

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

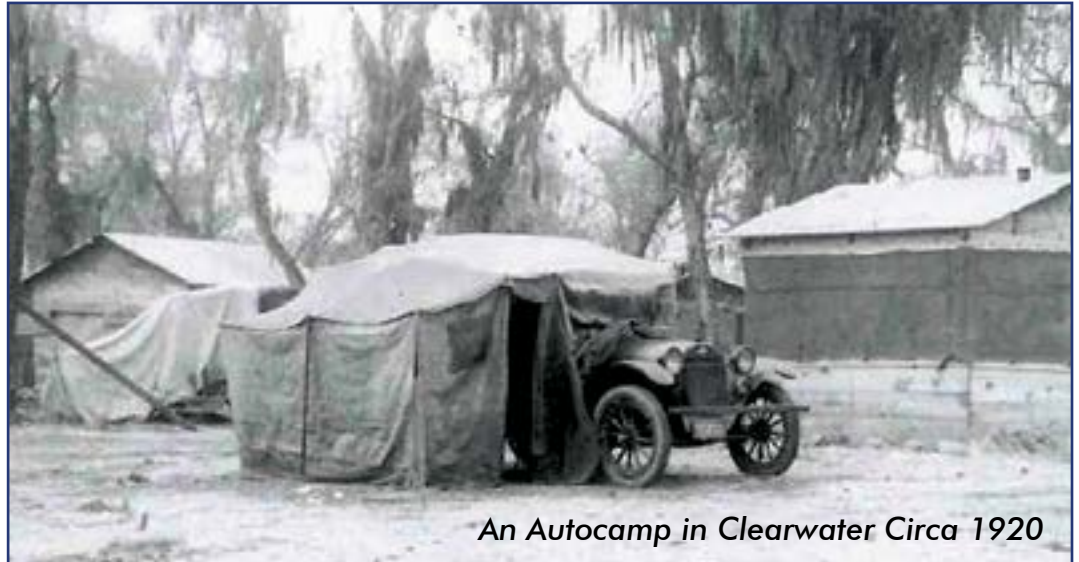
Magazine

## 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 17

#### Sara Blakely

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

- page 14



#### Your TRIM Notice Should Arrive in the Mail Soon.

Do you know what it is or why you get it? - page 31

#### Tampa Bay Watch

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

-page 28

**CREDITS**



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

We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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**CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

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

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

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

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

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER**

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600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, www.clearwater-fl.com	
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<b>MAYOR</b> - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
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Jon Jennings	
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<b>CLEARWATER GAS</b>	562-4980
<b>SOLID WASTE</b>	562-4920
<b>PIER 60</b>	462-6466
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<b>BEACH LIBRARY</b>	462-6138
<b>VISITOR INFO CENTER</b>	442-3604
<b>BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY</b>	462-6020
<b>POLICE NON-EMERGENCY</b>	562-4242
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	562-4334
<b>POLICE HOT LINE</b>	562-4080
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON</b>	562-4554
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<b>SAND KEY PARK</b>	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
<b>CLEARWATER AQUARIUM</b>	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
<b>JOLLY TROLLEY</b>	445-1200

<b>CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA</b>	562-4955
<b>CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB</b>	447-6000
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<b>CLEARWATER SAILING CTR</b>	517-7776
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<b>CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION</b>	
Sam Hutkin hutloan@aol.com	
<b>CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB</b>	316-5504
<b>ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION</b>	
Mike Anderson, President 777-2787	
<b>ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB</b>	
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<b>FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY</b>	
Linda Owens 260-894-0270	
<b>CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>	
Allison Dolan 754-8017	
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<b>PINELLAS COUNTY INFO</b>	464-3000
<b>COMMISSION OFFICES</b>	464-3377
Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276	
Karen Seel Sand Key 464-3278	
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Republican, District 16	
3450 East Lake Road Ste 305, Palm Harbor	
Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov	
Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090	
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Charlie Crist . . . . . 202-225-5961	
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT**

<b>AUGUST</b>			
School Supplies Tax Holiday	1-7	Public Schools Closed	5
City Council Meeting	4	Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	8
Town of Belleair School Supply Drive Ends	5	Taste Fest at CMA	9
Back to School Bash Beaches Rec	6	Clearwater Beach Clean Up	9
Property Tax Trim Notices Mailed	8	Market in the Bluffs Reopens	10
Public School Begins	10	Buc's Opening Game	11
Clearwater Beach Clean Up	12	Patriots Day	11
Bucs First Pre-Season Game	13	Grandparents Day	11
Hope Villages Annual Grand Gala	20	Third Saturday at Pinewood	17
Third Saturday at Pinewood	20	Peace Day	21
Clearwater Art Walk	23	Autumn Begins	22
Primary Election Day	23	Offshore Boat Races	23-25
City's Electronic Waste Disposal	31	Rosh Hashanah	25-27
		City's Electronic Waste Disposal	28
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		<b>OCTOBER</b>	
City Council Meeting	1	Yom Kippur	4
Gulfport's Gekofest	3	City Council Meeting	6
College Football Season Opens	3	Taste of the Beaches	8-14
Labor Day	5	Chalk-Tober Fest / Pier 60	13-16

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## Did You Know



**CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC** Holly Moon, CFRE is the new Director of Development and Marketing for the Clinic. Moon was most recently the Foundation Manager at Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research, Inc. Holly was raised in Pasco County and graduated from the University of South Florida Honors College in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

Over the past 45 years, the Clearwater Free Clinic has provided comprehensive health care to low-income, uninsured residents of upper Pinellas County. The Clinic, a volunteer driven nonprofit medical facility, provides primary health care at no cost to those who do not qualify for government assistance and who cannot afford private medical care.

**TICKETS 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.

Visit [suncoastjazzfestival.com](http://suncoastjazzfestival.com) to purchase tickets and to learn more about their upcoming lineup.

**MONTHLY CLEANUPS** Due to the success and community participation of this year's big Clearwater Cleanup, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Ocean Allies, Visit St. Pete Clearwater, Amplify Clearwater and the city of Clearwater have decided to start a monthly cleanup series on the second Friday morning of every month from January through October. With your assistance, we'll make our coast a more beautiful place to live, work and play. Sign up at [myclearwater.info/bigcleanupseries](http://myclearwater.info/bigcleanupseries).

**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 last year 31.6% of adults in Florida reported anxiety and/or depression 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 mosquitos.

**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](http://FloridaRevenue.com).



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**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](http://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 it 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](http://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](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/membership).

**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 S Osceola Ave. Register: [clearwaterartsalliance.org](http://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 OCTOBER 1** If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few. Read this issue, and others, [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com) and follow us on Facebook for ongoing 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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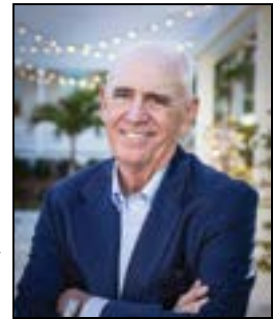
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**TAXES AND INHERITANCE**

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Under current estate tax law each decedent can leave \$12.2 million tax free to heirs, but income taxes can reduce an inherited estate by a large amount. How do you minimize taxes for yourself and your heirs?



Inherited assets get a step up in basis at death. That stock which you bought for \$25 years ago is now worth \$200. If you sell it, you will pay taxes on \$175. When the heirs get the stock, their cost basis steps up to \$200 which wipes out the capital gain. Therefore, as you need cash, sell the assets in your portfolio with the lowest cost basis first as long as it does not raise risk.

If you have a personally owned life insurance policy, the good news is that the proceeds are income tax free. However, if you have an annuity, the growth of the annuity is ordinary income when it is withdrawn and growth always comes out before principal. There is no step up in basis. The folks selling annuities usually fail to mention this when making their big commissions with heavy surrender charges. Consider converting the annuity to a 5- or 10-year payout which spreads the income taxes owed and then reinvest into other assets.

One of the biggest assets transferred at death is a retirement plan like a 401k or IRA. Prior to the 2019 SECURE Act, this was a valuable asset as it could be stretched out over the lifetime of the beneficiary. Now, however, only a spouse and a few other exceptions can stretch out the IRA. Everyone else must withdraw 100% of the money within a ten-year period. Initially, it was thought that the money could be taken with flexibility, but the IRS recently issued proposed rules that said a portion of the money needs to be taken every year over the ten years forcing taxes to be paid sooner rather than later.

One way to lessen this burden is to slowly convert your IRA into a Roth IRA. The benefit is that you will not be forced to take larger RMDs in the future, which might drive you into a higher tax bracket. Your heirs still have to withdraw the money over ten years, but it comes out tax free.

If you want to make your estate more tax efficient, take advantage of our one-hour complimentary meeting at our Clearwater office.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO  
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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change.

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



## HELLO NEIGHBORS!

By Samantha Moullet

To start things off, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Samantha Moullet and I am Clearwater's new Neighborhoods Manager. I am arriving to this position after being with the city of Clearwater for a year-and-a-half, working as our Parks Volunteer Specialist and in our Special Events Division. I've spent the past two years helping community members, non-profits, churches, Boy and Girl



Scout groups and neighborhoods complete volunteer projects in Clearwater parks and public spaces. We picked up litter, planted mangroves, removed invasive species, painted park signs, and supported our recreation centers and special events.

A little about me: I moved from Vancouver, Washington (the other Vancouver) after working with the city of Vancouver for around three years, coordinating volunteers and working in the community. I was born in Portland, Oregon and raised as one of four children, hiking, camping, rafting, kayaking, snowboarding, and participating in anything outdoors. I still spend almost all my free time out and about exploring what our community has to offer. I love kayaking, exploring new parks, biking, theatre, live music, and community events.

I am about a month into this position and already I am so inspired by the neighborhoods, organizations, civic groups, and non-profits. Clearwater is in the middle of an extremely momentous time, and I couldn't be more excited to work with our neighborhood and community leaders to achieve neighborhood goals, work through challenges, and make Clearwater a better place for our residents and neighbors.

Let's think creatively, brainstorm solutions, work together, and make things happen. If we haven't met yet, I would love to come take a tour of your neighborhood, meet for coffee or lunch, or speak over the phone to get to know more about you as a neighborhood leader, your neighborhood's history, and the goals you are hoping to accomplish moving forward.

Please reach out at any time, I am just a phone call away - 727-562-4559, Samantha.Moullet@myclearwater.com

### NEW LARGO SHOWS ADDED

The Central Park Performing Arts Center announced its latest addition of performances. 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.

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## FREEFALL THEATRE COMPANY UPCOMING SHOWS

*Rose and Walsh*

July 29 - August 28

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](http://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](mailto:ClearwaterSuperBoat@TampaBay.RR.com) or call 727-593-5536.

## FROM CITY MANAGER JON JENNINGS' DESK



It has been a busy nine months since I started in my role as City Manager. In this time, I have focused on assessing the community and the city organization, challenging long-standing norms, and planning what I believe is the best approach to move Clearwater forward.

In my short time here, I have met several of you at City Council meetings, neighborhood meetings or out in the community. I have been so impressed with this community I now call home,

and I am committed to continuing to make it better. Some of my top priorities are the following:

- Bringing back neighborhood liaison staff in both the city manager's office and police so residents have a go-to person and feel better connected with us
- Improving neighborhood amenities like signage, playgrounds, and sidewalks
- Increasing safety patrols by adding 10 additional officers to primarily cover the beach which was partially paid for by parking revenues
- Promoting Clearwater and its assets to the general community outside of Clearwater
- Collaborating with downtown property and business owners to align our visions and goals so downtown is set up to thrive
- Attracting and retaining a quality workforce
- Making sure city staff is providing quality customer service
- Making sure our local land development codes which involves signage, landscaping and other local requirements are not overly cumbersome or outdated
- Designing and launching a new, improved website myclearwater.com
- Creating a Department of Innovation so that we can improve our processes and continue to expand our sustainability efforts

I am excited for what the future holds for Clearwater. I truly feel like we live in a city that has incredible untapped potential. I continuously look around and am in awe of the beauty of this place I am so lucky to call home.

If you have any feedback for us, feel free to reach out to me at jon.jennings@myclearwater.com or call our new Neighborhoods Division Manager Sam Moullet, 562-4559

## 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](http://www.flbgfoundation.org/volunteer).

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**AC MARRIOTT OPENS** This 22 million project is the latest hotel to open on Clearwater Beach, it features 144 rooms, a first level restaurant, pool and poolside bar and a roof top bar open to the public.

AC Hotels by Marriott is an international chain of design led hotels owned by Marriott International. There are 155 AC Marriotts in twenty countries.

Find this hotel at 395 Coronado in South Beach or call 441-4443.

**OPAL SANDS EXPANDING** After two years of talks and planning, and Pandemic delays, work has finally started on the project across the street from the Opal Sands. It is expected to take two years.

Ocean Properties, the developer of the Opal Sands Resort, purchased most of the block across the street - 401, 411, 421, 425 and 431 South Gulfview Blvd., with plans to build another large hotel complex (248 rooms), a parking garage, and a proposed pedestrian bridge 30 feet above the street connecting the two hotels. To build the bridge, the city needs to grant the developer an easement for air rights, which they are currently considering

All the other buildings to the north of Salty's Island Bar including the 35-year-old Post Corner Pizza have been demolished. The owners of Salty's say they are staying.

**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.

**JW MARRIOTT** Construction continues on this 162 room hotel with 250 feet of waterfront, facing Clearwater Pass. It is first JW Marriott Residences in the United States.

"We are moving ahead on schedule," says Bill West, VP of Development for the Patel Group, who owns this hotel and the Wyndham Hotel in Clearwater Beach.

The project, located at 691 South Gulfview Blvd., is expected to be completed in early next year.

**FRANKIEWICZ FINANCIAL** Father and son Steve and Larry Frankiewicz recently opened a branch office of their family-owned mortgage brokerage 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 experience the best in the industry.

Visit [www.thefrankiewiczteam.com](http://www.thefrankiewiczteam.com) to apply online. Find them at 305 Indian Rocks Road N., Belleair Bluffs. You can call Steve at 727-741-5707.

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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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## 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.

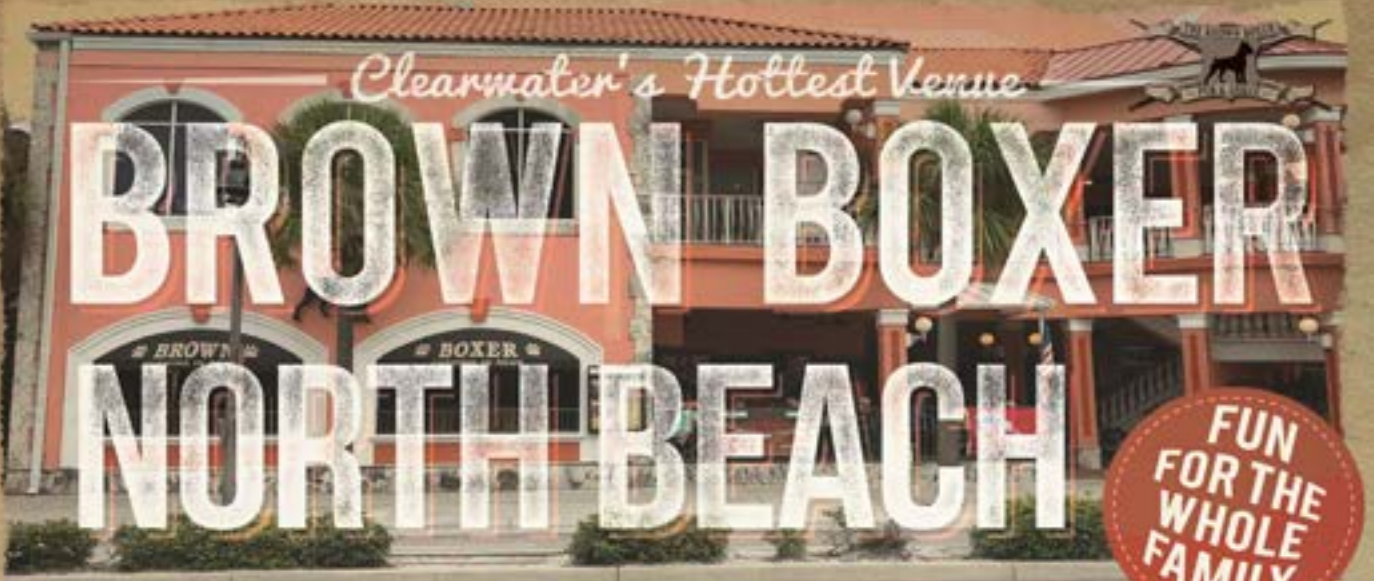
She announced the sale of her company to her employees at a surprise meeting and in the style of Oprah, she gave every employee two first class plane tickets to anywhere in the world—plus \$10,000 in cash. The room went crazy. When asked how they would use their gifts, their answers ran the gamut - a 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](http://www.Spanx.com). ■



*Sara Blakely and husband Jessie Itzler*



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# Bar & Restaurant News



**PAINTING HONORS CHEF** Baystar Restaurant Group was founded in 1997 when Frank Chivas and the late Chef Tom Pritchard opened Salt Rock Grill. Mr. Pritchard was executive chef for Baystar Restaurant Group and trained or inspired many of the area's most recognized chefs. A known storyteller, he was considered a legend by those he mentored. He was also known to many as Moose Mazaraka, his alias when he fled to Mexico in the 1970s for a few years after defaulting on a business bank loan. He died in 2015.

Using a unique old photo of Tom, Jason Aguilar commissioned a painting by "Velvetiki" artist Gwen Rosewater to honor Chef Tom. It was a gift to Frank Chivas and the BayStar restaurant group with the thought of it hanging at Bar Tiki in Clearwater Beach Marina. Tiki culture is back in fashion and many tiki bars often featured black velvet paintings with tropical themes and scantily clad women. Rosewater paints on black velvet like the black velvet paintings of the 1970s. A small brass engraved nameplate reads "Moose Mazaraka AKA Chef Tom Pritchard."

**COCO'S NEW MENU** The owners took the best of Cooters menu and combined it with the best of Coco's to create a new menu. Come in and try the MD jumbo lump crab cakes or the colossal steamed shrimp. Of course, they serve their famous Orange Crush drinks. They have live music most nights and are open late. The new Coco's is located at 423 Poinsettia Avenue.



After a year of delays, Coco's third location has resumed their construction at the north end of Indian Rocks Beach in the old 18 On The Rocks. The building has been completely gutted and they are starting from scratch.

**NEW ROOFTOP BAR** The AC Marriott on Coronado Drive opened a roof top bar called "Soiree". It is open to the public.



**HOOTER'S CELEBRATES TEN YEARS** The Clearwater Beach Hooter's opened ten years ago last month. Since opening, they have become an important part of Clearwater Beach and the community. It is a favorite spot for food and drink for the tourists, as well as the locals.

**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 [sekushiattheplaza.com](http://sekushiattheplaza.com).

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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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### 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 millennium 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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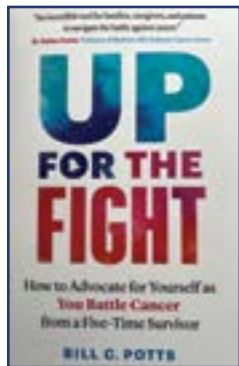
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## LOCAL CANCER SURVIVOR WRITES A HOW TO BOOK ABOUT CANCER

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](http://www.BillCPotts.com).







**Julie Marcus**  
PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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**PRIMARY ELECTION - AUGUST 23, 2022**  
**3 WAYS TO VOTE**

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**★ Vote By Mail**


- All voters are eligible to vote by mail.
- Request a mail ballot at [VotePinellas.gov](http://VotePinellas.gov) or call 727-464-VOTE (8683).
- Mail back your ballot or take it to any one of our mail ballot return locations. (Return location days and times vary – check locations at [VotePinellas.gov](http://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](http://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.



🌐 [VOTEPINELLAS.GOV](http://VOTEPINELLAS.GOV)
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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](http://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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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.clothestokids.org).



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# HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY PIER 60!

by Gary Johnson, former Clearwater Beach Engineering Project Coordinator

In June of 1962, Clearwater Municipal Pier became the focal point of the beach. The rebuilding of the first pier with a 609-foot extension was renamed for its location at the end of State Road 60. It cost \$100,000 and took just 10 weeks to build. In the 1990s, it had structural issues and was rebuilt.

I met my future wife in the fall of 1973 at the University of Florida in Gainesville when we were both freshmen. She was a 1973 graduate of Largo High School and I was a 1973 graduate of South Miami High School. We visited this area many times and spent a lot of times going to Clearwater Beach and having breakfast at the Howard Johnson restaurants on Clearwater Beach, the one on Causeway Blvd and also the one at the hotel on Mandalay Blvd.

I moved here in 1985 and accepted a position with the City of Clearwater in November 1992 as the Engineering Project Coordinator, Engineering Division of the Public Works Administration Department.

One of my first major City projects was the reconstruction of Pier 60 which was a complicated, fascinating, and rewarding project. I remember

visiting the old pier during my trips to Clearwater during the 1970s and '80s. I had enjoyed fishing from the old pier. The sunset views from the second deck at the west end of the pier were always spectacular! I clearly recall a large tank by the bait shop on the old pier with sea turtles and local marine life. It was relocated before pier demolition started in 1993.

The old pier we replaced was built in 1962. It had replaced the original pier wooden built around 1900. The 1962 structure was built with concrete pilings, beams and deck. Over its 60 or so years of service the steel reinforcing (rebar) rusted and caused "spalling," a condition where the concrete cracks and threatens the structural integrity and safety of the pier. The city performed repairs to ensure the safety of the pier, but elected to replace it, since "Penny for Pinellas" funds could be used.

The major challenge was the environmental impact on existing sea grass and shadows on the Gulf bottom from a longer, wider structure. It was resolved by building the new pier on the exact footprint as the old pier. The new pier also incorporated epoxy coated



1962 Pier

reinforcing steel and concrete to ensure a longer life than the 1962 structure.

Another challenge was constructing a second deck like the 1962 pier. Unfortunately, we would have had to add an elevator to comply with ADA regulations and that was cost prohibitive.

Pier 60 was one of my favorite and most rewarding projects during my tenure with the City of Clearwater, along with the Main Library, Sand Key and Memorial Causeway bridges, Roundabout and Beach Walk.

The "New Pier 60" is a signature structure for the City of Clearwater, the Pinellas County Gulf Coast beaches, and the entire Tampa Bay Area! Every time I see it in TV advertisements for our area, I am proud to have had a small role in its creation.



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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 request reclaimed water service, contact Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4600, or visit [myclearwater.info/reclaimed](http://myclearwater.info/reclaimed) to sign up for service.

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## Community News...

### 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 began in May and runs 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](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org), or e-mail [Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org](mailto:Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org).

### 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.

### 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](http://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.

### 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](http://www.100womenpinellas.org).

### 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.

### MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS

The Clearwater chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars meets the first Tuesday 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.

### SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

SKCA members can also take advantage of "deep discounts" when using the Sailing Center.

They hope to resume "in person" meetings in the near future, but due to COVID 19 sub-variants, the Board will continue to meet via "Zoom" video conferencing so interested members can also attend. Please check their website for any changes to this meeting policy. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Look for a "Zoom" link in the email announcing each month's agenda, or obtain the link on their website at [sandkeycivicassociation.org](http://sandkeycivicassociation.org).

Contact the secretary at [skcainc@aol.co](mailto:skcainc@aol.co), with any questions

### ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The new IECA Board Members:

- David Farrar - President/Social Media, event location coordinator, Entrance Partner Coordinator
- Ed Schmol - Vice President, Flag Patrol, Nominating Chair
- Kathy Prossick 2021 - Treasurer, Quarterly Causeway Cleanups
- Stephany Dawson 2022 - Secretary
- Tom Lindblom 2021 - Membership, Flag Patrol
- Mark Albert 2021 - Website, Chili Cookoff, Holiday Lights Contests
- Sally Hacking - NCOD Chair, Entrance Partner Coordinator
- Bill Rogove 2021 - Beautification, Quarterly Plantings, License Plate Security
- Rose Parsons 2021 - Holiday Car Parade
- Tom Cummings - June 2022 - Board Member at Large
- Debbie Wilson - June 2022 - Board Member at Large
- Patti Jucha - June 2022 - Board Member at Large

Causeway Cleanup - September 3rd 8-10am. E-mail [MylECATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:MylECATreasurer@gmail.com)



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# Community News...

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## CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

They are a community organization of residents and business owners, whose mission is to promote civic, recreational and social projects while improving and enriching our community. They are dedicated to providing a strong and unified voice for their neighborhood in City affairs and issues.

Membership is \$35 annually per household or \$100 per business. Donations are welcome also. You may join at [clearwaterbeachassoc.com/membership](http://clearwaterbeachassoc.com/membership). Contact CBA President Samuel Hutkin at [hutloan@aol.com](mailto:hutloan@aol.com) with questions.

Upcoming events:

- September 6 – CBA Meeting, 6:30pm, Chapel by the Sea Fellowship Hall
- September 17 – Adopt-A-Park Cleanup – Meet at Rec Center at 9AM – Clean-up both McKay & Rec Center Parks
- October 2 – Hooters Clearwater Offshore Nationals Boat Races – Gather at Beach Access #6 – 11-3pm
- October 4 – CBA Meeting, 6:30pm, Chapel by the Sea Fellowship Hall
- October 21 – Pub Crawl – 6-8:30pm – Locations to be Determined
- November 1 – CBA Meeting, 6:30pm, Chapel by the Sea Fellowship Hall
- December 6 – CBA Annual Meeting, 6:30pm, Chapel by the Fellowship Hall
- December 10 – Annual Holiday Party – 6-9pm
- December 17 – Lighted Bike & Santa Parade. Start at Kit & Gary's home on Acacia Street – 6-8:30pm Clearwater Beach Association

## CHAPEL BY THE SEA

On Sunday, July 26, the congregation at Chapel by the Sea handed a check for \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties. It was one of three installments from a Chapel fundraising campaign.

The Chapel is due for some major renovations and developed their Imagine Campaign as a way to raise money and awareness for the improvements planned. "Imagine Our Journey. The Next 75" tells the story of the Chapel's first seventy-five years and what needs to be done to ensure the future of the next seventy-five years. Several big-ticket items include installing a pipe organ to the sanctuary, replacing all of the HVAC, refurbishing pews, new carpets, upgraded video and sound, and the list goes on from there.

As a byproduct of the fundraising, the Chapel has pledged to give 5% of their earnings to a charitable organization that contributes greatly to the community. Habitat for Humanity is one of the organizations that the Chapel regularly contributes to as a way to create outreach resources for anyone who visits the Chapel looking for help.

Habitat for Humanity has a unique approach to helping deserving candidates help themselves. Families that qualify for a Habitat House are involved in the process from start to finish. The staff, volunteers, and recipient families all work very hard on each house. From financial/homeowner classes to sweat equity in their own home, the organization works to empower homeowners and ensure success.

Please visit [chapelbythesea.net/imagine-campaign](http://chapelbythesea.net/imagine-campaign) for more information on the restoration of Chapel by the Sea and the Imagine Campaign.

Visit [habitatpwp.org](http://habitatpwp.org) to learn more about Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties.

# Community News...

## ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB

They invite all women in Island Estates and the surrounding areas to join them for monthly luncheons, fundraisers, field trips, and 5 o'clock Somewhere Happy Hour gatherings. You do NOT need to be a resident of Island Estates. Membership is open to Island Estates Residents, as well as to those who used to live here and moved away or you can be sponsored by a current member. Dues are \$26 a year. Join online at [www.islandstateswomensclub.com](http://www.islandstateswomensclub.com) or print the Membership application from the website and mail it in with your check.

Upcoming events include:

- 5 o'clock Somewhere at Clear Sky on Cleveland: Thursday, August 4, 2022 from 5 PM to 7 PM.
- 5 o'clock Somewhere right here on the Island: Thursday, September 1st at Island Way Grill from 5 to 7pm.
- First Field Trip: Sip and Stroll in Downtown Clearwater on September 17th

Monthly Luncheon and Speaker: Alfano's on Tuesday, September 20 – Reservations are required.

Members can register online for events at [islandstateswomensclub.com](http://islandstateswomensclub.com). For information, contact Membership Chairperson, Patti at [pattijucha@yahoo.com](mailto:pattijucha@yahoo.com) or President Joan Landreth at [joanitiredone@aol.com](mailto:joanitiredone@aol.com).

## FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE

They announced four concerts for their 93rd Season. Each concert has a 2pm & 8pm performance. Want to guarantee your preferred seats? Contact the box office 727-446-1360 to buy the full Concert season!

- **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, and Ralph Blane.
- **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 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.

The Francis Wilson Playhouse is located at 302 Seminole St, in Clearwater. Box Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 5:00pm. E-mail [BoxOffice@FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org](mailto:BoxOffice@FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org) or visit [franciswilsonplayhouse.org](http://franciswilsonplayhouse.org) for more information.

**New Summer Membership Promotion**  
Through September  
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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.

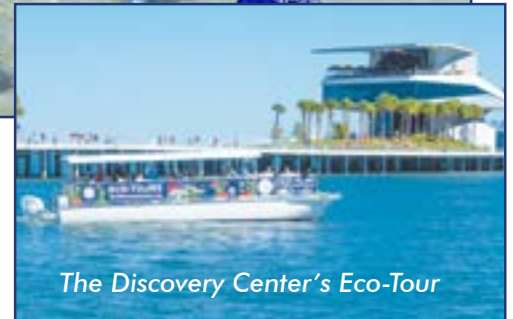
Each year, the team puts over two hundred tons of oyster habitat into the bay using marine-friendly concrete reef balls, oyster shell bags and vertical oyster gardens. The gardens are made from recycled oyster shells donated by local restaurants and suspended from docks creating new oyster habitats.

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](http://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](http://tampabaywatch.org). ■

# Marina Market & Food Hall

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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 [seasidebirdsantuary.org](http://seasidebirdsantuary.org) or call 727-391-6211 to see how you can help.*

**Food Truck Block Party**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
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727.446.0430

## 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](http://www.pcpao.gov).

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