

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

JACK ECKERD - THE MAN BEHIND THE DRUGSTORE CHAIN

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

If you lived here during the 1970s, '80s or even '90s, you know the name Jack Eckerd. He created a drugstore chain, featuring his name, that at its height had over 2,600 stores in twenty states.

Eckerd was born in Delaware in 1913 and graduated from Culver Military Academy. His father, Milton Eckerd, started the Eckerd Drug Store chain in Erie, Pennsylvania. Then, the chain had thirteen stores. In 1940, at the age of 27, Eckerd bought a 25% interest in two of his father's stores.

World War II changed his plans. As a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Force, he logged over 2,000 flying hours. By the end of the war, he was a Major and had received three Air Medals and a Presidential Unit Citation from Harry Truman.

He went to the Boeing School of Aeronautics to be a commercial pilot but there were too many other pilots after the war. So, at age 32, with no available airline pilot jobs, and a wife and child to support, he returned to the drug store business. After their second child was born, the couple divorced.

In 1952, Eckerd moved to Pinellas County and bought three existing Pay Less Drug Stores that he added to the Eckerd chain. Eckerd found another Tampa location he liked, and within three years, he added two more stores for a total of six.

On a blind date in 1957, Eckerd met socialite Ruth Binnicker Swann. He was a divorcee with two children in Delaware, she was a widow living with her three children in Tampa. They were married six weeks later. Together, they had two more children – for a total of seven.

"When I met Jack, he said he worked in the drug store business," remembered Ruth. "I thought he was a pharmacist or something."

Continued on page 6



Also in this Issue:

Sugar Sands

This popular festival returns this month to Clearwater Beach for its ninth and biggest year yet with the theme "Decades: A Blast from the Past!"

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Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church

Celebrates 100 Years. - page 10

Daytona International Speedway

Only 160 miles away, a tour of the Speedway makes a fun day or weekend trip even if you don't follow racing.

- pages 14



Guilt vs Regret

Do you know the difference between the two?
- page 19



CREDITS



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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 JUNE

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MAYOR - Vacant	
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CITY MANAGER	562-4040
Jennifer Poirrier	
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
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
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
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
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

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COMMISSION OFFICES	464-3377
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Rick Scott	202-224-5274
www.RickScott.Senate.gov	

AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Anna Paulina Luna	202-225-5961
Republican, District 13	
1201 Gandy Blvd N., St Petersburg	

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT

APRIL		MAY	
April Fool's Day	1	May Day	1
Aqua Easter Egg Hunt Long Center	1	Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins	1
Tampa Rays First Home Series	1-2	Stone Crab Season	1
Passover	5-13	Clearwater Free Clinic Golf Tournament	1
Good Friday	7	Teacher Appreciation Week	1-5
Public School closed	7	Cinco De Mayo	5
Sugar Sands	7-23	Derby Day	6
Classic Car Show, Heritage Village	8	Clearwater Historical Society Fish Fry	6
Easter Sunday	9	Clearwater Beach Clean Up	12
Dyngus Day	10	Postal Worker's Food Drive	13
Threshers First Home Games	11-16	Mother's Day	14
Holocaust Remembrance Day	12	Armed Forces Day	20
Clearwater Beach Clean Up	14	Downtown Art Walk	20
Downtown Art Walk	15	Public School Close for Summer	25
PawFest	16	Memorial Day	29
Federal Taxes Due	18	City's Electronic Waste Disposal Day	31
Earth Day	22	JUNE	
Shed-A-Thon /Medicine Cabinet	22	No Fertilizing (June-Sept)	
Mainsail Art Show St Petersburg	22-23	Hurricane Season Begins	1
City's Electronic Recycling Day	26	D-Day Remembrance	6
Arbor Day	29	Clearwater Beach Clean Up	9
Clearwater Free Tree Giveaway	29	Flag Day	14
		Father's Day	18



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Did You Know



POSTAL FOOD DRIVE The second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns collect nonperishable food from their postal customers, when they participate in the Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive — the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

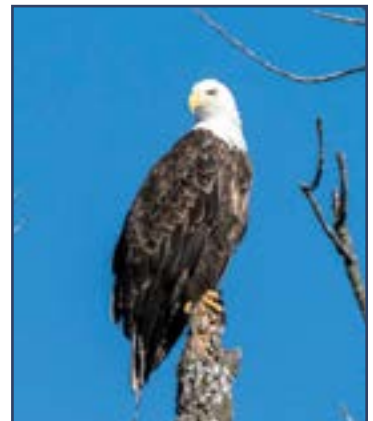
Food collected from Belleair Beach is taken to the Beaches Food Pantry in Indian Rocks Beach. Food collected in Belleair Bluffs and the Town of Belleair is taken to the Hope Villages. Just leave your donations by your mailbox Saturday May 13th and your local Mail Carrier will pick it up.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED The days of needing exact change to ride on the Trolley are over. Transit riders across Tampa Bay have a new, easier way to pay for their fares. They can tap a debit card, credit card, or Google/Apple pay to board the bus with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), Hillsborough Transit Authority (HART), and Hernando County (The Bus). This new contactless payment option will make it more convenient for locals, and the tens of thousands of tourists who visit each year. This is the first-of-its-kind contactless payment system in the state of Florida.

SAFE BOATING WEEK MAY 20-27 Memorial Day is around the corner and that is the official start of boating season. Is your boat ready? The Coast Guard Aux will inspect your boat for free. You can find them at the Belleair Boat Ramp, May 20-21 and May 27-28.

SEAGRASS LOSS REVERSES PROGRESS The paradigm that made Tampa Bay an international success story for nearly three decades is changing. More than 30 percent of the bay's seagrasses have been lost since 2016, with acreage in Old Tampa Bay at the lowest level ever recorded. Throughout the bay, seagrasses declined by 11,599 acres of seagrasses from the high of 41,655 posted in 2016. Water quality parameters are still meeting targets set in the early 1990s. The exact causes are unknown

FLORIDA EAGLES Florida has one of the densest populations of nesting eagles in the continental U.S. This is the 15th consecutive year for eagles to nest on Honeymoon Island. Eagles may live up to 40 years. Once mating occurs, after 5 days of internal gestation, the first egg is ready to be laid. Eggs are laid 36 hours apart. Both male and females incubate. The average gestation in the egg is 35 days, with eggs hatching one at a time 36 hours apart. Eaglets remain in the nest 10 to 12 weeks and both parents feed them. Fledglings broaden their range away from the nest over 4 to 8 weeks and become independent at 17 to 20 weeks.



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TREE GIVEAWAYS Join in the City's Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Giveaway Saturday, April 29 from 8 am to 1 pm at the parking lot of the Public Works Complex, 1650 N. Arcturas Ave. in Clearwater. More than 2,200 trees will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis. Residents can receive two free trees per household and can choose from several species. Call 727-562-4950 with questions. Proof of residency is required.



SHRED-A-THON & OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET Police officers and solid waste workers will be on hand from 9 am to 2 pm April 22 at Countryside Mall, 27001 U.S. 19 N., near the Whole Foods store to collect and shred any paperwork that Clearwater residents no longer need. Clearwater Police also will accept old, unused or expired prescription medication, as part of a nationwide Operation Medicine Cabinet. Call 727-562-4920 or visit MyClearwater.com for details.

MONTHLY CLEANUPS Ocean Allies, in partnership with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, the City and others, are planning Clearwater Beach Cleanups on the second Friday of each month all year. Meet at 9am in the Bob Heilman's Beachcomber parking lot, 447 Mandalay Ave. Wear gloves, closed toes shoes, sun protection, and bring a reusable water bottle. The cleanup event is usually over by 11am. The next clean ups are April 14 & May 12. Visit www.TheBigCleanUpClearwater.com to volunteer.

SIMPLE ACTS FOR THE PLANET When possible, choose matches over lighters. Lighters are polluting our landfills since they are made from plastic. They are also filled with butane and require more energy to produce and ship.

EASTER WEEKEND CAR SHOW

Visit Heritage Village Saturday April 8, 10am to 3pm, for their annual Classic Vintage Car Show.



See hundreds of vintage cars on display in the rustic atmosphere of Pinellas' Heritage Village. Admission is free. Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th Street in Largo. Get more information at HeritageVillageCarShow.com

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 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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JACK ECKERD, Continued

In 1959, George Jenkins, owner of Publix, asked Eckerd to team up his drugstores with his grocery chain. Jenkins proposed that they build shopping centers together and everywhere Publix went, Eckerd would go, too. And that is what happened.

"Actually, dad wanted to sit on his dozen or so stores and live a quiet manageable life," says his daughter Nancy Eckerd Nichols. "But George Jenkins' proposal was too good to pass up. It kick-started his expansion plans."

Jenkins asked him to be a part of the next five Pinellas County Publix stores. Eckerd knew it took about \$150,000 to get a store off the ground - he would need \$750,000.

Ruth's previous father-in-law, James Swann, was President of the National Bank of Tampa. Swann suggested borrowing the money from his competitor — the Exchange Bank of Tampa. So, he did

Now 45, Eckerd had reached the big time. "It was double or nothing," Eckerd said. "I was going for it all." Ultimately, Eckerd and Jenkins built over 150 supermarket drugstore combinations.

In 1961, with still only twelve stores operational, The Jack Eckerd Corporation went public on the US Stock Exchange.

"My reason to go public was the common reason," Eckerd said. "I needed capital to sustain our rapid growth without constantly having to borrow from the banks."

"I remember Jack Eckerd well," says George Feaster, founder of Serenity Funeral home. "We were both active in local organizations. At one meeting, members were dealing out stock certificates to the new Jack Eckerd Corporation like they were playing cards. I asked them what it was, and they said it was Jack's stock - \$10 a share. I told them I would take 100. Then, I had to come up with \$1,000," Feaster says with a grin. "After splitting several times, I sold it for over \$100,000."

"I gave up sole ownership of the company in order to grow," explained Eckerd. "I cut my employees in on the action, as well. Selling 200,000 shares at \$10 per share was easy."

After that, the Eckerd chain doubled every two years for the next sixteen years!

In the early years, Eckerd tried to visit every store around Christmas—and meet as many employees as possible.

"His idea of a Christmas vacation was to load all the kids in the car and go visit new stores," says daughter Nichols.

At first, Eckerd kept his name in the local phone book so customers could call him with a problem. "We called that phone the 'Nut Line'," remembers Nichols. "If we answered it, we had to follow-up and solve the problem so, we tended not answer our

home phone."

Eckerd was an innovator and a risk taker. He visited stores in California and brought some of their ideas home. He experimented with self-service, a new concept, which today is standard. He invented the Senior Discount. Eckerd stores became known for selling products at lower costs.

Even before the Civil Rights Act, Eckerd desegregated his lunch counters before phasing them out. He defied Florida's "Fair Trade" laws, which let suppliers and manufacturers set retail prices. He fought the law until it was changed.

He introduced film processing and photo printing in the stores and was the first to offer the "Second Print Free." Eckerd built a film processing company that became an industry leader.

Eckerd sold his personal shares of stock in his company in 1986 to the Merrill Lynch investment company. He resigned as the CEO and ownership passed to his employees and other investors. At that time there were approximately 1,500 stores. Ten years later, JC Penney bought the Eckerd Drug stores and operated 2,600 stores before selling them to CVS and the Jean Coutu Group which became Rite Aid. By 2007, Eckerd Drugs was gone.

At its peak, the Jack Eckerd Corp. was the nation's second largest drug store chain and Tampa Bay's largest locally owned business with sales of over \$5 billion a year. In 1975, Fortune Magazine estimated Eckerd's fortune to be around \$150 million. Eckerd was more than just a businessman, he was also a philanthropist and spent the last two decades of his life giving away much of his \$150 million.

One of Eckerd's biggest passions was helping children - he had seven after all. He visited a Texas wilderness camp for troubled children, which led him to create a Florida version. He formed Eckerd Kids with a boy's camp near Brooksville and a girls cam near Floral City. He eventually had wilderness camps with programs that helped over 50,000 troubled teenagers.

Eckerd was an avid, professional sailor. He owned the *Panacea*, 52-foot sailboat designed by Charlie Morgan. "We had that boat rigged for competition," says Courtney Ross of Ross Boat Services. "Jack bought property on Clearwater Pointe, near today's Clearwater Yacht Club, for no other reason than to have a place to moor it." He raced it from the St Petersburg Yacht Club to places like Sarasota, Key West, Cuba and the Bahamas.

"Jack was a really great guy," remembers Ross. "He was always a lot of fun."



Ruth & Jack

Eckerd became a trustee at the Florida Presbyterian College that was struggling under a tremendous debt. There was talk of its closing or merging into the University of South Florida. Eckerd had given the school several million dollars over the years, but in 1972 he donated \$10 million to the college—with no strings attached. In return, they changed the name to Eckerd College. In all he gave the small college to over \$20 million.

For a short time, Eckerd College asked him to fill in as interim President. "That was kind of funny, being that Eckerd College was a very liberal school and Dad was the opposite - a staunch conservative," explains Nichols. "He always said it was an eye-opening experience."

Eckerd later told Fortune Magazine, "That donation to the college was the best investment I ever made."

From the beginning, Jack and Ruth were involved in building a Clearwater Performing Arts Center. When Richard Baumgardner, owner of the Kapok Tree Restaurant, donated thirty-eight acres, Eckerd and other volunteers made it happen. As a result, on October 15, 1983, the main auditorium, Ruth Eckerd Hall, named in Ruth's honor, opened.

Over his career, he wrote three books:

- *Finding the Right Prescription*, published by Fleming H. Revell Co., 1987
- *Enough is Enough: Solving Florida's Prison Crisis* published by Justice Fellowship, 1990
- *Why America Doesn't Work* co-authored with Charles Colson, published by W Pub Group, 1992

The Eckerds lived many years in Belleair at 120 Willadel. Erwin Schemringer, owner of E&E Stakeout remembers, "Jack and Ruth used to eat in my restaurant all the time. The first time she was in, I wanted to meet her and asked 'how do you like my new restaurant?' She said she liked it 'but it seems a bit expensive, don't you think?'"

As his kids moved out, he and Ruth bought a beachfront home on north Clearwater Beach in Carluel. In 2004, at the age of 91, Eckerd died of pneumonia in Clearwater. Ruth died two years later at the age of 84.

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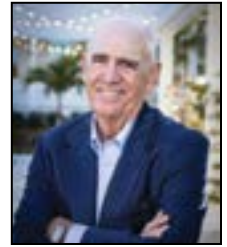


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SAVING FOR RETIREMENT? PLANNING TO RETIRE? ENJOYING RETIREMENT? The Rules Have Changed – Secure 2.0

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



In late December, Congress passed the \$1.65 trillion-dollar Omnibus Bill (4,155 pages) and within it SECURE 2.0 (350 pages) which made over ninety changes to retirement planning. Regardless of where you are in life, this bill affects how you save for and spend in retirement. Here are only three critical changes.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

SECURE 1.0 increased the RMD to age 72 and SECURE 2.0 changes it to age 73 in 2023 and to age 75 in 2033. This allows the retiree to delay taking money if they don't need it and thus, the money has more time to accumulate on a tax deferred basis. This delay could actually increase your taxes and Medicare premiums. It may make sense to take money out before you are forced to do so and perhaps even convert it to a Roth IRA.

Catch-Up Contributions

The catch-up amount in 2023 is \$7,500 and the regular amount is \$22,500 for a total of \$30,000. Beginning in 2025, those ages 60, 61, 62 and 63 may put in the greater of \$10,000 or 1.5 times the current catch-up contribution amount, whichever is greater. There is a "catch" to the "catch-up", however. If the participant makes over \$145,000, then the catch-up must go into a Roth 401k – non-deductible but tax-free growth. Unfortunately, the \$1,000 catch-up contribution for an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) has not changed since 2006. Beginning in 2024 it will be indexed for inflation.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

For those that have reached age 70 1/2, they have had the option to put up to \$100,000 into a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). By giving directly from the IRA to a qualified charity, the IRA owner does not declare this distribution as income, nor do they get a deduction. In 2024, the QCD amount will be increased for inflation. By using the IRA for charitable purposes rather than taking it as cash, it will keep one's income lower. This will result in keeping the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) lower and may not cause the taxpayer to pay a higher premium for Medicare.

For a more complete report on SECURE 2.0 simply contact us at info@proviser.com and request a copy. If you want to discuss this, we always provide a complimentary meeting in our Clearwater office, or by Zoom.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
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AFTER A STAY, GIVE IT AWAY

When Diane Daniel returned to her Indian Rocks Beach condo after renting it to vacationers for several months, she found the cupboards filled with food they had left behind. There were unopened cans of tuna, boxes of pasta, a bag of rice, and even spices and salad dressing.

Meanwhile, a closet shelf held an assortment of leftover books, while the storage room was chock full of used plastic beach toys and floats. Daniel was so overwhelmed with cleaning and reorganizing that she almost threw all the leftover items away. "Tossing everything in the trash would have been the path of least resistance," she said. "But as someone who hates waste and loves donating, reusing and repurposing, it was a path I couldn't bear to take."



After researching area resources, she discovered she could donate almost all the items within two miles of her condo, and in some cases within two blocks. Some outlets were new to her, despite having lived in the area since the 1970s. (Since 2014, she has divided her time between the beach and the Netherlands.) "We are lucky to have all these resources within close reach, but the problem is many people either don't know they exist or how they work," she said. "My aim is to show them."

To achieve that, she started the nonprofit initiative Vacation Donations, which launched in February. The tagline is: "After a stay, give it away." Daniel's website includes detailed listings of local resources for donating everything from food and toys to household items and old towels. To get the word out, she is providing ongoing encouragement through social media and marketing. She also hopes that property managers, such as Plumlee Beach Realty, which has already expressed interest, will help spread the word.

Vacation Donations' target audience is both vacationers and property owners and managers. "With the proliferation of short-term rentals, many more tourists buy items they wouldn't have bought at a hotel, especially food and beach supplies," Daniel said. "That has really increased the amount of waste."

She thinks that especially longer-stay tourists who "live like a local" will seek out sources for donating food and other items before they go home. As for property owners and managers, they're constantly dealing with items left behind, especially when renters fly in and can't take much home. Managers can encourage food and goods donations from their guests by mentioning Vacation Donations in their checkout information and putting a Vacation Donations magnet on refrigerators. The website's main categories are food, beach toys, books, miscellaneous household items and blankets and towels.

Unopened nonperishable food can go to the Beach Community Food Pantry, at Calvary Episcopal Church. Many don't realize the pantry has donation bins outside, meaning food can be donated any time.

Beach toys can be deposited at the "Take-a-Toy, Leave-a-Toy" bins found at several Indian Rocks beach accesses, a program managed by the nonprofit GreenTown Kids. Books can be left at the library or at several area Take-a-Book, Leave-a-Book cabinets. Household items can go to thrift stores.

One category particularly pertinent for vacation rentals is stained towels, sheets and blankets. Animal shelters and veterinarians use these items daily. As Daniel points out, a small stain on a towel means it cannot be used in a vacation rental, but the dogs don't mind.

For information and to get free stickers and magnets, visit vacationdonations.org or contact Daniel (727) 201-2333 vacationdonations@gmail.com.

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PEACE MEMORIAL CHURCH - CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AND IMAGINING THE NEXT

By Beth J. Daniels

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church celebrates a milestone- one not reached by many institutions in Pinellas County. Its historic Mediterranean Revival sanctuary at the corner of Ft. Harrison and Pierce in downtown Clearwater has now been hosting worship services and community gatherings for one hundred years.

The church's history is closely aligned with both that of Clear Water Harbor, as it was known in pioneer days, and the history of Pinellas County. The congregation formed in 1891, the same year Clearwater officially became a town. After initial meetings in a local dry goods store, church members built a small, white frame "Little White Church" in 1896. That frame building served Clearwater Presbyterian Church until just after the end of World War I.

When Pinellas was formed in 1912, the present Peace Memorial sanctuary location housed Pinellas' first County Courthouse. Locals affectionately called this "the Ramshackle Courthouse", so named because it was slapped together practically overnight to seal Clearwater's claim as county seat. Legend has it that the construction site was guarded by armed men to thwart any sabotage from the St. Pete contingent and that church ladies made sandwiches for the builders.

In 1918, Rev. Dr. David Dunseith became the church's new minister. An Army Chaplain during WWI, he was much inspired by the cause of world peace. He preached his first sermon just days before the armistice was declared on November 11th. By then,

the church was outgrowing its small frame building, so under Dunseith's leadership, the members began raising money to build a new sanctuary. Also, at this time, and to stress the members' focus on the cause of peace, the congregation came to be known and officially changed its name to Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, as it is known today.

About this same time, Pinellas County built a more substantial courthouse, the brick one that stands at the corner of Court and Ft. Harrison. So, in 1919, the Peace congregation bought the county's surplus property as the site for its new sanctuary. By late 1920, noted Tampa architect Franklin Adams began designing the new edifice and the corner stone was laid in 1921. The work was finally completed and the first service held in the sanctuary on March 11, 1923. Famed orator, William Jennings Bryan spoke at the dedicatory service. Almost exactly 100 years later, the present congregation held a celebratory service on March 26, 2023, and marked the occasion with the singing of hymns and recital of prayers from that original 1923 service. Inspired by the cause of world peace, lovely stained-glass windows ring the main sanctuary, given by church families from various states to honor fallen soldiers from WWI. Perhaps the most famous and lovely installations are the Tiffany windows over the north and south transepts. Designed and signed by the famous glass artist, Louis Comfort Tiffany, these depict an Easter resurrection scene and Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Several more

windows from the Tiffany Studio adorn the main sanctuary and the attached chapel also has a beautiful stained-glass Nativity Scene on the south wall.

The church is also well known for its excellent acoustics, due primarily to the high, mahogany paneled ceilings. The congregation supports a strong musical component and in 1975, installed an impressive Casavant pipe organ with 62 ranks and 3340 individual pipes.

Today the church continues to be known for its friendly members, traditional worship style, afternoon concerts, Christian education and support of mission projects. Present missions include: support for the local food shelter, a homeless feeding ministry, Pac a Snack for local school children, a grief fellowship group and assistance/connections for churches in Cuba, Africa and Central America.

Peace Memorial wholeheartedly supports Imagine Clearwater and the renovation of nearby Coachman Park. As part of the centennial celebration, a capital campaign is underway to address needed modernization and convenient access to a new downtown parking garage to be built just west of the sanctuary. Church members are excited for Peace to continue to play a vital role in downtown Clearwater as the church and town enter the next hundred years.

Worship in the sanctuary is at 10:30 AM each week (also online via the church's You Tube channel). On Easter Sunday, the church hosts a garden service at 8:30 and traditional worship in the historic sanctuary at 10:30 AM.





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Bar & Restaurant News



COCO'S OPENING IN INDIAN ROCKS Clearwater Beach is home to two Coco Crush Bar and Grills, now a third location is opening, this time in Indian Rocks Beach. The owners have been working on this project for about three years. The Pandemic and subsequent supply chain problems greatly impacted their timeline. Finally, they are adding the finishing touches.

"We hope to get open sometime in April," says Glenn Sutch, co-owner. "It will be different than it was before, I can assure you."

Find them at 2405 Gulf Blvd, in Indian Rocks Beach.

NEW CLEARWATER BEACH RESTAURANTS When the new JW Marriott hotels opens on the south end of Clearwater Beach, it will have two new restaurants. The upscale but casual restaurant on the ground level is "Latitude 28" and is open to the public. The another restaurant on the 11th floor pool deck is "The Deep End." It is not open to the public, but will have fantastic views of Clearwater Pass and the sunset. The property will be part hotel and part condo.

Look for the restaurants to open around May 1st at 691 South Gulfview Blvd. They are hiring cooks and servers now.

E&E AND GUPPY'S GIVES BACK E&E Stakeout Grill, Guppy's on the Beach, and Mystic Fish partnered and gave a percentage of their sales for a week to help the victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida. The total raised and donated was \$25,000. In addition, diners were made aware of the promotion upon entering the restaurant and as they left, were encouraged to make additional donations directly to Volunteer Florida.

All the money collected was donated to Volunteer Florida's Hurricane Ian Fund. This fund was set up through the state, and all donated money stays in Florida to help our residents. You can learn more at www.volunteerflorida.org.

"When we opened E&E over 35 years ago, we were delayed due to Hurricane Elana, so we understand how disruptive these storms can be," said Founder & Owner Eugen Fuhrmann. "I am proud when we can come together at times like this to help others."

Since 1985, 3 Best Chefs, and based in Indian Rocks Beach, has owned and operated three complementary restaurant concepts: E&E Stakeout Grill, Guppy's on the Beach, and Mystic Fish — each with its own personality and flair. For more information, visit www.3BestChefs.com.

MAKE DINING RESERVATIONS EARLY Mother's Day is May 14th and it is always one of a restaurant's busiest days. If you are planning on taking someone out to brunch, or lunch or even dinner on that day, you should make your reservations by May 1st or you may be dining at home,

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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MORTON PLANT EXPANDS TAVR TO AORTIC REGURGITATION PATIENTS

The First in Florida to Participate in the Trial

The team at the Center for Advanced Valve and Structural Heart Care at BayCare’s Morton Plant Hospital achieved another first when they used the minimally invasive Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure to treat a patient suffering from aortic regurgitation.



Drs Lin and Rovin

The team led by Joshua Rovin, MD, FACS, cardiovascular surgeon and medical director of the center, and interventional cardiologist Lang Lin, MD, performed the procedure as part of the JenaValve Align Trial using the Trilogy heart valve system.

The team has been using the minimally invasive TAVR procedure to treat patients with aortic stenosis since 2012, when Morton Plant became the first hospital in the Tampa Bay area to offer TAVR. The Align trial is the first use of a TAVR valve designed to treat primary aortic regurgitation in a native valve by the Morton Plant team.

Aortic stenosis is the narrowing of the aortic valve, which restricts blood flow to the heart. In patients with aortic regurgitation or aortic insufficiency, blood pumped from the left ventricle leaks back into the heart because the aortic valve doesn’t close properly. The heart must work harder and harder to pump the blood out. If left untreated, both conditions may cause fatigue, chest pain and shortness of breath, and could lead to heart failure.

TAVR has given thousands of patients suffering from aortic stenosis a better quality of life and a longer life. Instead of opening the chest, the minimally invasive TAVR procedure allows doctors to enter the femoral artery through the groin using a catheter to guide an artificial valve to the heart. The artificial valves used to treat aortic stenosis work by anchoring to calcium or scar tissue. Those valves do not work well for patients with aortic regurgitation that frequently lack calcium to anchor the valves. Their only option has been open heart surgery, which may not be an option for many patients.

This Align trial seeks to change that. The design of the JenaValve allows physicians to place a new valve inside the leaky one by clipping it onto the leaky valve’s original leaflets without using any sutures.

“For more than a decade our multidisciplinary team has continued to explore new offerings so we can help more and more patients who are suffering from valve disease but are not candidates for invasive surgeries,” said Dr. Rovin. “The opportunity to participate in the JenaValve Align trial allows us to treat an entirely new group of patients who previously had no hope for treatment with a valve that is specifically designed to treat aortic regurgitation.”

The JenaValve has been approved for commercial use in Europe but is not yet approved in the United States and is currently being used as part of a clinical trial.

BayCare also has structural heart programs at St. Joseph’s Hospital’s Heart and Vascular Institute in Tampa and Winter Haven Hospital’s Bostick Heart Center in Winter Haven.

For more information on the Center for Advanced Valve and Heart Care at Morton Plant Hospital: www.baycare.org/hospitals/morton-plant-hospital/services/heart-and-vascular-valve-and-structural-heart-care.

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THINGS TO DO NEARBY: TOUR DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

By Bob & Becky Griffin

You don't need to live in Florida, or even be interested in racing, to know about the Daytona International Speedway. But whether you follow NASCAR or not, a visit to the Speedway when there is no race is a fun and informative day trip.

The Speedway is only 160 miles from the Pinellas beaches - a little over three hours. When we went, we were dragging a camper, so it was closer to four hours. If you are camping, there are many nearby camping spots including the Speedway mid-field.

Daytona is the birthplace of NASCAR. The first races were held nearby on the public beach and were straight line speed races. In the mid-1930s, it evolved into a circular track and a different type of car - street cars. They raced down the beach, turned and circled back on A1A, then back on the beach for another lap.

Bill France, Sr. was involved in the early days of beach racing and raced in the first one in 1936. After that, he helped run the races. In 1947, he hosted a meeting of car owners, drivers, and mechanics at the Streamline Hotel on Daytona Beach, which led to the formation of NASCAR on February 21, 1948.

France knew NASCAR needed a permanent track that could hold large crowds. He leased 450 acres from the City of Daytona and in 1953 built a two and a half mile "super speedway," which he named the "Daytona International Speedway."

France designed the track to have "banked turns" so cars could go faster. The bank in front of the stands (and finish line) is 18 degrees. The three other banks on the course are 31 degrees. This allows cars to go up to 200 miles per hour.

The first Daytona 500 was held in 1959 and the winner was Lee Petty, Richard Petty's father (Richard has won the most Daytona 500 races - four). It took a few days to determine Lee Petty was the winner though. Race officials failed to hire enough photographers and the race was a photo finish. When

they realized they could not determine the winner, they asked fans if anyone had a photograph of the finish, and someone did.

You may have seen the Daytona International Speedway sign before. It is across the front of the Speedway and is said to be the second most photographed sign in the United States. The famous "Hollywood" sign near Los Angeles, claims the top spot.

If you are interested in seeing the Speedway but not a race, we advise you not go on race day. Race days have no tours, and are a whole other kind of event. Even a week or two before a race changes the access your tour may have because they are busy setting up.

The tour is two parts. The first is a narrated tram that includes a ride around the two and a half mile track. While a race car can do a lap in less than one-minute, the tram takes about twenty minutes.



One of the first things you will notice is the banking. At some points it is 31 degrees. You can barely walk or stand up straight on that part of the track. The tram stops at the Finish Line with a mere 18-degree bank where you can get out, sign the checkered line, walk around the track, and take pictures.

The special night lighting allows them to race at night. Each lights cost \$250 per hour to illuminate.

Your final tram stop is in the stands above the finish line where you can see the infield, concessions, and pit row. A 2016, \$400 million upgrade included replacing the seating with 101,000 comfortable "theater-like chairs." Fun fact - the seats are different random

colors. When seen on television it makes the stands look full, even when they aren't.

The tram ride is followed by a self guided "Hall of Fame of Racing" museum tour. It is a 20,000 square foot display of race car winners, photos, boats, motorcycles, equipment, and historical facts. The the last car to win, is always on display.

Today, there are larger venues than Daytona, the Texas Motor Speedway seats 181,600, but the Daytona 500, held in February, is still the "Super Bowl of Racing" and the first race of the season. The race's television audience rivals that of the NFL's Super Bowl.

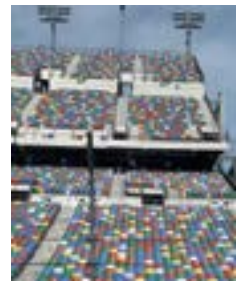


Hall of Fame of Racing museum

Daytona 500 tickets sell out every year and range from \$200 to over \$1800 depending on where you sit and other amenities. Unlike other events, the higher the seat, the more expensive it is. The third level, upper right corner is the most expensive seat in the house.

The 60-minute continuously tours begin at 9:30 am daily and until 3pm. The tram ride lasts about an hour, you can spend as long as you wish in the museum. Tickets are \$25 for Adults, \$20 for kids aged 5 to 12, and free under 4. Register online to pick your time or at the door for the next available shuttle.

For more information, visit DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com.



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Business Briefs



RADIANCE EXPANDS
17 years ago, Stephanie Schlageter and Radiance Medspa rose from the ashes of a failed franchise organization. Through perseverance, hard work, and most of all love for her craft, Schlageter, established and grew a local business that has served its community through med spa services, altruistic charitable acts, and through the mentorship and support of other women. Now, on the precipice of another successful year, Schlageter and her team are

excited to announce an expansion! Radiance Medspa will soon open a second location in Louisville, CO! Opening in Fall of 2023, the Radiance Medspa Colorado location will offer the same Botox, Filler, and laser treatments that you're familiar with from our Florida location, with a bit of Colorado flair! Stay tuned for more updates in their next exciting chapter.

SMART ER URGENT CARE COMING TO ISLAND ESTATES This is a new urgent care clinic/center that provide treatment for the non-life threatening illnesses and injuries and in such cases, may be more efficient than a hospital ER in terms of both money and time.

It is still under construction at 130 Island Way, where the Wells Fargo was, near Publix. It is scheduled to open in May.

SHERATON SAND KEY To celebrate their forthcoming 50th Anniversary, they are remodeling all the rooms, restaurants, bars, and bringing a new look to lobby and the outside.

Russ Kimball is still the overall CEO with Dominique Provenzno serving as General Manager overseeing a staff of approximately 200 people. The Sheraton has 390 rooms. They have a healthy average occupancy rate of 85%. Find them in Sand Key at 1160 Gulf Blvd.

JW MARRIOTT Construction is done on the 162 room hotel located at at 701 South Gulfview Blvd. Now the Marriott people are furnishing the interior and training staff. Look for an opening date soon.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF SITE SOLD After many years, the site formerly occupied by Fisherman's Wharf, Leverocks, Shells, and 551 Restaurant has finally been sold. The owners of the property, next to the north end of the Sand Key Bridge, demolished the old building to facilitate a sale, and it worked. The property sold for about \$25 million. It will soon be another condominium on Clearwater Pass

BEACHWALK INN HOTEL This new five story hotel will stretch from BeachWalk to Coronado. Still under construction, look if to open later this year.

BUSINESS 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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BEING A MEMBER OF THE CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL.

By Kathleen Beckman

Since being elected, the work has been very fast paced, which I love. Something you quickly learn is that a council member's role goes well beyond our public city meetings, including participation on various county and regional boards. But my favorite part of the job is engaging residents to hear what is important to them. It is truly a privilege to serve residents.

While campaigning several years ago, I promised to advocate for neighborhoods and resident safety, work to save the city money, and strive to protect our environment, including our beaches. I focus my efforts every day to deliver on those promises.

One part of advocating for neighborhoods includes investments in our wonderful park system, our recreation centers, and our libraries. Being able to walk, bike, or drive to a nearby park or beach plays a big part in quality of life for many of our residents. So prioritizing investments to ensure continued enjoyment of these precious resources is key. Beach renourishment is an important example of that. Last June, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reported that nearly all of Sand Key beaches are critically eroded. However, when the Army Corps changed its policy to require 100% of beach property owners to sign an easement in order for renourishment to proceed, the scheduled work was halted because not all owners would sign. Now, there is an effort to modify the language in the easement document as well as the number of easements needed to move forward. This is a key priority for me.

I am proud our city has made great progress in implementing energy saving initiatives that are estimated to save over \$1 million in energy costs and help the city reach emission goals. These savings can be reinvested in our community. In virtually every council meeting, there is an opportunity to influence and make decisions that can save money and improve sustainability.

As a council member, I serve on several boards across the county. This includes Pinellas Continuum of Care, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and the Suncoast League of Cities. Each brings its own set of challenges, but also the opportunity make improvements and represent our community. An ongoing challenge we try to address via the Suncoast League of Cities, relates to short term rentals, a priority for many residents. A bill introduced this session will be high priority for possible modifications. Like last year, I'll travel to Tallahassee to meet with legislators on that topic and other issues to help ensure our local initiatives and protection for home rule is considered.

Serving on the Clearwater Council has not been without its challenges. Like many public and private entities, we are struggling with adequate staffing but are determined to hire the best for our community. When we encounter issues, like recycling, it is paramount that the city is transparent about the issue itself, how it will be corrected and prevented from happening again. Even with these challenges, I am optimistic about our future.

As a way to inform residents and ask for feedback, I compose and distribute (via email) a monthly newsletter. I am able to share what the city is doing, as well as what I learn about people, neighborhoods, and businesses in our community. The ability to talk to people and listen to their perspectives and experiences is extremely important to me. It is also the most gratifying part of my job. Please reach out to me any time, Kathleen.Beckman@MyClearwater.com!

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THE OTHER SIDE OF JACK ECKERD

While best remembered as a millionaire businessman who turned three drug stores into a billion dollar empire, philanthropist Jack Eckerd secretly wanted to be a politician. His biggest regret in life were his three failed bids for public office in Florida.

In 1970, he entered the Republican Gubernatorial Primary challenging incumbent Claude R. Kirk, Jr. It produced some fireworks when Eckerd declared Governor Kirk would be a fiasco in the General Election. Kirk declared Eckerd was trying to buy the Governor's office, which Eckerd denied even though he spent \$1 million in the unsuccessful campaign.

When he announced his candidacy, Eckerd left the management of the company to his Board of Directors.

When asked why he was running, his quick wit said "Well, you gotta start somewhere." His employees stood on street corners waving "Vote for Jack" signs, as did thousands of customers.

The then St. Petersburg Times referred to the race as a "David vs Goliath" contest. Eckerd lost in the primary with 43% of the vote and Kirk went on to lose in the General Election to Democrat Reubin Askew.

"The only thing I hated about that election was 'losing'," Eckerd later said. "Losing in an election was painful - a rejection. But it was worth every cent..."

In 1974, Eckerd was ready to try again and ran for Florida's U.S. Senate seat when the current Republican Senator, withdrew. In the primary, he ran against Paula Hawkins and won 2-to-1. But in the end, he lost in the general election to Richard Stone of Miami.

Thinking it might be different, the third time was not the charm. In 1978, Eckerd won the Republican primary for Governor, but lost to Democrat Bob Graham. His running mate was his former competitor for Senate, Paula Hawkins.

While never elected, throughout his life, Eckerd was still a strong voice in Florida. He fought the corporate profits tax. In 1972, he fought mandatory school busing. With his Eckerd Optical Centers, he fought a ban on eyeglass advertising. A judge ruled the ban unconstitutional when Eckerd argued it hurt those on fixed income, especially the elderly.

After losing the Senate and while still with Eckerd Drugs, President Gerald Ford appointed Eckerd as Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA), one of the largest departments in the U.S. Government. President Ford instructed him to "run this agency as clean as a hound's tooth." President Jimmy Carter asked him to continue in that same role.

In 1980, President Ronald Reagan named him to the Grace Commission's private sector panel on Government Cost Control. The next year, Governor Bob Graham named Eckerd chairman of Florida's Prison Rehabilitative Industries & Diversified Enterprises, Inc., (also know as PRIDE) a unique private sector board that operates all of Florida's Prisons.



Jack Eckerd and Paula Hawkins in his unsuccessful bid for Governor

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GUILT VS REGRET - DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

George Rohrmann, L.C.S.W.

Recently, I experienced a situation for which I felt regret and guilt. My professional colleagues made it clear to me that there is a difference between regret and guilt. I knew this, but so easily forgot when caught up in my emotions. I want to share this. It may help you, too.

Regret: we can all look back at events and do a 20/20 armchair analysis of what we should have done differently. Regrets about things we should have done or shouldn't have done. Each of us have many opportunities for regret: failed relationships, missed opportunities, poor judgment calls, thinking we have been through this before and it will have the same outcome and then it has a much worse outcome. The possibilities are endless. We forget that we made a decision based on the knowledge and information we had on hand when we made the decision. Some examples: hearing that your grandmother is ill, but not terminal, and thinking you could finish the work week then go visit, but she dies before you get there; a friend or family member is ill but you didn't know how sick they were, and they suddenly died; you put off getting new tires until payday and the mechanic says it will be OK, you have a blowout, your son is injured.

Guilt: Guilt should be reserved for those times you knowingly do something wrong. You know it is unethical, illegal, or immoral at the time you do it. Some examples: having an affair when in a committed relationship; stealing money from your employer; fleeing the scene of an accident you caused; as executor of your parents' estate, you find a huge cash stash at their home and do not tell the other heirs, keeping the money for yourself; lying under any circumstance to anyone for your own benefit.

So often, we pile undeserved guilt on top of regret so easily. Regret is huge and enough to deal with on its own, let alone adding guilt. If you are truly guilty, then you need to take responsibility, seek forgiveness from others and yourself, make reparations to others, and make amends where it is needed. Others may not accept it, but it will be good for you to offer it.



If you want to heal from regret, remind yourself that you took the best course of action at the time with the information that you had. Under the same circumstances, anyone would have taken the same action. You are a human being like everyone else, humans make mistakes. Don't let the "shoulds" morph into guilt. Do not "should-on" yourself with a lot of "I should have", "I could have", "If I had only I had.....". When dealing with a loss, we feel a full range of emotions. Don't get them confused.

A therapist can help you make these distinctions and stay on target as you go forward.

If you would like to learn more about your feelings of guilt and regret, 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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PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL - BE A VOLUNTEER

Come to Clearwater Beach this month 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 with over 200,000 visitors, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival returns to Clearwater Beach April 7-23. This is 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.

During the 17-day festival, enjoy architectural masterpieces created from Clearwater’s sugar sand, concerts, performers, and daily entertainers.

This year’s 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 free for children 3 and under. Discounted tickers for military personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers, and healthcare workers can be purchased for \$10 each on Frontline Fridays - April 7, 4, and 21.

Do you love Clearwater Beach and appreciate the masterful art of sand sculpting? If so, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is seeking energetic volunteers to assist with the event. Be a part of something sandtastic and head to Clearwater Beach for fun in the sun!

From merchandise sales to greeting guests - no matter your age or preference, there is a volunteer opportunity for you. Visit SugarSandFestival.com to sign up to volunteer.

Volunteer Perks:

- Complimentary Sand Ambassador t-shirt
- Complimentary meal (valid after completion of shift)
- Complimentary transportation from Downtown Clearwater
- Access to the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit day-of-shift
- One complimentary general admission ticket for return visit



Additional Information:

- Wear comfortable clothes, hat, sunglasses and shoes. Casual beach attire/shorts are recommended. (Sorry, no bathing suits. Please remember this is a family-friendly event.)
- Must be able to walk in the sand and tolerate Florida heat.
- Sunscreen is provided upon request.
- All bar sales and ID checkers must be 21 years of age.
- High school students ages 15 and older are welcome. Any volunteer younger than 18 years of age must have parental permission. Please bring all Bright Futures and volunteer service forms with you to your shift. Volunteer forms will be signed upon completion of your shift.

To sign up to be a volunteer, visit SugarSandFestival.com, click on “Get Involved,” then “Volunteer.” If you have questions, send an email to Info@SugarSandFestival.com.



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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week in April is an excellent opportunity to recognize and celebrate the countless individuals who generously donate their time and talents to support organizations like the Coast Guard Auxiliary. These volunteers play a critical role in helping to promote boating safety, protect our waterways, and save lives. Their contributions can make a real difference in the lives of recreational boaters across the country.

It's important to remember that volunteering isn't just a way to give back to our communities but also an opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and build a sense of purpose and fulfillment. By getting involved with organizations like the Coast Guard Auxiliary, volunteers can make a positive impact on the world around them and experience personal growth and enrichment that can last a lifetime. It's inspiring to see how the Coast Guard Auxiliary can engage volunteers in a wide range of roles, from hands-on work to more specialized tasks that can even be done remotely. By offering a variety of opportunities to get involved, the Auxiliary can attract volunteers with a range of skills and interests and ensure that everyone can find a way to contribute in a way that's meaningful to them.

While hands-on work is vital to the Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission, many other important tasks are necessary to ensure the organization can function effectively and efficiently. Research, data management, record-keeping, and other behind-the-scenes tasks all play a critical role in supporting the Auxiliary's efforts to promote boating safety and protect our waterways. Every volunteer can make a meaningful contribution to the organization's missions.

Recognizing and appreciating the many ways volunteers can support the Coast Guard Auxiliary is essential. By valuing the contributions of all volunteers, whether they are working behind the scenes or on the front lines, we can create a more inclusive and effective culture of service and support for the greater good.

Taking a safe boating course is an excellent first step for anyone interested in getting involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. By completing this training, you'll learn important boating safety skills and information and gain a better understanding of the missions and values of the organization. Go to <https://clwboatingsafety.com/boater-class-registration/> for the class schedule and to register.

Once you've completed the course, reach out to the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary at clwtr.boating@gmail.com and express your interest in volunteering. From there, the Auxiliary can help guide you through getting involved, whether through hands-on work like boating safety patrols or more specialized tasks like data analysis or social media management.

Volunteering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience, and we encourage anyone interested in boating safety and protecting our waterways to consider getting involved. By working together, we can make a real difference in the lives of recreational boaters across the country.

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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Community News...

HERITAGE VILLAGE

Every third Saturday, visitors can explore and experience ever changing exhibitions, self-guided scavenger hunts, curated activities and so much more. This is a free event with free parking. The present exhibit "A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture," celebrating the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, is through April 30. "Having a set Saturday each month for Pinewood provides an opportunity for tourists and the community to come together and encounter all that Pinewood has to offer," said Creative Pinellas CEO Barbara St. Clair. "We enjoy seeing people come out and enjoy high-quality arts and cultural experiences."

Drive back in time to their Annual Classic Car Show April 8th. See hundreds of vintage old cars on display in the rustic atmosphere of Pinellas' Heritage Village. Admission is free. The show is 10am to 3pm.

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th Street in Largo. Get more information at www.HeritageVillageCarShow.com

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Celebrate Earth Day by spending time in their botanical oasis, enjoy a mini-market in McKay Creek Plaza, and participate in public and private tours of gardens throughout the county. The Tour of Public & Private Gardens is Sunday, April 23, from 10am-5pm. General Admission: \$25, Members: \$15. Visit www.flbgfoundation.org/annualtour.

Spring Orchid Sale - April 22 & 23 from 8am-4pm. Suggested donation: \$5 per person, members free.

Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

HOPE VILLAGES OF AMERICA

Join their Mac 'N Cheese Food Drive. With summer approaching, the need for food is increasing quickly.

Help them prepare for summer food loss by participating in their inaugural Mac 'N Cheese Campaign. Did You Know 100 pounds of Mac 'N Cheese can feed 200 children as a main dish?

This is a great opportunity to get yourself involved or team up with your family, friends, community, or colleagues to help those in need in our community, especially the youngest ones.

You can help them stock the Food Bank with boxes of Mac 'N Cheese. Donations can be delivered to the Food Bank, 700 Druid Road, Clearwater, Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 3:30pm OR simply make a monetary donation at hopevillagesofamerica.org/mac-n-cheese-campaign. All funds raised will be matched, up to \$500.

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.

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.

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FREE BEACH PARKING

The city of Clearwater has teamed up with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority to make your trip to Clearwater Beach easier during the spring break season. Park & Ride is a program that offers beach visitors a place to park in a free designated lot, and then ride the trolley to the beach for free. Trolley Park & Ride service runs:

- Monday - Thursday, every 30 minutes, 10 am to 10 pm
- Friday - Saturday, every 15 minutes, 10 am to midnight
- Sunday, every 15 minutes, 10 am to 10 pm

Park for free at the former Clearwater City Hall location, 112 S. Osceola Ave., and board for free there, at the Clearwater Beach Transit Center, or the Clearwater Beach Marina. Return service to the parking lot boards at the Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd. in Clearwater. This service runs through April 30.

Additional parking is available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the following locations:

- 310 Court Street (County Garage)
- 450 Oak Avenue
- 440 Court St.

More than 50,000 vehicles drive through the Clearwater Beach roundabout on a typical spring break day. This is the fifth year PSTA and the city have partnered to provide enhanced public transportation services as an alternative to driving and parking at the beach.



NEW TROLLEY TOURS

Jolley Trolley is excited to offer a number of new adventures with their new tours. Their Haunting Tours feature the mysteries and the haunting of our area's past. Haunted Clearwater tours began last year and Haunted Dunedin tours began last month.

A pirate trolley sets sail by land, to bring mates to local breweries; the Clearwater Sightseeing Tour debuted in February, showcasing the coastline communities of our beautiful region.

Jolley Trolley Transportation, serving the Clearwater Beach area and beyond, has enjoyed forty years of being in business as a non-profit community organization. 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, which are an outstanding way to enjoy events with family and friends, all aboard together!

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

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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.

In August 2022, Clearwater Yacht Club commenced the largest capital project in their history involving their most valuable asset: their docks. Thanks to the work of Terri Skapik of Woods Consulting, along with Waterline Construction and Phillips Solutions, their marina and electrical contractors, respectively, they completed the renovation of the docks in early January. They were extremely fortunate to have great partners as well as financing from Flagship Bank. This project concluded many months of planning meetings involving many Clearwater Yacht Club members.

The entire marina was replaced with new pilings, supports and top decking. Thanks to volunteer members, the new docks also have beautiful solar lights along the main docks. Construction stayed on schedule even with the two storms.

While the docks are fully operational, due to various supply chain issues, they are awaiting final delivery and installation of their new electrical/water/cable pedestals. The next project is to repave the parking lot and landscape the property. Please stop by and visit the Clearwater Yacht Club and see the great new marina for yourself.

Their Summer membership opportunity runs from May 1st-September 30th. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$250. Club Members can use the pool, tiki bar, dining room and other amenities at the newly remodeled club. Members also can enjoy day dockage on the club's brand new docks. Best of all, you can meet new people. Call the Yacht Club's office, 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

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 7 businesses researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county, and state levels. Two issues they are closely monitoring are Florida Senate Bill SB 4-D - Building Safety Inspections and the Structural Integrity Reserve Study as well as what BDA (Bi-Directional Amplification) system will be adopted by Pinellas county. They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council and The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and also holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

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

They 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 the meeting. Look for a "Zoom" link in their e-mail announcing each month's agenda, or obtain the link on their website at sandkeycivicassociation.org.

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

BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Club will not meet in April but will meet on May 5 and June 2 before breaking for the summer. The Club will resume regular meetings on September 8th.

The May speaker will be Pinellas County Commissioner Chris Latvala, representing District 5, which encompasses central Pinellas County. A strong advocate for children's issues, Chris served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2014 until 2022, after which he was elected to the Pinellas County Commission.

Payment for the May luncheon at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair, Florida, will serve as your reservation, and must be received by April 28th. Please make your \$35 check payable to BWRC and mail to Treasurer Robin Schenck, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756. Unfortunately, walk-ups cannot be accommodated.

ISLAND ESTATE WOMEN'S CLUB

The Island Estates Women's Club is excited about our upcoming our Spring calendar and activities. The IEWC offers monthly lunches with speakers and field trips September thru May. Our monthly "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere" gathering is year-round!

April

- Wednesday, April 5th - Tampa Bay Downs, Tampa
- Thursday, April 13th - "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere" - Brown Boxer, Clearwater South Beach
- Tuesday, April 18th - Luncheon - Daily News Restaurant, Clearwater

May

- Thursday, May 4th - Field Trip - Joseph's Tea Room, Clearwater
- Thursday, May 11th - "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere" - Lucky Lobster, Dunedin
- Tuesday, May 16th - Scholarship Luncheon & New IEWC Board - Bon Appetit, Dunedin

The IEWC planned events are always listed on our website at: www.islandstateswomensclub.org. Reservations are required for all events.

Membership: You don't need to live on Island Estates to be a member. Simply go to our website and pay online or print the form and mail it with a check. If you have questions, contact our Membership Chair Patti Jucha at pattijucha@yahoo.com

ART TOURS CLEARWATER

Journey inside Downtown Clearwater's murals with Augmented Reality. NEW self-guided augmented reality (AR) walking tour that takes you to four vibrant murals along a 0.7-mile route through downtown Clearwater. When you reach a mural, open the ARTours Clearwater app and point your device's camera at the artwork. Then watch as animations, graphics, videos, and audio make the mural come to life. Each mural contains several interactive visual experiences. Download the free ARTours Clearwater App: downtownclearwater.com/artours

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.

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Community News...

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 event details, including participation and sponsorship information, visit 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.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Club began having flower shows in Clearwater in the 1950s and continued with these delightful presentations until the Pandemic. The Club is happy to return with their first show since 2019. Join them and see beautiful floral designs and horticulture at the “Dance into Spring” Flower Show, Saturday, April 1, 2023. The show is FREE and open to the public from 1 to 4 pm at 405 Seminole Street in Clearwater. Large rosettes and first through fourth ribbons will be awarded.

The show is located on the property of the Clearwater Garden Club at 405 Seminole Street at the intersection of Ft. Harrison Avenue in downtown Clearwater, one block from the Seminole waterfront park and boat ramps. Everyone is welcome FREE of charge and there is plenty of FREE parking.

For more Flower Show details or the Clearwater Garden Club visit, www.clearwatergardenclub.com.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary will present the program – Shore Birds and Rehabilitation, on Wednesday, April 5, at 1pm in the Belleair Garden Club House, 903 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Belleair. The program is free and open to the public.

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary presenter Sydney Horvat, will bring two “Ambassador” birds to the meeting and discuss the mission and history of the sanctuary, various seabird and rehabilitation procedures followed by a question and answer session.

Participants are asked to bring a donation for the sanctuary: laundry detergent pods, bleach, towels and blankets, and apple and grapes. Monetary donations are welcome and support the outdoor clinic and rehabilitation site. For further information, visit belleairgardenclub.com.

PAWFEST

The 17th Annual Kids and Canine Carnival “Paw Fest” is Sunday, April 16 in Largo Central Park. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Largo, there will be an afternoon of fun with dogs—of all kinds. See dog rescue groups, meet adoptable dogs, food trucks, carnival games for the kids, and new this year—the PawFest Car Show! Also there will be a special presentation of the 25th Anniversary of the Largo Police Department’s K9 Unit and full K9 demonstration. Bring your dog with you. This event is free and runs from Noon to 4pm. www.LargoKiwanis.org.

Community News...

ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

In February, IEYC hosted a Trivia Regatta, where each crew answered trivia questions to progress their sailboat forward throughout the course. Twenty-one members and five guests attended. Tables were adorned with customized sailboats for each crew with the regatta course in the middle of the room.

John Speck was announced as the Fleet Captain for the year and Don Prokes as the Boatswain for the event—ensuring all crews maintained order and discipline for the regatta.

Commodore Lefebvre discussed the importance of members bringing guests, and the importance of new members to the club. He then introduced the guests of Harry and Carol Bickford, Ted and Janet O'Brien, and prospective members Glenda Creasy and Mike and Marilyn Kaufman to the club.

Prior to the invocation, Commodore Lefebvre shared the maritime tradition of the ringing of eight bells signifying the passing of a mariner's life. A moment of silence and reflection was observed while eight bells were struck in honor of the passing of past Commodore, Eileen Gunther.

After the invocation, the members enjoyed a buffet that included eggplant Parmesan, butter crumb crusted cod, and a fresh carved round of beef and desert bar.

Each crew chose a boat captain. Trivia questions were passed to all tables to answer and then collected and correlated. Commodore Lefebvre read the questions and answers while the boats moved around the course. At the end of the first round there was no clear leader, and throughout the second loop boats vied for the lead; however, at the last moment the yellow team gained momentum and burst through to finish first!

IEYC's April event is the International Fiesta at the Dunedin Golf Club on Sunday, April 16th. Visit www.islandestatesyc.org for information on the IEYC and for upcoming events. E-mail islandestatesyc@gmail.com with questions.

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION

The CBA is a community organization of residents and business owners. Our mission is to promote civic, recreational and social projects while improving and enriching our community. We have been dedicated to providing a strong and unified voice for our neighborhood in City affairs and issues since 1944.

Membership is \$35 annually per household or \$150 per business. Donations are welcome also. You may join on our website membership page – clearwaterbeachassoc.com/membership or at any of the meetings/events noted below.


Contact the CBA president Samuel Hutkin at hutloan@gmail.com with questions.

Upcoming Events:

- April 4, Tuesday – 6:30 pm, Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back.
- April 15, Saturday – Dinner Boat Cruise
- April 29, Saturday – 9:00 am, Cleanup of our adopted Parks (Rec Center and McKay Park)
- May 2, Tuesday – 6:30 pm, Monthly CBA Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back.
- May 6, Saturday – Seis de Mayo. Take the Ferry with us at 6:15 pm from the Rec Center to downtown Clearwater
- June 6, Tuesday – 6:30 pm, Monthly CBA Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back

Palm Passion Sunday
 April 2 – 10:30 a.m.
*A Service of Lessons and Hymns
 Commemorating the Triumphal Entry
 and Passion of Our Lord*

The Resurrection of Our Lord
 Easter Day, April 9
Joy in the Morning
 Dunseith Memorial Garden, 8:30 a.m.
Festival Service of Worship
 Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.
Music for choir, soloist, strings, and organ



PEACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 110 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, Clearwater 33756
 800-479-8846 peacememorialpresbyterian.org



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Community News...

Blinkers Beachside
STEAKHOUSE & LOUNGE

OPEN DAILY, HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM

Specials
Sunday - Short Ribs \$36
Monday - Pork Chop \$25
Tuesday - NY Strip \$32

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CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY EVENTS

April - Adults

- Mahjong Mondays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 2-4pm
- Shell Crafters 4th, 18th 11am-1:30pm
- Beach Book Club (*The Stars Are Not Yet Bells* by Hannah Lilith Asaadi) 5th 4-5pm
- The Highwaymen: Acrylic Painting with Shawn Dell Joyce* 4/13 2:30-4pm
- PEEPS Diorama Day* 19th 4-5:30pm (for all ages)
- Classic Film Club (*Spirited Away*) 27th 3-4pm

April -Families

- STEAM Play: Minecraft Art & LEGO Builds* 7th 2-3:30pm
- Sunshine Story time 17th 11-11:30am
- PEEPS Diorama Day* 19th 4-5:30pm (for all ages)

May - Adults

- Mahjong Mondays 1st, 5/8, 5/15 2-4pm
- Shell Crafters 2nd 11am-1:30pm
- Beach Book Club (*The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare) 3rd 4-5pm
- "Moss Love" Wall Art* 11th 3-4pm (for all ages)

May - Families

- "Moss Love" Wall Art* 11th 3-4pm (for all ages)
- Sunshine Storytime 15th 11-11:30am

asterisk* requires registration starting the month before.

The library will likely be closed Friday, May 19th through Tuesday, May 30th for minor renovations.

EASTER AT THE CHAPEL BY THE SEA

Easter is a wonderful time of year, especially at the Chapel by the Sea. Being the only Church on the beach, visitors and locals head to the Chapel to celebrate Easter. Starting at 7am, there is a sunrise service held in the courtyard. As the sun begins to rise over the beach and peak from behind the building, the early risers will enjoy beautiful music and an uplifting message.

Traditional Easter services will be held in the sanctuary at 8:30 am and 10 am. Both services will showcase the talented Chapel choir, accompanied by live music. The sanctuary will be filled with a variety of flowers and Easter lilies that people have purchased and dedicated to someone special.

Following the service, at 11 am, the children will gather around the courtyard brimming with anticipation and Easter baskets waiting to be filled. There is an egg hunt for the smaller children in the courtyard and the older children have a more challenging hunt on the perimeter of the property. This year, the Chapel will also have a small petting zoo!

Anyone who would like to visit the Chapel for Good Friday (April 7), Pastor Rhonda will be hosting a self-reflective and meditative experience in the Chapel Hall. The hours are from 11 am – 2 pm.

In order to accommodate the crowds for Easter, the Chapel has reserved the un-paved lot to the east of the property as overflow parking (until Noon). The paved city lot is also free on Sunday mornings for parishioners until 12:30 pm.

A beautiful tradition is continuing with the flowering Easter cross that will be blooming in the front of the Chapel. Guests are invited to bring flowers from their garden and add them to the cross. At the end of the service, take a photo in your Easter best!

Celebrate the season, new beginnings, and the love of God at Chapel by the Sea this Easter!

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Protect the rights of children to have access to parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful coparenting strategies.

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OUR CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS .ORG

By Jake Hornstein, Co-Founder & COO

When Greg Hill became a father, he knew he would always want to be available to his son. Since Greg was not married to his son’s mother, under Florida law, Greg had no legal rights to his child. After a series of unsuccessful legal outcomes while retaining reputable attorneys, Greg changed his approach. He represented himself in court and achieved a 50/50 custody and successful co-parenting strategy.



Jake Hornstein and Greg Hill

In January 2021, Greg and I established a web-based nonprofit named Our Children Have Rights .Org (OCHR.org). It focuses on children by helping parents more seamlessly navigate their child custody and co-parenting journeys. Most often unexpectedly and unprepared. 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 direct services are NO COST to all parents regardless of demographics or parenting circumstances (single mothers/fathers, unwed parents, married couples seeking divorce).

Education is the core of our work, addressing a specific need that is too common across our community. THE NEED: Better Prepared & Equipped Parents who, often unexpectedly, find themselves navigating these challenging and emotional circumstances. Our educational resources, when properly used, can minimize, or even eliminate the need for paid legal aid, saving parents valuable time and resources. Alternatively, when a parent seeks assistance identifying the right attorney for their circumstances, our legal aid navigation support guides them through the process as well.

Our Direct Services include NO COST consultations (Zoom, FaceTime, Phone) and NO COST documentation review (parenting plans). We’re proud that the scope of our work covers a wide range of Human Services. It’s a direct result of careful listening to parents who share with us the “ancillary challenges” they face while establishing custody through court. These “roadblocks” can include housing assistance, behavioral health, counseling, employment, and access to basic needs, among others. We address these challenges through a network of local program partners; Pinellas County Government, 211 Tampa Bay, Bay Area Legal Services, Feeding Tampa Bay, NAMI, Gulf Coast JFCS, and many others.

Since inception, OCHR.Org has served over 20,000 parents, conducted NO COST consultations with 901 parents, and reviewed 383 parenting plans. We were recently recognized by AMPLIFY Clearwater, celebrating a nonprofit that’s “Well on its way”. We even adopted Sand Key Park & Beach for volunteer opportunities in our community.

Support of our mission is vital, and we ask our community to consider a small financial contribution to our program.

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 both responsible and involved parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful co-parenting. Why? Because Our Children Have Rights.

Contact Jake, JakeHornstein@OurChildrenHaveRights.com or visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org.

To donate, visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org/donate



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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.

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