

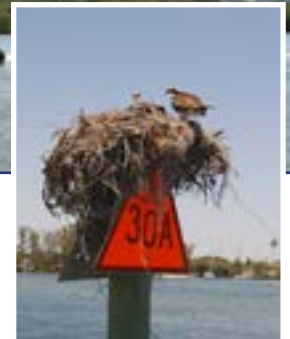
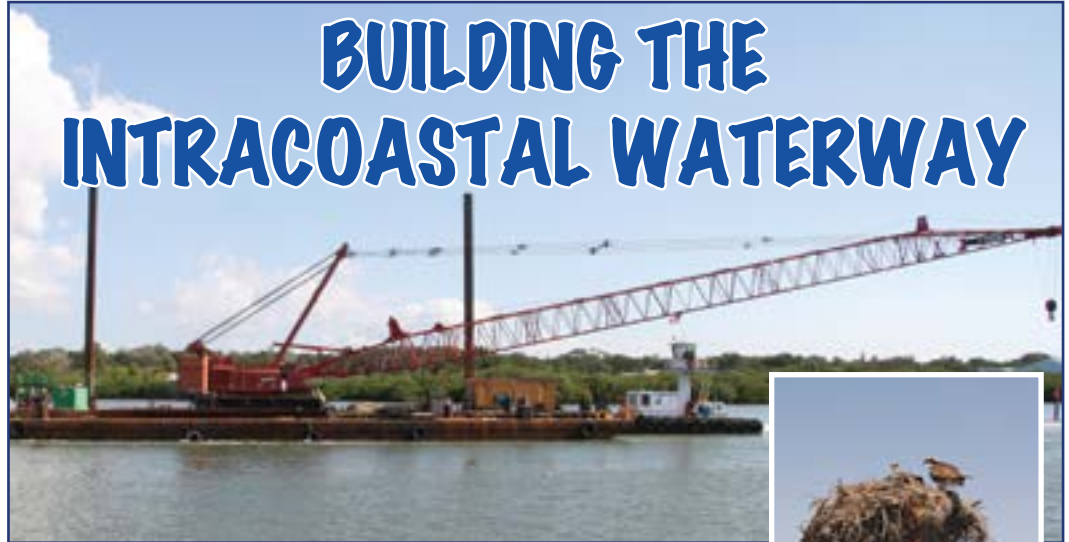
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

Magazine

By Bob Griffin

Living here, the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) seems to just be a body of water that runs between the Sand Key Island and Pinellas County's mainland. We think of it as a channel for boating from Clearwater to Tarpon Springs or south to the Skyway Bridge or even to St. Petersburg, but our portion of the ICW is a small part of a bigger, overlapping system of waterways stretching from New Jersey to Brownsville, Texas parallel to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico - over 3,000 miles long.



The Waterway is not naturally occurring, it was built. It is composed of natural inlets, rivers, and bays that are connected by man-made canals.

On the west coast of Florida, the Waterway stretches from about Tarpon Springs to Ft Myers, then it crosses Florida through Lake Okeechobee. The section connecting the East and West Coasts of Florida has been affectionately nicknamed "The Big Ditch."

As far back as 1775, the government recognized a need to move people and products safely by ship on the nation's rivers, lakes and oceans. Land travel was slow and dangerous; waterways moved goods quickly. During the Revolutionary War, a version of the Corps of Engineers that was part of the actual Army, was created. It was tasked with finding waterways safe to travel. **-Continued on page 6**

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Wendy's Tale

The community comes together to find a lost dog.
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Help Keep Our Beaches Beautiful

Find out why microplastics pose dangers to humans and sea life and what you can do to help keep beaches clean.
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Safe Boating Week

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has events planned for Safe Boating Week starting May 21st.

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Trailblazing Women

The Clearwater Historical Society presents its third annual Women's History Month exhibit

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CREDITS



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MAYOR - Cookie Kennedy

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Denise Houseberg • Phil Hanna
Planning & Zoning: 517-0404

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EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1

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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, and Indian Rocks Beach Library.

We hope you enjoyed our magazine. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us..

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862
pete@magriffproductions.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN JULY!

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

MAY

May Day	1	Rosé by the Bay St. Pete	22
School Principal's Day	1	John Meek Golf Tournament	23
Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins	1	Safe Boating Week	23-29
St. Pete Fools Golf Tourney Bardmoor	1	Last Day of Public School	26
Stanley Cup Playoffs begin	2	Memorial Day	30
Lent Begins	2		
Teacher Appreciation Week	2-6		
Cinco de Mayo	5		
A2K May Mixer	5		
National Nurses Day	6		
City of Seminole Tacofest	7		
A2K Meeting City Hall	9		
Francis Wilson "The Producers"	5-22		
Derby Day	7		
Mother's Day	8		
City Commission Meeting	10		
Postal Workers Food Drive	14		
Safe Boating Class USCG Aux	14-15		
Stone Crab Season Ends	15		
Pinellas Historic Preservation Summit	18		
HOA Mingle Hurricane Eddie's	19		
Hands Across the Sands	21		
Armed Forces Day	21		

JUNE

Hurricane Season begins	1
Pinellas Opera League Lunch Dunedin	1
KiwanisKid's Fishing Derby Pinellas Park	4
St. Pete Beach Craft Festival	4-5
National Cancer Survivor's Day	5
Creative Kids Camp Beach Arts	6-Aug 8
D-Day	6
Ink Mania Expo St. Pete	10-12
A2K Meeting City Hall	13
City Commission Meeting	14
Flag Day	14
HOA Mingle Beach Waves Grill	16
St. Pete Craft Beer Fest	19
Father's Day	19
Annual Craft Festival Dunedin	25
St. Pete Pride Parade	25
Happy 66th Birthday IRB!	25
Ringo Starr at Ruth Eckerd Hall	26

THE ORIGINAL CRABBY BILL'S

The Original
Indian Rocks Beach, FL

The Loder Family has been part of the Indian Rocks Beach community since 1983. The restaurant started by a husband and wife from New Jersey is now a place where family & friends enjoy the best seafood in the area. Bill & Dolores Loder had been in the seafood business together since 1954. They moved their young family to Florida in 1968 and started selling clams by the roadside. Several boats, crab traps and refrigerated trucks later, they opened a restaurant on Indian Rocks Beach in 1983.



Old view of the Original Crabby Bill's.
How our menus used to look like back then...



The main dining room.



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Did You Know

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HOOK A PELICAN Although its wingspan is over 6 ½ feet, a pelican weighs only eight to ten pounds, and your fishing line will hold it. Remember, the bird won't know you are trying to help and will try to defend itself. **NEVER CUT THE LINE IF YOU CATCH A PELICAN.**



Enlist a partner to help you. Extra hands and tools are useful and while pelicans do not have teeth, they have a hook at their beak's tip with sharp edges. Put on sunglasses for eye protection. Reel the bird in slowly and evenly; jerking the line will increase injury. Then grasp the bird firmly and cover the bird's head with a towel or shirt to calm it. Hold the beak firmly and slightly open so the pelican

can breathe easily. Fold the wings gently and firmly against the bird's body, before you remove the hook.

POSTAL WORKER'S FOOD DRIVE The National Association of Letter Carriers began a coordinated effort to fight hunger in America with the launch of its "Stamp Out Hunger" program in 1991. The NALC realized spring brought a lull in food bank donations after the holiday season and set its national food drive for the second Saturday in May each year. In 2016, a year before its 25th anniversary, the drive collected a record 80 million pounds of food, which brought the total amount of food collected over the history of the drive to more than 1.5 million pounds.

To donate, place a non-perishable box or can of food next to your mailbox on Saturday, May 14th for your carrier to pick up. Food will be delivered to the Beach Community Food Pantry.



SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON BEGINS Nesting season for the loggerhead, Pinellas County's most common sea turtle, runs from May 1st through October 31st. Last year, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitored 281 sea turtle nests. Females come ashore, dig between three and eight nests, and lay 100-150 eggs in each. After a gestation period of 45-70 days, hatchlings emerge at night and follow the moonlight to the Gulf of Mexico. During this time, use FWC-approved amber bulbs or turn off lights that are visible from the beach after sunset. Touching or moving sea turtles or their nests is a third-degree felony, punishable by fines up to \$5,000 and up to 5 years in prison. To report violations, contact the FWC at (888) 404-3922. For more information visit pinellascounty.org.

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PINELLAS ANIMAL SERVICES EARNS GRANT The Michaelson Found Animal Foundation and Maddie’s Fund awarded Pinellas County Animal Services a \$10,000 grant for piloting the “Best Overall Effort” to open doors to adopters and volunteers during their Open Arms Challenge. The event ran from November to January, during which time Animal Services increased mobile food banks, continued partnerships with veterinarians, and created new partnerships with local food banks.

BLACK SKIMMER NESTING AREA ON SAND KEY

Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources, in partnership with Audubon Florida, have pre-posted a nesting area for black skimmers at the north end of Sand Key Park’s beach near the jetty. Pre-posting means an area has been marked and protected before the shorebirds begin nesting.



Beachgoers and fishermen will notice this large area is protected with signs and ropes to create an undisturbed area for breeding black skimmers, which are a threatened species of medium-sized birds in Florida with

a long bill that is used to “skim” the water in search of fish. Wooden decoys are being used to attract skimmers to this protected area.

NATIONAL WAITER AND WAITRESS DAY Give thanks (and maybe an extra tip) to your server or bartender on May 21. Since the lockdowns ended, managers and owners have struggled with staffing issues, leading to longer hours and fewer days off for hospitality workers nationwide.

PET FOOD DONATIONS Pet Supermarket at 2620 West Bay Drive, across from Publix, collects dog and cat food donations for the Pinellas County Animal Services in Largo. Buy an extra bag to donate when you shop, or you do not have to buy it there - you can bring it in and drop it in their collection bin. Pet Supermarket will deliver it to the shelter.



PINELLAS HIRING LIFEGUARDS

Seasonal lifeguards are needed for the 2022 season to ensure the public health and safety at county beaches on Ft. DeSoto, Sand Key, and Fred Howard Park from April to September. Full-time and part-time positions are available with a pay range of \$14.22-\$19.33 per hour. For application and requirements visit pinellascounty.org/careers.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JULY If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at Beach Arts Center, Library, Beach Welcome Center, or CVS. Find us online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook for ongoing local news.

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BUILDING THE ICW, continued

Everyone knew moving goods and people by boat from the north to the south was the most efficient method, but there was no safe route. The Atlantic Ocean, with its winds and sometime high waves, was often not favorable to boat traffic and much of the inland waterways were subject to erosion and changed through shifting sediment. A national policy was needed to dredge and maintain the inland waterways.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was officially established in June of 1802 by President Thomas Jefferson. In 1808, U.S. Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin, drafted a report on existing, possible and likely avenues of transportation improvements the Corps of Engineers could create. His report covered the United States' east coast from Massachusetts to Georgia. (The U.S. did not own Florida yet.) Gallatin's \$20 million, ten-year plan was never enacted.

After the War of 1812, the United States passed the "General Survey Act of 1824" authorizing the Corps of Engineers to survey roads and canals for the growing nation. Finally, the Corps of Engineers was given the authority to do something.



Opening of one of the five locks along The Okeechobee Waterway that extends from the Atlantic Ocean at Stuart Florida, to the Gulf of Mexico at Ft. Myers.

In 1887 the government established federal regulations for railroads and waterways. In the early 1890s, the diesel engine was invented putting more boats on the waterways transporting fuels primarily coal. Fuel consumption was up and studies were conducted to find the most efficient methods for moving cargo leading to the "Rivers and Harbors Act of 1909." It set a national policy for an intracoastal waterway from Boston to the Rio Grande. Florida, ahead of the curve, had started construction in 1874 and its portion was completed in 1912.

The opening of the Panama Canal renewed interest in U.S. waterway transportation. The Canal made an easy route to the west coast. Between 1910 and 1914, existing channels were deepened and widened.

When World War I began, there was a desperate need for bulk cargo transport and congress passed the "Federal Barge Lines Act," leading to cheaper transportation for farm commodities through the standardization of freight barges.

The waterways flourished and expanded in the 1920s. The Louisiana and Texas Intracoastal Waterways were constructed, and New Orleans waterways were surveyed. During World War II German submarines sank our merchant ships off the East Coast, bringing the importance of the Intracoastal Waterway to the forefront, again. The project was fast-tracked and finally in June of 1949, the Intracoastal Waterway project was technically complete.

At first, the government tried to establish a minimum depth of 12 feet. Today, federal law requires commercial waterways have a minimum depth of 7-9 feet, although there are some areas where even that is impossible.

By law, there are no tolls on the waterway, but in many areas fuel taxes have been added over the years. In 1980 a barge fuel tax was set at 4¢ per gallon charged only to commercial users. It was raised to 10¢ a gallon in 1986. Today the incremental fuel tax is 20¢ a gallon.

In 1980, the US Treasury created the "Inland Waterways Trust Fund" which covers half the cost of the ICW's new construction and rehabilitation. The "Water Resources Development Act of 1986" was created to nationally manage all water resources and priorities.

Today the ICW connects with the Great Lakes waterway system allowing travel to the Mississippi River down to New Orleans. It sees a good deal of commercial activity with barges hauling petroleum, farm products, building materials and manufactured goods.

The waterway through Tampa Bay (under the Skyway) leading to and from downtown Tampa is designated



commercial and overseen by the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers. Some areas of the ICW though, such as the area from St Pete Beach to Tarpon Springs, are designated as recreational, because goods are not ship on those waters. Here, those areas are managed by Pinellas County and the Coast Guard, who provides the navigational Channel Markers. Several Federal agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers are involved in local issues such as dredging.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Department patrols most of Pinellas County's ICW in a dozen boats. The Clearwater Police Department patrols the waterway within their city limits.

The various draw bridges along Florida's ICW are owned by the Florida Department of Transportation, but are managed and maintained by Drawbridge Services, a subsidiary of Florida Drawbridges, Inc. The privately owned company manages seven bridges on Florida West Coast.

Today, the Intracoastal Waterway is still used for a good amount of commercial activity, but of course, also for recreational purposes.

Tourism has been greatly increased by the completed ICW. Boat owners often sail up and down the ICW preferring to navigate the waterway rather than the open ocean. It is used extensively by recreational boaters for fishing, swimming and visiting local restaurants.

Many Snowbirds use the East Coast ICW to move from northern to southern ports as the weather cools. The waterway allows access to major ports in popular cities and states such as Savannah, Mississippi, Alabama, Delaware, and, of course, the North Carolina Beaches.

So, the next time you jump in your boat and head up or down the Intracoastal, remember you are riding on just a small part of a 3,000-mile water highway. ■

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND 2022

Submitted by Susan Glickman, Florida Consultant for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

It has been 12 years since an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico killed eleven crew members and injured seventeen. The disaster went on for 5 months and in the end, almost five million barrels of oil were spilled. The resulting 57,000 square-mile oil slick polluted 1,100 miles of shoreline.

Government scientists found that BP was responsible for the disaster. More recently, University of South Florida (USF) scientists found hydrocarbons from petroleum in all fish species from oil in the seabed floor at levels two to three times higher than elsewhere in the Gulf. It is projected that it will take 50 to 100 years for the deep ocean ecosystem to recover.

Florida's economy is tied to our beautiful beaches so there is much at stake. That is why it is important that after a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Hands Across the Sand will take place at 11:30 am on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Indian Rocks Beach Access at 1700 Gulf Blvd.

There will be over 100 models of electric vehicles (EVs) available by the end of 2024. EVs do not use gas and they do not need oil changes. Consumer Reports finds that typical total ownership savings over the life of most EVs ranges from \$6,000 to \$10,000. The Sunshine State is the second largest market for EVs in the US.

Mike Sommers, American Petroleum Institute's CEO & President, told the Economic Club of Florida that more

access to oil on public lands and faster permitting is needed to combat rising gas prices and provide energy security.

Let your voice be heard and join with neighbors at Hands Across the Sand. It is an annual event that started after the BP Oil spill. It is where we stand as a community and say NO to offshore oil drilling. We say NO to dirty fuels and YES to clean energy. This is not about politics - it is about protecting our oceans and marine life, our coastal environment and our coastal economies.

This is a local event planned by local residents. Similar events will take place at hundreds of sites across the country and around the world. It is a true grassroots movement.

Historically, Florida has stood strong against offshore drilling, but we have seen the influence of the oil industry take hold before. In 2009, the Florida House of Representatives - after receiving campaign contributions from oil drillers - voted 70-43 to lift the ban on drilling in state waters 9 miles to the shore. That protection had been in place for two decades. As a result, Floridians voted to add a state constitutional amendment in 2018 to codify this safeguard.

Offshore drilling has been banned off Florida since 2006 through a series of time-limited federal moratoriums. The current one expires in June. Just before the 2020 election, former President Trump extended the ban by executive order for an additional 10 years, until 2032.

But executive orders can be changed. What we need is a permanent ban on drilling. So, let's stand together on May 21st at Hands Across the Sand.



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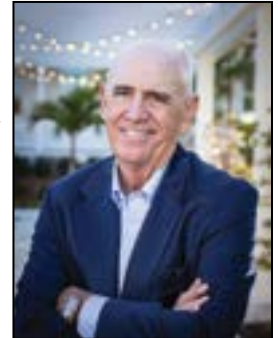
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BOOMERS, GENXERS, MILLENNIALS, AND MONEY, OH MY!

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Many moons ago we wrote an article about the transfer of wealth from the Greatest Generation to Baby Boomers. Back in those days, it was about \$30 trillion. That wealth transferred and Boomers added to their parents' wealth and will soon start passing an estimated \$84.4 trillion.



The Greatest Generation was influenced by the Great Depression and generally found CDs as a preferred method of investing especially given the high interest rates of the 70s and early 80s. The Boomers were influenced by the bull markets of both the mid-80s and then the 90s and mostly invested through mutual funds. The GenXers are both siblings or children of Boomers influenced by how lucky the Boomers were to have cheap home prices, bull markets and great job opportunities. The Millennials were influenced by the wealth of their parents and have a carefree attitude about money.

These latter two groups will be major beneficiaries of Boomer wealth. According to a recent Cerulli report, over the next several decades \$29.5 trillion will be passed on to GenXers, \$27 trillion will go to Millennials and \$11.5 trillion to charity. The remaining \$4 trillion will go from one Boomer to another. The transfer starts slowly over the next ten years, but then the flood gates open.

So how will you pass your wealth? Will you leave it outright to the heirs where they may not be as good a steward as you are with the money. Leaving it outright also subjects the wealth to the claims of creditors – banks, the government, lawsuits, and the biggest...a spouse seeking divorce.

One way to help shield the money and preserve the wealth is to leave it in trust for the heirs with liberal terms of distribution. Each heir can have her/his own trust and the terms can be different. We often recommend that the trust pay out 3-4% of its value every year and additional money can be paid for health, education, maintenance or support at the discretion of the trustee.

That is why we helped form a national trust company twenty years ago to provide our clients with a trust company that provides great service at a reasonable price. Now is a good time to visit with us and your attorney to discuss your estate plan. Please give us a call for a complimentary consultation.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
ProVise Management Group, LLC
611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756
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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

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

INTERSTATE MOVING TIPS

Local moving is ranked as one of the top five most stressful life events. So moving long distance or from state to state must be in the top three, right? Hiring a reputable company will decrease the stress and ensure a smooth transition.

Florida is one of the least regulated states for moving companies, and conducting your own research is paramount. Consumers can visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's



website to investigate whether a company can legally move across state lines. Simply Google "FMCSA snapshot", search by "Name," enter the company's name, and look for "authorized for hire" and a checkmark by "interstate." Failure to hire a licensed interstate mover may result in your items being held at a weigh station until you or a licensed interstate mover comes to claim them!

Have you seen the horror stories describing lost shipments? Hire a moving company who has GPS on their trucks so you can always pinpoint where your items are.

Have you heard about movers who lose items? Hire a moving company who will exclusively dedicate the truck to your items, and will not take the items on and off for other households.

Have you read about instances where furniture was ruined or completely decimated? Hire a moving company with full-time, professionally trained movers. Don't hire a broker, who contracts individual parts of the move to different companies (one to load, one to drive, one to store, one to unload), and won't take responsibility because they don't know who created the damage.

Most consumers obtain two to three estimates; if one estimate is substantially less than the others, it is definitely too good to be true! Companies who are fully licensed and insured for interstate moving are all within the same ballpark price-wise, and will carry general liability and cargo insurance. In addition, they will have W2 employees covered by workers compensation as opposed to 1099 independent contractors who can be doing construction one day, landscaping the next, and moving your home the following day.

Big Man's Moving Company, a contributor to this article, was voted the #1 Mover in Tampa Bay in 2020 and 2021. Their professional team has completed 5500 local, statewide, and out-of-state moves in five years of business. Bigmansmoving.com 727-772-3458



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LOCAL RESIDENT WRITES AND ILLUSTRATES CHILDREN’S BOOK

Largo resident Linda Hansen is an author/illustrator and recently self-published a children’s picture book, “Otto the Otter, A Big Surprise.” She both wrote the book and created the watercolor paintings illustrations.



“Otto the Otter, A Big Surprise” is the true story of a North American river otter who we see in the retention pond of our subdivision in Largo. When the Hansens bought their home, they assumed the pond was common property. Much to their surprise, two days before closing, they discovered that they owned the pond! The pond has brought them much joy. Through the Hansens lifelong love of animals, they have been able to identify thirty-three species of wading birds and ducks who have visited the pond. Of course, there are the expected frogs and turtles, but the biggest surprise and joy is their otter who they call Otto. “Otto the Otter, A Big Surprise” is a true story that tells about Otto... and, to tell you more would spoil the surprise.

Hansen grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Largo seven years ago. She took art classes in high school but couldn’t follow her passion for art until she retired. Four years ago, she started to take art classes at the Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach painting in watercolor and acrylics. Her style is often filled with bold color and though her work is not abstract, it is often thought of as being like the work done by the Fauve artists of Paris, a group of early 20th-century modern artists whose works emphasized painterly qualities and strong color over the representational or realistic values by other artists.



For twenty-five years, Hansen was the Executive Director of a non-profit that helped burn survivors and did burn prevention/education. During this time Hansen created a book for the non-profit called “Beauty Is...” about self-esteem.

As Hansen only began painting four years ago, many would consider her a new painter. She started to write the book at the urging of a neighbor and self-published it on Amazon.

Because of Otto and a good friend, Hansen realized she could start a new journey by combining her love of painting with another new adventure - writing. “Otto the Otter, A Big Surprise” is available on Amazon, in some local stores, and Hansen can be found at the Market in the Bluffs on the second Saturday of the month. You can also purchase books on her website, www.lindahansenauthor.com.

Linda Hansen is living proof that it is never too late to reinvent oneself, regardless of one’s age - even at 70+!

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HURRICANE SEASON: BE PREPARED

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

I love this time of year, just before the humidity and our rainy season starts in earnest. It is a time to savor what we love about living in the tropics, but it is also a time to prepare for hurricane season. With its approach, you need to follow the advice from Pinellas County Emergency Management and get your plan ready now before things get brewing in the tropics. Here is a quick review to get you started.

Check your evacuation zone. Some properties in Pinellas County have a new evacuation zone this season because of updated storm surge modeling data from the National Hurricane Center. Just to be safe, check out your home or business' evacuation zone by visiting <https://storm.pinellascounty.org>.

Your next step is to visit www.pinellascounty.gov/emergency for everything you need to prepare yourself, your family, home and business for an emergency event like a hurricane, tornado or flood. From our website you can access the Storm Surge Protector tool to see how much surge could be at your location, sign-up for shelter and transportation assistance if you have a special need, find out how to prepare for your pet and so much more.

You can also download your copy of the Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness All-Hazard Guide. Print out a copy or find one at your local library or a county building in late May. The guide provides detailed information about building an emergency kit, evacuation options, shelters, insurance, preparing for children, elderly or special needs family members, and our pets. It also includes how to protect your home, windows, yard, vehicles and boat before the storm and what to expect after the storm.

Speaking of insurance, now is the time to review your current insurance policies and consider adding flood insurance to your coverage. Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Having an insurance policy for your home and business is a tool everyone should consider, even if they do not live in a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area, which are designated high-risk flood zones.

Be sure to review your coverage soon. Typically, there is a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase before a new flood policy goes into effect. Be prepared. Do not get caught without flood insurance this hurricane season.

Pinellas County also offers another tool to help you prepare for hurricane season. It is called Ready Pinellas, a free mobile app that includes multiple readiness checklists that are aligned with the hurricane cone forecast system used by the National Hurricane Center. Residents can immediately know what to do during "blue sky" periods, and then through the five-day and three-day cones of probability to simplify planning with a well-thought-out checklist system. You can also look up your evacuation level and from the app see if you are in an evacuation order when one is issued. The new Ready Pinellas App also receives real-time notifications of hazards in our area. You can download the free Ready Pinellas mobile app from the Apple App Store or from Google Play.

Also, sign up for Alert Pinellas, the official emergency notification service for Pinellas County and our local municipalities. The service is free and allows you to receive urgent messages about a variety of situations, such as severe weather, boil water notices, missing persons and evacuations. Visit www.pinellascounty.gov/alertpinellas to sign up your whole family.

As you can see Pinellas County has plenty of information and tools to help you prepare for any emergency, including hurricane season. Take the time to make sure your family has a plan and prepare ahead to have peace of mind this hurricane season.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. Please email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org.

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Bar & Restaurant News

HOUSE PASSES RESTAURANT AID BILL In April, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3807, dubbed "The Relief for Restaurants and Hard Hit Small Businesses Act." If the bill passes the Senate, it will replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and enable the Small Business Administration to award additional grants to businesses that demonstrate pandemic-related losses of over forty percent.

PAJANO'S PIZZA OPENING SECOND LOCATION

Mike and Amanda Faraone are hoping for a June opening at their second Pajano's Pizza and Subs location. The new space at 17307 Gulf BL in Redington Beach will be open Mon-Thurs from 11am-9pm and Fri-Sat from 11am-10pm



SALT ROCK CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Opened on April 1st 1997, Salt Rock Grill is celebrating twenty-five years of fresh seafood and some of the best grilled steaks on the beach. Even though it opened on April Fool's Day, they aren't foolin' around when it comes to their menu.

Now twenty-five years later, Salt Rock Grill has become a legendary landmark where many locals celebrate their special occasions. Salt Rock is located at 19325 Gulf Blvd, in Indian Shores. Get more information and see their menu at SaltRockGrill.com. Reservations are recommended.

CADDY'S PUB REOPENS

The Indian Shores staple reopened in April after a complete remodel of the interior as well as the outside patio bar. A refreshed menu includes wraps, a California burger and seafood platter. There will be live music on the new patio stage as well as dock space for thirty boats. Caddy's Pub Indian Shores is open Sun-Thurs 11am-9pm and Fri-Sat 11am-10pm. Visit Caddys.com/caddys-indian-shores for info.



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.

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Bar & Restaurant News



CLEARWATER BEACH'S COOTERS SOLD On April 1st after twenty-five years, Cooters Restaurant & Bar on Clearwater Beach will have a new owner and a new name. But don't worry, you will still see your favorite servers as a majority of the staff, as well as owners Barry and Carol Mears' daughter Amanda, will stay on with the new owner.

While the ownership and name will change, most everything else of what you know and love about Cooters will remain the same. The menus, specials, awesome staff and cool beach vibe will still be there.

We are extremely grateful for the support over the years from our amazing staff, family, friends, wonderful guests, and business associates," says Carol Mears. "It's been a great run for over 25 years, but it's time for our new chapter to begin."

Brothers Glenn and Gary Sutch, owners of Coco's Crush Bar and Grill on Clearwater Beach, are the new owners.

KEEGAN'S SEAFOOD GRILL SOLD The Schonowski family (John, Jackie, and John Jr.- all shown here), owners of Keegan's for almost fifteen years, sold the Indian Rocks Beach restaurant in March. The new owner is a company called "BT" (Burger Time) it is a corporation from Fargo, ND. This is their first full-service restaurant in Florida, but they do own fast food restaurants in several states. A spokesman for the new owner says they plan no changes in either the name, menu or staff.

Keegan's has been in Indian Rocks Beach since 1985 - 36 years, and was originally opened by Linda and Cesar Labrador at 1309 Gulf Blvd. The restaurant was named after the Labrador's son, Keegan, and they claim to be the first beach restaurant to offer a "blackened" grouper sandwich.



The Labradors eventually moved the restaurant to its current location at 1519 Gulf BL in the Keegan's Plaza before they sold it in 2008 to the Schonowski family.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event, we want to include it in this Magazine. E-mail Lora@MagriffProductions.com or call 813-361-7376.

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INTRODUCING THE PCSO MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Having a mental illness is not a crime. Unfortunately, many people with mental illnesses wind up in jail because they may not always be able to control their actions or perceive reality. Or, they may be committed under the Baker Act, a law which allows a person to be involuntarily committed to a mental health facility if they present a danger to themselves or others. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Mental Health Unit (MHU) was created



to reduce both Baker Acts and contact with law enforcement officers among the mentally ill.

The MHU pairs a specially trained deputy with a civilian Crisis Response Specialist to meet with citizens in mental health crisis that may warrant intervention. If a patrol deputy realizes that a citizen has a mental health issue and may be in need of services, they can contact the MHU. Or a team from the MHU may respond directly to a call about a person in crisis.

Once they make contact, the deputy will make sure the scene is secure. Then the Crisis Response Specialist will engage the subject, evaluating their mental state and determining their willingness to receive help. All of the services are voluntary.

MHU members will tell them about available services, especially the Pinellas Integrated Care (PIC). PIC can connect citizens to counseling, medication, substance abuse treatment, job services, housing, and insurance options. Navigating the world of mental health services can be difficult, for both patients and their families. The MHU tries to make a scary, chaotic situation as easy to manage as possible, removing the barriers to positive mental health management.

After the initial contact, PIC will usually follow up in three days. The MHU then meets with the PIC team once a week to discuss the clients they serve.

The MHU was expanded last year. Today there are six deputies and two Clearwater Police officers who pair with eight civilian Crisis Response Specialists. The program has been so successful that the MHU recently won the PCSO Unit Award for its excellent work.

It can be challenging, and sometimes disappointing. Clients who are enthusiastic in the beginning may stop using the services designed to help them. Many also have substance abuse issues that complicate their mental health care. But the many success stories make it worthwhile. Thanks to the MHU, more citizens with mental health issues are staying out of jail and receiving the services they need.

For more information about mental health education and support, visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness at www.nami.org. If you know a child or young adult experiencing a mental health crisis, you can contact the Pinellas Mobile Crisis Response Team at 727-362-4424. For an emergency situation, as always, call 911.

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INDIAN ROCKS RALLIES FOR WENDY'S SAFE RETURN

by Pete Magnani

On March 10th, Indian Rocks Beach residents Emily Lecher and Steve Goot were on a ship returning to Ft. Lauderdale after a relaxing cruise. Their two dogs, Roxy (a 14-year-old Shiba Inu), and Wendy (a 4-year-old Pekingese/Shih Tzu/Pit mix) were home at their beachfront condominium on Gulf BL with their dog-sitter, Inge. As the ship approached land, Emily's cell phone reconnected, and text messages began pouring in.

There was a structure fire in an adjoining residence. Emily immediately phoned Inge, who had gone to her Clearwater home to feed her cat and was unaware of the fire. She raced back to the condominium where Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue (PSFRD) was already working to stem the blaze. She told them about the dogs, and Firefighters Spencer Finkhousen and Jeffrey Pyles entered Emily and Steve's home to



rescue them. A few minutes later, they emerged with the terrified dogs. Wendy panicked and wrestled herself free, running away in the confusion.

As soon as the neighbors became aware of the situation, a search commenced. Posters were made, photos of Wendy were posted on social media and the story went viral. Volunteers came from Largo, Seminole, and Clearwater to search for the missing dog. Emily and Steve rushed home from Ft. Lauderdale. Meanwhile, Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies, PSFRD Firefighters, and even Amazon and UPS delivery drivers joined the hunt for Wendy.

Melanie Bush was born and raised in

Indian Rocks Beach as was her daughter Olivia. They had never met Emily or Steve, but when they heard the news of Wendy's escape, they joined the search.

Indian Rocks Beach is not an easy place to search for a missing dog. On the beach, the railroad vine, sea oats and grass beds covering the dunes provide plenty of camouflage. The interwoven mangrove beds lining the Intracoastal Waterway offer unlimited hiding spots for a terrified 25-pound dog.

By the next evening, Melanie's hopes for a happy ending to Wendy's story began to wane. There are plenty of natural dangers for a small, domesticated animal. Snakes, predatory birds and coyotes abound. Adding to the difficulties, a cold front was forecast with rain and temperatures dipping to the low 40s. The rain would make the tidal pools and marshes all the more difficult to search. While scrolling Facebook, Melanie read an account of a family whose dog got loose and was found shivering in the woods after five days. Renewed by the story, they continued the search. Knowing that Emily and Steve regularly brought Wendy to the Indian Rocks Beach dog park at the Nature Preserve, Melanie and Olivia decided to focus on the boardwalk that winds through the mangroves along the Intracoastal.

By now, the women had spent hours searching for Wendy. Every rustle in the brush had been a false alarm and a dashed hope. "That afternoon, I made my mom take off the bracelets she always wears," said Olivia. "Every time I heard them jingle, I thought it was Wendy's collar tag. We had been at it so long; we just kept hearing things and thinking we had found her, only to be disappointed."

As Melanie and Olivia made their way down the boardwalk's dead-end offset path, they heard a noise in the underbrush. The dim light from the overcast sky and the thickness of the mangroves prevented them from



seeing but a short distance off the path. Both women climbed over the railing, slid into the knee-deep mud and waded into the mangroves.

About twenty yards into the thicket, Olivia spotted Wendy perched on a sand mound, shivering and covered in mud. The women were uneasy about approaching the terrified dog, fearing she would bolt away again. Using her cell phone, Melanie called for reinforcements to help corral Wendy until Emily and Steve could get to the park. Their fears were quickly realized, and Wendy took off into the mangroves.

Melanie and Olivia were convinced they had Wendy between them and the park, and continued searching for her. After what seemed an eternity, Melanie phoned her sister Laura to come assist them. "Melanie, what are you talking about?" Laura said, "she's already home."

Wendy had circled around them, been corralled by other searchers and had already been reunited with her family. Soaking wet and covered in mud, Melanie and Olivia drove to the residence, where Emily and Steve met their hero neighbors for the first time.

The fire damaged four units at The Gulfside Villas. Emily and Steve's condominium, while spared from the flames, had filled with toxic smoke. PSFRD provided fans to ventilate the space, and Wendy made a quick recovery at home. "We want to say thank you to the hundreds of neighbors and strangers who gave up their time and energy to search for Wendy," said Emily. "It just shows we really do live in the best place, with all these people coming together to help us. And a special thanks to Melanie and Olivia for finding our Wendy."

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MOTHER'S DAY

By Bob Griffin

Mother's Day is a day inspired and created by Anna Jarvis in the early 1900s to honor her mother and all mothers. However, when she learned of its commercialization, she spent the remainder of her life fighting the business world that tried to commercialize her sentimental concept. A day to honor one's mother has been celebrated around the world for centuries.

In the U.S., Mother's Day was a concept first promoted by Anna Jarvis, of Grafton, West Virginia. Anna's mother, Ann, was a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. During a Sunday school session in about 1876, Anna found her inspiration to honor all mothers. She said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a Mother's Day memorial commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life to which she is entitled."

Anna went off to college and later became the first literary and advertising editor of Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company in Philadelphia. During this time, she maintained a close correspondence with her mother.

Anna Jarvis first recognized Mother's Day in 1905, the year her beloved mother died. In 1908, Jarvis held a memorial to honor her mother—and all mothers—making it the first official observance of Mother's Day.

After that event, Anna Jarvis embarked upon a campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday. She conceived the white carnation as the sentimental symbol of the day to honor all mothers. "After her persistent efforts, Mother's Day was finally proclaimed a national holiday in 1914 by

President Woodrow Wilson. The date was set as the 2nd Sunday in May.

After it became a national holiday, many businesses started to commercialize the day. Businesses that sold candy, flowers and greeting cards jumped on the bandwagon. By the 1920s, the floral industry had increased the price of white carnations and introduced red carnations to meet the demand. The meaning had now changed. The red carnation represented living mothers and white honoring deceased mothers.

Jarvis was quite upset by these changes and their attempt to commercialize the special day she had established. She protested and even tried to rescind Mother's Day. She was arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention that was selling carnations.

While others profited from the concept of Mother's Day, Jarvis did not. In fact, all the fighting led to her own economic hardship and emotional downfall. She never married and never had any children. Jarvis died in 1948 and was buried next to her mother in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Today, Mother's Day is one of the most widely celebrated days on the calendar. It is estimated that it is a \$15 billion event for the retail industry. Mother's Day is the biggest day of the year for the floral and restaurant industries. Long distance phone calls peak on this day. The U.S. Postal Service experiences an increase volume of mail on the days leading up to Mother's Day. All this to the dismay of one Anna Jarvis.



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THE OFFSHORE REPORT

by Captain T.J. Shea



May and June, we are going to go with 2 themes for the next couple of months. First off, we sure hope Mother Nature is in a much better mood than she was for March and April. Secondly, on the rod and reel side of things, is the "juice worth the squeeze?" Blustery conditions kept us doing yard work more often than we would have liked the last few months,

so we hope the conditions allow us to contemplate that second statement often. May 1st is the opening of Greater Amberjack and June 1st will open up Red Snapper and Gag Grouper. Both seasons will mean long runs to catch quality fish. With the skyrocketing cost of fuel 40-70 mile runs may not come without factoring in the added expense it will take to get there. The reduced pressure should help to ensure catching your legal limits closer to shore longer into the season. For Jacks we never run without being fully prepared to throw the kitchen sink at them. Some days they may only hit vertical jigs and other days the only want live baits. Some days they hit anything and everything you throw at them. Whenever we commit to an Amberjack trip we run with "the works" when it comes to live baits and jigs, and we are generally able to get the action going. Red snapper are not usually very picky,

and the bag limit of two per person make those 24 inches and larger much more valuable than the 16-20 inch fish. We still run all these trips with a variety of different frozen bait as well as live baits and jigs. If you are going to commit to the cost to target either of these coveted species, head out with every bit of ammo you can to help ensure a successful trip. Have your flat lines out, as this is also prime time for tuna and late season kings. We put out two, one with a live bait and one with a frozen sardine. On the scuba side there is no doubt the locals will appreciate the water temps finally getting into the high 70 and low 80's. Visibility should be ideal as the seas calm down and the summer rains wait until later in June to shorten your day. This is the best time of year to get wet, so go enjoy all the Gulf has to offer above and below the water line. If you have any questions, feel free to email us as we are always here to help, whether you head out on one of our boats or your own.



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Turtle photo by Ryan Wiggins.

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PSFRD Welcomes New Fire Engine with "Washdown" Ceremony

by Pete Magnani

The image of a fire engine brings many emotions to mind, particularly strength and dependability, as well as the hope and relief the truck will bring to those in crisis. Fire engines typically have about a 15-year lifespan, but in 2020 Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District's Squad 26 was approaching twenty years in service. Anticipating the rescue pumper's necessary retirement, PSFRD's Apparatus Committee began the arduous process of designing a replacement.

Almost two years later, Fire Chief Jeff Davidson, a contingent of local government leaders, and about 100 community members welcomed the new Squad 26 into service with a traditional Washdown Ceremony at

PSFRD Station 27 on Indian Rocks Beach.

The "Washdown" or "Housing" ceremony has a long tradition in the fire service dating back to the days when horses pulled carts from the firehouse to the emergency scene. When a new piece of equipment was obtained, the firefighters and community would clean the apparatus as a form of blessing, then the crew would push it into the equipment bay as a team.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by PSFRD Chaplain Father John, Chief Davidson gave a brief history of the department's evolution from a small band of volunteers to the professional organization that currently serves Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Belleair Beach, Belleair

Shore, and part of the unincorporated mainland.

The ceremony began with Firefighter Patrick Schwab tolling the station's bell, an homage to the days when the bell was rung to call the volunteers to respond to the firehouse for an emergency. His father, Shift Commander Dennis Schwab, was a 28-year veteran of the Indian Rocks Fire Department before his passing in 1994. Patrick was raised around the firehouse and served as an explorer and a volunteer before becoming a career firefighter.

After the blessing, Firefighter Schwab sprayed Squad 26 with the portable water can from the pumper it was replacing. PSFRD staff, along with their families and other attendees cleaned and dried the truck. The firefighters then pushed Squad 26 into the apparatus bay and the event concluded with refreshments provided by Crabby Bill's and Pipo and Betty's. Squad 26 will be stationed in Indian Shores but will serve all the communities protected by PSFRD.

In other PSFRD news, Indian Rocks Beach Station 27 on First St had to be tented the last week of April to mitigate a termite infestation. Personnel, vehicles, and the computer dispatch system were relocated to the Holiday Inn at 401 Second St. "The infestation had to be resolved," Davidson said. "The conditions were untenable." In addition to housing a fire engine and personnel, Station 27 contains the district's administrative offices, marine unit, and all EMS supplies needed to restock after each emergency run.



TRAILBLAZING WOMEN’S EXHIBIT OPEN AT CLEARWATER MUSEUM

The Clearwater Historical Society, Inc., and the Pinellas Community Foundation opened the Trailblazing Women: Third Annual Women’s History Month Exhibit at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center, 610 S. Fort Harrison Ave. Clearwater.

The 2022 Trailblazing Women honorees are:

- Katherine H. Biddle, inspirational Clearwater High School coach, teacher, mentor, and namesake of the school’s football field
- Isay M. Gulley, award-winning female President/CEO of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services and 20-year Coast Guard reservist
- Phyllis Bayly Jones, pioneering female banker and community leader
- Mayme Weaver Hodges, first (and last) Black woman on Clearwater City Council and ground-breaking community leader
- Dorothy Judith (Judy) Lutz, International President of General Federation of Women’s Clubs, nurse, and volunteer at the Clearwater Free Clinic
- Betty J. Perry, founder of the Uncommon Touch ministry and instrumental in founding and leading Mount Zion United Methodist Church
- Karen Williams Seel, accomplished city and county commissioner and community advocate
- Jessie Lee Wilder Thacker, pioneering female lawyer in Clearwater and trailblazing St. Petersburg College educator


The Trailblazing Women Exhibit is generously supported by presenting sponsor Pinellas Community Foundation. Sponsors include The Ruth & JO Stone Foundation, Morton Plant Hospital, Les & Judy Smout Foundation, Mary Ann & Brad Morse, and Tampa Bay Magazine. Special thanks are given to the 2020 Pioneers, 2021 and 2022 Settlers, Honorees, their family members, and friends.

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

The Society hosted its first Women’s History Month Exhibit in March 2020. The exhibit honored eight women for being first in their actions, their time in history, their profession, or their accomplishments. Launched prior to the COVID pandemic, the exhibit was enjoyed throughout 2020 by private tours.


The Trailblazing Women: Third Annual Women’s History Month Exhibit at runs through May 21 and is open during museum hours 10am-2pm Friday – Saturday or by scheduling an appointment. It features photos, archives, videos, and artifacts that tell the honorees stories, individual contributions, challenges, and triumphs. Nomination forms for the 2023 Women’s History Exhibit are available.

For more information or to schedule a visit outside museum hours, contact Allison Dolan, Clearwater Historical Society President at (727) 754-8019 or email clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.




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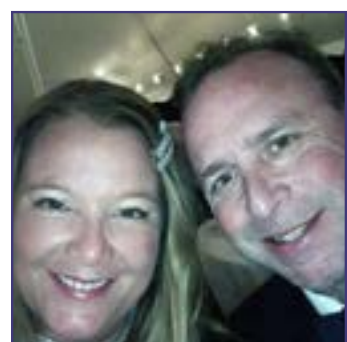
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Business Briefs

15 YEARS OF INSURANCE This year, Great Florida Insurance is celebrating their fifteenth year in business. The husband-and-wife team of Faron Estep and Kristin Asbury have a combined total of 50 years insurance experience and specialize in personal lines. Visit their office in Largo at 12998 Walsingham Road, Online at indianrocks.greatflorida.com, or call (727) 595-6000.



FLIP FLOP SHOPS This new store selling the latest styles in flip flops and other things for your feet is opening in Belleair Bluffs. "We exist to be the premier curator of beach and relaxation footwear," their website explains. "We work with over 90 fantastic footwear, apparel, and accessories brands, all in one simple location. Find Flip Flop Shops soon at 2919 West Bay Drive, in the Bonefish Plaza, next to Cold Stone Creamery. Get more information a www.FlipFlopShops.com.

MARKET UPDATE Interest rates are on the rise and it appears that trend will continue. Now is the time to lock in your purchase or refinance with wholesale rates while they are still low. Barbara Webb, Indian Rocks Beach resident and owner of BR Funding can get the financing you need to buy your new home or use the equity in your current home to meet your financial needs. Call the office at (727) 330-6888, apply online at BRFunding.org or call Barbara directly at (727) 492-7782.



NEW ART GALLERY IN THE PLAZA Carrie Smith Art Gallery is a new business in the Belleair Bluffs Plaza. This gallery features all of Carrie's award winning artwork, which consists of large scale oil portraits. Commissioned portrait paintings are welcome. For more info, visit carrievsmith.com or call (419) 545-4465.



BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If you have news for this Magazine, e-mail lora@magriffproductions.com or call (813) 361-7376.

CYBERSECURITY: KEEPING YOUR INFO SAFE

Submitted by Dena and John Perkins, Threat Angler

Due to current events, specifically the Russia/Ukraine conflict, you may hear more than ever about cybersecurity in the news and be nervous about a potential cyberattack. There have been multiple cyberattacks noted amid the invasion, as well as cyber warnings. Anytime there is conflict in a foreign country, especially one with sophisticated cyber technology, it is important to take extra care to safeguard information. As companies in various countries pull out of the Russian market and the conflict continues, targeted attacks where hackers attempt to blackout the power grid, attack government websites, or attack via malware and phishing attempts, among others have occurred.

Sometimes it is hard to know what to do in these situations to minimize the chance of being the victim of a cyberattack. It is also difficult to stay up to date on the latest happenings with so much going on. Threat Angler recommends using this time to reassess your online presence to see where you can make improvements. In a previous newsletter, we talked about the importance of two-factor or multi-factor authentication. Take a moment to make sure it is active for all of the sites which require authentication. Generally, when you log in, the site will text or email you a code if you have two-factor activated.

It is also important to review your passwords and make sure you are utilizing strong passwords. Change weak passwords or any you believe may have been compromised. Additionally, ensure your systems are set to automatically update to have the latest system updates on your devices, applications, or operating systems. This will provide your systems with necessary security patches and your operating system will have added security against the latest threats. Receiving phishing emails where the user clicks on a link which downloads malicious software or provides sensitive information remains a common type of attack. The cybercriminal takes control of your system or has sensitive information in their possession. Remain extra vigilant when receiving emails, especially when they have links or attachments. It is always safest to call the sender to ensure the email is legitimate before clicking as an extra step of precaution.

Threat Angler suggests "if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't" Take extra time and care when making choices about what links or attachments to click on, who to give your information to and what type of security practices you utilize for your personal information. Threat Angler is available to answer questions or help with your online security. Visit threatangler.com/contact for more info.

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KEEP PINELLAS BEACHES BEAUTIFUL

by Allison Allen, Epic Diving FL

Did you know that there are an estimated 200 times more microplastics in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way? That is about 50 trillion microplastic pieces. Why are microplastics so bad? Plastic inherently contains toxic chemicals, and it absorbs more chemicals from the ocean water. These chemicals are a danger to oceanic wildlife. When marine life ingests microplastics it causes slowed growth, reduces reproduction and offspring survival, and can cause tumors. Microplastics have been found in human blood therefore it is likely that toxins from microplastic bioaccumulate up the food chain and cause harm to humans.

- Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. The filters are made from plastic that breaks into smaller pieces that never totally biodegrade or disappear.
- 6.5 million tons of litter enter the world's oceans each year.
- 50% of the litter in the ocean is long-lasting plastic which will drift for hundreds of years before it is degraded.
- According to the EPA, 80% of marine debris originates on land. Removing litter from our beaches, roadsides, and waterways will prevent the increase of marine debris.
- Worldwide, 100,000 marine animals and turtles are killed annually by plastic litter.
- Excessive inland litter can clog storm drains and lead to damaging street flooding and contamination of our waterways.
- Getting involved in beach clean-ups is a great way to create awareness in your area and can lay the groundwork for future litter-reducing efforts.

This is sad but not hopeless. Preventing plastic from entering the ocean is the ultimate solution and you can help! Join Epic Diving FL in their effort to combat the accumulation of more plastic entering the ocean and harming wildlife. Just by showing up, you will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win some Epic Diving FL merchandise. All cleanup supplies are provided by Keep Pinellas Beautiful. All you need to bring is yourself and a friend! Epic Diving FL's upcoming Beach Clean-Up events are:



- May 19th - Dunedin Causeway - Sail Honeymoon
- June 16th - Sand Key Bay Side Park
- July 14th - Indian Rocks Beach
- August 18th - Dunedin Causeway- Sail Honeymoon

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SAFE BOATING WEEK

The Safe Boating Campaign is a worldwide effort focused on responsible boating led by the National Safe Boating Council with support from boating safety advocates around the world. At its heart, the Safe Boating Campaign is a grassroots effort that collaborates with partners to share about safe boating in their local communities through events, social media, workshops, and more. This effort has created worldwide recognition of the Safe Boating Campaign – reminding boaters to always wear a life jacket and boat responsibly.

On a local level, the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary and its members have numerous activities planned to bring the safe boating message to the residents of Clearwater, Pinellas County, and the entire Tampa Bay area.



Starting off the safe boating campaign, the Clearwater City Council will be presenting the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary with a proclamation. This proclamation encourages all boaters to renew their determination to always use courtesy and common sense afloat. It also asks all boaters to continue the spirit of Safe Boating Week throughout the entire year.

Then, on May 20th, individuals are encouraged to wear their life jackets to work. The Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary would love the citizens of the community to don their life jackets on Friday, the 20th, and then send a digital photo to Karen Miller, Public Affairs Officer at: capt.karen.miller@gmail.com. for inclusion in a collage to be published on Facebook and their website at: www.USCGAuxClearwater.com.

The official start day, Saturday, May 21st, has the CG Auxiliary spreading the word throughout the community. Several members will be at the Seminole Street Boat Ramp from 8 AM to 11 AM to offer free vessel safety checks. Another group of members will be at West Marine, at 2128 Gulf to Bay, from 10 AM to 2 PM to provide literature, answer questions, and provide sign-up sheets for future vessel safety checks and safe boating classes.

Capping off the week on Saturday, the 28th, members of the CG Auxiliary Clearwater Flotilla will again be at Seminole Boat Ramp to examine recreational boats for safety. While that’s happening, other members will be serving the public with an Open House at the Clearwater CG Auxiliary’s Headquarters at 510 North Ft. Harrison from 10 AM to 3 PM. The Coast Guard from Station Sand Key will be bringing over a boat on a trailer. There will be continuous tours of the boat and headquarters building, safe boating information, and hot dogs and beverages.

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

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Community News



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ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

On May 5th, A2K will celebrate our 23rd anniversary of service to our community! To honor our volunteers and welcome new members, A2K will hold a Cinco de Mayo Festival at Jake's Coastal Cantina.

May is also National Preservation Month! A champion of protecting and preserving the history and quaint town character of IRB, A2K has recognized local businesses and residences since 2007 with an annual Preservation Award Ceremony. We are pleased to announce the 2022 winners: The Plaza at 1307-1309 Gulf Blvd - Nekton Surf Shop (The Lopez Family)/Salt Public House (Adrian and Sabrina Bowles), the quaint cottage at 730 Beach Trail (sisters Mary McKnight, Lorraine Traina and Robin Robertson), and the newly renovated Rick Daddy's Seafood (Lisa and Rick Brumfield) at 215 Gulf Blvd.

A2K continues its efforts to keep IRB beautiful with our Service Saturdays. On March 5th, more than forty volunteers came bearing garden tools and gloves to clean up the County Park

across from Guppy's. Together we were able to weed, prune and put down seven pallets of pine mulch - that is 490 bags! A thanks to our partners



- the City of IRB, Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Greentown Kids. On April 9th, volunteers also spruced up the 12th Avenue Park.

We invite you to join us for our monthly meetings at City Hall on the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Learn how you can help to preserve and beautify Indian Rocks Beach and enjoy a fun, meaningful way to make new friends. We are already planning for Oktoberfest 2022, and we look forward to meeting new volunteers.

For more information check out our website at www.irbaction2000.com and follows us on our Facebook page.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Linda Dalina

Would you like to find out a little more about Indian Rocks Beach? Visit the Museum Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00am until 2:00pm. We are behind the CVS in Chic-a-Si Park. The original cottage, which was built in 1939, gives you a glimpse into life on the beach. See artifacts from long ago as well as photos and memorabilia from local Indian Rocks Beach families. Our Gift Shop has books, postcards and donated items like glassware and costume jewelry. See our Orange Grove Wall with our biplane graphic, reminiscent of the red biplane that used to fly over the beach. If you are interested in being a volunteer docent, we would love to meet you. You do not need to be a resident. Admission is free. For more info visit www.irbmuseum.com and our Facebook page.

Community News

GREENTOWN KIDS CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Allie DeVore, President

GreenTown Kids had fun participating in the Church of the Isles' Greenfest in March, where we made free wildflower seed bombs and bird seed pinecones with all the kids who stopped by. In April, we celebrated Earth Month with an Earth Day Beach Cleanup, a donation drive for our Take-A-Toy, Leave-A-Toy beach boxes, and lots of spring gardening! We also helped replant the garden boxes with the students at Anona Elementary and Anona Child Development Center for spring. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out on Earth Day for a cleanup and a sunset. Together we picked up more than fifty pounds of trash off Indian Rocks Beach to help keep our beach and ocean clean. Huge thank you to our project partners, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Action 2000 IRB, and the City of Indian Rocks Beach, along with our event sponsors, Anecdote Brewing Company and Midori Eco Salon & Spa. We all enjoyed a fun volunteer after-party at Anecdote to end a great day.



Our next citywide beach cleanup will be July 5th for our annual Red, White, and Blue Beach Cleanup (Sunset 6:30-8:30PM, 18th Ave beach access, IRB). Volunteers and sponsors welcome!



Please continue to drop used beach toys in the boxes at: 4th, 8th, 17th, 22nd, 24th & 27th beach accesses in IRB.

In May we will have our Spring Garden Party and U-Pick for all our members in the community garden. In June, we will be taking our Greenies on a local eco-field trip.

GreenTown Kids is a volunteer run 501(c)(3) nonprofit made possible by donors and volunteers like you. Thank you for your support! We are

always accepting new members, volunteers, and supporters of all ages! Learn more at: www.greentownkids.org; email us at: greentownkids@gmail.com; and follow us @GreenTown Kids.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

This club is open to the women of Pinellas County; all are welcome to come and socialize. The club meets at local country clubs or restaurants on the first Tuesday of each month and have programs, activities and speakers of interest. The next luncheon will be Belleair Country Club on May 3rd at 11:30 am. The entertainment will be singer Susan Dalzell. For more info contact Judy at (512) 789-5686.

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Community News

PEST CONTROL ALTERNATIVES

Submitted by Nate Ullrich

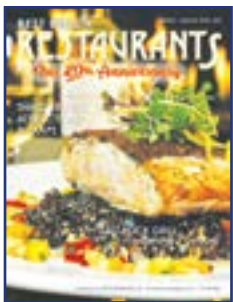
Chemical pesticides are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. While there is no magic bullet that would replace them, there are other ways of managing pests that can reduce the need for these potentially harmful substances. Thankfully, chemical pesticides that break down into less toxic substances soon after doing their job are readily available to professionals and consumers alike. These "less harmful" pesticides can be a great tool in controlling pests in our landscapes and homes.



There are also natural living options that can help reduce our reliance on harsh chemicals while keeping our yards looking great and our homes free of nasties. There is a variety of "beneficial organisms," insects, arachnids and nematodes for control of specific pests that plague our landscapes. Many of these organisms are already in the landscape doing their jobs. Unfortunately, most chemical pesticides kill indiscriminately. They reduce the population of the "good guys" as well as the pests, and in some cases the pest population bounces back even faster.

Blue's Greens can help by creating custom programs tailored to specific landscapes and pests. We can reduce the need for harmful chemical applications with these natural options. Call (443) 306-1885 for a free estimate.

BEST BEACH RESTAURANTS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



Best Beach Restaurants Magazine turns 20 this year. We started this magazine on a whim in 2002," says owner/publisher Bob Griffin. "We are happy to report that it is used by 100% of the hotels, motels and vacation rental companies on or near the beaches. That is about 350 places."

Pick one up at any area hotel or at the Visitor's Center on Walsingham in Indian Rocks Beach.

SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY REHAB REPORT

The Sanctuary had another record year of admissions with a total of 3,969 birds entering our hospital doors. With summer being our busiest time of year due to baby birds in addition to a severe red tide bloom that was active from June through January, our dedicated staff and volunteers were working nonstop caring for birds in need.

The Good News: Our hospital was able to successfully rehabilitate and release nearly 1,900 birds back into the wild! You can help by properly disposing of fishing line, hooks and fileted carcasses properly, planting native plants in your yard to provide food and nesting habitat, and supporting local conservation efforts preserving habitats.

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by Earl Wertheim



The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach would like to introduce its inaugural 'Flags for Service' event. The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is committed to Rotary

International's motto of "Service Above Self" and is seeking to honor those who are serving or have served our nation and communities.

From Memorial Day (5/30/22) until Flag Day (6/14/22), hundreds of U.S. Flags and accompanying personalized banners will be displayed in Chic-A-Si Park on Indian Rocks Beach to show appreciation for the sacrifices and dedication of current and former members of our armed forces and first responders. As a culmination of the two-week event, IRB Rotary will be presenting the annual Indian Rocks Beach Flag Day ceremonies at the Chic-A-Si city park on June 14. More details will be published as we get closer to the event.

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is offering you the opportunity to become part of this event by honoring your family or friends who are serving or have served in the military or as first responders. Visit Flags for Service – Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach (indianrocksrotary.org) to sponsor a flag and create a custom, personalized banner for those you wish to honor. Each banner will display the name, branch, rank, place of service, and service time of your hero. After our Flag Day celebration, you will be able to collect your flag and personalized banner.

Proceeds from the project will be used to support various programs in our community and beyond. A portion of this year's proceeds will support local charities Operation Military Matters (operationmilitarymatters.com) and Remember Me NP (programsforsuicideprevention.com). Operation Military Matters has been providing hundreds of support packages for troops overseas. Remember Me NP is a non-profit focusing on mental health issues affecting veterans and first responders.



All orders must be completed by May 7. For more information or to participate, please visit the above Rotary website or contact event chairperson Paul J. Burns at 727-595-4540.

Rotary Runs the Beach was a great success, with over 300 participants, including our firefighters. Thank to everyone for their participation.

Community News

WEST PINELLAS LITTLE LEAGUE

Submitted by Majors Coach Troy Sanders



As we enter the final stretch of our Spring games, West Pinellas wants to thank all our players and families for another great season!

Watching the growth and development from our T-Ball players all the way up to the big boys this year has been incredible. Having one or more teams at each division shows that West Pinellas Little League is alive & kicking!

Our beach league has become incredibly dear to my heart and Campalong Field is my favorite place to be in IRB! Fall Season Registration is now open for ages 4-14. Games run from September through November.

Visit irbrocks.com for more information. PLAY BALL!!

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 their restaurant and Tiki Bar.

Their "Buy a Brush" Fund Raiser is continuing to refresh and remodel the Clubhouse. A NEW game night adds to their Trivia Night, and Bingo Nights. The monthly Wine Dinners have been well attended, along with the monthly Jazz Night, and Sunday Jazz Brunch.

Their Summer Membership program is just beginning, May 1st through September 30th. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$250, with no food minimum, just lots of fun in the Florida Sun. Summer 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 Fall. Call the Yacht Club's office, 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SUMMIT

The Ninth Annual Historic Preservation Summit will be held on Wednesday, May 18th from noon-6pm at Heritage Village. The event is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board. Established in 2005, the Board is responsible for promoting historic preservation by proposing additional designations to preserve historic resources and maintaining consistent historic preservation policy in Pinellas County planning processes.



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Community News

THIRD SATURDAYS AT PINWOOD

Come to Pinewood Cultural Park at 12211 Walsingham RD, Largo and enjoy activities from Florida Botanical Gardens, Creative Pinellas and Heritage Village every third Saturday from 10am to 5pm, beginning May 21st.

These free events will feature virtual and in-person activities including self-guided scavenger hunts, games, and instructor led events. Experience a typical store from the 1900's and learn about early sailing days at the HC Smith Store and McKay Creek Boat Shop Exhibit. Discover poignant stories about the covid pandemic told through artifacts at "The Things They Left Behind" exhibit, open through June 26th.

There will be food trucks on site as well as free parking. Visit flbgfoundation.org/thirdsaturdays for more info.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri recognized the Curlew Landings South Neighborhood Watch for its service at the Sheriff's annual Community Service Award Breakfast. Curlew Landings South is the largest HOA on Indian Rocks Beach and the Watch Program consists of ten volunteer "Captains" that meet bi-monthly with Deputy Dan DiFrancesco, the Sheriff's Community Policing Officer.

CITY COMMISSION

Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy was sworn in for her third term as Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach at the Investiture Ceremony held at the City Commission Chambers on April 12th. Joe McCall was sworn in for another term as vice mayor/commissioner, and Jude Bond began his first term as commissioner replacing Ed Hoofnagle, who didn't run for reelection. After the ceremony, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue Chief Jeff

Davidson introduced the firefighters and paramedics assigned to Station 27 on Indian Rocks Beach and recognized their participation in high-profile emergency calls in the last month, including the police pursuit that ended with several crashes on Gulf BL and the structure fire at an Indian Rocks Beach condominium that involved the rescue and subsequent community-wide search for Wendy, a neighbor's dog that got loose in the confusion.



BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

We are extremely excited to announce that Andrea Harms has taken on the full-time position of Operations Manager at the Beach Art Center. The Beach Art Center has operated for the past several years without full-time management as we focused on re-building our programs and making necessary improvements to our building with the help of dedicated volunteers, board members and our generous community. Barbara Parker has served as both the Operations Manager and Board President.

Barbara will continue to serve as the Board President and pass the management torch to Andrea. Irene Zafferres will continue in her critical role executing all elements of the Front Office. The Beach Art Center & our Members, Students, Teachers & Guests are so grateful for Irene's support and dedication.

Andrea Harms has been a part-time contractor with the Beach Art Center for four years however her relationship with BAC goes back much further. Andrea and her husband Christian have raised their family here in Indian Rocks Beach. Andrea's children participated in Creative Kid's Camp and Andrea has taken classes here for years and won awards for her work.

As part of her new role, Andrea will continue to actively manage our website, social media and class booking system along with creating graphic arts and promotional materials. Andrea's responsibilities will expand to include facilities & financial management along with working with Irene, BAC Volunteers to ensure future growth and success of the Beach Art Center.

Creative Kids Camp is BACK at the Beach Art Center!

8 Weeks Available, up to 3 Options each Week. Check out our website for full options, www.beachartcenter.org/kids-camp. You will find options in Pottery, Painting, Claymation, Print Making, Story Creation, The Art of Story Telling, Cartooning, Preserving Our Planet, Mythological Imaginary Animals...and the list goes on! We have a camp that will spark interest with about ANY child! Camps run 9am - 3pm, Monday - Friday. Weekly Camps will run from 6/6-8/5.

\$225 per week (\$200 per week for Members of the Beach Art Center)

Stop in to see (and READ) our "Poetry in Motion" show, which runs through May 11th. You will see beautiful visual art accompanied by a poem written from the heart of a local poet unknown to the artist. Our Kid's Show will run from May 25 - June 30. See our website for entry information. Art on the Rocks

While many of our weekly classes will be on hiatus while camp is in session, Art on the Rocks will continue. These classes run in the evenings...instruction and all materials are included. Have fun and leave with a completed project! Check out these upcoming sessions.

- Sat 5/7 - Paint Pouring Patterns
- Fri 6/10 - Beach Scenes Resin Jewelry
- Sat 6/11 - Mermaid Wine Glasses

For more info and registration, visit beachartcenter.org.

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