

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine



## FLORIDA TURNS 200

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

**F**lorida has a birthday this year and it is a big one – two hundred years! On March 30, 1822 Florida became an official territory of the United States.

The process of becoming a territory was long. It began in 1513 when Spain owned Florida after Ponce de Leon landed on Florida's east coast and declared the land to be the property of Spain. He named it "La Florida," meaning "Land of Flowers."

In addition to Florida, Spain claimed most of today's southeastern United States—as far north as North Carolina, and as far west as the Pacific Ocean. Spain owned Florida until 1819 - about 300 years - except for a twenty-year period (1763-1783) when they traded it to Great Britain.

During those twenty years, the British attempted to govern Florida as two colonies—East Florida with St. Augustine as the capital and West Florida with Pensacola as its capital. The British hoped to create a strong economy based on exports and traded with the local Indians and Cubans.

Florida remained a British Colony during the American Revolution (1775-1783). During the war, Spain sided with France in support of the Colonists and invaded Pensacola in 1781.

After the war, Great Britain traded Florida back to Spain and the English fled leaving the area "de-populated and unguarded." Spain's reoccupation consisted of some government officials and soldiers—but few settlers.

To improve things, they encouraged Spanish and American citizens to settle on the lands for free, as long as they signed a loyalty oath to Spain.

- *Continued on page 6*

### Also in this Issue:

#### How Well Did Turtle Nests Fare Last Year?

*In spite of some strong storms, Pinellas County had over 275 nests last season. - page 14*



#### Paddling for a Purpose

*Meet Nan Provost, RN. She's taking a unique and innovative approach to suicide prevention and awareness. - page 23*



#### Baseballs Spring Training Begins

*Interested in attending a game? We have a complete schedule of all the local games. - page 20*

#### Sugar Sands Returns in 2022

*The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival will be April 8-24. This year's theme is "SANDimals - An Animal Adventure." - page 11*

**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 APRIL!**

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Charlie Crist . . . . . 202-225-5961  
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete  
www.Crist.House.Gov

**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT**

**FEBRUARY**

- Chinese New Year 1
- Ground Hog Day 2
- East-West Shrine Game 3
- Blues On The Block 4-5
- Beach Walk Walk 5
- Fan Fest Tampa Bay Rays 5
- Backwater's Chili Cookoff 6
- Florida State Fair 10-21
- Yard Sale St Brendan's Catholic 12-13
- Super Bowl Sunday 13
- Peace Concert Series, 13
- Valentine's Day 14
- Deadline To Register To Vote 14
- Belleair Garden Club Junk & Jewels 17-18
- Downtown Art Walk 19
- Winter Fest on the Rocks Indian Rocks 19
- President's Day 21
- Schools & Banks 21
- Girl Scout Cookie Sales Begin 21
- Florida State Fair Closes 21
- City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day 23
- St Petersburg Grand Prix 25-27
- Gasparilla Music Festival 25
- Spring Training Begins 26

- Beach Art Center's Gala 26
- Gasparilla Run 26
- Island Estates Community Yard Sale 26
- Island Estates Chili Cook off Contest 26

**MARCH**

- Fat Tuesday 1
- Ash Wednesday 2
- Lent Begins 2
- Belleair Sunset 5k & Fun Run 5
- Women's Day 8
- Market In The Bluffs 12
- Reds, Whites and Bites 12
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 13
- Peace Concert Series 13
- Spring Break for Public Schools 14-18
- Municipal Elections 15
- St Patrick's Day 17
- Downtown Art Walk 19
- Spring Begins 20
- Public Schools Closed 21
- Rotary's Beach Run Indian Rocks 26
- Florida's 200th Birthday 30
- City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day 30

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**TARA BEHESHTI**

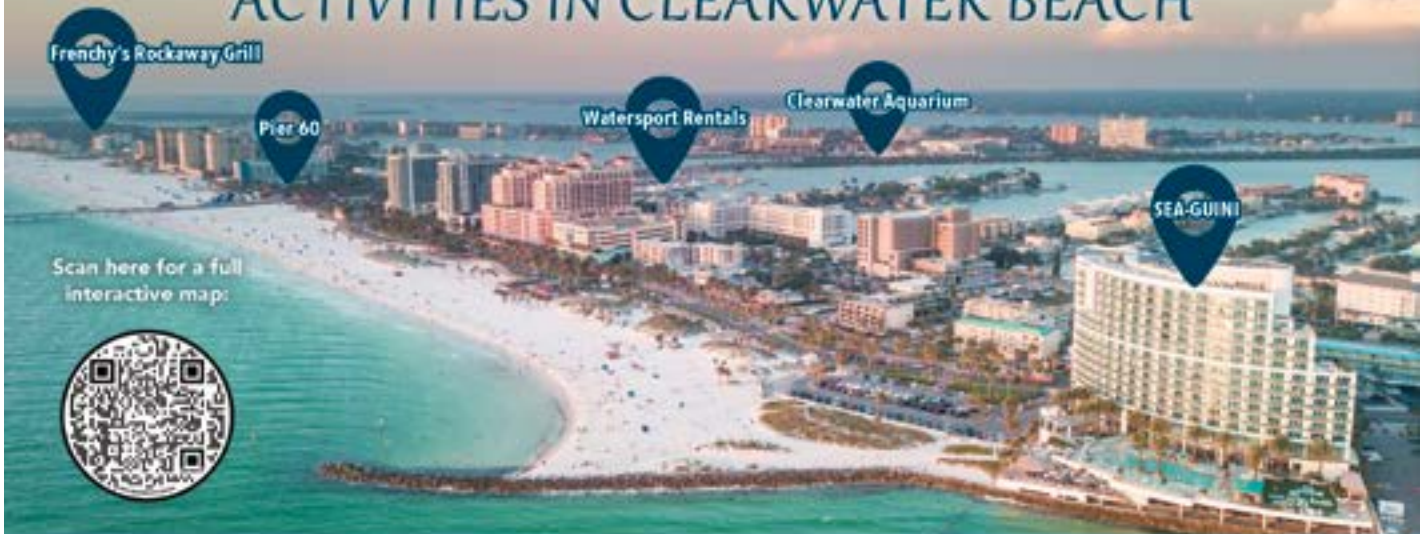
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## TARA'S RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS & ACTIVITIES IN CLEARWATER BEACH



Scan here for a full interactive map:



### Restaurants

- Clear Sky Cafe
- Another Broken Egg Cafe
- Cooters Restaurant & Bar
- Frenchy's Rockaway Grill
- Badfins Food + Brew
- Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar
- Columbia Restaurant Sand Key
- Crabby's Beachwalk Bar & Grill
- Gondolier Pizza
- Ocean Hai
- Basimo Beach Cafe
- Tate Island Grill

- Caretta on the Gulf
- SEA-GUINI
- Island Way Grill

### Rooftop Bars

- Jimmy's On The Edge
- Jimmy's Crow's Nest
- Marina Cantina
- Tropico Rooftop Cantina
- Evy's Terrace Bar & Bistro

### Grocery/Convenience Store

- Publix Super Market at Island Village Shopping Center

- CVS
- Walgreens
- The Market at Island Estates

### Outdoor Rentals

- CWB Pontoon Rentals
- Clearwater Beach Scooter and Bike Rentals
- Clearwater Beach Waverunner Rentals
- Clearwater Jetski Tours and Rentals
- Clearwater Beach Jet Ski Rentals
- Jet Ski Clearwater Beach
- Fin's Jet Ski Tours and Pontoon Boat

- Cruises
- Clearwater Boat Rentals
- Makin' Waves
- Fun Ride Rentals

### Attractions

- Visitor Center
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- Pier 60
- Calypso Queen
- Caladesi Island State Park
- Honeymoon Island

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## Did You Know



**FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX RETURNS** The Annual "Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg" is back for its 18th year with spectators. Due to the Pandemic, last year it was seen just by television audiences. Normally held in March, this year the race is Friday-Sunday, February 25-27 in Downtown St. Petersburg.

It is a series of races along a picturesque 14-turn, 1.8-mile temporary track. There are multiple races, culminating in the Verizon IndyCar Series race on Sunday, February 27.

General Admission race tickets range from \$25 Friday to \$55 Sunday. Packages for all 3 days are \$60. VIP and Bleacher Seating is available. Buy tickets in advance or get information at [www.StPete.org/Grand-Prix](http://www.StPete.org/Grand-Prix).

**BELLEAIR SUNSET 5K & FUN RUN** The 20th annual Belleair Sunset 5K & Fun Run is returning March 5th with the best post-race party around. View the course map, see rates, and learn more at [townofbelleair.com/5k](http://townofbelleair.com/5k). Resident discounts are available in person at the Dimmitt Community Center.

**NEW AREA CODE** Beginning in mid-February, local phone companies will begin assigning new Tampa phone customers a 656 area code. It will be used in communities already using 813, which has run out of numbers. Those with an 813 area code will be able to keep it. Demand for phone numbers has grown with the addition of cell phones, tablets and smart watches all with their own number. The Public Service Commission says after this, the region shouldn't have to add another area code for 37 years.

**MARCH'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - MARCH 15**

The deadline to register for this election is February 14th. The deadline to request a Mail In Ballot is March 5th. Visit [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com). Clearwater has three people running for each of the two open seats.

Seat #4. - Incumbent David Albritton, Maranda Douglas and Gerry Lee are running for this seat.

Seat #5. - Aaron Smith-Levin, Lina Teixeira, and Jonathan Wade Sr. are running for this seat. Incumbent Hoyt Hamilton has termed out.

**NEW LIBRARIAN**

Thomas Shephard is the new Librarian at the Clearwater Beach Library.

He comes to the Beach Library from Clearwater's East Library. Shephard lives in Dunedin and started working at the beach location in December.



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# and More...

**BLUES ON THE BLOCK**

With the construction underway at Coachman Park, the traditional Sea Blues Festival can not be held. This year as a replacement, the City of Clearwater is hosting "Blues on the Block" downtown on Cleveland Street, February 4 and 5. Photo above is one of the performers: Ally Venable.



The two-day music event will include food vendors, local brewers, and market vendors mainly on the 600 block of Cleveland Street. Each day different blues bands (both local and national) will perform. VIP seating is available. Get more information at MyClearwater.com.

**IT IS COOKIE TIME** Girl Scouts will start to appear this month in front of Publix and other large stores selling Girl Scout Cookies. This year you can order them online.

Look for Girl Scouts to appear at the Publix store in Island Estates after February 21st. To find a location near you, and see what cookies are available, visit GirlScouts.org or GSWCF.org. Just enter your zip code.

**AREA YARD SALES** Two organizations are holding Yard Sales this month in Island Estates:

Feb 12-13: St Brendan's Catholic Church holds their annual Yard Sale. They are accepting donations beginning on February 7.

Feb 26: Island Estates Civic Association will hold their island-wide yard sale, one day only.

**TRY BAMBOO**

According to industry experts, a single 40 foot pine tree makes almost 1,500 rolls of toilet paper. The fastest growing pines grow up to two feet a year, meaning it takes twenty years for each harvested tree to regrow and make another 1,500 rolls of tissue.



Bamboo, however, is the fastest-growing plant in the world and can grow up to 35 inches per DAY or 1.5 inches per hour! That is not a great thing in your yard, but the fact that it's both soft and strong, as well as highly renewable, makes bamboo a premier toilet paper and paper towel material. Because it grows so quickly, bamboo can be replenished almost immediately after harvesting.

Bamboo paper towels and toilet paper are now available in most local grocery stores. Give it a try.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 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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# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO FLORIDA, continued

Beginning in about 1790, people from Georgia and South Carolina began moving into northern Florida. They were known as "Patriots."

Florida also became a haven for escaped slaves from southern plantations, specifically in southern Georgia. The Spanish offered slaves freedom, if they converted to Catholicism and agreed to serve in the Spanish military. Although Spain later reversed that policy, escaped slaves continued to flee to Florida where they were sheltered by Indians from the Lower Creek tribes of Alabama and Georgia. The slaves and Indians eventually merged and become known as The Seminoles Indians.

Spanish authorities never effectively policed the border and immigration from the north continued unchecked. The residents began to fight with the Seminoles. Rouge British traders provided guns and ammunition to the Seminoles escalating the problems. Anarchy reigned over most of Florida.

President James Madison and his Secretary of State James Monroe secretly plotted to seize Florida for the United States. They used the excuse that the Spanish were not able to "control anarchy and protect American citizens there."

In January of 1811, Congress passed a secret act of acquisition for Florida when they were told it would "support local revolts against Spanish oppression."

In March of 1812, the United States invaded northern Florida in "The Patriot War of 1812." The Seminoles joined with the Spanish, raiding homes and attacking Patriots and their sympathizers. It was not popular with Congress or the public causing President Madison to recall the troops and apologized to Spain. By May of 1814, the Patriot movement had collapsed.

Relations between the United States and England deteriorated, culminating with the War of 1812. Though the U.S. had fought many battles with Spain, this time Spain sided with Great Britain. England and Spain were defeated and the U.S. annexed land west of Florida leading to the creation of Alabama and Mississippi.

Many British loyalists sought refuge in the Florida territory, even though it was owned by the Spanish. They built a fort north of Apalachicola that had several names before eventually being called "Negro Fort" because it primarily housed runaway slaves and Indians.

The American government slowly expanded toward the Pacific, but they had their eye on Florida. They did not like Spain owning land adjacent to its young country. Thomas Jefferson predicted that "the United States could not keep its hands off of Florida."

Spain was at war with dozens of countries - all at the same time - including Great

Britain, France, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Peru, Ecuador, Granada and even Mexico. And they were running out of money.

Florida was costly to Spain both in terms of money and manpower. Their forts throughout Florida, including in St. Augustine, Pensacola, St. Marks, and Key West, did not have enough soldiers.

There were constant border disputes along the loosely defined Georgia and Mississippi borders. When the Seminole Indians began attacking American citizens on their own property, the United States started to take it seriously.

In 1816, General Andrew Jackson sent Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Clinch to Florida to look for slaves and fight renegade Indians. He attacked Negro Fort to capture runaway slaves hiding there.

The shelling of the fort killed 270 soldiers, women and children and caused an international incident with Spain. President Madison withdrew the troops and once again apologized to Spain.

Two years later, due to increased hostilities with the Seminole Indians in South Georgia and north Florida, now President James Monroe asked General Andrew Jackson to go to Florida and fight the Indians; he gladly accepted.

Having fought in other Spanish conflicts involving natives, fugitive slaves and settlers, Jackson, was very familiar with Florida's problems. He hated the Spanish, and he hated the Indians. Virtually with no oversight, he invaded Indian strongholds from Pensacola to St Augustine.

Jackson destroyed Seminole Villages in Mikasuki on the Suwannee River, then St. Marks. He captured and executed two British traders, who traded with the Indians - another international incident. Then he marched to Pensacola.

The Spanish surrendered Fort San Marco (St. Marks), Fort Barrancas and finally Spain's primary Florida stronghold Pensacola, all coastal forts.

President Monroe ordered Jackson to retreat. Jackson declared victory, returned Pensacola to the Spanish government, and went home to Nashville, Tennessee where he announced he was "officially retired" from public service.

The Spanish and British were furious, as were many in Congress. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams tried to smooth things over. He was already talking to his counterpart in Spain, Luis de Onís y Gonzalez-Vara about their North American relationship. They negotiated the "Adams-Onís Treaty," also known as the "Transcontinental Treaty."

It was signed on February 22, 1819, but needed to be ratified by both countries.

Spain did so on October 24, 1820, the United States four months later.

The U.S. received Florida under Article 2 of the Treaty. With Article 3, the U.S. also received Texas, the Louisiana Purchase, and the Oregon Territory. All claims to Texas were ceded, which became part of the Mexican territory in 1821.

On March 3, 1821, President James Monroe authorized United States' forces to take possession of Florida and provide for its initial governance.

Few people lived south of a line running from Pensacola to St. Augustine. The population was estimated to be about 12,000 people—50% of which were Black and/or Indian. Some Spanish residents left for Cuba or Spain, while others stayed and became U.S. citizens.

Monroe tapped retired General Andrew Jackson to return to the territory and supervise Spain's military exit. Jackson was an obvious choice. He was nearby, available, knew the territory, and hated the Spanish. His first act was to jail the reigning Spanish Governor until he agreed to leave peacefully.

Jackson served as temporary governor from March until the end of the year, although he considered his work done after three months and returned to Tennessee. He left his right-hand man, Robert Call in charge and recommended he be appointed the next governor.

Not taking Jackson's advice, Monroe appointed William Pope DuVal to be the Florida Territory's first official governor. Soon thereafter, Tallahassee was established as the capital, for no other reason than it was half-way between Pensacola and St. Augustine.

Once it was an official territory, Americans flocked to Florida in search of free land and a better life. Most settled along the coasts or major rivers. The Seminoles did not like all these new neighbors, leading to three Seminole Wars - 1816-1819, 1835-1842 and the final one in 1855-1858.

The second war occurred after Congress passed the "Armed Occupation Act of 1842" giving citizens 160 acres if they settled the land, cleared five acres, and fought the Indians as needed. So many signed up - over forty in Pinellas County alone - the Act was repealed in 1844.

By 1840, the population of Florida had swelled to over 55,000 people, and most wanted to become a state. A constitutional convention was held in 1838 near Apalachicola, to draft a document for statehood. Seven years later, in March of 1845, Congress granted Florida statehood and it became the twenty-seventh state in the Union. ■



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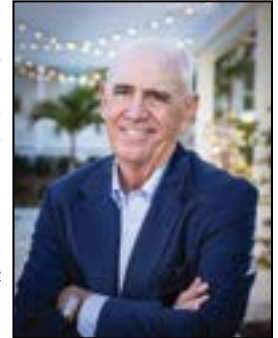
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**TAX CHANGES FOR 2022**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Last year there was an abundance of proposed tax changes. Many, although not all, were aimed mostly at the wealthy. Many overreacted and made hasty decisions about what "might" happen and as it turned out didn't.



But that doesn't mean changes did not occur. For those still working, the Social Security tax of 6.2% is now applied to \$147,000 of wages. That means those earning this amount will pay \$260 more.

The amount that can be contributed to retirement plans increased for 401k, 403b, most 457, and Thrift Savings Plan, but not those for an IRA. Those limits remain \$6000 for those under age 50 and a catch up of \$1000 for those age 50 and above. A participant can now set aside up to \$20,500 and if 50 or older another \$6,500 as a catch up. Should you not be putting in the maximum, increase your contribution by at least 10%. If your employer matches contributions, then be sure to set aside enough to at least get 100% of the match. It is almost like free money.

Many of our business owners and those self-employed have set up a defined contribution plan which has a maximum contribution in 2022 of \$61,000, inclusive of the regular 401k contribution. It is possible to set aside much more in many situations if the business has a defined benefit plan.

On the income tax side, the tax percentages stayed the same, but the brackets increase by about 3%. The standard deduction was increased to \$25,900 for married and \$12,950 for singles. For those that are itemizing there is no limit to the amount that can be deducted.

Turning to gift and estate taxes, the maximum annual gift tax exemption rose to \$16,000. This means a couple could give away \$32,000 per person to as many people as they want. It is a powerful estate planning tool that does not reduce your lifetime exemption but is unfortunately underutilized by many. The estate tax lifetime exemption was increased to \$12,060,000 which means a married couple need a taxable estate of over \$24.12 million. Keep in mind, however, that the new rules from the 2017 tax act sunset in 2026 and the amount will likely be cut in half.

Why not start the new year with a review of your tax and retirement plan by taking advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation?

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
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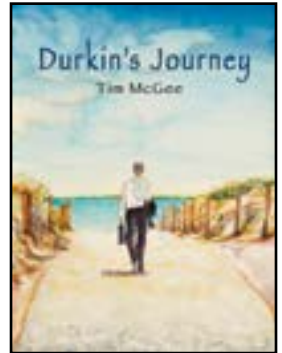
## LOCAL WRITER PUBLISHES THIRD BOOK



Three and counting. Indian Rocks Beach resident, Tim McGee, has just published his third novel, *Durkin's Journey*. It is a unique story about Brian Durkin, a corporate executive living in the sun and sand of Indian Rocks Beach, who sets off on a wild trek to try and retake control of his life. Durkin straddles two very different worlds; he works in a cutthroat environment in corporate consulting while living in a beach community full of folks who approach life in a very different manner. Both worlds converge and take Durkin on an unexpected and often humorous journey toward its conclusion. McGee contends that the story in *Durkin's Journey* is pure fiction, yet he admits that the characters in the beach community may reflect bits and pieces of some of the folks he has come to know and love during his time wandering the coastline of Florida. As for the corporate intrigue in this book, he taps into his long career working in market research in Corporate America for the threads woven together and making Brian Durkin's career so challenging. McGee moved to IRB in 2010 after spending over twenty-

five years working in the corporate world. He decided to slip out of the rat race and pursue his dream of telling lies for others to read at the tender age of fifty, while he felt his brain was still functioning relatively well. The inspiration for his books comes from a single reader he has in mind when writing and touching on the importance of family, friendship, and the role that complex relationships and situations can play in living one's life fully.

The author would like to acknowledge the artist who painted the cover for *Durkin's Journey*. While finishing his edits on the novel, McGee reached out to his former neighbor, friend, and local artist, Larry Gerwig, to paint the cover. Gerwig was an artist painting at the Beach Arts Center of Indian Rocks Beach, and McGee has several of Gerwig's previous works hanging in his home. McGee conveyed the spirit of what he was trying to capture to Gerwig of a man coping with two worlds and trying to survive in both. They went through a few iterations before landing on the cover that the author says perfectly captures the spirit of the story being told. Shortly after finishing the art work, which he presented to McGee last Spring, Gerwig past away.



*Durkin's Journey*, and McGee's previous novels *Worthy McGuire* and *Seasons*, can be found on Amazon by searching for the author's name or the book titles.

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## GIFT CARD SCAMS

### From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gaultieri

Your phone rings. It's an unfamiliar number, but you answer anyway. The caller advises you of an urgent situation. In order to prevent "something bad" from happening, they demand payment immediately – in the form of one or several gift cards. They tell you which gift card to buy and may even direct you to a specific store to purchase it. The caller insists on staying on the phone with you during the transaction. Once you purchase the card, they request the gift card number and PIN to expedite the process.

Does this sound familiar? It's a textbook gift card scam.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) and our law enforcement partners have been inundated with gift card scam cases and need your help to prevent your friends, family, and neighbors from becoming a victim.

Aside from the method of payment, the stories behind gift card scams are not dissimilar to other common scams. The person on the other end of the phone pretends to be someone they're not. They may identify themselves as a representative from the Internal Revenue Service, support technician from a computer company, customer service representative from your utility company, or even a friend or family member in trouble.

Gift cards are popular with scammers because unlike other payment methods, there are fewer protections for buyers and they are readily available in most stores. Like cash, once they have the gift card information in hand – the money is gone.

Remember the following tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- No government agency or legitimate business will contact you and require payment with gift cards.
- Gift cards are for gifts. When purchasing a gift card, only buy them from reputable stores and make sure it has not been tampered with.
- Don't answer phone calls from numbers that you don't recognize. If it's legitimate and it's important they will leave a message.
- If you're contacted by someone claiming to be a family member or friend in trouble, try to contact them by traditional means to verify.

If you believe that you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, contact the PCSO at 727-582-6200.

## DOCENT-LED PUBLIC ART WALK

Every third Saturday at 10:30 am and 4 pm, enjoy a stroll in downtown Clearwater while learning about the city's vibrant public art scene. During the hour long walk you will see at least 20 art installations including sculptures, murals, art wrapped signal boxes, pavement art and storm drain murals. Tours are organized by the Clearwater Arts Alliance. The afternoon walks are coordinated to end just prior to the monthly Downtown District Sip and Stroll event. All art walk participants are entitled to a discount if they wish to attend Sip and Stroll.

The walk starts and you meet your guide at the Ring Canopy Sculpture in front of the Old City Hall at 112 S Osceola Ave. Free parking is available at the old city hall lot. The walk covers the Cleveland St. corridor and nearby areas.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour. Register early: [www.eventbrite.com/e/downtown-clearwater-art-walk-tickets-137875799227?aff=ebdsoporgprofile](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/downtown-clearwater-art-walk-tickets-137875799227?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

For more information visit [www.clearwaterartsalliance.org](http://www.clearwaterartsalliance.org) or email [info@clearwaterartsalliance.org](mailto:info@clearwaterartsalliance.org).

## PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2022

The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival returns to bright and beautiful Clearwater Beach in the spring of 2022. Event organizers are thrilled to announce the festival's return April 8 to 24, 2022. From architectural masterpieces created from Clearwater's famous sugar sand to concerts, performers, and daily entertainment, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is a fascinating event attracting visitors from around the world each year. The festival returns to Clearwater Beach in 2022 for its eighth and biggest year yet with the theme "SANDimals, An Animal Adventure."

Fourteen world-class artists will craft elaborate sand sculptures from Clearwater's internationally famous sugar sand. The works of art will be on display in a 21,000-square-foot structure. More than 1,000 tons of Clearwater sand takes on a new life, bringing visitors on a "SANDtastic" adventure. The festival is a joint effort between Sunsets at Pier 60 Daily Festival, a 501(c)3 organization and the city of Clearwater.

Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets cost \$12 per person. Ages 3 and younger are free. Skip the line, and buy online at [SugarSandFestival.com/p/tickets](http://SugarSandFestival.com/p/tickets).

Discounted tickets for military personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers and healthcare workers can be purchased for \$10 each on "Frontline Fridays," which are April 8, 15 and 22. These discounted tickets will be available at the gate only with proper identification. Other tickets can be purchased online.



Baystar VIP Lounge tickets are on sale for \$60 and include:

- A fast lane entrance and ticket admission to the Sugar Sand Walk sculpture exhibit
- A complimentary souvenir photo
- An admission to the Baystar VIP Lounge
- Three beer, wine or seltzer beverages
- Two soda or bottled water beverages
- A swag bag, which includes an insulated cooler tote, a festival-themed T-shirt, and a plush souvenir towel.
- Access to air-conditioned VIP rooms
- Warm, assorted appetizers from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is an annual event attracting visitors from around the world and this upcoming event will be the festival's eighth and biggest year yet on bright and beautiful Clearwater Beach.

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# Business Briefs

**The Locals Best Kept Secret!**

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**J.MCLAUGHLIN** This new men and women's casual clothing store recently opened in Belleair Bluffs. The store also carries a line of shoes and accessories.

J.McLaughlin is based in New York with over 100 stores nationwide – four are in Tampa Bay.

You can shop in person or online at [jmclaughlin.com](http://jmclaughlin.com). Find them at 400 Indian Rocks Road N., on the south corner of the building. Call 855-4811.



**PROVISE NAMES NEW CEO** ProVise Management Group named Eric Ebbert, CFP®, MBA as CEO, replacing founder Ray Ferrara, CFP®. Ferrara will remain as Executive Chair and Chief Compliance Officer. Succeeding Ebbert as President is Jon Brethauer, CFP®, AIF®, CPFA, MBA.

Ebbert joined ProVise in 2000 and was named President seven years ago. "I look forward to setting the stage for our future growth as we approach \$2 billion in assets under management," said Ebbert.

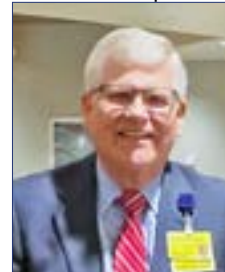
Brethauer has been Executive Vice President for the past three years and oversees the Retirement Plan Division. "We have come a long way in a short 35 years to become one of the leading financial planning firms in Tampa Bay, and it is an honor to help move us forward," Brethauer said.

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**DR JEFF JENSEN RETIRES** After 12 years as Morton Plant's Chief Medical Officer and 20 years as a practicing OB/GYN in our community, Dr. Jeff Jensen retired last month. During his career, Dr. Jensen delivered several thousand babies and was a role model for many physicians, demonstrating the combination of clinical excellence and compassionate care that makes an outstanding physician. The

hospital's President and BayCare Market Leader for North Pinellas and West Pasco Counties Lou Galdieri said of Dr. Jensen, "Personally, he has helped Morton Plant Hospital become one of the top performing hospitals in the country, thanks to his dedication to clinical excellence." Thank you, Dr. Jensen! Enjoy your retirement. You will be missed.

**NEW OWNER AT THE MARKET** Ralph Zamot bought The Market at Island Estates, a small convenience store, in December. It was previously owned by Savannah and Alex. Swing by and say hello to Ralph and ask for one of his Loyalty Cards. The store is located at 280 Windward Passage, next to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.



# Business Briefs



**99 BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE WALL**

This new specialty beer shop opened on the north end of the beach in the spot formerly occupied by "A Slice of Roma," at the corner of Baymont Street and Poinsettia Avenue. They offer a variety of both domestic and imported beers and seltzers, locally-made snacks, and a selection of cigars and cigarettes. Local delivery is available, or stop by on your way home. You will find over 100 craft beers and seltzers

Find them at 59 Baymont Street, call them at 953-8079 for more information, or follow them on Facebook.

**BOAT DETAILING** MJ Detailing & Cleaning specializes in both private and corporate high end boat detailing, ceramic coating, engine room painting & cleaning, boat painting and teak restoration.

Owner Matt Vasilenko created MJ Detailing & Cleaning after his family had a bad experience with a detailing company who used poor quality products leaving the final outcome unacceptable. His customers appreciate his dedication to customer service and his quality work using quality products.



He offers a full line of services, including a monthly service program which includes washes and other maintenance. In addition to boats he also details cars, RVs and planes. Call him at 941-241-7687

**CANOPY LIGHTS OPENS** This new shop opened in Antique Alley. New owner Brenda Griffin-Wagner has an eclectic mix of art and furnishings. "We sell functional lights and sculptures, home accessories, wood collage, bobble, art, and gifts," she says.

The store's Grand Opening celebration is Saturday, February 5 at 396 Indian Rocks Road N. in Antique Alley next to Coastal Aire at 596 Indian Rocks Rd. in Belleair Bluffs.. Call Canopy Lights at 651-356-5473. Find it on Facebook at Canopy Creative Lighting.



**JW MARRIOTT** Construction on The JW Marriott is moving quickly. "We are ahead of schedule," says Bill West, VP of Development for the Patel Group, who owns this hotel and also the Clearwater Beach Wyndham Hotel. "We expect to open in January of next year,"

The JWM will have 162 hotel rooms and 36 furnished residential units. The property will have a waterfront restaurant, bar, spa, meeting rooms, ballrooms, and gym with a swimming pool on the 11th floor. The new hotel is located at 691 South Gulfview Blvd, just west of the Sand Key Bridge.

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

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## 2021 SEA TURTLE NESTING SHEDS LIGHT ON COMMUNITY IMPACT

Despite some environmental and man made setbacks, biologists say 2021 was a good year. With over 275 sea turtle nests observed by biologists with Clearwater Marine Aquarium this nesting season in North and mid-Pinellas County, up from 222 nests in 2020, this seemingly average year was wrought with challenges and major milestone successes.

When high winds, rain, and storm surges from Tropical Storm Elsa hit Florida's Gulf Coast in July, over three-quarters of the 200 nests already established by CMA's biologists were impacted. "Our team was out in the rain and high-winds replacing nest markers, putting up signs, and updating our data," said Sea Turtle Conservation Program Manager Lindsey Flynn. "Essentially we had two days to re-do all the work we had done in the last two months in addition to taking inventory of any new nests that may have been laid and bringing in any disoriented hatchlings for our vet team to evaluate."

Getting all the nests re-marked quickly was especially important to hotels with beachfront property. "During nesting season we speak with the sea turtle team at CMA each morning to make sure our beaches are cleared before we can place any cabanas, furniture, or do any beach cleaning," said Miguel Diaz, Area Director of Sales & Marketing. "This is to ensure we do not disturb any nests laid over night."

Flynn's team also faced predation from coyotes and the impacts of artificial light causing disorientation in hatchlings. Thanks to their coordination with hotels and municipalities, the team was able to celebrate many successes in the season despite environmental and manmade setbacks.

"Our major successes this year include the City of Treasure Island and the Town of Redington Beach both changing their street lights to become sea turtle friendly," said Flynn.

"The City worked for years to get the white streetlights on Gulf Boulevard changed out to sea turtle-friendly ambers," said Stacy Boyles with the City of Treasure Island. "In 2017, after an increase in false crawls and hatchling disorientations, the City sent a request to the Florida Department of Transportation to request a variance from their lighting design standards in order to install the ambers. Since Gulf Blvd. is a state road, the City didn't have the authority to change out the lights without FDOT approval. Instead of granting the variance, FDOT was prompted to incorporate turtle friendly wildlife standards into their state standards so that sea turtle friendly lights can be installed along coastal highways throughout the State."

Winter the Dolphin's Beach Club also became the first hotel in the City of Clearwater to receive Sea Turtle Friendly Certification from Ocean Allies, a community-led movement designed to spark a culture shift away from environmentally damaging products and towards ocean friendly lifestyles.

"Our property proudly now has all sea turtle friendly lighting fixtures, uses only sustainable products, and has a protective film over all our Gulf-facing windows to reduce any artificial light from escaping," said Juli Norberg.

The CMA nesting team received funding from the Sea Turtle Grants Program to produce and place signs throughout their area to educate beachgoers about nesting season and how to help protect sea turtles. The Grants Program is funded through the sale of Florida's Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate.

Flynn's team patrols 20.8 miles of beach from Dunedin Pass through Treasure Island in Pinellas County 7 days a week, rain or shine, April 15 through October 31.

## FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

By Megan Standhaft, CASA

Picture this: 15-year-old Alyssa has never had an official relationship before. So, when a boy from the grade above her reaches out over social media and starts talking to her on Instagram Messenger every day, she excitedly tells her friends about this new-found attention. In general, the boy—Austin—avoids her in person and keeps their relationship virtual. He starts asking Alyssa more personal questions, and their relationship eventually becomes more serious, more “official.” He starts talking to her more in person, but mostly when others are not around. He says he doesn’t want his friends knowing about this relationship since she is younger, and he asks her to keep it a secret from her friends and family, as well. Thinking this is normal having never been in a relationship, Alyssa quickly agrees.

Over the next few months, this relationship becomes more volatile. Austin makes negative comments about Alyssa, her body and her friends. He starts yelling at her any time she tells him his actions or words make her uncomfortable. So, she stops expressing her feelings. Austin asks her for all the passwords to her social media accounts so he can make sure she isn’t talking to any other boys. Her parents are unsure what is wrong but notice a change in her behavior. Isolated because of Austin, Alyssa starts experiencing physical abuse on top of the verbal abuse.

Organizations like Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA) are here to help people like Alyssa. Pinellas County’s certified domestic violence center, CASA provides 24-hour hotline support, emergency shelter, support groups,

legal advocacy, and so much more to serve those in our community experiencing any form of relationship violence.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), almost 1.5 million high school students in the United States are physically abused by dating partners every year. Also, 25 percent of teenagers experience cyber abuse. Teen dating violence is not confined to one specific gender, it can happen to anyone.

How can you get involved? CASA provides education to youths in our community through our Peacemakers program. This multi-session program serves hundreds of youths in our community every year and teaches them the importance of boundaries, consent, how to recognize the signs of abuse and so much more. If you are interested in bringing the Peacemakers to your children’s school, please email [smcdaniel@casapinellas.org](mailto:smcdaniel@casapinellas.org).

Additionally, CASA provides adult education, as well, so adults in our community know the dynamics of abuse, how to be a better bystander, what healthy relationships look like, and more. If you are interested in learning more about our adult education, follow up on social media at [@casapinellas](https://www.instagram.com/casapinellas) or e-mail [smcdaniel@casapinellas.org](mailto:smcdaniel@casapinellas.org). Orange is also the color for TDVAM. Follow CASA on social to receive updates about “Wear Orange Day.”

Everyone can take a stand against Teen Dating Violence this February. Take time this month to educate yourself about the issue, share with friends and family and use whatever platform you have to raise awareness.

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## Bar & Restaurant News



### BACKWATERS NEW OWNERS

Larry Edger sold the restaurant to George Pappas, a resident of Belleair Beach and owner of a few Chicago restaurants. Larry will continue to own and operate both the Maggie Mae's.

Pappas is no relation to the Pappas family of Tarpon Springs. Pappas bought the popular waterfront restaurant November 1st and says he plans to make very few changes.

He and his sons, who will also be running the restaurant, are planning to continue the Chili Cook Off Contest, scheduled for Sunday, February 6, 2022. Deadline to register is January 27. Participants bring all their own cooking equipment and ingredients.

Find Backwater's on Sand Key in the Shoppes at Sand Key, at 1261 Gulf Blvd.

**HURRICANE EDDIE'S NOW OPEN** The latest in the Eddie's Bar and Restaurant franchise opened to great fanfare on New Year's Day in the former location of the Red Lion Pub on Gulf Blvd., in Indian Rocks Beach. The long awaited addition to the beach has been completely remodeled and has already become a local's favorite.

For now, they are only serving drinks. Some kitchen equipment is on backorder, and owner Tom George says they are still waiting on kitchen inspections from Pinellas County. Until then, General Manager Michelle Cognetti says they will be open for beverage service. Stop in for a visit. Once the kitchen is open, the restaurant will offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



### BAR TIKI AT MARINA CANTINA

Baystar made a few changes to the roof-top bar at the above the Marina Cantina Restaurant Clearwater Marina. "We gave it more of a Mexican theme and renamed it Bar Tiki", says Frank Chivas, owner and operator. "It has a 360-degree view of Clearwater Beach and the Marina and is the perfect place to experience a sunset." It is only open after 4pm.

**CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT CADDY'S INDIAN SHORES** Crews continue replacing the entire outdoor waterfront area, including the bar, deck and covered patio seating, as well as renovating the restaurant's interior restaurant. They hope to reopen soon.

**RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED** If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 430-8300



**SECOND SEKUSHI RESTAURANT OPENS** Belleair Bluffs new sushi restaurant, Sekushi, opened on New Year's Eve in The Plaza at 100 Indian Rocks Rd. In addition to sushi, the menu offers dumplings and noodles with a full liquor bar. They open daily at 4pm and you can dine inside or out.

You can reserve their private dining room which is suitable for groups up to 30.

Visit SekushiAtThePlaza.com to view their menu or reserve a table with Open Table. Call 648-4653 for information.

**CLEAN EATZ** Belleair Beach residents Kreg and Jen Schmidt are opening this new concept next to Bonefish in the space vacated by Richard's Foodorium. Clean Eatz is part of a new franchise with over 75 other locations. Look for it to open in early April.

The specialty café will offer a variety of healthy style foods, including bowls, salads, wraps, smoothies, protein bars and energy drinks.

Kreg and Jen plan to open four more stores in Pinellas. Get more information at [www.CleanEatz.com](http://www.CleanEatz.com) or find them now on Facebook @ CleanEatzBelleairFL.

**RAISING CANE** This Louisiana-based fast food chain known for its tangy Cane's sauce and Texas Toast is moving into the Tampa Bay area. The first store will be in Clearwater and is scheduled to open in 2023. The Raising Cane company recently bought the former Village Inn at 2525 Gulf to Bay Blvd. Renovations will begin soon.

Raising Cane is headquartered in Baton Rouge and started in 1996. Its first Florida store opened last year in Miami.

**SCULLY'S REOPENS AS CADDY'S JOHN'S PASS** John's Pass staple Scully's Waterfront Restaurant was recently purchased and renovated by Sun Pubs, owners of the Caddy's line of waterfront restaurants. Sun Pubs consulted a wildlife specialist to ensure all renovations were eco-friendly to the area's diverse wildlife population. Phase Two of the project will be to renovate The Hut, the iconic open air restaurant underneath Scully's will reopen as Caddy's Waterfront in the coming months.

### BELLEAIR'S PANERA BREAD WELCOMES NEW ADDITION

Panera Bread's Manager, Stephanie, had her first baby, a girl, on December 22nd. Welcome little Fallon and congratulations to all.

**CLOSED** A Slice of Roma, located at 59 Baymont Street, Clearwater Beach.







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## 2022: RESOLVE, COMMITMENT, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Welcome to 2022! I love a new year. For me, it always signals a new, fresh start. I look forward to the fun times with family and friends but also the work that lies ahead. This time of year also nudges us to look back at the previous year to see what we have accomplished.

As a Pinellas County Commissioner, I am always proud of the work our Board and staff do to serve our community, but this past year has been exceptional. The unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021 and Pinellas County met those challenges with resolve and a vigorous commitment to our community. .

Last January our fight to control COVID-19 took a turn. Through the emergency use authorization and eventual approval of COVID-19 vaccines, plus the arrival of monoclonal antibody treatments, Pinellas County was able to push back against the virus. In the days following the FDA's green light for vaccines, Pinellas County protected our most vulnerable through a pilot program for residents and staff of long-term care facilities. As eligibility expanded, we helped more than 644,000 residents – that's nearly three out of every four people in the county – receive at least one dose of protection.

Businesses and workers who fell on tough times during the pandemic are getting back on their feet as the county hit an all-time high in total jobs and recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Florida's large urban counties by the end of the fiscal year. We invested more than \$17 million in our small businesses through County contracts and helped others receive another \$20 million through our consulting work.

As housing instability shook many across the nation, our County stepped up to distribute nearly \$11 million in emergency rental assistance to nearly 1,500 families, keeping residents and workers here where we need them.

We renewed our commitment to the future of our county by launching the Pinellas County's first comprehensive Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan. The County completed its Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment and entered Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program to offset County energy use with solar power. All of this and more to build toward our goal of 100% renewable, zero-emission, clean energy consumption by 2050.

Another accomplishment by our County staff ensured residents could still access the services and information they need to continue to have their voices heard. Staff outfitted Board of County Commissioners meetings with technology to allow residents to give their public comment virtually and launched a new online sign-up form, increasing access and participation. Thousands of residents helped inform County decision-making by sharing viewpoints about important programs, including key transportation and stormwater projects, trails, community master plans, sustainability and more through online surveys, in-person events and virtual meetings.

These kinds of innovative strategies make for great accomplishments and there are more to come. I encourage you to be a part of our accomplishments by participating in your county government. Together we can do so much more. Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/agenda](http://www.pinellascounty.org/agenda) for a complete listing of the Board's upcoming meetings schedule. I look forward to seeing you there, in person or virtually.

As always, I welcome your feedback and concerns. Please email me at [kseel@pinellascounty.org](mailto:kseel@pinellascounty.org). I look forward to hearing from you. Happy 2022!

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## CYBERSECURITY: AN ANTIVIRUS UPDATE

By Dena and John Perkins, Threat Angler

Historically, we were all repeatedly advised to purchase and install antivirus software to protect our computers from cyber attacks. As technology has advanced and threats have evolved over time, so has the advice from experts. If you are still paying for antivirus software, you are likely able to stop and redirect that funding to a more valuable use.

Antivirus is a computer program that assists with scanning, detecting, preventing, and removing malware, which includes viruses, spyware, and trojan horses. It was originally created to remove computer viruses, which is how it got its name.

Recent versions of Microsoft Windows now come with built-in software that includes antivirus, a firewall, and other data protection features. The primary component is called Microsoft Defender. Many of the cybersecurity professionals who perform white hat hacking tell us Microsoft Defender is the solution they are most often stopped by in their engagements. White hat hacking is when cybersecurity professionals get permission from a company to test whether they can hack their systems so they know their vulnerabilities.

Another operating system gaining popularity is Mac OS X. Macs are by design a more secure operating system. Historically and still today, many cybersecurity professionals say antivirus is not a requirement for most users of the Mac system as long as they keep their systems regularly updated.

An additional reason traditional, paid-for antivirus software is becoming obsolete is because most data is now stored in "the cloud." The cloud refers to servers located in data centers all over the world and accessible via a web browser. This allows individuals to access their data on multiple devices from any location, not just on their own physical systems. If you are using a well known and reputable cloud provider, such as Google Workspace, the service likely comes with built-in protections for your data.

There are some cases in personal computing where added protection is recommended:

- If you or a family member often use social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter
- If you are managing finances or an estate for a family member or friend
- If you are conducting business on your personal computer
- If you are using applications installed on your personal computer, rather than cloud solutions, to store or process sensitive data

If you need added protection, we suggest investing in what is called an endpoint protection agent. Endpoint protection agents detect and prevent cyber attacks using modern, advanced techniques capable of detecting and preventing cyber attacks not yet well known enough to be included in antivirus software.

If you are using the common Microsoft Windows operating system, the recommended endpoint protection agent is Microsoft Defender since it is merely an upgrade to the Microsoft Defender for Endpoint solution already on your system. Microsoft Defender for Endpoint also works on Mac. There are several other options available. Inquire about our services for businesses of all sizes and budgets at [threatangler.com/contact](http://threatangler.com/contact).

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**Jonathan R. Wade Sr.**  
 for City Council  
**Seat 5**

**I seek your vote on March 15th**

- I Pastor St. James AME Church  
 1436 S. Madison Ave., Clearwater.
- I will bring a diverse perspective to the Council
- I will advocate for the working class.
- I am a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a heart for people.
- I will vote to protect our environment including our beaches, water & air quality, and other concerns to help lower our footprint.
- I support affordable housing initiatives.
- I will fight for neighborhoods with compassion and respect.
- I long for a City that cares more about people and less about its bottom line

Political advertisement approved and paid for by Jonathan R. Wade Sr. for Clearwater City Council Seat 05

**SPRING TRAINING MADE EASY**

Are you ready for some baseball? Spring Training comes to Pinellas County later this month. Locally, Pinellas County has two major venues for Spring Training: Clearwater's BayCare Ball Park Capacity: 7,000 and Dunedin's TD Ball Park, Capacity: 8,500.

But first, the Tampa Bay Rays will be hosting FanFest Saturday February 5. Meet the players up close—for free. Last year this was only a drive-by event held in the parking lot due to the Pandemic. This year, they are doing it the old fashioned way, inside and up close at Tropicana Field. Their first home game is April 8th against the Baltimore Orioles. Get more information at [www.RaysBaseball.com](http://www.RaysBaseball.com).

Here are the Pinellas County's Spring Training Games:

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

*Only Home games - All played in Clearwater' BayCare Ball Park,*

- Feb 27: Minnesota Twins
- March 1: Detroit Tigers
- March 2: New York Yankees
- March 4: Atlanta Braves
- March 6: Pittsburgh Pirates
- March 8: Toronto Blue Jays
- March 10: New York Yankees
- March 12: Baltimore Orioles
- March 14: Red Sox
- March 16: Toronto Blue Jays
- March 17: Baltimore Orioles
- March 19: Pittsburgh Pirates
- March 22: New York Yankees
- March 23: Detroit Tigers
- March 25: Toronto Blue Jays
- March 27: Tampa Bay Rays

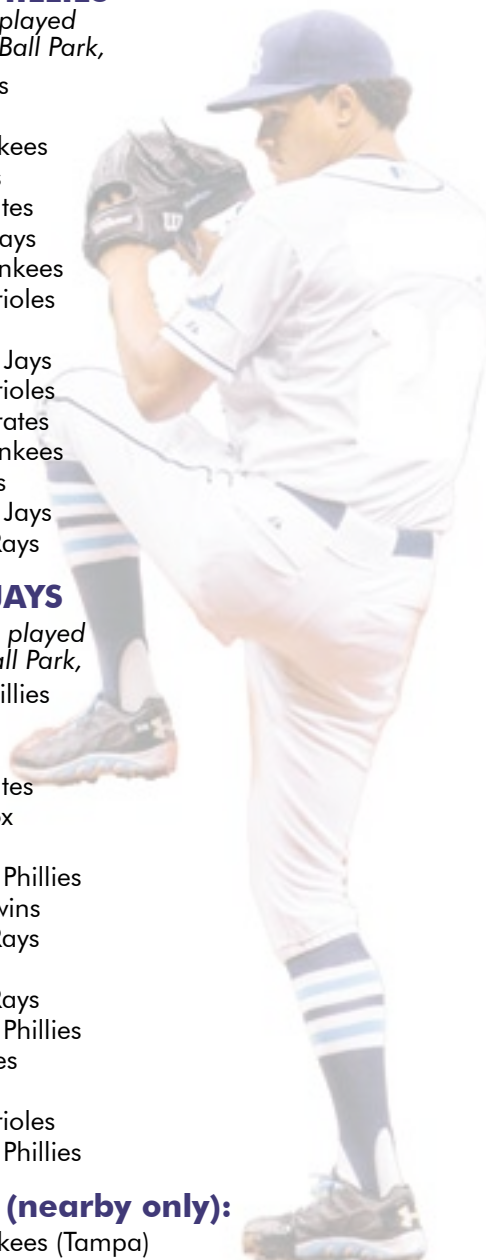
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS**

*Only Home Games – all played in Dunedin's TD Bank Ball Park,*

- Feb 27: Philadelphia Phillies
- March 1: Detroit Tigers
- March 3: NY Yankees
- March 4: Pittsburgh Pirates
- March 6: Boston Red Sox
- March 9: Detroit Tigers
- March 11: Philadelphia Phillies
- March 13: Minnesota Twins
- March 15: Tampa Bay Rays
- March 17: NY Yankees
- March 19: Tampa Bay Rays
- March 20: Philadelphia Phillies
- March 24: Atlanta Braves
- March 26: NY Yankees
- March 27: Baltimore Orioles
- March 28: Philadelphia Phillies

**TAMPA BAY RAYS (nearby only):**

- March 1: New York Yankees (Tampa)
- March 15: Toronto Blue Jays (Dunedin)
- March 19: Toronto Blue Jays (Dunedin)
- March 27: Philadelphia Phillies (Clearwater)
- March. 29: Philadelphia Phillies (Tropicana Dome)



## REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE WHILE SPRING CLEANING

Ready for some spring cleaning? You're in the majority! In the United States, 78 percent of all households report giving their living spaces a good, old-fashioned deep clean and getting rid of unwanted items every year. Just because you want to get rid of something doesn't mean it should go to the landfill. There are so many ways to repurpose things that you no longer find useful.

Going through your closet? Clothes that are no longer your style but are still in good condition can be donated to a thrift store or can be sold online with resale apps. Cotton T-shirts that have stains or holes can be cut and upcycled, as rags. A simple online search reveals ways to repurpose old clothes.

Aging furniture not what it used to be? If you want to give it new life, you can repaint or stain natural materials or reupholster dingy fabric. These days, there is an instructional video for everything online and on YouTube. If you don't want to do it yourself, someone else may have a vision for it. Try listing the item online for a low price or free if you were going to throw it out anyway.

Cleaning out your garage or shed? Household chemicals and paints can be dropped off at the Pinellas County Household Electronics and Chemical Collection site at 2855 109th Ave. N St. Petersburg. They also have mobile drop-off collections throughout the county on scheduled dates. A monthly north county collection happens Feb. 26 and March 26 at 29582 U.S. 19 N., behind the Pinellas County Government Center, south of Curlew Road in Clearwater. Check out their website for more details: [pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://pinellascounty.org/solidwaste).

The Clearwater Solid Waste & Recycling Department offers complimentary bulk-item pickup for city residents. Simply place the item at the curb on your regular service day; this does not include construction debris or move-outs. Please do not place electronics at the curb.

Call (727) 562-4920 for more information, or visit [MyClearwater.com/Recycling](http://MyClearwater.com/Recycling).

## FLORIDA STATE FAIR THIS MONTH

The Florida State Fair was moved to April last year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, but it is back to its normal dates this year, February 10-21 at the Florida Fair Grounds.

**FOOD:** There is special food you can only find at a fair: caramel apple cinnamon rolls, deep fried banana pudding, donut dogs, cookie dough explosion, fried Oreos and more.

**ENTERTAINMENT** - Several stages and venues are spread throughout the Fair include Florida Stage, Outdoor Mall, Entertainment Hall, Five Points Stage, and the Grove Stage—all with different shows throughout the day and evening.

**EXHIBITS** - Visit the Ag-Venture, Creative Living, the Giraffe Menagerie, Agriculture Hall of Fame, Cracker Country, Cattle Ranching Museum, Florida Fish and Wildlife exhibit, Florida Forest Discovery, Livestock Barns, the Milking Parlor and the Learning Garden.

**RIDES** - You can pay per ride or you can buy an armband.

**PRICES** - \$10 per adult, children are \$6, and under 6 are free. Home schooled children are FREE on Mondays (under 18) until 6pm, with a paid adult. Seniors (55 and older) are \$8 Monday-Thursdays (not including the last day). Ride armbands are \$30 each. \$85 Season Passes are available at Publix and include daily admission and ride armbands.

Gates open at 11am on weekdays. 10am on weekends. The midway start at 1pm - 10:30am on weekends. Closing times vary. Visit [www.FloridaStateFair.com](http://www.FloridaStateFair.com).

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*Community News...*

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**GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF CLEARWATER**

**Fashion Show** - Their annual fundraising and fashion show is Saturday, the February 26 at 11am at the Belleair Country Club. It is dedicated to Celebrating Phenomenal Women. Fashions provided by Mirabellea Fashions in Dunedin.

There will be Grand Prizes, Opportunity Baskets valued at over \$100 each, 50/50 and door prizes. Don't miss this one! Tickets are \$40. Purchased them at [GFWCClearwater.org](http://GFWCClearwater.org) or call Jodi (850) 663-5043 or Suzanne (860) 227-0436. Proceeds will assist local programs including providing scholarships for St Petersburg College Women on the Way Program.

**Grants** - For over 40 years, each spring they have awarded grants to local charities. To receive a grant, the charity must be open to Pinellas County residents, be a 501c(3) organization, and the funds be ear-marked for a specific use. The grants will be awarded on May 17 at the club's monthly meeting.

Applications must be sent by USPS, postmarked no later than March 11, and received no later than March 15. Applications and instructions are available at: [ccwcFlorida.org](http://ccwcFlorida.org). For information, email: [Info@ccwcFlorida.org](mailto:Info@ccwcFlorida.org).

**BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB**

They will meet on Friday, March 4, 2022 at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time begins at 11:30 am, with lunch and speaker following at noon. Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney of Florida's Sixth Judicial Circuit, including Pinellas and Pasco counties, will be the speaker. He represents the State of Florida and prosecutes or defends civil or criminal lawsuits, applications, or motions, on behalf of the State. His office handles over 132,000 criminal prosecution referrals annually, including felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases.

Cost of the meal is \$32. Reservations must be made in advance by mailing a check to be delivered by February 25th to: BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756. No walk-ups can be accommodated.

**ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

The new Island Estates Civic Association Board introduced a new holiday entrance look including lights and wreaths, Publix poinsettias, Island Way Grill large ornaments and Clearwater Marine Aquarium the dolphin lights.

Upcoming events are:

- Island Estates Yard Sale - February 26th 8am to Noon
- Chili Cook Off - February 26th Noon to 3pm at The Market on Island Estates Parking Lot
- Causeway Cleanup, March 12th, 8-10am

Reach President David Farrar with any questions at: [President@myislandestates.org](mailto:President@myislandestates.org)

**CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB**

In October they held their "Welcome Back", event of the new season with 40 members and friends and an informative presentation from Davis Byrkit of Wilcox Nursery. October 27th, 15 members enjoyed complimentary tickets to Mamma Mia at the Francis Wilson Playhouse. Then October 28th 40 guests saw the first presentation of the Balcony and Container Gardening committee at the Imperial Pines Condos.

35 members purchased tickets for their Holiday Wellness Luncheon where they were treated to a delicious meal and wellness presentation from Corinne Rungo. For information, visit [facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub](http://facebook.com/ClearwaterGardenClub) or [clearwatergardenclub.com](http://clearwatergardenclub.com). Contact Laura Daniel, Program Chairman, [clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:clearwatergardenclub@gmail.com).

**AARON SMITH-LEVIN**  
CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL SEAT 5



- Tough on Scientology
- Will represent Clearwater's Neighborhoods, not Special Interests
- Committed to keeping Clearwater a safe place for all to live and work

**Vote March 15**  
for Clearwater City Council Seat 5

**Aaron will represent YOU!**

[www.AaronforClearwater.com](http://www.AaronforClearwater.com)

Photo of Advertisement Paid for by Aaron Smith-Levin, independent for Clearwater City Council Seat 5

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**CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB**  
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## PADDLE BOARDING FOR A PURPOSE

By Nan Prevost, RN

In 2013, I was loving life with Shane, my husband of 16 years, and raising my two young boys when my life changed in an instant. My husband had been living with bipolar disorder even before our marriage, and he started to spiral out of control.

I lost my husband to suicide eight years ago. My babies lost their dad to a death I couldn't explain. As a nurse, we like answers. We are problem solvers. But I had no answers.

The hardest part of my journey was staying strong for my children through all the unknowns. My friends — nurses I work with — kept me strong. We take care of each other.

During the rough times after my husband's death, I started paddle boarding with a friend and colleague to help with my anxiety. I became very good and won several races in Florida.

In 2015, I was approached by a company called Watersports West that offered to sponsor me in paddle board races. Our collaboration grew from there, and Watersports West began providing boards I could use to take other nurses who were working on the front lines out on the water as a form of stress relief.

I had experienced what "water therapy" could do, and I wanted to share that positivity with others. Interest in paddle boarding grew, and before I knew it I was getting calls from healthcare workers who were interested in heading out on the water with me. The response led to my decision to start my own non-profit organization — not only to help my colleagues but anyone struggling with mental health issues. My non-profit is an interventional program called "Remember Me NP" and the goal is for suicide prevention. It was created in loving memory of Shane and all the healthcare workers we have lost to COVID-19 during this dreadful pandemic.

Most of my volunteers are first responders trained to recognize a participant that may need additional support and resources. Watersports West supplies the boards and gear for my program, while another sponsor, Island Surf Shop, donates office space. And I'm just getting started.

Remember Me NP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 that offers programs with mentorships throughout the community that helps to educate, decrease the stigma, and raise awareness for suicide prevention. Interested donors and volunteers can learn more at [www.programsforsuicideprevention.com](http://www.programsforsuicideprevention.com).




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 <p><b>727.608.2065</b> crabbysbarandgrill.com 333 S. Gulfview Blvd.</p>	 <p><b>727.216.8085</b> saltysisland.com 437 S. Gulfview Blvd.</p>



[www.beachsidehospitalitygroup.com](http://www.beachsidehospitalitygroup.com)



don't forget to participate in  
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BEACH STROLL CHALLENGE**

## Community News...

### 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 ending February 5th.

Participants may pre-register at 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 but no pets.

### CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY

Beach Book Club: Zoom or in person at the Clearwater Beach Library, Wednesdays, 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, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 13, 3:30-5 pm

Clearwater Beach Shell Crafters: Craft unique works of art with beach shells. Thursdays, 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, Feb. 16, Mar. 23, Apr. 20, 2-5 p.m.

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

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

### CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition the world over. You don't need a boat to join in the fun at CYC in Clearwater Beach. Many members don't have boats. Their social activities center around parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki Bar.

Their Winter Membership program is beginning. 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](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org), or e-mail [Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org](mailto:Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS (MOWW)

The Clearwater Chapter of MOWW meets monthly. The next meeting is February 1, by reservation only at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin. Military Officers that are active duty, retired, or former officers and their spouses, or widows are invited to attend.

Social hour is at 11:30am followed by a short program. The guest speaker is 1LT (R) Frank Nunziata (USA) who will speak on nuclear testing. The choice of meals is pot roast with roasted potatoes or trio salad with chicken, true ham, or egg. The cost is \$22 each. The MOWW welcomes those interested. To RSVP for lunch please call COL (R) Brian Smith (USAF) at 808.341.7125/[smithbk@comcast.net](mailto:smithbk@comcast.net).

### 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 pre-sale (with a \$5 entry fee) will be February 17 from 4:30-7pm. Net proceeds support club scholarships & historic preservation programs.

February 2, 1pm - Annual Orchid Extravaganza. The program will feature Michael and Paula Pollin, owners of Art Stone Orchids and Statuary and includes a presentation with a question and answer session. Refreshments will follow the program. A wide array of orchids will be available for purchase. The public is welcome to attend the free program.

March 2, 1pm - Ancient Art of Ikebana

The Belleair Garden Club, a non-profit organization in its 71st year, raises funds to support historic preservation programs and education scholarships for horticulture and botany studies for post high school students.

For further information about the Belleair Garden Club please contact Jan (727) 412-2344 or visit [belleairgardenclub.com](http://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 also holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

Due to the COVID-19 and multiple variant's, the board continues to meet via zoom video conferencing so interested members can also attend. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Please look for a "Zoom" link in the email announcing each month's agenda or obtain the link at [sandkeycivicassociation.org](http://sandkeycivicassociation.org). Contact the secretary at [skcainc@aol.com](mailto:skcainc@aol.com), with any questions.

### COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

They will host the 6th Annual Red, Whites & Bites Fundraiser on March 12. Guests will enjoy delightful wine from Bella Vino, delicious bites from favorite local restaurants, and an opportunity to win fine wines graciously donated by local connoisseurs - all under the stars at the beautiful Achieva Credit Union Headquarters in Dunedin. The event funds a third of the clinic's yearly budget, providing crucial support for their mission to bring relief and hope to low-income uninsured adults in dental distress! Over the past year, the clinic performed more than 10,000 dental procedures in 3,000 encounters which totaled more than \$1.6 million in free dental care! Visit the Reds Whites & Bites tab at [www.communitydentalclinic.net](http://www.communitydentalclinic.net).

### ST. BRENDAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

They will host a Fashion Show & Luncheon on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Belleair Country Club with fashions by Patchington. All proceeds benefit local charities. The event includes fabulous prizes, 50/50 and Basket raffles. Doors open at 11 am. \$40 per person. Lunch choices are chicken, salmon or vegetarian. Open to the Public.

Contact Peggy Boyer at [peggyboyer1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:peggyboyer1@tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 584-0065 for reservations. This event usually sells out.



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## Community News...

### FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

#### Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration

February 26, 10am-4pm

This one day event at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village in Largo. Showcasing Black history and culture, the goal of this festival is to exhibit the diversity within Pinellas County. We will be highlighting the many talents of the students within Pinellas County Schools, talented local artists, entrepreneurs, and restaurateurs. This festival will include gospel, jazz, and hip-hop performances from many gifted entertainers in the Tampa Bay area. The history and unique culture of the African American community in Pinellas will be on full display. Interested in becoming a vendor? Visit [pinellasafricanamericanheritagecelebration.org](http://pinellasafricanamericanheritagecelebration.org).

#### Florida Native Plant Symposium

Saturday, March 5, 9:30am-4:30pm

Spend a day focused on Florida natives at the Florida Botanical Gardens! General Admission: \$75, Members: \$50 and includes:

- Two keynote presentations
- Docent-led tours of native plants in the Florida Botanical Gardens.
- Display Tables on Eco Alley from environmentally-friendly organizations.
- Choice of one from four fun and interesting break-out sessions led by UF/IFAS Specialists or Master Naturalists.
- A native plant sale featuring local nurseries.
- A boxed picnic lunch in the gardens

### ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The Change of Watch, IEYC's end-of-year gala, was held on Sunday, December 5 at Belleair Country Club. Thirty two members and one guest were dressed to the nines to celebrate the installation of officers and board members. The festivities of the evening also included presenting the Members of the Year Award and the Commodore's Special Award. Bunni and Scott Lefebvre were recognized as Members of the Year for their contributions and dedicated efforts throughout the year. No one was more deserving of the Commodore's Special Award than Jim Ostrosky. Performing many behind-the-scenes tasks throughout the year, he played an important part in keeping the club moving forward. Patricia and Jim Ostrosky surprised Angie and Gene Traupman with a gift recognizing the time they have given to the club over the past few years. A great time was had by all.

IEYC rang in 2022 at the annual New Year's Day Brunch on the outdoor terrace at Belleair Country Club. Thirty-eight members and ten guests enjoyed each other's company and were treated to a scrumptious buffet including hot and smoked salmon, chicken, eggs Benedict, breakfast meats, assorted salads, fruit and cheese trays, bread pudding, and cheese blintzes with strawberry sauce to name a few. No one went home hungry.

Upcoming events include a BOEING BOEING, a lunch and show at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater in February, and IEYC's version of The Match Game in March. The schedule of 2022 events is now available on our website. Please check <https://www.islandestatesyc.org/> for more information.

### BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

It hasn't always been known as the Belleair Beach Island Garden Club but in one name or another, it has endured for 75 years in the name of Gardening in Florida.

In June 1947, ten ladies met to discuss Florida gardening and formed the Belleair Beach Garden Club. With an emphasis on horticulture in the beach area, the club continued for over forty years to help beautify the area and help to preserve natural resources and native plants.

In 1959, six ladies started a second club, the Island Garden Club, for Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore. For over 30 years, members stimulated interest in home gardens and assisted in the beautification of Belleair Beach.

Then, in 1991, the Belleair Beach Garden Club and the Island Garden Club came together as one and became known as the Belleair Beach Island Garden Club. Known as BBIGC, members have continued to meet for over 30 years and counting. The club continues in its dedication to help in the beautification of Belleair Beach and the surrounding area and stimulating interest in home gardens and horticulture.

Although the ever present Covid variants curtailed some BBIGC activities in 2021 and quite possibly more in 2022, they are determined to meet, when possible and safe for all of their members. They look forward to a time they can meet on a consistent basis monthly on the third Wednesday, October through April, in the Belleair community.

They always look forward to welcoming new members with an interest in home and community gardens. Contact Marjorie Rose at [rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemarjorie38@yahoo.com).

### ROTARY RUNS THE BEACH

Calling all runners, walkers, and potential sponsors! The Indian Rocks Rotary will present its third annual Rotary Runs the Beach on Saturday, March 26, at 8 am at the 17th Avenue Beach Access, in Indian Rocks Beach.

The event will consist of a 5K run and 1-mile walk. Entry fee is \$30 for the run or \$25 for the walk. Participants can register at [RotaryRunsTheBeach2022.com](http://RotaryRunsTheBeach2022.com)

Businesses or organizations that would like to explore sponsorship opportunities can contact Marykay Csenge at [mkcseenge@gmail.com](mailto:mkcseenge@gmail.com) or 727-735-5002.

### BEACH ART CENTER

*Submitted by Patricia Thomas*

Saddle-Up & Celebrate at our "Boots & Brushes" Country Gala on Saturday, February 26th, 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Pull on your boots and mosey on over! You'll enjoy Country Music and dancing to the Logan Brothers Band, a delicious BBQ spread, a cash bar with beer, wine and whiskey, and of course Art. It is a more casual theme than past Beach Art Center Galas, less a "date night" and more a time for friends to celebrate with music, food and fun.

This will be an indoor/outdoor event, allowing plenty of space and fresh air for all. Wear what you like, but expect to see lots of jeans, cowboy hats, and boots on the dance floor! We will also have a brief auction of spectacular art and experiences you won't find anywhere else. "50/50" and "Roundup Raffle" tickets for themed gift baskets will be sold at the event - this could be your lucky night!

Tickets are limited and available online now at [beachartcenter.org](http://beachartcenter.org) or purchased at the Beach Art Center.



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Join Joyce & John local Clearwater cruise consultants with 16 years of experience for this wonderful cruise **Celebrity Equinox, December 22, 2022 - January 03, 2023** leaving from Fort Lauderdale, visiting Antigua, St Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, Martinique, and St Kitts.

This distinctive voyage cruise which includes a cocktail party, shore excursion and Joyce and John's wonderful services. Too early to go? Worried about the virus? *Celebrity has a 48 hour cancellation policy allowing you to cancel for any reason and get a future cruise credit.* Want to do another date, ship, destination, cruise that leaves from Tampa? email [cruising@salethesea.com](mailto:cruising@salethesea.com) to be put on their email list, or get information about this cruise or other cruises.

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**DEALING WITH DENTAL ANXIETY**

Monsters may not be real – but your dentist is - and many people find them just as scary!

More than one third of the population suffers from dental anxiety with 12% experiencing full blown phobia. While different experiences and influences contribute to this, the result is the same – diminished oral health and accompanying overall health issues.

Dental anxiety prevents many people from seeking care when they need it. It's not surprising that people who suffer from dental fear are likely to have one or more missing or decaying teeth as well as a higher incidence of gum disease - all of which can affect their ability to eat, drink, speak and socialize.

For those living near the poverty level, dental anxiety includes the fear of financial ruin. Some dental treatments cost more than many households earn in a month.

For many, the only thing worse than the dentist - is excruciating, unrelenting dental distress.

When their pain overtakes their fears, they find help at Community Dental Clinic for free. Community Dental Clinic intentionally creates a welcoming and soothing environment, answers question and relieves concerns. Through support from our caring community and thoughtful community foundations, they equip their staff and volunteers with state-of-the-art dental tools that ease the stress and discomfort of treatment. From highly adjustable chairs to intraoral cameras to video interpretation services - they offer high quality patient-centered dental care to help people through dental distress.

The Community Dental Clinic provides quality urgent dental care at no cost for disadvantaged adults in Pinellas County, improving their overall health & well-being. They help those in our community who do not have insurance or the resources to seek the care they desperately need. Since September 2020, they have performed over 10,000 free dental procedures totaling more than \$1.5 million in dental care.

The Community Dental Clinic will host its 6th Annual Red, Whites & Bites Wine Event and Fundraiser on March 12. Guests will enjoy wine from Bella Vino, delicious bites from local restaurants, and an opportunity to win fine wines donated by local connoisseurs - all under the stars at the Achieva Credit Union Headquarters in Dunedin. The event funds one third of the clinic's budget each year, providing crucial support for their mission to bring relief and hope to low-income uninsured adults in dental distress. For more information, visit the Reds Whites & Bites tab on their Web site.

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).

**2022 SUNFISH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 2022 Sunfish Championships are coming to Clearwater. A Sunfish is a personal-size, sailing dinghy. You can be part of the fun by volunteering and with the Clearwater Yacht Club and the Clearwater Community Sailing Center who are holding the races and activities for the athletes that come from across the nation and the world. Volunteers do not need to know how to sail or be members of either group - everyone is welcome.

Locally, the International Masters, ages 40 to 80+, will be held March 13th - 15th and the US Nationals at the MidWinters will be held March 18 - 20th. This is a World Qualifier event. If you would like to compete, registration information can be found at Regatta Network ([www.regattanetwork.com](http://www.regattanetwork.com)). To volunteer or find out more about the full schedule of activities, contact [cycyachting@gmail.com](mailto:cycyachting@gmail.com)



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A food-lover's dream  
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**Ronny, Come Home!**  
by Norman O. Olsen

Set on the east coast, *Ronny, Come Home* follows the adventures of a young boy and his dog, an Irish Setter named Ronny, as they embark on life's greatest adventures and challenges, out on the water and in the woods. This true story centers around their unique friendship and ultimately the heartbreak of losing a best friend, by focusing on the good times and being grateful for the time they spent together.

**Makes a Perfect Gift  
Buy it on Amazon**



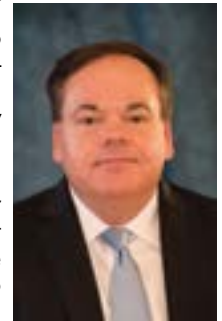



Norman O. Olsen, a father of seven children with a love of story telling and seeking adventure, takes his real-life experiences, and the lessons that come with them, to create entertaining and enlightening stories that highlight what is truly important in life.

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.

**FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

By Jon Jennings, Clearwater City Manager



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Jon Jennings – please call me Jon – and I am so excited for the opportunity to serve as the new city manager.

I started work in November, and it has been a few hectic months as I become familiar with the city's staff and services. I have met with the incredible employees who serve you every day, and I am looking forward to meeting you, too.

As you get to know me better, you will understand I believe in working together. In Portland, Maine, where I previously served as city manager, I was fortunate for the chance to work with so many different residents, groups, and community partners. I look forward to doing the same in Clearwater.

I am here to get things done. I am focusing on getting to know the community and on building a new City Hall, preferably sooner rather than later. Staff has identified a proposed location for a new City Hall at the corner of South Myrtle Avenue and Pierce Street. By creating a government campus with the Clearwater Police Department headquarters and the Municipal Services Building nearby, we will be able to serve you in a more efficient and effective way.

Since my start in the position, we have focused a lot of attention on our wonderful neighborhoods. City staff identified more than 200 sidewalk issues. We implemented a plan to fix all these issues within the next four to six months. We have a lot more to do for our neighborhoods, but the work has begun.

I plan to strengthen Clearwater's sustainability and resiliency efforts, too. The city's sustainability team now includes an innovation and energy officer and a new sustainability specialist, in addition to our sustainability coordinator position. This group will work together to implement Greenprint 2.0, the city's sustainability plan.

Other priorities include Imagine Clearwater, continuing to redevelop Downtown Clearwater, negotiating with the Phillies, and allocating the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me directly. I want to know what you and our residents care about, what concerns you have, and how the city can be better and stronger. I am here to listen, learn and achieve great results in our city.

I am happy to call Clearwater my new home, and I look forward to serving this great community.

**PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES**

February 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.

March 13, Erik William Suter, Organist - Peace Memorial's Cassavant organ will be on full display in this program of classical works for the pipe organ as guest artist Erik Wm Suter, a former Washington National Cathedral organist and performs.

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.



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**BELLEAIR**  
SUNSET 5K & FUN RUN

**SATURDAY**

**March 5, 2022 • 5:30 pm**

**RunSignUp.com/Belleair**

# Community News...

## CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

In early December, two Clearwater Community Sailing Center sailors, Alex Temko (19) and Bryn Muller (19), competed and medaled at the inaugural Junior Pan American Games in Cali, Colombia. Alex took home Silver in the men's fleet and Bryn took home bronze in the women's fleet for the IQ Foil class! The IQ Foil is the new equipment for the Olympic Windsurfing class.



Alex was just eight years old when he first showed up at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center's summer camp in 2010. He started what would be an incredible journey to the heights of the international sailing fleets by learning the basics in an Optimist Pram. Some of the notable regattas Alex has participated in during the 2021 season include IQ Foil Europeans in Marseilles, France, and the US Windfoil Nationals in Clearwater.

Bryn was fourteen when she started windsurfing at CCSC's summer camp. Five years later, she is competing at the top of the fleet in international regattas while also pursuing a degree at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Both Bryn and Alex are campaigning to be in the 2024 Olympic Games.

Both Alex and Bryn still make time to give back to the community that raised them. Their work as fill-in coaches and summer camp instructors at CCSC allow them to work with some of the youngest racers and help new sailors learn the basic maneuvers that even they struggled with once upon a time. CCSC Sailing Director, Justin Ahearn, has coached them from the get go and was selected by US Sailing to be the coach for the Jr Pan Am Games.

## ISLAND ESTATE WOMEN'S CLUB

The Island Estates Women's Club, a multi-generational group of women, finished 2021 with great success! While enjoying their holiday gathering they raised \$3,823 in cash donations plus collected bags and bags of clothing all donated to ClothesToKids. That will equate to over 60 wardrobes providing clothes for a week plus outerwear and shoes all for needy children in our area. After donating \$9,622 to the Pinellas County MVP (Mammogram Voucher Program) in October the group was pleased that so many continued to give so unselfishly.

Now this energetic group has set their sites on their Spring Fling which will be held March 15th at the Belleair County Club. Reservations are needed to enjoy this Fashion Show Fund Raiser which annually provides needed scholarships to young women from High Schools. The day will include a wonderful luncheon, fashion show and a variety of auction opportunities. Once again IEWC will create an exceptional experience for a worthy cause.

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.

For 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 [islandestateswomensclub.com](http://islandestateswomensclub.com).

**HUGE SALE**

**“JUNK & Jewels”**

**Collectibles, Jewelry, Toys,  
Household Goods, Art,  
Clothing and More.**

**Presale: February 17, 2022**  
**4:30 to 7:00 pm**  
(\$5.00 entry for presale only)

**Sale: February 18-19, 2022**  
**8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

CASH ONLY

Net proceeds support club scholarship & historic preservation programs.

**Belleair Garden Club**  
**903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair 33756**

MOSEY ON OVER TO

**THE BEACHARTCENTER**

SATURDAY 6:30 FEBRUARY 26

**BOOTS AND BRUSHES**

**Country Gala**

1515 BAY PALM BLVD INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

**BBQ, LIVE AUCTION, RAFFLE, WHISKEY BAR**

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This 2BR/2BA beach place has everything you need, fully furnished. Open floor plan entryway, living room, dining and kitchen.

Master suite with his and her closets, separate vanities, soaking tub with European style open shower. Views like you are living in your own private beach house with all the amenities of a resort. Under bldg. parking.

Offered at \$1,300,000



**HARBORAGE ON SAND KEY**  
 1651 Sand Key Estates Ct. #85

Come live the Florida lifestyle in this gated subdivision. This 2BR/2BA penthouse is being sold furnished. From the moment you walk into your new home you will see the expansive water views of the Intracoastal.

The balcony expands the width of three rooms. Open concept and split bedroom plan. Under bldg. parking and storage.

Sold for \$602,000

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