

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

## THE PIER PAVILION: THE PLACE TO GO ON THE BEACH



By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Did you have a favorite hangout when you were a teenager? If you lived in Clearwater Beach in the 1960s and '70s, it was probably *The Pier Pavilion*.

*The Pier Pavilion* was in the green space west of the Roundabout in the area between, the Clearwater Beach Hilton and today's Pier 60.

Pier 60 was rebuilt in the 1950s as a concrete version—half the length of today's pier. This area of Clearwater Beach was, and still is, owned by the City of Clearwater. Mr. Amos Smith leased and developed the land nearby in the late 1950s. He named his attraction *The Pier Pavilion*.

As part of the development, Smith built a snack bar, a large pool open to the public for a fee, gift shops and other facilities. Mr. Smith's son, Dave, managed *The Pier Pavilion* operations. He later, with Howard Hamilton, became one of owners of *The Palm Pavilion Restaurant*. Then in the 1960s, he sold his lease and businesses to Bill and George Alexander.

At *The Pier Pavilion*, also called "Island Park" by many locals, there was a miniature golf course. Today it is the Plaza of Flags. "*The Pier Pavilion* and its pool were where the current playground is today," says local Kate Daley. "There was also a locally owned miniature golf course. Everyone played it at one time or another. It had a "pesky" windmill that challenged the best of us." - **Continued on page 6**

### Also in this Issue:

#### Winter's Legacy

*Winter became an inspiration for people with disabilities, particularly among amputees. Her legacy will continue.*

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#### Clyde Butcher Exhibit Opens

*The famous photographer was in town for the opening of his exhibit in Clearwater's Main Library. The exhibit runs through the end of the May.*

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#### Meet the New City Manager

*Jon Jennings just finished his first month on the job. He has a ambitious agenda.*

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#### Fun Things To Do Nearby

*St Augustine, only a short drive away, is the site of the country's first colony. There is a lot to see and do, even if you don't like historical attractions.*

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**CREDITS**



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767 - about 5,000 households.

We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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**CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

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

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and we want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Keep up to date with your local news; follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazine.

Thank you for reading, Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300 bob@griffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN FEBRUARY!**

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<b>MAYOR</b> - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
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Mark Bunker - Seat 2 Kathleen Beckman - Seat 3 David Allbritton - Seat 4 Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
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Jon Jennings	
<b>ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER</b>	562-4040
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>	562-4567
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	562-4870
<b>PLANNING &amp; ZONING</b>	562-4567
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	562-4950
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<b>CLEARWATER GAS</b>	562-4980
<b>SOLID WASTE</b>	562-4920
<b>PIER 60</b>	462-6466
<b>MARINA</b>	462-6954
<b>BEACH REC CENTER</b>	462-6138
<b>BEACH LIBRARY</b>	462-6138
<b>VISITOR INFO CENTER</b>	442-3604
<b>BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY</b>	462-6020
<b>POLICE NON-EMERGENCY</b>	562-4242
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	562-4334
<b>POLICE HOTLINE</b>	562-4080
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON</b>	562-4554
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<b>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>	447-7600
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<b>SAND KEY PARK</b>	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
<b>CLEARWATER AQUARIUM</b>	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
<b>JOLLY TROLLEY</b>	445-1200

<b>CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA</b>	562-4955
<b>CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB</b>	447-6000
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<b>CLEARWATER SAILING CTR</b>	517-7776
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<b>ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB</b>	
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Allison Dolan 754-8017	
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696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT**

<b>DECEMBER</b>		Peace Memorial Church Concert	9
Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	15	Martin Luther King Jr Day	17
Chapel By Sea Candlelight Carols	16	Public Schools Closed	17
Chapel By Sea Remembrance Service	17	St Pete Boat Show	20-23
Winter Solstice	21	Florida's Arbor Day	21
Public Schools Closed for Holidays	20	John's Pass Seafood Festival	21-23
Christmas Day	25	Martinis And Matisse	22
Kwanzaa Begins	26	Electronic Waste Disposal Day	26
Boxing Day	26	Tiny Bubbles & Big Reds	28
Outback Bowl Beach Day	29	Gasparilla Day Invasion	29
Electronic Waste Disposal Day	29		
New Years Eve	31	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Fireworks At Sand Key Park	31	Chinese New Year	1
<b>JANUARY</b>		Groundhog Day	2
New Years Day	1	East-West Shrine Game	3
Outback Bowl Tampa	1	Beach Walk-Walk	5
Botanical Gardens Lights End	2	Backwater's Chili Cook-Off	6
Public School Reopen	4	Florida State Fair	10-21
Tampa Bay Home Show	7-9	Fan Fest Tampa Bay Rays	12
Dunedin Art Show	8-9	Peace Concert Series	13
Roc Day, Heritage Village	8	Super Bowl	13
Epiphany	6	Valentine's Day	14
		Deadline To Register To Vote March Elections	14

Hope your holiday sparkles with joy and shine with favorite memories one beautiful moment after another during this special holiday season and throughout the new year!

**PROPERTIES SOLD BY TARA BEHESHTI**

We've helped many of your neighbors sell their homes and yours could be next.



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361 Mandalay Ave #306, Clearwater Beach  
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**SOLD**  
440 Gulfview Blvd #901, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$640,000



**SOLD**  
2016 Pepperwood Lane, Clearwater  
3 Bed 2.5 Bath | \$660,000



**SOLD**  
608 N Osceola Ave, Clearwater  
5 Bed 5 Bath | \$2,225,000



**SOLD**  
11 Baymont St, #906, Clearwater  
2 Bed 3 Bath | \$1,600,000



**SOLD**  
6372 Palma Del Mar Boulevard S #988  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$507,000



**SOLD**  
1000 Gulf Blvd #1115, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$1,126,000



**SOLD**  
73 Pelican Place #801, Bolivar  
3 Bed 2 Bath | \$950,000



**SOLD**  
1000 Gulf Blvd #313, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$308,000



**SOLD**  
440 Gulfview Blvd #1407, Clearwater  
3 Bed 2 Bath | \$650,000



**SOLD**  
321 Mandalay Ave, #402, Clearwater  
3 Bed 3 Bath | \$915,000



**SOLD**  
1000 Gulf Blvd APT 704, Clearwater  
3 Bed 3 Bath | \$1,725,000



**SOLD**  
11 Baymont St, #1299, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$1,100,000



**SOLD**  
500 Mandalay Ave, #103, Clearwater  
1 Bed 1 Bath | \$325,000



**SOLD**  
1490 Gulf Blvd #707, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$670,000



**SOLD**  
521 Mandalay Ave, #1302, Clearwater  
3 Bed 3 Bath | \$1,475,000



**SOLD**  
521 Mandalay Ave, #606, Clearwater  
2 Bed 2 Bath | \$861,500



**SOLD**  
182 Brightwater Dr, #5, Clearwater Beach  
4 Bed 3.5 Bath | \$1,895,000



**SOLD**  
3313 Covered Bridge Dr W, Dunedin  
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**SOLD**  
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# Did You Know



## TOYS FOR TOTS AT CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Clearwater Yacht Club has had a Toys for Tots campaign for many years. In the past, they typically made Christmas a reality for about 6,500 Pinellas children. Each year the drive includes a dinner

for members of the Marine Corp. and CYC members.

Last year, due to COVID, they changed a few things that ended up making the effort more efficient. Incorporating those new measures this year has allowed them to help over 9,000 local families this season. With any cash donations, they purchase items locally. Their goal is to break the cycle of poverty and to give gifts that will enhance reading skills and keep family a center focus.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger works hard to ensure our neighbors have the food they need to survive. Whether you can volunteer once a week, once a month or once a year; individually or with a group, every hour of assistance helps us ensure our neighbors have access to food. Visit [networktoendhunger.org/Volunteer](http://networktoendhunger.org/Volunteer) or call 813-344-5837 for more information.

**BOAT SHOW RETURNS** The big St. Pete Power and Sailboat Show returns to downtown St. Petersburg January 20-23. Most of the boats for sale are in the water next to the Dali Museum. Get details at [www.StPeteBoatShow.com](http://www.StPeteBoatShow.com).

**RULES OF THE ROAD** A bicycle is considered a vehicle. Therefore, a bicyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as motorized vehicles, and can also receive traffic tickets. That means cyclists must slow down at yellow lights and stop at ALL red lights and stop signs. Cyclists are allowed on sidewalks, except in designated areas where they may pose a risk to pedestrians, such as in a busy downtown area

**LARGO HOLIDAY LIGHTS** It is time for the Holiday Lights in Largo Central Park. It will held nightly through January 2 from 6-11 pm, weather permitting. Park admission is free. There is a stunning carousel and seven-story Ferris Wheel. Rides are \$5 each. Food will be available for sale on site. Don't forget to visit Mr. Bill's Fine Foods, he will be located near the rides selling funnel cakes. [PlayLargo.com](http://PlayLargo.com)



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# and More...

**READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The Island Estates Civic Association decorated the entrance of Island Estates with 80 Poinsettias donated by Publix.



Publix Store Manager Phil and assistant manager Danielle assisted in the planting. Ed Hacking, the Association's 104 year old was there to supervise. The IECA landscape committee chair oversaw the planting.

**LOOK FOR US IN YOUR MAILBOX SOONER** For the last 13 years, we have mailed this Magazine in the middle of the month (for scheduling reasons). Starting in February, we will be mailing you this News Magazine on the first of the month. Look for us on February 1st next issue.

**OUTBACK BEACH DAY** The annual Beach Day for the teams playing in the Outback Bowl is Thursday, December 30th. Join the teams, their marching bands and cheerleaders as they enjoy the sun, sand, and beaches at the Hilton Clearwater Beach next to Pier 60. This fun day includes live music, skydivers, a tug-of-war, and other contests from 11am to 4pm. After Beach Day stick around for Sunsets at Pier 60 featuring artisans, music and more while you watch the sunset on the Gulf of Mexico.

**YOU CAN RENT THE REC CENTER FOR EVENTS** The Recreation Center is available to rent for your special events. Please call 462-6138 for details and availabilities.

**NEW FIRE STATION**

Soon, the Fire Station on the north end of the beach will be torn down and replaced with a more modern station. "The plan is for the trucks and firefighters to move to a temporary location early next year," says Marvin Pettingill with the Clearwater Fire Department.



After the move, demolition of the old station will begin. Once construction begins, the project should take 18-24 months. The City has a temporary station, one block north of Bay Esplanade, a half-block to the north.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS** The next election is March 15. In Clearwater the following seats are up for election: Councilmember Seat 4 & Councilmember Seat 5. Voter registration deadline is February 14, 2022. Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is March 5, 2022.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 1** If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few. Read this issue, and others, online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook for ongoing local news.

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# CLEARWATER BEACH'S OLD PIER PAVILION, *continued*

There was an unpaved sand parking lot to the south. A sidewalk leading to Pier 60 separated the parking lot from *The Pavilion*. On the north side of the sidewalk was the snack bar selling beach food and ice cream. A shop at the west end of the swimming pool rented beach chairs, umbrellas, and rafts. You had to carry them to the beach yourself.

"I remember the trampolines - the ones in the ground. My friends and I rode our bikes to *The Pier Pavilion*," remembers Mark Slaughter. "We played putt-putt golf and jumped on the trampolines, it cost 25¢ for 15 minutes or \$1 per hour. My friend did a flip and lost some teeth on the rail."

"The area would come alive after sunset," says Marv Siple, a life-long Clearwater resident. "The sunburned tourists would go home, and the locals would come to the beach for fun and music—and perhaps some romance under the pier."

There was music on Friday and Saturday nights. Local bands would compete in the Battle of the Bands. Teenagers and adults enjoyed listening and dancing to the rock-n-roll music.

"The best part of working at *The Pier Pavilion* was the people," says Carol McCormack McGlaughlin, who worked at the Snack Bar. "Local kids from school and friends usually ended up at there. My parents owned a small motel in south Clearwater Beach. Lots of our guests went there too."

"I remember one guy who caught my eye - Mike from Ohio. We were just 17 when we met. Nine years later we met again and this time he stayed. We were married for 52 years."

"The Snack Bar had a menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, popcorn and cold drinks," McGlaughlin recalls. "The cash register was the old-fashioned type with push-down keys. You had to do math in your head, and make change quickly."

Sometime in the late 1960s, the City and the Police Department built the tall Police Tower. "In the early 1970s, we had the hippies," Siple says. "The culture changed. The residents were scared - I guess the hippies scared the tourists away, too."

Next to *The Pier Pavilion* was a beach-front mobile home park, with a large stand of Australian Pines. The building north of the trailer park, first called *Joyland*, was a six-sided building with a water slide leading from the roof to their pool. It was the trailer park's office.

The *Joyland* property was sold and it converted into a beach front motel called the *Sea Shell Motel*. That land was and still is owned by the John Taylor family (who first moved to Clearwater in the late 1800s). They have a 99-year lease on the property.

In 1980, developers wanted to build a tall beach-front hotel on the site of the trailer park and *Sea Shell Motel*. Their plan was met with great resistance, and the height was limited to 100 feet. Called *The Surfside Holiday Inn*, it was very modern for the time. It eventually become the *Clearwater Beach Hilton*.

That was the beginning of the area's development. Soon little by little things changed and *The Pier Pavilion's* land was redeveloped into what you see today.

## *As They Remember It*

"As a kid, growing up here in the 70s and early 80s, we would regularly go to the pool with friends. It was part of the summer camp with the Clearwater Rec Center. I most remember the high dive - where you felt as high up as the surrounding buildings. We all lined up for our chance to jump off into the pool below." Jeanne Holmquist.

"I remember the Battle of the Bands on weekends in the summer and the Police Tower on the south side of the pier. The



*Clearwater Beach in 1953 with The Sea Shell Motel on the left, the trailer park on the right, and the pool (not shown) built to the right of the trees.*

Clearwater High School swim team used to practice in the City Pool before they built their own pool on campus.

The Alexanders owned the food concession. There was a store that sold swimsuits next to the concession stand. Before St. Brendans was built on Island Estates, Sunday Mass was held in the pool house. The Chapel-by-the-Sea also held services there." Suzanne Boschen

"The Red Cross taught swimming lessons in the pool and in the Gulf. There were ropes to divide the different levels of swim ability." Kathy Barber Herndon

"We called the Police Tower the Cop Shop. The parking lot at Pier 60 was the beginning of a well-traveled cruising loop that went from the Pier to Frisch's Big Boy, the Steak N Shake and A&W Drive Inn on Gulf to Bay. On Friday nights, there was a continuous stream of teenagers cruising this loop. The genre of the movie *American Graffiti* was alive and well in the 1960s and '70s on Clearwater Beach." Bud Nocera.

"The City pool was really close to the beach. We all loved that pool. I have many fond memories." Sarah Brown Caudell.

"My friend Margaret's mom would take us there to jump on trampolines. Then she would sit at the bar drinking beer and watching us having fun. It was a blast. You could jump for 10 or 15 minutes for only a quarter." Connie Butts

"To the left of the concession stand was a line of pay phones. When we couldn't go to the beach, we would call the phones from home and talk to the guys we knew or did not know." Donna Teel Wisener.

"We moved to Clearwater in 1969 with two young children. We would go to Clearwater Beach regularly; our kids loved what we called beach time. We always went to the area near the Pier Pavilion. This was the perfect place to take your family." Rita Garvey, former Mayor, Clearwater.

"I graduated from Clearwater High in 1958. On one of the last days of school, the seniors would have "Festivities After Graduation" - a fun day at the Pier Pavilion. As part of the program we would hang out all day—swimming, playing mini-golf and basically having a grand ole time." Bill Wallace, Clearwater Historical Society Past President.



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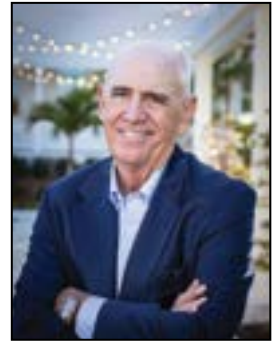
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**RETIREMENT INCOME SURE, BUT HOW?**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



You worked your entire life and that paycheck kept coming every two weeks. You retire and POW, no more money is deposited into the bank account. How do you ensure that you will have sufficient cash flow to pay the bills?

For most retirees, the first source is Social Security. You can take it as early as age 62 with a reduced benefit, at Full Retirement Age (gradually increasing to age 67), or at age 70 where the benefit reaches its maximum. The maximum monthly benefit in 2021 is \$3,895. The average benefit is \$1,543. The good news is that Social Security is adjusted for inflation.

Some retirees are still fortunate enough to have a traditional pension, especially those that work for the government or larger corporations. However, this benefit happens much less frequently than it once did.

But for most retirees, these benefits are not enough regardless of lifestyle. They turn to investments and savings. The more conservative retiree may turn on an annuity that provides additional monthly income. To create \$500 of monthly income a female age 65 needs about \$107,000 and a male age 65 only needs about \$101,000. Men do not live as long. Don't get one of those expensive annuities from the TV shows or dinner seminars.

Now what about the investment portfolio? Most financial advisors talk about a 4% withdrawal rate being a "safe" rate and an appropriate one. Frankly, there are a few variables to consider. The younger the retiree, the lower the percentage should be and the older retiree may be able to withdraw more. Next, is health. Those blessed with a longer life expectancy should start at a lower rate than one with poor health. The next is sequence of returns.

What if you start with a nice nest egg and the market goes the wrong way during your early retirement? You could see your benefit drop 20% or more. The average bear market lasts 9.6 months and the recovery takes longer. One strategy to consider is keeping 18 months' worth of living expenses in cash instruments. This money along with dividends and interest can help avoid selling in a down market for almost two years. Even if it lasts longer, you can start selling bonds instead of stocks.

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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.*



## WINTER'S LEGACY

By Pete Magnani

When marine mammal rescuers arrived at Mosquito Lagoon, part of the Canaveral National Seashore about thirty miles south of Daytona Beach, they found a two-month-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin tangled in the ropes of a crab trap. Her chances of survival were minimal, but not only did Winter beat the odds for 16 years, she and her caretakers created a legacy that benefited marine animals and humans alike.

Rescued on December 10, 2005, Winter was brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) on Island Estates. CMA opened in 1981 as the Clearwater Marine Science Center. The marine biology learning center began in a sparse, yet functional facility that was a previously abandoned water treatment plant. It had two 65,000-gallon pools intended for use in the rehabilitation of dolphins and sea turtles. Renovations in the 1990s led to increased public awareness and it was rebranded as the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

The damage caused by the rope made it necessary to amputate Winter's tail. Due to the severe limitation of her ability to swim, her team explored the possibility of fitting her with a prosthetic tail. In 2006, her story reached Kevin Carroll, Vice President of Lower Extremity Prosthetics at Hangar Clinic, and he offered to help. Over 18 months, Carroll and Hangar Clinic Manager Dan Strzempka overcame a multitude of obstacles and developed a functional tail for Winter, allowing her the opportunity to swim normally and survive.

Winter quickly became a fan favorite at the aquarium, and a 2009 book "Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again" increased interest in her story. In 2011, "Dolphin Tale" premiered on the big screen, starring Harry Connick Jr., Morgan Freeman, and Ashely Judd. The film and its sequel drew worldwide attention to Winter and her success against overwhelming odds. The resulting flurry of coverage brought a tide of new visitors and gave the aquarium an opportunity for expansion that allowed for a much more attractive experience for guests, but more importantly, a dramatically improved facility to conduct CMA's mission of "Rescue, Rehab, Release."

CMA's 2020 expansion increased the guest space by 103,000 square feet and added 1.5 million gallons of water environment for the seven resident dolphins, as well as a cast of sea turtles, stingrays, otters, sharks, and pelicans. A new educational theater opened recently with 350 seats, along with a virtual reality learning exhibit. Renovations are also underway to convert the two original CMSC pools into a rehab and recovery environment for injured manatees.

In addition to being the momentum behind an improved resource for the care of sick and injured animals, Winter also became an inspiration for humans with disabilities, particularly amputees. As well as being a symbol of motivation and encouragement for those struggling through rehabilitation, discoveries made during development of her tail were adapted to the benefit of human prosthetics. "Winter's Gel," a sleeve developed to ease skin irritation from the prosthesis, is now used to ease the pain of human prosthetics.

In early November, Winter developed a gastrointestinal infection. Though she had overcome these before, her condition worsened, and Winter passed away on November 11, 2021, at the age of 16. Although her life was short by standards of her species, her impact on the availability of care for injured sea creatures will continue. The impression she made on approximately 750,000 annual CMA visitors and millions that watched her movies is immeasurable. But the comfort and inspiration that her story will continue to provide to countless people with disabilities is Winter's true legacy.

Learn more about Winter and CMA at [cmaquarium.com](http://cmaquarium.com).

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**THE BEACH UNDERGROUND WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM**

The City recently installed an Underground Refuse System by Frenchy’s Rockaway and the Palm Pavilion on north Clearwater Beach. The unique trash and recycling vaults will help keep Clearwater bright and beautiful by storing trash and recycling underground away from beach visitors, and the wind or rain, which can cause materials to spill onto the ground and blow around the beach becoming unsightly litter. In addition, animals (rats and seagulls) will not be able to access the garbage. Containers can be secured and only opened with special cards.



The waste containers are six cubic yards by eleven feet deep and are lifted out of the ground by a crane system on a custom designed AutoCar truck, to collect the garbage from these underground stationary containers. Clearwater Beach is the first beach location in all of North America to use the system.

Six underground containers will eventually be installed on Clearwater Beach. The installation is projected to cost \$1.2 million. After installing the units at the Frenchy’s/Palm Pavilion location, the Solid Waste Department is planning to install three additional Underground Refuse Systems at BayCare Ballpark, one each in the vicinity of Opal Sands and Poinsettia Avenue (commercial installation), and one at Fire Station No. 46, when the station is rebuilt.

“In addition to being better for the environment and improved aesthetics on our beautiful beach, the Underground Refuse System will increase our collection efficiency by increasing volume and decreasing collection frequency,” said Earl Glover, director of Clearwater Solid Waste & Recycling.

“Having our underground waste units on Clearwater Beach is an exciting next step for our technology in the U.S.,” said Jay Wheeler, CEO/President of Underground Refuse Systems. “The city of Clearwater sets an example as a solid waste innovator that other cities would be wise to emulate.”

For more information about the system, and to see a how they are emptied, visit [www.undergroundrefuse.com](http://www.undergroundrefuse.com).

**PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES**

January 9, Mana Saxophone Quartet - Winners of numerous chamber ensemble awards, they will entertain with a program entitled “Made in America.” This will be an eclectic program of classical selections and newly commissioned works featuring American composers played by the four differently voiced saxophones.

Feb. 13, Jazz Pianist Extraordinaire, Johnny Varro - He will once again present an afternoon of jazz favorites and will be joined by the wonderful Swing 7 band.

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. The concert begins at 3pm. CDC Covid-19 protocols at the time of concert will be followed.

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. Visit [peacememorialpresbyterian.org](http://peacememorialpresbyterian.org) or call Music Director Timothy Belk at (800) 479-8846.

**Christmas 2021**  
at Chapel by the Sea



**Invited Home** **Chapel by the Sea**

**December 16 at 7pm**  
*Carols by Candlelight*  
A moving concert presented by music director, Ron Neal and the Chapel Choir, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

**December 21 at 7pm**  
*Service of Hope & Remembrance*  
A special service to light a candle in honor or memory of loved ones.

**December 24 at 4:30pm & 7:30pm**  
*Christmas Eve Services*  
Visit [chapelbythesea.net](http://chapelbythesea.net) for more information.

chapelbythesea.net | 54 Bay Esplanade | 727.446.0430



## AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM COMES TO CLEARWATER

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), in partnership with Beep and funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), launched the first of its kind Autonomous Vehicle. The free all-electric shuttle, named AVA, short for Autonomous Vehicle Advantage, is the state's first autonomous vehicle fleet launched by a transit agency in mixed traffic.

The functionality of the shuttle is enabled by a safe, predetermined planned route. The shuttle uses eight sensors on the outside of the vehicle providing a 360-degree view of the environment. An on-board shuttle attendant, or copilot, serves as an ambassador for the riders to learn more about the technology and oversee the high-quality passenger experience. The vehicles are 100 percent electric, cost less than \$30 per month to charge, and react 10 times faster than a human can, while never getting distracted from the roadway. The autonomous shuttle will operate at a maximum speed of 15 mph as part of a 3-month pilot. Riders will be required to wear a seatbelt.

After a successful stint along the St. Petersburg Bayshore Drive which will continue through February, the autonomous shuttle, AVA, started another test run in Dunedin that will operate through the summer. There will be two Dunedin, routes that align with the remaining Toronto Blue Jays spring training games at TD Ballpark and the summer months for Downtown Dunedin.

Now, starting this month, AVA will begin running in Clearwater Beach. PSTA wanted to bring it to Downtown Clearwater, but at 15 mph, they felt it would be a bit too slow. Riders will be able to experience the driverless vehicle in a loop on Gulfview Blvd. from Pier 60 to Parkway Drive. The vehicles will operate from 10am to 10pm Wednesday through Sunday,

## REDUCE YOUR USE TAMPA BAY

Reducing your use of single-use products is as easy as making a few simple swaps!

**Plastic bags:** Next time you are at the grocery store, opt out of plastic bags and instead bring your reusable bags! Plastic bags are not accepted in residential recycling programs within Pinellas County, so keep them OUT of your recycling bin. Using reusables can help stop these bags from ending up at the recycling sorting facilities where they can damage equipment and harm workers!

**Plastic bottles:** Instead of buying single-use plastic bottles, get a cool reusable bottle that you can refill anytime, anywhere.

**Disposable take-out containers:** Forget taking those delicious leftovers from your favorite restaurant in a disposable container. Instead, think outside the take-out box and bring your own!

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# Business Briefs

**CAPPELO IS BACK** Cappello & Co Jewelry was located in Belleair Bluffs before they moved to Seminole. Now, they are back in the Bluffs - At The Plaza.



Owner and Belleair Beach resident Joe Cappello moved into the space previously leased by Galleria

Misto, next to E&E Stakeout Grill. Joe has been in the jewelry business 35 years. "This is truly a family business," he says. "My son, Victor and daughter Jennifer, also work here."

There is a staff of five people providing a variety of services from custom design to jewelry repair. All work is custom. They also offer discreet collateral lending. Call them at 585-5700 or visit [www.CappelloFineJewelry.com](http://www.CappelloFineJewelry.com).

**NATURE'S FOOD PATCH HELPS FEEDS THOSE IN NEED** For the eighth year in a row, your local and organic natural foods grocer, Nature's Food Patch Market & Café in Clearwater and Downtown Dunedin, is collecting healthy foods to donate to families in need through December 31st, 2021.

Customers simply purchase a pre-packaged \$10 bag of natural, healthy food and Nature's Food Patch will donate it directly to the corresponding charity. All donations from their Clearwater store will go to Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP). Last year, they collected over \$16,000 of food.

To encourage customers to bring their own re-usable bags for groceries, they offer a 5¢ donation per bag that will also go to HEP during November and December.

**UNITED HAS A NEW LOOK** United Taxi has served the Clearwater Beach area for many years, and so have their cars. They are in the process of changing out their older taxis to a new and improved Ford Taurus.



You can call them anytime to go anywhere at 777-7777 or book a ride online at [www.go777taxi.com](http://www.go777taxi.com) or through their app with a live tracking GPS feature that allows you to follow your cabs arrival. Remember, they never have surge pricing.

They are home to the \$40 Airport Special — one low rate for Tampa Bay International airport transportation from any location in Pinellas County, for up to four passengers.

**YELLOW BANKS REOPENS FOR ITS 70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR** Yellow Banks Groves, our closest source for citrus, orange juice and ice cream, has reopened for the 2021-2022 season - their 70th year. It is still owned and operated by John Buck. They are now taking orders for their "Honeybell" oranges and grapefruits. Read their entire history online at [YellowBanks.com](http://YellowBanks.com). Find them at 14423 Walsingham Road in Largo.

# Business Briefs



**WYNDHAM GRAND TURNS FIVE** Next month, The Wyndham Grand will celebrate its Fifth Anniversary. They opened on January 18, 2017. Since they opened, their management team has stayed the same. From left to right is Jorja Lindsay is Director of Human Resources, Marketing Director Miguel Diaz, General Manager David Yamada, and Food and Beverage Director Jayden Callahan. All have been with the hotel five years. The Wyndham, one of the newest hotels on Clearwater Beach has 343 guest rooms. Find the Wyndham Grand at 100 Coronado Drive. Get more information at [www.Wyndham.com](http://www.Wyndham.com).

**TINY BUBBLES AND BIG REDS** Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market's "Sweet 16 Annual Grand Tasting" is January 28th from 6-8pm. Tickets are now on sale. There will be over 100 Premium Wines, an Artisan Cheese Display, Food Stations throughout, Live Music, a Taittiger Champagne Bar, and a Photo Booth. Special Pricing will be available on the wines. The event will be held once again at the Belleair Country Club.

Only 50 VIP Tickets will be available allowing early admittance. This is Bella Vino's biggest event of the year. Call 727-584-5552 or visit [BellaVinoWineMarket.com](http://BellaVinoWineMarket.com) for tickets. They are also available in the store. Black Tie is Optional.

**COURTYARD MARRIOTT** By the time you read this, Clearwater Beach's newest hotel should be open at 455 East Shore Drive, just east of The Beachcomber Restaurant.

The hotel backs up to Mandalay Channel with a public boardwalk along the water and leased docks behind the hotel. Slips are available to hotel guests with a few available for the day to visit nearby restaurants or the beach.

**MARKET IN THE BLUFFS** The Market in the Bluffs, is being held on the Second Saturday of each month through May from 9am until 2pm. The November Market had twenty-five vendors in the street in front of Belleair Bluffs City Hall - 2747 Sunset Blvd. The vendors will rotate, but include handmade items, local honey, jewelry, gourmet foods, art, plants & pet items. The market is pet friendly.

E-mail [EventsbyJK@aol.com](mailto:EventsbyJK@aol.com), for information or to be a vendor.

**CHASE BANK OPENS** The latest bank to open on the beach is a branch of Chase. It opened in November at the corner of Mandalay Avenue and Bay Esplanade. Branch manager Jason Thorpe has been with Chase for eleven years.

**THE AVALON HOTEL** This new hotel opened on the north end of the beach in October. You might have thought it was another condominium since their signage on Manadalay Blvd. is rather small. Instead it is part condo with 30 Gulf front hotel rooms. There is a pool and a bar on the top floor.

Find them at 24 Avalon Street, a few blocks north of the fire station. and online at [www.TheAvalonClub.com](http://www.TheAvalonClub.com)

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## Business News



**AMPLIFY CLEARWATER CELEBRATES 3 YEARS** "It has been a rewarding experience to serve the Pinellas County Business Community for the last 3 years through AMPLIFY Clearwater. We have grown leaps and bounds as an organization and I have been humbled by the support of our community partners, businesses and elected leaders. As we forge ahead into a post pandemic environment, we remain focused on providing resources to our business community to help them adapt to our ever-evolving world," says Amanda Payne CEO.

**WILLIAM DEAN** Owner Bill Brown first opened in Largo in 2007, 14 years ago. He moved to the Bluffs' Shopping Center in 2011—10 years ago. Now, he is opening a new store in Tampa, near the Westshore District.

"The store in Tampa is almost open," says Brown. "We are trying to open this month."

Find William Dean Chocolates in Belleair Bluffs at 2810 West Bay Drive in the Bluffs' Shopping Center. See more at [WilliamDeanChocolates.com](http://WilliamDeanChocolates.com).

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For lifts and docks, the pilings will be set, followed by their framing crew building your custom dock. Floating docks are built in house and the crew will launch and attach the dock to your property. Any upgrades or accessories you have selected will be added at this time. After your project is completed, you will have many years of enjoyment with your new high-quality dock and/or lift. Call 727-233-2043 or visit [Avcofl.com](http://Avcofl.com).

## TOYS-FOR-TOTS - COLLECTING TOYS FOR ALMOST 75 YEARS

The Toys-For-Tots program started in 1947 and was the brain-child of Marine Corp Reserve Major Bill Hendricks, and his wife Diane. Diane was the real inspiration for the program; she had a few handcrafted dolls and asked Bill to take them somewhere that supports children in need.

After searching his own town of Los Angeles, he reported to her that he could not find a place like that. She instructed Bill to "start one." That first year Major Hendricks and the Marines in his reserve unit collected and distributed 5,000 toys. The rest as they say is Toy history.

Later, in his civilian job, Hendricks was Director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studios. He was friends with many celebrities, who supported the effort. Walt Disney was a personal friend and designed their first poster, which featured a miniature three car train with Santa in it. The design became the official logo for the program.

In 1991, Toys-For-Tots' Foundation incorporated as a non-profit so the Marines could continue to stay involved. Presently, the Toys-For-Tots Program distributes 18 million toys to approximately seven million less fortunate children—each year!

The basic mission of the program is still the same. All year, members of the U.S. Marine Corp collect new unwrapped toys and distribute them to children in need at Christmas. The goal is to bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

2020 was the hardest year in the program's history. The post office, who had always been a partner in collecting toys, decided to stop participating. Then of course the Pandemic prevented people from shopping and dropping off toys.



Locally, Ed Zaleski, heads up the Toys-For-Tots efforts in Pinellas County. Ed a past Marine lives on Clearwater Beach in Island Estates. He has been doing this for 11 years. In Pinellas County, there are over a hundred donation outlets and Toys-For-Tots provides toys to over 9,000 kids.

If you would like to donate, visit [www.ToysForTots.org](http://www.ToysForTots.org), find your county (Pinellas) and zip code. Every official donation location will be listed. Please only donate new, unwrapped toys. Books and handmade toys are also desired. You can donate in Memory or Honor of an individual anytime throughout the year. Instead of fruitcakes, consider donating to Toys For Tots this year in recognition of your clients, business associates, family members or friends.

If you or someone you know needs toys this season, ToysForTots.org has a Request Toys link at the top of the page. You can register with a brief description about why toys are needed.

The DEADLINE to contribute for this season is December 15th, but you can donate all year long. If you would like to volunteer, visit [St-Petersburg-FL.ToysForTots.org](http://St-Petersburg-FL.ToysForTots.org) or call Ed at 301-332-9663.

### Celebrating Our 95th Year

A wooden tray with a burger, fries, and drinks. The burger is topped with lettuce, onion, tomato, and cheese. There are two drinks: a yellow one and a dark one. A small bowl of sauce and a lime are also on the tray.

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# THINGS TO DO NEARBY - ST AUGUSTINE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

During to the Pandemic, we purchased a camper and a new truck to pull it. In the past year, we have traveled all over the south and northeast. We visited Key West, Pensacola, Nashville, and went as far as Maine. Pulling a camper, we can drive about 350 miles on a tank of gas. St. Augustine is 200 miles - about 4 hours from our house with a camper - and less than a tank of gas. That makes it a great destination for easy getaways. There are a few campgrounds in the St. Augustine area. The most well know, Anastasia State Park is directly on the Atlantic - but you must book that park many months in advance.

We discovered "North Beach Campground" five miles northeast of the city in Vilano Beach. It is a classic, private campground with all sites separated with lots of oak trees and palmettos. It is a short drive to the heart of the Historic District, giving us plenty of time to explore the city. We have stayed there a few times.

St Augustine is the site of the first colony established in North America in 1565—decades before Jamestown, Virginia. Because of this, many historical sites have been preserved.

The fort, "Castillo de San Marcos", built in 1695 is National Monument and the most famous attraction. Today's fort is the 11th version. The first ten were burned by Indians or the British.

Railroad tycoon Henry Plant is credited with turning St. Augustine into a tourist destination in the 1880s. He bought the Jacksonville / St Augustine railroad that became the East Coast Railroad, eventually connecting with Key West. He knew a luxurious destination would encourage people to ride his railroad, so in 1885 he built the Hotel Ponce de Leon, a massive project with 540 rooms. Today it is Flagler College.

He also built the Hotel Alcazar, which is the "Lightner Museum" today. Not satisfied, he bought the Hotel San Marco, across the street from the Ponce de Leon. Still a hotel, today it is a 5-star Renaissance / Marriott.

If you have never been to St. Augustine before, we recommend the first thing you do is to take the Old Town Trolley Tour. They have several starting points along a circular route. If you ride and don't get off, the entire trip is about two hours. But you can get off at any stop and return to the tour at another stop. It is an easy way to see the city and avoids trying to find parking. The trolley driver will tell you about the history of St. Augustine and

its buildings. Adult tickets start at \$32.60. Multi-day tickets are a discounted price. Visit [TrolleyTours.com](http://TrolleyTours.com).

St Augustine was established 280 years before Florida became a state. Because of that, there are dozens of long-standing historical sites and attractions including: Ripley's Believe It or Not, Potter's Wax Museum, the Pirate Museum, Medieval Torture Museum, the Old Wooden School House, the St. Augustine Distillery, the San Sebastian Winery, and Gatorland (on the beach).

At the Fountain of Youth, they admit that it is not the place Ponce de Leon came ashore in search of the long sought after fountain. But it was an early Timucuan's Indian village, as well as the site of the first fort built by Pedro Menendez de Aviles and his team of settlers. (It is about 1 mile north of today's fort.) There is a lot more there than a fountain, such as displays and reenactments including firing of guns and cannons, an operating blacksmith shop, a boathouse, and a replica of the Indian Village. The cost of admission is \$20. Visit [FountainofYouthFlorida.com](http://FountainofYouthFlorida.com) for more information.

The Old City Jail is the site of St. John's County's second real jail. It is just north of the Fountain of Youth on San Marcos Avenue. Henry Flagler paid the city \$10,000 (in 1885 dollars) to build a new jail away from the city. He did not like having the first jail next door to his new grand hotel. Opened in 1891, it originally was designed to hold about 70 people, but was known to house over 200 at a time. When you see the cells, it is a scary to think people where actually kept there until the mid 1950s. The jail tour is led by a person dressed like a convict of the time. Some of it is serious, while some is meant to be humorous. The cost is \$15.

There are also several "Ghost Tours" operating in the city. Previously, groups walked the streets pointing at area businesses and graveyards. Now, the Old Town Trolley Tours offers a riding version. The advantage is you see more places and you don't have to walk. There is also a ghost tour in the evening at the Old City Jail.

St. George Street, only five blocks long and barely ten feet wide, is a quaint



walkable street in the historic district. No cars are allowed. You can stroll through the many shops and restaurants in what many consider to be the heart of the city. As with many other tourist destinations, the stores do not really carry high quality merchandise.

Named one of the ten best Christmas displays in the country, their Annual Nights of Lights includes more than three million lights throughout the historic district. Lasting for two months, this year it runs from November 20 to January 31, 2022. The trains and trolleys offer special seasonal tours through the best areas, and there are specialty tours — everything from walking to electric cart tours, and even tours to see the lights from the water and from the air.

There are many of restaurants in the historic area. Most have been opened in the last fifty years, but there are a few historic older ones. O.C. Whites, faces the harbor, and has a history dating back to the 1790s. Other historic restaurants include The Old City House Inn, Raintree Restaurant, and Café Alcazar in the Lightner Museum. There is also the Columbia Restaurant in the heart of the district, built in 1983.

During our stays, we have eaten at Harry's, the Floridian, St. Augustine Fish Camp, Old City House Inn, The Reef, Aunt Kates, and the Ice Plant Restaurant at the Distillery—all of which we recommend.

There are many Bed-and-Breakfasts near the downtown area. The most famous is the historic Collectors Inn next to the Lightner Museum. It is on the edge of St. Augustine's Old Town, within easy walking distance of the city's most celebrated attractions. Of course, there are the usual hotel chains—some are near the beaches.

We recommend you plan a visit—with or without a camper. This web site has everything you need to know to plan your stay, [www.VisitStAugustine.com](http://www.VisitStAugustine.com). ■





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## DON'T TRASH THE HOLIDAYS

Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle during the holiday season. Here are some suggestions:

**Reduce** – buy items you think will be used by the receiver. An expensive gift might better than two items that won't be used or might quickly break. That reduces the need for wrapping paper, too.

**Reuse** – use bows, ribbons, gift bags, tissue paper and tags year after year. Even reusing a Christmas tree year from one year to the next or buying a live tree to plant in your yard saves waste.

**Recycle** – wrapping paper, and gift or cardboard boxes. Foil wrapping paper or paper with glitter goes in the garbage because it cannot be properly recycled with regular paper.

Real trees can be recycled into mulch after the holidays if your city or hauler separately collects yard waste. You can also bring your real tree (bare – no ornaments, lights, tinsel) to Pinellas County Solid Waste, 3095 114th Ave N, St. Petersburg. The price is \$3 for up to 5 Christmas trees.

Some common mistakes people make is to put all their "package wrappings" in the recycling bin. The hard plastic casing that protects items from breaking should be placed in the trash. Styrofoam packing should not be placed in home recycling containers because the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) where the recycled materials are sent to be sorted and sold for recycling do not want Styrofoam. The plastic bags wrapped around products can be reused, but should not be placed in home recycling containers because they become tangled in the various sorting machines in the MRFs.

In Pinellas County, garbage is burned to generate electricity for over 40,000 homes per day; the material placed in the garbage is "recycled" into energy. For information and suggestions, use Pinellas County's A to Z Guide for recycling and disposal - [www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit).

## IT IS A TIME FOR GIVING

Holiday time is a time to be Thankful and a time for Giving. Clothes To Kids hopes you can help them. Children in Hillsborough & Pinellas are in need of new and gently used clothing and shoes in all our stores. Clothes To Kids clothes children from Pre-K4 to High School. Our inventory is low in the following areas:

- Young Men shorts (size 29 - 40)
- Boys' shorts (size 4, 5, 6, 16, 18 and 20)
- Boys' shirts (small and medium)
- Girls' dresses (size 12 - 18)
- Girls' pants (size 14 - 20)
- Girls' shorts (size 12 - 18)
- Girls' Shirts (size large and x large)
- Shoes – All Sizes

"Drop off" donations from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday at any of our three stores: Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater – 1059 North Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South.

Clothes To Kids, a nonprofit organization, provides clothing to low-income or in crisis, school-age children, free of charge. For more information or an appointment to shop, please call in 727-441-5050 or visit [www.ClothesToKids.org](http://www.ClothesToKids.org).

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch and live in Pinellas or Hillsborough counties, make appointment to come shop with us in person. To shop at CTK in person at our Clearwater and St. Pete stores, please call 727-441-5050.



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## JOLLEY TROLLEY CEO RETIRES

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Rosemary Windsor has been with the Jolley Trolley for over twelve years, the last nine as its CEO. She is retiring December 8th, but plans to stay until mid-January to help with the transition.

Windsor came to Clearwater Beach and the Trolley from UPS, where she worked for 28 years. She planned to retire after her stint at UPS, but instead got involved in saving the Jolley Trolley.



In 2009, the Jolley Trolley was on the verge of going out of business due to funding problems. Rosemary came out of retirement, and with the help of one other person, got the local trolley system back on track.

“The first thing we did was create a business plan,” she recalls. “Then we went looking for support and funding.”

They started a funding relationship with PSTA to run the north beaches routes. PSTA granted the Jolley Trolley the public beaches routes in and around Clearwater Beach and Sand Key. Then they added the Coastal Route that connected Clearwater Beach with downtown Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

In 2016, the Jolley Trolley started operating the Coastal Route seven days a week. Originally, Windsor negotiated a 5-year contract with PSTA to continue operating the route. This year, the Jolley Trolley received a 10-year extension from PSTA. This ensures the small trolley system will continue operating long after Windsor leaves.

The Jolley Trolley has become a community icon that shuttles both residents and tourists — from Sand Key all the way to Tarpon Springs.

In addition to the regular routes, Windsor has overseen the growth of its charter business to provide thousands of private charter excursions for weddings, corporate events, pub crawls, family reunions, parades, and other private events.

“Over the years, I have worn many hats,” Windsor says. “The only positions that I have not held are the driver and that of mechanic, however I know the idiosyncrasies of each trolley about as well as if they were my children. I spend a lot of my time overseeing the organization, monitoring regulatory oversight, reporting to maintain funding, and working within our community with officials and businesses.”

The Jolley Trolley employs 42 people, one-third of which are part-time. It currently operates 24 trolleys and plans to add two more this month and two again in March — for a total of 28.

Windsor has twin sons who are successful in their own careers on the east coast of Florida. She plans to continue living in Pinellas County and staying active in the community. When she leaves in January, the CEO role will be filled by Patrick Craven, the chief operating officer (COO).

Get more info on the trolley in Clearwater Beach at [ClearwaterJolleyTrolley.com](http://ClearwaterJolleyTrolley.com).

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 The Finish Line: Chapel by the Sea  
 The Goal: Raising money to help members of our community that are in need  
 The Bonus: A ClearSky breakfast at the finish line!

An exciting online auction begins January 30<sup>th</sup> and ends February 5<sup>th</sup> at the breakfast at Chapel by the Sea. Participants do not need to be present to bid.  
 Register online at [chapelbythesea.net](http://chapelbythesea.net) or in person at Palm Pavilion beginning at 7:30am

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# Bar & Restaurant News



### BACKWATER'S SOLD

Twenty-one years is enough - enough of the good times and good food. Larry Edger, owner of Backwaters on Sand Key, sold the restaurant.

The new owner is George Pappas, a local but with other restaurants in Chicago. He is no relation to the Pappas family of Tarpon Springs. Pappas bought the popular waterfront restaurant November 1st and says he plans very few changes. He even plans to continue with the Chili Cooking Contest, scheduled for February 6th.

Larry will continue to own and operate both Maggie Mae's.

**BELLEAIR CAFE** Big Big news for the cafe. Just before Thanksgiving, they started serving beer, wine, champagne, mimosas & bloody Mary's! To kick off their new cocktails, they are planning more food specials than ever. Now they are going to start opening for dinners too.

**CLOSED** Extreme Pizza, 407 Mandalay Avenue

**CAFÉ LARGO SOLD** Owners Dominique and Kathy Christini recently sold their popular French restaurant and have retired. Of the sale, Dominique says, "our 35-year journey has come to a close and we wanted to convey our greatest thanks for the many years of doing what we love. Your support has been tremendously appreciated."



New owners Linus and Yvonne Richenbach are from Switzerland and Chef Linus will be serving some of the old favorites as well as some of his specialties. It has not been confirmed when they will reopen.

The website will remain the same: [cafelargorestaurant.com](http://cafelargorestaurant.com) and the phone also remains the same: 727-596-6282. The new email address is [Info@cafelargorestaurant.com](mailto:Info@cafelargorestaurant.com).

**CLEAN EATZ** A new specialty café, called Clean Eatz owned by Belleair Beach residents Craig and Jenn Schmidt, is coming to the Bonefish Plaza. Look for this to open later in the Spring of 2022 in the space vacated by Richard's Food Store. You can find them on FaceBook at CleanEatzBelleairFL.

**WE THE PIZZA FINISHES FIRST YEAR** We The Pizza is celebrating its one-year anniversary this month. They opened in December of 2020, in the middle of the Covid pandemic, on the Gulf side of the Hyatt Regency. They also deliver to the Clearwater Beach area. Call them at 437-4040. See their menu at [www.WeThePizza.com](http://www.WeThePizza.com).





## Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire.

Remember: More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles. Forty-two percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Following are a few simple tips that will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season

### Holiday decorating

- Water live Christmas Trees daily to avoid drying out
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Use them as instructed.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### Holiday Entertaining

- Never leave holiday cooking unattended
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

### Before Heading out or to Bed

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations.

### New Year's Resolution

Check your smoke alarm batteries. Better yet, invest in a 10 year battery powered smoke alarm, so you never have to change the batteries. They make great Christmas gifts for your all your loved ones.

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## MEET CLEARWATER'S NEW CITY MANAGER

By Bob Griffin, Publisher



Jon Jennings came a long way to be the City Manager of Clearwater -1,500 miles to be exact. Previously, he was the City Manager of Portland, Maine.

Portland at 69 square miles is larger in land size but has a smaller population than Clearwater, and of course it is also a lot colder. Portland's population is about 66,500, while Clearwater is close to twice that at almost 115,000 people all living in only 36 square miles.

Both cities are a popular tourist destination. But with Portland's average temperature of 40 degrees, their tourist season is only in the summer and much shorter than ours. Clearwater no longer has a real tourist "season"; people travel here all year.

Jennings has a diverse background. He began his career in professional sports as an assistant coach and scout with the Boston Celtics in the 1980s. He later worked for the Federal government during the Clinton administration when he served in the office of Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

As City Manager of Portland for over six years, Jennings achieved many of his goals, including increasing the city's focus on sustainability. He launched a solar array on a prior landfill and added many electric vehicles to the city's fleet.

In Clearwater, he will focus on much of the same, especially as the city implements the new "Greenprint 2.0" plan to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2035.

Another priority is the City's relationship with Scientology, who owns much of the property in Downtown Clearwater. "I want to see if there can be a partnership or path forward with the church," Jennings says.

The City is also in the middle of negotiating a new contract with the Clearwater's Fire Union and a contract with the Philadelphia Phillies whose current agreement at BayCare BallPark, their spring training complex, expires in 2023.

"My top priority is getting to know the people in Clearwater," Jennings adds. "By that I mean all our employees and the people who live here."

He plans to visit every fire station and meet with neighborhood associations and advisory boards in his first 60 days.

"Jon is very energetic. He wants to make things happen. I expect major changes once he has assessed the lay of the land," says Frank Hibbard, Mayor of Clearwater.

"So far, I like the temperature here," adds the new City Manager. "But, I did not come here for the weather. I came here to get things done."

Jennings started with the city on November 8th. So far, the first month, while very busy, has gone pretty smoothly.

## CLYDE BUTCHER PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS IN CLEARWATER

by Jason Aquilar

Bay area residents and visitors currently have a unique opportunity to see the work of one of Florida's "Top 100 Most Influential Floridians" for free inside the Clearwater Main Library. Photographer Clyde Butcher was on hand for the opening of his America's Everglades Exhibit on November 6th along with his wife Niki and daughter Jackie. Visitors to the exhibit were lined up outside the front door waiting to get in when the library opened at 11 am. They were there to see Clyde's photography and have an opportunity to meet Clyde himself. Clyde was autographing books and calendars that were available for purchase. Seated amidst the gallery, he took time to interact and pose for photographs with attendees.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1942, Clyde graduated with a degree in architecture from California Polytechnic State University. After visiting an Ansel Adams exhibit in Yosemite National Park, he was inspired to photograph landscapes, and left the architecture field in 1970. Clyde began his photography career in color, but later vowed to photograph images only in black and white after the loss of his 17-year-old son Ted who was killed by a drunk driver in 1986.

Clyde met a Florida native who introduced him to the interior of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades and took him on his first swamp walk. The mystery and natural beauty of the area helped to soothe and restore his soul, inspiring him to take black and white photos of the swamp.

Clyde often waits patiently for hours until the light, clouds and composition all come together to create the perfect image that he wants to share. Besides the subject matter and the vivid monochrome feel of Clyde's work, what distinguishes him from other landscape photographers is his huge mural sized

prints, some with dimensions of up to five by nine feet. Their enormous size allows you to view the image in the immersive way Clyde saw it when he created it, standing amidst nature.

Clyde also is recognized as

a conservationist for showcasing the delicate nature of the environment and in particular the Florida Everglades and its importance in our ecosystem. "It is my hope that the vision I give to you of the Everglades will inspire you to love and protect it for generations to come," Clyde Butcher said of the Clearwater exhibit. Clyde hopes his images transcend politics and his philosophy is "The World is Round" which essentially means that what we do in our region also affects the entire planet and all its inhabitants.

"The Everglades exhibit is an opportunity for us to not only showcase a nationally acclaimed artist but also the importance of our environment," said Amanda Thompson, Community Redevelopment Agency Director. "We welcome residents and visitors to experience this new gallery overlooking the waterfront and all the opportunities for arts and entertainment that Downtown Clearwater has to offer."

This exhibit is on display until May 31, 2022, during regular library hours at 100 N Osceola Ave, Clearwater.



Clyde Butcher with author Jason Aquilar

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## Community News...

### CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is celebrating 71 years as one of the oldest Clearwater Not-for-Profit organizations. Their Mission is to educate members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, artistic design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, garden therapy and environmental and nature studies. For information, visit [facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub](https://facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub) or [clearwatergardenclub.com](https://clearwatergardenclub.com). Contact Laura Daniel, Program Chairman, [clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com).

### CHAPEL BY THE SEA - BEACH WALK

The 13th Annual Beach Walk, being held Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2022, will once again be hosted by Chapel by the Sea. Proceeds will support the activities of Hope Villages of America (formerly RCS) in our community. Registration begins at 7:30 am; the Walk starts at 8:30. The approximately 2-mile course heads south from Palm Pavilion and turns around at the Hyatt before returning along the scenic Beach Walk and finishing at Chapel By The Sea. ClearSky Cafe will provide their highly touted breakfast to all participants.

This year's event will also include a week-long online auction from Sunday January 30th through February 5th.

Participants may pre-register at [chapelbythesea.net](https://chapelbythesea.net) or the day of at the Palm Pavilion on Clearwater Beach. A Beach Walk T-shirt and swag bag are available to all registrants. This great event is for all the family; unfortunately, the pooches need to stay home.

### BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

Their first meeting of 2022 on January 7th at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time is 11:30 until noon, then the luncheon, followed by the program. The speaker is Pinellas Clerk of Court, Ken Burke, who also serves as Comptroller of Pinellas County. He grew up in Pinellas County and attended high school and college locally, becoming a CPA. He has served since January 2005, being unopposed in 2008, 2012 and 2016. As Clerk of the Circuit Court, he manages courthouse records, with a \$43 million budget and 550 employees.

The cost of the meal is \$28. Reservations must be made in advance by mailing a check made payable to BWRC to be delivered by January 3rd to: BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756. No walk-ups can be accommodated.

### CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY - 69 Bay Esplanade

Beach Book Club: At home on Zoom or in person at the Clearwater Beach Library, Wednesdays, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, 4-5 pm

Culinary Spice Blending: Techniques will be explored and materials provided to create your own seasoning blends. Wednesdays, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 13, 3:30-5 pm

Clearwater Beach Shell Crafters: Craft unique works of art with beach shells. Thursdays, Jan. 13, 27 - Feb. 10, 24 Mar. 10, 24 - Apr. 14, 28, 1-4 pm

Costume and Cosplay Club: Design, craft and develop costumes and props for cosplay, reenactment and more. Wednesdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 23, Apr. 20, 2-5 p.m.

GIANT Sidewalk Coloring at the Beach Library: Florida Wildlife, Mondays Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, 2-3 pm.

ARTcheology: Exploring History with Art: Explore history with unique art projects. Wednesdays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 27, 2-5 pm.

### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Their Winter Membership program has begun. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$200, with no food minimum. Winter members can use the pool, tiki bar, dining room and other amenities, including participating in weekly parties. Best of all, you can meet new people. It is a great way to see for yourself how much fun it is, with no obligations. You can end your membership whenever you wish, or convert to a permanent member in the Spring. Call the Yacht Club's office, 447-6000. Learn more at [ClearwaterYachtClub.org](https://ClearwaterYachtClub.org), or e-mail [Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org](mailto:Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

### BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The Huge Junk & Jewels Sale will be held at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair on February 18-19 from 8am to 1pm. The Presale (with a \$5 entry fee) will be February 17 from 4:30-7pm. Net proceeds support club scholarships & historic preservation programs

For further information about the Belleair Garden Club and the "Junk & Jewels" fundraiser, or attending the event, please contact Jan (727) 412-2344 or visit [belleairgardenclub.com](https://belleairgardenclub.com).

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key. Founded in 1991, current membership includes sixteen condo associations and 7 businesses researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county and state levels. Our association participates in The Barrier Island Government Council and The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

At this point, due to the COVID-19 and multiple variant's, the board continues to meet via zoom video conferencing so interested members can also attend. Our meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Please look for a registration link in the email announcing each month's agenda, or obtain the link at [sandkeycivicassociation.org](https://sandkeycivicassociation.org). Contact the secretary at [skcainc@aol.co](mailto:skcainc@aol.co), with any questions you may have.

### FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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 concludes 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. New this year will be the Children's Candy Cane Area with family- focused fun and activities.

Latin Nights: Holiday Lights - They are hosting a ticketed event on December 31st, from 6-9pm during Holiday Lights in the Gardens. Guests will enjoy a sit down dinner filled with latin-inspired food, live music from local flamenco and jazz musicians, and a cash bar. General Admission is \$60, FBGF Members receive discounted admission of \$50. Visit: [flbgfoundation.org/latinnights](https://flbgfoundation.org/latinnights) to learn more.



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## Community News...

### ISLAND ESTATE WOMEN'S CLUB

The Island Estates Women's Club, a multi-generational group of women, has been busy again this fall working and fundraising for their community.

Aside from their monthly luncheons, they participated in The Big Clean paired with Island Way Grill and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Lots of trash and debris was removed from the causeway with the help of this group of volunteers.

Next it was the Annual "Pink is Beautiful" Breast Cancer Awareness benefit for the Pinellas Mammography Voucher Program. Over 100 ladies attended with a variety of auction opportunities and a lovely lunch at the Wyndham Grand Resort. Over \$9,600 was raised.

Next was the Annual Holiday Luncheon supporting the mission of Clothes to Kids on December 15th at the beautiful Carlouel Yacht Club.

Originally started by women living on Island Estates the group has reached out to women from the surrounding community to join them in their efforts to promote friendship and support the community.

To find out more information about how you can become involved and attend upcoming monthly luncheons, fun field trips, Friday night cocktails and help support the community through fundraising events visit [www.islandestateswomensclub.com](http://www.islandestateswomensclub.com).

### CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

December 18, 2021– Annual Lighted Bike Parade on the north end of the beach, joined by police & fire vehicles this year. Participants should start gathering at Elerts' house (45 Acasia) at 6pm, parade starts at 7pm. Decorated golf carts are also encouraged. A map of the route will be distributed via email and posted on our website so you know where to watch if they don't come down your street. This is a great neighborhood event.

January 4, 2022 Tuesday – Regular monthly meeting of CBA, 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall at Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade. Regular monthly meetings occur the 1st Tuesday of the month except July & August. The agenda normally includes a police report for the beach, as well as information on issues affecting us all, and often a special guest from City government.

The Clearwater Beach Association is a community organization of residents and business owners. Our mission is to promote civic, recreational and social projects while improving and enriching our community. We are dedicated to providing a strong and unified voice for our neighborhood in City affairs and issues.

Their membership drive is occurring now. Membership is \$35 annually per household or \$100 per business. Visit [clearwaterbeachassoc.com/membership](http://clearwaterbeachassoc.com/membership). Donations are also welcome. Contact the CBA president Samuel Hutkin at [hutloan@aol.com](mailto:hutloan@aol.com) with questions or concerns.

### 100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

They presented \$12,100 to Showered and Empowered on September 30, 2021. Showered and Empowered provides the access of mobile shower and laundry facilities to the homeless community of the Tampa Bay area. The group will also receive a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation.

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to join together

to bring financial support to local, charitable organizations that have a 501(c)(3) status. Members commit to attending four meetings per year (one per quarter) and pledge to donate \$100 to an elected charity at each meeting. For each meeting, members have the opportunity to nominate a charity, three of the nominated charities are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity.

Since February of 2013, the group has given \$330,950 to local charities. The next quarterly meeting (with options of both Zoom and live) will be 7-8 pm on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at Cove Cay Golf Club, located at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6-7 pm at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information or visit [www.100womenpinellas.org](http://www.100womenpinellas.org).

### COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

The Community Dental Clinic provides quality urgent dental care at no cost for disadvantaged adults in Pinellas County, improving their overall health & well-being. Since September 2020, they performed over 10,000 free dental procedures totaling more than \$1.5 million in dental care.

They help those in our community who do not have insurance or the resources to seek the care they desperately need – people like Bill, a 62-year-old US Navy veteran who lived on a steady diet of baby food because it was too painful to chew. Bill lost 20 pounds on his dental pain diet, and his job due to the pandemic, before he was referred to the CDC. They performed critical cleanings, fillings and one extraction to eliminate his pain and improve his overall health. Free from dental distress, Bill is able to find a new job and get his finances back on track. Despite the challenges, he is smiling now – no more pain and no more baby food! The Community Dental Clinic is located at 1008 Woodlawn Street, Clearwater. Reach them at 727-216-6155 or visit [www.communitydentalclinic.net](http://www.communitydentalclinic.net).

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The October event was the Blind Auction, an IEYC favorite. It was held at Belleair Country Club who served a wonderful dinner, as always. Then the bidding began with Commodore Gene doing an amazing job as auctioneer. All were great in making sure everyone got to take something home. Many people got fantastic gifts. A Tiffany blue box even contained Waterford. The ultra large calculator made an appearance again and a COVID surprise containing toilet paper and plunger kind of had us all happy we didn't choose that one. In short, it was a great evening.

The Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner was held in November at Dunedin Golf Club. Selected members – Patricia and Jim Ostrosky, Bunni and Scott Lefebvre, Mary Reinhardt and Arnie Shal, and Sue and Scott Moncrieff – were recognized for their many contributions throughout a challenging year. After the presentations, the members had a magnificent meal prepared and served by Chuck Croasmun's staff. Everyone had a wonderful evening.

Upcoming events include IEYC's the New Year's Day Brunch, also at Belleair Country Club; and an evening at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater in late January. The 2022 schedule of events is in the process of being finalized. Events and dates will be updated on the website when they are available. Please check [www.islandestatesyc.org](http://www.islandestatesyc.org) for more information.

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**CHANGING GRIEF TO GRATEFULNESS**  
 If you face into the sun all the shadows  
 behind you will disappear

Belleair resident Norman O. Olsen, a father of seven children and grandfather of five grandchildren has a love of storytelling and seeking adventure.

Born in 1930, Norman grew up sailing with his parents and became an avid lifelong sailor. As a young man his best friend was his dog Ronny, an Irish Setter, whom he shared incredible adventures with that continue to influence his life and storytelling to this day.



Norman and his dog Ronnie

He took his real-life experiences, and the lessons that come with them, to create an entertaining and enlightening book - *Ronny Come Home* - that highlights what is truly important in life.

Set on the east coast in Maryland, *Ronny Come Home* is a series of short stories that follow the adventures of a young boy named Norman and his best friend, an Irish Setter dog named Ronny. This true story follows Norman and Ronny as they grow up together and embark on some of life's greatest adventures and challenges, spending time together navigating the local bodies of water sailing and exploring the nearby woods. The center of the story focuses on their unique friendship and the lessons they learn from their time spent together, and ultimately the heartbreak of losing a best friend - by focusing on the good times and being grateful for the time they spent together. This story is for all ages and especially for those who love dogs. A portion of the proceeds will be going to the Clearwater Community Sailing Center

**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. The Clearwater Free 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!

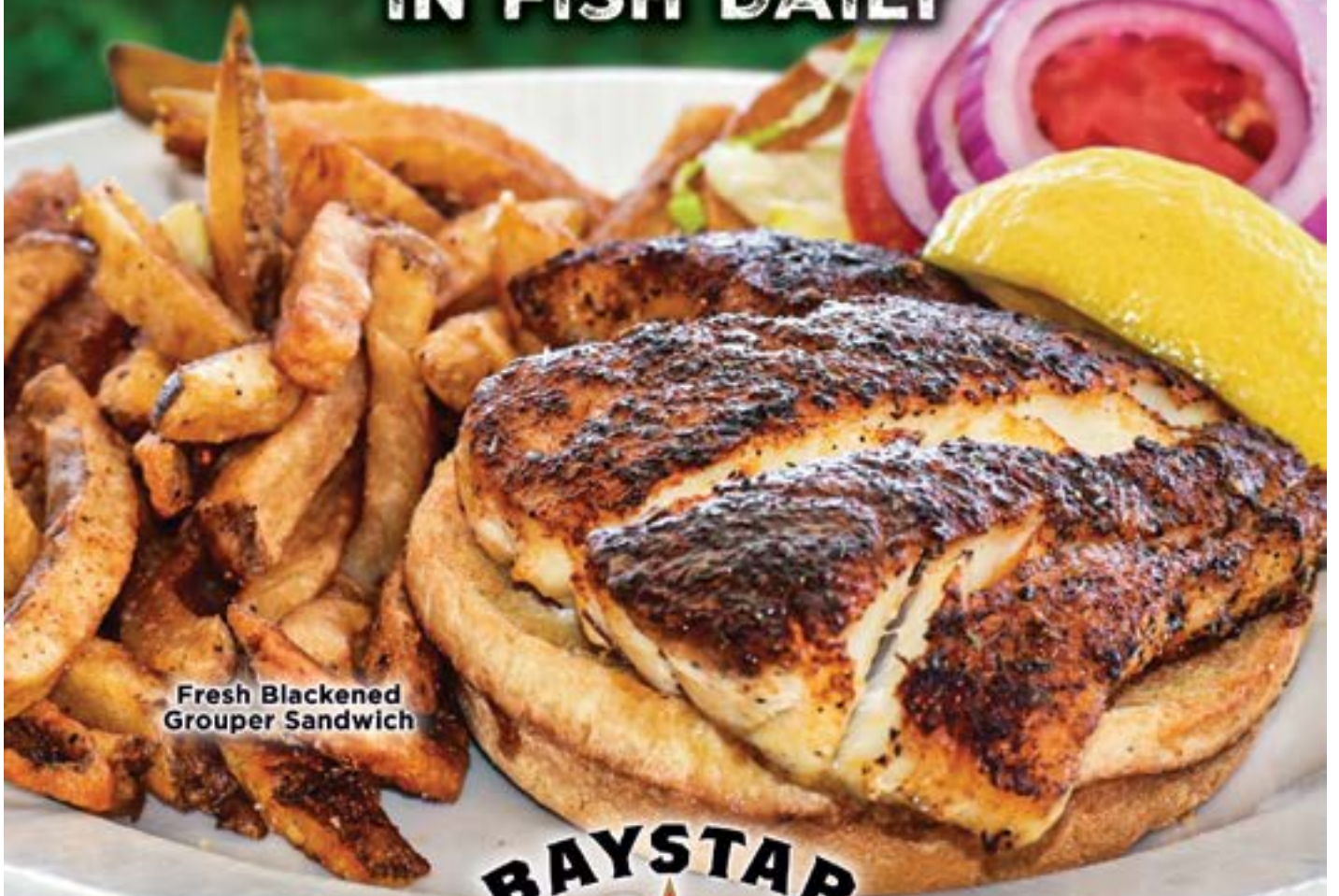
We have been helping our uninsured neighbors for 44 years. To help, visit [clearwaterfreeclinic.org](http://clearwaterfreeclinic.org) to donate or volunteer.

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**March 12, 2022**  
**6:30pm**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine**  
**Event & Fundraiser**

**Reds**  
**Whites**  
**& Bites**

*Benefitting the Community Dental Clinic*  
**Honorary Chairs**  
**Michael & Kristina Piazza**  
**Achieva Credit Union Headquarters**  
**Dunedin, Florida**

**Fine Wine – Gourmet Food – Wine Drawings**

For information & Sponsorship Details  
 Call the Community Dental Clinic at 727-216-6155 x5  
 Or visit: [www.communitydentalclinic.net](http://www.communitydentalclinic.net)

## THANKFUL FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

I so look forward to the holidays every year. It's a chance to slow down a little, spend time with family and friends and enjoy the fun and beauty of this special time of year. And even though COVID-19 is still impacting our lives, there is so much to be thankful for this holiday season.



I am thankful for my family and grateful that they are healthy and happy. I am also thankful for my friends and co-workers who add so much to my life. You all are a blessing to me. I am thankful to live here in Pinellas County with its beautiful land and seascapes to enjoy year-round. And I am thankful to be able to serve you as a Pinellas County Commissioner.

I am also thankful to see so many of our traditional holiday events resuming this year. With the proper precautions, these events are safe and add so much to the season.



One of my favorites is the Florida Botanical Gardens' Holiday Lights in the Gardens. The 35-acre gardens in Largo will absolutely glow with more than one million environmentally friendly LED lights, laser lights and Florida-themed displays. Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be open nightly from 5:30 to 9:30 pm through Jan. 2. For more information and a listing of

nightly entertainment, visit [flbgfoundation.org](http://flbgfoundation.org).

Holiday boat parades are back again this year. Be sure to find your spot along the Intracoastal to cheer on your favorites in the many boat parades scheduled around the county.

Speaking of parades, take the whole family out to enjoy the many community parades and festivals throughout the season. An up-to-date listing of holiday events is available at [visitstpeteclearwater.com/topic/2021-holiday-event-guide](http://visitstpeteclearwater.com/topic/2021-holiday-event-guide).

Be sure to protect yourself and your family by following CDC guidelines when attending holiday events. Visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html), to learn about the latest recommendations.

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the holidays in beautiful Pinellas County. I can't imagine a better place to spend them than the place we call home. We can all be thankful for that.

All my best to you and your family this holiday season.

## A BIRD OF PARADISE

Lisa moved into the Marriott Sand Key nine years ago and never left. Lisa, age 32, is the greeter in the hotel's lobby. She is also a Blue Macaw Parrot.

"The hotel's owners, who are from Ohio, have other hotels and there are parrots in many of them," says Michael Miraglia, manager of the Marriot Sand Key since 2015. "It contributes to the tropical atmosphere people experience in Clearwater Beach – it's our piece of paradise. And our guests really enjoy it."

Kids especially like Lisa. The hotel even supplies visiting children with a drawing of Lisa, which they can color and take home with them.

While many parrots do well with children, and can be excellent

family pets, they generally are not recommended as a children's pet due to their lengthy lifespan and required care. Parrots can live from 40 to 80 years, depending on the type - Macaws average lifespan is 50 years. Parrots also require consistent daily care and attention.

Next time you are in the mood for a tropical drink, drop by the Marriott Sand Key and say hello to Lisa.





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