

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

HOW DID THE AMERICAS GET THEIR NAME?

By Bob Griffin

It is commonly believed that in 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered what we call The Americas. So, if Columbus was the discoverer, why didn't they name the land "Columbia" or even "Christopherville"?

First, historians all agree Christopher Columbus did not discover The Americas, although that is not why it isn't named after him.

Columbus made four documented trips across the Atlantic, beginning in 1492, each time discovering

Caribbean islands and claiming them for Spain. But, he never set foot on any of the continents. Even though he didn't, history still incorrectly credits him with discovering "The New World."



This world map is the first one to refer to the "The New World" as the "America." It was created by Martin Waldseemüller in 1507. It also depicts Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Oceanus Orientalis Indicus separating Asia from the Americas. The original map was on twelve wooden panels eight feet wide and four and a half feet tall.

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Also in this Issue:



Okalani the Octopus

Local artist Shelley Augsbury turned an art project into a series of children's books that teach kids about sealife and also how to be nice.

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Loopy Little Lizards

Learn about the distinctive and non-native reptiles that scurry around Indian Rocks Beach.

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Teacher Appreciation

An Anona Elementary teacher got a pleasant surprise from a grateful former student that recently completed an impressive accomplishment.

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Tampa Bay Watch

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

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CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862
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SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!



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MAYOR Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

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696 1st Ave N. Ste 203

St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Crist.House.gov

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

JULY

- Halfway Day (To the End of the Year)† 2
- Independence Day 4
- Fireworks Baycare Stadium 4
- Fireworks Largo Central Park 4
- Greentown Kids Beach Cleanup 5-6
- Tampa Bay Home Show 9
- City Commission Meeting 12
- EPCOT Food & Wine Festival Begins 14
- Sunshine Music Fest at the Vinoy 15-22
- Third Saturday at Pinewood 16
- Clearwater Art Walk 16
- Pass-a-Grille Surf Festival 16
- Tampa Bay Ice Cream Fest S.P. Pier 17
- Suncoast Ladies Fishing Classic 21-23
- Tampa Bay Reptile Expo Largo 23-24
- Parents Day 24
- School Supplies Tax Holiday Begins 25
- Shark Week 5K Caddy's I. S. 30
- Bolts Brew Fest Amalie Arena 5
- School Supplies Tax Holiday Ends 7
- Island Sunshine Music Festival Vinoy 7
- Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed 8
- City Commission Meeting 9
- Public School Begins 10
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 11
- Busch Gardens Bierfest Begins 12
- Buccaneer's First Pre-Season Game 13
- Third Saturday at Pinewood 20
- Sounds of Soul Tribute Pinellas Park 20
- Clearwater Art Walk 23
- Primary Election Day 23
- Largo Palooza 26

SEPTEMBER

- Tampa Bay Blues Festival at the Vinoy 4
- Labor Day 5
- Public Schools Closed 5
- Lionfish Roundup Ends 6
- Busch Gardens Bierfest Ends 9
- Buccaneer's Season Opener 11
- City Commission Meeting 13
- Buccaneer's First Home Game 25
- IRB Community Cleanup 1-3
- Coast Guard Anniversary 4
- Music on the Beach Tarpon Springs 4



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Did You Know



NEW FLOTILLA COMMANDER

April 28th, Stephan Bielawski was elected U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater Flotilla Commander. Bielawski, of Largo, has served as Information Services Officer, Division Vice Commander, and led the Clearwater Flotilla previously during 2020. Auxiliarist Bielawski works as a paralegal and devotes a considerable amount of time to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

You can find Bielawski along with other Vessel Examiners from the Clearwater Flotilla at the Seminole Boat Ramp on most Saturday mornings performing free Vessel Safety Checks. If the check is successful, the boat is awarded a decal attesting to that fact. If the boat fails, no report to authorities is provided and the boater is encouraged to bring his/her vessel up to par and have it re-inspected.

DON'T FEED SEABIRDS Do not feed filleted bony carcasses to seabirds – even if they beg for them. While pelicans, herons and egrets can easily digest small fish bones, they can be severely injured by the strong, sharp bones of larger fish. The bones can puncture the pouch, throat, or intestines leading to infection or death. In addition, when birds fill up on bones with little meat, they feel full and don't fish, leading to malnourishment.



INDIAN ROCKS COMMUNITY CLEANUPS The City of Indian Rocks Beach Public Works Department will coordinate the quarterly community bulk trash pickup August 1-3. On these days, bulk items will be picked up curbside free of charge. The City will not pick up cars, boats, trailers, construction materials, tree removal debris, hazardous waste, medical waste or ammunition. For additional information, contact Public Works at (727) 595-6889.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE From now through August 5th, school supply donations can be dropped off at the Dimmitt Community Center (918 Osceola Rd.), at the Town of Belleair's Town Hall (901 Ponce De Leon Blvd) or purchased online at the Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/6ryXqFC>. Online purchases will be delivered directly to the Rec Center.

POSTAGE STAMP PRICE INCREASE The United States Postal Service announced that the price of a Forever First Class stamp will increase from 58 cents to 60 cents on July 10. Forever stamps are the postage for letters weighing up to one ounce. The price for additional ounces will also increase from 20 cents to 24 cents. The increase will fund the Delivering for America Plan, an investment in postal infrastructure over the next ten years.

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ARMY VET REACHES MILESTONE AT PSFRD

Congratulations to Firefighter/EMT Mary Miller who recently completed her probationary period at Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue. After graduating Boot Camp in 2011, Miller spent nine and a half years in the Air Force before transferring to the Army Reserve as a Combat Flight Medic on MEDEVAC helicopters. Born and raised in Clermont, Florida, she also previously worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for Sunstar EMS before joining the PSFRD. She is currently assigned to Station 27 on First Street. We are grateful for her service to the country and to the City of Indian Rocks Beach.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES SALES TAX HOLIDAY Florida created a "back-to-school" sales tax holiday for clothing, footwear and backpacks costing \$100 or less, school supplies and learning aids costing \$50 or less and personal computers or computer-related accessories including non-recreational software costing up to \$1500. The tax holiday runs July 25-August 7. For more information, visit FloridaRevenue.com.

BUCCANEERS SEASON STARTING SOON The Tampa Bay Buccaneers preseason begins August 13th with a game against the Miami Dolphins. New Head Coach Todd Bowles will get his first test in the regular season debut on Sunday, September 9th at Dallas. The Bucs first home game is September 25th versus Green Bay.

LIONFISH CHALLENGE To encourage area divers to target the spiny, invasive species, FWC's Lionfish Challenge is open and runs through September 6. This statewide program has recreational and commercial participant categories. All participants are required to register.



For recreational divers, after harvesting your lionfish, remove the tails leaving a bit of meat attached then place it in a plastic sandwich bag(s) labeled with your name, phone number, date of harvest and number of tails. Bring tails and a tail verification form to a local checkpoint where they will count and keep your tails, then sign and return

your form. Checkpoint locations and verification forms can be found online. Prizes will be awarded in a tiered fashion - the more lionfish you submit, the more prizes you receive!

To enter to get more information, visit myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lionfish/challenge.

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

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NAMING OF THE AMERICAS, *Continued*

Leif Erikson and a daring band of Vikings sailed from Norway or Greenland to the northeast coast at Vinland, Canada around 1,000 A.D., five hundred years before Columbus' first trip. It also has now been documented that there were earlier unofficial, unauthorized European voyages to the *New World*. These ships returned to Spain with goods and slaves. But The Americas were not named after Erikson either.

Two decades after Columbus, Ponce de Leon crossed the Atlantic and in 1513 discovered the land that is now Florida, naming it "La Florida" or "Land of Flowers." Convinced it was yet another island, de Leon attempted to sail around the Florida peninsula twice, looking for a passage to India.

But between Columbus and de Leon, somewhere around 1500, another explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, participated in two, possibly four, maybe even five, voyages across the Atlantic to explore the newly discovered *New World*.



Portrait of Amerigo Vespucci

Vespucci was born into a somewhat well-to-do family in Florence, Italy. His family worked for Lorenzo de' Medici, the wealthy, unofficial ruler of Florence. In his early years, Vespucci was a successful merchant who was also interested in geography and map making. He moved to Seville, Spain to help manage Medici's commerce and banking interests. One of his duties was keeping an eye on and supporting Christopher Columbus's first two expeditions - neither of which were financially profitable.

Working with Columbus inspired Amerigo Vespucci to travel to the *New World*, and his first expedition was on behalf of Spain (1499-1500). His second trip was financed and authorized by Portugal (1501-1502). His trips were to somewhere south of Central America - probably Honduras, Brazil, and the Gulf of Rio de Janeiro.

Records are inconclusive, but he may have made other trips as well. The

uncertainty exists because most of the voyages' documentation consists entirely of Vespucci's own letters and personal notes. Even his role in the voyages is disputable, but it is known he did not captain or navigate any of those ventures. At best, he was probably a scribe or record keeper.

Even so, these explorations earned Vespucci a reputation as an explorer and navigator. In 1503 and 1505, he published two books with colorful descriptions of his voyages. They were popular with the sailing community and were instrumental in raising awareness of the *New World*. Vespucci's historical importance rests more with his letters and books than any discovery he made.

Vespucci was named Spain's Chief Pilot for the Casa de Contratacion (House of Commerce) which served as a central trading house for Spain's overseas possessions. In this role, he was responsible for ensuring ship pilots were adequately trained and licensed before sailing to the *New World*. He was tasked with developing a standard map using input from pilots as they returned from distant trips

Although Vespucci was a cartographer (mapmaker), he did not create the first *New World* maps; French cartographer, Martin Waldseemüller did. In 1507 he undertook an ambitious project to create a world map. Waldseemüller relied heavily on Vespucci's letters and notes describing recently discovered land in the Western Atlantic. The project resulted in twelve wooden panels eight feet wide and four and a half feet tall. An original Waldseemüller map is permanently on display at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

A thousand copies of this first map were printed, complete with a prominent portrait of Vespucci—who was given credit for discovering the new continents. For the first time, "America," a derivation of Vespucci's first name Amerigo, was given to all the land west of Spain and Portugal - previously referred to only as The *New World*. Columbus was not mentioned.

There were multiple spellings of Vespucci's first name, depending upon the language: It was spelled Americo in Spanish, Americus in Portuguese, and Alberigo in his native Italian. Linguists have determined Waldseemüller used the feminine form of all country and continent names on his map, which resulted in an "A" at the end of the word instead of the original "O" - Americo became "America."



Statue of Amerigo Vespucci in the niches of the Uffizi Gallery colonnade, Florence

Many felt Vespucci stole the honor from Christopher Columbus. However, when he died in 1512, Vespucci was probably unaware of Waldseemüller's map bearing his name.

Other cartographers followed Waldseemüller's lead and by the 1530s, the name "America" was permanently affixed to every map of the new continent. In 1538, Gerardus Mercator used the word "America" to name both the North and the South continents.

Today the entire land mass of what was once the *New World* is the Americas - North America, Central America, and South America. Originally, the term American was used to refer to any native from the Americas. As more British migrated to the *New World* "American" came to mean "British American" differentiating between the British in the Old World from those who had moved to the Americas. Eventually, those that were here before the British became known as "Native Americans."

The term "United States of America" was not used until the Declaration of Independence. Before that Benjamin Franklin had coined the name United Colonies of North America. When Mexico became independent, it was named - Estados Unidos Mexicanos - or the United States of Mexico.

For many, America, has become shorthand for the United States, but that name didn't become popularly used until the 20th century.

In hindsight, we know neither Columbus nor Vespucci discovered "America." Even still, Columbus has his holiday - Columbus Day, celebrated on the second Monday of the month of October, while Vespucci has his name on the maps. ■

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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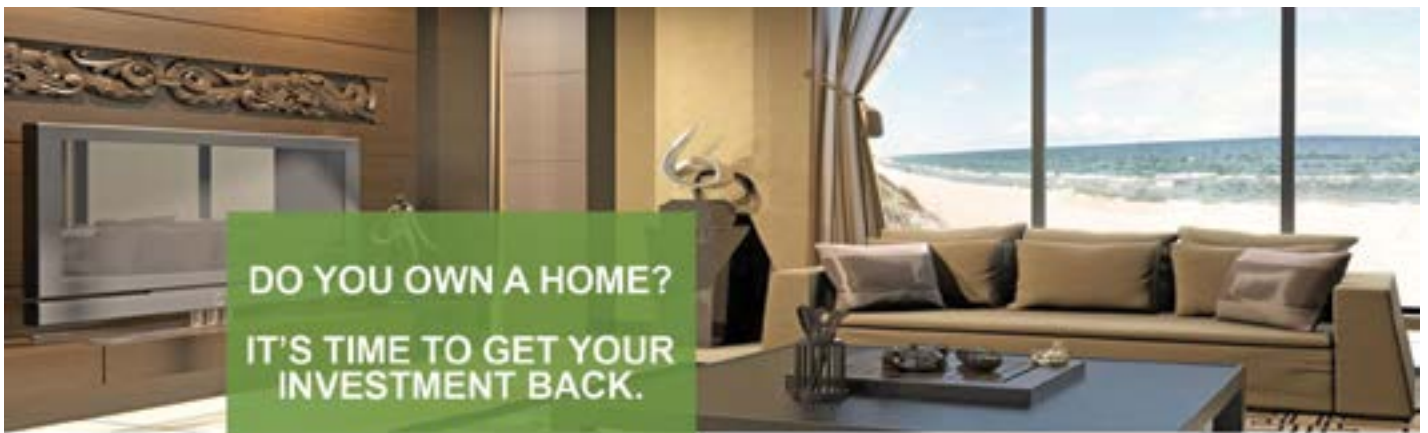
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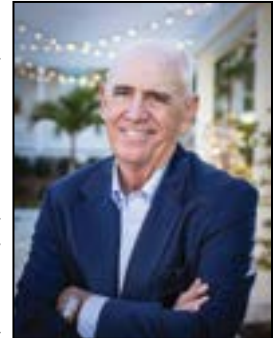
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MANAGING CASH IN AN INFLATIONARY ENVIRONMENT

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.

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

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 newsletter.

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 the 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 to connect 80 separate public safety agencies and 10,000 individual 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 even 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, again, we have accomplished together. My best to you!

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ANONA TEACHER GETS A PLEASANT SURPRISE

Teachers leave an impression on the life and direction of every student they teach. Sometimes the fingerprint they leave on each child is a simple memory, and sometimes it has a much greater impact. Most often, the teacher sends each student off to their next grade and does not get to see the results of their influence, even when they have made a significant contribution to that child's future. 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 out entire sentences," Benjamin recalls. "At school, I struggled to write a single word." In third grade, he came to Mrs. Adikes classroom, and soon began to see improvement. "Mrs. Adikes was a huge influence on me," says Benjamin. "She took me from being a failing student to really excelling and becoming a straight-A student. Well, almost a straight-A student!"



Mrs. Adikes put Benjamin on course with an Individual Learning Plan that included some virtual schooling. He completed fourth grade at Anona and then moved with his family to Kentucky. There, he again struggled with classroom learning and returned to virtual school, where he soon began to proceed at double pace. In May 2022, Benjamin graduated from high school three years early at the age of fifteen. When his mom asked what he wanted for a graduation present, he told her that 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 assembly with current fourth graders.



Mrs. Adikes has been a teacher for thirteen years, the last eight at Anona. Although she remembers most of her students, Benjamin 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. "They all seem 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."



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LOCAL AUTHOR USES HER ARTWORK TO TEACH KIDS

The lockdown of 2020 affected people in different ways. Some people used the time for exercise and self-improvement. Some became withdrawn and depressed. Artist Shelley Augsbury decided to use her talent to do some home improvement, and that evolved into creating a series of children's books that the author hopes will help make kids grow into kinder, smarter adults.

Originally from New York, Shelley got her professional artistic start in the advertising industry. She worked for different agencies and eventually opened her own art ad agency, which she closed in 2008 to begin teaching. She taught for years at the Maryland Institute of Art and the Creative Circus in Atlanta, instructing students on marketing, graphic design, writing, and how to think creatively. While living in Atlanta, she also began painting and showcasing her fine art at galleries and festivals. Five years ago, she semi-retired and moved to St. Petersburg. Shelley continued painting and displaying her work at shows and festivals including the Vinoy and St. Armand's Circle.

In March 2020, the galleries closed, the festivals ended, and Shelley needed a new outlet for her creativity, she decided to paint the fence surrounding 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 the artwork, and parents began bringing their children to Magnolia Heights to see Shelley's creation. She continued adding to the mural, and people returned regularly to view her progress. Children began naming the sea creatures, and when she saw the joy her art was bringing them, Shelley had the idea to combine her talents in painting and writing into a children's book.

Shelley knew she wanted the octopus to be the main character in the story, and began researching names that began with the letter O. She came across Okalani, a Hawaiian name meaning "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 creatures, such as octopuses having three hearts and nine brains. The book became instantly popular, and Shelley began work on the sequel, "Let's be friends with Okalani the Octopus."

Currently, there are seven books in the Okalani set. Shelley plans three more books to cap the series at ten "It's a learning series. Each one teaches a lesson," she says. "One is on friendship and developing social skills to be a nice person and good friend. One is about a growing family, new babies, and adoption. Another deals with pet responsibility when Okalani rescues a dogfish and learns how 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.

Some characters recur in the books, sometimes working together and other times independently. Although each story teaches different lessons, the overall theme runs through all of them. "They're basically about life lessons and responsibility to help kids grow up kind and smart," the author says. "I really just want to teach them how to be nice people." Shelley plans three more books to cap the series at ten.

In addition to all her work on the Okalani books, Shelley has resumed participating in fine art shows and festivals. She also volunteers reading her books to children at the Glazer Museum and the Oxford Exchange, among others. She taught a children's painting class at the Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach in June and has another upcoming in August. The August class at the will teach children to create their own storybook to take home. Parents can register their four- to ten-year-olds at BeachArtCenter.org.

Shortly after publishing the first Okalani book, Shelley started the Okalani Cares Foundation, which uses donations 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. Donations and book purchases can be made at OkalaniTheOctopus.com.



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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.



Of course, they still offer a 220-degree view of the Clearwater Beach, perfect for that daily sunset.

Find them at 381 Mandalay, overlooking the roundabout. Get more information at 3DBrewing.com.

PIZZA SHACK - 40 YEARS A FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS

Pizza Shack celebrates their 40th birthday in July. Original owner Danny Youness opened the Largo restaurant in 1982, three weeks before the birth of the current owner, his niece Dalaine Youness. Danny sold the business to her parents, Darrell and Elaine Youness, in 2006. After Elaine's passing, Darrell semi-retired and Dalaine, with her husband, Sam Charters, are proud to continue the Pizza Shack tradition as a family-operated business with love for their community.

HURRICANE EDDIE'S The Indian Rocks bar will soon also be a restaurant. They are hoping to begin to serve food in the next month. Missing kitchen equipment has been the hold up, but it has been found and should arrive any day. They also still need to hire a kitchen manager. While they wait, the drinks are still flowing. Hurricane Eddie's, previously The Red Lion Pub, is located at 1407 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach.

SLYCE WYNE BAR OPENING SOON

The new "Wyne" Bar is almost complete. Management anticipates opening towards the end of July. Located next to Slyce at 311 Gulf BL, the bar will feature both indoor and outdoor seating.



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

Bar & Restaurant News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH CAFE TURNS ONE

IRB Residents Jean Murphy and Jeff Tacy shared a vision for a beachside bistro offering a fresh and healthy menu. Together they opened Indian Rocks Beach Cafe on June 16, 2021. The restaurant at 1401 Gulf Boulevard is open seven days from 8am-2pm and features Pastries, coffee, smoothies, and sandwiches.



LOCAL MEAL PLAN SERVICE AND CAFE

Opening soon, Clean Eat Cafe's mission is to be your first step toward living a healthier lifestyle. Let them be your weekly personal chef by signing up for their signature meal plans. Let them handle the grocery shopping, prepping and cooking. All you need to do is indulge in tasty and healthy dishes that contain the perfect balance of calories, protein, carbs, and fats.

Plans come in 5, 10, 15 and 21-meal models, with extra protein, low-carb, and custom diet options available. Just heat at home and enjoy! With prices as low as \$6.50 per meal, they offer something for everyone.

On Tuesday the latest menu is posted online. Place your online order by Sunday, and your food for the week is ready for pickup Sunday-Tuesday. If you miss the meal plan ordering deadline, they will also offer frozen favorites, made fresh on site, in their grab & go freezers.

Their cafe will offer dine-in options of salads, wraps, bowls, smoothies and snacks, plus catering. Locally owned by Belleair Beach residents, Kreg and Jennifer, look for Clean Eat Cafe's soon in the Bonfish Plaza at 2927 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs.

PAJANO'S SECOND LOCATION OPENING SOON

Construction continues on the next Pajano's Pizza location. Located at 17307 Gulf Blvd. in Redington Beach, the resataurant will be open Monday - Thursday from 11am-9pm and Friday - Saturday from 11am-10pm.



DOC FORDS COMING TO BAY PINES Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grille is opening a second Pinellas location just off the Bay Pines Causeway at 8790 Bay Pines Boulevard. The location was formerly the Green Iguana Bar and Grill that closed in 2012. It was originally a Joe's Crab Shack.

The waterfront restaurants are known for their Caribbean inspired dishes and tropical rum drinks. This will be the fifth location inspired by a character from best-selling novels written by Randy Wayne White. Most are in the Ft. Myers area. The other Pinellas location is downtown on The Pier.

An opening date has not been announced, but they hope to open by the end of the year.

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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 flotation 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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TAMPA BAY WATCH GETS RESIDENTS HANDS-ON IN HABITAT RESTORATION

The Tampa Bay Estuary consists of four hundred square miles of water and 2,200 square miles of watershed. Fresh water from the Hillsborough, Alafia, Manatee and Little Manatee rivers mixes with salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to create "nursery grounds" for a diverse variety of fish, crustaceans and other marine wildlife. It is an abundant, yet fragile ecosystem which faces threats from pollution and loss of natural shoreline. Nitrogen from wastewater discharges, stormwater runoff and air pollution promote algae growth, clouding the water and reducing the amount of oxygen it contains. Construction and development have taken nearly half of the bay's marshes and mangroves and about forty percent of its seagrass beds.

Tampa Bay Watch was created in 1993 by Peter Clark with a mission of habitat restoration, protection and education. Headquartered on Cunningham Key in Tierra Verde since 2002, more than fifty full and part-time employees work with nearly 8000 community volunteers each year to improve the health of the Tampa Bay watershed via hands-on restoration projects. "I tell people we're in the construction business," says Clark. "We drive pickup trucks and



local restaurants which are suspended from docks to create new oyster habitats. Oysters are vital to the ecosystem of the bay, with each oyster filtering one to five gallons of water per hour.

The Discovery Center offers both free and paid educational programs, summer camps and internships. Tampa Bay Watch also offers Eco-boat tours daily from the Discovery Center. The 90-minute cruise aboard TBW's 45-foot-long catamaran offers passengers the opportunity to help pulling nets for fishery collection, visit bird sanctuaries and participate in dolphin identification.

The 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

water quality and provide feeding grounds for manatees, sharks, turtles and rays. Tampa Bay Watch participates in the Interagency Seagrass Monitoring Program and conducts numerous transplant projects annually. They also perform derelict crab trap removal, fishing line recycling, marine debris cleanups and restore native plants to the coastal marsh.

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

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. 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.



Concrete Oyster Reef Ball installation

Carolina Skiffs, and we like to get dirty." At the heart of Tampa Bay Watch are the habitat restoration projects conducted by employees and volunteers. The Community Oyster Reef Enhancement initiative began in the early 2000s to help restore lost oyster habitat. Each year, the team puts over two hundred tons of oyster habitat back into the bay using marine-friendly concrete reef balls, oyster shell bags and vertical oyster gardens. These gardens are comprised of recycled oyster shells from

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 involve themselves in protecting it.

Another focus is on the health of the bay's seagrass beds. These serve as nurseries for fish, crabs and shrimp that later move offshore. They also reduce nutrients, improve



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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ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS FLAGS FOR SERVICE

The first official American flag was introduced by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. In 1885, school teacher Bernard Cigrand proposed an annual observance in honor of the flag, and President Woodrow Wilson established National Flag Day in 1916 to be observed every year on the 14th of June.

This year, the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach held its inaugural "Flags for Service" event honoring those who are serving or have served our nation and communities. Over 80 flags were displayed in Chic-A-Si Park from Memorial Day until Flag Day, each sponsored by a community member to honor a military service member or first responder.



Each sponsored flag had a banner which displayed the name, branch, rank, place of service and service time of the member it honored. They were displayed in the park for two weeks and were collected after the event by sponsors.

The Flag Day ceremony featured a keynote address by Warrant Officer Chris Dickerson, a U.S. Army Rotary Wing Chief Pilot. He spoke about the significance of

the flag to soldiers serving overseas. "When you see the American flag, it feels like home," Dickerson said. "That piece of land is ours. We own it, no matter what country we're in."

The ceremony also featured the "Posting of the Colors" by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Afterward, members of VFW Post 10094 demonstrated the proper folding of the flag and conducted an inspection and retirement of an unserviceable flag.



Flags for Service will be held annually. Support for this year's

event was provided by the City of Indian Rocks Beach, the IRB Homeowners Association, VFW Post 10094, and the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District, as well as Barproducts.com, Mark Hastings, Baxter Title, 7th Day Financial Services and Waterside onstruction

Proceeds from the event supported various Rotary programs, including Operation Military Matters, which provides support packages for troops overseas, and Remember Me NP, a local nonprofit focusing on mental health issues affecting veterans and first responders.



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THE OFFSHORE REPORT

by Captain T.J. Shea



When it comes to boating in July and August you can count on two things-hot days and the afternoon thunderstorms. We modify our trips a bit to leave the dock early and always have one of our Raymarine multifunction displays set to Sirius XM satellite weather to keep us out of trouble. With the opening of the gag grouper and red snapper seasons in June, we start making the long runs to deeper, cooler water where the bigger fish are found. On the spearfishing side this time of year, gags are always the target in 70 feet or less, but when bottom temperatures get into the mid 80's they don't seem to feed very well on rod and reel. We keep two flat lines out on all our trips, one with steel leader for that kingfish that forgot what time of year it is, as well as one

with monofilament and a nice live bait for tuna or mahi. Also, make sure you have two other spinners in the rocket launchers ready to go. We keep one with just a free line hook and one with a Yozuri popper or an artificial eel. You never know when a school of mahi or a cobia is going to show up. They only appear briefly, so you have to be ready.

On the diving side, this time of year is really potluck when it comes to visibility. We stopped trying to figure it out years ago. You may have 10-15 feet at a spot in the morning and then it may be top to bottom at that same spot in the afternoon. Incoming tide is normally cleaner than the outgoing, but not always. Also, you always want to give it a few days after any tropical system rolls through the Gulf to allow the silt to settle. The water is nice and warm so you can put your wetsuits away, but we always suggest a rash guard to protect you from those annoying stinging jellies that are starting to float around later in the summer. Turtles should be appearing on the ledges and artificial reefs as they migrate through. Keep your eyes open when running your boat for those massive leatherbacks. We always seem to get lucky and spot a few. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@fishanddivetampa.com as we are always here to help, whether you head out on one of our boats or your own.



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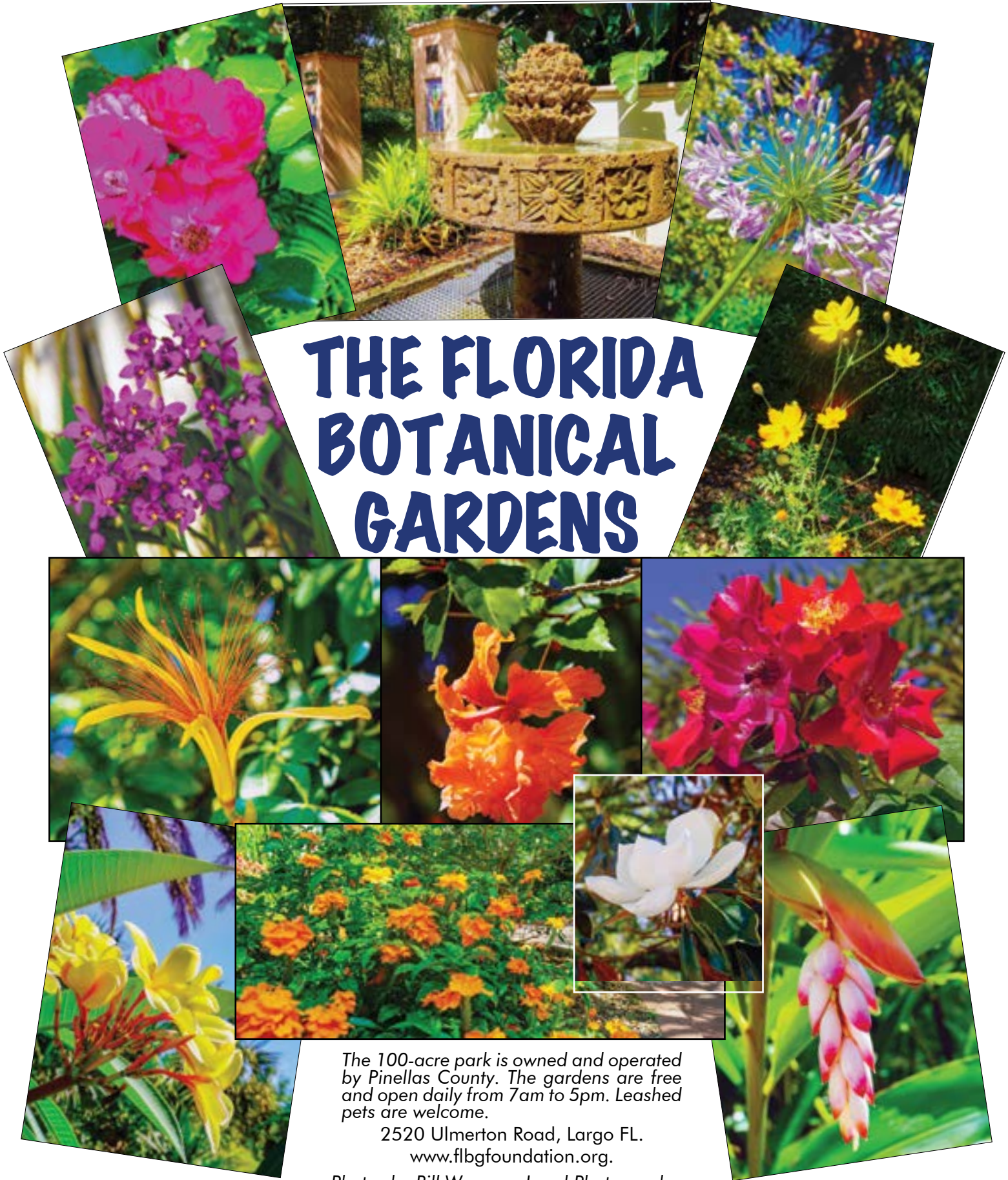
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Photos by Bill Woerner, Local Photographer

BATS IN YOUR BACKYARD

By Lara Milligan, Natural Resources Agent UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County

It is hard to imagine what Pinellas County looked like in the early 1900s. Many long-time residents can share stories of US 19 as a one-lane dirt road, of 20 minute commutes from north to south county, of the open grasslands and cattle that roamed on Boot Ranch and the stories go on and on!

Now we have had a tremendous amount of development over the years! Can you imagine being any animal species and trying to survive all of the area's changes? One of these animals, that we do not often think about is the bat.

Bats are an amazing species for a variety of reasons, but two reasons that many people are fond of them is for their pest control and nutrient services. Bats can consume up to 3,000 insects a night and when female bats are nursing their young, their energy requirement is even higher. To put this into perspective for you, a nursing bat can consume up to 2/3 of its body weight daily, which is equivalent to a 150-pound human consuming 100 pounds of food per day!

There is no doubt they eat a lot of food and what goes in must come out. As they say, everything that eats poops, right? The neat thing about bat poop or guano is that you can use it as a natural fertilizer. It's true. So not only can bats help to keep the mosquito populations under control, they can help keep your garden healthy too!

Here is the scoop if you want to attract bats to your yard. There are 1,100 species of bats in the world, 48 in the United States and 13 in Florida. Of those 13, you can attract 4 with a bat house: the Evening, Big Brown, Brazilian free-tailed and Southeastern bat. In the natural environment, bats roost in caves and trees, but with as much development as

Florida has seen and will continue to see, bats' opportunity to find habitat in trees is diminishing. Providing a bat house is one way to help provide additional shelter options for these creatures.



Bat House in a Tree

Just as people are very particular in what they call their home, bats

tend to be pretty picky about bat houses too. You want to make sure you do your research before you build or buy one to put up in your yard. The University of Florida has an EDIS publication on "Effective Bat Houses for Florida," which can be found at: bit.ly/FLbats. EDIS is the Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension, a collection of information on topics relevant to you.

If you don't have a yard to put a bat house in, you can still help by encouraging others to protect their natural environment. For example, bats may roost in Spanish moss, dead and hanging palm fronds, or inside hallowed out trees. You can encourage people to leave these roost sites as they are. Also, promote the use of native plants in landscapes as they tend to attract non-pest insects, which in turn can attract bats.

Everyone can play a part in bat conservation! What will you do? Let me know on Facebook (@PCENaturalResources) or Twitter (Pinellas Ext_NR). Send your feedback about Everyday Nature articles at: bit.ly/EverydayNature.

You can reach Lara at 727-453-6905 or via e-mail at Lara317@ufl.edu

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Business Briefs

SURGE FITNESS ADDS BOXING CLASS

Surge Fitness in Largo has added HIIT Squad, a combination of boxing and high-intensity interval training bringing together rounds of punching and strength training followed by short periods of rest. The benefits include toning and strengthening as well as improved mobility, stamina, balance and coordination. Boxing gloves are provided. Visit surgestudio.com for details.



NEW DIVE SHOP IN CLEARWATER

Captain TJ Shea is proud to announce the opening of the 2Shea Fishing and Diving Center in Clearwater. The full-service dive shop offers a wide array of SCUBA gear from manufacturers including Atomic Aquatics, Zeagle, Suunto, Shearwater and others.



2 Shea and Tanks-A-Lot Dive Charters have been operating fishing, diving, spearfishing and sunset cruises for over 16 years. The operation recently added a fourth boat to its fleet, a 46-foot Coast Guard-inspected Newton Dive Special. Visit fishanddive.com

for more info or stop by the shop at 198 Seminole ST just north of downtown Clearwater.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Seaside Real Estate Store will celebrate ten years of business in Indian Rocks Beach in July. Broker Jennifer Blackwell has been a realtor in Florida for 35 years.

PIONEER MORTGAGE FUNDING AWARDED

For the second year in a row, Pioneer Mortgage Funding, Inc. in IRB (PMFIRB) has earned the Crystal Circle of Giving award from Homes for Heroes. Homes for Heroes is the nation's largest hero savings program whose mission is to provide

extraordinary savings to heroes who provide extraordinary services to our nation and local communities every day. Heroes include firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, military (active, reserve, and veteran), healthcare professionals, and teachers. There is also a Homes for Heroes nonprofit private charitable foundation that awards hero grants to local nonprofit charities that serve our heroes in need.



The Crystal Circle of Giving award exemplifies the positive impact PMFIRB is making in the community. They have helped 61 heroes get into new homes and have given back over \$31,000 in hero reward checks in the two years they have been a part of the Homes for Heroes program. To learn more visit www.heroesinflorida.org.

FERTILIZERS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

In the quest for the perfect lawn, people apply fertilizers and pesticides to their yards each year, priming their grasses for potentially serious ecological and human health consequences. These chemicals run off lawns into the Intracoastal, local springs, streams, lakes and rivers every time it rains, eventually washing in the Gulf of Mexico.



The resulting process causes more than half of our water pollution, thus harming our waterways and the plants and animals that thrive in aquatic habitats.

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance prohibits residents from fertilizing lawns during the rainy season. From June 1 to Sept. 30, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants. Fertilizers are not plant food. They sometimes can be used to supplement sugars that plants make through photosynthesis.

If you decide to use a fertilizer, use it properly. It's easy:

- Make fertilizer selections based on need. Decide which nutrients will give you the result that you want for your lawn, and then buy only those.
- Use fertilizers sparingly to reduce nitrate levels. More is not necessarily better. Follow all instructions on the package.
- Do not fertilize when storm events are forecast. This will help reduce the level of nutrients washing into water systems during and after the storm.
- Select slow-release fertilizers. They are kinder to the environment and the fertilizer's package.
- Remember to fertilize only when needed. Do not apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of grass.

Do your part to preserve our water, coastlines, and wildlife – the very things that help make our area so wonderful. For more information about fertilizers or how to protect our waterways, visit watermatters.org or befloridian.com.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS UPCOMING

The Primary Elections will be held August 23rd. Florida is a "Closed State," which means only voters who are registered members of political parties can cast ballots for candidates in their party, except when voting for non-partisan offices such as judicial and school board races or if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation. The deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation is July 25.

The Pinellas County Election Website is VotePinellas.com. There residents can register to vote, check registraton status, request mail-in ballots, find precincts and polling places, and volunteer as an election worker. More information can be found at the State of Florida Division of Elections website at DOS.MyFlorida.com/elections.

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Community News

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Florida Botanical Gardens had a groundbreaking ceremony on June 11th for the construction of their upcoming feature, the Majeed Discovery Garden. When completed the 2-acre children's garden will feature a six hundred square foot outdoor classroom, play equipment, exploratory trails along McKay Creek, and an area for the arts with display areas and an outdoor stage. The Discovery Garden will provide learning opportunities as well as play and will allow children to focus on the care of plants and animals as they interact in creative spaces.



The Florida Botanical Gardens are a 100 acre park owned and operated by Pinellas County. Education, fundraising and events in the Garden are done through the FLBG Foundation. Donations are gratefully accepted at sflbgfoundation.org.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE AND RESCUE

PSFRD Chief is proud to introduce the implementation of the "Sensory Kit" program for autistic children encountered by firefighters and paramedics. Chief Davidson and City Manager Greg Mims partnered to secure a donation from the City of Indian Rocks Beach to fund the acquisition of four sensory kits which consist of 24 items including earmuffs, sunglasses and toys specially designed to stimulate one or more of the senses. This stimulation helps to ease the agitation commonly experienced by autistic children when they are involved in emergency situations requiring a fire department response. One kit will be placed on each fire engine, with the fourth on the Shift



Commander's truck, ensuring availability when needed. Chief Davidson also announced the inaugural "Paddle for Autism" scheduled for July 16th at the 18th Avenue Beach Access in Indian Rocks Beach. The event will incorporate therapeutic paddleboard lessons in a social setting for autistic children and will be held quarterly. Details below.

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**CHRISTMAS IN JULY
"HELP WANTED"**

The "Christmas Billboards" have been part of the holiday tradition in Indian Rocks Beach for five years now. There are 50 billboards. This is an all-volunteer activity coordinated by Bob Griffin, former publisher of this News Magazine. Griffin has agreed to coordinate this unique happening one more time in 2022. We are looking for a person or organization to pick up the program and continue it.

Basically, it consists of setting a start date (which is normally the Monday after Thanksgiving); putting out a request for help (via email and Facebook); going out the day prior and establishing the locations by putting poles in the ground (usually a team of 3 people); coordinating the event the day of (this normally takes 2-3 hours); then monitoring the billboards (in case of high winds). After the holidays, usually during the first week of January, the coordinator will again call for volunteers to take down all the billboards. This normally takes 8-10 people, in 3 trucks, working for approximately 2 hours.

The Christmas Billboards have been a popular addition to our city's holiday decoration and spirit. To keep this program going, we need someone to volunteer to take the lead in 2023. The volunteer coordinator will be advised by Griffin during the 2022 set up.

If interested or know someone who is, please email Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

Thank you in advance for volunteering and have a Merry Christmas.

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The Seventh Hole

BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB WEST COURSE RENOVATION

By Hal Bodley

Belleair Country Club, Florida's first golf course, is in the process of an \$8.8 million renovation/restoration of its Donald Ross-designed West Course.

Construction, delayed two years because of permitting issues, began on March 21 and is expected to be completed by mid-November.

By coincidence, the long-awaited renovation coincides with Belleair's 125th Anniversary celebration. The club's first six-hole golf course opened in 1897, corresponding with debut of Henry Plant's sprawling Belleview Hotel.

As part of the anniversary celebration, Belleair Country Club is publishing a 200-page coffee table book depicting the intriguing history of the club and the Belleview Hotel.

Jason Straka, a partner with Dublin, Ohio-based Fry/Straka Designs, is collaborating with Ft. Myers, Florida-based Clarke Construction Group on the renovation. All 18 greens are being rebuilt to USGA specifications, then restored according to Donald Ross's 1924 construction drawings obtained during Belleair Country Club Renovation Committee trips to Tufts Archives at Pinehurst, N. C.

"We knew about the history of Belleair Country Club, but what we didn't know was how much documentation the club and Tufts Archives had about the original design," said Straka.

One aspect of the construction not in the original design is creation of the breathtaking new par-3 seventh hole overlooking Clearwater Bay. Patterned after the famed No. 7 at Pebble Beach, this signature hole became possible when Belleair worked out a 30-year lease with the Town of Belleair for its portion of the so-called "peninsula." The country club already owned half of it.



During construction, Jim Slattery, director of golf, has been able to accommodate most members on the club's East Course. He's also made arrangements for members to play at numerous other courses in the area.

Belleair Country Club has 835 golf members and 591 social/sports members.

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Community News


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HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Marybeth Dunn

The return of BeachFest this year was a welcome sight for the thousands of patrons who participated in the full day of fun in the sun. With the generous sponsorship of C21 Beggins and The Original Crabby Bills, among others, the IRBHOA and the City of IRB put on the party of all parties. Friends and neighbors gathered on the beach for great food, live music, dancing, and even a hula hoop contest. Cornhole tournaments and a fun photo booth were new this year and were a big hit!

The funds raised from BeachFest, and other HOA events go back into the community. Recently the group was able



to pledge \$2,500 to St. Patrick's School in Largo to help them reach their goal of \$50k to build a commercial kitchen which will allow them to participate in the state's free and reduced lunch program for children in

need. \$1,500 was pledged to the Pinellas County Sheriff's office to support their K9 unit and \$8000 was given to the city for a sculpture to be placed in the county park. Any local nonprofit organization is eligible to apply for funds from the HOA once per year.

The HOA monthly mixers have resumed, they are typically held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The mixers are open to all; owners, renters, visitors...so please attend, who knows you may meet a new friend or two! More info can be found on the our website at IRBhome.com.

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

The Rotary Club of IRB wishes to thank the community for its continued support of our various projects locally, nationally, and internationally. These projects are funded by our IRB Rotary Foundation, whose motto is 'doing good in the world.'

We just completed our 'Flags for Service' project and now will look forward to our 20th annual 'Big Game Raffle'. This year's BGR winner (and a guest) will attend the 57th edition of football's biggest game at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ. The winner will also receive a 4 night stay and a \$1000 cash prize. There will be four cash prizes awarded to four other winning tickets, as well. Tickets will be on sale starting late July. More raffle ticket information will be published in the future.

We always welcome anyone in the community who may have interest in giving of their time and talent in support of those in need. Rotary has 117 years of history and is the largest service organization in the world, with over 34,000 clubs in over 190 countries. We get things done.

Our club meets for breakfast every Wednesday morning at Crabby Bill's main restaurant. The meeting starts at 7:15 am and adjourns at 8:15 am. We invite you join us for fun, friendship and serving those in need. Please contact club president David Kline (727-418-1673) for more information. Please consider visiting us—breakfast is on us!

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Community News

ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

Although A2K takes a break from meetings and organized Service Saturdays during the hot summer months of June and July, our members keep working. Since the weeds do not take a break, our volunteers continue to take the initiative to keep our signature streetscaping projects beautiful.

Our members are also busy planning for Oktoberfest 2022! Mark your calendar for a day of food, music, games and fun – October 8th at Kolb Park from 12-6 PM.

For two decades, A2K and the City of IRB have helped make the Oktoberfest festival a local tradition. "We had such great feedback on the smaller-scale event last year," says event chair, Ed Hoofnagle. "Oktoberfest is a way to celebrate the things that make our community great and an opportunity for everyone to connect and have fun."

If you are a local business and looking for a way to introduce or promote yourself to your neighbors, sponsoring Oktoberfest is a great way to make an impression. As an Oktoberfest vendor or exhibitor, you get to meet your customers face to face, and the community can explore your product and service options in a safe, family friendly, and fun atmosphere. We are always looking for friendly people who would like to volunteer for a worthwhile cause and want to be associated with this signature event. Volunteering has never been more rewarding!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, vendor, or volunteer or for further information please check our website IRBAction2000.com/okoberfest or contact Ed Hoofnagle at EdHoofnagle@gmail.com. Proceeds from the event go back to the IRB community.

WEST PINELLAS LITTLE LEAGUE

Submitted by Troy Sanders

Who's ready for some baseball? West Pinellas Little League Baseball registration is now open! Ages 4-14 are welcome to join the fun as we look forward to another successful Fall Season. Games run from mid-September through mid-November. Visit IRBrocks.org for more information.

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Community News

CLOTHES TO KIDS

It is that time of year for Clothes To Kids 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. For the months of July and 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 we need sizes 6-16, Junior Girls Sizes 5 and up (primarily bikini style is requested). Please support our mission and help us provide this basic necessity. For convenience you can shop at our Amazon Wish List Today. Website and Wish List Link: <https://clothestokids.org/dyd>.

"Drop off" donations from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at any of our three stores: Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater - 1059 North Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South. Cash donations are tax deductible and are used to purchase clothing in short supply. New underwear and socks are greatly appreciated. For more information or to schedule an appointment to shop call 727-441-5050 or visit our website at clothestokids.org.

Make an Appointment: Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or in crisis are eligible to shop with us. Each shopping bag includes five pairs of new underwear, five pairs of new socks, five tops, four bottoms (pants or shorts), one dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If the child attends a uniform school, they may receive three uniform tops and two bottoms.

TAMPA BAY WATCH

Discover the Tampa Bay ecosystem with the Discovery Center's expert marine science educators! Moored at Gate 23 on the St. Pete Pier, their USCG-certified eco-vessel provides family-friendly public tours, private charters, and school field trips. Guests enjoy wildlife watching, learning about the area's history, and experiencing marine species up close during a fisheries trawl. Sunset cruises are also available. This is a fun, unique, affordable way to explore the estuary from the water. Proceeds from your tour support the important environmental restoration work of Tampa Bay Watch. Book your adventure online: at tbwdiscoverycenter.org/tbwdc/



BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

Wilton Simpson, President of the Florida Senate, will be the speaker on Friday, July 08, 2022 from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm at the Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, Florida. A check for \$32 for the luncheon will reserve a seat if received by July 01, 2022. Please mail check to BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, Fl. 33756. Unfortunately, no walk ups can be accommodated.

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 July 18th – August 19th. We will be hosting an opening reception with date to be determined. Everyone is welcome!

Details regarding the reception and how to participate in this show will be available on our website.

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 of our daytime classes are on hiatus while summer camp is in session, we are 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!

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.

REMEMBER ME NP

Paddle For Prevention is a support group for like-minded people to address physical and mental health. Starting in June, there will be meetings every second Saturday at the Indian Rocks Beach Public Beach Access from 9am-12 pm. Participants will be given an Intro to Paddleboarding Class and receive educational brochures and referrals for mental health services.



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