

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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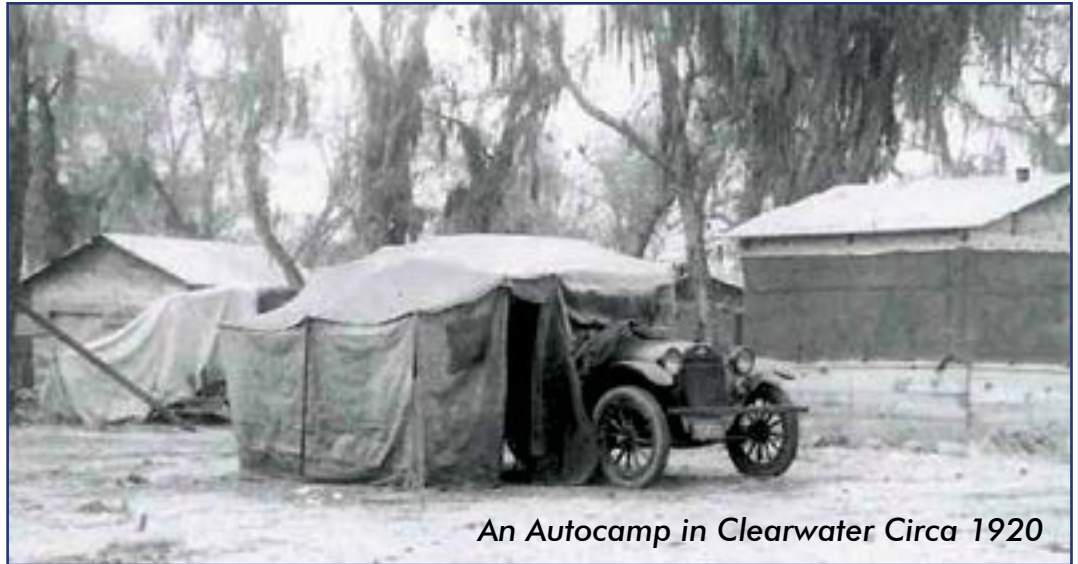
Magazine

TIN CAN TOURISTS - THE BEGINNING OF FLORIDA'S TOURIST INDUSTRY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Last year we bought a travel trailer. It is 32 feet and pulled by a Toyota pickup truck. The camping experience was new to us, but hundreds of thousands of people are doing it, and have been since the early 1900s.

Tent camping goes back to explorer's days. But tourism camping began in the early 1900s with the invention of the automobile, then exploded with the help



An Autocamp in Clearwater Circa 1920

of Henry Ford and his Ford Motor Company. Before the automobile, people were limited to traveling by horse, boat, or train to primarily large coastal cities and only camped due to necessity.

The automobile became a symbol of freedom. A new generation of Americans were delighted in their newfound mobility and anonymity which the auto offered them. As cars became more popular, and better roads were built, the average citizen -- who could barely afford to travel - could drive wherever the dirt roads led them.

- Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:



It is Scallop Season

If you have always wanted to try it, but haven't yet, here is everything a beginner needs to know about scalloping.

- page 32

Sara Blakely

The youngest self-made female billionaire got her start in Clearwater. Today, women worldwide use her inventive apparel.

- page 30



Meet Belleair Bluff's Mr. Bill

He and his costumes are probably the most recognized person in our area

- page 34

Tampa Bay Watch

This local non-profit has been getting residents involved in marine habitat restoration for almost thirty years.

-page 26



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

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SALES

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BeachNewsletters.com

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E-mail: bob@griffindirectories.com for more information.

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BELLEAIR AREA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER

CITY NUMBERS

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www.belleairbluffs.org
2747 Sunset Blvd City Hall: 584-2151
Fire Dept: 587-6714

MAYOR - Chris Arbutine, Sr

COMMISSIONERS —
Joseph A. Barkley, III • Suzy Sofer
Stephen McNally • Tylour Shimkus

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www.cityofbelleairbeach.com
444 Causeway Blvd City Hall: 595-4646
Fire Dept: 595-1117

MAYOR - Dave Gattis

COMMISSIONERS — Glenn Gunn, Vice Mayor
Lloyd Roberts • Frank Bankard
Jody Shirley • Mike Zabel • Leslie Notaro

TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORE

www.belleairshore.com
1200 Gulf Blvd, Belleair Shore 593-9296
Fire Dept: 595-1117

MAYOR: Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.

COMMISSIONERS — Mike Tolbert
Dorothy Niewlarowski • Douglas Seith
Mike Tolbert • Steve Bloom, Vice Mayor

TOWN OF BELLEAIR TownofBelleair.com

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair 588-3769
Public Works: 588-3795
Police Dept: 588-3769

MAYOR - Mike Wilkinson

COMMISSIONERS — Tom Shelly • Tom Kurey • Thomas Nessler • Coleen Chaney

CITY OF LARGO www.Largo.com

201 Highland Ave, Info: 587-6700
Fire Dept: 587-6714
Police: 586-7427

MAYOR - Woody Brown

VICE MAYOR - Michael Smith
COMMISSIONERS — Eric Gerard
John Carroll • James Robinson
Samantha Fenger • Donna Holck

SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES 582-6200

SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177

DUKE POWER 443-2641

BELLEAIR REC CENTER 518-3728

BELLEAIR FINE ARTS SOCIETY 934-4304

BELLEAIR SOCIAL CLUB 585-9633

BELLEAIR BRIDGE GROUP 669-5283

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CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB 316-5504

CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

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Karen Seel 464-3278

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Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov

Rick Scott 202-224-5274

www.RickScott.Senate.gov

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Charlie Crist 202-225-5961

696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete

www.Crist.House.Gov

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

AUGUST

- | | | | |
|---|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Market in the Bluffs Reopens | 10 | Buc's Opening Game | 11 |
| School Supplies Tax Holiday | 1 - 7 | Patriots Day | 11 |
| Town of Belleair School Supply Drive Ends | 5 | Grandparents Day | 11 |
| Last First Sundays In The Alley | 7 | BBA Threshers Game Event | 13 |
| Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed | 8 | Third Saturday at Pinewood | 17 |
| Public School Begins | 10 | Peace Day | 21 |
| Bluff's Business Assn Mixer | 11 | Autumn Begins | 22 |
| Bucs First Pre-Season Game | 13 | Offshore Boat Races | 23-25 |
| Hope Villages Annual Grand Gala | 20 | Rosh Hashanah | 25-27 |
| Third Saturday at Pinewood | 20 | | |
| Clearwater Art Walk | 23 | | |
| Primary Election Day | 23 | | |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| OCTOBER | | Yom Kippur | 4 |
| Gulfport's Gekofest | 3 | Market In The Bluffs | 8 |
| College Football Season Opens | 3 | Indian Rocks Beach's Oktoberfest | 8 |
| Labor Day | 5 | Taste of the Beaches | 8-14 |
| Public Schools Closed | 5 | Columbus Day | 10 |
| Bluff's Business Assn Mixer | 8 | Indigenous Peoples Day | 10 |
| Summer Sale At The Plaza | 9-10 | BBA Mixer | 13 |
| | | Stone Crab Season Begins | 15 |

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Did You Know



BIRTHDAY SURPRISE Ryan Callan, a big fan of the Town of Belleair's Police Department, asked his mother if the police could attend his fifth birthday party.

After a phone call from his mom Shannon, he didn't just get an officer, he got Chief Richard Doyle. The Chief swung by their Belleair home to surprise Ryan who got to sit in the front seat and turn on the siren. Who knows, we might see Ryan patrolling the neighborhood in twenty years.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE The Suncoast Jazz Festival is November 18-20, 2022. This year they plan to celebrate the legends of jazz: John Lamb, Johnny Varro, and Houston Person. The 2022 lineup continues to grow and the Suncoast Jazz Festival is excited to offer:

Parasol Parade Poolside Friday, Swing Dance Friday night, Spectacular "Ladies of Suncoast" Saturday PM, Gospel Sunday Morning, and Afterglow to wind down the weekend.

Become a Sponsor or Benefactor and enjoy the Thursday Night VIP GALA with Cornet Chop Suey and the Galvanized Jazz Band. Complimentary Buffet.

Visit suncoastjazzfestival.com to purchase tickets and to learn more about their upcoming lineup.

988 HOT LINE This new program allows people in crisis to dial 988 on their landline or cell phone and be connected to a trained counselor at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Callers can receive counseling, resources, or referrals. Mobile units may be dispatched in some cases, where available.

Federal data shows in 2021 31.6% of adults in Florida reported anxiety and/or depressive disorder, and suicide deaths are increasing.

STAMP OUT MOSQUITOS The number one way to keep mosquitos out of your yard, is to walk around your yard weekly and dump any standing water. Even if you live in an apartment or someplace with nothing but potted plants outdoors, anything the size of a bottle cap or bigger holds water that can breed mosquitoes.

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME The 2022-23 public school year begins August 10.

The back-to-school Tax Free Holiday ends August 7th. It applies to clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$100 or less and school supplies and learning aids costing \$50 or less. Personal computers or computer-related accessories, including non-recreational software costing \$1,500 or less are also included. Get more information at FloridaRevenue.com.



The Town of Belleair's Rec Department is collecting school supplies and donations through August 5th. Donations can be dropped off at the Dimmitt Community Center (918 Osceola Rd.), or Town Hall (901 Ponce De Leon Blvd).

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and More...

UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Florida's Primary Elections will be held August 23rd. While voters can only cast ballots for candidates in their party, there are non-partisan elections on this ballot too. The deadline to register to vote has passed. Check your new voter ID card, recently mailed to everyone, as the district numbers have changed due to the redistricting process. Visit VotePinellas.com to check registration status, request mail-in ballots, and find precincts and polling places.



GECKOFEST Gulfport's End of Summer Celebration is Saturday, September 3, from 10am – 10pm. Celebrate the end of summer at Geckofest, Gulfport's largest festival of the year, honoring the waterfront village's unofficial mascot and favorite reptile, the Gecko! This year's theme, chosen by public voting is "Game Night" The theme offers inspiration for a wide array of costumes, as well as music, dancing, food and drink. Festival-goers are always encouraged to arrive in costume. Parking and admission are complimentary and the event is pet and family-friendly.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS A current membership card to the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation entitles you to admission privileges and discounts at 345+ gardens throughout North America. Find a Garden! To view the full Garden Directory, visit www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap. Learn more about the benefits of supporting the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, including discounts to special events, local nurseries, and our Botanical Bounty Gift Shop: at www.flbgfoundation.org/membership.

MARKET IN THE BLUFFS The Market will resume again Saturday September 10, from 9am to 2pm at 2747 Sunset Blvd., Belleair Bluffs.

ART WALKS Every third Saturday, at 10:30 am and 5 pm, enjoy a stroll in downtown Clearwater and learn about the city's vibrant public art scene. During the hour long walk, you will see at least twenty art installations including sculptures, murals, art wrapped signal boxes, pavement art, and storm drain murals. Meet your guide in front of the Old City Hall at 112 SOsceola Ave. Register early: clearwaterartsalliance.org.

FOUNDING FAMILIES OF CLEARWATER

On exhibit now at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum, see the families that started a small farming community that became one of the largest populated cities in Florida. They cleared palmettos to plant cotton and citrus trees, and built houses from lumber shipped from Cedar Key before we had sawmills here. Come learn about the families that came to Clear Water Harbor first. The Museum is open Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm at 610 South Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN OCTOBER If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at all City Halls, Panara Bread, The UPS Store and the Belleair Market. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few. Read this issue and others at BeachNewsletters.com. Follow us on Facebook for local news.

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TIN CAN TOURISTS, Continued

People of lesser incomes could not afford hotels. By the mid-1920s, when traveling, entire families slept in or near their cars. More ingenious people hung tent-like tarps off one side of their car and slept on the ground in a makeshift tent. At best, their equipment was nothing but the car, possibly a tent, a few cooking utensils and some blankets. Usually, a box was bolted onto the running board of the car to hold their supplies.



In the early days, these families headed south wherever the road took them, and as it turned out, that was usually Florida. This new breed of tourists became known as "Tin Can Campers."

The origin of the term "tin can tourists" is unknown. One theory is it is connected to the name given to Henry Ford's first cars, "Tin Lizzies." Another thought is it came from the "tin cans" many of these travelers ate their meals from. Tin cans were a new phenomenon that started after WWI and made traveling with food much easier. Another theory is it is linked to the large cans that these travelers strapped to back of their cars, carrying water and gasoline. In reality, it was probably a combination of all three.

Eventually, those dirt roads became brick—and evolved into shell or short strips of pavement. The 1920s saw the development of the Dixie Highway on Florida's east coast and the Tamiami Trail, which started in Tampa and took tourists all the way to Miami—thus the name.

By 1930, Florida had more than 3,000 miles of paved roads with campsites and roadside motel parks found along the way. Good weather and lots of sunshine encouraged northerners to hit the roads and head south. Florida attractions, large and small, began to pop up.

Each area had a place to experience Florida - St. Augustine's Gatorland, Ocala's Silver Springs, Weeki Wachee's spring, the Everglades, the Florida Keys. Still, Florida's beaches were always the biggest attraction, and they were everywhere. Tourists had something to do when they got here and something to tell their friends about when they got home.

Campers began forming organizations, the first was the "Tin Can Tourists of the World (TCT)" formed in 1919 and was billed as the world's largest tourist organization. The goal of the group was to provide members with safe and clean camping areas, wholesome entertainment, and high moral values. Members were recognized by their TCT tin can emblem soldered to the radiator cap of their car. Meetings were held in Tampa's DeSoto Park and spread to other Florida cities, including Ocala, and Sarasota. It remained a functioning group until 1977. The American Association of Automobiles (AAA) was created.

As membership grew, the groups drew the attention of area landowners who saw a way to make money from empty land. They recognized the members slept in their cars, so they began to advertise in the groups' newsletters as places to camp. These areas became known as "Tin Can Campgrounds." They popped up all over the state.

In 1937, David Welch, a developer on the Pinellas Beaches, opened a campground in Madeira Beach near the Madeira Beach Marina, next to the bridge. Called "Bay Palms Park," it was the first campground in the area offering running water and bathrooms.

Other beach campgrounds were: Indian Rocks Beach at Gulf Blvd. and 7th Avenue and Clearwater Beach where the Clearwater Beach Hilton sits today.

As the parks became more desirable, the campers' equipment became more substantial and convenient. Campers began to want more comfort in their travels and in the 1930s, the "House Car" was born - they were crude compartments built upon the chassis of a car or truck, modified to carry sleeping quarters, kitchen equipment, and barrels of water. Homemade, they reflected their owner's ideas and no tent was needed. One popular design had a drop floor. When the owner, set up camp, he would release a latch at each corner of the floor, allowing it to fall to



the ground. The bed, stove, cupboards, and wash basin stayed above and did not drop. A canvas was wrapped around the vehicle to shut out the wind as well as stray animals.

Gradually, these house cars became better built, more convenient and were quite popular. The concept was improved over the years leading to the invention of the travel trailer.

Today, recreational vehicles are no longer just for low-income tourists. The high-end rigs can cost upwards of a million dollars. There are many choices for camping: travel trailers - pulled by a truck and attached to the truck's bumper, Fifth Wheels - a larger trailer with the hitch connection in the middle of a truck's bed, Class A RVs - generally luxurious mobile homes with a solid body and a panoramic front window, Class B - camper vans, and Class C RVs - living space attached to a truck.

While many campgrounds have disappeared, in addition to County, State and Federal parks, there are still hundreds of private campgrounds in Florida and across the United States with many amenities. The average campground offers picnic tables, fire pits, swimming pools, shower facilities, propane, kayak rentals, and retail stores. Some even offer stables with horseback riding, children's activities, golf, restaurants and more. You can find hundreds of clubs, organizations, apps, and Web sites to help plan your trips. Some are free or others require a fee

The recent surge in camping's popularity can be traced to two things. First, baby boomers are retiring, but still want to travel. Second, the Pandemic allowed people that work from home to also work on the road with reliable Internet.

Camping offered a Covid-19 safe way to travel, sleeping in your own bed and cooking your own food, while mostly being outdoors. That is why you see so many campers on the highway.

Now you know, we can thank the early Florida "tin canners" for helping to kick start the Florida tourist industry and camping throughout the country. ■





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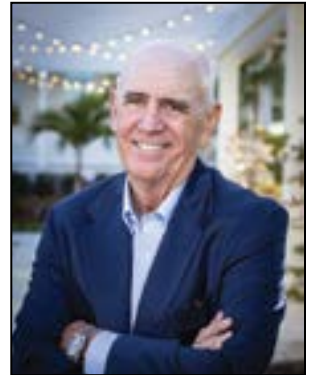
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MANAGING CASH IN AN INFLATIONARY ENVIRONMENT

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

For many years, savers have experienced historically low interest rates on their invested cash. While never feeling good about these low rates, at least in a low inflation environment it didn't hurt too much. But in current times with inflation running much higher, it is a different story. So how do you manage your cash most effectively?



The first place that comes to mind is likely the bank which hopefully will pay more than they have in the past. But banks may be reluctant to raise rates too quickly as higher savings rates with less corresponding borrowing cuts into profits. The money is insured up to \$250,000 per taxpayer, but we have seen bank accounts with substantially more.

An alternative is a stable value money market fund, especially one made up of 100% government paper. Since this type of fund buys government paper on a current basis, it is likely to pay higher rates than a bank and to do so in a timelier fashion.

We have written before about I bonds along with the pros and cons. Let's do a quick refresher. They are bought directly from the US Treasury in a digital format in any amount you want above \$25 with a maximum of \$10,000 per taxpayer in one calendar year. One can also purchase up to \$5000 in paper form through a tax refund. Thus, the maximum in any one year is \$15,000. The interest paid is a combination of a fixed rate for the 30-year life of the bond plus an inflation rate that is reset every six months. The initial rate was 7.12% But on May 2nd the combined rate was increased to over 9% for the next six months before it is adjusted once again. It could go up or down based on the inflation rate. You must hold the bond for at least one year and if you redeem it within five years, you will give up 3 months of interest, much like a CD. After five years, there is no penalty. While the \$10,000 and \$5,000 limits are a drawback, over a period of years these I bonds could become a valuable cash alternative tool.

If you would like to consider cash alternatives in a rising interest rate and inflationary environment, take advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
 ProVise Management Group, LLC
 611 Druid Rd E, Suite 105, Clearwater, FL 33756
 727-441-9022, info@provisemgmt.com



The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

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

NEW LARGO SHOWS ADDED

The Central Park Performing Arts Center announced its latest addition of performances, featuring a diverse lineup of exciting artists spanning multiple genres. Tickets are on sale now at LargoArts.com or by calling (727) 587-6793

- **The Daily Show Writer's Comedy Tour**
Friday, September 16 at 8pm

This International comedy tour features four brilliant, Emmy-nominated writers combining their comedic talents for a show you won't soon forget. The lineup includes Kat Radley, Matt Koff, Randall Otis, and Joe Opio, The Daily Show is the longest-running program on Comedy Central and has already won 24 Primetime Emmy Awards. See how "The Writers" find laughs everywhere and bring it all to Largo.

\$24.50-\$39.50 Reserved Seating plus applicable fees

- **Medium Cindy Kaza**

Saturday, October 8 at 8pm

Cindy Kaza is a clairvoyant and psychic who works across the country as an evidential medium. Cindy will connect many audience members with the spirit of past friends and loved ones that have passed to the other side. Cindy will provide specific evidence and feelings of these Spirits in such detail that it will leave you amazed. Prepare to have a memorable experience you won't forget.

\$29.50-\$44.50 add \$5 at the door plus applicable fees

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS PREPARES FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

A select group of volunteers prepares for their Holiday Lights in the Gardens event. Monthly, these volunteers gather to help plan and implement the Holiday Lights display. This includes testing lights, building displays, repairing items, and decorating trees. The next meeting is August 9th, from 8am - 1pm, with volunteers arriving at any time throughout. Shifts continue on the second Saturday this Summer and into Fall, when installation begins and assistance with placement of various display item will be needed. Shifts are in the light storage area, or the "Light House" as it is often referred to amongst the organization. Visit our Volunteer page to sign up today: www.flbgfoundation.org/volunteer.

SUEÑOS DE DALÍ RETURNS

Join the Dali Museum, October 22 from 8:30 - 11:55pm for the most surreal rendezvous of the year, as their spectacular building and gardens are transformed into a celestial dreamlike experience like no other, with live music, themed open bars of curated cocktails, tantalizing treats and gallery access. Their 9th annual Sueños de Dalí fundraiser is hosted by The Guild with the support from the Zodiac Membership Committee. Proceeds support the Museum's mission as a nonprofit arts and education organization.

This year's event draws inspiration from Salvador Dalí's Twelve Signs of the Zodiac print suite (1967). Guests are encouraged to dress in whimsical or cocktail attire inspired by their Zodiac sign to fully immerse themselves in the environment. This event will be held both indoors and outside (weather permitting).

Member Tickets: \$140

General Admission Tickets: \$150

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Business Briefs



LOTIONS AND POTIONS

This is the name of a new Belleair Bluffs business by owner Sasha Richard. She came to Pinellas County from Las Vegas where she was a full time licensed Aesthetician, and has been working in the hotel and hospitality industry for over sixteen years.

"I provided make-up and waxing services at some of Las Vegas's most notable

hotels and casinos," says Richard. "In my role there, I worked with many celebrities and the owners of many of the largest hotels."

During the Pandemic, she decided to move to Florida and start her own business, "Lotions and Potions," in Belleair Bluffs. Find her inside of Agnes Green's Ageless and Evergreen building at 2402 West Bay Drive.

You can call her direct at 702-207-9478. She looks forward to meeting and pampering you.

LAST FIRST SUNDAYS IN THE ALLEY FOR THE SEASON

This summer, the merchants in The Alley have invited everyone to visit their shopping district on the first Sunday of the month when most merchants have offered special Summer Time deals. August 7th is the last Sunday event. Find The Alley at 596 Indian Rocks Road N.

NEW NAME SAME GREAT SALON

"I have had 'My Salon' as my business name for over 14 years," owner Alison Hall says. "Now I am changing it to Avantgarde Salon & Spa to reflect what we really do. The word 'Avant Garde' means new, unique and cutting edge—especially as it relates to the arts—and hairstyling is definitely ART. This is a full-service salon and spa offering a wide variety of skin treatments, in addition to hairstyling."

Alison Hall is celebrating the end of her first year in The Plaza. The salon may have a new name, but it still has the same phone number 421-9091.

SUMMER SALE AT THE PLAZA

Some of the stores in The Plaza have decided to offer a huge Summer Blowout Sale. Join them Friday and Saturday, September 9th and 10th from 10am until 5pm for some of the biggest sales of the summer. The participating stores include:

- Belleair Opticians
- Cassy & Co
- Shoes by Beverly
- Carrie Smith Art
- Lala's

The Plaza is located at 100 Indian Rocks Rd N., Belleair Bluffs.



NEW BLOWTIQUE SALON DELAYED

There have been some delays to the new blow-out salon coming to the Bonefish Plaza. The opening has been delayed a few months waiting on equipment. The owners have also decided to change the name. Watch this space for more information soon.

Business Briefs

FRANKIEWICZ FINANCIAL

Father and son Steve and Larry Frankiewicz recently opened a branch office of their family-owned mortgage brokerage in the old Farm Store property on Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs. They may be new to Belleair Bluffs, but with over 50 years of combined experience they are not new to the mortgage industry.



Their philosophy is not the same as your normal 9-5 lender. Everyone at Frankiewicz is available seven days a week. They strive to make your home purchase or refinance experience the best in the industry.

Visit www.thefrankiewiczteam.com to apply online. Find them at 305 Indian Rocks Road N. You can call Steve at 727-741-5707

NEW CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE Rosemary DePasque, her husband, Dr. Scot McCormick, and Dr. Jan Rivera, opened Belleair Bluffs Chiropractic at 490 Indian Rocks Road N., Belleair Bluffs.

They are offering free weekly Belleair Bluffs Education seminars. These Health Talks are held live and online on every Tuesday beginning at 6pm. Topics include "A Half Hour to Health", "Backpack Awareness" and others. See their website bellbluffschiro.com for other topics and dates.

For appointments, call the office at 585-4300.

COMING SOON TO INDIAN ROCKS ROAD The Bank of America building, and the large lot north of it, has been purchased by developer and local resident Allen Goins, owner of A.G. Development.

"We scaled back the plans and are only building two stores on the empty lot, one will be a Dunkin' Donuts," says Goins. "There are no changes planned for the bank building or its tenants."

JEWELER'S WORKBENCH Not really in Belleair Bluffs but close by, is a new jeweler, coming soon. They do custom design and repairs. It is still under construction at 1901 West Bay Drive.

BEST BEACH RESTAURANTS MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 50TH ISSUE

The owners of this Neighborhood News Magazines also publish Best Beach Restaurants magazine, a restaurant guide for tourists. Printed twice a year, September will be its 50th issue.



"We started the magazine on a whim in 2001," says owner Bob Griffin. "We are happy to report even in our Google search world, it is still used by 100% of the hotels and vacation rental companies on or near the beach - about 350 places."

Pick one up at any area hotel.

FITNESS TOGETHER NOW SUMMIT JD Christie changed the name of his fitness center to "Summit Fitness" and plans to move into the old fire station.

"They were not quite ready for us in August, so our plans have moved to maybe September," JD says. "Keep an eye on the fire house, and when you see our new signage—featuring our new name, we are moving."

In the meantime, find Summit Fitness in the Bonefish Plaza.

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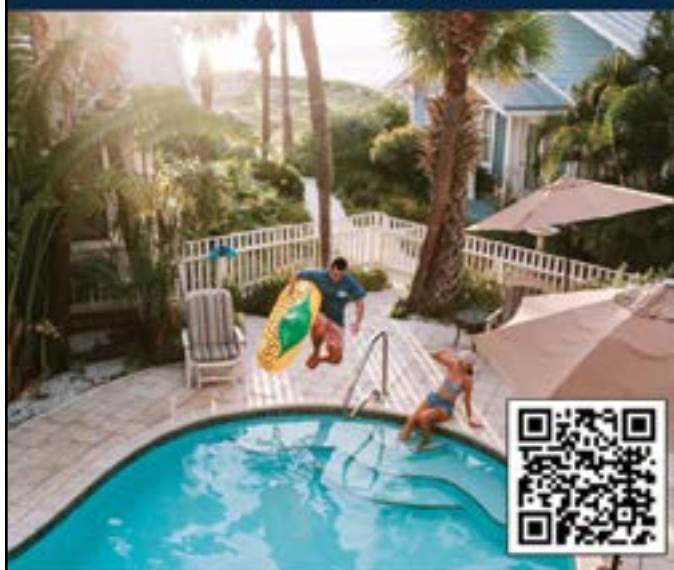
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FREEFALL THEATRE COMPANY UPCOMING SHOWS

Rose and Walsh

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By Neil Simon (his final masterpiece)

At a beautiful beach house on the tip of Long Island, Rose, a celebrated but penniless author, receives nightly visits from Walsh, the love of her life and a famous writer himself. Now Walsh must go away forever, but not before securing Rose's financial future with an extraordinary proposal that promises to change everything. *Rose and Walsh* is a warm, witty and joyful story of the enduring romance between two formidable literary figures.

All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
October 5 - October 23

World premiere play by Tony Award winner Rupert Holmes

Supreme Court Justice "RBG" welcomes a friend of the family to her cozy chambers to convey, over the course of ninety fascinating and often funny minutes, a sense of her life and its many trials: losing her mother the day before she graduated as valedictorian of her Brooklyn high school - being one of only nine young women studying law at Harvard while also raising a daughter and helping her husband battle cancer - fighting for women's rights in the nineteen-seventies before condescending all-male courts - and taking courageous stands for human rights as a voice of reason amid a splintering and increasingly politicized Supreme Court. An evening with a great and compassionate icon of straight-thinking American justice emerges, an RBG who is not only "notorious" but victorious as she takes a stand for ordinary people facing the many challenges of a changing world. Bring your scrunchies, your hankies, your humor, and your heart to this entertaining and uplifting event!

The Night Before

November 25 - December 24,

By Matthew McGee | music by Michael Raabe

freeFall's hit holiday show returns with an updated romp for 2022. There's no place like home for the holidays. It's snowing in sunny Florida when a group of friends and a surly house cat named Stephen Sondheim gather around the piano for a night of fun, music, and games. Alternately hilarious and heartwarming, This is delightfully reminiscent of classic holiday TV specials, yet refreshingly modern in its depiction of one fabulous night with the family you choose.

freeFall Theatre is located at 6099 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg. Visit freefalltheatre.com or call 727-498-5205 for ticket information.

CLEARWATER OFFSHORE BOAT RACES RETURN

The Annual Clearwater Offshore National Boat Races are coming back for the 2022 season. The three-day event brings a lot of nationwide attention to Clearwater Beach.

It begins Friday September 23rd with a VIP party at Shephards Beach Resort. Saturday you will see boats off Clearwater Beach testing their engines, and a big party for the public at Pier 60. Sunday, September 25 is Race Day. The first race is noon, the main race is at 2pm.

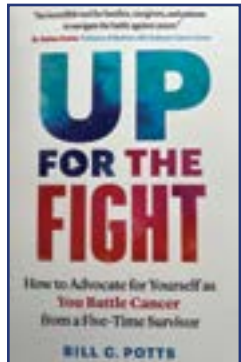
The Awards party will be held at Marina Cantina in the Clearwater Marina with an after-race party at Shephards Beach Resort.

Volunteers are needed, email to ClearwaterSuperBoat@TampaBay.RR.com or call 727-593-5536.

LOCAL CANCER SURVIVOR WRITES A HOW TO BOOK ABOUT CANCER

Many people know Bill Potts from his time as Chief Marketing and Revenue Officer at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where he was BFFs with Hope the dolphin, who he played hide and seek with each morning before the aquarium opened. In 2019, Bill was the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce Tourism Person of the Year. While at CMA, Bill helped create the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach CMA themed hotel rooms plus the amazing Winter the Dolphin Beach Club hotel, an eco-friendly themed hotel, also right on Clearwater Beach. Bill's favorite floors at the Winter the Dolphin Beach Club Hotel are the dolphin themed floor and the seahorse themed floor (remember Cheeto the Lucky Seahorse?). You may even still see Allegiant's Winter the Dolphin themed jet landing at PIE. Needless to say, Bill loves marine life.

Bill left the aquarium in September of 2020 to start his own marketing agency - Remedy 365, which counts as a client Whimstay, a tourism company that provides travelers deals on last minute vacation rentals throughout the U.S. and Canada!



Two weeks after leaving the aquarium, Bill was diagnosed - for the fifth time - with cancer. He had surgery on September of 2020 to remove a cancerous tumor at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. After surgery, while still in the recovery room, Bill committed to Mayo staff he would write a book to help others along their cancer journey, to turn his cancer pain into purpose. He not only beat cancer again, he wrote the book, too. On September 13, 2022, the book "Up for the Fight, How

to Advocate for Yourself as You Battle Cancer, from a Five-Time Survivor" will ship globally. It is available in the U.S. at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target, Indigo, Bookshop and local bookstores. It will also be available as an Audiobook.



Endorsed by the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, Mayo Clinic, and MD Anderson, the book is like "What to Expect When You're Expecting" - but for cancer. The book teaches cancer patients how to advocate for themselves, how to make treatment days more comfortable, how to manage side effects, and how to understand test results. In addition, the book provides tips for mental and physical wellness, facing and making peace with death, and recalibrating priorities to get the most out of the life you have now. Bill's favorite chapter is the one written by his wife and kids, providing advice to families going through the journey with a loved one.

"This is the book I wish someone else had written before I started my journey twenty years ago," says Bill. "With 18 million people being diagnosed with cancer each year worldwide, my goal now is to get it into the hands of as many cancer patients as possible. I am 100% certain each patient will find value in it, and it will improve their journey."

Bill is proud of the book, and if one cancer patient benefits from it, to quote Bill "the effort was worth it." To learn more about Bill, go to www.BillCPotts.com.

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LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

By Randy Lee

Landscape clients today want less maintenance, want to use less water and want plants that are easy to grow. Today's landscape trends include Florida friendly landscaping and using native plants. A combination approach can result in an attractive and practical landscape. Here is a list of native plants that do well in our area.

Native trees include holly, red maple, hickory, sweet gum, southern magnolia, pine trees, bald cypress, oak trees, elm and the cabbage palm. I use oak trees most often and the cabbage palm is very popular palm at this time. Also, all of these trees qualify for tree replacement if you are required to do so.

The most popular native shrubs are beautyberry, sea grape, wild lantana, wax myrtle, palmetto, Walters viburnum, Spanish bayonet and coontie. Several ferns are native as well and include boston, maiden and giant leather. We use wax myrtle, palmetto, sea grape and coontie the most on landscape projects.

Native flowers include milkweed, porter weed, crinum lily, beach sunflower, liatris, powderpuff, prickly pear cactus, black-eyed Susan and rain lily. Milkweed and porter weed are great butterfly attractors. Crinum lilies are popular accents used in the landscape and can grow up to five feet in height.

Native grasses are very popular in the Florida landscape. Varieties include muhley, wiregrass, cordgrass, sea oats, sugarcane and fakahatchee grass. Muhley and fakahatchee are the most commonly used today. Be aware that there is a regular and dwarf fakahatchee grass when selecting this variety- one grows to 2-3 feet and the other can grow to six feet.

Popular native vines include trumpet, morning glory, Carolina jasmine, coral honeysuckle, railroad vine and passion vine. These are all popular varieties and can grow out of control in a hurry! Railroad vine is usually only grown on the beach whereas all the other vines do well with a little support from fencing or a trellis.



These are just a few of our Florida natives. There are many other choices to choose from. These varieties along with other Florida friendly plants enable the homeowner a practical approach to a beautiful landscape

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

- Check/spray for lawn pests
- Fertilizer ban in effect until October 1st
- Great time to plant tropical plants, palms and trees
- Prepare landscape/exterior of house for occasional tropical storm
- Landscaping Maintenance: trimming, etc., is in full swing


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LOCAL AUTHOR USES HER ARTWORK TO TEACH KIDS

When Artist Shelley Augsbury decided the 2020 lockdown was a perfect time to use her talents for a home project, she didn't know it would evolve into a series of children's books she hopes will help make kids grow into kinder, smarter adults.



Originally from New York, Augsbury got her professional start in advertising. After working for different agencies, she opened her own art ad agency, before closing it in 2008 to begin teaching at the Maryland Institute of Art and the Creative Circus in Atlanta. While in Atlanta, she also began painting and showcased her art at galleries and festivals. Five years ago, she semi-retired and moved to St. Petersburg, but continued painting and displaying her work at art shows including the Vinoy and St. Armand's Circle.

In March 2020, with the galleries closed, and no art shows, Augsbury decided to paint the fence around her yard. An avid lover of the ocean, she painted a vibrant mural with several octopuses, various sea birds, crabs, and other marine life. Fox 13 ran a feature about her work, and parents began bringing their children to see it. She continued adding to the mural, and people regularly returned to view her progress. Visiting children began naming the sea creatures, and when she saw the joy her art brought them, Augsbury had the idea to combine her painting and writing to create a children's book.

Augsbury knew she wanted her octopus to be the main character and began researching names beginning with the letter O. She came across "Okalani," Hawaiian for "From Heaven" or "Of the Heavens." Her first book "Okalani the Octopus Can Count to Ten" combined a creative method to learn counting with details about the sea creature, such as octopuses having three hearts and nine brains. The book instantly became popular, and Augsbury wrote a sequel, "Let's Be Friends With Okalani the Octopus." Currently, there are seven books in the Okalani series. Augsbury plans three more to cap it at ten.

"It's a learning series. Each one teaches a lesson," Augsbury says. "One is on friendship and developing social skills to be nice and a good friend. One is about a growing family, new babies, and adoption. Another deals with pet responsibility when Okalani rescues a dogfish and learns to care for it. Another deals with financial responsibility, you have to earn and save your sand dollars and clams and use them to help others. Each book also teaches facts about the creatures of the sea, providing a dual learning experience. They're basically about life lessons and responsibility to help kids grow up kind and smart. I really just want to teach kids how to be nice."

In addition to her Okalani books, Augsbury has resumed teaching and painting. She taught a children's painting class at the Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach in June and has another in August. During the class the children will create their own storybook to take home. Parents can register their four to ten-year-olds at BeachArtCenter.org.

Shortly after publishing the first book, Augsbury started the Okalani Cares Foundation, to provide free books to needy children in partnership with the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Make donations or purchase books at OkalaniTheOctopus.com.

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PLEASE DROP YOUR DRAWERS FOR CLOTHES TO KIDS

Please "Drop (off) Your Drawers"!!! Yes, it is that time of year - Clothes To Kids' (CTK) annual Drop (off) Your Drawers, underwear drive for children in need, in our community. Each Year CTK distributes over 65,000 pairs of new underwear. The drive is designed to collect new underwear to help "underwrite" the cost of underwear - a basic part of the Clothes To Kids wardrobe. All children deserve clean, new underwear. Through the end of August, Clothes To Kids will be collecting new packages of underwear. Sizes needed for boys are 4-16 (boxer briefs) and young men sizes 30 & Up. For girls they need sizes 6-16, Junior Girls Sizes 5 and up (primarily bikini style). Please support their mission and help them provide this basic necessity. Clothes matter! Donate new packages of underwear to one of the three CTK stores or for convenience, you can shop at their Amazon Wish List found on the Web site at: www.clothestokids.org/dyd. Every Pair Counts!!!

More than half of the kids in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties qualify to shop at CTK. These families have a hard time providing the basic necessities for kids to attend school. CTK helps with clothes! Each child who shops at Clothes To Kids receives - 5 new pairs of socks, 5 new pairs of underwear, 5 tops, 4 bottoms, optional dress, pair of shoes and a jacket in season all FREE. If the child attends a uniform school, they may receive 3 uniform tops and 2 bottoms. More than 65,000+ pairs of new underwear will be given this year, again, all free of charge.

"Drop off" donations from 9 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday at any of the three stores: Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater - 1059 North Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South. Cash donations are tax deductible and are used to purchase clothing in short supply.

Make an Appointment: Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or are in crisis are eligible to shop with them. Call and make an appointment 727-441-5050 or visit www.clothestokids.org/shop-with-us.

Clothes To Kids, was founded in 2002. The non-profit's mission of is to provide new and quality used clothing to low-income or in crisis school-age children, free of charge. It is privately funded and relies on monetary and clothing donations from the community to sustain operations. Since its inception, Clothes To Kids has distributed more than 160,000 wardrobes to children in need. All donations are tax deductible. For more information about their mission visit www.clothestokids.org.



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HOW TIME FLIES - TWO DECADES OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A NEW MILLENNIA

by Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

It seems like just a few years ago that I was appointed to serve you as a county commissioner in 1999. And by the time 2000 rolled around and I was up for re-election, I knew I loved serving the people of Pinellas County’s District 5 and have loved it ever since. Twenty-plus years later, we’ve accomplished so much, and we did it together!

Before I take my leave near the end of this year, I wanted to look back at the last two decades of the county’s accomplishments. There are so many to mention that I’m going to have to start with 2000 – 2010 this time and tackle the next decade-plus in the next edition of this News Magazine.

It was the era of Y2K with its theories that computers around the world would crash as they clocked in the new year. The ominous start to the new millennium proved to be a bust but Pinellas County Government was off and running in 2000 with multiple projects to improve transportation throughout the county. Major road projects like building the overpasses on U.S. Highway 19, improvements to County Road 1, the Bryan Dairy Road and 66th Street overpass, the Klosterman Road and U.S. Highway 19 roadway and intersection expansion, Keystone Road widening, and the replacement of the Belleair Causeway and Memorial Causeway bridges were tremendous accomplishments for the decade. All totaled, there were more than \$416 million in transportation projects throughout the 2000 – 2010 period that improved the safety and commute on our roads in Pinellas County.

We can’t forget the Pinellas Trail as a transportation corridor either. The first decade of the millennia saw the Pinellas Trail expand and connect segments throughout the county including the Elfers Spur segment and the Keystone Road extensions. The Pinellas Trail was also designated a Millennium Trail by the White House in 2000 and a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service’s National Trails Systems in 2003.

Enhancing a safe and secure community has always been priority one for Pinellas County. Between 2000 and 2010, Pinellas County Government put a tremendous emphasis on providing the funding for fire and emergency medical services training to be sure our first responders were ready to meet the challenges of the new millennia. The County also provided funding for improved facilities and equipment for the East Lake, Tierra Verde and Lealman Fire Stations, the Pinellas County Medical Examiner’s new facilities, the Public Works Emergency Response Building and for radio towers and other supporting technology connecting 80 separate public safety agencies and 10,000 users to ensure reliable and efficient communications between agencies.

Pinellas County allotted more than \$86 million for surface water management projects during the decade to help protect our water quality and prevent flooding. Projects like Joe’s Creek channel improvements and erosion control, McKay Creek drainage improvements, and Alligator and Curlew Creeks channel and drainage improvements all help improve our water quality and also helped to avoid flooding throughout the county.

As the decade came to a close, Pinellas County was able to preserve additional precious habitat and provided green space for recreation by establishing Eagle Lake, Wall Springs and Boca Ciega Millennium Parks as regional parks for all to enjoy, expanded multiple trails and upgraded other park facilities to improve your experience.

This listing does not come close to naming everything that Pinellas County was able to accomplish between 2000 and 2010 and I still have another decade to go! Please be sure to look for the next edition when I review the last decade and the many things, we have accomplished together. My best to you!

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Bar & Restaurant News



3 DAUGHTERS OPENS IN CLEARWATER One of Florida's largest craft beer brewers is now on the beach. 3 Daughters opened a branch brewery and pub on the third floor above Hooters, in Clearwater Beach.

The space underwent interior and exterior renovations to provide a unique beer tasting experience.

They are offering traditional brand favorites and exclusive small-batch brews found only at the beach location.

"The new Clearwater Beach location has been in the works for years," says 3 Daughters owner Mike Harting. "We're looking forward to meeting the residents of Clearwater Beach."

The new tasting room features an on-site brewing system, used to make craft beer, hard cider, and hard seltzers—for this location only. The special menu offers "Beach Bites" seven days a week.

After you hit the beach, stop by our for the new Sunset Happy Hour, Monday through Thursday, get 1/2 priced drafts one half hour before sunset & ending a one half hour after sunset! Their 220-degree view of the Clearwater Beach is perfect for that sunset, too.

Find them at 381 Mandalay, over-looking the roundabout. Get more information at www.3DBrewing.com.

NEW COFFEE SHOP Enjoy this newest Belleair Bluffs coffee spot, that offers more than just a cup of Joe. Called Le Merle Coffee Bar and Bakery, it is owned by Henry and daughter Bri Gamez who specialize in fresh "French patisserie." The creamy, flaky, and delicate sweets come in many filling flavors.



Find them at 2985 West Bay Dr., in the Bonfish Shopping Center between Maggie Mae's and Westshore Pizza.



NEWEST COCO'S After a year of waiting due to design, permits, and Pandemic supply chain hold ups, Coco's third location has resumed their construction. If you are familiar with the previous tenant, 18 On The Rocks, you will not recognize the new restaurant when it reopens. Located at the north end of Indian Rocks Beach, the building has been completely gutted and the

new owners are starting from scratch. Due to that, it likely won't reopen before the end of the year.

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



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Bar & Restaurant News



PIZZA SHACK, A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS FOR 40 YEARS Pizza Shack celebrated their 40th birthday in July. This has hidden gem has been in the area for four decades and has a reputation for not only the best

pizza, but for its "romantic date night" atmosphere.

"It was opened by my Uncle Danny and Aunt Angie," says Dalaine. "They were from the Detroit area and opened it a few weeks before I was born. In 2005, they sold it to my mom and dad - Elaine and Darrell."

"I moved down here 16 years ago," says Dalaine, whose name is a combination of her mom and dad's names. "When Mom died in 2018, my dad decided to retire and sold the place to me."

"While many restaurants closed during the Pandemic, we stayed open. We offered 'patio pick up.' People could get almost anything on our menu—in addition to pizza. That kept our employees employed and our customers happy."

"Because of the Pandemic, we had to stop the lunch buffet, that was popular with our regulars. Now, at lunch, you can get a slice of pizza, and soup or salad for \$7.95. We still offer the Patio Pick Up, for those who ask."

Pizza Shack employs 25 people and is open Tuesday - Sunday. Find them at 11963 Indian Rocks Road N., next to Goodyear Tire. View their menu at www.PizzaShackItalianGrille.com

SNOW EATS This small cafe still under construction just east of Belleair Bluffs will be a full service coffee shop featuring pastries, key lime pie, and "Bing Su"- Korean Shaved Ice. Find them at 1901 West Bay Drive

NOW SERVING LUNCH Sekushi at The Plaza has begun serving lunch seven days a week from 11:30 - 4:00

Enjoy a fair priced menu, plus wine and cocktail specials daily. Find them at 100 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair Bluffs. View their menu at www.sekushiattheplaza.com.

NEW BEN AND JERRY'S STORE If you are an ice cream fan, you will want to know this - a new Ben & Jerry's opened at 409 Mandalay Avenue, across from the Hilton on Clearwater Beach. This is the first Ben and Jerry's store in Pinellas County! A favorite of ice cream aficionados, the company was founded in 1978 in Burlington, Vermont. They offer ice cream, frozen yogurt, and sorbet.

Now you don't need to buy it at the grocery store and you can try all their flavors – scoop by scoop.

SLYCE WYNE BAR OPENING SOON

Their new "Wyne Bar" has been under development for awhile and is almost complete. Management anticipates opening any day. Located next to Slyce at 311 Gulf Blvd., the bar will feature both indoor and outdoor seating.



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WE HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN

By Susan Glickman

Recently, our beach community stood together at The Hands Across the Sand event to say no to dirty fossil fuels and yes to clean energy marking the 12-year anniversary of the devastating BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.

While tourism is bouncing back after the BP oil spill, the COVID pandemic, and historic red tides, scientists are finding petroleum from the BP disaster in fish at levels two to three times higher than elsewhere in the Gulf according to researchers at the University of South Florida. They estimate it will take 50 to 100 years for the ecosystem to recover.

Sometimes we ignore long-term consequences. I think a lot about the future impacts of the decisions we make today. Too often, to make a profit, companies like BP not only ignore the harms they cause, but their industry - like tobacco companies did - have covered up and confused the science around their products.

In 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson warned of the danger of burning fossil fuels which cause a pollution blanket that is warming the planet to unhealthy levels. Fast forward, your health is at risk and now we must act before it's too late.

Turning to the past, we have much to learn on this front from Mahatma Gandhi. He was renowned for peaceful, non-violent philosophy of social change. Ghandi often shared simple wisdoms that provide such clarity even decades later. For example, he declared, "The future depends on what we do in the present." It's especially true when it comes to protecting our fragile natural environment. If an oil spill 12 years ago is still harming our health, we must do everything in our power not to have that happen again.

Ghandi also understood the central importance of health. He declared, "It is health which is real wealth, and not pieces of gold and silver."

The Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA) sole purpose is to protect public health by educating clinicians about the health harms of a warming climate and how to limit the worst impacts. Extreme heat poses a risk to all - especially the young, the elderly, outdoor workers and athletes.

FCCA strives to make our health systems more resilient and able to withstanding and respond to the human toll of natural disasters and diseases. Mosquito-borne diseases - dengue fever, encephalitis and west Nile virus - are on the rise.

We know as clinicians our most important mission is to help patients avoid preventable health issues. We are sounding the alarm about the need to move away from dirty oil drilling and support the transition to electric transportation and clean power and to stop burning dangerous fossil fuels harming our health.

The FCCA wants you and our lawmakers to know we don't need to drill for oil. We have alternatives - US car manufacturers are bringing 100 electric models to the market - and they are cheaper than driving gas vehicles.

Ghandi reminded us that, "Action expresses priorities." He also said, "There are two days in the year that you cannot do anything - yesterday and tomorrow."

As clinicians, we are acting TODAY and invite you to join us. Get plugged-in at floridaclinicians.org. Weigh in on what's going on at the local, state and national levels. Demand ALL elected officials and policymakers advance clean energy solutions, so we can preserve this paradise we call home. We can power our lives in a way that protects the future rather than risking what we love most.

I end with one more pearl from the Father of India, "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

Susan Glickman is Director of the Florida Clinicians for Climate Action and a long-time consultant to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

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A PRIVATE CHEF MAKES SPECIAL DINNER PARTIES EASIER

Do you enjoy entertaining, but don't enjoy the work and planning and preparations? Maybe you should think about hiring a private event Chef. The convenience alone of having someone else create your menu plan and shop for all the ingredients during busy times is something you can appreciate. It will also allow you to visit with your guests instead of working in the kitchen finishing the final details. Imagine a dinner party with the pressure of cooking for the evening removed.



A private Chef takes all the guess work out of meal planning, shopping, and incorporating seasonal ingredients. They know how much to buy and which dishes complement each other to produce an unforgettable meal. Instead of a stressful chore, working with a private Chef can be a fun experience as you get involved in the menu development. You may even be able to introduce new cuisines to your guests and even to you.

Hiring a private Chef makes a great gift for special occasions, holidays, and birthdays while allowing you to enjoy your company. Whatever the private events, from a dinner party for eight to a reception for a hundred, a private chef helps facilitate all your logistical needs making it a hassle-free special event.

Chef Todd Holender, with over 20 years of experience and serving the Belleair area, can help you with your private chef needs. He will work with you to plan the menu, do the shopping and completely prepare the meal. The cost is determined by the menu and the number of guests.

Contact Chef Todd Holender at toddholender@yahoo.com.

NEW TAX COLLECTOR'S WEB ADDRESS

Pinellas County rolled out PinellasTaxCollector.gov, replacing www.TaxCollect.com. The new Web site also features a virtual service center where you can pay property taxes, schedule appointments, and renew your registration. It can direct you to the State's Motor Vehicles portal which offers additional services such as renewing driver licenses and ID cards.

TASTE OF THE BEACHES

The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Taste of the Beaches October 8th through Friday, October 14th at participating restaurants. The event is a fundraiser for the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce and a local non-profit. This year's non-profit beneficiary will be PARC Center for Disabilities.

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to PARC Center for Disabilities. This non-profit organization has been serving our community since 1953. Their mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities to exercise their independence and experience life to the fullest. Their goal is to create a community where all individuals live with dignity and are treated with respect.

Taste of the Beaches is a week-long "taste tour" giving patrons opportunities to try a variety of local cuisines, all while giving back to the community! You can learn more about this event at: www.tampabaybeaches.com/taste.

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BOATING SAFETY: PREVENTING CRASHES, SAVING LIVES

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Few areas are as welcoming to boaters as Pinellas County. Our home is a boater's paradise with year-round warm weather and miles of coastline. But there are more chances of boating accidents with so many vessels on the water. In 2020 the US Coast Guard reported 5,265 recreational boating crashes that caused 767 fatalities, 3,191 injuries, and resulted in \$62.5-million in property damage. Here in Pinellas County we had 56 boating accidents in 2020. The leading factors that contributed to crashes, both nationally and locally, include operator inattention/improper lookout, inexperience/lack of training, and speed.



Florida doesn't require any kind of boating license, but to legally operate a vessel of ten horsepower or more, anyone born after January 1, 1988 has to take an approved boating safety education course. Vessel operators must carry proof of that certification or they can be ticketed.

A deputy needs to have witnessed a violation in order to stop a motor vehicle, but a Marine and Environmental Lands Unit deputy can stop any vessel simply for a safety check. Boats are required to have several kinds of safety equipment, including a personal floatation device (PFD) for each passenger, a throwable ring or cushion, an audible signaling device such as a whistle or horn, and a Coast Guard-approved marine fire extinguisher. Each piece of missing equipment could result in a citation, but many deputies prefer to use such stops for educational purposes and only issue warnings.

There must be PFD in the vessel for every adult and child when they are on the water, and every child under six on a vessel less than 26 feet must wear a properly fitting US Coast Guard approved PFD at all times.

A PFD can be hot and bulky, but the right PFD can save your life – if you're wearing it. Some PFDs are designed to ensure that a person floats face-up even if they are unconscious, which can be vital if you're boating alone. Wearing a PFD is also the safest choice in rough seas or high wind, or if a person isn't a good swimmer.

Deputies can also stop paddleboarders and kayakers for safety inspections or violations. Human powered vessels need PFDs and an audible signaling device to be in compliance.

Awareness is a vital part of boating safety. Watch for signs indicating no-wake or minimum-wake zones. These are the marine equivalent of speed limits and can be in place to help prevent collisions, to reduce harm to protected species or ecosystems, or to protect property. The vessel operator should always be looking out for hazards including boats, swimmers, divers, underwater obstructions, or structures.

You should also be alert to the weather. Check out the forecast including storm potential, wind speeds, and tides, before you get underway. Be aware that in our area storms can form quickly and conditions can swiftly deteriorate.

The PCSO Marine and Environmental Lands Unit is here to help you stay safe on the water.



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TALES OF THE CURLY-TAILED LIZARD

by Lora Griffin Magnani

Florida has all kinds of crazy critters like alligators, stone crabs, and bobcats, but it also has invasive species such as boas, lionfish, wild boars, cane toads and many more. There is one that is very prominent in our little beach town: the northern curly-tailed lizard (*Leiocephalus Carinatus*). Have you seen these larger-than-most lizards scurrying about town?

These little dinosaurs are actually indigenous to the West Indies like the Bahamas Islands, the Cayman Islands, and Cuba. Twenty pairs were introduced to an estate on Palm Beach, Florida in the 1940s to help control the sugar cane pests, such as mealybugs, grasshoppers, and termites. They are known to eat insects, flowers, fruit and at times smaller anoles (lizards). In their first twenty years they only traveled and spread to about twenty blocks around Palm Beach. They were later sighted on the mainland and currently reside in at least ten counties in Florida, with most of the population stretching from Martin County throughout Broward County.

Unlike the native lizards that mainly stay in the trees and higher habitats, the curly-tail lizard likes to be on the ground with loose, rocky seashore, limestone, and coral rocks (basically Florida beaches). Their homes are where we build our homes, concrete cinderblock is a similar to porous rock, so they tend to be around humans more than other lizards. Another difference between the two lizards is that the curly-tails have keeled or overlapping scales, whereas the native lizards have smooth scales. These little dragons can get quite large, growing up to eleven inches in length but most are around seven inches. They are a mix of grays and browns with a much more stout body and larger head. Their most prominent feature is their tail, which they curl as a defense mechanism to confuse the predators that are far away, making the tail look like its head. Predators attack what they believe to be the head, giving the lizard a chance to survive since the tail is detachable. Their main defense, however, is to run and hide. Another reason they curl their tails is to attract a mate and to display their dominance over their territory.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has more information on these alien lizards, as well as other non-native and invasive species. Invasive can be a scary word, so instead we will just call them invited guest who overstayed their vacation. While these lizards are nonnative and considered invasive, they are not aggressive or poisonous and do not pose a threat to the ecosystem. If I were to have any complaint about them, it would be that they don't eat enough mosquitos and love-bugs!



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WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP OUR WILDLIFE?

From the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary

Nearly every bird we admit to our hospital has sustained an injury or illness due to human actions. While it is not common for people to intentionally injure wildlife, it is the unintended consequences of our actions that affect them the most. Spreading awareness of these unintended consequences is one of the Sanctuary's main goals and through our educational programs and social media we are dedicated to preventing wildlife from becoming injured. Prevention is key to minimizing our impact on wildlife populations, and it is small things that you can do every day that can make a significant difference.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: Minimizing our footprint and reducing waste is key to keeping our ecosystems safe for wildlife, particularly our oceans. Several seabirds such as Albatrosses have been negatively affected by plastic pollution. Microplastics in our ocean smell like the prey that these birds eat, and when foraging to feed their babies they can easily mistake the plastic for food. Microplastics and trash pollution are also taking a serious toll on sea turtles and fish populations.

No Littering: Littering along our roadways attracts rodents and other animals, and this in turn can result in vehicle collisions with several different species of wildlife such as owls, hawks, possums, and raccoons. Vehicle collisions are one of the most common causes of injury that we see in our hospital.

Mind Your Line: Properly disposing of fishing line and tackle is critical to preventing injuries to wildlife. Nearly 60% of the caseload at the Sanctuary are due to fishing line or hook related injuries, and many injuries can have significant complications if not treated right away. Never leave your rod unattended and never just cut the line if you accidentally hook a bird.

Say NO to Rodenticide, Pesticide, Glue Traps: NEVER use any of these common pest control methods as they have serious consequences for the wildlife in your area. Glue traps are inhumane and are indiscriminate, catching anything that happens to come into contact with them. Rodenticide and pesticide often lead to secondary poisoning most commonly in raptors and other scavenging species. Hawks, owls, and other scavenging species are natural pest control!

Plant Native Gardens: Using native plants helps support the wildlife that live there; hundreds of different plants provide shelter, nesting habitat, and food for the birds living in your area as well as for local pollinators. Native landscaping is much easier to maintain and requires less watering and fertilizer to thrive. They are equally as beautiful as popular non-native plants and reducing the use of fertilizers improves our water quality.

Respect Posted Signage on Our Beaches: Many threatened shorebird species nests on our beaches every year, and it is critical to their success that we give them the space that they need. We ask everyone visiting our beaches to be respectful of posted nesting areas and to always keep pets on a leash when nearby. Disturbances can lead to the failure of an entire colony.

Support Conservation Efforts in Your Area: Local Audubon chapters, native plant societies, and ecological restoration organizations need your support. Volunteer, donate, or simply spread the word about their mission!

Support Legislation For Conservation: Tell your elected officials that conservation matters to you, and support candidates that are dedicated to supporting legislation that helps wildlife areas.

The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and relies solely on private donations. They do not receive any financial assistance from the government. They are located at 18328 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores. Visit seasideseabirdsanctuary.org or call 727-391-6211 to see how you can help.

ANONA TEACHER GETS PLEASANT SURPRISE

By Pete Magnani

Teachers leave an impression on the life and direction of each student they teach. Sometimes the fingerprint they leave on a child is a simple memory, and sometimes it is a much greater. Most often, a teacher sends students off to the next grade and does not see the results of their influence, even if they made a significant contribution. For Benjamin McIntyre, that teacher was Mrs. Kathryn Adikes.

Benjamin attended Anona Elementary School from first through fourth grades. Diagnosed with ADHD, he struggled in the brick-and-mortar education system.

"At home, my mother helped me, and I was writing entire sentences," Benjamin recalls. "At school, I struggled to write a single word."

In third grade, he was assigned to Mrs. Adikes classroom, and soon began to improve.

"Mrs. Adikes was a huge influence on me," says Benjamin. "She took me from being a failing student to really excelling - becoming a straight-A student - well, almost a straight-A student," he smiles.



Mrs. Adikes put Benjamin on course with an Individual Learning Plan that included some virtual schooling. He completed fourth grade at Anona and then his family moved to Kentucky. There,


he again struggled in the classroom and returned to virtual school, where he soon began to progress at a double pace. In May 2022 - at the age of fifteen - Benjamin graduated from high school three years early. When his mom asked what he wanted for a graduation present, he told her he wanted to return to Anona and personally thank Mrs. Adikes for the great contribution she made to his future. He made the trip a week later and surprised his former teacher at an fourth grade assembly.




Mrs. Adikes has been a teacher for thirteen years, the last eight at Anona. Although she remembers most of her students, Benjamin had left a distinct impression on her. "He was very intelligent, and very persistent," recalls Mrs. Adikes. "Sometimes things didn't come easy for him, but he always had a good attitude. No matter what kind of stumbling blocks were in his way, he would push on and overcome it."

Benjamin has been accepted into the Engineering program at the University of Cincinnati. He is not certain what type of engineer he wants to be, but he does think he will take college at a slower pace.

"It all seems interesting," he says. "My first year will be general engineering courses and then I'll make a decision. I think I'll take my time with college. I don't think I can go through the engineering program at double pace."





Julie Marcus
PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

PRIMARY ELECTION - AUGUST 23, 2022
3 WAYS TO VOTE

★ Vote By Mail


- All voters are eligible to vote by mail.
- Request a mail ballot at VotePinellas.gov or call 727-464-VOTE (8683).
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(Return location days and times vary — check locations at VotePinellas.gov.)

★ Vote Early

- Vote early at any one of our 3 Early Voting locations: August 13 – 21.
(Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- Bring your photo and signature ID to avoid delays.

★ Vote on Election Day

- Voters are required to vote in the precinct where they live.
- Polls are open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Bring your photo and signature ID to avoid delays.
- Visit VotePinellas.gov or call 727-464-VOTE (8683) to find Election Day precinct and polling place information, and a list of acceptable forms of ID.



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TAMPA BAY WATCH WORKS HARD AT EDUCATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION



The Tampa Bay Estuary is four hundred square miles of water and twenty-two hundred square miles of watershed. Fresh water from the Hillsborough, Alafia, Manatee and Little Manatee rivers mixes with the Gulf of Mexico's salt water to create a "nursery grounds" for fish, crustaceans and marine wildlife. It is a very fragile ecosystem which faces threats from pollution and loss of natural shoreline. Nitrogen from wastewater discharges, storm-water runoff and air pollution promote algae growth, clouding the water and reducing the water's oxygen. Construction and development have taken nearly half of the bay's marshes and mangroves and about forty percent of its seagrass beds.



Concrete Oyster Reef Ball installation

Created in 1993 by Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch's, mission is to protect the Estuary habitat, restore it and educate the public on its importance. Headquartered on Cunningham Key in Tierra Verde since 2002, more than fifty full and part-time employees work with nearly 8000 volunteers each year to improve the health of the Tampa Bay watershed through their hands-on restoration projects.

"I tell people we're in the construction business," Clark says. "We drive pickup trucks and Carolina Skiffs, and we like to get dirty."

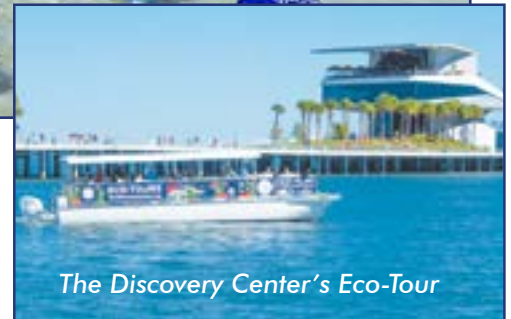
The heart of Tampa Bay Watch is their habitat restoration projects conducted by employees and volunteers. The Community Oyster Reef Enhancement initiative began in the early 2000s to restore lost oyster habitat. Oysters are vital to the bay's ecosystem - an oyster filters one to five gallons of water hourly. Each year, the team puts over two hundred tons of oyster habitat into the bay using marine-friendly concrete reef balls, oyster shell bags and vertical oyster gardens. The gardens are made from recycled oyster shells donated by local restaurants and suspended from docks creating new oyster habitats.

Tampa Bay Watch participates in the Interagency Seagrass Monitoring Program and conducts numerous transplant projects annually. When the bay's seagrass beds are healthy, they serve as nurseries for fish, crabs and shrimp that later will move offshore. The beds also reduce run-off fertilizer nutrients, improve water quality and provide a feeding ground for manatees, sharks, turtles and rays.

The organization also performs derelict crab trap removal, fishing line recycling, marine debris cleanups and restores native plants to the coastal marsh.

Their facility in Tierra Verde houses the program's offices and classrooms, as well as a 74-foot-tall Coast Guard permitted lighthouse modeled after the Boca Grande Light. There is also a venue for weddings. The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center opened in July 2020 in the new St. Pete Pier. The 3,000 square foot facility offers exhibits about the fragile ecosystem of Tampa Bay, the challenges it faces from pollution and other stressors, and how the community can get involved to protect it.

The Discovery Center offers both free and paid educational programs, summer camps and internships.



The Discovery Center's Eco-Tour

Tampa Bay Watch also offers Eco-boat tours daily from the Discovery Center. Moored at Gate 23 on the St. Pete Pier, the 90-minute cruise aboard their USCG-certified 45-foot catamaran offers family-friendly public tours, private charters, and school field trips.

The boat tour's passengers enjoy wildlife watching, visit bird sanctuaries, learn about the area's history, participate in dolphin identification, and experience marine species up close during a fisheries trawl where they will have the opportunity to help pull in nets for fishery collection. Sunset cruises are also available.

The tour is a fun, unique, affordable way to explore the estuary from the water. Proceeds support the restoration work of Tampa Bay Watch.

The Discovery Center is open Monday through Thursday from 10am to 5pm, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 7pm and Sunday 10am to 6pm. For details and tickets, visit tbwdiscoverycenter.org.

In addition to the educational programs at the Discovery Center, Tampa Bay Watch educates about 3500 children each year in the classroom and classroom boat located at the Tierra Verde facility. Each year, fifteen middle and high schools participate in a program to grow coastal salt marsh for tidal pond restoration around the bay.

For more info on Tampa Bay Watch, its programs and how you can get involved in the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay, visit tampabaywatch.org. ■

YOUR PROPERTY'S TRIM NOTICE - COMING SOON

Each year, before the second Monday each August, the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office mails a Notice of Proposed Property Taxes (TRIM -Truth In Millage Notice) to property owners of record in Pinellas County. This notice is very important to you and mandated by Florida law.

The TRIM Notice contains information on proposed taxes set by all the taxing authorities (City, County, School Board, etc.) that affect you. There are three variables that impact your property taxes: 1) property values, 2) tax exemptions, and 3) millage (or tax) rates. Changes in any of these factors can impact your annual tax bill. The TRIM Notice is designed to illustrate the interaction between these elements, so you can understand how your taxes are calculated.

Each TRIM notice will list the final property tax you paid to each taxing authority last year, what you will pay to each authority at the time of printing if no budget changes are made, and the predicted tax rates with the proposed budget changes.

For new property owners, your property taxes may be much higher than the prior owners'. Assessed value of property resets to full market value on January 1st after a change of ownership, usually resulting in higher taxes.

The notice lists the dates of any public hearing where they will adopt budgets and set millage rates/taxes. You should consider attending these hearings as the size of a taxing authority's budget determines the millage rate (property tax) necessary to fund it.

The TRIM Notice provides the market, assessed and taxable values of your property. The assessed value of all property in Pinellas County is determined each year based on the status of the property as of January 1. Taxable value is the

assessed value less any exemptions such as homestead, widows, etc. At the bottom, each notice lists the exemptions and assessment reductions that applies to the property.

The Save-Our-Homes cap limits the annual increase in the assessed value (not taxes) of a homestead property to 3% or the percent change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower, beginning the second year of the exemption. The 10% Non-Homestead cap limits annual increases in the assessed value of certain non-homestead property to no more than 10%. This benefit is automatically applied to qualifying properties.

If you think the Property Appraiser's set value for your property is incorrect, or if you have questions about the exemptions on your notice, call or visit their office.

Following a discussion of your property's market value, if you are still not satisfied with the value placed on your property, you have the right to be heard before the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). To do this, file a petition with the Clerk of Circuit Court who will set a date, time, and place for your hearing. Petitions must be filed within 25-days of the date TRIM notices are mailed. The deadline date is noted on the TRIM notice and on the petition.

The VAB's sole purpose is to hear evidence concerning whether properties are appraised higher or lower than market value and to hear appeals of the denial of exemptions. VAB members have no jurisdiction or control over taxes. Following your appeal with the VAB, if you are still not satisfied with the property value, you may file suit in civil court.

For more information see their web site at www.pcpao.gov

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NEED A LIFT? CALL PSTA ACCESS!

Unless you have needed it, many people are unaware the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) offers inexpensive transportation for those that have a condition that keeps them from driving or riding in a standard car. It might be a permanent disability or a recent accident limiting your mobility, including blindness or limited eyesight. If this describes you or someone you know, PSTA is here to help.

Their program (formally called DART) is now called PSTA Access, and offers a new program called Mobility on Demand. PSTA operates several vehicles that can either prescheduled and on demand that can come to your residence and take you most anywhere you need to go at a minimal cost. Rates vary from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per trip - or \$9 round trip.

PSTA Access, limited to areas within Pinellas County, operates 58 vehicles — 53 full sized vans, 5 larger specialized vehicles and many undedicated sedans. They also have an arrangement with outside contractors (taxi services, Uber and Lyft) who may be the service provider for your type and time of need.

"This is not a taxi service," says Bonnie Epstein, Director of Mobility at PSTA. "You normally must notify PSTA the day prior to your needed ride and you must be a pre-registered client, but registration is free."

"The ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) makes it possible for people with disabilities to have better access to the community," adds Epstein. "PSTA Access will encourage people to use public transportation more often."

Anyone applying for the PSTA Access Service should call to request an application at 727-540-1888 option 4. Applicants will receive the application by mail, email, or fax which they must return. Mobility consultations will be done over the phone and take about 30 minutes. After the consultation and medical verification, you will be placed into the membership database.



"I needed this fantastic service recently when I had an accident. I fell down at church," says George Cretekos, Belleair resident and former Mayor of Clearwater. "This PSTA program provides convenient and economical service for those with limited mobility, such as me. We used it because I did not want to get in and out of my car with the condition that my leg was in at that time. I was able to stay in my wheelchair for the ride to the doctor's office - and back."

For information on this PSTA program, go to PSTA.net/Programs and look for "paratransit," or call 727-540-1888 option 4.

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FALL PROGRAMS & LEAGUES START BACK UP AT THE BELLEAIR REC

It's hard to believe, but it's already time to begin fall programs and leagues at the Dimmitt Community Center. As school begins again, so does The Hangout, Belleair Rec's after school program. Belleair Rec vans pick up students from St. Cecelia Interparochial School, Curtis Fundamental Elementary School, and Clearwater Fundamental Middle School. The Hangout, which begins on August 8th and is open on school days from 2:30-5:30 pm, offers games, activities, and homework time. Registration is now open.

The Belleair Rec's flag football and basketball leagues also begin in August. Flag football is open to youth ages 5-15 and basketball is open to youth ages 5-17. Flag football games take place on Wednesdays and basketball games on Saturdays from August through October. Registration is now open.



With summer camp complete, regular adult programming returns to the schedule, including drop in pickleball!! Call the Dimmitt Community Center at 518-3728 for information, or visit www.belleairrec.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Belleair Rec soon!

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SARA BLAKELY -A LOCAL GLOBAL SUCCESS STORY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Who knew selling fax machines door-to-door would eventually lead to starting a multi-billion dollar business? That was the career path for Sara Blakely, creator of a product well known to women - "SPANX®".

Born in Clearwater, Blakely graduated from Clearwater High in 1989 and attended Florida State University, majoring in communications. She planned to be an attorney, like her father, but after failing her LSAT test twice, she changed her plans.

Blakely tried a variety of jobs. She worked at Orlando's Walt Disney World for a short time, she performed stand-up comedy, until finally taking a job selling fax machines for Danka, a St. Petersburg company co-founded by Belleair resident Dan Doyle.

"I needed the money and health insurance," Blakely says.

As it turns out, she was quite good at sales and by the age of 25 was promoted to position of National Sales Trainer. She stayed there for seven years.

"Having been forced to wear pantyhose in the hot Florida climate, I experimented by cutting off the feet of my pantyhose, and wearing them under my slacks," Blakely recalls. "This eliminated panty lines and made the body appear firmer."



Blakely a member of the Belleair Belles soccer team

Ultimately, the experiment was not successful as the pantyhose continued to roll up her legs. She continued experimenting over the next two years while still working for Danka.

In 1998 at only 27, and now living in Atlanta, she decided to design, make and sell "intimate apparel" for pants and leggings. With a

personal investment of only \$5,000, she started "SPANX®." The idea for the name was all Blakely's. She replaced the letters "KS" in Spanks with the letter "X".

"My research suggested names are more successful and easier to register as trademarks, when the spellings are unusual," Blakely says.

Using a personal credit card, she purchased the "SPANX®" trademark on the USPTO website for only \$150.

She was turned away by numerous mills who did not see the value of her idea, until she finally found a hosiery factory in Asheboro, North Carolina willing to help develop the product. Next, Blakely pitched the idea to Neiman-Marcus, Bloomingdales, and Saks. Bergdorf-Goodman soon followed.

Blakely handled all aspects of the business - marketing, logistics, product placement - until everything changed. In 2000, Oprah named SPANX® one of her favorite things, and sales took off. In one year, sales hit \$10 million. In 2001, SPANX® was featured on QVC and sold over 8,000 units in less than six minutes!

The company is still not publicly traded, so sales and profit information is still an estimate, but SPANX® was profitable from day one. The first year it is believed to have grossed \$4 million - \$10 million in its second year.

Sara Blakely has grown SPANX® into a shapewear juggernaut with more than \$400 million in yearly sales.

From the beginning, Blakely has set aside a portion of her SPANX® profits for the Sara Blakely Foundation, which helps women through education and entrepreneurial training. It has funded hundreds of scholarships for young women around the world. She also started "Leg Up," a group to mentor women's entrepreneurial development. In a 2006 appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Blakely donated \$1 million to Oprah's Leadership Academy.

In 2008, Blakely married Jessie Itzler at the Gasparilla Inn and Club in Boca Grande, Florida. The couple met at a Net Jet Poker Tournament and dated for a year prior to their wedding. While Blakely's business is based in Atlanta, Itzler's business is based in New York City. They call Atlanta home.

Itzler, also an entrepreneur, is the co-founder of Marquis Jet, one of the largest private jet companies in the world. He is the founder of The 100 Mile Group, a brand incubator that partnered with ZICO Coconut Water and Coca-Cola. In 2012, ZICO was acquired by Coke.

In 2015, Itzler's book "Living with a Seal: 31 days Training with the Toughest Man on the Planet" was released and immediately became a NY Times Best Seller. That same year, he and Blakely became part owners of the Atlanta Hawks, NBA team.

In 2011 it was reported that Blakely bought a house in North Clearwater Beach's Carouel, for \$8.8 million. They still have their Atlanta home, but sold their New York apartment.

In 2012, Blakely was named one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" by TIME MAGAZINE. The following year, at the request of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, she joined the Giving Pledge association, pledging to give half her wealth to charity. She was the first female billionaire to join the elite group.

"I feel like money tells a lot about who you are," Blakely told Forbes Magazine. "If you're an a**hole, you become a bigger a**hole. If you're nice, you become nicer. Money is just fun to give away."

Last year, Blakely accepted an offer from the global investment company Blackstone to buy a "controlling interest" in her company for \$1.2 billion. She retained the rest of the company. In 2021, Forbes Magazine estimated the company's value at \$540 million, making Blakely a billionaire - again.

She announced the sale of her company to her employees at a surprise meeting and in the style of Oprah, she gave every employee two first class plane tickets to anywhere in the world—plus \$10,000 in cash. The room went crazy. When asked how they would use their gifts, their answers ran the gamut - a honeymoon in Bora Bora, an elopement in Sweden, a safari in Africa.

And just like that Sara Blakely, a product of Clearwater and once again a resident, became the youngest self-made female billionaire, in the United States.

Get more information about SPANX® at www.Spanx.com.



Sara Blakely and husband Jessie Itzler

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IT IS SCALLOP SEASON

By Becky Griffin

Every summer, people flock to Florida's Gulf of Mexico for scallop season. Very popular with the locals, especially families, it is a little like an underwater scavenger hunt, as divers try to find some of the best-tasting seafood morsels



just lying on the ocean floor. The whole thing takes place in shallow water, so it is easy to access scalloping areas. It takes minimal gear – snorkel, mask, fins – and of course a boat and it requires little experience, if you can snorkel, you can scallop.

Seasons vary by location and are set by The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. Locally, scalloping in Levy, Citrus and Hernando Counties opened July 1 and continues until September 24. Pasco County's season is already over. Tampa Bay is designated a fragile area and scalloping is not allowed. In the beginning of the season, the scallops are more plentiful and not picked over; towards the end of the season those that are left are bigger.

Bay scallops grow to about two inches. They feed continuously by filtering small particles of organic matter in the water through its open valves. They breathe with their valves open and close them when threatened or if the water is too silty - silt can clog their gills. Their top shell is usually dark, to help them hide, while the bottom half is a bright yellow or orange color. Many tiny blue eyes along the outer rim of their shell function as a warning system.

Factors affecting the scallop population include: red tide, high rainfall, and storms. Bay scallops disappeared from Tampa Bay in the early 1960s due to pollution. The Bay's water quality and seagrass beds have improved to levels that once again can support the bay scallop population.

What you need to know before you go scalloping:

- Pick a sunny day. Besides being more fun with good weather, the sun helps you spot the scallops.
- Get your saltwater fishing license. Florida considers this a type of fishing. The Florida Resident Annual rate is \$17.
- Learn the regulations. Bag limits are different in each area ranging from one to two gallons of whole bay scallops per person.
- Gather your gear. You will need a dive flag, a drawstring mesh bag to collect scallops, your snorkel gear, and a small knife to open and clean them.
- Find the scallops. They like clear water four to ten feet deep with some vegetation. They can be found along the vegetation line. They usually live in clusters so don't spend too long looking. If you don't see them, just move to another spot. Sunny days draw them to the top of the grass and make them easier to find.
- Grab the scallop with your hand – don't let them pinch you – or with a small net. When threatened, scallops can propel themselves away from the danger. Don't be surprised if it scoots away. Once you catch it, put it in your mesh bag and keep going until you run out of scallops or energy, or until you reach your limit.
- Chill the shells immediately. This causes them to die and open, making cleaning much easier.
- To clean, use a knife to pry open the shell. Scrape off the dark membrane. You want the white muscle. Many popular scalloping areas have people at the dock that will clean them for you, for a fee.
- Eat them within two days or freeze them.

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CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY 2022 LET'S GO!

The Clearwater tradition that keeps on giving is back for year 43! With the Imagine Clearwater waterfront construction scheduled for completion next year, the annual festival will once again take place at BayCare Ballpark as a special 3-day presentation October 14-16, 2022.

"We are thrilled with the lineup and also excited for a new attendee experience at the Ballpark," says Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation CEO, Steve Weinberger. "This year we are returning to the look and feel of what our supporters remember in Coachman Park."

Steve explains the CJH big stage will again be positioned in the outfield and there will be rows of stage-front reserved seats as well the stage-front VIP Hospitality format that folks will remember from Coachman.

Additionally, there will be a general admission infield ticket allowing attendees on the field behind the reserved seating area (blankets permitted) and a separate general admission ticket that will allow attendees to sit anywhere in the seating bowl on a first-come, first served basis.

Similar to last year, corporate partners and other special supporters will enjoy the suite level at the ballpark which is transformed into the "CJH Bistro" during the festival and there will be fireworks following Saturday night's headliner, Charlie Wilson.

Additionally, Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation has not let up one bit on its community work in the midst of all the challenges presented by the pandemic and displacement from Coachman Park.

Steve adds, "In fact, I believe the impact is stronger than ever. When you attend CJH events, you support year-round education and outreach changing lives and creating meaningful opportunities. We have grown our jazz appreciation and instructional programs, offer a wide variety of innovative, online educational resources, and make unique performance opportunities available for young and emerging musicians. We're also donating instruments, providing lessons, and continue to offer important special funding."

Clearwater Jazz Holiday has also been busy with its CJH Presents Wanderlust Music Series, smaller concerts programmed throughout the year at various venues. Steve shares, "Since October 2022, we have provided stages to more than 70 bands and ensembles over 40 events across six different venues with new shows and venues added often. The series is now a special part of our annual programming and the shows are also important fundraisers for Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation."

To purchase tickets to the annual festival or Wanderlust events, or to learn more about CJH Education & Outreach visit www.clearwaterjazz.com.

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- UNSUNG SONDHEIM Saturday October 8th,**
 A look at the altered, lost or forgotten songs of the most celebrated musical theatre composer of the late 20th century, Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021). His career spanned over 50 years, inspiring new generations of performers. Featured shows include Company, Into The Woods, Follies, Forum, Anyone Can Whistle, The Mad Show, Pacific Overtures, Assassins, Road Show, Evening Primrose and many more!
- JUDY! JUDY! JUDY! Saturday November 12th**
 Judy Garland grew up on stage, performing since the age of 2 and gaining her the title Miss Show Business. From Vaudeville to films to television, Judy had the world's greatest songwriters creating material especially for unique talents. Celebrate her legacy with songs by Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, E.Y. Harburg, Irving Berlin, Ira Gershwin, Hugh Martin, Ralph Blane and more.
- THE BEST OF RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN Saturday February 4th, 2023**
 From the years 1943 to 1959 Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II dominated the world of musicals, changing theater history in the process. Re-live memorable musical moments from hits such as Oklahoma!, Carousel, Allegro, The King & I, South Pacific, Flower Drum Song, Cinderella, State Fair, The Sound of Music and many more.
- TURN OF THE CENTURY Saturday March 11th, 2023**
 A musical celebration of the Gilded Age (1890 -1920) featuring popular songs from the Broadway stage, Vaudeville and Operetta. Sing along and sway to the lilting melodies of Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert, Rudolf Friml, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan and more! From Hello, My Baby to Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life to Give My Regards To Broadway, these classic tunes live on today

The Francis Wilson Playhouse is located at 302 Seminole St, in Clearwater. Box Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 5:00pm. You can e-mail them at BoxOffice@FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org. Visit franciswilsonplayhouse.org for more information.

FATHER'S DAY CONTEST WINNER

Last issue, we held a Father's Day contest with a prize valued at over \$1,000. The winner was Clearwater resident Nate Bernier, who is the father of a 4 year-old daughter.

- Nate won a \$100 gift certificate from:
- Belle Vino Wines
 - Belleair Coffee
 - Belleair Bluffs Cleaners
 - Belleair Market
 - Radiance Med Spa
 - Seaweed Restaurant
 - Westshore Pizza



- Plus
- Twelve monthly haircuts from Stefanec's Barbershop
 - A \$200 workout program with JD's Summit Fitness.

His winning registration was entered at the Belleair Market on Indian Rocks Road North. Congratulations to Nate.

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Community News

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The start of their 72nd season is Wednesday, October 5, 11am, at the Belleair Garden Club, 903 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Belleair. Guest speaker is Linda DiGloria, owner of Glory Bee Farm whose presentation will improve understanding of bee activities, the production of honey, and how bees are beneficial to the environment. Ms. DiGloria's book "The Education and Adventures of Gloria, A Honeybee," will be available for purchase as well as her Honey. Free of charge, the presentation is open to the public and new members.

Wednesday, October 12th, Glory Bee Farm is offering a private tour of the beehives, garden, and fruit trees. Reservations and a \$5 fee are required.

The Club raises funds to support local historic preservation and education scholarships for students in horticulture, botanical and environmental studies. Their 2022 scholarship recipients are Katelyn Barkman and Margaret Eloise Schad, who were selected for their academic achievements and dedication to community environmental activities. Both will be majoring in environmental studies. Katelyn Barkman, graduate of Palm Harbor University High School will be attending the University of Florida and Margaret Eloise Schad, graduate of Canterbury School of Florida will be attending Eckerd College.

Their Scholarship program was established in 1989 to provide financial assistance to Pinellas County students pursuing a college education in horticulture, botany, environmental studies, ecology, or other related fields. Tax deductible donations are accepted.

The Club's 2022 Membership Drive is underway for all gardeners and those interested in horticulture, conservation, and the beautification of public access parks, homes, and gardens. Annual membership is \$50.

The Belleair Garden Club, a non-profit organization in its 72nd year, provides education and social programs and charitable opportunities. Meetings are held monthly from October to May and include an education program followed by hospitality and refreshments. During the summer, social programs are offered and may include picnics, brunch in the park, jewelry exchange and others.

The Club is located at 903 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Belleair. For information, visit belleairgardenclub.com.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (BBA)

Their after hours networking mixers are held from 5:30 to 6:30 the second Thursday of the month at various business locations. Bring a door prize and give a quick commercial about your business. Guests are welcome to attend.

Upcoming mixers are:

- August 11 - hosted by Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation at 2101 Indian Rocks Rd, Suite A, Largo.
- September 8 - hosted by My Salon/Avantgard, 100 Indian Rocks Rd, Belleair Bluffs.

The BBA is hosting a member appreciation party on August 13 at the Clearwater Threshers Baseball Game. Members are free and guests are \$10. The event will be held in the Big Shark Cafe with an all-you-can-eat buffet plus fireworks after the game. For more information visit Facebook.com/BBAstrong or call Bonnie Trembulak at 727-686-8797.

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10 REASONS TO USE RECLAIMED WATER

Using reclaimed water saves water that the public needs for other uses. Reclaimed water is acceptable for irrigating lawns and most landscaping only. It does not come from the water used to water the grass, fill the swimming pool, wash the dog, or wash the car. Wastewater is not stormwater run-off; this is collected in a separate stormwater drainage system.

It is wastewater (water from toilets, sinks, laundries, tubs and showers) that has been cleaned and purified through an advanced wastewater treatment process that eliminates harmful by-products. It travels from the wastewater treatment plant to houses and businesses through a separate reclaimed pipe system identified by the color purple.

Reclaimed water is a limited resource and should be used wisely. It takes wastewater from four to five houses to supply one house with reclaimed water. Residents with access to reclaimed water to use it – for 10 very good reasons.

1. It's less expensive than using potable water. If you water your lawn using reclaimed water, it costs so much less than potable, or drinking, water.
2. Millions of gallons of water can be saved each day. Using reclaimed water reduces the use of drinking water and saves it for future needs, such as cooking and hygiene. When a neighborhood gets access to reclaimed water, those neighbors can save up to 10 percent of an area's drinking water supply.
3. Irrigation with reclaimed water is allowed seven days per week. With reclaimed water, you can water your lawn and landscaping any day of the week or every day, even during the summer. You can water before 10 am or after 4 pm.

4. You'll help save natural resources. Overuse of water resources can seriously impact plants and animals that depend on healthy systems for survival. Relying on reclaimed water for irrigation can save natural resources and systems.

5. You can decrease fertilizer applications. Reclaimed water has the same nutrients in it that fertilizers do. With reclaimed water, you can fertilize your lawn a lot less – or not at all.

6. It reduces discharge into rivers and bays from wastewater plants. When reclaimed water is not used, it is discharged into Tampa Bay, by not only Clearwater Public Utilities but by municipalities all over Tampa Bay. Using reclaimed water keeps it from being wasted by reusing water that would otherwise be discharged into the bay.

7. It is a better use of treated wastewater. Reclaimed water is highly-treated water, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection encourages all communities to use it instead of wasting it.

8. Well-water users can benefit from reuse. If you are currently using a well to irrigate, you can get better water pressure than most well pumps generate and more irrigation coverage with a reclaimed water system.

9. It does not leave stains or smell bad. Some people mistake the smell of well water with reclaimed water, which has no odor and does not stain fences or personal property.

10. Most importantly, you will help ensure a sustainable, cost-effective water supply. Using reclaimed water on your lawn, to wash your car, or clean your driveway will help conserve water resources for ourselves and future generations.

To connect to reclaimed water, contact Pinellas County Utilities' Business & Customer Services at (727) 464-4000.

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Community News

LARGO ART ASSOCIATION

They will resume August 19 after a summer break. They meet weekly at the Largo Community Center (400 Alternate Kean Rd, Largo). It is a gathering of local artists to paint and network. They have open studio, juried member shows and periodic demonstrations. If you are interested, join on Fridays between 10am and 2pm. Call 727-518-3131.

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 Summer Membership program continues 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.

MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS

The Clearwater chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets first Tuesdays at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin.

Social hour is at 11:30 am followed by lunch and a short program. Active duty, retired, or former Military officers and their spouses, or widows, are invited to attend. The MOWW welcomes those interested to RSVP for lunch, by calling Richard Gouin at 727-789-6754.

HOPE VILLAGES OF AMERICA

Their 6th Annual Grand Gala will celebrate the generous and compassionate supporters who provide help and hope to those in need. They invite you to join them for a night of glitz, glamour, glitter, and gold on August 20 at the Safety Harbor Salon & Spa, 105 N. Bayshore Dr, Safety Harbor.

6pm | VIP Social for Sponsors

7pm | Dinner + Dancing + Auction

This event will raise significant funds used throughout Pinellas County. Purchase your sponsorships & tickets online at www.hopevillagesofamerica.org/grand-gala.

From October 2021 through May 2022, with the help of 1730 volunteer hours, Hope Villages of America distributed 604,563 pounds of food directly to 40,354 individuals. Another 3,373,727 pounds of food went to area agencies and 475,585 pounds of fresh produce was distributed.

During this same period, 4,299 safe nights for women and children were provided at the Safe House. 13,070 bed nights were provided in a shelter apartment for families. 557 homeless moms, dads, and children were served, and 32 adults and children are living in affordable housing operated by Hope Villages of America.

The funds raised at the Grand Gala will be used to continue these programs.

Community News

WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

This club is open to the women of Pinellas County; all are welcome to come and socialize. They meet at local country clubs or restaurants on the first Tuesday of each month with programs, activities or speakers of interest. Please contact Judy at 512-789-5686 for the location of the next event.

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Art is always on display at the Beach Art Center – our summer art show titled; “Lazy Hazy Days of Summer” runs through August 19th. Everyone is welcome!

Did you know that our gift shop has a wonderful selection of handmade greeting cards? These are unique cards, created by local artists for about the same price you would pay at the local pharmacy. Check these cards out along with pottery, paintings and jewelry created by local artists. Your purchases support both our local makers and the Beach Art Center. Our gift shop will be open all summer Monday – Friday, 9-4.

This summer, the Beach Art Center has creative activities for all generations! Creative Kids Camp runs through August 8th – each week offers exciting options. There are still a few spots left for kids entering first – sixth grade. Check out our website for all camp information and online registration, www.beachartcenter.org.

For Teens, check out our “Art on the Rocks” resin jewelry making – open to 12 years – adult – an incredibly fun project to do with your teen! We also have several other Art on the Rocks and Pottery classes available to ages 15 and up.

For Adults – Although most daytime classes are on hiatus while summer camp is in session, we are still offering.

- Evening Pottery Classes
- Art on the Rocks (Evenings & Weekends)
- “Crash Course” Special Workshops such as “Learn to Draw in 4 Hours” – other crash courses include Oil Painting & Portraits as well!

The Beach Art Center will be hosting a Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, on Saturday, November 19th from 9 am to 3 pm. Our Gallery rooms will have tables available to rent for artists who wish to sell their work just in time for the Holidays! The Gift Shop will be open and we’ll be doing a lottery ticket raffle too.

Perhaps this summer is the time for you to get involved in something new. Check out all our options on the Beach Art Center Website, www.beachartcenter.org.

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to bring financial support to local, charitable organizations that have a 501(c)(3) status. Members commit to attending four meetings per year (one per quarter) and pledge to donate \$100 to an elected charity at each meeting. For each meeting, the members have the opportunity to nominate a charity, three of the nominated charities are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013, the group has given \$355,675 to local charities. Contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868 for more information or visit www.100womenpinellas.org.



CLOTHING? YES PLEASE!

f @

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WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Kids clothes (Sizes 4 - 16)
- Adult size clothes (think pre-teens & teens)
 - Young women - sizes 0 to 22
 - Young men - sizes 18 to 46
- New underwear and socks
- Shoes: Children's size 9 to adult
- Bras, belts, purses, hats, jewelry, backpacks

WHAT DO WE ESPECIALLY LOVE?

- Shoes
- Girls clothes
 - tops - sizes 5 to XL
 - bottoms - sizes 6 to 16
- Boys clothes
 - tops - size S to XL
 - bottoms - size 6 to 16
- Young women's pants - size 13 to 22
- Young men's clothes
 - tops - size S to XL
 - bottoms - size 18 to 46

WHAT WE DO NOT NEED...

- Used underwear and socks
- Athletic uniforms or equipment
- Toys or books
- Used pajamas or swimsuits
- Excessively worn clothing
- Baby/toddler clothing
- Hangers

WHERE TO BRING?

<p>Chester Store 1039 N. VENUS AVE CLEARWATER, FL 33765 727-441-5280</p>	<p>St. Pete Store 2368 34th Street, S. St. Pete, FL 33702 727-441-5280</p>	<p>Tampa Store 803-1417 Hillsborough Ave Tampa, FL 33604 813-478-6430</p>
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