

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine



THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLEARWATER POINTE

Clearwater Pointe is the name of the land that houses mostly condominium developments on Clearwater Beach's east side of the Sand Key Bridge. Before Clearwater Beach began being developed in the late 1950s and early '60s, this area was nothing but a sandbar and a whole lot of palmetto bushes. The main road running north and south through Clearwater Beach ended about where the Opal Sands Resort and The Edge Hotel are today. A dirt road ran along the south end of Clearwater Beach. There was no bridge connecting Clearwater Beach with Sand Key.

Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:



The Sound

The long wait is over and the Sound has opened. Hear what some long time music fans think about it.

- page 20

A Racing Family

Steve Collins and his family have racing in their blood. Now, his 7 year grandson, has joined the Collins Racing Team

- page 24



Chickens

Why do we see so many in our art? - page 14

The Third Time is the Charm

14year old Largo student, Dev Shaw, wins the Scripts National Spelling Bee.

- page 19

CREDITS



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

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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
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MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
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CITY MANAGER	562-4040
Jennifer Poirrier	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOT LINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLY TROLLEY	445-1200
CLEARWATER BEACH MARINA	562-4955

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
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ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	
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CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
Allison Dolan	754-8017

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www.RickScott.Senate.gov	

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Republican, District 13	
1201 Gandy Blvd N., St Petersburg	

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENT

AUGUST			
School Supplies Tax Free Shopping	1-6	Patriots Day	11
Beach Book Club Beach Rec Center	2	Bluff's Business Assn Mixer	14
City Council Meeting	3	Rosh Hashanah Begins	15
Coast Guard Anniversary	4	Kenny Loggins at the Sound	16
Summer Camps End	4	Beginners Basket Weaving Beach Library	20
Storytime Families Beach Library	7	International Peace Day	21
TRIM Notices Mailed by the County	14	Autumn Begins	23
Public School Begins	10	Clearwater Super Boat Races	22-24
Clearwater Beach Clean Up	11	Yom Kippur	25
Buccaneers first Pre-Season Game	11	Public Schools Closed	25
Clyde Butcher at Clearwater Library	16	Ringo Starr at the Sound	26
City Council Meeting	17	OCTOBER	
SEPTEMBER		Hooters' Concert In Coachman Park	4
Gekofest In Gulfport	2	Columbus Day	9
Labor Day	4	Indigenous Peoples Day	9
Public Schools Closed	4	Island Estates Causeway Clean Up	14
Storytime Families Beach Library	5	Island Estates Chili Cook-Off	14
Beach Book Club Beach Rec Center	6	Stone Crab Season Opens	15
City Council Meeting	7	National Bosses Day	16
Clearwater Beach Clean Up	8	Public School Closed	16
Buccaneer's First Real Game	10	Clearwater Jazz Holiday	19-22
Grandparents Day	10	Clearwater Stone Crab Festival	21-22
		Halloween	31
		Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends	31

PENDING

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SOLD

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SOLD

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Did You Know



NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

There is a new commander at the Coast Guard Station Sand Key. On June 23rd, Senior Commander Sean Crocker replaced Senior Commander Timothy Abrams. Crocker's last assignment was in Alaska. Abrams is now serving in Virginia Beach.

August is Coast Guard Appreciation Month. It is a good reminder to thank them for their service.

BOAT RACES RETURN Enjoy Offshore Powerboat Racing by land or sea when the Clearwater Offshore Nationals returns September 22-24. Fans can take their boat and join the two mile long flotilla or soak up the sun and fun on the beach.

SHARE BELLEVUE BILTMORE MEMORIES The Clearwater Historical Society's Fall exhibit is the history of the Bellevue Biltmore Hotel. They are looking for people that worked or visited the old hotel or stayed in a cottage. Did you get married there or celebrate some other special occasion there? If so, they would love to hear from you. Call 727-754-8019 or e-mail clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

CITY DISCONTINUES ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP OFF Until recently, residents were encouraged to drop off electronic waste on a scheduled day. Now, you can simply put electronics WITHOUT rechargeable batteries in your trash cans. This includes TVs, cell phones, computers, hard drives, laptops, monitors, and tablets.

There are many recycling and reuse options still available for Pinellas County residents. If you cannot remove the rechargeable battery, bring the item to a drop-off location using Pinellas County's "Where Does It Go?" search tool. The rechargeable batteries can cause fires when compressed in solid waste trucks, harming workers, and the environment. If you have questions, please call 562-4920 or see the city's website at www.MyClearwater.com/SolidWaste.

THE NEW CMA MEDIA DIRECTOR

Marsha Strickhouser joined the Clearwater Marine Aquarium team as the Director of Media Relations three months ago. A native Floridian, she has a degree in mass communications/journalism from the University of Miami. She has always had an interest in the CMA's mission as her father was a marine biologist for the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Sciences.



"It is truly an education every day, learning about marine mammals, their health and welfare, and conservation." Says Strickhouser. "It's like I'm working on my PhD learning from the animal care handlers, veterinarians, volunteers and staff. They are so passionate about what they do and it's an honor to be able to learn from them. Also, being able to see the amazing dolphins every day, as well as the gorgeous views of Clearwater Bay, are two big bonuses!"

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The Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste's (DSW) has an Artificial Reef Program. An artificial reef is a human-made, underwater structure built to encourage marine life. In 1975, DSW began creating artificial reefs from clean, inert debris such as concrete pipes and steel beams. Since then, DSW has deployed about 50,000 tons of reef material at forty-two artificial reefs along the gulf coast from Tarpon Springs to St. Pete Beach, creating beautiful habitats for marine animals. These reefs also provide opportune fishing and diving experiences for residents, tourists, and businesses.



Visit www.pinellas.gov/artificial-reef-guide to access an interactive map and find the closest artificial reefs to you.

POPULAR MOBILE PARKING APP ADDED The ParkMobile mobile parking app to pay for parking payments has been added at Sand Key Park, Fort De Soto, and Fred Howard Beach access locations, all Pinellas County boat ramps, and the Sutherland Bayou, Belleair and Park Boulevard stand-alone boat ramps.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. COAST GUARD Since 1790, the U.S Coast Guard has kept our waterways safe, playing a key role in our national security. As one of our 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 Pinellas County waterways 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, a volunteer group, is responsible for educating boaters and boating safety. The United States Coast Guard celebrates 233 years of maritime safety and security on August 4th

MAKE EVERY DAY WORLD OCEAN DAY

Living in Florida, we are surrounded by water. In fact, no matter where you are in Florida, you are never more than 60 miles from saltwater. Our state is home to the third largest coral reef in the world and 1,700 Florida rivers empty to either the ocean or the Gulf.



Everyone has a role to play in protecting one of our most vital resources. Creating less waste is an easy place to start given that 80% of ocean litter comes from our land-based activities. Choosing to reuse and putting trash in its proper place are simple ways to reduce the garbage in our waterways. Other ways to be ocean-minded include choosing cleaning products that lack toxic chemicals and practicing safe boating.

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

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CLEARWATER POINTE, continued

In 1962, the Clearwater Pass Bridge opened. It was made from wood with a drawbridge in the middle. The bridge was paid for by the City of Clearwater.

A large waterfront restaurant known as "Fisherman's Wharf" was built on the edge of Clearwater Pass next to the new Sand Key Bridge. It was one of the first projects in Clearwater Pointe. Owned by Dalip Tzekas and his large Albania family, the restaurant opened on May 23, 1963. It was very successful and operated until 1990.

The bridge led to development on the southern end of Clearwater Beach. By the late 1960s, developers began building in Clearwater Pointe, which was primarily developed by Martin Field, a major hotel and housing developer from Philadelphia. He owned the Field Hotel Corporation, based in King of Prussia, PA. Naturally, Field brought with him the talent needed to develop Clearwater Beach.

Field's company, the "Clearwater Pointe Land Company," acquired almost all the land east of the Sand Key Bridge and platted it to be a mixed-use project, featuring six large buildings, with approximately 400 condominium units. The first ones were built along the south side of the pass in 1969 and 1970, others were built on the east end in 1970 and more were built in the middle from 1974 to 1981.



The interior of the Fisherman's Wharf, which became Leverocks (1990), Shells Seafood (2004) and 551 (2011). The building was razed in 2020 to facilitate the land's sale.

Field owned the building now home to the Clearwater Yacht Club and a small waterfront hotel, called the "Clearwater Pointe Clubhouse" next door, (today's "Chart House.") Both were built in 1971.

The hotel was built to add an amenity to buying into Clearwater Pointe and doubled as a real estate sales center. The ground level of the hotel had a deli and a health club. The second level was La Grenouille, a large restaurant open to the public. Its French name translates to "the frog." Locals called it "The French Frog."

Field also developed the Statler Hotel, which became the Clearwater Beach Hilton, and later a Holiday Inn at the northwest end of the Sand Key Bridge (it is a vacant lot today). "The name of the cocktail lounge there was "The Frog Pond" and the bar on the rooftop "The Glass Frog," explained Jay Keyes, who managed the restaurants. "Field seemed to have something for frogs,"

"Jan and I lived in the Clearwater Point clubhouse," says Keyes. "Field gave us a free place while I worked for him. The third floor was apartments. We lived in one and the sales manager for Clearwater Pointe lived in the other."

"The La Grenouille had a very good reputation as a restaurant", Keyes recalls. "You had to make a reservation a week in advance to get a table on the weekends."

"Martin suggested I buy a condo unit or two or three in his new development," Keyes goes on. "A two-bedroom was

The Mannion property



only \$29,000, a three-bedroom was \$39,000, it was 1971. I am sorry now I did not grab one."

The Clearwater Yacht Club members purchased their current building from Field's Clearwater Pointe Land Company in 1976 with the help of several well-connected members who became the first Yacht Club Board of Trustees. The purchase price (on the deed) reads \$10.

Today, Clearwater Pointe is fully developed except for the vacant home of the former restaurants, however, there is one large piece of property that kept the condo developers at bay. It is the two-story home at 887 S. Gulfview Blvd. It stands out on the southeast end of Clearwater Pointe, as it is the only house on Clearwater Pointe.

The 2600 square foot home, with four bedrooms, three baths, and a private beach was built by Elizabeth and Joe Mannion. They originally lived on the north side of the island, but seized an opportunity to buy the unique piece of property on Clearwater Point in 1979. It became their family home and was well known throughout the community.

Joe had an award-winning career as a broadcaster. For 21 years he was an anchor, news director and director of editorials at WFLA-Ch. 8. He made a number of groundbreaking moves for his time, including hiring women and Black news anchors. His push for a news helicopter meant that Channel 8 had a bird's-eye view of the 1980 Sunshine Skyway bridge collapse. That work led to an Emmy award for breaking news. Joe died from kidney cancer in 2013. Elizabeth died in 2018.

The couple had four sons: Joe Jr., Thomas, Robert and John. They acquired the house from their parents, and it remains in the name of The Mannion Brothers family trust. Since then, the property has been used as a vacation home.

Clearwater Point is no longer an insignificant sandbar. Some 800 residents call it home. They will soon be joined by residents of the future condominium project being planned at the base of the Sand Key bridge, replacing the restaurant. The Chart House Hotel has plans to expand, too.

That was Field's vision - a fully developed Clearwater Pointe. He lived to see most of it happen before he died in 2018.



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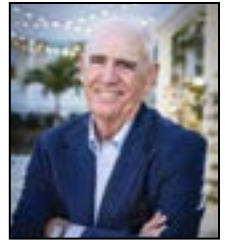
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FINANCES AND DEMENTIA

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

The longer we live, the longer we are expected to live. At age 70 a male life expectancy is 15.4 years, or age 85.4 according to Social Security. But live five more years and life expectancy is 11.4, or age 86.4. According to statista.com, there were 92,000 people age 100 in the US and they project that to grow to 120,000 by 2025. An increase of 45%!



As we grow older our body and brain do not work as well as they once did and one of the first signs of cognitive decline is an inability to handle finances – paying bills, managing the checkbook, understanding investment products, etc. As financial planners, we are faced with the dilemma of respecting our clients' abilities, but also being aware when they have a noticeable decline in mental acuity.

One way to manage the situation is to ask our client for a trusted contact (adult child, sibling, close friend) to whom we can legally turn if/when we realize that things have reached a point where we need to alert someone. That person cannot trade in the account under any circumstances. In the event one is being financially abused, we have the right to freeze an account for a short period of time.

Recently the Vanguard Research Initiative surveyed approximately 2,500 adults age 55 and above about when they would know to turn to someone for help and even give up control. Many expressed a concern that they would delay too long which can result in mistakes that cannot be corrected. The main reason for delaying was an inability to give up control.

The development of dementia is not like a light switch, it is more like a dimmer switch developing slowly over time. As a result, many do not realize the decline that has occurred. A neurologist once told us that the brain protects itself by not remembering it cannot remember. Interesting concept. Just think about how unsettling life would be if all you could do is remember you could not remember. Drive you crazy, right?

Planning for dementia is part of your estate planning. When did you last update your estate plan? Have the people named in your documents already passed? What about beneficiaries?

Why not set up a one-hour complimentary meeting in our Clearwater office to discuss your estate planning? Financial planning for your life and your lifestyle™

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
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The 44th Clearwater Jazz Holiday is going home to Coachman Park and is thrilled to present, in concert, between October 19 and 22, 2023:

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Coachman Park, located in the heart of Downtown Clearwater, has undergone an extensive transformation with the addition of three acres of green space, a gateway plaza and bluff walk that connects the park to downtown, a lake area with picnic shelters, and an ocean-themed play area with an interactive pop-jet water feature.

Inside the park, The Sound, a brand-new covered outdoor music venue, promises to be a game-changer in the live entertainment scene and will host the 44th Clearwater Jazz Holiday Powered by Duke Energy.

In addition to four nights of concerts in The Sound October 19-22nd, Clearwater Jazz Holiday, the City of Clearwater, and Clearwater's Downtown Development Board, have partnered to present an expanded FREE Daytime Downtown Celebration Saturday and Sunday October 21st and 22nd. The FREE daytime celebration will feature a wide variety of jazz artists across three performance areas in Coachman Park and downtown Clearwater.

CJH will put its one-of-a-kind touch on this one-of-a-kind setting, transforming Clearwater into the Bay area's largest outdoor jazzfest party over four days and nights of exciting live performances. Visitors will relish the Clearwater area's mild fall weather, miles of world-famous Gulf beaches, brilliant sunsets, nearby attractions, accommodations, and dining to suit every taste and budget.

The magic of Clearwater Jazz Holiday emanates from its long-time collaboration with the City of Clearwater, Visit St Pete / Clearwater, Ruth Eckerd Hall, and the City of Clearwater Downtown Development Board, as well as hundreds of volunteers that orchestrate every chord of this annual celebration that attracts audiences as diverse as its lineups. From smooth and straight-ahead jazz to rhythm and blues, soul, jam band, folk, Americana, funk, fusion, Latin, and more, thousands of spirits are lifted each year in the unmistakable energy of Clearwater Jazz Holiday

In addition to sustaining the longstanding festival tradition, Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, delivers year-round innovative programs, exciting performance opportunities, online education resources, special funding, and creative learning experiences. These initiatives celebrate the art form of Jazz with meaningful music appreciation and instructional experiences for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

Tickets On-Sale NOW starting at just \$30.75 in advance for GA/Lawn. VIP/Reserved, Premium Reserved and Reserved Seating are also available. For more information about the 44th Clearwater Jazz Holiday, call the Clearwater Jazz Holiday office at (727) 461-5200, or visit us online at ClearwaterJazz.com or facebook.com/ClearwaterJazz.

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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.



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ARE YOU ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK FROM ADVERSITY?

George Rohrmann, L.C.S.W.

Last issue, we talked about how the ability to effectively handle whatever comes your way requires resilience. Resilience is the capacity to withstand and recover from difficulties through emotional, mental, and behavioral flexibility. Developing resilience requires a multi-pronged approach:

#1 The voices in our head: How we feel emotionally starts with how we talk to ourselves. I refer to “self-talk”, such as telling yourself “I cannot handle this” or “If I work hard-enough I can change an impossible situation.” Look back over your life, you handled things—you are still here. You got through it, but possibly your self-talk made it more challenging.

Accepting the reality of what we cannot change is a beginning. Sort out what you can change and put your energy there. Accept you may have people and situations in your life that will never change; stop hoping you can change them with more love, attention, or your energy. Wishful thinking and believing you are being “positive and determined” in convincing yourself you can achieve the impossible only leads to feelings of failure.

Do not let negative experiences become your story by reiterating them over and over. Accept the good, the bad, and the ugly of your life. We all have it. Live in the present—learn from the past but do not ruminate about it.

#2 Manage your emotions: You have ultimate control over how you interpret and respond to people and situations. The idea that others cause us to feel a certain way is incorrect. People say “you upset me,” but people only upset you if you choose to be upset. You are in the driver’s seat. You cannot control how people act, but how you deal with them and the situations they create.

#3 Practice self-care: Give your mind and body every advantage to be ready for challenges. Have a yearly physical, if you have a medical problem take care of it. Eat a healthy diet. If you are overweight, take charge. Lose the weight appropriately; exercise regularly even if it is just a daily walk around the block. Get enough rest and sleep.

Limit or stop alcohol use especially if you are using alcohol to deal with stress or to “feel better.” Talking and venting with someone who remains objective is useful. Finding a therapist who is a good match for you could help.

#4 Build a network of positive and uplifting people: Work on being the kind of person people want to spend time with. In relationships, always listen to others to understand them, not respond to what they have said with your own opinions.

Many people feel they are good communicators because they talk and give an opinion. Listening is key. Everyone wants to feel heard. That doesn’t mean you have to agree. People will never forget how good you made them feel by listening.

Developing friendships is often intentional - it doesn’t just happen. Put yourself out there to meet people by volunteering, joining a club or an activity-based group. If you are a religious or spiritual believer, find a church where you feel comfortable.

#5 Implement a realistic budget and set financial goals: Commit to following through with your financial plan every day. If you are struggling financially, consider it similar to dieting, the small daily financial changes really add up. For example, instead of spending \$3.75 every workday buying coffee, get a travel cup, and make your own. The savings would be \$662.50 a year.

Remember: adversity is inevitable and presents an opportunity to build courage; it takes a lot of courage to get through life’s difficulties. You can take pride in your strength.

George Rohrmann, L.C.S.W. is a therapist in Belleair who can help you identify goals and develop strategies to become more resilient. You can reach him at 727-240-4975.



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Bar & Restaurant News

2023 BEST WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

Backwaters Waterfront Grill was selected Best Waterfront Dining in The Tampa Bay Newspapers Readers Choice Awards.

Celebrating 23 years in September, they would like to thank everyone for their longtime support.



The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week with one of the best happy hours on the beaches daily, 11am to 6pm, with new specials.

CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS Bern's Steak House in Tampa, everyone's favorite restaurant for that big celebration, is temporarily closed. It should reopen in early August. The lounge is being refreshed and new equipment is being installed in the kitchen. Before making plans, call them at 813-251-2421 to confirm they have reopened.

CLEAR SKY ON CLEVELAND The restaurant is now opening at 8am for breakfast everyday. Also on Mondays, they are offering BOGO dinners. Buy one dinner and get one free after 4pm. The second item must be of equal or lesser value. Dine in only. Other restrictions may apply.

LANDMARK RESTAURANT CLOSSES After 15 years, the Blind Pass restaurant, Sea Hags Bar & Grill is closed. Known for its live music and fresh seafood, the popular beachside restaurant located at 9555 Blind Pass Rd. was sold. In its place, the new owners plan to build a condo/resort development

COCO CRUSH BAR'S OPENS THIRD LOCATION Coco Crush Bar's Indian Rocks Beach location, in the previous location of On The Rocks, opened in late July after a massive remodel. The newest location is at 2405 Gulf Blvd. Mile Marker 18, just south of Belleair Beach. The two other Coco Crush Bar's are in Clearwater Beach. Follow them on social media for the latest updates. Get information at CocosCrushBar.com.

Save the Date – Their Stone Crab Fest is October 20-22 at both their Clearwater Beach locations. It will be October 27-29 in the Indian Rocks Beach location.

CADDY'S GULFPORT LOCATION CLOSSES According to signs posted on the bar and restaurant, Gulfport's Caddy's at 3128 Beach Blvd. S has officially closed. The local restaurant brand, with other locations in Treasure Island, Indian Shores and Maderia Beach is known for its casual beach atmosphere, live music, and seafood. Caddy's opened the Gulfport location in 2019.

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



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Bar & Restaurant News

HOOTERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Hooters is celebrating 40 years in business. The doors of the first Hooters restaurant (shown here) opened on October 4th at 2800 Gulf-To-Bay Boulevard in Clearwater.



In honor of the anniversary, on the fourth of every month Hooters will be hosting "throwback" events bringing the 1980s back.

In addition to the "throwback" events, Hooters will be celebrating all year and is bringing the legendary rock band Chicago to Clearwater for a good cause. Hooters, in conjunction with the City of Clearwater, is holding the benefit concert for Breast Cancer Research at The Sound at Coachman Park on Saturday, October 7th. Proceeds from the Breast Cancer Research benefit concert will be donated to Moffitt Cancer Center and Morton Plant Mease Hospitals. Ticket prices are \$40, \$25, and \$9. All tickets can be purchased on RuthEckerdHall.com.

SAIGON SUMMER NIGHT MARKET Open every Saturday and Sunday night, the market offers Asian Street food from more than 30 food, drink and fresh vegetable vendors. Located at 14100 U.S. 19 N at Clearwater's Little Saigon Plaza, you can find Korean, Vietnamese, and other Asian foods.

This is your opportunity to sample a variety of things including desserts and boba teas to find your new favorites. Try spring rolls, Vietnamese-style crawfish, charred squid, giant twelve-inch prawns, huge clams, or grilled oysters.

Picnic tables are available, or you can eat standing at a high-top table. All purchases are cash. It is free-to-attend and kid friendly, and open from 6-11 pm both nights.

For more information, or to be a vendor, e-mail festiveflingllc@gmail.com or call (727)-737-6774.

CESARE'S AT THE BEACH - 20 YEARS

"It has been a real pleasure and an honor to be part of the



Clearwater Beach family for the last 20 years," says Carlo Venditti, co-owner. "We want to thank our loyal customers for their support over the last two decades."

Find Cesare's in South Beach at 794 Gulfview Blvd.

BIG STORM BREWING CO DISTILLERY OF THE YEAR

Most know Big Storm Brewing Co. for its craft beer, but the Clearwater-based company was named the "Florida Distillery of the Year" at The New York International Spirits Competition.

This year, Big Storm has won a gold medal from the American Distilling Institute for its grapefruit vodka soda, eleven medals in the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, and a platinum medal from Seltzer Nation for its lemon-lime vodka soda.

Big Storm Brewing has five taproom throughout Florida including their main one in Clearwater, 12707 49th Street N., Clearwater where the majority of their beer is brewed.

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WHY ARE CHICKENS IN SO MUCH OF OUR ART?

By Becky Griffin, Publisher

Birds have long been a common subject of art. Ducks, geese, turkeys and chiefly chickens are deeply integrated into our visual culture. They are symbols of prosperity, familial health and wealth, and characters in children's stories. More recently, they signified agricultural independence. Their likeness can be found in wallpaper and dishes, decorative towels, mass-produced porcelain figurines, and nearly any other decorative object we might associate with a home. But why are chickens so popular?

Chickens are native to Southeast Asia and were first domesticated about 8,000 years ago. They were quickly brought to nearly every corner of the world, becoming an important symbol in many cultures. They have played an important role in folklore, mythology, and even religion. Throughout history, the chicken was not a symbol of cowardice, but a sacred symbol, representing everything from fertility and resurrection, to courage and war.

In Ancient Rome, priests called an augur, raised sacred chickens, through which they could read the will of the gods. The process involved starving a preferably white rooster in a cage for some time, then giving it food and water. If the chicken ate, it was a good omen. If it didn't eat, it was a bad omen.

To the Ancient Greeks, the rooster was a symbol of courage, valor, and virility and associated with Heracles.

The Luhya tribes in Eastern Africa, (today Kenya) believed their Supreme Being first created heaven where he resided, then adorned it with the moon, sun, and clouds. The third thing he did was create a giant rooster, placed among the clouds who was responsible for storms. Lightning was a result of flapping its wings and thunder was its crowing.

The ancient Chinese saw chickens as a representation of their sun deity, as roosters crow every morning at dawn, as the sun rises.

Many native American tribes have performed what is called their "chicken dance" for centuries. There are many variations of the legend that created the dance. Most involve a young hunter visited by a chicken's spirit, either before or after he had killed it. The dance was performed to maintain a strong spiritual connection with nature, and to express gratitude for the resources she gives.

Chicken farming has been adopted by nearly every human culture that has come in contact with the birds. Chickens adapt to many climates and don't require much to produce nutritious and easy to consume eggs. It is possible some communities were saved by the food source chickens provide. If that is the case, it's not difficult to imagine why people worshiped them and created their image.

Or maybe they are used in art so often because chickens and their brotherhood are cute; they are immediately recognizable. They are familiar and carry personal meaning. All that being said, their charm can be undeniable. And sometimes that is a good enough reason to just stop and count your chickens.



Domestic Cock, Hen and Chickens
by Francis Barlow, 1665
Public Domain

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Business Briefs



THRIFTY FLIPS

Sometimes you have an idea that keeps you up late into the night with a pen and notepad in hand, huddled under a dim light, planning your dream. Suzan Decker Ross is well known for late-night brainstorming. This dream started with Suzan, an Interior Designer for over 30 years, who has a keen eye for good finds. Armed with decades of

knowledge, she crafted the concept of finding furniture, refinishing it with a new design, then selling the pieces to give back to those in need. Being a determined and hard-working businesswoman, it didn't take long for her to secure a name - "Thrifty Flips"- and find a space in the heart of Clearwater for the magic to take place.

Amid the planning, her daughter Kayla, who has D.I.Y. imprinted on her soul and an overflowing craft room, showed up paintbrush in hand. The two combined their love for art with wanting to help their community in this the new concept.

Fortunately for all, the two put their plan into action and they are turning their dream into a reality by flipping furniture and giving back to the community. Now, Thrifty Flips is a place to buy furniture that has been restored with sincere intention and adoration for the craft, and with the genuine idea to pay it forward; to "re-purpose with a purpose." Each month, a percentage of the profits will be donated to a different local non-profit organization.

They will be having a grand opening with lots of exciting things September 23rd from 10am-4pm, at 1441 Court St., Clearwater. In the meantime, visit www.thriftyflips.com and follow them on social media or call 727-266-4050.

NEW CLEARWATER BEACH SPA Recently opened in the new JW Marriott Clearwater Beach Resort, Spa by JW's, mission is to create a warm, intimate environment that focuses on personalized experiences to help guests achieve balance and harmony. The spa has curated high-end, luxury skin care products and organic massage oils to best tailor the treatments for individual guests.

Their experience favors simplicity over complexity and clarity over mystery. The spa lounge is the perfect place to gather with a group or unwind. But, knowing your time is valuable, they offer express spa treatments as a simple indulgence.

Whether you're fatigued from a long week or desire a well-deserved treat, they provide a personalized spa experience that is as effortless as it is rewarding.

Visit them at 691 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach or call 727-604-6124.

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



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Business Briefs



SHOPPES ON SAND KEY The only shopping center in Sand Key, opened in 1989 34 years ago this month. It opened in conjunction with the Sand Key Columbia Restaurant. There is a wide variety of shops

and restaurants there including Backwater’s Restaurant and Shorty’s Convenience Store and Deli. Find all of them at 1261 Gulf Blvd, just south of the Marriott Sand Key.

SMART (ER) URGENT CARE CLOSES The urgent care clinic on Island Estates opened in June but had trouble with the licensing process and was forced to close. The owner says they are currently going through the long, hard process of reopening and expect to be open in the near future, certainly by the fall.

When they reopen, they are likely to have a new name. But, they will still be located at 130 Island Way, (where Wells Fargo was) near Publix.

CLEARWATER BEACH FITNESS MOVES “We moved because we had a great opportunity to expand even bigger than before,” says owner Juan Garcia, shown here.



“We were able to add brand new equipment no one in the area has. We are now able to offer more services, like bootcamp, personal training, bodybuilding training, and a mobile fitness app.”

“Soon we’ll be offering meal plans with our partner Clean Eatz in Belleair Bluffs and remote anti-aging with our partner anti-aging clinic, so people don’t have to drive as far.”

Find them now at 802 Court Street, near the Subway on Court and Myrtle Avenue.

HOTELS SOLD The Marriott’s AC and Courtyard hotels on Clearwater Beach have been sold to a Denver-based company. The ten-story, 144-room AC Hotel sold for \$58.3 million, while the seven-story, 139-room Courtyard Hotel was sold for \$55.4 million.

CHANGING CLASS SCHEDULES The Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy, which gives previously challenged students a second chance at education in a one-of-a-kind setting that uses the golf course as a living classroom, is discontinuing its fourth-grade class to offer two sixth-grade classes. The Academy will include 5th through 8th grade, with the two sixth grade classes, allowing for further class expansions in the future with 7th & 8th grade classes.

For information about the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy, as well as the Foundation’s programs, visit www.chichi.org.



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REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN FAMILY COURT

By Jake Hornstein, Our Children Have Rights .Org

A commonly overlooked option while navigating the child custody process is Representing Yourself, or "Filing Pro Se". When parents split up, or are not together, and both parents want legal access to their child(ren), child custody arrangements must be determined.



Navigating this process through the court system can be emotional and complicated. Many parents choose to retain an attorney. Others decide to file Pro Se. Pro se is Latin for "on one's own behalf" or "for oneself". It effectively means self-representation.

Filing Pro Se is a MAJOR responsibility. Before you decide, do so with a complete understanding of what it entails. Ask yourself these questions:

Did The Other Parent Hire an Attorney? If yes, they could be in a more advantageous position.

Do I Understand How Court Procedures Work? Use your resources, such as online resources (OCHR.org), libraries, and your local court clerk. Seek out the court clerk, develop a friendly rapport and level of comfortability for asking questions.

Can I Afford to Hire an Attorney? Research the anticipated costs. Contact attorneys in the county of your court case to inquire about fees and estimated costs.

What Alternative Options Do I Have? Finances are the main driver behind choosing to file Pro Se. Explore options and resources for Pro Bono legal aid (we can help with this). You may qualify for legal assistance from various agencies depending on your circumstances.

Will My Ideal Custody Arrangements Be Too Difficult to Achieve? Consider the custody arrangement you desire and how that aligns with the best interests of your child. Have a clear understanding of the wishes of the co-parent as well.

Am I Familiar with the Required Court Documents? Review sample documents online or at the local courthouse. Determine your comfortability interpreting and completing the documents. Ask the court clerk for help identifying the correct forms, when they are due, and how they should be submitted.

When performed properly, filing Pro Se can be a powerful tool that could minimize or even eliminate the need for paid legal aid while achieving a successful custody and co-parenting outcome.

OCHR.Org is a Pinellas based nonprofit that serves children by helping their parents more seamlessly navigate their child custody and co-parenting journeys, at no cost to the family. We've built a no cost Virtual Educational Resource Center and offer no cost consultations on an on-going and as needed basis.

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

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

Contact Jake, JakeHornstein@OurChildrenHaveRights.com or visit www.OCHR.org. To donate, visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org/donate.

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LARGO STUDENT WINS THE SCRIPTS SPELLING BEE

P-S-A-M-M-O-P-H-I-L-E That was the \$50,000 question—or word in his case. 14-year-old Dev Shaw spelled it and won the 95th Scripts National Spelling Bee and its \$50,000 prize. Dev lives in Largo and recently completed 8th grade at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School.

In June, Dev and his family traveled to Oxon Hill, Maryland (near Washington, DC) to compete in the annual National Spelling Bee, sponsored by Scripps Broadcasting. It is held the week following Memorial Day weekend. This is the third time Dev has competed and the last time he was eligible. Participants cannot be older than fourteen as of August 31 of the year before the competition and they cannot be passed the eighth grade as of February 1 of that year's competition.

To qualify, a speller must win a regional competition. Regional spelling bees usually cover many counties, but in some lesser populated areas, it can cover an entire state, or U.S. territory. Overseas military bases in Germany and South Korea also compete. Regional rules are not the same as the national competition. Since 2004, the national competition has featured time controls to fit the schedule of its television broadcast; lower levels of competition do not.

Once a contestant wins the regional competition, they progress to the Nationals. The first round is preliminary—a computer spelling and vocabulary test and two rounds of oral spelling. It is followed by rounds one through three, semifinals and then finals where there are usually ten to sixteen contestants remaining.

During the finals, which is what you see on television, a speller is given ninety seconds from when a word is first pronounced to spell it completely. The speller sees a traffic light, green for the first 60 seconds, with yellow appearing also at 30 seconds following by fifteen seconds of red. They

are automatically eliminated if they exceed the time limit. No pressure there! When only one player remains after a round, the remaining player must spell one more word correctly to win the bee.

There is an official Spelling Bee study booklet called "Words of the Champions" It contains 4,000 words, divided primarily by language of origin, along with exercises and activities. Most winners also use the "School Pronouncer's Guide," which includes off-list words not listed in "Words of the Champions" but featured in the unabridged "Webster's Third New International Dictionary"

Dev first entered at age 11 in 2019 and finished in 51st place. There was no competition in 2020 due to the Pandemic. The only other time the competition was not held was 1943–1945 due to World War II.

In 2021, Dev tied for 76th place. He tried again in 2022 but did not make it out of the regionals. His third time proved to be the charm and won the National Title with the winning word "psammophile". It was "easy" by his admission. His second-to-last word was "schistorrhachis". Which he obviously spelled to move to the final round.

When given an unusual sounding word, Dev asked about the word's root. The winning word has its roots in the Greek language. "Psammo" means sand in Greek. "Phile" means love. It is an organism that thrives in sandy soils or areas. He then asked the judges to use it in a sentence, before correctly spelling it.

Devs hobbies include playing tennis, playing the cello, solving math problems and reading. He also enjoys playing Wordle. his prize included \$50,000 cash, a commemorative medal, and a complete reference library.

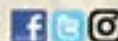


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FULL MOONS AND THEIR NAMES

By Becky Griffin, Publisher

Full moons have inspired poets and artists since the beginnings of time. Each month, the moon moves through phases constantly waxing and waning from full moon to new moon and back again. Full moons occur every 29.5 days when the moon moves to the side of the Earth opposite the sun and reflects the sun's rays. The reflection causes the moon to appear to be a perfect, glowing disk in the sky.

Throughout history, the moon's cycles have been used to track time and set schedules for planting and harvesting. Ancient man began to name the full moons based on what was happening during that whole lunar month. Those names are still used today.

January: Wolf Moon - Native Americans named this full moon after the howling wolves during the winter. They were easily heard as sound carries farther with winter's clear skies.

February: Snow Moon - This one is self-explanatory due to the typically cold, snowy February weather in North America.

March: Worm Moon - The last full moon of winter, Native Americans named it for the worms that would appear as the ground begins to melt. They knew the worms would be followed by the return of the robins. Other cultures call it the Sugar Moon because that is when they tapped the maple trees.

April: Pink Moon - Though not really a pink moon, Northern Native Americans knew a species of pink wildflower – the moss pink, or moss phlox - would begin blooming.

May: Flower Moon - May's abundant flowers give this full moon its name.

June: Strawberry Moon - Usually, the last full moon of spring, in North America, and strawberries are at their peak.

July: Buck Moon - Male deer, also known as bucks, shed their antlers each spring, and regrow larger ones. By July they are at their largest.

August: Sturgeon Moon - North American fishing tribes knew the sturgeon were abundant this month.

September: Harvest or the Corn Moon - Because the calendar and the moon cycle don't always align, the moon closest to the fall equinox is the Harvest moon (the best-known moon name). That usually happens in September, but every third year it falls in October. This full moon is particularly bright and rises around sunset, allowing farmers to continue harvesting into the night to beat the first frost.

October: Hunter's Moon - The first moon after the harvest moon, the Hunter's moon is usually in October but occasionally falls in November. This is the time to hunt summer-fattened deer easily seen in the cleared fields. It too is particularly bright.

November: Beaver Moon (unless it is the Hunter's Moon) - Some say the name is due to the activity of beavers building their dams and preparing for winter, while others think it references the season the Native Americans set beaver traps for their fur.

December: Cold Moon - The coming of winter and its dark cold period earned December's full moon name.

The Blue Moon - Each year, the moon completes its final cycle about 11 days before Earth finishes its orbit around the sun. These days add up; every two and a half years or so, there is an extra full moon - a blue moon. Today, though the term is commonly used for a second full moon in the same calendar month.



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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, 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 dirt and weeds. Fast-forward through 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 for myself, 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 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 worked 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 the third grade. Now, whoever would like to come and help this summer is welcome during Summer Bridge. The garden has become such a special place that children volunteer to come 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. Now I have kids arguing about who will get the next eggplant.

Over the past few months, Rowland and Life farms have been checking 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.



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Community News...

LARGO ART ASSOCIATION

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

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

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

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

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key. Founded in 1991, current membership includes fifteen condo associations and 3 businesses researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county, and state levels.

Two issues they are closely monitoring are 1.) Florida Senate Bill SB 4-D....Building Safety Inspections and the Structural Integrity Reserve Study and 2.) The "possible" delay of the beach re-nourishment project planned for 2024. They participate in The Barrier Island Government Council and The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and also holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

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

They have resumed in person meetings at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Gulf Blvd. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

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

WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

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

MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS

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

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

BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB

There will be no meeting for August, and then the Club resumes regular meetings Sept. 8, 2023, through the rest of the year.



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Community News...

TAMPA BAY WATCH

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 on Saturday, August 19 from 9 am - 1 pm. Meet 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!

Tampa Bay Watch cordially invites you to join them for the 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 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 auctions, and live music with a view of the iconic Hillsborough River. Visit TampaBayWatch.org for tickets.

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum is open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10-2 and by appointment Monday - Wednesday. The schedule will be updated on the website.

They are looking for volunteers to help run the museum and applications are available online - they are looking for committee members, docents and board members.

Visit Clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org and their facebook page for regular museum event updates. Event space is available for rent for gatherings of any kind.

AMPLIFY CLEARWATER'S CHALKFUL OF TASTE

The Taste of the Beaches, a restaurant event, is returning to Clearwater Beach, Friday, November 3 at the Pier 60 Park next to the Roundabout with a new name, Chalkful of Taste. This is a fundraiser for AMPLIFY Clearwater.

It will feature tastes from nearby restaurants, including some from Belleair Bluffs, live music, and their ever popular ChalkWalk.

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 August 26th at the Dunedin Fine Art Center.

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.

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.

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A RACING FAMILY - ITS IN THEIR BLOOD

The family that races together, stays together... at least, that is what Steve Collins, owner of the Mobil Station on Island Estates, always says.

Most people know Steve as the friendly owner of the only gas and service station on Island Estates. Actually, it is the only one on Clearwater Beach. He has owned the station for over 32 years.

But Steve has a whole other life - away from work and away from the beach - that still involves cars. Racing!

Steve grew up in the area and was part of the Class of 1976 at Largo High School. High school is where his interest in racing began.

"I loved cars since my early high school days," says Steve. "My friends and I were all 'gear heads', meaning we loved working on cars. We would go to junk yards together and come home and install things on our cars."



Steve Collins and wife Lee.

When they weren't working on those cars, they were driving them. Driving led to racing. He and his friends would go to the races together and dream about doing that one day.

"My first race car was my first personal car—a Dodge Dart. It was basically a 'Hot Rod'. In the '70s, when I was in High School, we would take it to the local tracks, such as Twin City Drag Strip and Sunshine, and race it. We went to other racetracks in nearby counties, too."

"Some races were dirt oval tracks, while others were paved. Later, I started racing the straight-line dragsters. The fastest I've ever driven was about 150 MPH."

"I met my wife Lee in high school. When I told her I was really involved in racing, she said, 'good, so am I'. One of our first dates was going to Sunshine

Speedway on Ulmerton Road; it isn't there anymore. Lee loved it and the rest is family history.

"We have two sons, Johnny who is now 42 and Joey, 36. Both grew up as 'gear heads' racing with me and both have worked at the Service Station on Island Estates," Steve says. "When he was younger, Joey raced mostly on dirt tracks but occasionally on asphalt."

"Racing has been in my family for so many years now," explains Steve's wife, Lee. "It started with our son Joey's time racing. Then Steve got back behind the wheel and now our oldest grandson is racing. The next three grandsons are already showing interest and will be joining the tradition. It's a fun filled weekend and great family time, plus you meet so many other wonderful families and friends."

Steve taught the kids, and now grandkids, everything they know about fixing cars and racing. When the boys were younger, three weekends a month, they would load a race car into a trailer and Joey would race go karts all over the country. It was after Joey was done racing, Steve started again.

"Ever since I was young, I have had a passion for driving," Joey Collins says. "I was fortunate my dad shared the same passion and took me racing just about every weekend. I see that same passion in my nephew Tré and my two-and-a-half-year-old son, Ryder. He hounds me to drive his power-wheels every night when I get home. Racing runs deep in our family's blood."

The third generation of the Collins Team is in training, seven-year-old Tré.

"Little Tre' is Johnny's kid. He began going to the track at the early age of three and was racing at seven," says Steve. "I always dreamed of having a grandson race with me and now I do."

"Growing up, my dad was so passionate about cars, racing, motors, speed, and the mechanics of it all—it was inevitable that I would be drawn to cars and racing, too," says oldest son Johnny. "As far back as I can remember



Steve and his grandson Tré

Dad brought me to work with him at the auto shop and took my brother and I to the racetrack. Although I never raced, my oldest son has the racing gene; he drag races with my dad. He's watched my dad race since he was a baby and as soon as he was old enough to get into a junior dragster, Dad jumped at the opportunity to take him racing. It is a special thing to see them share their love for racing and the bond it has created. So many great memories are being made through their shared passion. It's wonderful to see my dad sharing and passing on all his knowledge and experiences to his grandson."



The next generation, in training

"This was our family hobby. Our getaway - racing. We would throw the whole family in the truck and go race somewhere. Now, the little one, Tre', loves it, too. And he is really good at it. You may see him on TV one day, driving the 'Collin's Team' car," says Steve with a grin.

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Community News...

CLEARWATER BEACH ASSOCIATION (CBA)

The CBA is a not-for-profit, non-partisan and non-sectarian organization that promotes projects of a civic, charitable, recreational, and/or social nature. They need your help and participation in promoting and preserving our beautiful island through social and community connections. Annual dues are \$35 per household, or \$150 per business.

CBA has been serving the Clearwater Beach community since 1944 and is Clearwater's oldest civic association. Visit: www.clearwaterbeachassoc.com/history-of-cba. Contact CBA president Samuel Hutkin at hutloan@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

- September 12, – 6:30 pm, Monthly CBA Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back. This date is pushed a week due to Labor Day weekend.
- September 23 – 9:00 am, Cleanup of our adopted Parks (Rec Center and McKay Park)
- October 3, – 6:30 pm, Monthly CBA Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back.
- October – Pub Crawl - date to be announced. Usually visit about four beach bars offering specials, followed by a raffle. Great get-to-know-your-neighbor event. Paid members will receive the notices
- November 7, – 6:30 pm, Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back.
- December 2, – CBA Holiday Party
- December 5, – 6:30 pm, Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, in the fellowship hall in the back.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The purpose of the Club is to educate members and the general public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, artistic design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, garden therapy, and environmental and nature studies. Organized in 1950 and incorporated in 1965, the Clearwater Garden Club is a member of several national gardening associations and has over 50 members. For more information visit www.clearwatergardenclub.com.

DALÍ MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Dalí Alive 360°

This immersive experience showcasing Salvador Dalí's works in the new dome on the grounds of Museum is opening soon. The opening was delayed due to HVAC problems after a storm power surge.

The multi-sensory experience will "envelop visitors in 360 degrees of light and sound" in a new space they call The Dalí Dome in the museum's Avant-garden. According to a press release, you will step into the world of Salvador Dalí, as art comes to life like never before. It is an immersive experience celebrating the life and creative genius of Dalí.

The 40-minute experience Dalí Alive 360° is a \$15 add on experience to a Gallery Admission ticket for all guests, including members. The experience has ten show times daily, with limited capacity; timed tickets are required.

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SHEPHERD’S VILLAGE PROVIDES HOPE FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

By April McKnight, Executive Director

For thirty-two years, Shepherd’s Village has been a lighthouse of hope for single-parent families seeking a fresh start when facing traumatic family changes. The ministry began under the leadership of Phyllis Alderman. Through the generous gifting of equity in a 15-unit Clearwater condo building in 1992, the dream of a ministry to single parents and their children became a reality. The priority was to nurture and equip single-parent families by providing opportunities for affordable housing, and to develop economic and life skill strengths leading to sustainable stability in a faith-based environment.

As the new Executive Director, I have helped expand the organization’s resources to reach single parents right where they are. I am a graduate of Shepherd’s Village and knows first-hand the crisis these moms are coming from. I knew I wanted something different for my daughters, Shepherd’s Village allowed me to dream again, I worked hard and completed my bachelor’s degree from Liberty University.

Their programs mitigate the many sources of toxic stress unique to single mothers living in crisis, such as co-parenting, economic security, family conflict, and lack of social and emotional support. The programs reach and restore not only the residents of the housing program but women beyond their doors via online streaming and “in the community” resource opportunities – each around the Shepherd’s Village five pillars of support:

- Essential Life Skills
- Healthy Parenting
- Spiritual Wisdom
- Financial Freedom
- Health & Wellness

In 2002, the ministry sold the Clearwater property and purchased a twelve-unit condo building in Belleair Bluffs,

to accommodate families with more than one child. Through the generosity of the Belleair Bluffs owner lowering the price on the new building and God’s timing Shepherd’s Village moved to Belleair Bluffs.



Community is key! We have been in Belleair Bluffs for twenty-two years allowing us to partner with many local businesses, including the Mayor and owner of Silver Queen and Belleair Coin, Chris Arbutine, City Administrator Debra Sullivan, Janna Fine Cosigner Apparel, and Belleair Market just to name a few, it truly is a Village of support. We have also made a name for ourselves with our thrifty boutique Shabby to Chic in Antique Alley, where every purchase has a purpose. Everything is donated and we give scholarships to single mothers engaged in our programming.

Most recently we were introduced to the owner of Venus restaurant. We were looking to partner with a local business to provide dinners for our Tuesday night life skills classes. Owner Mark Norberg agreed to provide all the bi-monthly dinners for our families through the end of the year. We are so thankful for business owners like him that are willing to partner and help us achieve our mission of walking alongside single mothers and their children so they can face their future with confidence.

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- ✓ Three Daughters Beer
- ✓ 50/50 Raffle
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Community News...

CLEARWATER BEACH LIBRARY EVENTS

September - Adults

- Mahjong Mondays 6th, 11th, 18th, 25th 2-4pm
- Beach Book Club (*Other Birds* by Sarah Addison Allen) 6th 4-5pm
- Basket Weaving for Beginners * 20th 2 - 4pm

September - Families

- Sunshine Storytime 5th 11-11:30am
asterisk* registration required.

The library is located at 69 Bay Esplanade on Clearwater Beach. Call 727-562-4968 or visit myclearwaterlibrary.com for more information.

CLOTHES TO KIDS - CTK

CTK strives to provide a full week's worth of clothing to low income or in crisis, school-age children, free of charge. The elementary inventory is low, school starts soon. As their mission continues, their need for monetary and clothing donations has not stopped. Kids come in all shapes and sizes, so the clothes have to as well. Monetary donations can be sent to Clothes To Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765. \$65 provides an entire weeks' worth of clothing to a child in need.

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or are in crisis situations may shop with them. For an appointment, call 727-441-5050 or visit clothestokids.org/shop-with-us. Each shopping bag includes 5 pairs of new underwear, 5 pairs of new socks, 5 tops, 4 bottoms (2 pants & 2 shorts), 1 dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, completely free!

Clothes To Kids, is a nonprofit organization, that has provided more than 160,000 wardrobes to children in need. During the last school year they distributed 15,766 full school wardrobes. For more information, visit ClothesToKids.org. For more information, visit ClothesToKids.org. For more information IECAMembership@gmail.com or visit myislandestates.net.

ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (IECA)

The Island Estates Civic Association (IECA) is a community organization comprised of local residents and business owners with a mission of promoting the safety, welfare, spirit and the unique lifestyle of the Island Estates community.

- Causeway Clean-Up October 14, 8 - 10am
- Chili Cook-off October 14, 1 to 4pm. 5/3 Bank parking lot at 100 Island Way
- Town Hall Meeting: Monday, November 6th, Island Way Grill, 7 to 8pm
- Winter Social: Tuesday, December 12, Island Way Grill, 5:30 to 7pm
- The Christmas Parade is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 17 from 5pm to 6pm.

Chili Cook-off: The IECA Chili Cook-off is back! After a brief hiatus this year's Cook-off is bigger and better. Mark your calendar for October 14th from 1 to 4pm in the Fifth Third Bank parking lot on Island Way. Enjoy live music, a 50/50 raffle and beer from 3 Daughters Brewing. The event is open to any type of chili; categories will include traditional, vegan, non traditional and more depending on the entrants. The IECA is also looking for local vendors who would like to feature their crafts, artwork or locally grown fruits and vegetables. To participate as a contestant or vendor, please e-mail Maurentcox@verizon.net.



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The Sound at Coachman Park

By Kiffie Hester, Belleair Beach resident

Anticipation.....The Sound's first concert on Wednesday, June 28th, featured Cheap Trick, but the last of June and first of July gave area music lovers back-to-back concerts, featuring a local favorite, the Black Honkeys, then Colbie Caillet and Gavin DeGraw, Dave Koz and Peter Frampton.

What is The Sound all about?

My husband Mike and I toured The Sound at Coachman Park a few weeks prior to its opening and were treated with an extremely informative and detailed walk through with Catherine Corcoran, RLA, Senior Landscape Architect – Public Works Department, Engineering Division with the City of Clearwater. She is very passionate and proud of this project, as well she should be. This article is courtesy of Catherine's tour and information she shared.

According to Catherine, the purpose of the Coachman Park renovation is to create a draw to Downtown Clearwater that encourages visitors to spend time at local businesses on either end of a trip to the park. The park offers multiple plazas, water features, walking paths, picnic pavilions, botanical garden, two-acre open lawn space, pedestrian bridge, fourteen permanent shade structures, splashpad (operating 9am to 9pm), playground, public art areas, new dockmaster building for marina staff and tenants, public restrooms, natural gas-powered torchier sculptures, 817 new trees and palms, and of course, The Sound.

The Sound's canopy covers four thousand seats and the lawn behind the canopy has standing room for up to five thousand more. Maximum capacity is nine thousand. We were comfortable in the chairs that were chosen. When designing The Sound, chair decisions were made from thirteen options presented; it was felt these were the most durable and comfortable.

Five Big Ass Fans (the name of the manufacturer) are mounted to the canopy to ensure continuous air flow during concerts, in addition to the ever-present sea breeze. We all know summertime here, we need that air flow!

As we sat and watched Peter Frampton's musical genius, I thought of how we toured the backstage production rooms for the musicians. There are twenty-one rooms backstage to support all kinds of concerts and productions. Peter

Frampton's band had plenty of room on the 3,357 square foot stage.

For those of us who are Peter Frampton fans, he went above and beyond our expectations. Frampton initially announced his retirement from touring in 2019 after revealing that he had been diagnosed with a degenerative muscle disease called Inclusion-Body Myositis. He recently changed his mind and began touring again this year. The disease has slowed him down some, resulting in a seated performance, but his voice, his guitar work, and his band, were what we all wanted and needed.

The natural gas-powered torches are unique and looked spectacular at night during the Peter Frampton concert. We learned on our tour the story behind the five flames. The torchiers are custom-built pieces that use natural gas to generate flames in the evening. They are purely aesthetic pieces that were included to add beauty and drama to evenings in the park. It will provide a highly recognizable and photographable element that is unique to Clearwater and highlights Clearwater Gas's available service as a city-owned utility. Each includes a full rainbow spectrum LED light so it can be made to glow any color, whether the flame elements are running or not.

For those who have always enjoyed boating to the annual Clearwater Jazz Festival, the marina dockmaster office has been updated and now has 1200 square feet with an improved view of their managed area, larger restrooms with improved amenities, laundry machines, ice machines and vending areas.

Catherine explained there are three thousand publicly owned parking spaces within walking distance of the park available for events. Privately owned lots and garages in the area can provide up to two thousand additional spaces. The Clearwater Ferry also connects Coachman Park directly to Clearwater Beach and Downtown Dunedin. Jolly Trolley and PSTA bus stops are adjacent to the park. Bicyclists and pedestrians can connect to Coachman Park from the Memorial Causeway helix on the south end and the Drew Street connection to the Pinellas Trail on the north end. During large events, they encourage using ride share services. Visit coachmanpark.com for more information and an interactive map of available parking in Downtown Clearwater.



Mike and Kiffie Hester enjoying the Peter Frampton concert

According to Catherine, there is a two-level enhanced experience space available that provides a variety of upholstered and unupholstered seats, air conditioning on the lower level, a retractable window wall for an optional open-air experience, tables, catered food service, bar service, and private restrooms. It also comes complete with a programmable rainbow spectrum LED ceiling to really set the mood for a show or event.

Happily, Ruth Eckerd Hall was awarded the management of the Sound at Coachman Park, and the REH mission of changing lives through the performing arts is apparent at the Sound. As a nationally recognized premier Performing Arts Organization, Ruth Eckerd Hall's vision is to offer traditional and innovative performances and educational experiences that will engage diverse audiences and participants, to advance the arts and enrich lives.

We have long been active supporters of Ruth Eckerd Hall. Our gift supports their mission to change lives through the performing arts. As a non-profit performing arts organization, earned revenue from ticket sales and event rentals only cover a portion of their operating costs – the gap is closed with contributions from donors from all of us music and arts lovers. www.rutheckerdhall.com/support-membership/make-a-donation.

My husband, Mike and I are looking forward to more REH Experiences at the Sound, at the Hall and at the Capitol Theater. We are both passionate about almost all music, and feel fortunate that our area attracts big names, as well as up and coming new bands. We both grew up with music and intend on growing old with music!

**The information contained in this article is courtesy of a tour and follow up email from Catherine Corcoran, Landscape Architect for the City of Clearwater, as well as Ruth Eckerd Hall's website.*

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