announced that the Foundation would fund twelve \$500 grants for adult education graduates of Largo Public Library's Career Online High School program who enroll in college or trade school.

Also in attendance were Foundation Board members, Patricia Bell, Gail Sorensen and Margaret Faulkner. Special guest, Lynn Pippenger, a former board president also attended the graduation and had the opportunity to personally congratulate the graduates. Lynn has sponsored Largo Public Library's Career Online High School program for the past two years.

## BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The BBA is excited to announce that they will be hosting the Bluffs Wine Walk on October 23, 3pm-7pm! Taste wines at over 40 businesses in Belleair Bluffs. Tickets are \$20 in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=163056439199>.

October 12, 9am - Network for Success breakfast seminar featuring speaker Jackie Sager of Rise Above Counseling Services at The Haus Coffee Shop 12199 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo. Topic: Preventing Burnout: Daily Habits and Daring Changes. \$10 admission includes breakfast.

October 14, 5:30 - After hours Mixer at Florida Botanical Gardens 12520 Ulmerton Rd. Largo. Free. Tour the gardens and enjoy refreshments while making new business connections.

November 4, 5:30 - After hours Mixer and Ribbon cutting at Tampa Bay Laser 2695 Ulmerton Rd, Largo. Free.

November 9, 9am - Network for Success breakfast seminar. Speaker and location to be announced.

For information, or to get involved, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or Larry Bell at 644-9197, visit [BBAStrong.com](http://BBAStrong.com) or email [info@BBAStrong.com](mailto:info@BBAStrong.com)



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## 100 YEARS AGO - THE HURRICANE OF 1921

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

October is the 100th anniversary of the last hurricane to directly hit Pinellas County. There have been close calls since, but this was the last storm that made landfall here—meaning a part of the eye passed over the county. 100 years ago, storms were not given names. Naming hurricanes started in 1950, before that, hurricanes were referred to by the date, or area they did the most damage. Because of that, records refer to it as “The Hurricane of 1921” (locals called it the “Tarpon Springs Hurricane”).

The storm, as many do in October, formed in the Western Caribbean. It moved northeast towards Tampa Bay. The storm made landfall on October 25 when the eye of the hurricane passed over Tarpon Springs.

Although it was before storm rankings were created, it is estimated the hurricane was a Category 3 and produced sustained winds of approximately 115 miles per hour. Due to the reverse clockwise circulation, most damage and flooding happened after landfall—south and inland in the Tampa area. Much of the storm’s surge was diverted into Tampa Bay through the shipping channel. Eight people died.

Every city on the west coast of Pinellas County had flooding. The barrier islands were underwater. Major flooding was reported in Tampa and Oldsmar and as far south as Bradenton and Sarasota.

Before the storm, Caladesi Island was connected to Honeymoon Island. The hurricane separated them, creating the pass—appropriately named “Hurricane Pass” navigation charts—that still exists.

The front page of the then *St. Petersburg Times* reported that Pass-A-Grille was virtually wiped out, killing 150 people. The American Red Cross and U.S. Navy rushed pine caskets and relief supplies to the area—but no bodies were found. The next day, the same paper printed a

retraction; Pass-A-Grille was still there. In truth, Pass-A-Grille was reported to have five to seven feet of flood waters. A hotel, beach pavilion, and numerous cottages were destroyed, but no one died.

The Indian Rocks Beach Pavilion (later named the Brandon Pavilion) was knocked off its foundation. The Casino in Gulfport was destroyed (it was rebuilt). All the wooden buildings at the Pinellas County Fairgrounds in Largo were uninhabitable. The St Pete Beach Hotel was destroyed.

Many buildings on Clearwater’s mainland were severely damaged, including the Clearwater Icehouse, the City’s Power Plant, a movie theater, and a hotel. Residences, large and small, were damaged or destroyed. Newly installed electric and phone lines were downed, leaving the city with no power or phone service for months.

The City of Oldsmar was devastated by storm surge, estimated to be six feet. Many homes there were demolished, but fortunately no one was killed. Numerous cattle reportedly drowned.

Years later, a Oldsmar resident, who survived the Hurricane of 1921, recounted how four to five feet of water surrounded their home. The family brought the farm’s chickens and cows onto the front porch to keep them from drowning.

Six public piers in downtown St. Petersburg were knocked down. The City rebuilt one—the Million Dollar Pier, which reopened in 1926. Tides in St. Petersburg were reported to be eight feet above normal, capsizing and sinking many ships and fishing boats in the harbor.

The offices of the *St. Petersburg Times* were underwater forcing the staff to work by the light of oil lanterns to get the next day’s issue out.

Two people died in St. Petersburg—one by heart attack and another when a roof landed on him.

In Tampa, the storm surge was much higher—ten to twelve feet—with sustained winds of 75 miles per hour. In downtown Tampa, most of the damage was the result of flooding, with the worst being on Bayshore Blvd.

Businessmen recently had begun building bridges across the Intracoastal: Indian Rocks, St. Pete Beach, Clearwater Beach, and in Seminole. Every one of them were knocked down except the Indian Rocks Beach bridge. It was shorter and stocky, helping it to survive, although a fish house that broke loose became lodged underneath it. It stayed there about a week.

It is surprising so few people were reported killed. That is primarily because very few people lived here. The Census of 1920 reports only 28,300 Pinellas County residents. Compare that to the 2020 Census with 959,107.

A main casualty of the storm was the area’s agriculture. Crop damage was extensive as 90 percent of county’s the land was farms and citrus groves. They estimate 50-70% of the produce lost was worth \$1 million.

Other casualties were tourism and real estate. If word spread Pinellas County had been devastated and it was likely to have more hurricanes, people would stay away.

Local officials and Realtors—and later the media—attempted to cover up the truth by downplaying the damage, all to protect Tampa’s image as the “Year ‘Round City.”

On October 28, ten days later, the *Tampa Tribune* printed a story saying everyone agrees the storm was a one time event and “all are working together to rebuild the devastated areas, with a firm conviction that there will not be another storm of such severity during the life of anyone now living.”

And it seems they might have been right. ■





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# Community News

**BEACH ART CENTER**

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Our Gift Shop got a new look for Fall. Mid-September saw an exciting new stock of local art, jewelry, cards, pottery and paintings, all created by local artists.

Art Galleries - The Gallery Show titled "Books and Music" will be open Mon – Fri from 9am - 4pm, through October 22nd. The entire community is invited to come see this exciting show.

Fabulous Flamingos in Watercolor Workshop - Saturday, October 9, 9am – 4pm. Join award winning artist, Heather Rippert for an afternoon of painting bright, vibrant, fabulous flamingos, the iconic birds that are synonymous with Florida. Explore a rich palette of colors, and various watercolor techniques, while painting these fun and elegant creatures! All levels of experience are welcome. Fee: \$100, Materials list is available on our website

In October, the following weekly classes begin again:

- Water Media - Monday mornings and afternoons
- Oil Painting - Tuesday evenings

The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach – across from Kolb Park. Find details on classes, registration, gallery shows, and gift shop at beachartcenter.org. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**

They will hold their October meeting on Friday, October 1, at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time starts at 11:30 am, with lunch at noon. The speaker will be communications expert Tim Bryce, a prolific writer ("The Bryce Is Right!" blog and several books), regular presenter on WZIG-FM (104.1) and producer of a channel on YouTube. His subject will be today's media—how it works and how it should be approached. Reservations must be made by mailing a check to be delivered by September 27th

The speaker for the November 5th meeting, also held at Belleair Country Club, will be Skyler Alexander, North Pinellas Political Activities Director and President of the Sunrise Leadership Republican Club, whose topic will be political activism and how people can become involved in Pinellas County political activities. Reservation must be made by mailing a check to be delivered by November 1st

For both luncheons, the cost is \$28. Reservation checks should be delivered to: BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756. No walk-ups can be accommodated.

**DALI MUSEUM**

Their most surreal fundraising event of the year, Sueños de Dalí – "The Art of Fashion" is Saturday, October 23, 8pm.

Join them as their spectacular building and gardens transform into an experience like no other, with live music, themed bars, curated cocktails and tantalizing treats. Designed in tribute to the art of the notorious Salvador Dalí and the current special exhibition featuring photographer Lee Miller, the Museum celebrates The Art of Fashion. Costumes are encouraged.

All proceeds support the Museum's vital mission as a not-for-profit arts and education organization. If you are unable to attend, donations are welcome.

Cost: General \$150 | Members \$140 | VIP \$600. VIPs receive early entry, a champagne toast, private entertainment & more.



# Community News

## BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCH CLUB

Proudly celebrating sixty-two years in existence, members of the Belleair Beach Ladies Luncheon Club look forward to their annual season beginning October 12th, at the Beachcomber Restaurant. Meetings this past season were interrupted by the Covid virus and reservations for the few meetings that were held had limited seating, but President Linda Christian and her Board members did an outstanding job enabling them to attend some lunches.

This year the ladies will support the efforts of Shepherd's Village, a local organization providing development, housing and growth opportunities for single mothers.

For further information about becoming a member, please call Lois O'Donnell, Past President, 727-595-1349

## 42<sup>ND</sup> 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 lineup and purchase tickets at [clearwaterjazz.com](http://clearwaterjazz.com).

## CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Learn about local culture, automobiles, and history at the unique Tampa Bay Area Museum Expo. Downtown Clearwater's own Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center hosts the expo from 10 am – 2 pm on October 30.

The event's purpose is to raise community awareness of the role Tampa Bay's museums play in showcasing the area's special character. Admission is free.

"Without museums, we would lose our heritage and history," said Alex Casano, the Events Coordinator for the Clearwater Historical Society. "The pandemic challenged many organizations, including museums. This is a chance for the community to reconnect with them."

Participating organizations include Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, Tampa Bay Automobile Museum, St. Petersburg Museum of History, Dunedin History Museum, The Collection on Palmetto, Largo Area Historical Society, Seminole Historical Society, Palm Harbor Museum, Tarpon Arts, Seminole Historical Society, author Joshua Ginsburg and Heritage Village. The Clearwater Historical Society museum will also be open during the event.

The Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center is located at 610 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, Clearwater. Parking is available at the museum as well as in the lot across from the First United Methodist Church at 411 Turner Street on the corner of Fort Harrison Avenue and Turner Street.

Call or email Clearwater Historical Society at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or 727-754-8019.



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& The City of Indian Rocks Beach

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