

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

## HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES AT VETERANS REEF

By Pete Magnani

**B**eginning in 1975, the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste began creating underwater structures designed to encourage marine life. Since then, 42 artificial reefs made of over 50,000 tons of clean, inert debris have been placed in the Gulf of Mexico from Tarpon Springs to Tierra Verde. They provide an underwater habitat for marine life with the growth of algae and barnacles attracting all manner of fish and crustaceans. These reefs also provide a recreational and economic impact by improving the county's diving and fishing opportunities.



Construction of Veterans Reef began in August of 1999. The project was directed by Dr. Heyward Matthews, who taught marine biology, oceanography, and SCUBA diving at St. Petersburg College for over fifty years. Additionally, Dr. Matthews planned and oversaw the creation of artificial reefs all around the state of Florida beginning in the 1970s.

Three 100-foot steel-hulled barges and 300 tons of limestone were sunk to the ocean floor at a depth of about 42 feet, along with a variety of concrete culverts, tetrahedrons, and pyramids. The elements were distributed around a center buoy and two commemorative plaques dedicating the site in honor of United States military veterans. The site is located approximately 12 miles west of Hurricane Pass.

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#### Being a City Commissioner

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**CREDITS**



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**DUNEDIN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS MAGAZINE**

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our neighborhood, Dunedin. This newsletter is printed every other month and direct mailed.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at the Chamber of Commerce, History Museum, Community Center, Library, and the UPS on Main St.. We hope you enjoyed our magazine. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us.

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

Thank you for reading,

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



**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL 298-3000**

Mon - Fri, 7am to 6pm  
737 Louden Ave  
DunedinGov.com

**MAYOR** Julie Ward Bujalski

**CITY MANAGER** Jennifer Bramley

**DEPUTY MANAGER** Jorge Quintas

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Maureen "Moe" Freaney • Robert Walker

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Public Services: 298-3232

Solid Waste: 298-3215

Public Library 298-3030

Community Center 812-4530

Rec Center 738-2920

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**WATER** 298-3100

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**SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES** 582-6200

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

**SHERIFF DISPATCH** 582-6177

**DUNEDIN FIRE RESCUE** 298-3102

Fire Chief Jeff Parks

**POST OFFICE** 738-0661

1301 County Road 1. Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 9-12

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** 733-3197

**MUNICIPAL MARINA** 298-3030

**PINELLAS COUNTY INFO** 464-3000  
**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377  
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Washington, DC 20510

[RickScott.Senate.gov](http://RickScott.Senate.gov)

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Anna Paulina Luna (202) 225-5961

1017 Longworth House Office

Building

Washington, DC 20515

**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

*As always, this is subject to change.*

**JULY**

City Commission Meeting 13

Bastille Day 14

Safety Harbor Summer Carnival 14

National Pet Fire Safety Day 15

Third Saturdays at Pinewood 15

FIFA Women's World Cup Begins 20

Hop on Hop Off Brew Crawl HOB 21

Parents' Day 23

Luau Pool Party Highlander Park 22

Tax Free School Shopping Begins 24

Goo Goo Dolls & OAR at the Sound 24

National Drowning Prevention Day 25

City Commission Meeting 27

Back to School Expo MLK Rec Ctr 27

NFL Training Camp Begins 28

John Fogarty at the Sound 29

Tampa Bay Jeepfest Quaker Steak 29

Back to School Bash Countryside 29

**AUGUST**

School Principal's Day 1

U.S. Coast Guard Birthday 4

Veterans Appreciation Baycare Park 4

Summer Camps End 4

Tax Free School Shopping Ends 6

Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony 7

National Pickleball Day 8

Property Tax Notices Mailed 14

Public School Begins 10

Boating and Bagels Chamber 11

Buccaneers First Preseason Game 11

Beyonce at Tampa Stadium 16

City Commission Meeting 17

Third Saturdays at Pinewood 19

Great Bay Scallop Search TB Watch 19

Suncoast Bridal Expo Countryside 19

FIFA Women's World Cup Ends 20

Midnite Madness for Teens Rec Ctr 25

Wearable Art Fashion Show Fine Art 26

National Dog Day 26

**SEPTEMBER**

Labor Day 4

City Commission Meeting 7

Chamber Golf Tournament 8

Patriot Day 11

Hurricane Eddie's Beach Cleanup 16

Mad Beach Nautical Flea Market 16

Third Saturdays at Pinewood 16

Kenny Loggins at the Sound 16

Constitution Day 17

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day 17

Air Force Birthday 18

Pop Up Book Sale Library 22-23

Ringo Starr at the Sound 26

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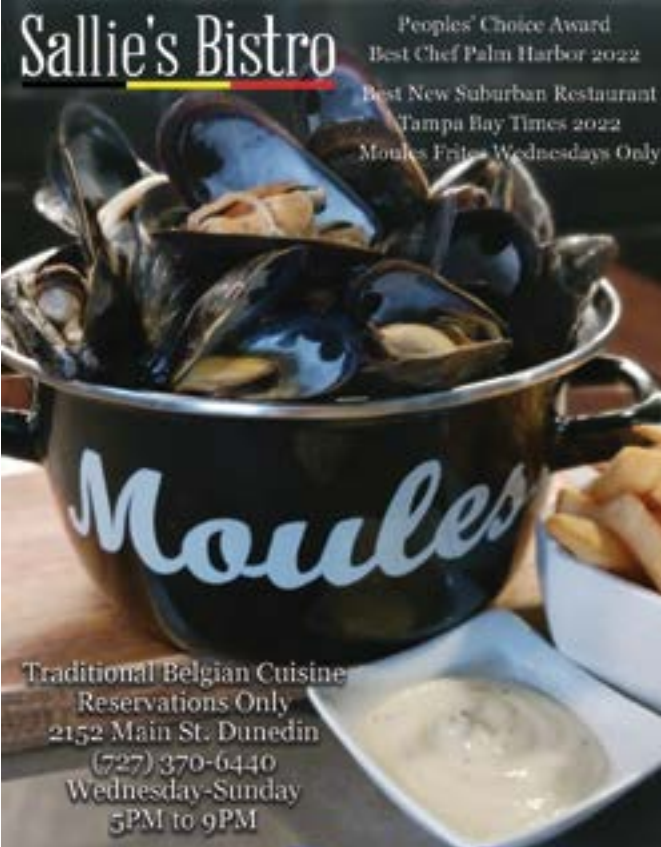
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# Did You Know



**CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM MOURNS APOLLO**  
The four year-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin was brought to the CMA in 2021 after being found stranded in Playalinda, FL. Apollo began showing signs of discomfort in March and passed away on June 12th, despite the efforts of the CMA medical team.

**SKIP THE FERTILIZER DURING SUMMER MONTHS**  
Pinellas County's annual fertilizer ban began June 1st and runs through September 30th. The use of nitrogen and/or phosphate based fertilizers can contaminate the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lake and marine waters that receive discharge from the stormdrain system. These chemicals can cause harmful algae blooms that lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills. Fertilizers containing phosphorous cannot be used any time of the year unless a soil test confirms it is needed. Pinellas County is one of more than ninety communities that have summertime fertilizer restrictions.

**NO MORE BUTTS IN THE SAND** On June 9th, the City of Clearwater passed a law banning smoking and vaping on its beaches and public parks. The ban is one of several emerging across Florida following a change in state law last year that allowed cities and counties to regulate smoking on beaches and parks. St. Petersburg banned smoking in city parks last October and the Pinellas County Commission is considering a county-wide wide ordinance as well. According to the Clearwater City Council, the new ordinance is about education and not about punishing violators. Officials on Clearwater Beach have already begun the process of putting up signs and passing out educational information to visitors, hotels and restaurants, as well as starting a social media information campaign.

**GLADYS DOUGLAS PRESERVE WINS AWARD** The Florida League of Cities announced the winners of the 2023 Florida Municipal Achievement Awards in June, with a Dunedin park receiving honors. The Local Action Award is given to a city for a specific, single citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need. The City of Dunedin's winning entry, Gladys E. Douglas Preserve, is a collaboration between the City, Pinellas County and the community to protect the largest remaining natural area in the County. The preserve was originally the homestead property of Gladys E. Douglas, a local resident widely known for her philanthropy. After her passing, the property fell under contract to a developer. When the developer walked away, the City and County had a short amount of time to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property. More than 1,700 individuals donated their time, efforts and monies to the cause. The community raised \$4.5 million to protect and preserve this environmentally sensitive area. In addition, the City and County reallocated \$5.5 million in land preservation funds to save the preserve.



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**CHANGES TO STATE PARK RESERVATIONS**

The State Park Campsite Reservations Bill was signed into law allowing Florida residents to reserve campsites in state parks eleven months in advance, while non-residents may only reserve spots ten months in advance. The law was sponsored by Senator Hooper after meeting with Pinellas residents who explained how out-of-state visitors quickly reserved our

park, blocking residents. The law, which includes reserving cabins, goes into effect Jan.1.

**SAILING CENTER'S SUMMER CAMP** The CCSC is a great place to spend your summer. They are reserving spots for their Summer Camp now. Camp began June 5th and continues through August 11th, Monday through Friday 9am-3pm. For more information, call 517-7776, visit [ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org](http://ClearwaterCommunitySailing.org), or just drop by 1001 Gulf Blvd. in Sand Key.

**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES TAX FREE** Save money on school supplies during Florida's Back to School Sales Tax Holiday. This year, the popular Back-to-School sales tax free shopping days are two full weeks beginning Monday, July 24 and ending on Sunday, August 6. Pay no sales tax on clothing, school uniforms, shoes, school supplies, computers, and more.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. COAST GUARD** Since 1790, the U.S Coast Guard has been keeping our country's waterways safe and playing a key role in our national security. As one of the country's eight uniformed services, they perform a variety of tasks including maritime security, interdiction of drug and human traffickers, search and rescue, and enforcement of the maritime laws in domestic and international waters. The waterways of Pinellas County are patrolled by Coast Guard Sector St. Pete, Station Sand Key, and Air Station Clearwater, as well as Auxiliary Flotillas in Dunedin, Clearwater and Madeira Beach. The USCG Auxiliary is a volunteer component primarily tasked with boating safety and education of recreational mariners. The United States Coast Guard will celebrate 233 years of maritime safety and security on August 4th.



## VETERANS REEF, Continued

In the summer of 2000, work began on the second phase of the project. In an effort to add a military-themed component to memorial, the Florida Military Aviation Museum donated a World War II Navy bomber to sink on the site. The Lockheed P2V-3 Neptune was brought to St. Pete from Tampa, where its wings and engines were removed. The aircraft was chained to a 150-foot steel barge and began its long voyage around the southern tip of Pinellas County. As the barge and plane traveled north through the Intracoastal Waterway, residents lined the shores to photograph the odd sight.

After arriving at the Veterans Reef site, the airplane barge was positioned approximately one hundred yards south of the original three barges. The Hillsborough County Bomb Squad set off strategically placed demolition charges and it sank to the bottom. The wings were placed on either side of the barge. Sea life soon began to inhabit the new reef, and SCUBA divers enjoyed a new and unusual dive site populated by grouper, snapper, sharks, and rays. Mother nature had other plans for the airplane barge, however.

On September 14th, Hurricane Gordon formed from a tropical wave in the western Caribbean. After crossing the Yucatan Peninsula, Gordon barreled across the Gulf of Mexico with winds gusting to 78 miles per hour and wave heights topping 18 feet before making landfall near Cedar Key. Winds and flooding damaged 134 structures in Pinellas County resulting in \$500,000 in losses, and the damage was not limited to land.

When divers returned to Veterans Reef in early October, they found the Neptune obliterated. Extreme underwater currents generated by the storm had torn the bomber to



pieces and scattered them. The barge lay bare, with a piece of the fuselage resting on the sand approximately 50 feet away. The wings, which had been chained to the limestone beneath, remained on either side of the structure as the only identifiable evidence of the Neptune's existence. Despite the loss of the aircraft, Veterans Reef continued to be a thriving marine habitat and a popular destination for anglers and SCUBA divers.

Dr. Matthews continued to envision a way to better honor veterans at the reef, considering sunken tanks and other military apparatus. Fearing these would suffer the same fate as the Neptune, he came up with the idea of concrete statues to commemorate service members. Pinellas County provided \$50,000 to purchase the first twelve statues, which were generic representations of service personnel spanning all branches of the military. These were placed on Veterans Reef north of the three barges in 2019

with an opening ceremony on August 19th of that year.

In 2020, the thirteenth statue was added to the Circle. It was the first custom-made piece, a likeness of United States Coast Guard (USCG) Seaman Apprentice William Flores. When the USCG cutter Blackhorn sank in the waters of Tampa Bay on January 28, 1990, Flores remained on board to throw life jackets to his shipmates in the water. Despite his efforts, Flores and twenty-two crewmates perished. He was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Medal, USCG's highest peacetime service honor. "USCG Sector St. Petersburg raised \$15,000 to commission the concrete statue of Seaman Flores in his dress uniform, including the Coast Guard Medal," said Dr. Matthews. "On this new statue, he is wearing the medal he never got to wear in life."

Planning and preparation are currently underway for the second phase of memorial. Like the Seaman Flores sculpture, Dr. Matthews envisions the remaining eleven statues to represent actual soldiers. Some of these include Master Chief Petty Officer Carl Brashear, the first African American master diver in U.S. Navy history, as well as likenesses of Generals George S. Patton and Norman Schwartzkopf. Fundraising is at the forefront of these efforts. "To have the custom statues built and deployed on the Circle of Heroes will cost around \$300,000," says Dr. Matthews. "Hopefully the county will understand the importance of honoring our veterans and increasing the dive tourism in our area."



## LOCAL FARM SUPPORTS STUDENTS' CHARITY PROJECT

By Janessa Bacon

I am a third grade teacher at Dunedin Elementary School. I also run an after school program called the K-Kids, which is a partner program with the Kiwanis chapter of Dunedin. If you were to ask a student what the full name of our program is this year, you would hear: The Nature Saver's K-Kids Club of Dunedin Elementary.



The main focus of the K-Kids program is to teach students leadership skills as well as work on service projects that give back to the school and/or the community. The students chose to focus on two projects this year: cleaning up our school and working on the school garden. We had a garden from previous years, but it was basically boxes full of sterile dirt and weeds. Fast-forward to a few months of pulling weeds, cleaning out the garden, and getting organic soil delivered and installed; we were finally ready to start planting seeds.

One Saturday morning, I was at the Downtown Dunedin Market purchasing some micro greens and produce, when I came across some seed starters. I thought those would work out perfectly in our school garden, so I approached one of the employees on the prices of the starters. That employee directed me to Rowland Milam, one of the owners of Life Farms. As soon as I explained who I was and what I wanted to do with our garden, Rowland quickly responded that he would love to help us out and be our sponsor. We kept in contact and over the next months discussed possible plans to get organic seed starters to support our garden service project.

Life Farms, located at 2759 Woodring Drive in Clearwater, supplied many plants for our school garden in early March. They gave us a variety of lettuce and tomatoes, two varieties of eggplant, two varieties of peppers, turnips, and radishes. It was enough to fill eight flat beds and one raised bed.

Since we planted back in March, we have been working in the garden on an almost daily basis. Not only did it become the project for the K-Kids, but it turned into a project with my own third grade students, then all of third grade. Now, whoever would like to come and help out this summer is welcome during Summer Bridge. The garden has become such a special place that children will volunteer to come in and help weed, water or harvest instead of playing on the playground. There is so much joy to see kids enjoying working in the garden or watching them pop a tomato or pepper in their mouth. And now I have kids arguing about who will get the next eggplant.

Over the past few months, Rowland and Life farms have been checking in on our progress. Each time, he offers advice on how to make the garden better as well as asking if there is anything that we need. We are all so appreciative of their sponsorship this year. The K-Kids, students of Dunedin Elementary and myself look forward to continuing this partnership in the 23-24 school year. For more information on Life Farms visit LifeFarms.net or call (727) 754-2901.

# Business Briefs



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**Wednesday & Thursday 3-10**  
**Friday and Saturday 12-11**  
**Sunday 12-10**





**TOP GOLF OPENS IN ST. PETE** For those in the golf community, the news that St. Petersburg's first Topgolf has opened is very exciting. Years in the making, the new complex is located at 220 Carillon Parkway North in the Carillon Business Park.

They are hiring the team for the huge facility. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit [topgolf.com/careers](http://topgolf.com/careers), as jobs are available across the board from guest services and facilities management, to bartenders, servers, cooks, bar backs and more.

So what is Topgolf all about? In short, it is a sports entertainment complex that features an inclusive, high-tech golf game everyone can enjoy, an outstanding food and beverage menu, 102 climate-controlled hitting bays with golf games and challenges, and music. All this amounts to a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience. Reservations aren't required, though you may end up waiting longer during peak times. Groups of seven or more are encouraged to reserve bays in advance.

For the non-golfers, they say you don't need to be good to play. Topgolf is a game that anyone can enjoy, even if you're getting more hole-in-nones than hole-in-ones. If your swing has more "room for improvement" than you'd like, they do offer lessons and classes.

**RECORD SALE** In April, Smith & Associates announced it had facilitated the largest Clearwater condominium sale in county history. Located at 11 Baymont Street in the Residences at Sand Pearl Resort, the condo sold for \$9.5 Million, breaking all previous condo sale records in Pinellas County. The condo is 5,349 square feet with four bedrooms and four baths and direct Gulf of Mexico views. It was bought by an Ohio buyer who purchased it as a second vacation home.

**LOCAL BUSINESS RECOGNIZED** The CEO and co-founder of Big Frog Custom T-Shirts, with headquarters in Dunedin, received a big award in May. Tina Bacon-DeFrece was presented with the Patriot Award, one in a series of Department of Defense awards, for her support of the National Guard and Reserve. This award reflects the efforts of a civilian employer that supports their National Guard and Reserve employees with flexible hours, time off when needed and caring for their families. She was nominated by Big Frog Digital Marketing Specialist Sgt. Quinn Bonner, an Army Reserve National Guard member and a Largo resident. Bacon-DeFrece's company encourages veterans who are returning from deployment to consider owning one of the franchises by offering them 20% off the franchise fee. For franchise opportunities, visit [BigFrogFranchise.com](http://BigFrogFranchise.com).



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# Business Briefs



**NEW CIRCLE K OPENS** This gas and convenience store had a grand opening on Friday June 23rd marking the occasion by offering 40 cents off per gallon of gas from 11am to 2pm. They were also promoting their new loyalty program the "Inner Circle." Benefits include savings of twenty-five cents per gallon of gas for the first five fill-ups and three cents off per gallon after that. The program also offers In-store discounts and other rewards. The store is located at 27232 US HWY 19 N on the northwest corner of US19 and State Road 580.

**LIFE FARMS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS** In 2013, Life Farms started small, growing just a few veggies, but with a dream to provide organic produce to the local community. Very soon, their crops were producing enough for a modest Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. They then added bees, many kinds of flowers including special sunflowers, herbs, microgreens, maringa and elderberry trees. As their crops expanded, so did their CSA memberships and community presence. They now have a thriving CSA, local restaurant customers, a farm store open on weekends and a weekly presence at the Dunedin and St. Pete Markets. Visit [LifeFarms.net](http://LifeFarms.net) for more information.



**COMING SOON - DUNEDIN MIX** The Dunedin Mix is still leasing units at the 990 Broadway mixed use establishment. It will have an array of unique little shops and vendors serving up cocktails, cuisines, retail merchandise and live entertainment that can be enjoyed in their open air courtyard. They also have large and medium banquet halls for events and meetings. For information about leasing a unit call (813)-498-4274.

**TAILWATER OUTFITTERS MOVING TO DUNEDIN** The Palm Harbor fishing store is moving south to State Road 580 just west of Cypress Drive. The company has been in business since 2016. The Palm Harbor location will remain open until construction is completed on the Dunedin building. Tailwater offers a complete line of fishing tackle as well as clothing and apparel.

**BUSINESS NEWS WANTED** If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is [Pete@MagriffProductions](mailto:Pete@MagriffProductions) or call (813) 239-6862

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## CIBO, DIVERTIMENTO, RISATE E APPRENDIMENTO! FOOD, FUN, LAUGHTER AND LEARNING!

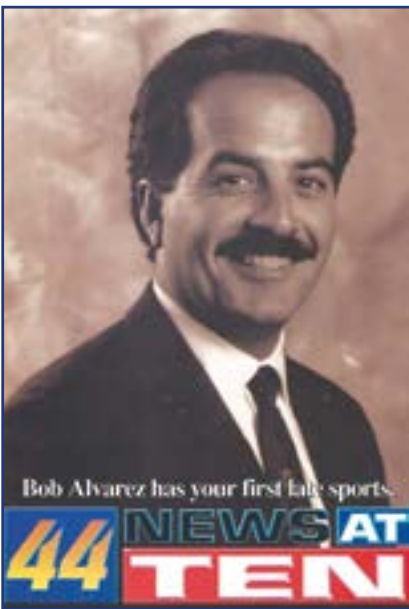
by Pete Magnani

"Food, fun, laughter and learning" is how Roberto Alvarez describes his Introductory Italian Language classes, which he conducts at locations throughout Pinellas County, most recently including the La Dolce Vita Trattoria in Palm Harbor. He has developed a unique curriculum that combines learning the language, discovering Italian culture, and enjoying a meal with fellow students.

Roberto was born in Gary, Indiana. He was the first of his brothers and sister to be born in the U.S. His father was from Spain and met Roberto's mother in her hometown of Napoli, Italy. His older siblings were born there before his parents moved the family to Indiana. Italian was the household language and Roberto spoke the Neapolitan dialect from a young age.

Roberto attended Indiana University Bloomington and was an avid sports fan. He studied radio and communications and became a DJ for the college radio station, eventually doing play-by-play and color commentary for the basketball and football games. He also worked as a camera operator and later as a reporter on the college sports TV show.

In 1978, Roberto spent his junior year studying abroad in Italy at Università di Bologna, the world's oldest college in continuous operation. It was the first time he met his Italian extended family. He decided that when he graduated, he would move to Italy and pursue a career in journalism. He graduated college in 1979, but a leg injury derailed his planned move.



While recovering, he was hired by the Lake Central High School in St. John, Indiana. The school had a television and communications curriculum that produced a student TV sports show. Roberto started as Control Room Supervisor and eventually ran the entire program before leaving for job as a sports reporter at a TV station in El Paso, Texas.

In 1988, Roberto came to Tampa, working for WTOG Channel 44. In his seven years there, he held a multitude

of positions, working as an on-field reporter and sports anchor covering the Rays, Bucs and Lightning. He also hosted the Coaches' Show. He left in 1995 for a television station in New Orleans before returning to Florida in 1998.

From 1990 to 2010, Roberto traveled to Italy once every year, and since 2010 he has returned every other year. In 2002, he wanted to do something different and began teaching Italian lessons at the St. Pete Community Center. His class consisted of four 90-minute lessons over four weeks. He had the inspiration to try to move out



of the community center setting and began to approach neighborhood Italian restaurant owners about holding classes there. Students sit together and learn to speak Italian while enjoying a meal (and maybe some wine.) Now, Roberto teaches classes at several restaurants in Pinellas county. Along with basic language instruction, he incorporates, art, literature, and Italian culture into his classes. "If you want to reconnect with your heritage, converse with family, or just have a different kind of night out, this is the class for you," Robert says.

Many of his students take the class ahead of a vacation in Italy. One of his greatest pleasures is to hear from former students who made their second trip to Italy after taking his class and had a much more enjoyable time being able to speak the language. "In the airport when you first arrive, all the signs are in English as well as Italian," he says. "Once you get out of the airport, it's a different story, and you'll wish you'd paid more attention in class!"

In his classes, Roberto tries to introduce aspects of Italian culture with a goal of erasing some of the stereotypes that movies and television have created about Italians. "Italy is more than mafia and meatballs," he says. "I try to undo some of the damage that TV has done and let my students know that Italian culture is more Dante than DeNiro."

In 2015, Roberto led 10 of his students on a tour of Italy. They visited Napoli, Florence, the Amalfi Coast and Rome. He even brought them for a home-cooked meal at a relative's home in Napoli. He hopes to organize another tour next year, and continue bringing intimate groups to Italy in the future.



Currently, Roberto offers restaurant-based Italian classes at two locations in St. Petersburg as well as Palm Harbor and Lakewood Ranch. Roberto is always open to starting classes at new locations so if you are a restaurant owner and would like to host classes you can contact him through his website. Roberto also offers private instruction in your home or via Zoom. For more information or to register visit [www.learnitalian.us](http://www.learnitalian.us) or email to [ralvarez@learnitalian.us](mailto:ralvarez@learnitalian.us).

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## VALIDITY OF OUT-OF-STATE WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING

By Edward Castagna Jr. Esquire

### Understanding Cross-State Implications

When it comes to estate planning, ensuring the validity of your will is of paramount importance. But what happens if your will was drafted in another state? This article aims to shed light on the legal considerations surrounding out-of-state wills and their validity in the state of Florida.

### Understanding Jurisdictional Variances

Wills are primarily governed by state laws, and each state has its own set of requirements and formalities for the creation and execution of wills. As such, if your will was drafted in a state other than Florida, it may still be recognized as valid, provided it meets the legal requirements of that state. However, once you relocate to Florida, it is crucial to assess the implications of this change in residency on the validity of your out-of-state will.

### Domicile and Residency Factors

In Florida, the concept of domicile or legal residence plays a significant role in determining the validity of a will. While a will drafted in another state can still be considered valid, it is advisable to review and potentially update it to conform to Florida's specific laws. By establishing Florida as your primary residence and demonstrating your intent to make it your permanent home, you can ensure that your will is aligned with the state's legal framework.

### Reviewing and Updating the Will

To avoid potential complications, seeking legal counsel from an experienced estate planning attorney in Florida is highly recommended. Such an attorney can assess the validity of your out-of-state will and help you navigate the process of reviewing, updating, or executing a new will in compliance with Florida laws. While an out-of-state will can still be considered valid in the state of Florida, it is crucial to understand the legal implications and potential challenges.

Our attorneys are available for a complimentary half hour consultation to address any concerns you may have. Please contact us at (727) 446-6699 or email [Ed.Castagna@CastagnaLawFirm.net](mailto:Ed.Castagna@CastagnaLawFirm.net).

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## SEE YOU LATER ALLIGATOR

by Lora Magnani

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

The American Alligator hunting season begins August 15th and continues through November 1st. In Florida, the state issues 7,000 permits to hunters during this time (15,000 were applied for). Florida residents can purchase a permit for \$272 that is good for 2 gators, non-residents pay \$1022 and those with a disabilities hunting and fishing license pay \$22. Applicants must be 18 years old by August 15th. Permits are selected in a lottery form to keep it fair and unbiased. Each permit is specific to dates and harvest areas. The first month is divided into four quota weeks and each permit is assigned one of those weeks. Last season had a few updates, such as the hunting hours being adjusted from 17 hours to 24 hours. Hunters no longer need to wait until dusk to start hunting, they can now start at any hour (in most areas).

Alligator hunting is not just for Floridians, it is open in most of the Southeastern United States including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and the Carolinas. The American Alligator was put on the Endangered Species list in 1967 after being hunted almost to extinction. However, strict regulations, seasons, and programs allowed populations to flourish again, and gators were removed from the list in 1987.



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

If you would like to try some delicious gator, you can find it at Happy's Bayou Bites in Dunedin, Molly Goodhead's Raw Bar and Restaurant in Ozone, and Salty Crab on Clearwater Beach.



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06/13

# THE OFFSHORE REPORT

By Captain TJ Shea

It's that time of year again. Long runs and warm water in search of fish wearing red, all the while hoping to dodge those everyday afternoon showers. Summer on the Gulf of Mexico always brings about opposite ends of the spectrum. On one side of the coin, the fishing and scuba diving are normally outstanding. You may have to run a bit farther to find the big fish that really get your adrenalin going, but they are always there. Catching your limit of red snapper is pretty much a given nowadays and if your spots are good the fish box will have a mess of lanes, beeliners, and mangos to go with it. Sizable red groupers should also be in the area if you get deep enough, 130 feet and beyond. Its not much colder at depth, but those two to three degrees makes all the difference to bigger fish. With this years' closure of gag grouper until September 1st and amberjack still just catch and release until August, the long run will be all about the Red. With any luck it will do for your fish box what it did for Taylor Swift's bank account.

If you're just looking to bend the rods and enjoy some family fun catching fish, you won't need to travel far. Inside sixty feet grunts, porgys, puffers and all the short red grouper you will ever want will be feeding daily. Shrimp and squid are our baits of choice for this. Few things bring a bigger smile to our faces then seeing kids' eyes light up while on a boat fishing and this is the perfect introduction to the sport. We will still have at least one flat line out for a wandering king or Spanish mackerel along with a live pinfish down in the hopes a legal red grouper is still hanging around. Just make sure you keep a close eye on the sky to the east if you don't have Sirius weather on your electronics. That is

the other side of the coin. The storms that form from the west are not the trouble. They will simply end your day early and push you home. The ones that form to the east and push out through the sea breeze onto the Gulf are the ones that will ruin a wonderful day. We do everything we can not to get caught in these as they often pack strong winds and lightning. Fortunately, they are fairly predictable and with the proper planning can usually be avoided. Just make sure you get the updated forecast before you leave the dock and stay glued to your weather app on your phone or marine electronics.



Summer visibility tends to drop a bit from the clear springtime water. On average we have around twenty foot of horizontal vis due to all the afternoon rains. Although our water is not as clear as the east coast or the Keys, the short drive to the Gulf with our abundance of fish and life make it worth it in my eyes. As each season passes the number of tropical species into our waters keeps increasing. It's not uncommon to now see a multitude of tangs, angels, butterfly fish and even a variety of parrotfish these days. For the first time in years, we have seen green morays just a few miles offshore. See you out on the water.

2 Shea Fishing and Diving center is a full-service charter and dive shop. Visit onlin at [2SheaCharters.com](http://2SheaCharters.com) or come by the shop at 198 Seminole St, Clearwater.

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## PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT ADDS A NEW RECRUIT

By Lora Magnani

Meet Ayzer the Rescuer, her name means helper, rescuer, one who saves. She is a Hungarian Vizsla, which are social and friendly dogs, known for forming strong bonds with their owners. They are lively, gentle-mannered, demonstrably affectionate and sensitive. They are also fearless and possess a well-developed protective instinct. Vizslas have the nicknames as "Velcro-Dogs" because they are extremely people-oriented and can always be found right by people's sides. They have a long history of being successful sporting dogs. Most recently they have been extensively used as scent dogs for TSA and were used for searches in the 9/11 aftermath.



Ayzer is a Tampa Bay native, coming from a breeder in Sarasota where she was picked for her temperament and suitability for the job. Vizslas are predominantly shades of golden, golden rust, and red golden which makes her the perfect mascot for a Fire house. We will call her color Fire Engine Red. The goal for Ayzer is to become a fully trained service dog as well as a therapy dog for local first responders.

Ayzer is a Tampa Bay native, coming from a breeder in Sarasota where she was picked for her temperament and suitability for the job. Vizslas are predominantly shades of golden, golden rust, and red golden which makes her the perfect mascot for a Fire house. We will call her color Fire Engine Red. The goal for Ayzer is to become a fully trained service dog as well as a therapy dog for local first responders.

She will be extensively trained to detect signs of stress and trauma and respond using deep pressure therapy. Her training will take approximately a year to a year and a half to complete but she is already well on her way.

Deep pressure therapy is used commonly to reduce depression and anxiety, PTSD, flashbacks, and other stress related responses. Deep pressure therapy has been proven to reduce heart rate, cortisol levels, regulate the parasympathetic nervous system and provide a means for grounding during stressful episodes.

Deep pressure therapy is a technique used to alleviate the effects of mental health issues such as PTSD, anxiety, autism, depression, Alzheimer's, and chronic pain. Service and therapy dogs can provide deep pressure therapy by applying their weight and warmth to a person's abdomen or chest. The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) recognizes how service dogs can give their owners deep pressure for a calming effect. Medium or large dogs can lay on a person's abdomen or chest, generating the same effect of a weighted blanket.

Therapy dogs help reduce the stigma of job-related stress for first responders. Allowing them a non-threatening and non-judgmental interaction that allows emotions to flow where they may not normally. She will be used to support first responders after stressful or traumatic calls and reduce stress through companionship during downtime.

We welcome this little Furry-Fighter to the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District, but remember that she is on duty, so ask if she can be pet. To follow Ayzer's progress, visit her Facebook page "Ayzer to the Rescue."

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# Bar & Restaurant News



**PIZZA DELIVERED BY BOAT** Dunedin's Madison Avenue Pizza offers a "Pizza by Boat" delivery service, with delivery from Anclote Key to Indian Rocks Beach. They will deliver pizza, wings, chicken tenders or any other menu item to your location on their Pizza Skiff. Heated delivery bags will keep your order fresh and hot, and coolers will keep your beer, wine or mixed drinks cold. Owner Sean Ferraro has recently expanded the delivery service to include catered island parties. Visit their website at [MadisonAvePizza.com](http://MadisonAvePizza.com) or call (727) 754-6144 to order.

**NEW ASIAN RESTAURANT** Mr. LC Sushi Hibachi Asian Bistro opened its doors May 19th. They offer an assortment of Asian dishes including sushi rolls, ramen, hibachi, bento boxes, and others. They also have a lunch menu with smaller portions and discounted prices. It is located at 1539 Main St. in the Granada Plaza.

**SALT ROCK GRILL #1 RESTAURANT WITH VISITORS** New Visit St. Pete/Clearwater data shows that the Salt Rock Grill in Indian Shores was the number one restaurant choice of Pinellas County visitors.

**NEW CAFE AT CORVO BIANCO** Corvo Bianco Woodfire Pizzeria now has a café which opened at the end of June. It offers coffee, lattes, espressos, iced coffee and specialty coffee drinks, not to mention breakfast pastries, quiches, and other goodies. Need something to cool down? It also has Italian gelato, homemade ice cream and even vegan ice cream, perfect for a hot day on the trail.

The restaurant will offer café items from 8am-4pm Wednesday through Sunday. The pizzeria is open Wednesday and Thursday from 11am-9pm, Friday and Saturday from 11am-11pm, and Sunday from 11am-9pm. It is located at 901 Curlew Road next to the Pinellas Trail.

**FAMOUS HOT DOG RESTAURANT FOR SALE** Mel's Hot Dogs opened in Tampa on Busch Boulevard on July 3, 1973. But after nearly 50 years, Tampa's famous hot dog spot is up for sale.

They aren't publishing the asking price yet, but owners Mel and Virginia Lohn are searching for a "qualified and conscientious" buyer "to carry on a very special legacy."

"I wouldn't sell it to someone who's going to change it," said 76 year-old Mel Lohn. "Where am I gonna go for a hot dog?"

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# Bar & Restaurant News

**CLEAR SKY EXPANDS** The popular restaurant group opened its fifth location, Clear Sky on Park in Seminole. The menu features an Asian/Latin fusion with dishes including carnitas tacos, Peruvian roasted chicken and empanadas. In addition to the main dining room, there is a secondary dining room that can be rented for private events of up to 45 people. The restaurant is located at 13079 Park Boulevard.

**NEW RESTAURANT ON MAIN** Pineapple Jacks Dunedin is now open at 1568 Main St. where Bascettis Italian Grille once was. This is the sister restaurant to Pinellas Grill in Pinellas Park. They have a full liquor bar with food and drinks, you may notice a few pineapples here and there on the menu. Live music Friday-Sunday and Happy Hour from 2pm till 7pm Monday-Friday. Open 7 days a week with indoor and outdoor seating. Swing by and check them out in the 580 Plaza.

**NEW RUM BAR AT HONU**

The Honu, a Lei'd back Hawaiian Café and Tiki Bar, has opened the Ka Pakele Rum Bar inside the restaurant. Rum captains will provide rum tastings and exclusive craft cocktails paired with small plates. High-end rum flights are available with captains giving you some



information about what you are drinking. Reservations are required and are only available on Fridays and Saturdays with two seatings per evening, 6pm and 8:30pm. Don't miss out on this one of kind experience. The Honu is operating on summer hours through October 1st. It is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, open 3-10pm Wednesday and Thursday, noon-11pm Fridays and Saturdays, and Sundays noon-10pm. Aloha hours are Wednesday-Friday from 3-6pm with discounted drinks and small plates. The Honu is located at 516 Grant St, behind the old city hall.

**SHOW HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL CAFE** Season two of "Life's Rewards" is now streaming on Amazon Prime. Season one debuted back in 2021, it was primarily filmed in St.Petersburg and other locations, including the iconic Don Cesar hotel. When filming one of the scenes towards the end of season one at Blur nightclub in Dunedin, the crew fell in love with The Wild Iris Café. When they started filming season two, they focused more on the northern part of Pinellas featuring the café in six of the eight episodes. Owner and part-time actor Jody Pucello makes a cameo in one of the episodes. Wild Iris Café is located at 434 Virginia Lane and is open Tuesday through Friday from 8am-2pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8am-3pm. They are closed on Mondays.

**RUSTY LYON SOLD** The restaurant was purchased by the owners of Palm Harbor's Thirsty Marlin and Salty Lime Cantina. The restaurant will be called Senor Ritás Tequileria..

**TEVENTH SUN CLOSSES TAMPA LOCATION** The brewery closed its Seminole Heights location in June, but will continue brewing and pouring their craft beer at its original Dunedin taproom at 1012 Broadway. The woman-owned brewery opened in 2012.

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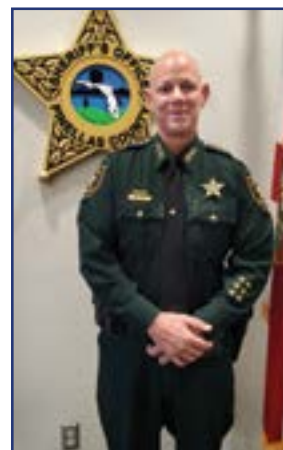
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## SWIMMING SAFETY

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Pinellas County beaches consistently rank among the best beaches in the world, luring swimmers and boaters to our waters. The Florida Gulf Coast is known for its gently sloping shore and calm waters, but weather conditions, currents, or unsafe choices can turn a beautiful day at the beach into a tragedy. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Marine and Environmental Lands Unit gets frequent calls for boaters or swimmers in distress. Planning and preparation are the keys to reducing your risk of drowning at the beach.



It may sound self-evident, but do not go into the water if you can't swim. Some people think that if they just wade in the shallow water, they will be safe if they can stand up, but you could be in trouble if a wave catches you off guard or if you step a little bit off a sand bar. Before you know it, you are in over your head. If you can't swim, you can't depend on inflatables or pool noodles to keep you safe.

Make sure your child learns how to swim at an early age. This is vital not just for a day at the beach, but in general. Even very young children should be taught how to float and swim in case they tumble into a swimming pool. Never take your eyes off a child in the water. Even if they know how to swim, a child can easily become exhausted or panic, and drown.

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) save lives. If you are in or on the water and are not a strong swimmer, always wear a Coast Guard-approved PFD. Even if you are a strong swimmer, it is still a good idea to wear one when on a boat, kayak, or paddleboard. Be aware that there are different levels of PFDs. Some are designed to keep you afloat if you are conscious, while others are designed to keep your head out of the water even if you are unconscious. Choose the PFD that suits the conditions you'll be in.

Rip currents are the most significant danger to swimmers. They can be found in passes, near bridges or jetties, and on beaches where the offshore topography creates a channel through which water moves swiftly out to sea. Contrary to popular belief rip currents don't suck people underwater, but they are powerful, pulling people away from shore at up to eight feet per second. Even a strong swimmer who fights this current can become exhausted and drown trying to swim back to shore. If you are caught in a rip current, don't fight it. Instead swim perpendicular to the current – parallel to the shore – until you escape. If you can't do this, then calmly float until the current lessens, wave your arms to attract attention, and wait for rescue. Staying calm in a rip current can save your life.

Whether in a pool or at the beach, know what drowning looks like. It is not like in the movies – usually there's no splashing and shouting. The signs are more subtle: the person in distress will often have their head tilted back, mouth open near the water level, wide glassy eyes, and a vertical position. If you see these signs, throw the person a floatation device and take other rescue actions.

There are many other safety factors to consider during a visit to the beach, from sunscreen to hydration to securing your valuables – but the most important thing for you to protect is your life and the lives of those you love. Practice good water safety as you enjoy our beautiful beaches.

## BEING A NEW COMMISSIONER

*Submitted by Commissioner Rob Walker*

"How goes the new gig," is a question I frequently get as I mark my first 180 days as Dunedin's newest Commissioner. There are several things about this question that make this surprisingly complicated to answer. You would think that as often as I have gotten this question, I would have developed a thoughtful response, especially since I am now a "seasoned" political veteran, 180 days into my first term. Unfortunately, that is not the case, and it is much more complicated than that.

I find it difficult not to get tongue tied when I get asked "how goes it".." The easy, heart-felt and true response is "it is an honor to serve Dunedin." The more complicated part of the question is the emotion I feel as I get a front row seat on the many things that make this community truly amazing. I am inspired on a daily basis by the volunteerism and the genuine desire of our residents to serve our community. From the philanthropic care and giving such as Dunedin Cares; to the arts, culture and commitment to diversity which contributes to Dunedin's truly unique vibrancy. There are endless opportunities to serve, and I am humbled to serve this community as a Commissioner, to witness first-hand the contributions of so many.



During our last regular Commission meeting, I was given the honor and privilege to read the 4th of July Proclamation to members of the Caladesi Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. As I read the proclamation, I was getting choked up, tears were coming to my eyes and at that moment, I suddenly understood why there is no shortage of tissues on the dais. As we celebrate our Independence Day, I will most certainly be mindful of the sacrifices made by so many and will carry forward the pride and commitment that I feel to our community.

The residents of Dunedin have inspired me to be a better person. And since my election to the City of Dunedin Commission, I wake up everyday keenly aware of my responsibility to provide the representation that this community deserves, and it deserves a lot.

Finally, nobody does this alone. I am humbled, honored and extremely fortunate to be surrounded by very committed, dedicated and passionate colleagues, and the City of Dunedin staff, who work tirelessly to make Dunedin a great place to live, work and visit. My pledge to the community is that I will strive every day to represent and serve Dunedin in the manner which this community deserves. Together we are stronger.

## KNOT ON MAIN CELEBRATES THEIR 20TH YEAR IN DUNEDIN BY GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Visitors often ask Dunedin locals where to find vintage collectibles. According to store manager, Karen Auman, Knot on Main Street is always mentioned first. Customers can shop the wide range of vintage merchandise in the 10,000 square foot antique mall which has over 100 individual dealers, many from other states. Like the dealers, shoppers don't just come from Dunedin, Auman says. "They come from all over the world. I'm grateful for the almost legendary status customers have given Knot on Main."

Known to many as Knot on Main, regulars nicknamed it the Knot. Peggy Eaton, one of the Knot's original dealers, explained, "We're delighted that people love the Knot as much as we do. Locals send tourists here to shop and those tourists spread the word back in their home states and countries."

Holding up a gorgeous table centerpiece made from a large wooden dough bowl, Cindy Smith, a longtime local, noted that "with over 100 dealers, the scope of products is practically limitless." Thanks to the size of the venue and various dealers restocking their booths frequently, the inventory is in the thousands. "Customers can find virtually anything they are looking for, from the smallest Art Deco earrings to the largest painted armoire," explains Smith.



Knot on Main Street's name is a nod to Dunedin's Celtic history as well as a play on the words, "Not on Main Street." Knot on Main Street was originally started in the early 1990s in the old feed store downtown which was not on Main Street but a block or so south of it, hence the name. In 2003, the original owners opened a second location, Knot on Main Street II on Bayshore Blvd. Once they transitioned all their dealers, they closed the original location, and dropped the II.

In recognition of The Knot's 20th anniversary at its present location, they have been celebrating with "Twelve Months of Giving Back." Previous months featured fundraisers for Autism Spectrum Disorder teachers at San Jose Elementary and Kimberly Home, a local pregnancy resource center.

Upcoming is an auction and casino night on August 19th to benefit Make a Difference Fishing, an organization that helps those with special needs experience the simple joy and camaraderie of fishing. A golf tournament is scheduled for August 25th to benefit Victory High School of Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, a charter school for teens in recovery.

Knot on Main Street is located at 2424 Bayshore Boulevard and is open daily from 10am-5pm. Find them on Facebook and Instagram or visit their website at [KnotonMain.com](http://KnotonMain.com).

# Community News

## DR. WILLIAM E. HALE SENIOR CENTER

Submitted by Elaine Swinehart

The center offers the following free health screenings:

- Leg Vein Screenings - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9am
- Blood Pressure Check - 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9am
- Hearing Screening - 4th Tuesday of the month
- Memory Screening - For Appointment - Call 298-3299

We also offer many daily recurring programs. Visit [DunedinGov.com/City-Departments/Parks-Recreation](http://DunedinGov.com/City-Departments/Parks-Recreation) and click on Hale Senior Center to view the schedule.

## MOCKTAIL WALK AND CONTEST

Elena Marrero, owner of the Great Giftsby in The Shoppes at Victoria Place, is organizing an event to commemorate National Sober Day on September 14th. Registrants will check in at a participating retail location where they will receive a scoring sheet. The sheet will list establishments that will be offering tastings of mocktails and alcohol-free beer and wine.

At the end of their walk, registrants will turn in their scoring sheets at participating retail stores for counting and they will receive a savings coupon they can use in stores around town. The winners of best beer and best Mocktail will receive plaques or trophies.

Registrants can purchase tickets to the event in advance for \$20. Business owners interested can visit The Great Giftsby at 200 Main St Unit 105. They may also call Elena at (727) 754-1719 or send an email to [MocktailWalk@gmail.com](mailto:MocktailWalk@gmail.com).

## WEARABLE ART 17

The Wearable Art 17 Fashion Show will be celebrating its 16th year (minus two years for Covid) of putting on this one-of-a-kind mashup. Art plus fashion equals wearable art and that's exactly what is happening at the Dunedin Fine Art Center on August 26th.

Each year ten designers/groups are chosen to participate in the show. Earlier this year, the artists were given the theme of the show and began creating their own personal interpretations as walking pieces of art.



Adrienne Butler, seen above, is a designer that has participated in the fashion show for over ten years. She is part of the Bay-to-Bay group consisting of six other artists/designers. Butler is a graduate of St. Petersburg High School and Eckerd College. She worked as an engineer for 20 years before turning to her love of art.

Since winning the Best Art Party award in Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay 2022, this year's event is sure to be "Out-Of-This-World." For more information about tickets and sponsorships, call Vanessa Quintas at 298-3322 ext 236 or email [Vanessa@dfca.org](mailto:Vanessa@dfca.org).

## FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Celebrate at Pinewood (Florida Botanical Gardens, Creative Pinellas, Heritage Village) every third Saturday of the month.

At Creative Pinellas - noon-5pm:

Join them in the gallery for a family BINGO Scavenger Hunt with cool prizes and make your own art with a hands-on art project creating butterflies and moths out of recycled materials. Perfect for all ages and families! Free to attend.

At the Florida Botanical Gardens - 7am-5pm:

The Florida West Coast Orchid Society hosts a Plant Sale from 8-11am, with orchid education & information session to follow. Open to the public, come early for the best selection!

At Heritage Village - 10am - 4pm:

Join them from noon-1pm for our Historic House Concert Series at Heritage Village. In partnership with Radio St. Pete, Sunshine 96.7FM. This free event is family and pet friendly. Visit [flbgfoundation.org/thirdsaturdays](http://flbgfoundation.org/thirdsaturdays) for more information.

## TAMPA BAY WATCH

Join Tampa Bay Watch for the Great Bay Scallop Search on August 19. Tampa Bay Watch is recruiting volunteers to participate in the Great Bay Scallop Search by snorkeling selected sites within Boca Ciega and Lower Tampa Bay for elusive bay scallops.

The event takes place on Saturday, August 19 from 9 am - 1 pm meeting at Fort De

Soto Park's boat ramp. The goal of the event is to monitor and document the health and status of the bay scallop population. Volunteers with shallow draft boats are the predominant need, but there are limited spots for canoes and kayaks. They also accept registrations from snorkelers without boats, but participation depends on a boater having room for you aboard their vessel. Sign up fast on [tampabaywatch.org](http://tampabaywatch.org) for this popular event and help them tally up the bay scallop population in Tampa Bay!

Tampa Bay Watch cordially invites you to join us for Evening for the Bay on Saturday, October 21 at the Tampa Museum of Art to celebrate 30 years and the Pearl Anniversary of coastal conservation. The 2023 gala will be an unforgettable evening on the historic Tampa Riverwalk highlighting the community's efforts to protect and restore Tampa Bay's watershed and set the stage to raise critical funds to continue Restoring the Bay Every Day.

Guests may peruse the Tampa Museum of Art gallery and enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the atrium, elegant dining, live and silent auction, and live music with a view of the iconic Hillsborough River. Visit [TampaBayWatch.org](http://TampaBayWatch.org) to purchase your tickets.



# Community News



## CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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.

The docks are fully operational and installation of their new electrical/water/cable pedestals is complete. 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 through September 30th. It has no initiation fee and monthly dues are \$250. Club Members can use the pool, dining room and other amenities at the newly remodeled club. Members also can enjoy day dockage on the club's brand new docks. Learn more at [ClearwaterYachtClub.org](http://ClearwaterYachtClub.org) or call 447-6000.

## US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DUNEDIN

In case there was confusion after the last issue, The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 of Dunedin has not moved to Clearwater. The Dunedin Flotilla is still conducting Safe Boating Courses and Introduction to Basic Navigation Courses at the Dunedin Marina in their classroom located at 51 Main St. Dunedin, Fl. 34698.

Upcoming classes include:

Safe Boating Course - Aug. 5th-6th and September 9th-10th 9am to 1pm. A Florida Fishing and Wildlife Conservation Commission Boating ID card will be awarded upon completion.

Introduction to Navigation Course - July 29th and September 2nd 9am -noon. A certificate of attendance will be awarded. The fee for either course is \$50.

Contact Buddy Casale FSO-PE at (727) 736-1191 or email him at [BoatinBud7@gmail.com](mailto:BoatinBud7@gmail.com).



## STIRLING ART STUDIOS AND GALLERY

Tucked away above Rosie's Tavern on the second floor of the Stirling Commons Building is the Stirling Art Studios and Gallery, with a group of artists who create beautiful works of art as well as use their talents to give back to the community. "We like to think of the gallery as one of the hidden gems of Dunedin," says Janice Ritter (Kadushin), one of the resident artists at Stirling.

Jan began pursuing her passion for art after retiring from a banking career in New York City. She studied at the prestigious Art Students League, one of the first art institutes to allow women artists as members. She moved to Florida in 2006 and works primarily with watercolors and acrylic. Her work is displayed in several area hospitals, and her "Hockey Puck Tree" was showcased at Amalie Arena.

Originally formed as the Trailway Art Colony in 1997, the artist collective was housed in a studio on Douglas Street until a fire brought them to their present location at 730 Broadway. The building houses ten working studios, with artists spanning various media including painters, photographers, illustrators, and mixed media. The gallery extends along the exterior hallway walls surrounding the studios with a rotating exhibit theme. Stirling hosts an open house on the second Friday of each month from 5:30-7:30pm. Visitors can tour the exhibit as well as meet the artists. Refreshments are provided.

In addition to creating art, the collective members also have a focus on giving back to the community. They host children's art shows where young people can display their work and every child wins an award. Some artists offer art lessons for young people as well. "We really like to encourage children to learn about the arts," says Jan.

In May, the Stirling artists co-hosted "Art to the Rescue," an annual event to benefit Dunedin Doggie Rescue. They made over thirty baskets containing items donated by local merchants, such as gift cards which were raffled off during the event raising \$4360 for the rescue organization.

The gallery's summer exhibit is "Summer Breeze," a two-month-long exhibition featuring paintings, photography and sculptures. This open call to artists began June 29th and will run through August 27th. Visitors can meet the artists at the Second Friday Artists' Reception on July 14th from 5:30-7:30pm.

Stirling Art Studios and Gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 11am-3pm. Find them on Facebook or visit [StirlingArtStudiosandGallery.com](http://StirlingArtStudiosandGallery.com) for more information.

# Community News

## CLEARWATER LAWN BOWLING CLUB

The club is just over the city line and complements Dunedin's Scottish heritage. The modern game of lawn bowls originated in Scotland and is extremely popular in Britain, Canada, Australia, and throughout the British Commonwealth. British lawn bowls is similar to Italian bocce, except the playing area is much larger and the balls curve rather than roll straight. 2024 is the Club's Centennial anniversary, making this a very historic upcoming year for them. They would love an opportunity to introduce members of the community to this great game that aligns with Dunedin's unique ties to Scotland. The club is located at 1024 Calumet St in Clearwater. For more information, visit [ClearwaterLawnBowlingClub.org](http://ClearwaterLawnBowlingClub.org).

## LADIES OF LAGER

Submitted by Paula Upton

The Ladies of Lager arrived in Dunedin in 2017. We have other groups in New Port Richey, and Richmond, VA, and we're coming soon to Fort Mill, SC. We are group of diversified women who enjoy craft beer, quality friendships, and giving back to our community.

We are about more than just drinking beer! Our current community service projects include packing 200 snack bags monthly for Curlew Creek Elementary School; volunteering for the Celtic Festival, the Highland Games, and the HOB Craft Beer and Music Festival, adopting the residents of the Dunedin Care Center at Christmastime, and holding product drives for various local organizations including Lady Business and The Spring. Last fall, we organized a supplies drive for Hurricane Ian victims, rented a van, and drove it down to the Jewish Federation of Ft. Myers. And recently, we were the civic organization champions in the Dunedin Cares Food Pantry's PBJ Challenge, donating 1973 pounds.

We host weekly happy hours at our local breweries, our schedule is posted on Meetup.com. Find us on Facebook, or email [DunedinLadiesofLager@gmail.com](mailto:DunedinLadiesofLager@gmail.com), Come have a beer with us, we can't wait to meet you!

## DUNEDIN CARES FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Kristina Garcia

Dunedin Cares Food Pantry are celebrating our new logo and website. We are always in need of food items such as pasta, sauce, rice, sugar, flour, soup, oatmeal and instant potatoes, as well as feminine hygiene products.

You can make monetary donations on our new website at [www.DunedinCares.org](http://www.DunedinCares.org).

In the past several weeks we have had a huge uptick in guests as our food insecure population seems to be more in need than ever. We encourage our community to gather around and assist those less fortunate.

Together we can make a difference, and what a difference we can make!



## STUDIO 1212 ART GALLERY

Submitted by Colleen Baxter

Visit the Fine Art Summer Sale at Studio 1212 Art Gallery, 234 Monroe Street in Downtown Dunedin. Prices will be slashed on original art by local award-winning artists. Named Best Small Art Gallery Cooperative two years in a row in the prestigious Tampa Bay Magazine, this charming boutique gallery is open Wednesdays through Sundays 11am to 3pm. Check out [Studio1212.org](http://Studio1212.org) for the 2023 fall schedule of art exhibits, workshops, art critiques and view more additional art by the studio's member artists.

## JOY RIDES DUNEDIN

Joy Rides is a all-volunteer organization sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church that provides people with limited mobility rides on piloted rickshaws. They operate most mornings from Mease Life and will be reopening their full schedule in September.

Their newest rickshaw allows them to take wheelchair-bound passengers in their own wheelchair. Joy Rides would love the opportunity to spread the word to anyone with limited mobility and to the community that they need volunteers.



## 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](http://hopevillagesofamerica.org/mac-n-cheese-campaign). All funds raised will be matched, up to \$500.

## DOWNTOWN DUNEDIN MERCHANTS ASSN.

Their next event is Wines the Blues on Saturday, November 11th. Sip and shop during extended business hours at participating merchants from 5:30-8pm with a raffle at 8:30pm. Enjoy wine pours, special offers, give-a-ways and more! Wristbands are \$10 and may be purchased online or at the event tent located at Railroad Av and Main St adjacent to the Dunedin History Museum starting at 5:30pm. Wristbands are required for wine pours, discounts at participating merchants, and entry into the raffle.

For more information or to purchase wrist bands, visit [LoveDowntownDunedin.com](http://LoveDowntownDunedin.com).



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# Live LOCAL



With Tampa Bay's outdoor lifestyle in mind, our family of restaurants focus on local seafood, the folks who bring it in and where we live. Relax inside, out on the shells, on the dock or on Main Street. Visit Olde Bay Café, Water Oak Grill and Hog Island Fish Camp to enjoy three of Tampa Bay's LOCALS.



OldeBayCafe.com  
51 Main St, Dunedin, FL  
(727) 733-2542



WaterOakGrill.com  
201 Main St, Safety Harbor, FL  
(727) 286-6919



HogIslandFishCamp.com  
900 Broadway Ave, Dunedin, FL  
(727) 736-1179