

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

THE RISE AND FALL OF HAMLIN'S LANDING

By Bob Griffin

Before it became the Holiday Inn Harbourside Hotel, that building was a mixed-use shopping village known as Hamlin's Landing. The project failed shortly after opening in the mid-1980s. It was named for the actual landing used by the ferry that crossed the Intracoastal Waterway at the Narrows before a bridge was ever built.

L.W. Hamlin and John H. Hendricks were two of the first Indian Rocks Beach landowners. They arrived in the area on a schooner that traveled through Clearwater Pass and anchored in the Anona area. The two men were on a pleasure trip and decided to explore the barrier island across from the mainland, known at the time as "St. Clement's Point." It was really nothing but a sandbar covered in palmettos and mangroves. It was (and still is) part of an island known as "Sand Key."



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Puppypalooza

Fifteen beagles rescued in Virginia made it to the Bay area. One got a job with a local fire department.

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It is Turkey Trot Time

Get your group together and join in the fun Thanksgiving morning, while you also support many charities behind the scenes.

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Remembering a Colorful Commissioner

Jim Palamara was an Indian Rocks Beach resident for almost four decades and served six terms on the city commission.

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Celebrating a Milestone

This is the 100th issue of the Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood News Magazine. Read about how it all began.

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CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

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



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CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

NOVEMBER

- Property Tax Bills Mailed 1
- Backwater's Anniversary Party 3
- Tunnel To Towers 5k Run 5
- Taste Of IRB 5
- Art Harvest Dunedin 5-6
- Wine Festival Safety Harbor 5
- Greentown Kids Coastal Cleanup 6
- Daylight Savings Time Ends 6
- Women's LPGA Championship 7-13
- Election Day 8
- City Commission Meeting 9
- Belleair Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 10
- Veterans Day 11
- Public Schools Closed 11
- Veterans Boat Parade 12
- Peace Memorial Concert 13
- Christmas Under the Oaks 13
- Great American Teach In 16
- Suncoast Jazz Festival 18-20
- Festival Of Trees Long Center 18-20
- Beach Art Center Holiday Show 19
- Hops Night In The Gardens 19
- Dunedin Celtic Festival 19
- Garage Sale Indian Rocks Beach 19-20
- Public Schools Closed 21-25

- Turkey Trot 24
- Thanksgiving 24
- Native American Heritage Day 25
- FLBG Holiday Lights Begins 25
- Shop Local Day 26
- Hurricane Season Ends 30

DECEMBER

- IRB Christmas Tree Lighting 2
- Honeymoon Island Bluegrass Festival 3
- IRB Christmas Parade 4
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7
- Botanical Gardens Gift and Plant Sale 9
- Clearwater Beach Boat Parade 10
- Rotary Big Game Drawing 11
- City Commission Meeting 11
- Indian Rocks Lighted Boat Parade 17
- Indian Shores Lighted Boat Parade 18
- Hanukkah 18-26
- First Day of Winter 21
- Public Schools Closed 23-Jan 8
- City Hall Closed 23-26
- Christmas 25
- Boxing Day 26
- Kwanzaa Begins 26
- City Hall Closed 30
- New Years Eve 31



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Did You Know



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Founded in 1947 by reserve Major Bill Hendricks and his wife Diane, the mission of the program is "to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas." To

date, the program has distributed approximately 681 presents to over 280 million children.

NEW PARKING SYSTEM Pinellas County's park and boat ramp patrons can now use their mobile phones to pay for parking. New mobile parking technology has been installed transitioning to a pay-by-plate system.

Payments for parking at Sand Key Park, Fort De Soto, and Fred Howard Beach, all Pinellas County boat ramps, and the Belleair, Park Boulevard, and Sutherland Bayou boat ramps can be made using the Flowbird mobile parking app or a credit card at a pay-by-plate terminal. Guests will no longer need to display their receipts upon parking.

MARKET IN THE BLUFFS The Market in the Bluffs continues this fall on the second Saturdays of each month directly in front of the Belleair Bluffs City Hall. Upcoming Markets are November 12 and December 10.

Contact Karen at ForeverFlowers12@aol.com for information.

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN Wednesday, November 16, members of the community are invited into Pinellas County schools for an hour or so to share information with students about their career or hobby. Presentations are made at every grade level, and you do not need to have a child in the class or even that school. Contact the school of your choice to participate or register online at PCSB.org.

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE TIME

The Clearwater Yacht Club is hosting the annual Lighted Holiday Boat Parade on Saturday, December 10th. They are looking for sponsors to help



provide prize money for participants. The parade will gather in Mandalay Channel, and proceed up the channel, around Island Estates, under the Memorial Causeway bridge, and along the south side of the causeway toward the beach marina, finishing with judging at Clearwater Yacht Club. Contact them at 727-447-6000 for sponsorship information or to participate in the parade. The Indian Rocks Beach Holiday Boat Parade is scheduled for Saturday December 17th and the Indian Shores/Redington boat parade is scheduled for Sunday December 18th.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JANUARY If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick one up at Beach Art Center, Library, Beach Welcome Center, USA Grocer, or CVS. Find us online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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SANTA STILL 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 in helping put them up after Thanksgiving, please call Bob at 430-8300.

LIFE JACKET LOANER STAND OPENS IN CLEARWATER

The Sea Tow Foundation, in partnership with MarineMax, opened the 1000th Life Jacket Loaner Stand at the Seminole Boat Ramp in Clearwater. The Life Jacket Loaner Program was started by the Foundation in 2008 providing boaters the ability to borrow and return life jackets for a safe day on the water. The program has grown to include one thousand locations throughout all fifty states. Florida leads the nation in the number of boating accidents every year. 83 percent of drowning deaths could have been prevented if the person had been wearing a life jacket. The program has provided over 90,000 life jackets to boaters so far.



NEW FOUNDATION TO HELP FIRST RESPONDERS

In September, Pinellas County leaders officially launched the Mental Health for Heroes Foundation (HEROES) to help first responders and their immediate family members recover from grief and trauma by paying for counseling and other mental health services. Approximately 30 percent of first responders develop behavioral health conditions including, but not limited to depression, aggressive behavior and post-traumatic stress disorder. Nationwide, 186 first responders took their own lives in 2020 and 171 died by suicide in 2021, including at least four Florida officers.

In all, HEROES is being established with more than \$500,000 in seed money from Bay Area companies and foundations, including the Pepin Family Foundation, the Tampa Bay Rays, Duke Energy, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Bayfront Health, Vetted Security Solutions, the Vinik Family Foundation, Richard O. Jacobson, and the Frank Chivas Family. The goal is to provide an average of two hundred fifty hours of mental health services per month.

To learn more or to contribute to Mental Health for Heroes, visit www.mhforheroes.com.

HAMLIN'S LANDING, Continued

Hendricks was first to buy the land we now call Indian Rocks Beach. In 1887, he bought 106 acres of "St. Clement's Point" from the state. He subsequently sold half of his purchase to Hamlin.

At the time, there was no way to get from the mainland to their island property without a boat. In 1890, Hendricks' son Harvey had an idea that would solve that problem and eventually make some money, too. He created a ferry service across The Intracoastal Waterway at the "Narrows," as it was known. He acquired a 20-foot, flat bottom scow that could ferry people and their horse drawn carriages across to the beach. In the beginning, Harvey provided the crossings as a convenience to residents. Later, he charged five cents per person. Horses, wagons - and later cars - were negotiable. The trip was about one hundred yards and took about 15 minutes.



The ferry crossed just south of today's Walsingham Bridge. It landed on a piece of undeveloped property owned by Hamlin. The Hamlin's built a dock to receive the visitors-mostly day-trippers. Thus, the area became known as Hamlin's Landing.

Harvey operated his ferry service for 26 years, from 1890 to 1915. The opening of the first Indian Rocks Bridge in 1916 put him out of business.

In the 1980s, that land was still a vacant lot just south of the rebuilt Indian Rocks Beach bridge. And it was still owned by a Hamlin - Horace Hamlin, Jr., who everyone called Harry, son of the L.W. Hamlin.

Developer Tom Twitty, well known in Pinellas County's real estate circles, wanted to build a mixed-use project on that waterfront land. He and his partners conceived a three-story Key West styled project

with retail on the first level, and time-shares, hotel rooms, condominiums and townhouses above it. They struck a deal with Harry, now living out of state, and bought the land.

In the beginning, the projects outlook was great. The complex was named "Hamlin's Landing" and opened in 1985 with over twenty specialty shops, a food court, boardwalk, marina, and a first-class hotel. It was even home to a paddlewheel dinner boat - the Starlite Princess - which docked behind the structure.

But quickly, the new Hamlin's Landing floundered, in large part due to the economy, but also because its business model was flawed. In the mid-1980s, Indian Rocks Beach was not a major tourist destination. The shops in Hamlin's Landing catered primarily to tourists and without a year-round tourist base, they were unable to remain open.

"In 1986 they changed the tax laws affecting these types of investments," says Mike Twitty, Tom's son. "Investors lost their incentive to invest. Then the Savings & Loan crisis hit. The tourists did not come, the shops closed, and the Starlite Princess moved on. It was the perfect storm." Mike was sixteen at the time and attended nearby Seminole High School. Today he is the Pinellas County Property Appraiser.

Tom Twitty and several partners were arrested on conspiracy, money



laundering, and bank fraud charges in their method of securing the loans needed to build Hamlin's Landing. The complex declared bankruptcy and closed but not before causing \$30 million in losses to Freedom Savings and Loan Association, which contributed to the saving and loan's collapse. Twitty spent two years in jail. Many feared the closed building would become a big, white elephant on a prime waterfront spot along the Intracoastal.

As the St. Pete Times (now the Tampa Bay Times) reported, "From the day it opened in 1986, Hamlin's Landing has generated more financial trouble than business. It has been through foreclosure, lawsuits, bankruptcy, receiverships and fights with local government."

A year later, in April of 1992, hotel owner Jeff Keierleber, who specializes in buying distressed properties, bought Hamlin's Landing. He removed the retail shops and opened the Jimmy Guana's restaurant. He converted the townhouses into hotel rooms and suites and became a franchise of the Holiday Inn company. It reopened in 1997, as the "Holiday Inn Harbourside" and the name "Hamlin's Landing" was again retired.

Today, the Holiday Inn Harbourside is Indian Rocks Beach's largest hotel and its largest employer with over 120 employees. They are also the largest single taxpayer in the city. The property has 164 rooms. The marina offers fifty boat slips, most of which are rented monthly. Jimmy Guana's, a major restaurant, has continued to be very successful. The property has three area bars, several meeting rooms, two swimming pools and a waterpark.

Tom Twitty, now 78, lives with his wife in Homosassa.

CREDIT: Photos supplied by the Indian Rocks Historical Society.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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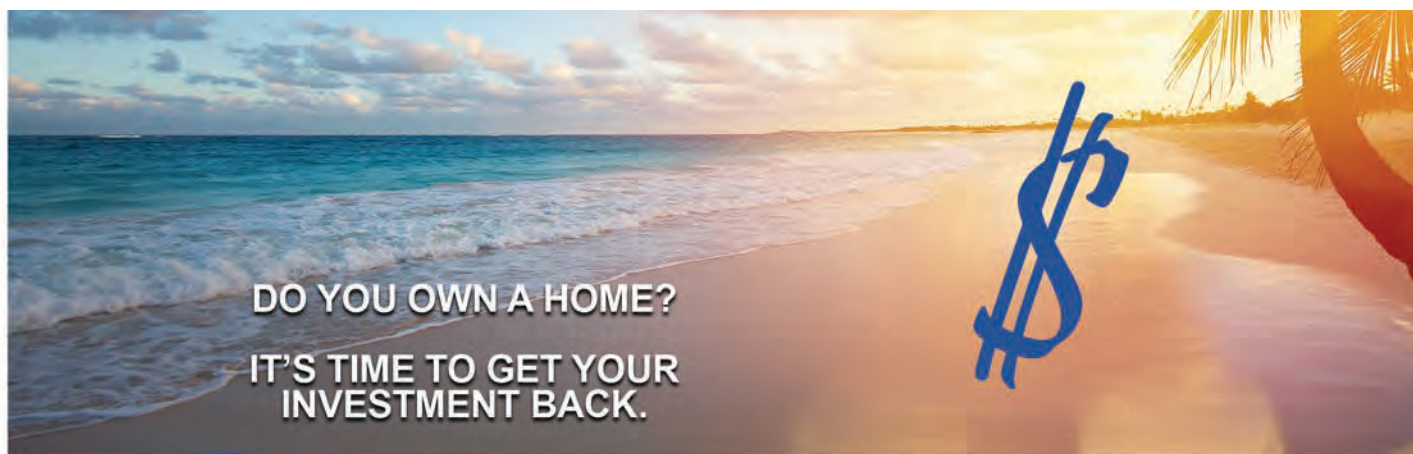
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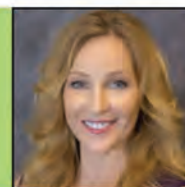


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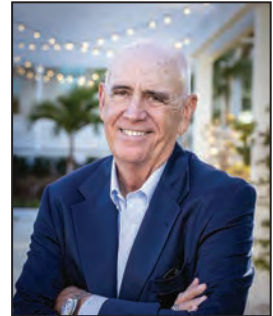
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ELIMINATING RISK OR ADDING IT?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

One of the basic tenets of investing is to eliminate as much risk as possible, but instead, investors are often adding risk unknowingly.

If you have cash to invest, should you invest it all at once, or over time? If you have a long-range view (10+ years) you usually come out ahead by investing all at once. But do that in these volatile times and you may not sleep well. Use dollar cost averaging over a 6-12-month period of time.



Next is sequence of return risk. Those that thought they could retire at the beginning of this year may feel less comfortable because \$1 million on January 1st may be down as much as 20%. Conversely, if they retired at the beginning of 2020 they would be delighted because both markets were up.

Realize that movements up and down make a difference. If you are down 20%, it takes a 25% move up to get to even. If you are up 20%, it takes a downturn of 15% before you lose all of your "profits".

Therefore, consider rebalancing your portfolio on a regular basis but no more than every six months or a year. You want to maintain the proper asset allocation. By not rebalancing you add risk. Sell what went up and buy what went down. Sell high, buy low. Yes, you will have to pay a little in taxes, but it is generally worth it.

There can be a difference between asset allocation and diversification. They are not always the same. Many people think that buying multiple stocks makes for diversification, but if they are all technology growth stocks you have the opposite; it is called concentration. We often see this when investors owned the stock of the company for which they work representing too much of the portfolio on a percentage basis. Too much diversification leads to "diworse-ification". If you own too many things then nothing can hurt very much, but nothing will help very much either. On the equity side, don't buy more than 30-40 individual stocks or more than one mutual fund in each asset class.

Most importantly, don't buy anything you don't understand. If you would like to learn more about eliminating risk, please call for a complimentary consultation.

CORRECTION: Last article we inadvertently said sell low basis stock first instead of high basis first.

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THE 44TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT - NOVEMBER 24

The 44th Annual Turkey Trot, as always, will be held Thanksgiving morning—This year, that is November 24.

The Trot unofficially began in 1977, started by the West Florida Y Runners Club of Pinellas County at Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. In 1979, it moved to Thanksgiving morning and relocated to the Clearwater High School stadium. 995 runners participated that year. In 1995, they had a record 10,217 participants; it is consistently over 17,000 to date.

The West Florida Y Runners Club is still the owner of the Turkey Trot. They have had an all-volunteer steering committee for the last 30 years and it is considered one of the top three runs in Florida – definitely the largest in Pinellas County. "At one point, we were one of the top twenty 5K races in the nation," says founding organizer Skip Rogers. "It began with a 10K run for the club, and in 1980, we added the 1 Mile Gobbler, which allowed walkers and families to participate".

"In 1988, we added the 5K Wing Ding, which is still the most popular," Rogers adds. "Then, we added the 4K Drumstick."

"The City of Clearwater is our major sponsors. We could not do the race without their assistance in many areas," Rogers says. "We have volunteers that help us from Morton Plant/BayCare, another major sponsor. They have helped us tremendously through the years with T-shirt distribution and race day registration. We have people that have faithfully come every year to help us."

The Turkey Trot is about families of runners, and walkers of all skill levels. Generations of families run together every year even great-grandparents with their great-grandchildren in strollers. They are there to have fun and to finish their race. Some considered the Turkey Trot as a friends reunion.

Groups that have busy lives still get together for the Trot. Some even fly in just for the run. Well, the fact that it is Thanksgiving Day probably helps too.

There will be plenty of music at the Turkey Trot, provided by nine local bands along the course - country, bluegrass, bagpipes, jazz, rock n' roll, it is all there. "We have been told the music is one of our best features," Rogers says.

The Turkey Trot is also about giving. For many years, the West Florida Y Runners Club has given college scholarships to area seniors. They also give \$100,000 each year to non-profit organizations to help families and children.

"We contribute to organizations that help single mothers with children be removed from abusive situations, charities that help homeless persons, veterans, families in desperate need, and a children's home," Rogers says. "We also collect canned and dry goods from our participants and donate it to a community food bank. We do not publicize these charity groups on purpose."

If you want to run, the 44th Annual Turkey Trot at Clearwater High School here are the facts: It is November 24 and this year there are only two races: A 1-Mile Gobbler and a 5K Wing-Ding. The 1 Mile Gobbler starts at 8:30am and costs \$25 in advance or \$30 after November 19. The 5K Wing-Ding starts at 7am and is \$30 in advance or \$35 after November 19. Register in advance online TurleyTrot.net. Same day registration is at the stadium at Clearwater High School on Gulf to Bay.

Advance registration includes their popular shirt. They recommend you show up one hour before your race. Call 442-5838 for more information.

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MEET TREASURE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST RECRUIT

Since the eighteenth century, fire stations in the U.S. have kept "station dogs," whose job traditionally was to calm the horses that drew the equipment carriage to fire scenes. In modern times, station dogs no longer tend to horses, but serve an equally important position keeping up the morale of firefighters during long and emotionally exhausting shifts. The Treasure Island Fire Department welcomed its latest recruit in September. "Captain," an 8-month-old beagle puppy was adopted by the TIFR crew after they learned about the rescue of almost 4,000 beagles from a puppy mill in Cumberland, Virginia.

The Virginia facility had been in operation for over 50 years, breeding dogs to sell to laboratories for research. The animals were kept in cages without beds, toys, or stimulation. After an extensive undercover investigation conducted by PETA and a local news station, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cited Envigo, the facility's operator, for more than 70 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act and the operation was shut down.

Puppy mills are large-scale breeding operations designed to mass-produce offspring and maximize profit for the breeder. There are about 2,000 of these federally licensed facilities in the U.S., some of which responsibly place importance on the animals' health. Unfortunately, ensuring proper care is expensive, and many breeding facilities comply to the minimum legal standard at best. The USDA regulates animal breeding under the federal Animal Welfare Act of 1966. This is the only federal law regulating the treatment of animals in research, teaching, testing, exhibition, transport, and breeding. It provides minimal survival standards for dogs and cats in breeding facilities. State laws can be more strict and vary widely across the country, resulting in a concentration of bad breeders in states with lax laws and poor enforcement.

According to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Florida ranked number 7 in the nation for best animal protection laws in a matrix combining various elements such as animal assault laws, veterinarian reporting requirements, post-conviction possession bans, and shelter requirements. More than 80 local governments in the state have passed ordinances banning retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, resulting in an increase in adoptions. Nationwide, Florida ranks third in pet adoptions according to Dutch, a veterinary telehealth service.

The closure of the Virginia breeding facility prompted a nationwide coalition of animal welfare organizations to facilitate the adoption of the rescued dogs. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay received fifteen of the beagles on August 25th and all were adopted in a few days, including Captain. He is now the official station dog at Fire Station 24 in Treasure Island. According to a TIFR press release, "Captain will serve as a therapy dog for our first responders. He will also join the department at public education events and become TIFR's official mascot."



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IRB LOSES FORMER CITY COMMISSIONER JIM PALAMARA

By John Pfanstiehl

Indian Rocks Beach lost colorful and outspoken former City Commissioner Jim Palamara this summer.

Jim was elected six times, for a total of twelve years on the IRB City Commission and served on IRB's Planning and Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment and Appeals. He was also past president of the IRB Homeowners Association.

Jim was an unconventional commissioner, listing his phone, fax and email on campaign literature so that any resident could contact him 24/7. He opposed limiting commission meeting time to two hours, saying he was "not a pumpkin" and would stay past midnight if that's what it took to hear all resident input.

Jim was a huge proponent of reducing IRB's millage rate whenever property values increased so as not to raise taxes. In order to safeguard IRB's small-town feel, Jim worked to establish a supermajority vote requirement for any increases in building height and density. Thanks to Jim's efforts, any increase requires the approval of four of five commissioners-not just three.

Jim was a big guy-big in stature and big at heart. A licensed general contractor by trade, Jim was known for his gruff voice and New York accent, which he managed to retain from growing up in Staten Island. It was there that he graduated high school, began his career in construction and married his wife, Karin. Coming from New York City, it's not surprising he was a dedicated Yankees fan. However, few would guess he was also a Dead Head who saw the Grateful Dead in concert in almost every city on multiple continents.

Jim and Karin moved to Indian Rocks Beach in 1983, and they traveled extensively in Europe when visiting his wife's family in Germany. The quality of his construction skills can not only be seen locally in some of Pinellas County's finest homes but also in jobs as far away as Africa and the Middle East.



Fellow resident Chris Carnes met Jim just after buying a house on Janice Place in 1989. They remained close friends until the end. Chris felt privileged to be with him and swap stories during his last hours. Chris remembered Jim as a good guy who would do anything for you. "He worked his butt off for our city government, always standing up for the rights off all residents." Chris said Jim would always bring him a souvenir rock from his travels abroad. The largest was a piece of the Berlin Wall, complete with barbed wire and graffiti. That has a place of honor on Chris' mantle.

Jim Palamara's impact on Indian Rocks Beach is evident all around us - an important part of our history that continues to shape our future.



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Bar & Restaurant News

BELLEAIR COFFEE NOW SOLD IN WALMART

Belleair Bluffs now has its own name-brand coffee - it is Belleair Coffee - and now is available in Walmart grocery stores. Chris Whalen, owner of Belleair Coffee in The Plaza, has been selling his own brand of coffee for a few years, but just recently, struck a retail partnership deal with Walmart to have his coffee on the shelves in 46 area stores, including Tampa, Pinellas and Sarasota.



"We work exclusively with specialty grade coffee beans," says Whalen. "The end result is a distinctive, delicious and ethically produced cup of coffee."

To retain the freshness of their roasted coffee beans, Belleair Coffee flushes nitrogen through the bags to displace oxygen. This process is called "Nitrogen Flushing." It preserves the freshness and prolongs shelf-life.

Of course Belleair Coffee is available for sale at Belleair Coffee and online at www.BelleairCoffeeCompany.com.

Find them in The Plaza at 100 Indian Rocks Road North.

BON APPETIT GETTING NEW OWNERS The Dunedin restaurant is being sold to the owners of the Original Crabby Bill's in Indian Rocks Beach. While the sale is still pending, Crabby Bill's owner and CEO Matt Loder says, "We think that it's a very sure thing."

"We are in the process of buying it, but we still have a few hurdles to cross," says Loder. "We have a deep admiration for Peter [Kreuziger] and Karl and the great restaurant that they have created in Dunedin. We have no plans to change the name or menu of Bon Appetit."

GUILTY SEA

This new sports themed pub, being opened by the Original Crabby Bill's, is still under construction but they think it should be open by the end of the year. They recently received



their liquor license from the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

The Pub will be opening in the previous Los Mexicanos building who closed at the beginning of the Pandemic and never reopened. The project involves a complete remodel of the space removing and replacing everything.

Find them at 301 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach.

BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If your business has news you would like to share with the readers of this Magazine, send an e-mail to Pete@MagriffProductions.com or call (813) 239-6862. Our next issue comes out in January.

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Bar & Restaurant News

CARTS, COSTUMES, AND CHARITY The First Annual "Cruisin' for a Cause" Golf Cart Poker Run was a big success. Organized by Goin' Coastal Golf Cart Rentals, participants visited Chicago Jaqx, Crabby Bill's, PJ's, Anecdote, JD's, VIP, and Beach Waves Grill with an after party at Hurricane Eddie's. Proceeds from the event went to benefit the Beach Community Food Pantry.



HURRICANE IAN DONATIONS Pajano's Pizza and Subs is participating in the Samaritan's Purse Hurricane Relief Drive. They are accepting non-perishable food, bottled water, hygiene and medical products, batteries, cleaning supplies and dry food for pets, as well as financial donations. Items can be dropped off at Pajano's now through November 12th.

Caddy's Pub Indian Shores is also accepting the same items through the month of November.

NEW BAKERY IN BELLEAIR La Merle Coffee Bar and Bakery opened in September in the Bonefish Plaza on W. Bay DR. La Merle is a scratch bakery and coffee shop offering pastries, sandwiches, and "croffles" - a cross between croissants and waffles. Their address is 2985 W. Bay. Visit them Tues-Sun from 8am-3pm.

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RIDE AND RUN WITH THE STARS

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

For almost three decades the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) has helped make sure that children and families in need have a joyful holiday season. Please join us Saturday, December 3rd at Fort De Soto Park for Ride And Run With The Stars, the biggest law enforcement-organized holiday fundraiser in the Tampa Bay area. Money raised at the event supports the Sheriff's Christmas Sharing Project. Last year the PCSO helped more than 200 families and 500 children with toys and necessities for the holidays.

Ride And Run With The Stars has races for all ages and fitness levels, including a 5K chipped race, a 1-mile fun walk/skate, a 25-mile bike ride, and a 10K family bike ride. Registration for the races includes a long-sleeve event shirt as well as food, giveaways, and more. Prizes are awarded in the chipped 5K race for the best times in different age groups, with grand prizes being high quality bicycles.

Our K-9 Unit will give a demonstration, and since a sleigh doesn't travel too well on the sand Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in a PCSO helicopter, with elves as their ground crew. You can bid on vacations, sports gear, and gift baskets in our silent auction too.

All money raised at Ride And Run With The Stars goes to benefit children and families who are economically disadvantaged or who have been victims of crimes. After the event, deputies and other PCSO members act as Santa's helpers and shop for the sponsored families. Toys and bikes are the most common things the kids ask for, but we also help families with the necessities on their wish lists such as clothes and shoes.

If you would like to help local families have a happier holiday, consider become a sponsor or donating to our silent auction. If you would like to adopt a family, contact Sandra Garcia-Olivares, PCSO Victim Advocate, at sgarcia-olivares@pcsonet.com or 727-582-6465.

Come enjoy holiday family fun for a great cause at this year's Ride And Run With The Stars. To register or for more information visit www.rideandrunwiththestars.com.

ANONA UMC CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Anona UMC celebrates 150 years this year. For one and a half centuries, Anona has been serving the Pinellas County community. They are celebrating this year by partnering with several local organizations to continue to create opportunities to get outside the walls of Anona and serve the community around them. They are excited to announce on November 13, they will host a joint worship service between their traditional and contemporary services followed by a community block party. During this time, they will also host a dedication for the opening of their new community playground.

Everyone is welcome at Anona and are happy to be a church of a very inclusive people: it is their culture. What does that mean? Some are conservative, some are liberal, some are drink, some are don't, some are gay, most are straight, and some are comfortable with that and some are not. What unites them is that they are all attracted to the thought of a Christian life that is meaningful and purposeful. To learn more about their 150th Anniversary Celebration, visit www.anona.com/150celebration.

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IT'S ANOTHER GIRL, AGAIN

99% OF FLORIDA SEA TURTLES ARE FEMALES

By Becky Griffin

Turtles are an ancient group represented in the fossil record as far back as 200 million years, but their continued existence is not guaranteed. Florida sea turtles are being impacted by the effects of climate change – and at least for now - they are losing the fight. They are experiencing a gender imbalance caused by the rising temperatures.

For unknown reasons, when a female turtle deposits her eggs on a beach, the sand's temperature determines the hatchlings' gender. Recent heat waves have caused the sand to be so hot, nearly 99 percent of the sea turtles across Florida are being born female — all because of climate change. Scientists are just not finding many male sea turtle hatchlings.

Bette Zirkelbach, who manages a turtle hospital in the Florida Keys, told Reuters an Australian study showed similar statistics - "99% of new sea turtle babies are female." This could spell disaster for populations of sea turtles, who are already facing other threats from poaching and habitat destruction. If this trend isn't reversed, scientists predict there will be no more males in twenty to thirty years – meaning no more production.

Instead of determining sex during fertilization, the sex of sea turtles and alligators depends on the temperature of developing eggs, according to the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Eggs incubated below 81.86 degrees Fahrenheit result in male hatchlings. Incubation above 88.8 degrees Fahrenheit results in female hatchlings. Fluctuating temperatures result in either. Unfortunately, temperatures aren't fluctuating — they just head upwards.



"The frightening thing is the last four Florida summers have been the hottest summers on record. Scientists that are studying sea turtle hatchlings and eggs have found no boy sea turtles, so only female sea turtles for the past four years," Zirkelbach explains.

"Over the years, you're going to see a sharp decline in their population because we just don't have the genetic diversity," Melissa Rosales Rodriguez, a Miami Zoo sea turtle keeper, told Reuters. "We don't have the male-to-female ratio needed in order to be able to have successful breeding sessions."

The problem is magnified since, today, for every 1,000 sea turtle eggs laid, only about one turtle reaches adulthood. Even if turtles survive the possible effects of global climate change on their sex ratios, sea levels rising and stronger storms are eroding their beach habitats. In addition, warming oceans are changing ocean currents and harming the coral reefs some turtles need to survive.

This is not unique to Florida, worldwide, the sea turtle gender balance is off kilter. Scientists are testing methods to cool nests. Gently digging up eggs and moving them to shadier parts of the beach has proved to work. So do sprinkler systems and dividing offspring into smaller batches as the eggs tend to warm each other.

Even worse, NOAA is warning that if sand temperatures get too high, it could kill developing turtles all together, meaning soon, there may be no hatchlings at all.

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- HOLIDAY DECORATING**
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant
 - Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
 - Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
 - Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
 - Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
 - Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



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Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all the light strings before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

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IRB Kids for Ian Lemonade Stand & Bake Sale at Oktoberfest raised \$1,668 for those affected by the hurricane. Thanks to the families of West Pinellas Little League & GreenTown Kids for participating & to everyone who donated! Thanks to Action 2000 for another great event!

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IRB NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS CELEBRATES 100TH ISSUE

by Pete Magnani

Lora and I are finishing our first year publishing the Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood News Magazine; we are proud to celebrate its 100th issue this month. The magazine was started almost twenty years ago by Lora's dad and stepmom, Bob and Becky Griffin. Bob had a background in marketing, working for Little Caesar's Pizza and later opening his own ad agency. Becky previously worked as a Medical Technologist at HCA Pasadena Hospital, and eventually became responsible for their information technology.

In 1995, they began producing a directory for tourists that was distributed by area hotels. They started in Indian Rocks Beach, expanded to cover all the Pinellas beaches, and eventually had publications in 30 cities throughout the state. The directories featured maps and area information, as well as advertising for local businesses.

Around the year 2000, the Indian Rocks Beach city manager began a newsletter for residents. It was a simple, monochrome publication containing city information and featuring local organization pages. After a disagreement with the city manager, Bob and Becky decided to start their own newsletter. "We didn't want our product to be full of politics or complaints about the city or county," Becky said. "We decided if we were going to do it, we had to focus on positive, fun content that you didn't see anywhere else."

The Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood Newsletter debuted in May of 2006 with a cover story about "Old Noisy," the city's first auto bridge. The twelve-page magazine featured city phone numbers, a calendar of upcoming events, local news information, and a center photo spread of the recent community event "Beauty and the Beach" festival. "Our philosophy from the beginning was that the people in Indian Rocks Beach wanted to know about things from the surrounding areas Indian Shores, Belleair Bluffs and Largo," said Bob. "People in Indian Rocks cross the bridge for their shopping, services and entertainment. We wanted to cover basically a three to five mile radius but still keep the focus extremely local." The newsletter came out every two months and was mailed directly to all city residents. "We did not plan



to make a profit, but we did sell ads to pay for the printing and postage.," said Bob. The newsletter did turn a profit, however. "Looking back, many businesses in those first newsletters are still in it today," Bob said.

Shortly after the IRB newsletter began, the City of Madeira Beach approached the Griffins about producing a similar product for their city. They later started Belleair, Clearwater Beach, and downtown St. Petersburg. As the small, family-run business grew, extra help was needed. Bob and Becky's kids were recruited for various tasks, such as labelling and stuffing envelopes for ad solicitation mailers, distributing magazines at businesses, and other administrative tasks. "During college my daughter Erin's job was to collate our inserted flyer ads and staple them inside the newsletters. Sometimes there

were fifteen inserts for each of several thousand magazines," Becky recalls. "After she graduated, she told us she wasn't doing the inserts anymore. At that point, Bob and I decided we weren't doing them anymore either!"

They also developed Best Restaurant Magazines for the beaches, downtown St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Key West. During this time, Bob and Becky were still producing the hotel directories. These were tourism-based, and that industry is fickle. "We were in cities from Ft. Walton Beach to Key West," said Becky. "So whenever there was a hurricane, it was going to hit one of our markets." After the recession in 2008, they phased out the directories and focused on the Neighborhood News and Restaurant Magazines. They recently published their 50th issue of the Best Beach Restaurants Magazine, which covers Pass-a-Grille to the Dunedin Causeway.



A few years ago, Bob and Becky began thinking about retirement. Lora and I moved to Dunedin to learn more about the business, and took over production of the Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood News Magazine in January of 2022. Bob and Becky bought a house in Boone, NC and have been splitting time between there and Indian Rocks Beach. They continue to produce the Belleair and Clearwater Beach newsletters as well as the Restaurant Magazine, until they retire. "Together we have reached our 100th issue – and our 17th year," said Bob. "We hope our kids keep it up for another 100."

A NEW WAY TO LEARN ... A NEW CROP OF SAFE BOATERS

Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary Teaching Virtual Boating Safety Classes Via Zoom

This is a reminder that this is a great time to take a boating safety course. This is the time to make sure you're up to date on all the equipment and operating laws as well as the basics of boat handling. There are new laws and requirements effective this year.

Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an in depth and interesting boating safety course and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate. Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course.

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Introduction to Boating – Types of power boats, boating vocabulary, sailboats, paddle boats, powering boats, and engine types.
- Boating Law – Boat registration, regulations, hull identification numbers, required safety equipment, Federal boating law, state boating law, and reporting accidents.
- Safety Equipment – Life jackets, fire extinguishers, sound producing devices, visual distress signals, anchors, and other safety equipment.
- Safe Operation and Navigation – Buoys and beacons, aids to navigation, navigation rules, docking, and the dangers of alcohol on the water.
- Boating Emergencies – Hypothermia, boating accidents, man overboard, capsizing, emergency radio calls, carbon monoxide dangers, and weather.
- Trailing – Types of trailers, lights, hitches, towing a trailer.
- Sports and Boating – Water-skiing, hunting and hunting

gear, PWC operation, and other boating tips.

The final class for 2022 will take place November 19 & 20, Online Boat America 9am - 2pm, \$50

Why not act now? Sign up at clwboatingsafety.com/boater-class-registration.

These classes are not your standard webinar sessions where the students sit at their computers and are lectured to. And they're not animated cartoon sessions where you have to keep pressing enter to get to the next topic. The classes being offered by the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary are conducted on Zoom with the same instructors the student would have had in the classroom and allows lots of questions and answers. In addition, because the classes are over the Internet, there's no commuting to a classroom – the students can be anywhere in Florida!

The boating safety class is also a requirement for many boaters in Florida. In the Sunshine State, anyone born after Jan. 1, 1988, must successfully complete a boater safety course approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in order to operate any boat powered by more than 10 horsepower, and they are required to carry their boater education card with them when out on the water along with picture ID.

Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for boating classes at: www.clwboatingsafety.com or by email at clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com or call 727-469-8895.

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

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Prices and more information at www.FLBGFoundation.org.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN

Florida Botanical Gardens
November 25th - January 1st from 5:30pm-9:30pm
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More information at www.FLBGFoundation.com.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN LARGO CENTRAL PARK

Largo Central Park
November 25th - January 2nd from 6pm-11pm
Free to view, \$5 per ride, and food is for sale.
Enjoy viewing 2 million LED lights around the park, ride the stunning carousel, and enjoy the views from the seven-story Ferris wheel overlooking the park and area.
Call (727)-587-6720 for more information.

LARGO HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & STROLL

Largo Central Park
December 3rd from 6pm-9pm
\$10 parking, free admission
6pm Tree lighting, 7-8:30pm photos with Santa.

NORTH POLE EXPRESS

Largo Central Park
December 10th - 11th (times vary)
Ride the miniature train through the light display, then head over to the North Pole at the Largo Feed store. There you will be able to play games, make crafts, and visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus.
Admission is \$25 per person.
Call (727)-587-6740 ext. 5014 for more information.

ENCHANT ST. PETERSBURG

Tropicana Field
November 25th - January 1st (times vary)
Walk-through Light Maze, Ice skating, and much more.
Visit www.EnchantChristmas.com for more information.

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADES

Clearwater Yacht Club December 10th
Indian Rocks Beach December 17th
Indian Shores & Redington Beach December 18th

IRB CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

12th Avenue Park & Gulf Blvd
December 2nd Lights on at 7pm.
Hot chocolate and holiday snacks, with a surprise visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH STREET CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 4th begins at 1pm, weaving throughout the each "finger" ending at Kolb Park at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd

MERRY BEACH MARKET HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

R.O.C. Park, Madeira Beach Recreational Complex. 200 Rex Place Madeira Beach
December 10th from 2pm-8pm
Over 100 local vendors for holiday shopping, live entertainers and performers thru out the day with food & beverage stands located throughout the festival.
Visit timbchamber.org/merry-beach-market for more information.

Business Briefs

INDIAN ROCKS LAW FIRM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

Palm Legal, PLLC celebrated its one year anniversary in September in Indian Rocks Beach. Owner and managing Attorney, Allie DeVore, opened the firm after practicing law for eight years in the fields of business, nonprofit, and estate planning. She now serves local clients in those areas of law with an emphasis on contract review, drafting, and contract management for businesses. Allie enjoys helping clients in the community protect and move their businesses and nonprofits forward. She is happy to meet at client's homes or places of business. When Allie's not working, you can find her around Indian Rocks Beach with her family and volunteering with GreenTown Kids at the community garden and beach cleanups. Reach her at palmlegalflorida.com or 480-3907.



INDIAN ROCKS RESIDENT REALTOR Natalie Scott-Kehoe and her husband, Marty Kehoe live on the water on 20th Ave. Pkwy. Natalie is a Tampa Bay realtor specializing in waterfront, vacation and investment properties. As an interior designer and Realtor, Natalie's clients benefit from her knowledge and design expertise to get their home prepared for sale, ensuring highest and best sale price. Her buyers also benefit from her expertise.

Natalie has established a reputation for providing the highest standard of client services while eliminating stress. Call her at 813-310-8982 or email Natalie.Scott@Compass.com.

SURFSIDE PRODUCE SOLD

The small, beach side produce store in Indian Rocks Beach has been sold. "The new owners are great, energetic people who are excited to keep Surfside open, but also plan some exciting new changes I'm sure you will love. We would not have sold to anyone that didn't intend to keep going



what we started," says previous owner Morgan. "I want to thank the people of Indian Rocks for several great years of business. We will miss you."

Find the new owners at 1401 Gulf Blvd, near IRB Creamery and Groupers on the Gulf.

DOUBLETREE SOLD The DoubleTree by Hilton on North Redington Beach has been acquired by South Carolina developer OTO Development. An extensive renovation of the hotel is planned to begin late next summer. The hotel plans to remain open during the renovation. This is the tenth oceanfront property bought by OTO since 2018 and the seventh in Florida.

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Community News

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

The Beach Art Center is getting into the Holiday Spirit! Our first "Holiday Arts & Crafts Show" will take place on Saturday, November 19th from 9am-3pm. We will have twenty five Local Artists who will be selling artwork, books, jewelry and gift items.

Beginning November 7th, both our Gift Shop and Galleries will be brimming with original work and gift items just in time for the holidays.

The Gift Shop will be restocked with new items including ornaments, cards, artwork, pottery, jewelry and much more. The Galleries will also feature stunning artwork, pottery and gift items.

Please attend the opening of our Holiday Gallery Show & Sale on Friday, November 11 from 6-8pm. All are welcome and there is no charge to attend.

Gift Certificates are available in our office and can be used to gift an Art Class, Workshop or our very fun "Art on the Rocks".

You can purchase Gift Certificates or shop in the Gallery and Gift Shop Monday – Friday from 9am-4pm.

SAVE THE DATE FOR WINTERFEST

The Calvary Episcopal Church will present its 18th annual fundraising festival on Saturday, February 18 from 10am-4pm. The Church is located at 1615 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach and all are invited to attend.

This event will be held inside and outside Calvary Episcopal Church and will also feature a patriotic pet contest with prizes. There will be beer, wine, soft drink vendors, clowns, face painting, an old-fashioned bake sale, "Southern Hospitality" pulled pork sandwich, and an "All American" hot dog prepared by Church volunteers. Children will find activities including a "build and sail your own toy sailboat" area. Additional games have been added this year as well as returning music and entertainment.

Two added attractions: a silent auction displaying many treasures will be located in "The Meeting Place" inside the Church and a special grand prize drawing for an electric bicycle. For further information, please call the Church at 595-2374 Monday through Thursday 9am-1pm or visit calvaryirb.org/winterfest.

TAMPA BAY WATCH

Have you ever wondered what makes our Blue Planet the only one in the solar system to sustain life? Explore the element of water, and discover how the actions we take in our watershed have a ripple effect across the globe during an "Evening on the Bay." The event takes place Saturday November 5 from 6-10pm at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Education Center in Tierra Verde.

Guests will enjoy dinner by Bonefish Grill, signature Kozuba & Sons cocktails, Great Bay Distributors brews, live entertainment, out-of-this-world auctions, and meet n' greets with TBW restoration staff. Wear your finest attire to dive into our blue planet!

This al fresco evening under the stars will benefit the mission to Restore the Bay Every Day.

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Community News

CHURCH OF THE ISLES

Submitted by Pastor Liz Clement

Join us on November 24th from 10am – 12pm for our “Eat, Thank, Love” Thanksgiving Brunch. Everyone needs a place to be with friends on Thanksgiving Day, bring a dish for the table or just bring yourself.

On December 24th, Church of the Isles presents “Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols” starting at 7pm. This is a traditional service in which we recall the Christmas story and sing with the angels. Come help us prepare to welcome the Holy Child.

Don’t forget - the Beach Community Thrift Store is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 am – 2pm. The store is run by volunteers and serves the beach community by providing affordable clothing, furniture and household items at a reasonable price. It is located at 210 25th AV.

TASTE OF IRB

The 15th Annual Taste of IRB 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 Harborside.)

More than twenty local restaurants and businesses will be offering delectable specialties and gift items including hand-blown glass, and jewelry made by local artisans and live music by North 2 South.

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 Winter Membership program begins November 1 and runs through March 31. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$250, with no food minimum, just lots of fun in the Florida sun. Winter 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 Spring. Call the Yacht Club’s office, 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

Upcoming Holiday Events include: Thanksgiving Buffets, CYC Lighted Boat Parade and Party, Breakfast with Santa, Holiday Mingle Jingle, and New Year’s Eve.

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.

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Community News

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

GreenTown Kids has been busy gardening for fall! We've been prepping, planting, and watching our fall crop grow in the IRB community garden, as well as Anona Elementary School and Anona Child Development Center. We love gardening and inspiring kids of all ages to love it too. Stop by the community garden to see what's growing this season. In September, we took our Greenies & families to Tampa Bay Watch's



Discovery Center at the St. Pete Pier for an Eco Boat Tour around the bay and a lesson on invertebrates. It was a wonderful experience for us all! In October, we helped with the IRB Kids For Ian Lemonade Stand, benefiting our neighbors in need from Hurricane Ian. We also got to hand out pumpkins to our friends & neighbors at IRB's annual Halloween pumpkin patch.

Our upcoming events include:

- International Coastal Cleanup "Give Thanks for a Clean Beach" Nov 6th 12-2 PM, 18th AV Beach Access
- Holiday Harvest & Donation Drive Dec 3rd 1-3 PM, Community Garden



If you'd like your own garden box in the IRB Community Garden or would like to sponsor an upcoming beach cleanup 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, and donate.

REMEMBER ME NFP

Join "Paws Up for Mental Health," a special storytime led by Nannette Prevost of Remember Me NFP, a local nonprofit dedicated to education and awareness of suicide prevention. Using the book "Gizmo's Pawesome Guide to Mental Health," program attendees will sing, play instruments, talk about feelings and establish their own mental health pledge. The event is for children ages 2-11 and will be held November 14th, December 19th and January 23rd at 10:30 am in the Children's Wing at the Largo Public Library. Visit largopubliclibrary.org for info.

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Community News

ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

The cold beer was flowing, the oompah music was blaring, and Kolb Park was buzzing with activity during the recent 23rd annual Oktoberfest on the Beach!

Fans took advantage of the beautiful fall day to explore the crafters and vendors, enjoy the food and entertainment, and visit with friends. "We were thrilled with the turnout," said Diane Flagg, A2K President. "We sold all vendor spaces, secured more food trucks, and added to our entertainment in anticipation of increased attendance"

The keg toss and stein carrying competition was fierce this year. Congrats to the winners – Mark Murphy for the best stein carry, and Daniel Rockhold with an amazing keg toss of 38.5 feet! Kids had a blast participating the Chicken Dance contest, too.

Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser for A2K and monies generated from this event support A2K's mission to beautify and preserve our small coastal town with a positive impact. We are so thankful to our co-host, the City of IRB and our event sponsors, Crabby Bill's, Attorney Patrick L. Smith and TBNWeekly. We are so grateful to all of our sponsors, those who attended the event and the volunteers who made it operate smoothly. We cannot do it without you. We would not want to do it without you.

Check out our Oktoberfest Facebook www.facebook.com/oktoberfestirb to see the fun and happy faces.



2023 Plein Aire Cottage Artists Calendars

Working in collaboration with IRB Action 2000 for the printing and distribution of the calendars, the calendars are available at Kooky Coconuts, Crabby Bill's Gift Shop, The Welcome Center, Café de Paris, The Frame Factory, Cookie Cutter Hair Salon, Island Bead Shop, Cassi & Co, as well as The IRB Historical Museum, Indian Rocks Beach Library, The Beach Art Center, and online at www.irbaction2000.com. Only \$20 and a perfect holiday gift!

We invite you to join us for our monthly meetings held the second Monday of the month at the IRB City Hall at 6:30pm. Learn how you can help to preserve and beautify Indian Rocks Beach and enjoy a fun, meaningful way to make new friends.

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Community News

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by Claire English

Our 20th annual Big Game Drawing party will take place Sunday, December 11, at Slyce Pizza Bar on Indian Rocks Beach. This great event, open to all, will include drink and food specials from 2:30 to 5:30 pm with the grand prize drawing at 5:30pm.

The Grand Prize includes two tickets to Pro Football's Biggest Game to be played Sunday, February 12, at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ, four nights lodging and \$1,000 cash. Second prize is \$1,000, Third prize is \$500, Fourth prize is \$300 and Fifth Prize is \$200.

Proceeds from this and all fundraisers support local, national, and global projects and humanitarian works of Rotary International. Big Game Drawing tickets are available at the drawing party, from any IRB Rotarians or by calling David Kline at 727-418-1673. Need not be present to win.

One of the great projects supported by fundraising proceeds is our Holiday Meals Project. Every Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach in conjunction with Pinellas County Sheriff's Community Policing Officers, Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue, and the Beach Community Food Pantry, provide meals to those in need. Rotary is involved with coordinating, planning and purchasing meals for PCSO Officers and PSFRD Firefighters to deliver. Each delivery includes a full holiday meal with additional groceries to assist families during the holiday.

In addition, local Rotary clubs jumped into action to assist those affected by hurricane Ian. In the week following the hurricane's landfall, we gathered desperately needed supplies, loaded them into six big U-Haul trucks and delivered them precisely where they were needed. We are also continuing our support with ongoing supply drives and by sending down work crews.

Mark your calendars the 4th annual 'Rotary Runs the Beach' will take place March 18th on scenic Indian Rocks Beach. Running on the beach is as beautiful as ever! A 5K timed run or 1-mile family fun run / walk is offered. A special thanks to our main sponsor The Original Crabby Bill's restaurant! Check our website indianrocksrotary.org or Facebook page for registration details.

Interested in learning about Rotary or getting involved with the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach? Check out our website at www.indianrocksrotary.org or contact Club President David Kline at Kline22@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-418-1673.

PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

- November 13, *La Lucha Jazz Ensemble*, featuring Bryan Hughes, vocalist.
One of our area's finest jazz groups presents selections from the Great American Songbook
- December 11, *Suncoast Bronze Ringers*
Amazing hand bell choir entertains with a program of popular and sacred holiday music.

All concerts are at 3 pm in the sanctuary at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave. The season series will continue with more programs January through March.

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Community News

2023 COTTAGE CALENDARS ARE HERE

The beautiful Plein Aire Cottage Artists' 2023 calendar is now available. This colorful 12-month calendar, highlighting the paintings of the three local artists, lets you enjoy a work of art of an IRB cottage or beach scene every month of the year. Working in collaboration with IRB Action 2000 for the printing and distribution of the calendars, you can find the calendars at Kooky Coconuts, Crabby Bill's Gift Shop, The Welcome Center, Café de Paris, The Frame Factory, Cookie Cutter Hair Salon, Island Bead Shop, Cassi & Co, as well as The IRB Historical Museum, Indian Rocks Beach Library, The Beach Art Center, and online at www.irbaction2000.com. Still just \$20 and a perfect gift!



Recognized for bringing cottage preservation to the forefront of public consciousness through their paintings, the Plein Aire Cottage Artists challenge us to work together to protect our small-town atmosphere. Proceeds support local charities.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library continues to offer the On the Rocks Book Club. Upcoming meets are:

- November 29 - "Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts
- January 31 - "The Last Queen" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

The library provides story time for pre-readers in the kids' area every Wednesday 11:30 am with stories and songs.

The IRB Library offers e-content through the Libby app, if you need help using Libby, call or stop by for some support. You can also find how-to videos on YouTube.

Starting in October the IRB Library will offer embers Kanopy film downloads for your device or TV. For more information on how to access Kanopy, visit kanopy.com/en/irblibrary/.

The bookstore is full of recent fiction, paperbacks, and DVDs for sale. You will find "take and leave" lending libraries at the beach access on 4th 12th and 22nd Avenues and City Hall. We are accepting newer fiction and paperback donations.

The IRB Library continues to welcome library volunteer applications, please stop by and say hello.

The library is located at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach. The phone number is 596-1822.

You can find the library catalog at irb.biblionix.com/catalog.

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Community News

BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Belleair Women’s Republican Club will have its annual Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 2, 2022, from 11:30 am until 1 pm 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 November 25th. Send to: BWRC Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756. Please respect the policy of no walkups, as they cannot be accommodated.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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 ounce 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 5:30-9:30 pm, 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 5:30-9:30 pm 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 information visit flbgfoundation.org/gpsale22.

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