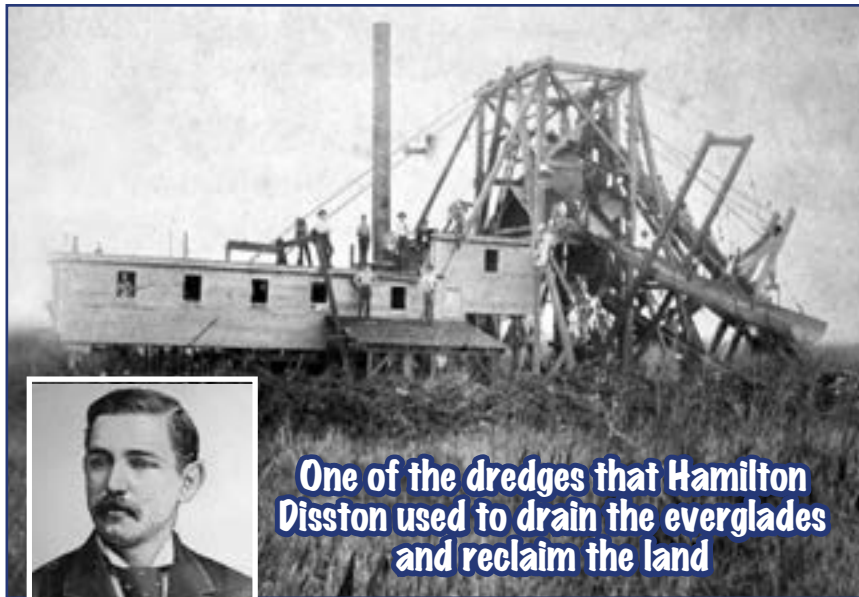


NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

HAMILTON DISSTON: THE MAN WHO SAVED FLORIDA



One of the dredges that Hamilton Disston used to drain the everglades and reclaim the land

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Can you imagine buying land in Florida for just twenty-five cents an acre? That is exactly what Hamilton Disston did in 1881 and became the largest single landowner in not only Florida, but the United States when he purchased four million acres.

Disston's land purchase, which not only made him famous but also rescued Florida from bankruptcy, included land south of Ocala including Kissimmee and much of Pinellas County.

At the time, Florida was no place you wanted to live. Only a few farsighted men saw Florida's future and Disston was one. He brought Florida to life with a million dollars he did not have. Like so

many others, he used other people's money to build a fortune and reputation. If he lost money, so did his investors. But when he made money, everyone won.

Hamilton Disston, the oldest of nine children, was from Philadelphia. His father owned a sawmill and metal shop producing saw blades which grew to be a large business. After the Civil War at the urging of his father, Hamilton became the President of the company, which he ran with three of his brothers. With over 2,000 employees it grew to the largest saw manufacturing company in the world.

Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:



Super Bowl

Are you going to a Super Bowl party? Get some fun Super Bowl facts that will impress your friends.

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Vertical Oyster Gardens

Tampa Bay Watch recycled almost 50,000 pounds of oyster shells into living oyster gardens.

page 17

The Florida State Fair Is Coming!

Did you know it is the largest midway in North American.

- pages 19



Children Need Access to Parents

Meet the men behind the new non-profit, "Our Children Have Rights, Too" and find out what they are doing to provide support to non-custodial parents.

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CREDITS



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767 - about 5,000 households. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL

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MAYOR - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
Mark Bunker - Seat 2 Kathleen Beckman - Seat 3 David Allbritton - Seat 4 Lina Teixeira - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
Jon Jennings	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
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PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
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BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOT LINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLY TROLLEY	445-1200

CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA	562-4955
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
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Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION	
Sam Hutkin hutloan@aol.com	
CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB	316-5504
ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
Mike Anderson, President 777-2787	
ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Trisha Rodriguez, President 262-620-3866	
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
Linda Owens	260-894-0270
CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Allison Dolan	754-8017

PINELLAS COUNTY INFO	464-3000
COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
Dave Eggers, Beach/Island Estates 464-3276	
Vacant Sand Key 464-3278	
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Governor Ron DeSantis	
Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com	
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www.Rubio.Senate.gov	
Rick Scott	202-224-5274
www.RickScott.Senate.gov	
AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Vacant	202-225-5961
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT

FFEBRUARY		MARCH	
Ground Hog Day	2	US Open Sailing Series	1-5
Beach Clean Up	3	Strawberry Festival Opens	2
Beach Walk Clearwater Beach	4	St Petersburg Grand Prix	3-5
Belleair Rec Sunset 5K Run	4	Island Estates Spring Fest	4
Florida State Fair Opens	9	Champa Bay Elimination Dinner	4
Super Bowl Sunday	12	Belleair Sunset 5k And Fun Run	4
Peace Memorial Concert	12	Beach Art Center's Boots Gala	4
Deadline To Register to Vote	13	Beach Pool Opens	11
Valentine's Day	14	Rock The Ribbon 5k10k	11
Chamber's Annual Meeting	15	Shamrock Run Ulmer Park	11
Clearwater Softball Invationals	16-19	Beach Clean Ups	11
Downtown Art Walk	18	Causeway Clean Up IECA	11
President's Day	20	Daylight Savings Time Begins	12
Florida State Fair Closes	20	Strawberry Festival Closes	12
Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday	21	Peace Memorial Concert	12
Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins	22	Municipal Elections	14
City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day	23	Public School Spring Break	13-17
Phillies Spring Training Opens	23	St Patrick's Day	17
Blues On The Block	24-25	Downtown Art Walk	18
Island Estates Community Yard Sale	25	Rotary Runs the Beach	18
Gasparilla Run	25	First Day of Spring	20
Rays Spring Training Opens	25	Ramadan Begins	22
Hope Village Blue Jean Ball	25	Red, Whites And Bites	25

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Did You Know



TALL SHIPS ARE COMING TO ST. PETE A half-dozen tall ships, including a replica of Christopher Columbus' largest ship, *The Santa Maria*, will sail into the St. Petersburg waterfront March 30-April 2.

The nonprofit Tall Ships America is responsible for this maritime festival. It is the first time in twenty years the ships have included a St. Petersburg port. Tall Ships America is dedicated to maritime heritage and education, and sponsors an annual tour of tall

ships across the country.

The fleet coming to St. Petersburg includes the Spanish ship *Nao Trinidad* (seen above), a replica of the *Santa Maria*. There will be five additional ships including *Ernestina-Morrissey*, *Pride of Baltimore II*, and *Barque Elissa*, one of the oldest ships still sailing having it first launched in 1877. For the schedule and tickets, visit tallshipsstpete.com.

CLEARWATER BLUES ON THE BLOCK A spin-off of the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival takes over Cleveland Street for 2 days of music and fun. Enjoy live music from national blues recording artists, culinary experiences from downtown restaurateurs, craft beer and wine from local brewers, market vendors and so much more. All located at Cleveland Street and Garden Avenue in Downtown Clearwater February 24-25. Find information and a full lineup at: myclearwaterevents.com.

VIRTUAL BEACH EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT March 11-April 8 the Clearwater Beach Rec Center will have a virtual scavenger hunt. Take a picture with iconic landmarks on Clearwater Beach to win an Easter-themed prize. Contact the Clearwater Beach Rec Center for the rules, photo list, and more information at 462-6138.

REBATES AVAILABLE FOR SEWER PIPE REPLACEMENT Pinellas County Utilities announced eligible sewer customers who own single-family homes can apply for rebates to inspect and rehabilitate or replace their private sewer lateral. Eligible customers can receive 100% of the inspection cost up to \$350 and 50% of replacement or rehabilitation cost up to \$3,500. For eligibility information, visit privatesewer.pinellas.gov.

STREAM FAIR STREAM Fair 2022 at St. Cecelia Catholic School was a huge success. This year's fair showcased a wide variety of projects and they are so proud of the hard work and expertise demonstrated by their 7th graders. They had nine first place winners and of those first place winners, one project was named Best in Fair - Congratulations to Adrian Zouain and his project "Radio waves and the effect on plants."



Judge's Favorite went to Joseph Battle and his project "Do you know what is in your H2O?" Congratulations to these young scientists!

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REC CENTER MANAGER RETIRES

JP Atherholt, Clearwater Beach Rec. Center Manager is retiring after thirty years with the City. He spent his summers working as a camp counselor and lifeguard while attending FSU pursuing a degree in Physical Education. That is when he realized he preferred working in recreation over a school setting.

His first ten years were at the City's Ross Norton Rec. Complex and the last twenty or so at the Clearwater Beach Rec. Complex meeting thousands of people, some were locals who have lived on Clearwater Beach their whole lives and many tourists from all over the world.

He plans to take some time off to do a little traveling, then go back to work part time possibly in water safety and being an ambassador for the City of Clearwater to give back to the City that has done so much for him.



TAX DAY IS COMING April 15 is only 75 days away. That is the day your federal income taxes are normally due. You should already have begun receiving your W-2s and 1099s. But hold on, this year April 15th falls on a Saturday, so you get a reprieve until Monday the 17th. But hold on, that Monday is Emancipation Day, which is celebrated in Washington D.C. So, this year your taxes are not due until April 18th. Of course, if you file an extension, you have until October 15th to file, but hold on, that is a Sunday - they will be due on October 16.

MARKET MARIE The second Saturday of the month from 10 am – 2 pm, find a mix of over 100 local artisans and small businesses in the open-air market at Cleveland Street and Garden Avenue in Downtown Clearwater. Find more information at www.themarketculture.com.

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS The City of Clearwater offers an Electronics drop off event the last Wednesday of each month from 7am to 3pm at the Clearwater Solid Waste & Recycling Center at 1701 N. Hercules Avenue. The next events are: February 22 and March 29. Call 562-4920 for more information on this event.

GOOD CLEANING PRACTICES

When it comes to cleaning, the products we choose and the way we dispose of them have big impacts on the environment. Concentrated products are a smart choice. Besides needing fewer resources to make the product, they reduce the amount of packaging and smaller containers save energy during shipping. Buy refill containers, which use even less packaging and do not include sprayers or measuring caps, further reducing packaging.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 1 If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS. Call 430-8300 if you need more than a few. Read this issue, and others, BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook for ongoing local news.

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HAMILTON DISSTON, Continued

At first, Florida had with few residents and no growth. To help, the United States gifted Florida 15,000,000 acres of land, primarily wetlands and swamps, with a condition: convert and reclaim wetlands.

Florida created a fund that primarily pledged that land to developing railroad companies and guaranteed their bonds. After the Civil War, those companies defaulted, causing the fund to sink into debt and then receivership. The law forbid issuing more bonds to cover the debt and by 1877 the fund was \$1 million in debt.

Through his company's contacts, Disston knew many people, including railroad developer Henry Sanford (City of Sanford). Sanford was an avid angler and invited Hamilton and his wife to Florida for a fishing trip. During the trip, Disston recognized Florida's real estate possibilities, specifically in reclaimed land for agriculture. To qualify for the land, all he needed to do was build canals to drain Florida's Lake Okeechobee.

In 1881, Disston entered a land deal with Florida's then broke land fund for four million acres. The deal also stipulated Disston could keep "half" of any other land he reclaimed around Kissimmee, Okeechobee, Ft. Myer's Caloosahatchee River, and the Miami River.

Confident he could drain all the swamp land south of Kissimmee, Disston stood to gain up to twelve million acres, eight million more than his initial deal. But when he still had not paid a penny for the original four-million-acres, the Governor personally visited him in Philadelphia to collect that purchase price - \$1,000,000. It was just what the state coffers needed.

When Disston signed the deal, The New York Times reported "this was the largest purchase of land ever made by a single person in the United States - possibly, the world!" Six months later, Disston would sell two million of those acres for thirty cents an acre - a \$100,000 profit.

Some people argued the state sold the land too cheap, but it helped fund new railroad bonds. It helped land sales and soon the state's taxable property doubled.

Disston opened real estate offices across the United States and in Europe, promoting himself as the owner of two-thirds of Florida. His headquarters were on the shores of Lake Tohopekaliga, which became the City of Kissimmee. He founded a 20,000-acre sugarcane plantation, which created the City of St. Cloud. Sugarcane refineries established nearby in Kissimmee created more growth there, too.

The key to Disston's main plan was a massive dredging effort to drain the Kissimmee River floodplain flowing into Lake Okeechobee by removing the surface

water in the Everglades. When he dredged the rivers to the east and the west leading to St. Lucie (Stuart) and Caloosahatchee (Ft. Myers), he claimed another three million acres.

Disston founded Tarpon Springs in 1884, as a small fishing village with access to the Gulf. He owned most of the area but had not seen it until 1882. He directed the waterfront city's layout adding a commercial pier and two small hotels. Lumber arrived from his sawmill in New Jersey. His Philadelphia friends soon built winter homes there.

Through an 1883 land deed, Disston received 26,000 acres in today's St Petersburg. In addition, he got land in North Pinellas and most of the acreage south of Central Avenue to the tip of Pinellas - 110,000 acres of the peninsula.

It was during this time Disston met Peter Demens who was building a railroad from Sanford to the Gulf Coast. Financial problems prevented Demens from making payroll. Disston introduced him to his investment friends and saved Demens from bankruptcy, allowing him to continue.

Disston had his eye on south Pinellas. He created a city named after himself, Disston City (today's Gulfport). He envisioned a large city with 50,000 inhabitants and a major port connecting railroads to shipping from Cuba and New Orleans. He planned 12,000 acres on Boca Ciega Bay for the city with streets one hundred feet wide - one of which still exists today.

He built a wharf, warehouse, several model homes, a school, three local businesses and the area's first hotel with twenty-six rooms unabashedly named "The Waldorf." It opened on Christmas Day, 1884.

He bought a steamboat he named the S.S. Mary Disston, after his mother, to bring settlers and supplies from Tampa and Cedar Key. The residents called it the Dirty Mary because it produced too much smoke.

Disston City land sold from \$1.25 to over \$5 per acre. At first, (1885) the town boomed with the help of advertising in the north and in England. The Sea Breeze, a small Disston City newspaper was the first newspaper in the county. It promoted the town as a wonderful place to work and live.

Disston was also heavily invested in land near today's downtown St. Petersburg owning almost everything west of today's 4th Street. While others were trying to develop downtown St. Petersburg, Disston had no real interest in that property and as a result, the land around Central Avenue became a patchwork of lots stretching to Boca Ciega Bay. After his death, it took years to straighten it all out.

Disston needed a railroad to make his

Disston City take off. He knew Peter Demens was bringing his railroad to Tarpon Springs. Disston and Demens shook on a deal to continue the railroad thirty miles south to Disston City. Disston promised he would have a deep port and access to the Gulf, which he never did.

Soon after, Colonel John Williams, a major Waynesville (today's St. Petersburg) landowner offered Demens half his acreage on the east side of the peninsula in exchange for bringing the railroad there. Part of the deal promised to Demens was he could name the town after his hometown in Russia - St. Petersburg.

Demens never told Disston of the change in plans. Disston found out later, after the new tracks turned to the southeast.

Disston City never met expectations. It went on to have two other names - Bonifacio and Veterans City before today's Gulfport. St. Petersburg, though, became one of Florida's largest cities.

The revived Land Fund encouraged others to invest, especially railroad companies. It chartered 564 railroad companies; 154 operated as part of the Seaboard Coast Line. Disston did not jump on the railroad craze. He felt Florida's future lay with steamships, farming, and raising cattle. This was certainly another big mistake.

Disston continued to buy real estate, which he used as collateral to borrow more money from Philadelphia banks. He lived in his floundering town of Disston during turbulent financial times - The Panic of 1893, The Depression of the 1890s, the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act of 1894, and the Great Freeze of 1894 and 1895. Disston eventually mortgaged all his Florida assets for only \$2 million.

While in Philadelphia, on April 30, 1896, after attending the theater with the mayor and his wife, he returned home and shot himself. The newspapers reported it as a heart attack. He was only fifty-one.

Disston left a wife, three children and an estate only valued at \$100,000, but he had a \$1,000,000 life insurance policy—the second largest in the United States. His brothers had no interest in the Florida business and his creditors foreclosed.

Tarpon Springs and Gulfport are still thriving cities, though few know Disston's name. There is still a Disston saw company in Philadelphia, and in St. Petersburg off 49th Street N. is an area named Disston Ridge with a Disston Plaza. His name lives on with Disston Street (Crystal Beach), Disston Heights Subdivision (St Petersburg), Disston Jr. High (near Boca Ciega High School) and Disston Lake (north of Deland). The 100-foot-wide street named for him in Gulfport is now 55th Street South / Beach Blvd.

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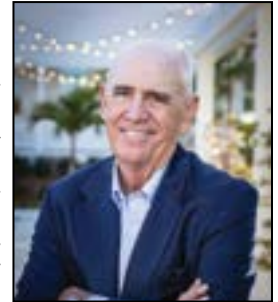
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HOW ARE YOU DOING ON THOSE RESOLUTIONS?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Now that we are into a new year, it is that time when we make those promises to ourselves by making RESOLUTIONS to exercise, diet, get a physical, save more money, etc. By now some of us have already broken those RESOLUTIONS. Procrastination is a choice but not a good one when it comes to RESOLUTIONS. Here are four RESOLUTIONS to embrace to put/keep your financial affairs in order.



I hereby RESOLVE to do an integrated written financial plan before April 15. Your financial planner has done a written plan for you hasn't she/he? Shame on them if they have not. Doing a financial plan is not just a review of your investments, it is much more. A financial plan lays the foundation for your wealth plan.

I hereby RESOLVE to increase the contribution to my retirement plan to at least equal to the amount needed to get 100% of the match from my employer and if I have already done that to increase my contribution by a minimum of 10%. If possible, I will put in the maximum amount.

I hereby RESOLVE to set an appointment with my attorney to update my estate plan no later than March 15th. WHAT??? You have not done an estate plan? Yeah, I get it - who wants to plan for death? An estate plan is much more than a death plan. There should be at least four documents: 1) a will; 2) a power of attorney; 3) health care surrogate form; and 4) a living will. You may find it advantageous to also have a living trust. In case you did not know, you have a will written for you by the State of Florida and I guarantee it is not likely the will that you want.

I further and finally RESOLVE to get with my property and casualty agent to do a complete review and update all my insurance policies to make sure that everything is covered properly no later than the end of March.

We want you to visit with all your professionals. If you do not have a financial planner or are looking to make a change, then make one more RESOLUTION. I RESOLVE to take advantage of learning more about how ProVise can help me by setting up a complimentary meeting with them in person or by Zoom.

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



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

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

OUR CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS

By Jake Hornstein, Co-Founder & COO

When Greg Hill became a father, he knew he always wanted to be available to his son. Unfortunately, since Greg was not married to his son's mother and there were no longer in a relationship, under Florida law, he had no legal rights to his child. After a series of unsuccessful legal outcomes (using reputable attorneys) Greg decided to change his approach. He represented himself in court, and ultimately achieved a favorable 50/50 custody and co-parenting outcome.



In January 2021, fueled by lived experiences, Greg and I established a web-based nonprofit named Our Children Have Rights .Org (OCHR.org). OCHR.Org focuses on children and families by helping parents more seamlessly navigate the various processes related to child custody and co-parenting. While we work directly with parents, the goal is to establish a successful co-parenting strategy and living environment that best positions the child(ren) to reach their full potential. Our services are FREE to all parents regardless of demographics or parenting circumstances (single mothers/fathers, unwed parents, married couples seeking divorce, same-sex couples and undocumented families).

Education is the core of our work, with a priority focus on process, documentation, and meeting your state's custody formula as seamlessly as possible. This allows us to further assist and better equip parents through their journey. Legal aid can be very costly, and our educational resources, when used properly, can minimize, or even eliminate the need for legal aid, thus saving a parent money, time, and resources. Alternatively, when a parent seeks assistance identifying the right attorney given their circumstances, we guide them through that process as well.

Our Direct Services include FREE consultations (Zoom, FaceTime, phone) and FREE documentation review (parenting plans). We're proud to share that the scope of our work covers a wide range of Human Services. It's a direct result of constantly learning more from the thousands of parents that we've engaged with, who share with us the ancillary challenges that they face while establishing custody. Those needs may include financial assistance, housing/down payment assistance, mental health, reemployment, assistance with public benefits, and access to basic needs, among many others. We address these needs through a network of program partners; Pinellas County Government, 211 Tampa Bay, Bay Area Legal Services, Feeding Tampa Bay, NAMI, Warrick Dunn Charities, Gulf Coast JFCS, and many others.

Since inception, OCHR.Org has served over 18,000 parents, conducted free consultations with 850 parents, and reviewed over 350 parenting plans. We were recently recognized by AMPLIFY Clearwater with the "Launch Award," celebrating a new business that's "Well on its way." We even adopted Sand Key Park & Beach to create volunteer opportunities within our community.

Most importantly, if you, or someone you know, needs our assistance, we're here for you. We're on a mission. A mission to protect the rights of children to have access to parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful co-parenting. Why? Because Our Children Have Rights.

You can contact Jake Hornstein at 516-652-7880 or by e-mail at JakeHornstein@OurChildrenHaveRights.com. For information, visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org. To donate, visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org/donate.

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SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL RETURNS

Come to Clearwater Beach this spring and watch 1,000 tons of Clearwater’s sugar sand come to life. After a hugely successful post-pandemic return to Clearwater Beach last year, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival returns to bright and beautiful Clearwater Beach April 7 to 23 for its ninth and biggest year yet.

Fourteen world-class artists craft elaborate sand sculptures from Clearwater’s internationally famous sugar sand. The works of art are on display in a 21,000-square-foot structure. More than 1,000 tons of Clearwater sand takes on a new life, bringing visitors on a “sandtastic” adventure.

From architectural masterpieces created from Clearwater’s famous sugar sand to concerts, performers, and daily entertainment, the 17-day festival attracts visitors from around the world each year.

This year’s festival theme is “Decades: A Blast from the Past!” and takes you on a nostalgic trip back in time to the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

Tickets are on sale now at SugarSandFestival.com. General admission to the sculpture exhibit is \$14 per person and is free for children 3 years old and younger.

Discounted tickets for military personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers and healthcare workers can be purchased for \$10 each on “Frontline Fridays,” April 7, 14 and 21. These tickets will be available at the gate with proper identification.

Baystar VIP Lounge tickets are on sale for \$70. VIP tickets include fast-lane entrance and admission to the Sugar Sand Walk sculpture exhibit, a free souvenir photo, and a festival themed T-shirt. VIP also includes admission to the Baystar VIP Lounge, three beer/wine/seltzer beverages, two soda or bottled water beverages, access to air-conditioned VIP rooms, and an enhanced dinner menu from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Each year, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival continues to grow in popularity and garner national attention. The 2022 event drew more than 200,000 visitors throughout its 17-day run.

Learn more and get your tickets at SugarSandFestival.com.

EVERYONE MUST REAPPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL

More than one in three Americans vote by mail. The number dramatically increased during the Pandemic. Now a new Florida law changed your eligibility to receive a mail-in ballot. Previously, if you checked the box on your last ballot asking to vote by mail in the next election, that was enough. Now after EVERY General Election (like the last November’s mid-terms) ALL mail-in requests expire and must be renewed.

Voters will no longer automatically receive their mail-in ballots, and that begins for the March municipal elections. Few people have renewed their requests and will be surprised when they don’t receive their mail-in ballot.

It is recommended to submit your request at VotePinellas.gov – click on Request a Ballot. You are required to include either the last four digits of your Social Security number or your driver’s license number, whichever form of identification you previously provide and is on file. If you do it online, it will prompt you for the correct form of ID. If you make your request by mail, you may submit the wrong form, and it will be rejected.

Remember, this request will only last through the 2024 Presidential election. It will have to be renewed every two years, after EACH General Election – those are always in November. Of course, if instead, you prefer to vote in person, you do not need to do anything (assuming you are registered). Just show up at your polling place on election day, with your ID.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT A NATIONAL PARK THIS YEAR?

If you are planning your 2023 vacations now, you might want to include a visit to a National Park. The National Park Service announced their annual fee-free days for 2023. On these dates, visitors will be able to enter for free, regardless of the normal daily cost.

For 2023, the Park Service will waive the entry fee on the following days:

- April 22 – The first day of National Park Week
- August 4 – Great American Outdoors Day
- September 23 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

Originally introduced to increase accessibility to National Parks, Fee-free days waive the price of entry, which can be anywhere from \$5 to \$35 depending on the park. But most locations are always free to enter. The more popular parks including the Grand Canyon and Zion are \$35, but only 108 of the more than 400 national parks have an entry fee. The fees primarily contribute to the park's operating budget and pay for infrastructure, habitat restoration, visitor education programs, and other services.

If you're planning to visit a national park in 2023, hopefully your dates will correspond with a fee-free day, but if you intend to see more than one park, or visit more than one day this year, the \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is a fantastic deal. It allows unlimited admission to any park for one year. It covers entrance fees, standard amenity fees and day use fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person). Children age 15 or under are admitted free. The cost of the same pass for Seniors is \$20. The price of the lifetime America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass is \$80.

Before you travel, buy one online at www.usparkpass.com.

HEP FASHION SHOW: Renewing Hope on the Runway



Join HEP at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Sunday, March 12th from 2 to 5pm for an afternoon of fun, fashion, and fundraising during the 8th Annual HEP Fashion Show: Renewing Hope on the Runway. Guests will enjoy a fashion show featuring sustainable styles all found in the HEP Thrift Store, hors d'oeuvres, and boutique shopping. There will also be a chance to win raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$60/person or \$450/table* (max 8 per table), with proceeds supporting HEP's Youth & Family Services. Sponsorship opportunities including ticket packages are available for individuals and businesses alike.

Please note, if purchasing a table, funds must be submitted through one online donation, one \$450 check, or one envelope containing all individual checks.

Tickets are on sale now. To purchase them or learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact HEP Marketing Specialist Madeline Stone at MadelineS@HEPempowers.org or 727-442-9041 ext. 105.



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* With purchase of an adult breakfast or lunch. One per person. Must be 21 or older with proper ID. Wines from participating vendors. Expires 7/07/22.

Business Briefs



LGH DOCKSIDE This new THC/CBD dispensary is the first of a kind. It is the first lounge where you can openly ingest their products inside or on their outdoor patio. They claim it is "the first Delta Rec THC Dispensary and Smoke Lounge in Florida."

It is owned by Mathew Wetzel and Emma Baron and together they opened Wisconsin's first Cannabis Dispensary.

It is opening this month and you can shop in person or online. Find them on the second floor of the Pelican Plaza, 483 Mandalay Avenue. See their web site LGHdockside.com.

OFFICE CLOSED The Coldwell Banker office located at 468 Mandalay Avenue has closed and consolidated with another office. Broker Deborah McMillen, and the fifteen other agents in that office now operate from nearby Dunedin and Belleair Bluffs offices.

BELLA VINO GIFT BASKETS If you are looking for something different this Valentine's Day, consider a gift basket from Bella Vino's. They have grab-and-go baskets from \$65 to \$150 or they can make a custom baskets filled with whatever you choose. The price range from \$65 on up, depending on what wine you choose to include. Find them online at BellaVinoWineMarket.com or just drop by at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, in The Plaza. Call 584-5552.



ANOTHER RECORD BROKEN St Pete-Clearwater Airport (PIE) set an all-time passenger record in 2022 with 2,445,919 passengers. That is an increase twenty percent increase over 2021 and a seven percent increase over 2019, the last record-breaking year.

DUFFY'S GOLF STUDIO CLOSSES Duffy's Golf Studio, located in Belleair Bluffs, next door to Panera Bread is gone. owner Nick Becerra said they have closed.

NEW TROLLEY TOURS Jolley Trolley is excited about its newest adventure, providing legendary tours. Tours feature the mysteries and haunted past of our area. First, a pirate trolley set sail, by land, to bring mates to local breweries; and now a new exciting adventure is coming in February - the Clearwater Sightseeing Tour - showcasing the coastline communities of our beautiful region.

Jolley Trolley Transportation, serving the Clearwater Beach area and beyond, has enjoyed 40 years of being in business as a non-profit organization in our community. Through its partnership with PSTA, it provides daily route services 365 days a year, from Tarpon Springs to Clearwater Beach. Additionally, Jolley Trolley provides private charter services specializing in weddings and corporate events, an outstanding way to enjoy events with your family and friends, all aboard together!

Be sure to visit clearwaterjolleytrolley.com to book your next adventure soon.

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A BEAUTIFUL TREE CANOPY IS HEALTHY AND SAFE

The city of Clearwater is working hard to keep the city's tree canopy healthy, safe and beautiful for our residents. This includes monitoring existing trees throughout the city for disease, decay and structural integrity. The city's Public Works Department is working with certified arborists to identify and prioritize tree maintenance in the interest of public safety. This program began in Fall 2020 and continues today.

Clearwater has been recognized as a tree city for 40 years. Our crews are working with arborists, certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), who use industry standards to create a citywide tree inventory of the trees located in the rights-of-way in central and southern areas of the city. Eventually, crews will conduct inventories on trees throughout all of Clearwater.

Tree inventories use a six-point scale to assess the tree's overall structural strength and systemic health. Certified arborists examine elements of structure, such as the presence of cavities, decayed wood, rubbing branches, and other features, to determine if the tree is dead or diseased. If it is rated at zero, it is dead or is an invasive species. If it is rated at one, it is dying, severely declining, hazardous or is harboring a communicable disease.

No healthy trees will be removed. The only trees that will be removed are rated at zero or one and pose a danger to people or property in Clearwater.

Trees recommended for removal are a threat to public safety and should not be left standing. By leaving decaying trees standing that have been recommended for removal, the city would be leaving residents in danger, increasing the city's liability and increasing the time it may take to clean up after a wind storm, such as a tropical storm or hurricane. It is our responsibility to keep our residents and their properties safe.

All tree removal work is being done by certified arborists. Before a dead or diseased tree is removed, the contractor is responsible for notifying the property owner directly adjacent to the right of way where the tree is located.

In the fall of 2023, the Public Works department will bring forward to City Council a right-of-way tree replacement program. To view the tree inventory and removal map, visit MyClearwater.com/Trees.

CLEARWATER EVENTS

Neighborhoods Day March 25 - Mark your calendars. On Neighborhoods Day, the city invites all registered neighborhood associations to throw a block party to meet, mingle and celebrate with their neighbors to help highlight their unique cultures, history and identity.

City Council and officials will spend the day touring through the neighborhoods, stopping by each block party to say hello and hear residents' concerns on their turf. The famous Kona Ice Truck will also make its rounds to each neighborhood to hand out free icy treats to Clearwater residents.

If your neighborhood is interested in hosting a block party, apply at MyClearwater.com/Neighborhoods.

Clearwater Comic Con March 4 - The Clearwater Public Library System will join forces with the Parks & Recreation Department to host the annual Comic Con, from 10 am to 5 pm Saturday at the Ross Norton Recreation Complex in Clearwater. The free event is fun for the entire family.

Dress as your favorite character for the costume contest. Meet comic artists, attend various informational panels and check out a variety of vendor booths. For more information, visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com.

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NOT FEELING THE LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

George Rohrmann, L.C.S.W.

First remember, Valentine's Day does not have to be only for romantic couples. Anyone can rejoice in having friends and relatives with whom to share the spirit of the day. Some individuals choose to be single, and they are quite happy and well adjusted. They have not given in to the pressure to have "that special someone" and a "perfect relationship."

But this article is not for them, it is for those who are in a romantic relationship or want to be in one. If you are in a relationship and are very pleased and happy with it, perhaps the following will validate what you have accomplished.

The internet is packed with articles outlining five, ten, or even more key elements to having a better relationship. It can be overwhelming to try to meet all of them. In addition, there are many notions promoted by the card, book, movie and music industries that create a nice fantasy of romantic love, but it is not realistic expectations for a relationship. Ideas like "you complete me," "I'm nothing without you," "we have to do everything together if we are really in love" and "you need to find that special person" are just a few of the unrealistic notions created by these industries.

Often, couples unknowingly have idealistically high expectations of what a relationship is going to do for them. For example, if you are unhappy in your life, finding a special person may initially feel good, but it will not, in the long run, make you happy.

For those seeking a romantic relationship, ask yourself "Am I ready for it?" The best relationship is between two whole, happy, well-adjusted individuals who want companionship, share goals and values about life, are friends, are cheerleaders for each other, share some activities, but also

allow and accept an appropriate amount of individualism such as separate activities, which help an individual bring energy and joy back to the relationship.

When looking for a relationship, it is important to understand why you are attracted to certain types of romantic partners. The emotional reasons may not always be healthy ones and until recognized, are often repeated in consecutive relationship. Until you are aware of these reasons, those emotional forces can create repeated unhappiness.

If you are in a romantic relationship, Valentine's Day is certainly a time to celebrate it, but it should not be the only day to give your relationship attention. Cards, candy, and flowers are not going to make up for a lack of connection the remainder of the year. For many couples, the daily lack of connection leads to feelings of loneliness, unhappiness, and feeling unfulfilled. Those of you who have felt this will understand what I am talking about.

In my practice I take a simple approach. I utilize "Emotionally Focused Therapy" (EFT) which helps couples get connected so that each partner feels they are being heard, respected, and valued. I take issue with the idea that "relationships are work." They should not be "work." Once set in motion, there is a satisfying, natural flow that is easily maintained through ongoing nurturing of the relationship.

If you would like to learn more about your relationships, you can reach me at 727-240-4975. My office is located in the Powell Professional Center at 401 Corbett Street, Suite 460-D, in Belleair. Get more in information about improving your relationships at www.georgerohrmann.com.

George Rohrmann, L.C.S.W. is a licensed individual, family and couples therapist in Belleair who is accepting new patients.

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The flagship location on North Beach is two-floors with 4 dining areas and 5 bars of fun, excitement, and entertainment, plus some of the best pub food you can find on Clearwater Beach! All sports games from the NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA, NCAA, and more, are displayed on over 60 TVs! Live Bands will have you dancing the night away downstairs, while upstairs features some of the Best DJs from the Tampa Bay Area and beyond, all of this 7-nights a week! They also have weekly events such as bingo, family feud, karaoke, trivia and more, not to mention monthly events like comedy shows! For families and kids, and the kids at heart, they have a full size arcade showcasing some of the hottest and newest arcade games available. Check out their Facebook, Instagram and website for more information, there's always something happening at Boxer North!

So come on down, enjoy some food, play some Connect-4 Basketball or Skee-Ball while watching your favorite sports team, maybe even win a prize at bingo or trivia, sing your heart away at karaoke night, or maybe laugh out loud on comedy night. Then stay and dance the night away to your favorite songs whether you want to hear it live from the band downstairs, or the hottest remix from the DJ upstairs, the choice is yours, but one choice you will never regret is coming to Brown Boxer North Beach! Open til 3am nightly! Be sure to visit them, you won't be disappointed!!!

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Bar & Restaurant News

REEFER'S SOCIAL CLUB Owner Hannah Menard opened this new restaurant in December where North Beach Pub once was.

This is the perfect neighborhood bar, which is why they call themselves a "social club." They have food, too and you can enjoy breakfast on the beach with their outdoor seating on the sidewalk. Stop in and say hello to Alex, the manager – shown here with Hannah. Find them at 600 Mandalay Avenue, just north of the Fire Station.



MIO'S CAFÉ OFFERS BREAKFAST Have you tried a "Turkish" style breakfast? Mio's Café specializing in authentic Middle Eastern food, with a focus on Greek serves a great Greek breakfast. In addition, they have many specialty coffees, some of which are organic. They serve breakfast and lunch daily and dinners on weekends.

The Café opened in the Shoppes on Sand Key late last year where Basimo Coffee Café was. It is owned by Chef Bora Caliskan, who is from Turkey. Find them at 1261 Gulf Blvd. See their web site at www.MiosGrill.com.

BACKWATER'S SPECIAL VALENTINE MENU

Backwater's Waterfront Grill is offering a deluxe two-day special Valentine menu February 13th and 14th with Surf n' Turf, filet Oscar, Red Snapper, special appetizers, and dessert.

Through March 15th, Backwater's is offering ten percent off your order when you use the coupon in their ad in this Magazine.



MAGGIE MAES Now with your meal, you can enjoy Mimosas, Bloody Marys, Beer, Wine and Sangria at BOTH locations. Enjoy a breakfast cocktail with the area's finest breakfast and lunch for the past fourteen years. Find them at 2961 West Bay Drive in Belleair Bluffs and in the Shoppes on Sand Key.

O'KEEFE'S FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY O'Keefe's Irish Bar and Grill is once again hosting the biggest St. Patrick's Day event in the area. This year it lasts only one day - Friday, March 17 from 11am on. The event is always HUGE. There will be no tent this year, but the event will fill their parking lot with live Irish music, dancing, and lots of green beer. It is free to attend, of course the food and drink is extra.

Find them at 1219 South Ft. Harrison. See their web site for more details - www.OKeefesTavern.com.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 430-8300.



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Photo courtesy of Tampa Bay Watch

TAMPA BAY WATCH OYSTER SHELL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Tampa Bay Watch recycled 49,087 Pounds of Oyster Shell in 2022! In addition to keeping them out of our land fill, the recycled shells contributed to improved water quality in Tampa Bay. A big thanks to their restaurant partners who contributed to a successful pilot year of the Oyster Shell Recycling Program:

- The Island Grille & Raw Bar, Tierra Verde: 33,768 lbs
- The Oyster Bar, Downtown St. Petersburg: 15,095 lbs
- Morgan Mae's Oyster House, Tarpon Springs: 224 lbs

The waste oyster shells are used to create Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOG) made of recycled oyster shells from local restaurants that are suspended from docks to create a hard substrate to which juvenile oysters can attach and develop. The shells can also be used to create oyster shell bars to restore lost habitat systems to the bay, prevent further erosion of the shoreline and improve water quality through natural biological filtration.

Vertical oyster gardens, oyster reef balls, and oyster shell bags are methods developed by Tampa Bay Watch for creating oyster habitat. Oysters are a food source for birds and fish. Many small fish, crabs, shrimp and other critters live among the oysters and provide food for large fish and wildlife. Oysters are natural filters, and clean 2-5 gallons of water per hour. More oysters mean a cleaner bay!

In January 2023, Crabby Bill's St. Pete Beach and Crabby Bill's Indian Rocks Beach joined the program, so they hope to double our shell intake this year! Please remember #EatMoreOysters - make more vertical oyster gardens.

Would you like to create your own vertical oyster gardens to hang off your dock? You can make it from recycled oyster shell from a local restaurant or even your own meal.

STEPS TO HANGING YOUR VOG:

1. Be sure to choose a spot for your VOG with the most water flow and that the water is deep enough to cover the entire VOG at high tide. Place an eye screw in the side of the dock.
2. Drill a hole in the middle of each shell slightly larger than your rope and thread the rope through the shells.
3. Hang VOG from dock using the eye screw. To calculate appropriate height for your VOG, check your pilings and seawalls for oyster/barnacle growth. Try and match the height/depth of the best growth. This is the optimal zone for your area.
4. Be patient; it may take several months for oysters to colonize your VOG. If you are in doubt about whether the shells are hanging at the right depth, move them higher or lower in the water, always trying to match the growth on adjacent areas.

An advertisement for Amber Davis, a real estate agent. It features a photo of her in a blue top. The text reads: "LOVE THE LIFE YOU LIVE EVERYDAY LET ME HELP YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE". Below this, it says "SERVING ISLAND ESTATES AND THE BEACHES CALL AMBER TODAY 727-743-2722". At the bottom, it mentions "BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY REAL ESTATE" and "REAL ESTATE = REAL INVESTMENT".

An advertisement for R&A Financial Planners. The headline is "TODAY'S MARKETS ARE WHY WE PLAN". It features a photo of a family walking a dog in a park. The text says: "Worried about your investments? A good financial plan takes the uncertainty out of tomorrow and lets you live your life today. It is never too late to begin, but the sooner the better. Please call me to find out more." The contact information is "Erin Emmett, Financial Planner, erin@roganfinancial.com, www.RoganFinancial.com". A call to action at the bottom says "CALL 727.712.3400" and "Member SIPC".

An advertisement for George Rohrmann, a Licensed Individual, Family and Couples Therapist. It features a photo of him. The text reads: "GEORGE ROHRMANN LCSW Licensed Individual, Family and Couples Therapist Daytime, Evening and weekend appointments 727-240-4975". At the bottom, it says "Visit my website for more information www.georgerohrmann.com".

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North Beach - The best seafood menu in Clearwater!

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 The Original - 317 Coronado Drive
 North Beach - 423 Poinsettia Avenue (formerly Cooters)

IT'S 5 RACE AND WALK SEASON

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to get fit? There are lots of 5K runs and walks planned in our area to help you on your journey.

February 4th is the Belleair Rec's "Sunset 5k & Fun Run." It begins at 5:30pm and the post race party is back! For more information, please contact the Dimmitt Community Center at 727-518-3728. Register at www.runsignup.com/belleair.

"Beach Walk" February 4, 7:30 am on Clearwater Beach at the Palm Pavillion. The route is from the Palm Pavilion to Pier 60 and then finish at Chapel by the Sea for music, and breakfast. The cost is \$40 per person or \$80 for a family. Register in person, on the day of the walk, at the Palm Pavilion or online at chapelbythesea.net/beachwalk-2023.

The "Gasparilla Distance Classic" February 25-26, in Downtown Tampa. It includes a 5K Run, 5K walk, 5K stroller race, 15K, half marathon, and more. For information or to register, visit www.RunGasparilla.com.

"Rock the Ribbon" Kids Dash, 5k and 10k races are on Saturday, March 11. It benefits Morton Plant Mease cancer services. Kids Dash Starts at 4:30 pm; the 5k & 10k start at 5 pm. Both are on the Morton Plant Hospital campus. Register at www.rock-the-ribbon.org.

The City of Largo's "Annual Shamrock N' Run" Race is Saturday, March 11 at Ulmer Park, 301 West Bay Dr. Live music starts at 4 pm. The Clover Kids Fun Run is 4:45 pm, 5K Run & 1.5 Mile Walk at 5 pm

Pre-register by March 3 at Largosports.com. "Shamrock N' Run" shirt T-Shirts available while supplies last so register early to receive one. Enjoy post-race food and beer.

"Rotary Runs the Beach" on Indian Rocks Beach March 18 with a 5K timed/chipped race, one mile family fun run or a virtual run. The 5K begins at 8 am and the 1 mile begins five minutes later at 1700 Gulf Blvd on Indian Rocks Beach. Register at runsignup.com/Race/FL/IndianRocksBeach/RotaryRunsTheBeach.



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FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX

The Annual "Firestone Grand Prix of St Petersburg" is coming back for its 19th big year Friday through Sunday, March 3-4 in Downtown St. Petersburg.

This is a series of races along a picturesque 14-turn, 1.8-mile temporary track. The races feature different types of race cars, culminating in the IndyCar Series race on Sunday, March 5th.

Pricing starts at \$124 for reserved three-day grandstand seats or \$65 for general admission for all three days. Sunday only, general admission is \$60 per person.

Tickets are available at gpstpete.com or call 727-898-4639.

IT IS TIME FOR THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR

The Florida State Fair is scheduled for February 9 – 20 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. About 500,000 people attend the Florida State Fairgrounds to enjoy midway rides, exhibits, bright lights, and fun food during the 12-day tradition. The State Fair has run annually since 1904 and is the largest midway in North America

The Fair is famous for its food and has been billed as Florida’s Fried Food Capital. Each year vendors outdo themselves creating new food experiences. New this year? Mexican Street Corn Sundae (Chile con Queso cheese, Mexican spices, crumbled cheese, crushed corn chips, topped with Shrimp or Steak), Fried Key Lime Pie (Pieces of mini donuts with buttercream frosting, layered with Key Lime Pie filling and whip cream, topped with white chocolate, graham cracker crumbs, and a lime slice), Cookie Taco Supreme (A chocolate chip cookie folded into a taco, stuffed with s’mores ice cream, topped with Oreos & chocolate dip, and whipped cream), Dill Pickle Lemonade (Lemonade with pickles and pickle juice), and a Cuban Funnel Cake Sandwich (typical Cuban sandwich pressed between funnel cakes instead of bread and topped with a donut glaze)

It is billed as endless entertainment including an outdoor circus, musical acts on stage, local community performers presented on the big stage, the dueling pianos act, a fire guy, and oh so much more, all on several stages throughout the Fair with shows happening throughout the day and night.

Of course, there are educational things, too. There will be the standard livestock exhibits and competitions where you just might see a newborn calf. Open every day, Cracker Country lets you step back in time to 19th century Florida. It is Tampa’s only living history museum. At the Florida Fish



& Wildlife Exhibit Discover some of the many ways to enjoy Florida’s natural environment, which include hiking, fishing, boating, hunting and photography. Visit the milking parlor and see a modern milking operation.

And what would a Fair be without the rides? There will be all the rides you remember and some new ones too. You can ride unlimited rides with an Advance Anyday Armband - \$30 for one day or for \$50 you can skip the lines on weekends, too. Buy them in advance online and skip the wait.

Entry prices vary; discounts are available for advance purchase online, or at Publix and Wawa stores.

In advance tickets are \$14 per adult, seniors 55 and over are \$9, children 6-11 are \$8. Under 6 is free. At the Gate it is \$15 adult, \$9 children. This year, no one under 18 will be admitted after 6pm unless accompanied by their parent or an adult 21 or older.

See the complete list of food, entertainment, exhibits and rides at www.FloridaStateFair.com.

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COUNT DOWN TO SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

By Bob Griffin

Super Bowl Sunday is not an official holiday, but most people celebrate it in some form. Even if you don't watch football, it is a great excuse to get together with family and friends for some good sports food and great television commercials. This year, "Super Bowl Sunday" is February 12 - the second Sunday of February.

This year Super Bowl, LVII, otherwise known as #57, will be played in Phoenix, Arizona's "State Farm" stadium, which holds 63,400 people, however, it can expand to 73,000 for special events. This is the fourth Super Bowl to be played in Phoenix and the third in this stadium.

The game is only played in cities that have a National Football League (NFL) team. It starts shortly after 6:30 pm (EST) and is over by 10 pm. This year it will be broadcast on Fox. As of press time, the teams have yet to be determined.

Professional football has been played since 1920. At one time there were two separate leagues, NFL and AFL. Before they merged in 1970, the two leagues agreed to play a championship game, aptly titled "AFL-NFL Championship Game" at the end of their seasons. The first of four, was in 1967 between Green Bay and Kansas City. It was played in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Green Bay won 35-10. They won the second championship game, too, in Miami against the Oakland Raiders. Today's winning team receives the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after the famed Green Bay Packers head coach, probably because he won those first two championship games.

Those that don't care about the game, or their team is not in it, watch for the commercials and advertisers know that. 50 percent of those surveyed said they were "more interested" in the commercials than the game. Ads, sold months in advance, were 95 percent sold before the playoffs began.

The cost of a 30-second Super Bowl ad is \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million last year. But most commercials will be 60-second - \$14 million - or \$233,000 PER SECOND! The cost of 30-seconds is almost triple what it cost in 2000

when it was "only \$2.5 million."

The network will sell between seventy-five and eighty thirty-second spots, which may be combined into longer ads. There will be a few free spots to promote Fox's upcoming shows. In all, it will generate about 545 million ad dollars - in just four hours! This doesn't count the revenue from the higher priced ads in the pre-game Shows.

Last year, 99 million people watched the game, which was down from 111 million people who watched in 2017. Although the numbers appear to be falling, viewership is harder to track with streaming services and the Internet. It is very dependent on the teams playing, too.

FUN FACTS

The Pittsburgh Steelers have won six out of eight appearances. The New England Patriots have also won six out of eleven appearances. Dallas Cowboys and the San Francisco 49ers have each won five.

New England has the most appearances with eleven. The Miami Dolphins has the only perfect season winning seventeen games including the Super Bowl.

Four NFL teams have never appeared in a Super Bowl - Cleveland, Detroit, Jacksonville, and Houston. Thirteen teams have played in one, but never won the Super Bowl.

During odd numbered games, the NFC is the Home Team; during even numbered games it is the AFC. Away teams have won 58 percent of the games.

Tom Brady has personally won the most rings - seven - six with the Patriots and one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He and Peyton Manning are the only two quarterbacks to win rings with two teams

The highest scoring Super Bowl game was in 1995 with a combined score of 75. San Francisco had 49, San Diego 26. Our own Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2003 share the #2 position with 69 combined points (Tampa 48 vs Oakland 21).

All four dominate networks have televised the game. The first Super Bowl was simultaneously broadcast on CBS and NBC. John Madden is the

only person to host a Super Bowl for each of the four networks.

Three cities have hosted the Super Bowl the most. Miami - eleven, New Orleans - ten, and Los Angeles - seven. Tampa has hosted five Super Bowls: 1984, 1991, 2001, 2009, and 2021.

Super Bowl 2015 with 114.44 million viewers was the most-watched game and holds the record for the most most-viewed television broadcast of any kind in the U.S. (Seattle and New England). On the other hand, Super Bowl 2021 held here in Tampa, was the least watched game with 96.4 million viewers (Kansas City and Tampa Bay).

Tickets this year start at \$6,000, but not the good seats; those are \$25,000 (Club Level). Executive Suite seats are over \$100,000 each.

HALF TIME

The Super Bowl Half-Time Show is the most watched TV entertainment event in the world. For the first time it is being sponsored by Apple Music. Pepsi has sponsored it for the last ten years.

Unlike normal NFL games, the Super Bowl's half time may last more than 30-minutes. Originally, the Super Bowl had typical high school and college bands play at half time. Later, famous artists were added. 1993 was the first Super Bowl to feature a single performer - Michael Jackson. It still ranks as one of the most-watched half-time shows in Super Bowl history.

The primary performer this year is Rihanna, winner of nine Grammy's, with fourteen number-one hit songs (thirty-one in the top ten). This is Rihanna's first live performance in over five years

The Top 10 Rated Half-Time Shows?

- 10 (2019) Maroon 5
- 9 (2020) Jennifer Lopez
- 8 (2018) Justin Timberlake
- 7 (2013) Beyonce & Destiny's Child
- 6 (2022) Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, And Kendrick Lamar
- 5 (2012) Madonna with MIA
- 4 (2014) Bruno Mars & The Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 3 (2016) Coldplay
- 2 (2017) Lady Gaga
- 1 (2015) Katy Perry with Lenny Kravitz





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Community News...

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country, continuing the long-standing tradition the world over. You don't need a boat to join in the fun at CYC in Clearwater Beach. Many members don't have boats. Their social activities center around parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki Bar.

Their 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.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

This club is open to the women of Pinellas County; all are welcome to come and socialize. Luncheons are held the first Tuesday of each month at Belleair Country Club. There is always a guest speaker or other entertainment. Please contact Mary at 727-709-9906 with any questions.

ISLAND ESTATE WOMEN'S CLUB

The IEWC planned events are always listed at: www.islandstateswomensclub.org.

Upcoming Events include:

- Sat, Feb, 4 to 9 – Cruise, Brilliance of The Seas
- Thur, Feb 16 – “5 O'clock Somewhere”, O'Keefe's Tavern
- Tues, Feb 21 – Luncheon, Harold Seltzer's Steakhouse
- Thu, Mar 2 – “5 O'clock Somewhere”, Stirling Wine, Dunedin
- Thur, Mar 9 – St. Pete Ferry Ride & Lunch in Tampa
- Tues, Mar 21 – Lunch Scholarship Fundraiser – Belleair Country Club, Belleair

You don't need to live on Island Estates to be a member. To join, pay online or print the form and mail it with a check. Contact Membership Chair Patti Jucha at pattijucha@yahoo.com.

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

They have resumed “in person” meetings at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Gulf Blvd. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. The “Zoom” video conferencing option is available so interested members can also attend. Look for a “Zoom” link in their e-mail announcing each month's agenda or obtain the link on their website at sandkeycivicassociation.org.

Finally, they are inviting residents to contact them as they need more Board members for 2023.

Contact the secretary at skcainc@aol.com, with questions.

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CHAPEL BY THE SEA'S 14TH ANNUAL BEACH WALK WEEK

This fundraiser, hosted by the Chapel, is one of the most popular events of the year. It includes a bevy of local company and residential sponsors, an exciting auction, enthusiastic participants, and a delicious breakfast catered by the ClearSky Café.

In the last few years, this event has evolved in order to be successful during Covid, and this year, the organizers are excited to get back to tradition. One thing that has changed are the recipients of the funds raised. In years past, Hope Villages of America (previously RCS) was the sole organization for which the fundraiser was created. However, since the Beach Walk has grown and become such a successful event, the Chapel has decided to include a new charity! They are excited to be able to include HEP (the Homeless Empowerment Project) into the mix. HEP is a wonderful organization that has similar goals as Hope Villages of America, in that, their goal is to rehabilitate, serve, and empower families, individuals, and particularly veterans, who need assistance getting back on their feet. Between the two outreach programs, they serve to encompass our local community in a greatly needed way.






If you're new to the Beach Walk fundraiser, here's how it works; Register online at chapelbythesea.net/beachwalk-2023 or register on the day of the walk. The cost is \$40 for an individual and \$80 for a family. Walkers can register in person, or on the day of the walk at the Palm Pavilion, beginning at 7:30am on February 4, 2023. The route will take you from the Palm Pavilion, at 8am, to Pier 60 and then finish at Chapel by the Sea. At the finish line, enjoy music, breakfast, and preview auction items. During the week leading up to the Walk, there is an online auction, where anyone can bid on exciting items. The auction will open January 29, 2023 and will close at noon on February 4. The link can be found on the Chapel's facebook page, website, and through their weekly emails. Auction items range from resort packages to restaurants, spa packages, unique items and more!

This year will be the best event yet!

- Beach Walk Week auction began: January 29, 20 and runs through February 4, 2023
- Beach Walk Week event: February 4, 2023 at 8am at the Palm Pavilion


To become a sponsor, register for the Walk, or find the online auction visit chapelbythesea.net/beachwalk-2023. To contact Chapel by the Sea or get on the mailing list visit chapelbythesea.net/contact. Information about Hope Villages of America is available at hopevillagesofamerica.org. More information regarding HEP can be found at hepempowers.org.

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Community News...

CLEARWATER ART ALLIANCE

Enjoy a stroll in downtown Clearwater while learning about the city's vibrant public art scene. During the hour long walk ,you will see at least 20 art installations including sculptures, murals, art wrapped signal boxes, pavement art and storm drain murals. Tours are organized by the Clearwater Arts Alliance. The afternoon walks are timed to end just prior to the monthly Downtown District Sip and Stroll event. Only those pre-registering online can get a 50% discount for Sip and Stroll.

Every third Saturday at 10:30 am and 4 pm, meet your guide at the Ring Canopy Sculpture in front of the Old City Hall at 112 S Osceola Ave. Free parking available at old city hall lot. The walk covers the Cleveland St. corridor and nearby areas

For information visit www.clearwaterartsalliance.org.

TAMPA BAY WATCH

In 2022 Tampa Bay Watch made the following environmental improvements through your generous donations:

- 630 miles of fishing line recycled into new products
- 7,234 pounds of marine debris removed from the watershed
- 1,140 oyster reef balls (ORBs) built by volunteers
- 695 ORBs installed on shorelines
- 5,300 people experienced 650 educational eco tours
- 1,103 students educated through 63 school field trips
- 283 estuary campers had the best summer ever

MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS

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

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

HOPE VILLAGES OF AMERICA

They have announced the resignation of CEO, Kirk Ray Smith. Their Chief Operating Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, Melinda Perry, will be the interim CEO.

Their Blue Jean Ball will be Saturday, February 25 at 7pm. It is being held at Cove Cay Golf Club, 2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater. Please save the date and make plans to join them for a night of dinner, dancing, and denim. Tickets and sponsorships are available at hopevillagesofamerica.org.

PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

Concerts are the third Saturday in the sanctuary at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave. The season series continues through March.

February 12 at 3pm, CON BRIO PIANO STRING QUINTET Hailing from Boca Raton, this fine string group plus pianist Sheng Yuan Kuan will present French chamber works by Ravel and Franck.

March 12 at 3pm, Acclaimed organist TIMOTHY BELK will be joined by trumpeter Kenneth Brown and violinist Aaron Hilsinger for an exciting program featuring the works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 1, the Clearwater Free Clinic (CFC) hosts the annual John H. Meek, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament at the Belleair Country Club on the newly renovated West Course featuring a signature peninsula hole. Proceeds benefit the Clinic's mission to provide quality medical and behavioral health care to people in need in upper and mid-Pinellas County.

The CFC invites all community partners, donors, and interested participants to join us for a full day of golfing festivities with the opportunity to play at the Belleair Country Club's highly regarded West Course. Participants will enjoy a day including an exciting round of golf, food, and refreshments. At the end of the day, the CFC will host a casual gathering to celebrate the tournament winners. For more event details, including participation and sponsorship information, visit www.clearwaterfreeclinic.org.

Over the past 22 years, funds from the annual golf tournament have provided patients with quality clinical care, behavioral health services, medications for chronic illnesses, specialty care, and diagnostic services all free of cost. The John H. Meek, Jr. Golf Tournament was created in memory of former CFC board member and community activist, John H. Meek, Jr.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

• Yard Sale, Saturday, February 25, 2023 8am to Noon with St. Brendan's Church Island wide yard sale

• Annual Spring Fest 2023 Block Party at the CMA - Saturday, March 4th 6:30-9:30pm. Join your neighbors for the coolest neighborhood gathering featuring two live bands, Life's a Beach and the Michael Layne Band.

Brown Boxer, Speggtacular, Island Way Grill and Papa John's are just a few of the restaurants that will provide small bites, plus they have bars, for alcohol purchase, on three levels.

Sponsors: Main Sponsor - Michelle Chenault, Beach Island Group, Coldwell Banker, Stage Sponsor - Hooters, Windward Bar & Grill, Cup Sponsor - Windward Wealth Management.

Spring Fest is open to all Island Estates Residents. Entry is free for all IECA members. To join or renew your membership go to www.myislandestates.net

• 1st Quarter Causeway Clean-up March 11th 8 to 10am

• Ice Cream Social at Sunset Sam Park, Saturday, March 25, 2023 11am to 2pm in conjunction with City Of Clearwater Neighborhood Day

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS EVENTS

The Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration returns this year, Showcasing Black history and culture Saturday, February 25, 10 am to 4 pm at Pinewood: Florida Botanical Gardens, Heritage Village, and Creative Pinellas. Enjoy live performances, historical presentations, art exhibits, a mini-market of Black owned businesses, and food trucks. Admission and parking are free. Visit pinellasafricanamericanheritagecelebration.org.

The Florida Native Plant Symposium is Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Enjoy keynote presentations from prominent and engaging speakers, choose your own breakout session led by a UF/IFAS Specialist or a Master Naturalist, and browse display tables along Eco-Alley. Includes a boxed picnic lunch in the gardens. Advanced registration required: \$75 General Admission, \$50 FBGF Members. For information visit flbgfoundation.org/fnpsymposium.

The Florida Botanical Gardens located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.

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Community News...

ROCK THE RIBBON, RACE FOR A CURE

Join Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation for the "Rock the Ribbon" Kids Dash, 5k and 10k races on Saturday, March 11, to once again combine forces to raise support and awareness for our cancer services at their hospitals. Proceeds from this event will benefit the cancer services at the not-for-profit hospitals of Morton Plant Mease, and all money raised stays in our local community. Racers will start at Morton Plant Hospital, go over the Clearwater Memorial Causeway, and back to our famous post-race party.

The Kids Dash Start Time: 4:30 pm, and the 5k & 10k Start Time is 5:00 pm on Morton Plant Hospital campus (300 Pinellas Street, Clearwater). To learn more or sign up, please visit: www.rock-the-ribbon.org.

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

The annual end-of-year gala, the Change of Watch, was held on Saturday, December 3, 2023 in the Belle Terrace Room at the Belleair Country Club. Commodore Lefebvre accepted his new role and presented his officers: Vice Commodore Jim Ostrosky, Treasurer Patricia Ostrosky, and Secretary Mary Reinhardt; board members: Bunni Lefebvre, Sue Moncrieff, Scott Moncrieff; and Social Committee: Bunni Lefebvre, Sue Moncrieff, Mary Reinhardt and Angie Traupman to the club. Commodore Lefebvre's acceptance speech themed on traditions, "honoring the old traditions and bringing in some new traditions." Upon thanking Marcia Coxhead for organizing the event, the podium was turned back over to the emcee where a special gift of Laphroaig Scotch, tasting glasses, and monogrammed ice cube molds was presented to outgoing Commodore Gene Traupman for his three years serving as Commodore of the club.

They rang in the New Year with the highly popular New Year's Day Brunch at the beautiful Belleair Country Club. Forty-one members and eight guests joined in the festivities. Each year this event allows everyone to reconnect after the holidays and to mingle with guests, and enjoy an amazing spread of delectable delights.

IEYC's February and March events are the IEYC Regatta to be held at Banquet Masters on Friday, February 17th and Jazz at a Speakeasy at Dunedin Golf Club on Saturday, March 18. The rest of 2023 schedule of events is in the process of being finalized. Events and dates will be updated on the website, www.islandestatesyc.org, when they are available.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

CBA, Inc, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization promoting projects of civic, charitable, recreational, and/or social natures on Clearwater Beach through:

- *Monthly meetings, first Tuesday (except July and August)
- *Semi-Annual clean-ups of adopted McKay Park & Rec Center
- *Annual Pub Crawl as a social and membership event
- *Supporting Clearwater Beach Library and Rec. Center, and events at both (Easter Egg Hunt, movies, Trunk-or-Treat, etc.)
- * Gestures of appreciation such as taking food to the Beach Lifeguards, the police and fire personnel.
- * Protecting neighborhood interests by inviting City officials to meetings and sending representatives to City Council meetings on issues. Sending a representative to the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition.

CBA has been serving the Clearwater Beach community since 1944. Annual dues are \$35 per household, or \$100 per business. Visit: clearwaterbeachassoc.com.

Community News...

LARGO ART ASSOCIATION

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

FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE

• **BEST OF RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN Feb 4th, 2023**
 From 1943 to 1959, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II dominated the world of musicals. Re-live memorable musical moments from hits such as Oklahoma!, Carousel, Allegro, The King & I, South Pacific, Flower Drum Song, Cinderella, State Fair, The Sound of Music and many more.

• **TURN OF THE CENTURY March 11th, 2023**
 A musical celebration of the Gilded Age (1890 -1920) featuring songs from Broadway, Vaudeville and Operetta. Sing along to the lilting melodies of Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert, Rudolf Friml, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan and more! From Hello, My Baby to Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life to Give My Regards To Broadway.

The Francis Wilson Playhouse is located at 302 Seminole St, in Clearwater. Box Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 5:00pm. E-mail BoxOffice@FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org or visit franciswilsonplayhouse.org.

100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

They presented \$12,300 to Hero To A Child on Wednesday, December 14th. Hero To A Child advocates for and supports children, young adults, and families impacted by abuse and neglect in Pinellas and Pasco Counties by collaborating with community partners and the Guardian ad Litem staff and volunteers who support the children they serve. Hero To A Child will also receive a \$5,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation. (Schulze is the founder of Best Buy).

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 can nominate any organization, three of the nominated organizations are then randomly selected to give a 5-minute presentation, a vote is taken, and then checks are written directly to the winning charity. Since February of 2013 the group, along with the foundation, has given almost \$500,000 to local charities. The next meeting is 7- 8 pm on Thursday, February 16th at Cove Cay Golf Club at 2612 Cove Cay Drive in Clearwater. There is a social time from 6 - 7 pm at the Cove Cay restaurant, where drinks and snacks can be purchased. For information, contact Brenda George at 727-515-1868, on Facebook at 100+ Women Who Care- Pinellas County, or visit www.100womenpinellas.org.

DAYDREAMING: NIKI BUTCHER'S HAND-PAINTED PHOTOGRAPHY

Experience the beautiful and sometimes quirky aspects of our world through the eyes of a thoughtful optimist. Through her black and white photography, Niki captures places and people that stand out as unique, endangered, and authentic. But what sets her work apart is her use of color as she breathes life and imagination into photographed scenes, creating a picture of life beyond what a camera could capture. More information is at: downtownclearwater.com/nikibutcher

On display through April at the Clearwater Public Library Main Branch, 100 N. Osceola Avenue in Downtown Clearwater.

PEACE MEMORIAL WELCOMES YOU!

Con Brio Piano String Quintet
 Sunday, February 12 – 3 p.m.
 French music of Maurice Ravel and César Franck.

The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach
 Sunday, March 12 – 3 p.m.
 Timothy Belk, organ | Ken Brown, trumpet
 Aaron Hilsinger, violin

In Witness to the Resurrection
 The Feast of Easter: Our Lord's Day, April 9
 Joy in the Morning – 8:30 a.m. (Dunselth Garden)
 Festival Service of Worship – 10:30 a.m.



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Community News...



GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club presents...

CHAMPA BAY ELIMINATION DINNER

A SPORTS-THEMED FUNDRAISER

In support of housing and programs for survivors of human trafficking

DINNER • AUCTION • GAMES • MORE

SATURDAY • MARCH 4 • 5:30 - 8:30 PM

THE CONMY CENTER
750 San Salvador Drive • Dunedin





For tickets & sponsorship details visit:
CCWCFLORIDA.ORG

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club (CCWC) is They are in year two of its multi-year signature initiative to raise funds for safe housing and programs for survivors of Human Trafficking in the Tampa Bay area.

For over six decades, Clearwater Community Woman's Club's (CCWC) parent organization, General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), has supported various UNICEF campaigns, one of which is End Trafficking. In 2022, Florida ranked third in the nation in reports of human trafficking. As a major tourist destination with exceptional amenities, sports and other attractions, Tampa Bay is a hot spot for this activity.

In support of the End Trafficking campaign and to address this issue in our community, CCWC formed a Human Trafficking committee and sprang into action. Last year, their sports themed fundraiser was a grand success, bringing in more than \$50,000. On March 4, they are hosting their second Champa Bay Elimination Dinner and believe it will be bigger and better than last year. The sports-themed event offers great food, games, a photo-booth, silent and live auctions with sports memorabilia, jewelry, art, vacation packages, and more!

"Our fantastic Tampa Bay sports teams brought the area the name Champa Bay, and we chose that name for our fundraiser, as in our eyes, everyone who supports this cause and gives these women a chance to get their lives back is a champion," says Nita Cole, co-chair (with Carole Harris) of the Fundraising Committee.

The funds raised will go directly towards supporting safe housing and programs these women need to rebuild their lives. To provide these important services, CCWC works with Created Women, Inc., an organization known for advocating for and empowering trafficked women in the Tampa Bay area. Created has recently expanded its services to Pinellas County and CCWC has chosen to support Created's efforts based on their experience, quality staff, and recovery programs.

Visit ccwcFlorida.org to become a sponsor, bid on auction items, or donate.

COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

Announcing a new Venue for Reds, Whites & Bites! The ever popular 2023 Reds, Whites & Bites Wine Event & Fundraiser for the Community Dental Clinic will be held Saturday, March 25, 2023, in a new location - the Kapok Special Event Center and Gardens, just south of Ruth Eckerd Hall at 923 McMullen Booth Rd, Clearwater. This new spacious indoor & outdoor setting - lush with beautiful gardens & old-world charm - will provide the perfect backdrop for this delightful event. Honorary Chairs Dr. James & Leah Hayslett invite guests to enjoy complimentary red & white wines provided by Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market and sample delicious bites from popular local restaurants. The evening will include music & dancing and culminate, as always, in an opportunity for guests to win over 80 bottles of fine wines and wine dinners donated by area connoisseurs.

The real winners are the thousands of disadvantaged adults in Pinellas who will find relief from their dental distress thanks to the work of the Community Dental Clinic which is funded by this event. Over the past 9 years, the clinic has delivered more than \$7.6 million in dental services for thousands of disadvantaged people in our community (www.communitydentalclinic.net).



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Community News...

OurChildrenHaveRights.Org
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-  **FREE DOCUMENT REVIEW**
Parenting Plans & Related Documents



Donate at ourchildrenhaverights.org/donate
Our Children Have Rights .Org is a 501 (c)(3) organization: EIN: 87-1023012

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Please join us for our annual community celebration on Saturday, March 4th. Our “Boots and Brushes Country Gala” was so much fun, we decided to do it again! This community “street party” will take place in front of our building in Indian Rocks on Bay Palm Blvd and include a delicious BBQ spread, live Country music with the Logan Brothers Band, live auction, raffles, beer, wine and whiskey bar, and dancing in the streets!

Not only is this an opportunity for gaiety and diversion, but it's also a chance to demonstrate your indulgence for the ongoing efforts to support local art in your community. Visit BeachArtCenter.org/gala for more information

CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY EVENTS

ADULTS:

- Beach Book Club: First Wednesday of the Month 4-5pm
February: *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett* by Annie Lyons
March: *Crying in H Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner
- Mahjong Mondays: Every Monday 2-4pm (except 2/20/23)
- Shell Crafters: First and Third Tuesday 11am-1:30p
- Classic Film Club: Last Thursday of month, 3pm. Discussion on a pre-selected movie watched prior to attending. There will also be time to discuss films you recently enjoyed (or disliked).
February Film: *It Happened One Night* (1934)
March Film: *Roma* (2020)

- Migrating Shorebirds talk: Thursday, Feb. 2, 2-3pm: Paul Trunk, a Clearwater Audubon Society volunteer, will lead a discussion about migratory shorebirds in our coastal area.

- Book Paper Flower Bouquets: Thursday, Feb. 9, 2-3pm. Create flower bouquets out of book pages for Valentine's Day. Registration required; one registration per household permitted.

- Decoupage Seashell Jewelry Dishes: Thursday, Mar. 23, 2-3pm. Decoupage seashells to create jewelry dishes using napkins/tissue paper and paint. All materials provided. Registration required; one registration per household permitted.

YOUTH/FAMILIES:

- Sunshine Storytime: Mondays, Feb. 13, & Mar. 21, 11-11:30am. Energetic dancing, stories, rhymes, crafts, and silliness! All kids welcome, but geared towards 6 and under.

- Take and Make Craft Kit: Star Wars Villains: Feb. 6-12. Celebrates the villains of Star Wars for the annual Clearwater Comic Con! Pick up this fun and educational kit at Beach Library front desk - for elementary-aged children. Supplies limited.


- GIANT Sidewalk Coloring: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 4-6pm. In celebration of friendship, join them for GIANT coloring on the channel-side sidewalks of the building.

- Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Wednesday, Mar. 15, 5-6:30pm. For Spring Break, all kids are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal for an overnight adventure! Kick off the party with a craft and then sign your animals in for their overnight stay. Secret cameras will capture their activities. Pick up your stuffed friends at Thursday's Interactive Movie event. Registration required.

- Interactive Family Movie Afternoon - Pokémon Detective Pikachu (PG): Thursday, Mar. 16, 2-4pm. During the movie when certain things happen or someone comes on screen the audience reacts with props or voices. Props provided and costumes encouraged. Questions? Visit the Beach Library Monday & Tuesday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 1-7pm, and Thursday & Friday 1-5pm.

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It is with great excitement we announce that Dr. Priya Nayyar MD is now offering a complete spectrum of Dermatology services, including skin cancer surgery, cosmetics and laser treatments, at her Clearwater office located at 510 E Druid Rd. in downtown Clearwater.

Dr. Nayyar, a New York City board certified dermatologist and fellowship trained Mohs and cosmetic surgeon, is the owner and medical director of Dermaclinique, a premier dermatology, cosmetic and skin cancer center. This will be Dermaclinique’s second office location, with its first being in St. Petersburg. Dr. Nayyar is highly trained in the treatment and management of high-risk skin cancers as well as advanced dermatologic laser and cosmetic procedures, including hair restoration and upper eyelid blepharoplasty. She is known for providing the highest level of care to all her patients, and she takes pride in achieving extraordinary results for both surgical and cosmetic patients.

Additionally, Dermaclinique is thrilled to welcome Dermatology Physician Assistant Shana Morreale to the practice. Shana is a board-certified dermatology physician assistant who specializes in skin cancers, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, acne, rashes, and hair loss. She completed additional training in adult and pediatric plastic surgery. Shana is proud to be a Florida native. She is accepting new patients at our Clearwater and St. Petersburg locations.

Medical Dermatology Services

- Acne
- Contact Dermatitis
- Eczema
- Hair Disorders
- Mole Evaluation
- Nail Conditions
- Psoriasis
- Rosacea
- Skin Cancer
- Warts

Cosmetic Services

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- Botox
- Dermal Filler
- IPL
- CO2 Laser
- Laser Hair Removal
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