

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

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

By Bob Griffin

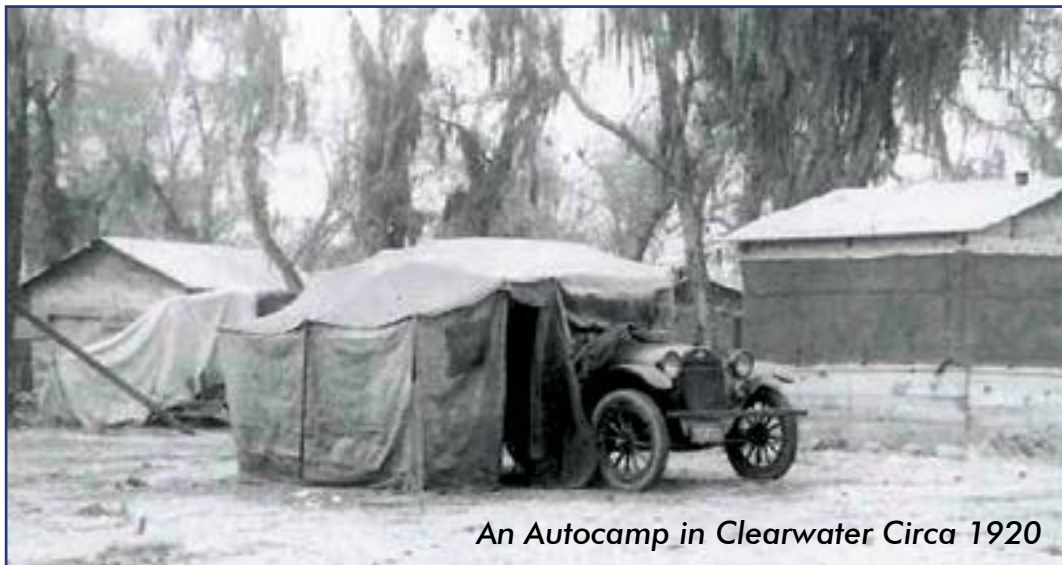
Last year we bought a travel trailer. It is 32 feet and pulled by a Toyota pickup truck. The camping experience was new to us, but hundreds of thousands of people are doing it, and have been since the early 1900s.

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

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.

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An Autocamp in Clearwater Circa 1920

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Witty Wood!

Local artist Adria Bernstein is putting smiles on people's faces in more ways than one.
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Gator Season Opens

American Alligators represent a \$60 million dollar per year industry.
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Making Music at BayCare Park

The 43rd Annual Clearwater Jazz Holiday returns October 14th -16th.
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Remembering Rick Walker

Indian Rocks Beach resident Rick Walker served his community for forty years as a firefighter, Rotarian, and more.
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CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862
Pete@MagriffProductions.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER!



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Denise Housegr • Phil Hanna
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Public Works: Dean Scharmen 595-6889
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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Charlie Crist 202-225-5961
696 1st Ave N. Ste 203
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER

College Football Season Opens 3
Amplify Clearwater Taste Fest CMA 3
Labor Day Car Show Largo HS 3
Tampa Bay Blues Festival at the Vinoy 4
Labor Day 5
Public Schools Closed 5
Lionfish Roundup Ends 6
Commission Budget Meeting 7
Bluffs Business Assn Mixer 8
Market in the Bluffs Reopens 10
9/11 Memorial PSFRD 11
Buccaneers Season Opener 11
Patriots Day 11
Grandparents Day 11
Tampa Bay Watch Savor the Bay 13
City Commission Meeting 13
Third Saturday at Pinewood 17
Commission Final Budget Meeting 21
Peace Day 21
Autumn Begins 22
Offshore Power Boat Races 23-25
NHL Preseason Begins 24
Rosh Hashanah 25-27

OCTOBER

Yom Kippur 4
MLB Postseason Begins 7
Market In The Bluffs 8
Hurricane Eddie's Beach Cleanup 8
Indian Rocks Beach Oktoberfest 8
Taste of the Beaches 8-14
Columbus Day 10
Indigenous Peoples Day 10
Lightning First Game 11
City Commission Meeting 11
Bluffs Business Assn Mixer 13
Chalktober Art Fest Pier 60 13-16
Clearwater Jazz Holiday 14-16
Stone Crab Season Begins 15
Lightning Home Opener 18
Bluffs Wine Walk 22
Dunedin Stone Crab Festival 22
PumpkinFest Botanical Gardens 22-23
Honeymoon Island Fall Fest 22-23
World Series Begins 28
Halloween Music Festival Largo 28-30
Halloween 31



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

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

The Christmas Billboards have been a popular addition to our city's holiday decoration and spirit. To keep this program going, we need someone to volunteer to take the lead in 2023. The volunteer coordinator will be advised by Griffin during the 2022 set up. If interested or know someone who is, please email Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 430-8300.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE The Suncoast Jazz Festival on Sand Key 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 afternoon, Gospel Sunday morning, and Afterglow to wind down the weekend.

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

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

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

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

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BEACH CLEANING ROBOT Pinellas beaches got some futuristic help for an age-old problem this summer. Mitigating plastic pollution is a problem for beach communities all around the world. Keep Florida Beautiful debuted "BeBot" in July, a remote-controlled device that cruises the beach sifting plastic and other trash from the sand. The robot can clean up to



32,000 square feet per hour, removing cigarette butts, bottle caps, food wrappers and other trash from up to ten centimeters below the surface and depositing the refuse into a compartment for disposal. It is completely electric and is non-destructive to the environment or wildlife. BeBot cleaned 14 locations in Pinellas before moving on to St. John's County.

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

MEET CMA'S NEW CEO

Joe Handy was selected as Clearwater Marine Aquarium's next CEO. Handy brings twenty years of experience in cultural institutions including fifteen years at the Georgia Aquarium. He most recently worked as president of the National Black MBA Association in Atlanta. As CEO, Handy will oversee the Clearwater Marine Research Institute and its researchers and scientists who are gathering research data on manatees, right whales, and sea turtles.



LET YOUR RECYCLING "HANG LOOSE" This summer and beyond, remember to let your recycling "hang loose," and do not bag your materials before placing them in your recycling bin. Recyclables should be loose in the bin, as plastic bags tangle in sorting machines and create dangerous situations for workers. Even if your bags contain recycling, they are not able to be processed and cannot be recycled. Return plastic bags, bubble wrap and other soft plastics to local retailers, or throw them away. Materials that are placed in your bin for recycling should be empty, dry and unbagged. This will keep your bin clean and free from unpleasant smells, too.

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

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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. ■



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

A2K / ACTION 2000

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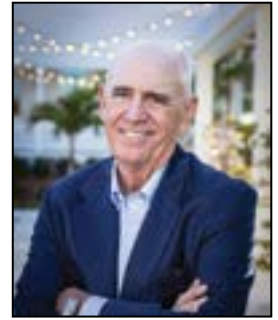
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TAXES AND INHERITANCE

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 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 highest 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.

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

HOW TIME FLIES - A SECOND DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

As I prepare to take my leave from my role as a Pinellas County Commissioner in November, I wanted to continue my review of our accomplishments. Yes. Not just Pinellas County's accomplishments, but our accomplishments. We couldn't have done all we have done without your interest and support for growing and nurturing our wonderful county over the years. My last column covered the many incredible accomplishments between 2000 and 2010 so let's pick up with 2010 through 2020 and beyond.

As a new decade dawned in 2010, Pinellas County heard you when you said you wanted improved roadways. The Bryan Dairy Road, Haines Road and Keystone Road improvement projects, along with many other road improvement projects throughout the decade, created better driving experiences around and through the county. In addition, intersection improvements at Bryan Dairy and Starkey Roads in Largo and 102nd Avenue North and 113th Street North in Seminole also aided traffic flow, along with many other intersection projects across the county, created improved traffic flow and safety. Over the decade we spent a total of more than \$169 million in arterial road, local and collector street and intersection expansions and improvements and that doesn't even cover the more than \$59 million invested in resurfacing and rehabilitation of existing roads throughout the county.

We also focused on pedestrian travel and safety and invested more than \$39 million in sidewalk installation, improvements, ADA upgrades and Pinellas Trail projects across the county. Some notable mentions include filling a sidewalk gap along Haines Bayshore Road in Clearwater, installing sidewalks along Park Boulevard between Starkey Road and 66th Street in Pinellas Park and along Oakhurst Road in Seminole, along with sidewalk and ADA improvements along Keystone Road between East Lake Road and the Hillsborough County line. There are just too many projects to name individually!

Between 2010 and 2020 Pinellas County also invested in our parks and preserves. More than \$36 million went to improving, refurbishing and acquiring park facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to our area. Through the decade, those funds repaved park roads countywide, replaced water and sewer infrastructure at Fort De Soto Park, replaced and built new sidewalks, developed better facilities for access to the water and fishing at Fort De Soto and other parks and provided for ADA accessibility at Fort De Soto, Phillippe, Lake Seminole and War Veterans Memorial Parks. We also invested in facilities that serve the different programs and services you depend on every day. Pinellas County invested a total of \$373 million in constructing and improving facilities during the decade that house our judicial functions, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, detention and corrections, emergency shelters and our emergency services facilities including the Pinellas Safety Complex in Largo. More than \$13 million was invested into the Affordable Housing Land Assembly program to support land acquisition suitable for affordable workforce housing developments.

Again, there is not enough space in this entire magazine to come close to naming everything that Pinellas County was able to accomplish between 2010 and 2020, along with these last couple of years. I am so proud of it all and you should be as well. We've done a lot, together. Please stay involved in your local government. Make a difference by letting your elected officials know what you need and want. Everyone is served better when everyone participates.

As always, you can email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org. Until next time, stay safe and well.

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LOCAL ARTIST IS CREATING SMILES

by Lora Magnani

Got Wood? What to build with that wood? How about painting it and making art out of it? That is exactly what local artist and dental hygienist Adria Bernstein does, bringing smiles to people's faces in more ways than one.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Adria moved to the Sunshine State at the age of two with her Air Force family, making roots in Seminole. She graduated from Seminole High School and continued her education at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Tampa, where she graduated with degrees in fashion design and graphic design. Adria works as a dental hygienist for Gulf Breeze Dental Care as well. She gets her love for art from grandmother and mother who were both artists.

After going through a divorce, Adria began creating whimsical art pieces out of rocks. A lover of the outdoors, she uses elements from nature as her medium. Some of her inspirations come from the sea, wildlife, and pets. She starts with a photo of her model and begins rock hunting. Finding the perfect rock for the right jawline or nose is all part of her process. She does not just paint a single rock, because "anyone can paint a rock." She builds her pieces from several. This is how Witty Wocks! was born.



Rocks are fun to paint but Adria did not want to restrict herself to just one medium. She began working with

acrylics, wood and metal back in 2018 and has grown from there. As with the rocks, she tries to find the perfect pieces of wood that will bring her works to life. Most of her materials are found at local hardware stores, but not all are bought. She tries to incorporate recycled items such as wire, bolts, and nuts. Some of the bigger pieces she creates can be very time consuming, taking 40 to 50 hours to complete.



When Adria is not at the dental office working on people's smiles, she is working from home with her teenage son, pugs and cat. She hopes to eventually open a studio to create and work in, but for now she enjoys working from home with her loved ones. Art is one of her many loves, she also enjoys volunteering with SPCA, Pug Rescue of Florida, Big Cat Rescue, and various other animal rescue groups. You may have already seen some of Adria's art without knowing it. She has been commissioned by many different businesses in the area to paint the dolphins you see around town and at the beach.

If you would like to see more of Adria's amazing artwork, purchase a piece, or have something commissioned, visit her website at www.WittyWocks.com.



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REMEMBERING RICK WALKER, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH RESIDENT AND LIFELONG PUBLIC SERVANT

by David Kline, Rotary of Indian Rocks Beach

Our community recently lost one of its most hardworking, dedicated, loyal public servants. On July 29, 2022, our dear friend Richard T. (Rick) Walker passed away suddenly. He was 65 years old.

Everywhere you looked in the greater IRB community, Rick was always doing something. It seemed as though he knew everyone (which he probably did). Service was in his DNA. Whenever you needed something done, and done right, Rick was there to help. He was the first one to arrive and the last one to leave.

A long-time resident of this area, Rick was originally from western Pennsylvania, but he grew up on the sands of IRB. His career of public service started with the local Fire District in the early 1980s. Rick retired as an Assistant Chief from Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue in 2010. Rick did not fully understand or embrace retirement, because he quickly jumped into a Hazardous Materials Analyst role with the county's Emergency Management team, which he served until his passing. For many years, Rick also taught first responder classes at St Pete College. A quote from PSFR stated: "There is no way we could ever count the contributions Rick has made to our Fire District, or sufficiently describe the enormous impact he has had on our entire community. He will be greatly missed."

Rick was a charter member of our Rotary club of IRB and twice served as president of our club. He was the current president of the club.

"Rick was a friend to many and always wanted to help anyone

in need," wrote Matt Loder Sr., owner of the Original Crabby Bill's. "His presence will certainly be missed in the community he called home."

Perhaps the most poignant comment came from former Fire Chief Larry Ladd, who said that during the 26 years they served on the department together, he learned "Rick was a special person that you find few of in a lifetime. He was always on the go, often checking the other stations several times a day, checking on residents and businesses."

Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Cookie Kennedy, who grew up with Walker and considered him a close friend, agreed. "We are shocked and filled with great sadness at the loss of Rick Walker," Kennedy said. "He comes from the old school group of people who hold a special place in the community. Chief Walker always showed up everywhere, and he championed all causes. I will always remember his big smile and funny, quirky sense of humor. Rick was an all-around good guy with an enormous heart who was dedicated to and loved his community. It is a huge loss."

Rick's wife, Jan Walker, has asked that memorial contributions be made to the Rotary Club at indianrocksrotary.org (or mailed to P.O. Box 968, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785) or Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue, 304 1st St., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785 (memo line-Richard Walker). A private Celebration of Life will be held in the near future.





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Bar & Restaurant News



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

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

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

NEW COFFEE SHOP Enjoy this newest Belleair Bluffs coffee spot, that offers more than just a cup of Joe. Called Le Merle Coffee Bar and Bakery, it is owned by Henry and daughter Bri Gamez who specialize in fresh "French patisserie." The creamy, flaky, and delicate sweets come in many filling flavors. Find them at 2985 West Bay Dr., in the Bonefish Shopping Center between Maggie Mae's and Westshore Pizza.



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

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



SLYCE WYNE BAR The new "Wyne" Bar will hopefully be open in the next few weeks. It will feature its own unique menu with small plates and charcuterie. Customers will also be able to order from the full Slyce menu. Located next to Slyce Pizza at 311 Gulf BL, the bar will feature both indoor and outdoor seating.

NEW SUNDAY BREAKFAST OPTION VIP Mexican American Cuisine is now serving breakfast on Sundays from 9am-12pm. The menu will feature huevos rancheros, chilaquiles and more. They will also offer different drink specials each week. VIP Mexican American Cuisine is located at 213 Gulf BL.

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


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Bar & Restaurant News



PAINTING HONORS CHEF

Baystar Restaurant Group was founded in 1997 when Frank Chivas and the late Chef Tom Prichard opened Salt Rock Grill. Mr. Prichard 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 before returning to the area. He died in 2015.

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 Prichard."

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PAJANO'S SECOND LOCATION OPENS

Pajano's Pizza opened their second location last month at 17307 Gulf BL in Redington Beach. The Indian Rocks Beach staple was founded by Nickolas Faraone Sr. in 1971 and has been serving fresh pizza, subs, salads, and more for over 50 years. Faraone's son Mike has continued the family tradition in Indian Rocks and is proud to bring Pajano's quality food to Redington.



ANECDOTE CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Anecdote Brewing Company is celebrating their second anniversary of crafting unique beverages on Indian Rocks Beach.



From Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11th, stop by the taproom at 321 Gulf Blvd to enjoy live music, beer releases, raffles and give aways. There will also be food and drink specials throughout the weekend. Anecdote is proud to call Indian Rocks Beach home and is excited to welcome its community of friends to celebrate their birthday.

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WORKPLACE SAFETY

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

You would not leave your house unlocked or allow strangers to wander inside. At home, you know all the exits, the safest places, and hopefully you have talked with your family about what to do in an emergency. Yet many spend eight or more hours a day at work, so it is vital to have a safety plan for your place of employment too.



Business Watch helps to establish relationships between businesses and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO). Its primary purpose is to ensure the PCSO has after-hours contacts for business owners if something happens when the business is closed, such as a broken window, burglary, or fire. Business Watch also encourages business owners to take a proactive role in increasing safety. One way they can accomplish this is by contacting the PCSO Crime Prevention and Community Awareness Unit (CPCA). Deputies in that unit can provide security inspections, safety meetings, and presentations, as well as offering emails about crime trends that affect the area.

Businesses are at risk of burglary, theft, forgery/fraud, vandalism, and identity theft, but one of the most troubling trends is the rise in active assailant incidents. According to the FBI, from 2020 to 2021 there was a more than a 50 percent increase in the number of active assailant incidents, and the majority of those occur in places of business. CPCA offers training on how to best prepare for an assailant at work, including forming an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Sixty-nine percent of active assailant incidents are over in less than five minutes, and no matter how fast the response may be, most have ended before law enforcement arrives. If your business has an EAP in place, it can save lives.

According to the instruction that CPCA offers to businesses, if you hear gunshots or have reason to believe there is an active assailant, the best course of action is to evacuate. Know your exits and plan an evacuation route ahead of time. Leave personal belongings behind and help coworkers escape if possible. If you encounter law enforcement officers as you escape, keep your hands visible, follow their instructions, and quickly give them any information you have about the assailant's location or appearance.

If evacuation is not possible, the next alternative is to hide. Find a place out of the assailant's view with cover. Ideally, lock yourself in a room and block the door with whatever is available, turn off the lights, silence cell phones, and stay quiet.

As a last resort to protect your life, be prepared to fight the assailant. Many common items can be used as an improvised weapon to strike or throw at the attacker. Anything that can interfere with the assailant's aim can also be effective. Discharging a fire extinguisher into an assailant's face can hamper their sight, and then the extinguisher can be used as a weapon to strike them. If you must fight, it is important to commit and act as aggressively as possible.

Some businesses have unique safety concerns that our CPCA deputies can help you address. They can tailor their advice to specific businesses, walking through the property and advising staff of best practices.

To join Business Watch, fill out the form on our website at <https://pcsoweb.com/business-watch>. To contact our Crime Prevention and Community Awareness Unit, call 582-2222.

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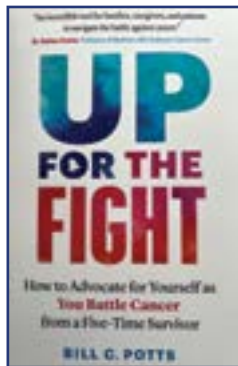
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LOCAL CANCER SURVIVOR WRITES A HOW TO BOOK ABOUT CANCER

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.



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YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Pete Magnani

The Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District was born and raised on Indian Rocks Beach. Beginning with a hand-drawn, manually operated tank and hose cart, 25 residents formed the Volunteer Fireman's Association which became the Indian Rocks Special Fire Control District in 1953. As the population grew, the need for professional, full-time firefighters became apparent and eventually the Indian Rocks Fire Department grew into the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District (PSFRD).

PSFRD now provides fire, rescue and emergency medical services for Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore and a portion of the unincorporated mainland. Between June 21, 2021, and May 31, 2022, PSFRD responded to 891 fire calls and 3618 calls for emergency medical services, a large increase over the previous year. Many of these calls required a response from multiple units or all PSFRD apparatus. The department has accomplished this on a flat fee of \$360 a year per residence, no matter how large or small.

Everyone has felt the pains of inflation in recent days, and cost increases have been affecting the fire service for years. The PSFRD has countered these with various cost-saving strategies including sale of assets and purchasing used equipment at a discount. The firefighters have voluntarily given up raises. Squad 26 is stationed in an Indian Shores bank parking lot while the firefighters that operate the engine spend their 24-hour shifts in a converted office. Even with these extreme measures, projections show that without a funding solution, the PSFRD will run out of money by September of 2025. Absent additional funding, dwindling reserve levels will trigger a state takeover and the district will likely dissolve.

In November, residents of the district



will vote on a funding proposal that, if passed, will add an annual ad-valorem tax at a millage rate not to exceed 0.67 mills (sixty-seven cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable value.) By way of comparison, the millage rate in Seminole is 1.72 mills, Clearwater 2.6 mills and Largo 2.91 mills. The proposal maintains the voter's authority over future millage increases by requiring a vote for any future increases. The Fire Commission could lower the rate if the economy allows but would not be able to raise the rate without voter approval.

If the resolution fails and the state takes over control of the district, the responsibility to provide service would presumably be given to neighboring agencies. That service will come with a price tag, and residents may not have much say in that cost. "The most likely scenario is that our district will get carved up and services will be contracted out to adjacent fire districts," says Patrick Schwab, president of the Pinellas Suncoast Professional Firefighters Local 5374. "If that happens, our voters lose all authority over the funding rate, and they'll end up paying a millage 2 or 3 times higher. We want to keep our fire district alive, provide stellar fire and EMS services, and remain part of the fabric of our community for generations to come."

In addition to providing outstanding emergency response to residents, PSFRD members are routinely active in City and neighborhood civic events. They are on standby at most community festivals and gatherings to provide medical care if needed. They conduct annual fire and life safety inspections at businesses and provide safety

education to area schoolchildren. Often, these events are staffed by off-duty personnel who are volunteering their time to community.

"I grew up in the area and have lived in Indian Rocks Beach for 35 years. PSFRD has been in the city since 1951 and is part of the fabric of the community," says Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy. "I



remember an emergency with my son Luke when he was young. He became dehydrated with the stomach flu and fainted. The fire personnel were professional, kind, and I was thankful for their quick service, assessment, and ability to calm me down and take care of Luke. Many of the residents can attest to similar experiences or know a resident that has needed help. I'm sure glad we have PSFRD. And, as a citizen in IRB I will vote to support them in their time of need."

PSFRD Chief Jeffrey Davidson will be holding an informational meeting at the Indian Rocks Beach City Hall at 6pm on September 19th to answer any questions voters might have. You can read the text of the referendum at www.psfrd.org/referendum.



SEE YOU LATER ALLIGATOR

by Lora Magnani

When speaking about Florida there, are many things that come to mind: sunshine, hurricanes, and of course, alligators. We see videos of gators all over the sunshine state, mostly in places they should not be, like golf courses, swimming pools, even screened-in back porches. With a reported 1.3 million alligators in Florida, the removal of nuisance alligators does not have a significant impact on their populations. With that being said, it is now "Open Season" on alligators in Florida.

The American Alligator hunting season began back in August and continues through November 1st. In Florida, the state issues 7,300 permits to hunters during this time (15,000 were applied for). Florida residents can purchase a permit for \$272 that is good for 2 gators, non-residents pay \$1022 and those with a disabilities hunting and fishing license pay \$22. Permits are selected in a lottery form to keep it fair and unbiased. Each permit is specific to dates and harvest areas. The first month is divided into four quota weeks and each permit is assigned one of those weeks. This season has had a few updates, such as the hunting hours being adjusted from 17 hours to 24 hours. Hunters no longer need to wait until dusk to start hunting, they can now start at any hour (in most areas).

Alligator hunting is not just for Floridians, it is open in most of the Southeastern United States including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and the Carolinas. The American Alligator was put on the Endangered Species list in 1967 after being hunted almost to extinction. However, strict regulations, seasons, and



programs allowed populations to flourish again, and gators were removed from the list in 1987.

Alligators are primarily hunted for their meat and skin, a \$60 million industry. Their skin, known as alligator leather, is used for making high-end belts, boots and saddles. Gator meat is described as having a mild flavor with a firm texture. It can be a little fishy, but most find it remarkably similar to chicken or quail. It is usually served deep fried with some sort of creamy dipping sauce. Gator tail is very lean and high in dietary fibers and is also a good source of omega-3 fatty acids.

If you would like to try some delicious gator, you can find it at Crabby Bill's or Keegans.

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THE OFFSHORE REPORT

by Captain T.J. Shea



Changes are on the horizon. By the time this publication comes out, the emergency red grouper closure will be in effect. Talk on the dock is also not good when it comes to the upcoming changes to our gag grouper, hogfish, and amberjack seasons as well. "Box them

while you still can" will be the sentiment among all anglers looking to not only make a memory but enjoy a freshly caught meal as well. The writing has been on the wall for quite some time that our offshore fishery is headed for the same fate as our backwater neighbors. Catch and release is the definitely in the near future.

On the positive side, we get all of September and October to fish for amberjack and the recreational sector will get a few designated weekends to continue the red snapper harvest. As water temperatures start to drop, our larger nearshore fish should become more active, bending your stouter rods. Live baits when the water is clear and smelly frozen baits when it is not seem to work best for us. Pelagics will be moving through chasing bait so multiple flat lines are a must. We do not troll much, but if you do this is the time to work the wrecks, artificials, and big ledges.

The summer rains be subsiding soon which in turn will clean the visibility up. Water temperatures will start to drop, leaving the 88-degree hot tub water in the rear-view mirror. This is absolutely our favorite time of year to roll off the boat and enjoy the underwater realm of the Gulf of Mexico. All the usual suspects should be around along with a few more sharks and turtles to give your cameras a workout.



Coming off some of the best summer weather we have had in years, all eyes will be on the tropics. Hurricane season always keeps us on the edge of our seats. Hopefully, the dust rolling off the Sahara continues to keep the storms away and the seas calm. This may be the best time to head offshore for scuba diving as well as rod and reel fishing. Cash in your sick days, work hard in the morning so you can take your chariot out and enjoy an afternoon on the water and the sunset to follow. Make the memories that you will talk about in the years to come.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@fishanddivetampa.com as we are always here to help, whether you head out on one of our boats or your own.

2 Shea Fishing and Diving Center is a full-service charter and dive shop. Visit online at 2SheaCharters.com or come by the shop at 198 Seminole ST, Clearwater.

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CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY 2022 LET'S GO!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Business Briefs

PROVISE MANAGEMENT GROUP RECOGNIZED

FA Magazine recognized Clearwater-based ProVise Management as one of the largest Registered Investment Advisors in the country. With \$1.7 billion in assets under management at the end of 2021, ProVise was ranked the 12th largest in Florida and number one in the Tampa Bay area.



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If you are ready to sell your home, but it needs some updates, Realtor Salma Abdelaal can help you with Coldwell Banker's RealVitalize program. The program provides home improvement services to home sellers with no up-front or hidden costs and no interest fees. When the house is sold, the seller pays for the services at closing. It is a cooperation between Coldwell Banker and Angi.

Once you are enrolled in the program, an Angi Project Consultant will connect you to the service providers for estimating and scheduling. The work is completed on time, and within budget to your satisfaction. Once the house is sold, the costs are included in the seller's closing costs.

Services include Carpentry, Landscaping, Painting, Handyman Services, New Appliances, Staging, Carpet Cleaning, Kitchen/Bathroom Upgrades, Plumbing, Drywall, Electrical Upgrades, Moving, Storage, Junk Hauling, and much more!

With RealVitalize, most homes have sold at or above list price. Contact Salma at 608-219-7526 or SalmaSellsFlorida@gmail.com and get your home SOLD.

BEST BEACH RESTAURANTS MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 50TH ISSUE

Best Beach Restaurants magazine, a restaurant guide for tourists, will celebrate a milestone in September with the publication of its 50th issue. "We started the magazine on a whim in 2001," says owner Bob Griffin. "We are happy to report that 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.



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

They are offering free weekly Belleair Bluffs Education seminars. These Health Talks are held live and online on every Tuesday beginning at 6pm. Topics include "A Half Hour to Health", "Backpack Awareness" and others. See their website bellbluffschiro.com for other topics and dates. For appointments, call the office at 585-4300.

FLORIDA TURF WAR - FINDING THE BEST TURF FOR YOUR NEEDS

Submitted by Nate Ullrich, Blue's Greens Landscaping

Choosing the right turf for your yard in Florida requires much consideration. There are many factors that make researching the types of turf available a prudent step in making your turf choice. There are four primary turf grasses available, and none are native to Florida's climate. That means extra care is necessary for these grasses to thrive.

St. Augustine grass grows quickly and provides thick coverage with appealing color and texture. However, it is susceptible to pests and fungal issues, requires supplemental irrigation and does not thrive in shade.

Bermuda grass tolerates high traffic well and has a unique green/grey color. It offers exceptional heat and drought tolerance and is very resilient. It has the fastest growth rate of common grasses and can recuperate from damage more quickly than others, but can be prone to sod and army worms.

Bahia grass was introduced into Florida from South America in 1913. It has short, broad leaves and is drought and cold-resistant. Bahia does require weekly mowing and can be overridden by weeds. Good weed control is essential during the planting phase.

Zoysia can tolerate wide variations in temperature, sunlight and water but is susceptible thatch build-up. They are popular because of their fine texture and require less fertilization. Zoysia grasses are also less vulnerable to insects and fungus.

There is another turf choice that eliminates the need for irrigation, fertilization, pest control and mowing. The pros are obvious: no irrigation, no pesticides, no fertilizer or mowing. These factors may also make artificial turf seem like the environmentally responsible choice as well, and in some ways it is. It does, however, have several drawbacks.

Artificial turf is made of plastic, which is not the most environment-friendly material. Unlike grass, it doesn't sequester carbon from the atmosphere. It can get extremely hot in the sun and even keep temperatures higher at night by radiating the sun's heat long after sundown. Artificial turf can cost more than \$10.00/square foot to install, whereas living turf averages closer to \$4.00/square foot.

Blue's Greens can provide custom landscaping solutions tailored to each homeowner's need. Call (443) 306-1885 for more information or a free estimate.

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Community News

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Pumpkin Fest 2022 will be held Saturday, October 22-23 from 12-4pm. Celebrate the Fall season with the Florida Botanical Gardens! Enjoy pumpkin carving, a scarecrow contest, a vendor market, crafts, games, and activities. Admission and parking are free. Purchase pumpkins on-site for \$10 each. View our vendor list and schedule of events at flbgfoundation.org/pumpkinfest.

Hops Night in the Garden will be held on Saturday, November 19 from 6-9pm. Enjoy local craft beer under the twinkling lights! Be the first to view the enchanting Holiday Lights display, with the gardens bedecked in 1 million LED lights, one week before opening day. Sample 4 oz. pours from a variety of Tampa Bay's finest breweries in the Wedding Garden. Delight in live entertainment, purchase food on-site and take home a commemorative tasting glass. General Admission is \$60, FBGF Members \$50, Designated Drivers \$15. This event is for guests ages 21 and up. Visit flbgfoundation.org/hopsnight to purchase tickets today.

Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be held from Friday, November 25, 2022, through Sunday, January 1, 2023. Open every evening from 5:30-9:30pm, the event is free to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 per person. Celebrate the warm glow of the season in the beauty of nature with over one million twinkling LED lights and family-friendly entertainment. Enjoy enchanting, synchronized music and light displays. Beat the crowds by coming Monday-Thursday. Enjoy free activities for children in the Enchanted Forest from December 15-31, brought to you by FNGLA and Pinellas County Farm Bureau. Preview the weekly Entertainment Schedule, map of the event, and more at flbgfoundation.org/holidaylights.



The Gift & Plant Sale will take place Friday, December 9 from 5:30-9:30pm and Saturday, December 10 from 10am-10pm. Shop the annual market of over 45 local vendors. Includes an assortment of tropical plants, orchids, herbs, bromeliads, citrus, bamboo, begonias, and fruit trees. There will be specialty vendors with a variety of items for gift-giving: unique clothing, jewelry, garden art, ceramics, doggie treats, honey, body lotions, and candles. The Florida Botanical Gardens Gift Shop will be on-site, offering exquisite botanically themed products. Suggested donations are \$5 per person over age 12. For more info visit flbgfoundation.org/gpsale22.

TAMPA BAY WATCH

Tickets are on sale now for Savor the Bay at the new Maritana in the Don Cesar Hotel. The event will be held Tuesday, September 13 with an hors d'oeuvres and champagne reception from 6:00-6:45 pm and a three course wine and dinner pairing from 6:45-9:00 pm. Tickets are \$185 per person and include valet parking and gratuity. They can be purchased online at tampabaywatch.org/savor-the-bay. Contact Natalia Day for more information at nday@tampabaywatch.org or by phone at (727) 867-8166 extension 248.

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Community News

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HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Marybeth Dunn

The 15th Annual Taste of IRB hosted by The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association and the City of Indian Rocks Beach is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th, from 3-9pm at Chic-a-Si Park located at 4th Avenue and 2nd Street (between Crabby Bill's and Holiday Inn Harbourside.)



More than 20 local restaurants and businesses will be offering delectable specialties and gift items including hand-blown glass, and jewelry made by local artisans.

There will be great live entertainment by North to South, so be ready to dance the night away. Over the years, the Taste of IRB has been drawing crowds of nearly 8,000 patrons. Admission to this popular event is FREE!

Bring beach chairs or blankets and plan to spend a wonderful evening (rain or shine) listening to great live music by North 2 South throughout the night while sampling the best fare Indian Rocks has to offer! There will



be some chairs available provided by IRB Chairs.

The Homeowners Association will be selling beer and wine. The Beach Community Food Pantry will be selling water and sodas sponsored by Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty. Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Department

(PSFRD) will be selling their famous Firehouse Chili to raise funds for local food banks.

All of the proceeds go back to the community through the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association.

A big shout out to our Main Event sponsors Century 21 Beggins and The Original Crabby Bill's. The event wouldn't be possible without their generous support.

Please No Dogs or Coolers...remember this is a fundraiser! For more information, visit www.IRBhome.com

TWO MAYORS LEND A HAND

IRB resident and past city commissioner Jose Coppen reached out to Mayor Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy to ask for help planting sea oats on the beach in front of his home on Gulf Boulevard. On August 18th, Mayor Kennedy, former mayor R. B.



Johnson, and several members of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District were hard at work in the early morning to answer his request. Sea oats play an important role in beach erosion control and coastline protection.

Community News

ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

Have you seen the cool manatee sculpture at the entrance to the IRB Nature Preserve? This gentle, fascinating creature that can be seen in the IRB waterways is the perfect mascot for our little piece of paradise.



Unveiled during a dedication ceremony on August 3rd, this public art is a joint partnership with the City of IRB and IRB Action 2000. Our contribution aligns with the A2K mission to beautify public places for all to enjoy, and, it's a great complement to our signature streetscape project at 10th and Gulf Blvd.

The Oktoberfest on the Beach Celebration is Coming to IRB!

Dust off those lederhosen and get ready to PARTY!

Action 2000 and the City of IRB are thrilled to be celebrating our community and Oktoberfest at Kolb Park on Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 12 pm–6 pm. There will be German music and dancing, vendors, cold beer on tap, games, brats and more! Make sure to try your luck with the big 50/50 raffle and stop by the A2K booth to place your bid on the original Plein Aire Cottage Artist painting silent auction.

Many warm thanks to our supporters for their ongoing generosity. A very special shout out to our generous Event Sponsors - Crabby Bills, Tampa Bay Newspapers ("The Bee") and Attorney Patrick L. Smith. Cheers to the many business owners and individual sponsors who continue to support our nonprofit and our community. We appreciate you! Sponsorships from the A2K Oktoberfest festival and donations help to fund special beautification projects like the Kolb Park gazebo upgrade and the manatee sculpture. They also allow us to continue our park and project maintenance, preservation efforts with recognition awards and the IRB historical tour Smartphone app.

We also want to express our thanks to Lara and Pete Magnani of the IRB Neighborhood News Magazine for providing local nonprofits a voice in their publication and for being longtime sponsors of Oktoberfest.

IRB Action 2000 is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to the preservation and beautification of our unique small town. We hope you'll join us for our monthly meetings the second Monday of the month, at 6:30 pm at IRB City Hall Auditorium. All are welcome!

For more information about A2K and Oktoberfest, please visit our website www.irbaction2000.com, www.facebook.com/action2000IRB or e-mail us at info@irbaction2000.com.

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Community News

RESCUE NOT RETAIL DUNEDIN

Shelter admissions of free-roaming animals and former pets surged by more than 11% in 2021, according to a study by the University of Florida. The influx has put a financial and emotional strain on the local rescue community. On Sunday, October 30th, Rescue Not Retail Dunedin will be hosting "Bauserween," a fundraising social event to celebrate Halloween and support local animal rescues in need.

The event is from 2-6 pm at Bauser's in Dunedin and will feature live music, food, 50/50 raffles and vendors. Donations of pet supplies are appreciated and will be given to Compassion Kind Rescue, a 501c3 nonprofit. Pet crates, unopened dog and cat food, pet beds, litter boxes and grooming supplies are all greatly needed. Vendor opportunities are available.

For more information, visit Rescue Not Retail Dunedin on Facebook or call (571) 265-5959.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Submitted by Gordon Obarski

After a month off while Campalong Field was undergoing renovations, the Indian Rocks Beach Senior Softball League has resumed play. Come out and watch your neighbors every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4 pm. If you want to play, there is a pick-up game every Sunday morning at 9:30 am where all are invited to play. You can join the league by visiting www.irbssl.com and watching for our Winter 2023 registration.

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

Happy back-to-school, Greenies! Wishing everyone a wonderful school year ahead! Over the summer, GreenTown Kids hosted a Red White and Blue Beach Cleanup on Indian Rocks Beach. Participants picked up trash on the beach from any access of their choice throughout the weekend of July 4th. Our next citywide beach cleanup will take place on Sunday, November 6th from 12-2PM at the 18th Ave. access in IRB.



Our upcoming events include:

- Back to school ice cream truck at Anecdote - TBD
- Take-a-Toy, Leave-a-Toy Donation Drive - All September (drop in any IRB beach toy box)
- Fall garden prep and workday - Sept. 25th, 1-3PM, IRB Community Garden
- Fall garden box planting at Anona Elementary School & Anona United Methodist Church
- Plant fall garden - Oct. 5-9, IRB Community Garden
- Hallowfest - Pumpkin Patch - TBD

If you'd like your own garden box in the IRB Community Garden contact us at greentownkids@gmail.com.

GreenTown Kids is a volunteer-run 501c3 nonprofit serving Indian Rocks Beach and the surrounding schools. Visit: www.greentownkids.org to get monthly newsletters, become a member, donate, or sponsor a beach cleanup with us.

Community News

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

It is that time of year when football excites the masses. It also heralds the beginning of one of IRB Rotary's biggest fundraisers, the Big Game Raffle.

Once again, our lucky winners will be on their way to Phoenix to attend football's biggest event, the 57th renewal of football's world championship. The Grand Prize will be two tickets to Big Game 57, four nights lodging and \$1000 cash. Cash prizes will also be awarded for 2nd through 5th place winners.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets. Tickets can be purchased by calling David Kline (727-418-1673) or look for our Rotary booth at local community events. The drawing for the winning tickets will take place on December 11th at 5 pm at Slyce Pizza, Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach.

The Big Game Raffle, along with our other fundraisers, support the good works that our club does throughout the community. When you invest in Rotary, you help to change lives!

WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

The next luncheon of the Welcome Newcomers Club will be held on Tuesday September 6, 2022 at the Belleair Country Club. Entertainment is planned. If interested in attending, contact Judy at 512-789-5686.

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County presented Suncoast Voices for Children with a donation of \$12,000 on Friday, July 8th. The mission of Suncoast Voices for Children is to provide for the unmet physical, psychological, educational and social needs of abused, abandoned and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco. The group will also receive a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation.

100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County is a philanthropic group that provides an avenue for women to join together 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. The members have the opportunity to nominate any organization, three of the nominated organizations are then randomly selected, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013, we have given \$367,675 to local charities. The next meeting is 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18th at Cove Cay Golf Club at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks can be purchased.

For more information, contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868, on Facebook at 100+ Women Who Care- Pinellas County, or on our website at www.100womenpinellas.org.

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Community News

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Bluffs Wine Walk 2022 will feature local businesses offering wine tastings, live music, food, and pet friendly fun on Saturday, October 22 from 3pm to 7pm.

Guests will pay \$25 online in advance or \$35 day of the event. At the event you will check in at one of these three locations:

- BayFirst Bank - 401 Indian Rocks Rd N
- Belleair Market - 510 Indian Rocks Rd N
- Valley Bank - 2781 W Bay Dr

At check-in you will receive 20 wine tasting tickets, a complimentary wine glass, a wristband and a map showcasing all of the wine walk stops.

Guests may walk or take the Jolley Trolley to participating merchants throughout Indian Rocks Road and West Bay Drive. A docent on the trolley will announce each stop and identify business locations. Businesses without a physical location are set-up in key high traffic locations and will be included in the wine tasting and all event activities.

We anticipate 1250 + guests will attend the event. Our goal is to bring Business and Community together with wine tastings, live music, food and fun with friendly people at over 60 businesses in Belleair Bluffs. We encourage a pet friendly environment with responsible owners.

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BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Creating pottery has been described as Alchemy –take a bit of clay, add water, give it form, add fire and you end up with something beautiful!

Did you know you can become a Pottery Artist at the Beach Art Center? We currently offer five pottery class sessions a week. Register for the sessions that fit your schedule. It normally takes 3 – 4 sessions to complete your first piece from creation to firing. We currently offer pottery classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings as well as Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



We also offer Open Studio time for current students. Check out our website for the most up to date schedule. Our studio contains the tools, paints and glazes you need. Your teacher will offer instruction suited to your skill level and will fire your work when it is ready. Clay will be purchased from the Beach Art Center, you just need to schedule the time and book your sessions!

Making pottery is often described as therapeutic and relaxing. Come join our little community of potters and leave your stress behind. You can find all details about the classes and registration on our website at www.beachartcenter.org.

Mark Your Calendars – The Beach Art Center has some dates coming up you do not want to miss.

Saturday, November 19, 2022 Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
This is our first holiday fair. . The Art Center will be filled with Artists & Makers selling their locally produced items perfect for your holiday shopping!

Saturday, March 4th, 2023 Boots & Brushes Country Gala
Put this on your calendar now....you do not want to miss it! We had a blast last year, country music, great food & drinks, amazing community and a lot of fun!

Also check out our website for all Classes, Workshops and Art on the Rocks courses being offered and full registration information.

BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Belleair Women’s Republican Club will host Julie Marcus, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, as speaker on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, Florida.

A mailed check for \$32 for the luncheon will reserve a seat if received by September 30. Payment can be mailed to: BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Rd., Belleair, FL 33756. Please respect the policy of no walkups, as they cannot be accommodated.

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