

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES AT VETERANS REEF

By Pete Magnani

Beginning 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. 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.

Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:



History of the "Nushka"

IRB Resident Billy Bie recounts Horace Hamlin's storied riverboat.

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Changing of the Guard at USCG Station Sand Key

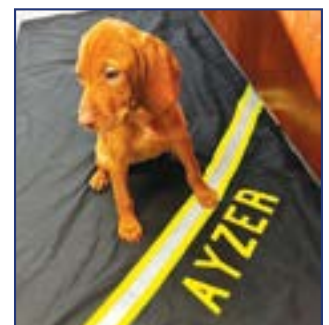
Chief Sean Crocker has taken over command at Station Sand Key.

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PSFRD's New Recruit

Ayzer is in training to be a therapy and service dog for Indian Rocks Beach firefighters and other local first responders.

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Vacation Rental Ordinance Passed

The City of Indian Rocks Beach has a new set of rules for short-term vacation rentals.

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CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, and Indian Rocks Beach Library. We hope you enjoyed our magazine. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us..

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

Thank you for reading,

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!



CITY NUMBERS

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Denise Houseberg • Lan Vaughn
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Solid Waste/Trash Pickup 595-6889

ELECTRICITY 443-2641

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CABLE (SPECTRUM) (855) 657-7328

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Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177

IRB FIRE STATION 595-1117

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AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS 595-1038

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204 4th Ave. Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30; Sat 9a-12p

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Anna Paulina Luna 202-225-5961

1201 Gandy Blvd N

PO Bx 23064

St Petersburg, FL 33742

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

JULY


- Fireworks Safety Harbor 1
- Peter Frampton at the Sound 2
- Independence Day 4
- Freedom Summer Sales Tax Holiday 4
- Fireworks Largo Central Park 4
- Fireworks at The Sound 4
- Sad Summer Fest at the Sound 7
- Red White and Blue Beach Cleanup 4-9
- IRB Beach Cleanup Hurricane Eddie's 8
- Dunedin Orange Festival 8
- R&B and Seafood Festival St. Pete 8
- ML All-Star Game 11
- City Commission Meeting 11
- Shark Week 11-18
- Bastille Day 14
- National Pet Fire Safety Day 15
- Third Saturdays at Pinewood 15
- HOA Mix and Mingle at JD's 20
- Parents' Day 23
- Tax Free School Shopping Begins 24
- Goo Goo Dolls & OAR at the Sound 24
- City Millage Rate Meeting 25
- Storytelling at Beach Art Center 27
- NFL Training Camp Begins 28
- Xmas in July 5k at Caddys's 29
- John Fogarty at the Sound 29

AUGUST

- School Principal's Day 1
- U.S. Coast Guard Birthday 4
- Veterans Appreciation at Baycare Park 4
- Summer Camps End 4
- Tax Free School Shopping Ends 6
- Community Cleanup 7-9
- City Commission Meeting 8
- TRIM Notices Mailed 14
- Public School Begins 10
- Buccaneers First Preseason Game 11
- Third Saturdays at Pinewood 19
- Great Bay Scallop Search TB Watch 19
- Storytelling at Beach Art Center 24

SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day 4
- City Hall Closed 4
- First City Budget Meeting 6
- Conversation with the Mayor 11
- Patriot Day 11
- City Commission Meeting 12
- Madeira Beach Nautical Flea Market 16
- Third Saturdays at Pinewood 16
- Constitution Day 17
- Air Force Birthday 18
- Final City Budget Meeting 20
- Ringo Starr at the Sound 26



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Peggy Cordle, MS, APRN--C
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Did You Know



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM MOURNS APOLLO

The four year-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin was brought to CMA in 2021 after being found stranded in Playalinda, FL. Apollo began showing signs of discomfort in March of this year 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.

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BOATHOUSE HAS BEEN SOLD

Billy and Shera Bie have sold their iconic boathouse in the Narrows. The new owners plan to build a new home in the vacant lot across the street and most likely will rent out the boathouse.

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.

and More...



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

parcs, 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, 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 the 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 of that same year, 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 was 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 remained 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 that same 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 preparations 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."



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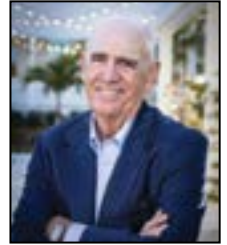
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RETIREMENT READINESS AND HAPPINESS

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

If you think that being ready for and happy in retirement is mostly about having enough money to maintain your lifestyle, you couldn't be more wrong. Money is important, but it is far from the only thing.



We have generally found that people do not need to replace 100% of their pre-retirement income when they retire. Let's say you are making \$150,000 which means you are paying about \$11,500 in Social Security and Medicare taxes and you are putting \$15,000 into your 401k. Therefore, you are living on \$123,500 or about 82% of pre-retirement income. At age 67 (Full Retirement Age) you and your spouse have combined Social Security after Medicare premiums of \$45,000. Thus, you need to replace \$78,500. Many financial planners suggest that you can draw down 4% of your investment nest egg which means at a minimum you need just under \$2 million in savings.

Another important aspect of retirement is having excellent health and great healthcare available when you need it. The time to start with great health in retirement is NOW! Just like you have to save in advance, good health habits while working will likely lead to better health in retirement.

Further be sure to consider "connections and community" – will you live in the same or new community, how will you interact with family and friends, what social intercourse is needed/desired, what services will be important, etc.? Will you move to a new place, are you ready to build new friendships and professional relationships, and be prepared to perhaps be farther from family?

Regardless of how you approach all of this, you need to be prepared to leave some things behind – work, co-workers, friends because they are still working, regular schedule, etc. and to find a new lifestyle. You probably will not miss working, but you will miss those with whom you worked. It can be disconcerting and complicated. In short, when you retire, you must rewire a significant part of life and yourself. Your energy needs to go towards creating a new and exciting future.

All of this is encompassed in our philosophy about retirement planning which is much more than just about money. "Financial planning for your life and lifestyle™". Why not take the first step towards retirement and rewiring by taking advantage of our complimentary one-hour consultation in our Clearwater office, or by Zoom.

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

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

ABOUT TOWN: WITH SAND AS HER CANVAS, GALLA CREATES MAGIC

By Diane Daniel

If you happen upon Galla Garrett dreamily drawing one of her mandalas on Indian Rocks Beach at low tide a couple of hours after sunrise or before sunset, you might think she's a sea nymph in street clothes.

Galla begins in the center, pensively carving out the inner core with the tip of an amber pen shell. As the flowing geometric design unfolds, she switches to using the pointed end of a walking pole. With each stroke, Galla slowly traces in lines while bending, swooping and turning. At the end of each, she stands upright and makes a small movement, a dancer's version of a musical note.

During her performance, beachgoers sitting nearby get up to ask her questions and snap photos. Passersby, tipped off by the small orange cones she sets up to protect the borders of her canvas, stop to do the same. By the end of her creation, which can take up to an hour, Galla has crafted a poem in the sand and a composition in dance. From behind, looking toward the Gulf, the light bouncing off the water transforms the mandala into a kaleidoscope.

Mandalas, used in various spiritual traditions, can serve as a spiritual guidance tool, to establish a sacred space and to aid meditation. For Galla, who always begins with an intention, such as compassion, harmony or balance, they are all of the above. "This is my energy work," said Galla, who lives just over the Belleair Causeway in Largo. "It's always a joy to me."

As an artist, Galla is particularly drawn to patterns and colors, but she didn't set out to draw mandalas. "A couple years ago, I made a drawing on the sand, a little geometric flowery design," she said. "It made me really happy."

One of the most-asked questions she gets is "how do you make your lines so symmetrical?" "It's a natural gift," she answers. "We all have abilities that we might not even think of as abilities until we do something with them," she said.

Galla, who grew up in Eastern Europe, has lived in Pinellas County for 20 years. Six years ago, she, her husband and daughter moved from their long-time home in Tarpon Springs to Largo. Since then, Galla has visited the beach nearly every day. "For me, the water is a place of balance, grounding and happiness," she said. She usually parks herself between 21st and 22nd avenues because she likes the light from a break in the line of buildings. The area's regular beachgoers know Galla's artwork. One woman even asked her to draw a mandala at the birthday party of her grandchild who recently had finished cancer treatments.

Galla also creates striking photos featuring her mandalas superimposed on sunsets and water. She posts those on Instagram @galla.mandala. As for the mandalas themselves, they either disintegrate or are washed away, returning to the universe, just as she planned.

Diane Daniel, founder of VacationDonations.org, collects Galla's art in her mind.





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**NEW VACATION RENTAL
ORDINANCE PASSED**

The City of Indian Rocks Beach finalized the new vacation rental ordinance, with the updated regulations taking effect on August 1st. The new ordinance requires an application be filed with the city including a statement attesting to the number of bedrooms and the number and location of parking spaces available on the property. A scale drawing of the exterior site plan and interior structural plan must be included, along with a copy of the code of conduct rules adopted by the property owner. Registrations will need to be renewed annually.

An inspection by the city’s code inspector and a representative of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District will be required to ensure the property is in compliance with the Florida Building Code and Fire Prevention Code. A person responsible for the property must be available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, including holidays, to respond to complaints regarding conduct or behavior of rental occupants. The representative must have authority to take action within one hour of notice of a violation from the city on violations concerning safety, noise, capacity limit and parking violations, or violent confrontations.

The maximum overnight occupancy of a vacation rental is limited to two persons per bedroom, plus an additional two persons. Regardless of the number of bedrooms, the overnight occupancy in the commercial tourist zoning district may not exceed twelve people, with a limit of ten in the single family and medium density areas of the city. Each rental property is also required to provide on-site parking. Single-family and two-family dwellings must provide one parking space per bedroom. Multifamily dwellings containing one or two bedrooms must have two on-site parking spaces, dwellings with more than two bedrooms must provide one parking space per bedroom.

Violations of the ordinance will be enforced with penalties including daily fines. A third adjudicated violation within a twelve-month period will result in a suspension of rental ability for a duration decided by the city magistrate. Three suspensions within a three-year period may result in a revocation of the property owner’s rental registration.

When title to a registered vacation rental is transferred, the new owner must file a new registration application within thirty days. No vacation rental may be advertised as an event venue for gatherings such as weddings, corporate retreats, or film productions, which are likely to draw attendance in excess of the permissible occupancy. Any advertising must conform to the information submitted on the application, to include maximum occupancy and available parking, as well as the statement “You are vacationing in a residential area. Please be a good neighbor by keeping the noise to a respectful level during the day and night. Excessive and unreasonable noise can deprive neighbors of the peaceful enjoyment of their private property.”

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Bar & Restaurant News



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SEKUSHI SUSHI SERVES LUNCH If you like sushi for lunch, you are in luck. Frank Manella's Sekushi Sushi is now open for lunch Monday through Friday. Find them at the north end of the The Plaza, 100 Indian Rocks Road North.

See the menu at www.SekushiatthePlaza.com.

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.



INDIAN ROCKS CAFE ADDS DELI AND MARKET Don't feel like crossing the bridge for your cold cuts? The Indian Rocks Cafe has you covered. The Cafe on 14th Avenue has expanded to include a market and delicatessen with a full line of Boar's Head premium meats and cheeses. The cafe is open from 8am-2pm and the market is open from 8am-6pm. Order online at IndianRocksCafe.com or call (727) 475-9949.



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Bar & Restaurant News

100,000 CUBAN SANDWICHES If you ask a local where to get the best Cuban Sandwich, the answer you hear again and again is the Belleair Market. Chris Scott and Julie Champion, the owners of the Belleair Market since 2014, sell their Cuban Sandwiches at an astounding rate.



“When we bought the Belleair Market, we made some adjustments to the Cubans,” said Scott. “We started using authentic, fresh Cuban bread, never-frozen, from La Segunda Bakery in Tampa. We switched to Boars Head meats and cheeses, and dill pickles from Two Brothers. We created our own Belleair Market Cuban Sauce, which gives it a little kick of extra flavor. Finally, we use high quality boneless pork loin, which we season, marinate and slow roast everyday at the Market.”

“Jenna Rudolph purchased our 100,000th Cuban Sandwich and received a prize package worth over \$2000,” explained Champion. “We awarded a free Cuban a week for a year, \$500 cash, tickets to a Rays game. The Annika LPGA tournament kicked in 2 Lightning Lounge tickets for their upcoming tournament. Boars Head, La Segunda and Clearwater Egg & Poultry have all helped out with prizes.” So, the next time you have a taste for a great Cuban Sandwich, stop by the Belleair Market, located at 510 Indian Rocks Rd N in Belleair Bluffs.



THE HAUS COFFEE SHOP IRB ADDS DRIVE-THRU
The Indian Rocks Road coffee shop is expanding, adding a drive-thru as well as a line of organic healthy eats including Acai bowls, smoothies and pastries. Visit them at 12199 Indian Rocks Rd, in Largo.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event we can include in this News Magazine, please e-mail Pete@MagriffProductions.com or call (813) 239-6862

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COAST GUARD STATION SAND KEY COMMANDER ABRAMS MOVES ON

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

When you are in the Coast Guard, you expect to move every three or four years. It is part of the job. That is what Master Chief Timothy Abrams, the Commander of the Coast Guard Station Sand Key for the last two years, is preparing to do. June 23rd he will be transferring to Virginia Beach where he will live on a ship for his next three-year duty.

Abrams has been with the Coast Guard for 24 years and working in the Coast Guard St Petersburg district since 2017. He owns a home in Lakewood Ranch (Manatee County) and drives to work every day - about 70 miles one-way. But with this move, he is selling his home.

The Station Sand Key works directly for USCG Sector St Petersburg head-quartered in downtown St Petersburg and the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater. Sand Key's area of responsibility is 80 miles of coastline starting north in Aripeka to John's Pass. It is two counties and extends offshore 50 miles, encompassing about 300 square miles.

The Coast Guard began operations in Clearwater Beach in 1975, where its headquarters was a houseboat docked near the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. On February 13, 1975, they moved to their present day, modern facility in the middle of Sand Key.

Abrams is responsible for a staff of 70, 34 active-duty Coast Guard members and 36 reservists, as well as 150 active members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They operate with only four boats.

The Sand Key Station is one of the largest multi-mission stations in the 7th District. They conduct search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, and harbor security.

Station Sand Key is involved in about two hundred search and rescues each year. Abrams says that number would be much higher without the help of other area agencies. They interact daily with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the Clearwater Police Department, Pasco and Pinellas Counties Fire and Rescue Departments, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



"This station has been in area sea rescues and enforcement for over 37 years," explains CO Abrams.

"We have participated in many cocaine and heroin busts by assisting our local police and sheriff partners with arrests. We also target illegal charters and help protect the environment in multiple ways."

Abrams says they have been involved in many memorable events and rescues, too many to recount. This Coast Guard station is always involved in preparing for and helping during Florida's West Coast Hurricanes, such as Hurricane Ian.

"Basically, we help to keep our waters safe. We are proud to call Clearwater our home, too," he explains.

When CO Abrams shipped off to Virginia Beach on June 23rd, Sean Crocker became the new Sand Key Commanding Officer. He relocated from Juno, Alaska.

Final words of advice from CO Abrams, "Take a safe boating class, file float plans, know your boat and what's on it, and ALWAYS wear your life jacket."

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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.

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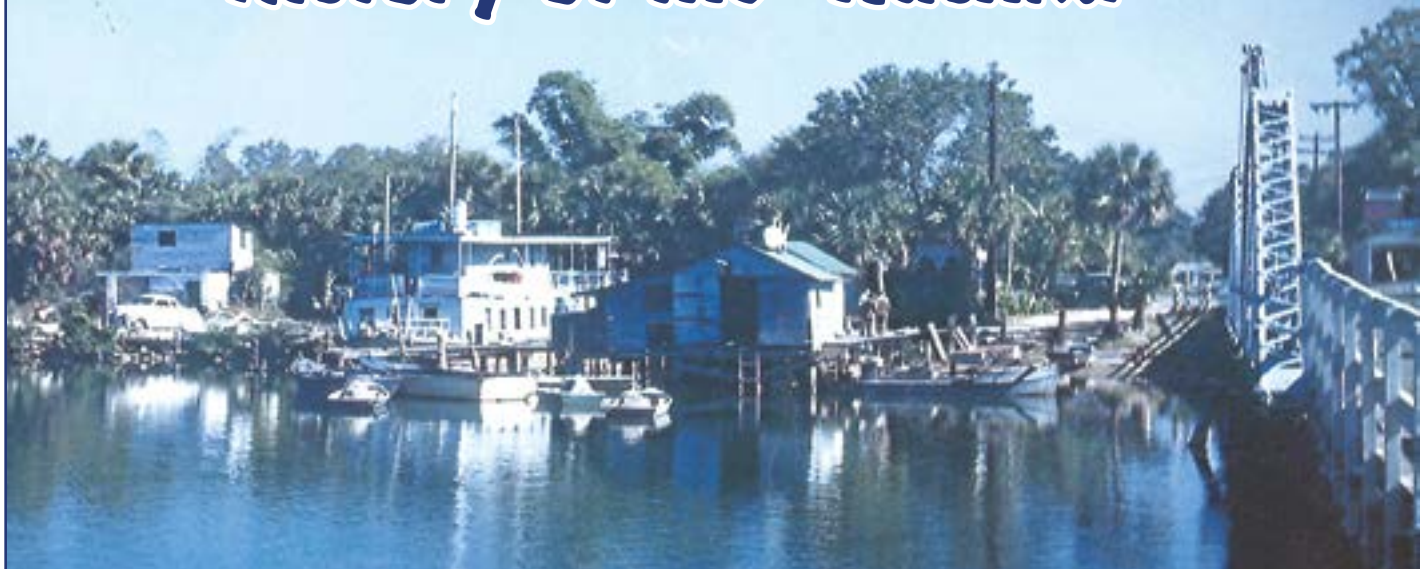
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History of the "Nushka"



By Billy Bie

My family and I moved from Tampa to Indian Rocks Beach in 1937. We rented a Gulf-front home owned by Gus Wilder, my dad's friend, and lived there for nearly a year. In 1938 my father, Norman Bie, bought the Boathouse from Horace H. Hamlin and we moved into it. I was four years old.

My first recollection of the Nushka was in about 1939 when I was five years old. Hamlin hired a dredge to make a boat slip across the Bay from the Boathouse, on the east side of the Bay just north of the old Indian Rocks turnstile bridge. My twelve-year-old brother, Norman Jr., took my 8-year-old brother Cappy and I in our small rowboat to watch the dredging.

The Nushka was a former riverboat that Hamlin had purchased. I distinctly remember the day when the Nushka, being towed by several power boats, was pulled through the opened Indian Rocks bridge. She was nosed into the prepared slip as far as she would go and was secured on the north side of Bill Ransom's Fish House dock with the bow facing inward to the mainland and the stern facing west toward the open Bay.

We soon learned that Hamlin was renting rooms in the Nushka. A tenant who lived in one of its staterooms became my father's friend. This friend had two small boats and two small outboard motors. One was a 3.5 horsepower Champion and the other was a 3/4-of-one horsepower Montgomery Ward "Water Witch." When he decided to dispose of the smaller motor, we three Bie boys thought an outboard motor would be fun to have! So, we boys and our three sisters saved up \$12.50 and bought the Water Witch. At five years of age, I really enjoyed motoring around the bay while my siblings were in school.



The Nushka circa 1953



The Nushka in dilapidated condition

As a 6 and 7-year old youngster, I explored every part of the Nushka many times, including the captain's bridge, the staterooms, and the engine room which had no engines. That was lots of fun for me. She appeared to be physically in good condition; she had no apparent leaks. As Hamlin owned considerable property and buildings nearby, for him the Nushka was simply more rooms for him to rent.

I do not know where the name Nushka came from or where the boat was before Hamlin brought it to Indian Rocks. Again, she was towed here, and she lay in this location for a considerable time. In 1952, when I graduated from high school, she was still there. At some point after I left for college, she was moved so she lay parallel to the shoreline. Eventually she disintegrated into a dilapidated condition. The description of the photograph of the Nushka on page 31 of the 1980 publication of the book "Indian Rocks: A Pictorial History" states: "The boat was subsequently cremated by the Indian Rocks Volunteer Fire Department."

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Business Briefs

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TOP GOLF COMING SOON For those in the golf community, the news that St. Petersburg's first Topgolf is opening this summer is very exciting. Years in the making, the new complex is located at 220 Carillon Parkway North in the Carillon Business Park.

The golf and entertainment venue is planning a grand opening soon, as construction is close to completion. They are hiring the team for the huge facility sure to be packed from day one. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit 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.

FIFTH THIRD BANK NOW OPEN The Fifth Third Bank on the edge of Belleair Bluffs is open. Stop in and meet Manager Morelia Dothe and the new staff at 2501 West Bay Drive, next to Venus Restaurant.

Do you know how the bank got its name? The name Fifth Third Bank came about when Third National Bank and Fifth National Bank consolidated to become The Fifth Third Union Trust Company in the 1920s. Originally, the bank was established in 1858 in Cincinnati and known as The Bank of the Ohio Valley.

Get more information about Fifth Third bank at www.53.com.

BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If you have news for this Magazine, e-mail Pete@MagriffProductions.com or call (813) 239-6862.

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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. They 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 town, 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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Community News



ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

On June 14, the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach gathered with members of the public, to celebrate Flag Day, 2023, at Chic-a-si Park in Indian Rocks Beach.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress, by resolution, adopted the 'stars and stripes' as the official flag of the United States of America. It was resolved that 'that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.' In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was formally established by an act of Congress.

The Indian Rocks Beach Flag Day ceremony is the culmination of a larger, two-week celebration that started with the Memorial Day installation of Rotary's second annual 'Flags for Service' display. Flags for Service is a visual honoring of all of those who are currently serving or have served, in the U.S. Armed Forces, the agencies of law enforcement and those who are first responders. We honor them for their service and sacrifice. We thank those of the community who submitted flag requests for their loved ones, friends, and acquaintances.

We welcomed guest speakers, Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Cookie Kennedy and keynote speaker, Navy Captain Jean-Paul Dube. We were treated to a Presentation of Colors by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard. Members of Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue demonstrated Flag Folding and Inspection and the members of local VFW Post 10094 provided a Flag Inspection and Retirement ceremony. We thank all participants for making this a memorable celebration!

We wish to thank the City of Indian Rocks Beach for their support and to our friends at the IRB Homeowners Association for providing financial support for the event.

IRB Rotary encourages anyone in the local community who would like to help us do good in the world to consider joining us at one of our weekly meetings. We meet every Wednesday morning at 7:15 at Crabby Bill's main restaurant. Do you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of those struggling with life's adversities? For more information, contact David Kline at 727-418-1673.



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Community News

IRB HOME

Submitted by Marybeth Dunn

For many years, we have received feedback about the name of our organization since we are not a traditional homeowners association. Our members are part of a group that volunteers their time to give back to the local community. Many of our volunteers do not reside in IRB and are big contributors to our organization. The IRB Homeowners Association name wasn't the best fit for us. Going forward, our name will be simplified to IRB Home with a new tagline that is more inclusive and more representative: IRB Home, Good People Doing Great Things. Look out for the updated logo on our marketing materials with the new tagline.



Turtle nesting season is from May 1 to October 31. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium patrols reach the beach just before sunrise 7 days a week. The teams of volunteers, staff, and interns search along the high tide line for evidence of sea turtle nesting. Once tracks are located, the team determines whether there is a nest present. When a nest is present, it is marked to properly monitor it. A plaque is present in front of the nest to honor organizations that support the program through donations. This season, IRB Home purchased 10 plaques that will be displayed at nests. In 2022, 313 nests were observed.

Check out the Clearwater Marine Aquarium's website for more information on this program and how you can help protect our turtles!



ART TOURS CLEARWATER

Journey inside Downtown Clearwater's murals with Augmented Reality. NEW self-guided augmented reality 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.

Community News



BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

“Storytelling with Walt Belcher” is a community event we will be holding the 4th Thursday of the month. We had our first Storytelling on May 25th with 5 storytellers. Walt is a former Tampa Tribune columnist and reporter and a known storyteller in the Tampa Bay area. He offers a short talk on the craft of a good story and the evening continues with experienced and novice story tellers sharing true and not-so-true stories with the audience. The next Storytelling is June 22 from 7-9pm (storyteller sign-in is 6:30).

Our Summer gallery show entitled “I’ll Read What I Want” is open to all artists with art take-in happening Monday, August 14th through Wednesday, August 16th from 10am-3:30pm. Each artist may enter 2 pieces of work for this all-media show. The exhibit will be on display from August 21st through September 22nd. The public is invited to attend our Gallery Reception for this show on Friday, August 25th from 6-8pm. All are welcome!

Creative Kids Summer Camp continues in July with 3 more weeks of fun-filled arts and crafts including Exploring Styles of Art, Claymation, Crafts for Fun, Animals, and Holly Jolly July! Check our website for info and availability.

Adult Classes and Open Studio start up again in August (check our website schedule for start dates).

Our fun and relaxing “Art on the Rocks” classes are open to everyone. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Classes are \$38 and include all your supplies. Our upcoming schedule includes:

- Frederic Church’s Flag Painting on July 1st, 1pm-4pm.
- Pointillist Flamingo Painting on July 7th, 6pm-9pm.
- Pointillist Jellyfish Painting on July 14th, 6pm-9pm.
- Pointillist Octopus Painting on July 21st, 6pm-9pm.
- Beautiful Life Painting on July 22nd, 1pm-4pm.
- Pointillist Seahorse Painting on July 28th, 6pm-9pm.
- Beach Wave Painting on August 11th, 6-9pm.
- Ibis in the Sun Painting on August 18th, 6-9pm.
- Colorful Pet Portrait on August 26th, 6-9pm.

Check the BAC website for the most updated information and all upcoming Classes and Events: BeachArtCenter.org or call 727-596-4331.

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Community News

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

Everyone is invited to participate in GreenTown Kids' 2023 Red White & Blue Beach Cleanup in IRB, which runs July 4th-9th. This is a DIY style cleanup, where volunteers are encouraged to bring their own supplies to pick-up trash off the beach anytime and at any access. Please share your cleanup pics with us at greentownkids@gmail.com. If we all do a little, BIG things can happen!

GreenTown Kids is a volunteer-run 501c3 public charity nonprofit serving Indian Rocks Beach and the surrounding communities. We host four citywide beach cleanups a year and run the IRB Community Garden in addition to other opportunities for kids and supporters of all ages to create a positive impact on our local environment. To learn more, support us, or become a member visit GreentownKids.org.

Red White & Blue Beach Cleanup

GreenTown Kids
 Making a difference for the next generation

Take care of IRB this 4th of July by
 picking up trash & filling holes
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Send us your patriotic cleanup pics to:
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CLOTHES TO KIDS

Clothes to Kids inventory on shoes is extremely low. Sadly, we are out of many sizes starting at children size 12 all the way up to adult size 13 girls, boys, juniors, and young men. Please go through your closets and donate gently used shoes or purchase a pair or two and donate to Clothes to Kids. All children deserve to have shoes that fit them.

At Clothes to Kids, each child may receive up to 5 new underwear, 5 new socks, 4 bottoms, 5 tops, 1 pair of shoes, a dress and a jacket in season during their shopping trip. Clothes To Kids relies purely on volunteers and donations from our community of new or quality used clothing items. Will you help continue our mission to Clothe a Kid, Change a Life? Just last year, Clothes to Kids provided more than 15,766 wardrobes to low-income or in crisis school aged children, PreK-4 to 12th grade. Our current critical need is shoes and elementary shorts and pants.

As our mission continues to grow, so does our needs for monetary and clothing donations. Please donate any gently used school clothing and shoes for children PreK-4 to 12th grade. Monetary donations can be sent to Clothes to Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765. A \$65.00 donation provides one child a week's worth of school clothing, a total of 22 items! For more information or to schedule an appointment to shop, please call 441-5050 or visit our website at ClothesToKids.org.

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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

A2K / ACTION 2000

Daryl Frahn (727) 512-7292
www.IRBAction2000.com

BEACH ART CENTER

1515 Palm BL
Andrea Harms (727) 596-4331
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jean Scott (727) 517-1895
www.PinellasCounty.org

GREEN TOWN KIDS

Local Environmental Youth Group
Allie DeVore (727) 480-3907
www.GreenTownKids.org
GreentownKids@gmail.com

IRB HOME

Marybeth Dunn, Pres. (727) 272-5251
www.IRBHOME.com
IRBHomeOwners@gmail.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

205 4th AV (727) 593-3861
Carol McGlaughlin, (727) 595-9741
www.IRBMuseum.com

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Community News

ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

Oktoberfest on the Beach 2023

Save the Date – October 14, 2023! A2K is taking its traditional 2-month summer break but we are still working hard with planning for our signature fundraising event. Preparations are already under way for vendors, event sponsors, entertainment, and volunteer recruitment. Interested in being a sponsor, vendor, or volunteer at this fun event? Visit IRBAction2000.com/oktoberfest.



Preservation Awards

For 16 years, IRB Action 2000 and the Indian Rocks Beach Plein Aire Cottage Artists have been presenting the coveted Preservation Awards to residences and businesses that are dedicated to the spirit of maintaining and preserving properties reminiscent of the small-town atmosphere and charm of Indian Rocks Beach. We believe it is important to celebrate those people who are working hard to preserve and keep IRB beautiful while honoring our history.

We are proud to announce the 2023 winners: The Sea Star Motel at 1805 Gulf Blvd, owned and run by Betty Anne and Bruce Tripke and Georgeann and Robert Thompson for their property at 202 Gulf Blvd. Both properties date back to the 1940s and exemplify the IRB cottage character.

What's Next for A2K?

The new A2K leadership team is working with our board and members to refresh and renew our 24-year-old nonprofit brand. This presents an opportunity to powerfully realign our mission, goals and direction for the future and enable us to reintroduce ourselves to our supporters, inspire our existing membership, and make an impression on new audiences.

About A2K

IRB Action 2000 is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to the preservation and beautification of our unique small town. For more information about A2K and Oktoberfest, please visit our website www.irbaction2000.com, www.facebook.com/action2000IRB or e-mail us at info@irbaction2000.com.

Want to be a part of it? A2K is a great way to meet new friends and give back to the IRB community. We welcome you to join us at our next monthly meeting on August 14th, 6:30 pm at IRB City Hall Auditorium.



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Community News



IRB SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Submitted by Rick Burdick

Congratulations to Robin Scholtz for winning IRB Senior Softball League 2023 Fan of the Year!

The IRBSSL is a fun, friendly and competitive league of men 55+ and women 45+. We have a lot of fun playing the game we've all loved since our younger days (at a "slightly" slower pace). Most of all we enjoy the camaraderie of spending time on the field making new friends. Each season we welcome new individuals to join us.

Please visit irbssl.com for more information on Indian Rocks Beach Senior Softball. Fall Season coming soon.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Bonnie Trembulak

There will be no mixer in July but we are looking for a business to host the August 10 after-hours mixer. If you didn't host one last year, this is your opportunity to invite our members to get to know you better. Send an email to Info@BBAStrong.com if you would like to host the August mixer.

HIGH NOTE SOCIETY

High Note Society is a LIMITED Membership of committed Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation supporters with Special Access to the Annual Clearwater Jazz Holiday. Members enjoy: discounted VIP passes, stage front VIP hospitality area seating, full access to the CJH Backstage Bistro, and more!

The High Note Society is a fun and relaxed platform all year. Members enjoy discounts to the monthly CJH Presents Music Series and an Exclusive Party Area with complimentary offerings at their annual Summer Jam!

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Visit ClearwaterJazz.com/Highnote.html for more details or contact Deb@ClearwaterJazz.com, 727-461-5200.



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Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Nan Jensen

The museum will be closed during the months of July, August, and September. We look forward to seeing you back in the fall. Hours of operation will be Wednesday-Saturday 10am- 2pm.

We are looking for new members and volunteers. Cost of a family membership is \$20. A membership application can be found at IRBMuseum.com/about-us. If interested in volunteering, contact us for information about how you can help.

You won't want to miss our Fall Luncheon on October 21st at the Museum. We can guarantee some delicious food, an interesting speaker who will open a window to our county's past, and an opportunity to meet new friends or reconnect with the old ones. We are working on firming up the details.

We are looking for memorabilia, artifacts, and photos of Indian Rocks Beach. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact us.

A new sign will welcome you to the museum when we open in the fall. A professionally designed sign will feature an image of an Indian, a symbol of how Indian Rocks Beach got its name. We invite you to explore our website at IRBMuseum.com for more information about the museum or contact us by email, letter or phone.



CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

In May, the Clearwater Yacht Club served hamburgers and hot dogs to over 200 ARC clients and staff. The visiting clients danced the whole afternoon to live music. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium provided a boat, and captain for boat rides to the enjoyment of the ARC clients.

At the end of the day, the Clearwater Yacht Club gave a \$15,000 check to ARC from generous member donations. In addition to dollars, many Yacht Club members donated their time to cook and serve lunch to the ARC clients.

Past Commodores Johnny Cardosi and Rowland Milam endured thick smoke cooking over 250 hamburgers and 200 hot dogs donated by Venus restaurant. Clearwater Yacht Club server, Jason, entertained the group with his balloon artwork much to the joy of the clients.

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Community News

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 for this popular event and help them tally up the bay scallop population in Tampa Bay!

LARGO COMMUNITY CENTER

The Largo Community Center is hosting various craft workshops for adults starting in July that focus on different craft projects for all ages. Materials are included in the cost of each class. The cost for each workshop is \$100 per person, per session. The workshops are:

Cooking with Pam -July 10-14 from 9am-12pm. Create quick, simple and fun meals while exploring new flavors and ideas! Preregister by July 3.

Art with Deb Barnard/Painting with Paper Collage -July 10-14 from 9am-12pm. Make handmade papers and use them to make beautiful art. Preregister by July 6.

Intro to Watercolor I July 17-21from 9am-12pm. This class is for beginners who want to learn the ins and outs of basic watercolor. No advanced skills are needed. Supplies included, reregister by July 12.

Intro to Watercolor II July 24-28, 9am-12pm. Learn more advanced techniques, color theory, and complete several paintings. Supplies included. Preregister by July 19.

Register now in person at the Largo Community Center, located at 400 Alt Keene Rd. in Largo. For more information visit PlayLargo.com/ArtsandCrafts or call the Largo Community Center at (727) 518-3131.

DUNEDIN ORANGE FESTIVAL

The 11th Annual Dunedin Orange Festival will be held on Saturday July 8th, 2023, in beautiful John R. Lawrence Pioneer Park at 420 Main Street in Downtown Dunedin. The Dunedin Orange Festival will benefit the Dunedin History Museum.

This event is from 11am to 7pm, with entertainment on stage throughout the day, including the Suncoast United Pipe Band, Jack and Josie, Irish Dennis Paners, Backyard Ukes, along with a local DJ.

The day will be filled with fun and entertainment for all ages, including orange juice samples sponsored by Coca Cola, vintage cars, more than 20 vendors and the Ms. Orange Festival Pin-up Girl contest at 3:00.

For more information, visit DunedinOrangeFestival.com or call the Dunedin History Museum at (727) 736-1176.

Community News



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

Summer Reading 2023 - Reading with the Rays. Read for twenty-four hours and complete a game card and win a voucher for two tickets to a Rays game and Rays swag. Summer reading for kids also includes "Read Five for a Prize," Any parent or child can record the five read items to win IRB swag, including snap bracelets, sunglasses, totes and book bags. Summer Reading runs through July 28. Pick up your reading logbook at the library today.

The library also features weekly take and make crafts and story time with songs on Wednesdays at 11:30 for pre-readers. "On the Rocks" book club meets the last Tuesday of the month at 4pm. July's book is The Goddess Effect by Sheila Yasmin Marikar.

For more information, please call the library at 596-1822.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Celebrate at Pinewood (Florida Botanical Gardens, Creative Pinellas, Heritage Village) every 3rd 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 us 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 for more information

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.

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