

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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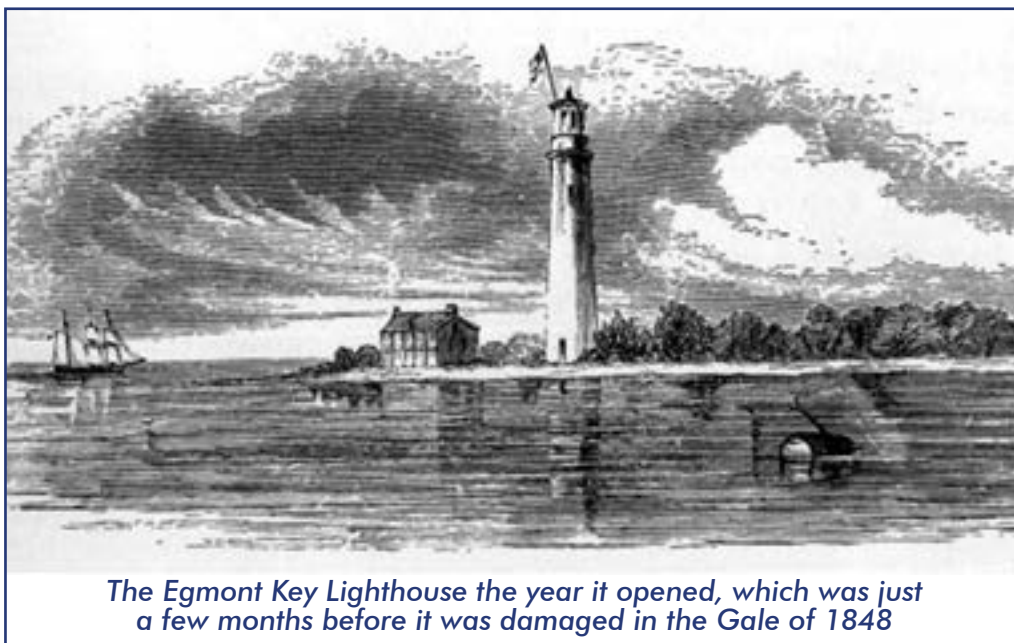
Magazine

THE GREAT GALE OF 1848

By Bob Griffin

Pinellas County historians often talk about the Hurricane of 1921 because that was the last time a hurricane came ashore directly in Pinellas County. But 175 years ago, Tampa Bay was hit by two hurricanes - in the same year. The first was in September 1848, and then the second was a month later in October.

Until the early 1950s, they did not name hurricanes. Those storms are still referred to by the areas they hit or the year they occurred. The September storm is simply known as "The Great Gale of 1848."



The Egmont Key Lighthouse the year it opened, which was just a few months before it was damaged in the Gale of 1848

Very few people lived in our area in 1848. Florida had only become a state three years earlier. The 1840 census only shows 55,000 people lived in all Florida, and most did not live in Pinellas County.

Storm records for the 1848 storm are almost non-existent, but the recorded barometric pressure reading, and storm surge, is consistent with a Category 4 hurricane. Sustained winds are estimated to have been 130 miles per hour. One storm survivor called it "the Granddaddy of all Hurricanes." **Continued on page 6**

Also in this Issue:



Thanks for the Memories

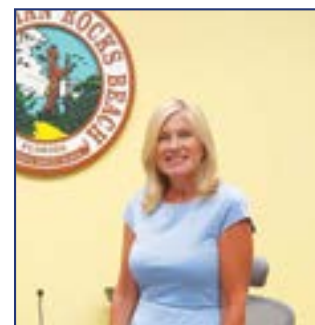
Ten years after his retirement, Father Bob Wagensil recalls his time in Indian Rocks Beach. - page 9

Indian Rocks Beach Life

An online board created by a local couple has been bringing neighbors together since 2017. - page 10

Indian Rocks Beach Has a New City Clerk

Lorin Kornijtschuk continues her ten-year career at City Hall in a new role. - page 14



Clearwater Jazz Holiday is Back

The 44th installment of the popular music event returns to Coachman Park on October 19th.

- page 11

CREDITS



This newsletter is published by Magriff Productions, LLC. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Indian Rocks Beach's zip code 33785. We are not associated with the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

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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
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SEE YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER!



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PO Bx 23064

St Petersburg, FL 33742

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER

- Gekofest In Gulfport 2
- Labor Day 4
- Public Schools Closed 4
- Eric Johnson at the Capitol Theater 5
- Buccaneer's First Real Game 10
- Grandparents Day 10
- Fred Chandler at IRB VFW 10
- Patriot Day 11
- Fire Dept 9/11 Memorial Run 11
- Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 14
- Rosh Hashanah Begins 15
- Mexican Independence Day VIP 16
- Final Budget Reading 20
- IRBHome Mix and Mingle at Slyce 21
- TB Watch Evening for the Bay 21
- International Peace Day 21
- Autumn Begins 23
- Clearwater Offshore Boat Races 22-24
- Yom Kippur 25
- Public Schools Closed 25
- Ringo Starr at the Sound 26
- Cruisin' for a Cause Hurr. Eddie's 30
- Garage Sale McGough Park 30

OCTOBER

- Hooters' Concert In Coachman Park 4
- Oktoberfest at Anecdote Brewing 7
- Chicago at the Sound 7
- Columbus Day 9
- St Pete Fall Festival at the Pier 7-9
- Indigenous Peoples Day 9
- City Commission Meeting 10
- Oktoberfest Kolb Park 14
- Bluffs Wine Walk 14
- Stone Crab Season Opens 15
- Public School Closed 16
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday 19-22
- Historical Museum Luncheon 21
- Owl-O-Ween McGough Park 27
- Coco's IRB Crabfest 27-29
- Hallowfest Kolb Park 28
- VIP Charity Golf Tournament 28
- Halloween 31
- Sea Turtle Nesting Season Ends 31

NOVEMBER

- Dia de los Muertos 1
- Taste of IRB 4
- Int'l Coastal Cleanup 4
- City Hall Offices Closed 10
- Veteran's Day 11
- City Commission Meeting 14



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Peggy Cordle, MS, APRN--C Nurse Practitioner

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Did You Know



NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

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

"SEASON" IS COMING

Snowbird season is just around the corner. What does this mean?

The term "Snowbird" originated in the 1920s to describe migrate workers who headed south from the cold weather for work. It gradually changed in the late 1970s to northerners that came for long periods of time (one month or longer). This now includes families and non-retirees. Season usually runs October to April. Florida's population will grow 5% in this time so expect more cars on the roads and longer lines. The most popular snowbird states are Florida, Arizona, and Texas. Snowbirds do great things for our economy and jobs during these times. Let's welcome them back.

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!"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. AIR FORCE

In 1909 the United States military purchased its first aircraft; however, the United States Air Force was not a separate military service until 1947. It has had many names and sections throughout the years, starting with the Aeronautical section of the Signal Corps in 1909 followed by the United States Army Air Forces in 1941. They would not become their own independent military service until President Truman signed the National Security Act, which established the new defense organization. The act established the United States Air Force and made them equal to the United States Army and Navy. There are four divisions of the Air Force: Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force Civilian Service. Their official birthday is September 18th, 1947. Happy 76th Birthday to the United States Air Force, and special thanks to the men and women that are serving at MacDill Air Force Base.

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CALLING ALL BOATERS AND DIVERS

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.

STONE CRAB SEASON IS COMING October is not only when we start getting relief from 115-degree heat indexes and blinding afternoon thunderstorms, it brings the start of the much-anticipated annual harvest of stone crab claws. The open season in Florida runs from October 15th to May 1st.

Stone crab claws can be served hot or cold, and are usually accompanied by mustard sauce or drawn butter and lemon.

LOCAL JOURNALISTS RECOGNIZED

Tampa Bay Newspapers, publishers of The Beach Bee, won nineteen awards in the Florida Press Association Weekly Newspaper Contest, including five first-place honors. Reporters Jeff Rosenfield and Chris George won first place in the In-Depth Reporting (Non-Investigative) category for their series of articles on the proposed Largo sports complex. You may recognize Jeff from his frequent coverage of Indian Rocks Beach news and events in the Beach Bee.

ROADWAY NAMED FOR FALLEN OFFICER

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office unveiled a sign officially dedicating a portion of I-275 after Deputy Michael Hartwick. The portion of I-275 between mile markers 30 and 31 in the Feather Sound area were designated "Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick Memorial Highway" by the Florida Legislature effective July 1st.



Deputy Hartwick was assigned to provide safety for a road construction crew working on the interstate overnight on September 23, 2022. His cruiser was parked in the southbound lanes with its emergency lights activated. Upon exiting the vehicle, Deputy Hartwick was struck by a front-end loader operated by a worker. He was the sixth of ten Florida law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2022.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 1 If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Beach Art Center, Library, Beach Welcome Center, USA Grocer or CVS. Read this issue and others at BeachNewsletters.com.

1848 STORM, Continued

The storm's course was typical of a September/October hurricane. It started in the Western Caribbean and made a northeast beeline for Pinellas County. It made landfall near Clearwater.

The devastation was not caused by the wind, but from the tidal surge and rising water, which at the time were the highest levels ever recorded in the area. Gulf waters were said to be 13-14 feet above normal, affecting coastal cities from 100 miles south of Tampa Bay to 30 miles north of Tarpon Springs. The counterclockwise winds forced water into both Boca Ciega and Tampa Bays. Tampa saw a 15-foot surge in just six to eight hours. The surge moved into the inlets, passes and bays. First the water rushed in, then as the eye moved north, the winds reversed, and the water rushed out creating even more damage.

One local resident said "the bays seemed to meet between Hillsborough Bay and Old Tampa Bay." Some 500-600 square miles of Pinellas lowlands were covered in saltwater.

A young woman who endured the storm insisted that "at one time the water rose five feet in fifteen minutes.

The winds destroyed structures and trees; the geography of Tampa Bay was completely changed. Only five area homes remained standing. There were no reported deaths and only \$20,000 in damages were declared — that is equivalent to \$750,000 today. Agricultural counted for most of that loss. Since it hit in late September, it destroyed the citrus crops across the center of the state.

For safer coastal navigation, the government had recognized the need to build a series of lighthouses around Florida. President James Polk had one built on Egmont Key, just south of Ft. DeSoto. It stood 120 feet above the island and had just been activated that May. The operator, Marvel Edwards, had relocated from Alligator, Florida (today's Lake City) and lived in a small cottage on the island with his wife and five children.

When the Great Gale of 1848 hit, the family took shelter in the lighthouse until the winds and water undercut its foundation, which had walls two-feet thick made from bricks and cement - and the lighthouse began to tilt.

The family fled, as the tide rose covering the island by two feet of water. To go to shore, they had a good-sized rowboat, which Edwards moved to the highest point on the island, about six or seven

feet above sea level, where he tied it to a sturdy palm tree. The family rode out the storm in the boat and as the water rose, Marvel raised the rope up the palm tree. When the surge leveled off, they were almost at the top of the tree. After the water receded, they discovered the rope was tied nine feet off the ground.

The next day, Edwards and his family rowed the small boat all the way to Tampa and resigned. He never returned to the island. The lighthouse with two-foot thick walls cost \$16,000 to repair - it only cost \$7,000 to build it earlier that year.

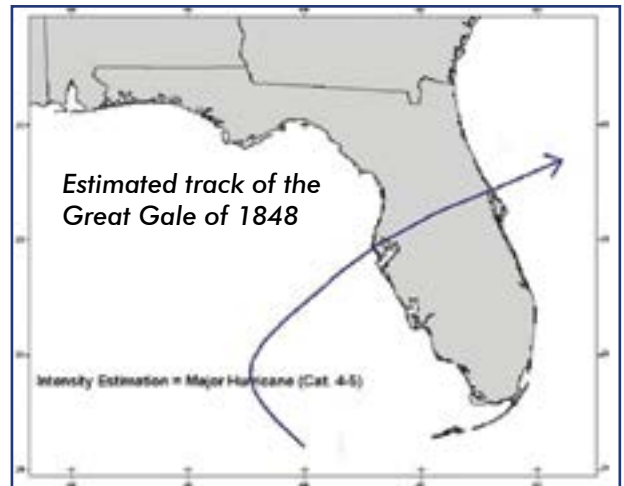
Two of Pinellas County's earliest documented settlers, fisherman Juan (John) Leviqne and his helper Joe Silva lived near Boca Ciega Bay, east of today's Madeira Beach. Juan owned the only boat in the area. The week of the storm, Juan and Joe had traveled to New Orleans to sell a load of greenback turtles. After the storm passed, they sailed home along Florida's west coast.

When they reached the Pinellas coastline at the end of September, everything was different. Landmarks were gone. Joe, acting as a spotter on the front of the boat, saw an opening and told Juan to turn east. They sailed through a pass they did not recognize, located in the south part of today's Madeira Beach. Joe realizing it was a newly created waterway turned to Juan and jokingly declared it was now "John's Pass," after the Captain who discovered it. Their homes on the east side of the bay were destroyed and their \$800 in gold buried nearby was lost, either swept away by the waters or buried under the debris.

Most historians agree the pass they entered was not where John's Pass is today. It was one mile north at about 138th Avenue. An official government survey before and after the Gale of 1848 does not show a pass where John's Pass is today. It apparently formed later with the help of other storms.

After the storm, all the navigational charts were worthless. Channels everywhere were either shifted or filled in. New passes were created in Englewood (Stump's Pass), Venice (Casey's Pass), Sarasota (Little Sarasota), Egmont (Passage Key), Anna Maria Island, Mullet Key, and Pass-A-Grille.

It separated the Isle of Palms and the Isle



of Capri from nearby Treasure Island. Allen's Creek, today running east and west to the south of Gulf to Bay Blvd, empties into Tampa Bay. Before the storm, the east end was 167 feet wide, after the storm it was over 2000 feet wide.

Maximo Hernandez, Pinellas County's first known settler, had a fish rancho at Fisherman's Creek near Eckerd College. His camp was destroyed; he left and never returned.

Count Philippe lived with his family near Safety Harbor's Philippe Park. He and his family took refuge from the rising tides on top of the large Tocobaga Indian Mound still in the park today.

The winds felled almost every tree along what is today's Indian Rocks Road - just east of the beaches.

Tampa barely had 100 residents - most were soldiers at Ft. Brooke where they had sustained winds of 72 miles per hour and the highest storm surge ever recorded in Tampa Bay - 15 feet!

"The storm has destroyed all of the wharves and most of the buildings at this post," said Commanding Officer Major Wade. "The commissary and quartermaster storehouses were all swept away with their contents. The barracks are beyond repair. But I am happy to report that no one died."

Several Tampa stores were destroyed, and their transport schooner was pushed a great distance into the pine forests surrounding the fort.

The October storm that followed the Great Gale of '48, just 17 days later, was much less severe. Or maybe there was just less to lose. It was probably a Category 1 by today's standards with sustained winds at Ft. Brooke reported at 72 miles per hour. The waters there still rose 10 feet, but since the September hurricane had already destroyed almost everything in the area, the storm damage was considered far less. ■

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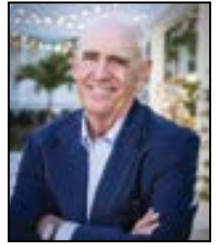
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FINANCES AND DEMENTIA

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?

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

FATHER BOB REMEMBERS

By Father Bob Wagenseil

It's been nearly ten years since I retired from the active priesthood of the Church and nearly seven years since my wife and I moved to Crystal River. However, over the years which followed, I have been blessed by friends from Indian Rocks Beach who've remained part of my life and whose prayers, kindness, and visits have kept us close to the community we were part of for so many years. Once such person is Bob Griffin who has invited me to share a few thoughts on this tenth anniversary of our departure from Calvary Episcopal Church, Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue, and the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

The past seven years have not only found us living some 90 miles away in Crystal River, but have been a reminder of the many friends who touched our lives beginning with our arrival in IRB in September 1995. This was especially true during the illness and death of my wife, PT. PT was an outstanding teacher at St Patrick's Largo, but most of all was a person whose kindness, smile, and life of service touched the lives of everyone who knew her. We were married for nearly forty-four years, and it is impossible for me to speak of my life in IRB without speaking of our life in IRB.

Our life in IRB was marked by incredible happiness. During our years, we were part of a parish church that was blessed to embrace the words of Jesus: "I am among you as one who serves." Our partnership with Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue, Indian Rocks Rotary, and the many business and community leaders of Indian Rocks Beach brought countless blessings to so many. From Food Pantries to Learning Centers, from Learn to Sail Programs to YMCA camps, from partnerships with our neighboring faith communities (most especially St Jerome Parish) to joint community efforts to improve public transportation, we lived through a time of growth, shared visions, cooperation across "party lines," and an abiding desire to be the "open doors" where all are welcomed.

IRB is truly a city of neighbors and friends who, under the leadership of dedicated commission members with outstanding Mayors such as Bob DiNicola, RB Johnson and Cookie Kennedy, who have sought to make IRB a wonderful place to live.

Now, ten years on, as I look back over the nearly twenty years during which time we called IRB home, I am left with the words spoken by another Bob (whose name was Hope) and I repeat them now with all of you as intended recipients:

"Thanks for the Memories!"



ABOUT TOWN: CHAD AND LALA GOLUB SHARE IRB "LIFE" WITH THE WORLD

By Diane Daniel

Chad and Lala Golub celebrated when they reached 100 members on Indian Rocks Beach Life, the Facebook group they launched in January 2017. These days, they field dozens of requests each day to join, and membership numbers are around 30,000 members and growing.

Theirs isn't the only Facebook group devoted to all things IRB, but it is the largest. Some groups are "locals only," while others, like the Golubs', are open to anyone. Six moderators help the couple screen requests and keep the order.

"Our golden rule is kindness," said Lala, whose given name is Lauren. "Regardless of where you live, you're welcome here," Chad said. "We even have international members." Posters are typically a combination of locals, people who live in the general area, and vacationers.

The couple, who have lived in IRB since 2011, started the site to build community and promote businesses, nonprofits and activities. "Bringing the community together is what brings me joy," Lala said. They don't monetize the site, though they are thinking about selling branded items.

Both Chad and Lala are artists. Chad blows glass and makes jewelry and gifts, while Lala paints beach décor. They sell their work at Sea Gypsy, ZEN Massage and Yoga, and Crabby Bill's, as well as at IRB events such as Oktoberfest on Oct. 14. Chad also makes "memorial glass," items that hold ashes of the dearly departed (Namaste Memorial Glass on Facebook). Their house, a blue 1950s cottage, is a testament to their artistic whimsy and love of the beach, as are their sons' names – Reef, 14, and Ripptide, 9.

Though the site steadily grew, it really took off during the pandemic. "We had a lot of people who were just sitting around all day with nothing to do, sometimes getting mean," Chad said. "That's when we started taking on more moderators." Lala instituted what she calls a "three-day time out," grounding people who make offensive posts.

"I give them three days to find their kindness," she said. "They can still see everything, but they can't comment. More than ninety percent wind up coming back and apologizing." Moderators also delete offensive posts and will close comments on posts that attract disrespectful remarks.

Still, the site gives some leeway for agitated comments about hot-button issues. Those have included parking, a rumored parking garage, short-term rentals, red tide, fireworks, golf carts, turtle hatching season, pedestrian crossings, dogs on the beach and, of course, politics, which they restrict to local only. "There are as many ways to live as there are people, so we try to respect that," Lala said. "Still, we expect people to be kind and courteous. And no hate speech."

Feedback the couple receive shows that their mission is working. "People often say, 'I love what you're doing for the community,'" Lala said. "That makes me feel really proud of what we've done."

Diane Daniel, founder of www.vacationdonations.org, is a faithful reader of Indian Rocks Beach Life.



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44TH CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY IT'S BACK HOME!

Featuring The Beach Boys, Buddy Guy,
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& Many More!

The 44th Clearwater Jazz Holiday is going home to Coachman Park and is thrilled to present, in concert, between October 19 and 22, 2023:

The Beach Boys with Good Vibrations Orchestra, Gladys Knight, Buddy Guy Damn Right Farewell, Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, Trampled by Turtles, Gipsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes, Los Lobos, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Average White Band, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Dustbowl Revival & More!

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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Bar & Restaurant News

COCO'S CRUSH IRB NOW OPEN

The long-awaited bar and grill had their grand opening on July 26th in the completely remodeled building at 2405 Gulf Boulevard. They have two other locations on Clearwater Beach: Coco's Crush Bar-The Original is at 317 Coronado Drive and Coco's Crush Bar North Beach is located at 423 Poinsettia Avenue. The Indian Rocks Beach location will have live music seven nights a week, happy hour Mon-Fri from 2-6pm, and all-you-can-eat crab legs all day Monday and Tuesday. Coco's Crabfest IRB will be held October 27-29. For more information visit cococrushbar.com/irb and follow them on Facebook.



DA POLLANI'S RISTORANTE ITALIAN RETURNS

The restaurant has moved back to its original location at 13688 Walsingham Road. Their cuisine consists of Italian, Southern Italian, Sicilian, and Pizza. There are vegan options available as well. The restaurant serves brunch on Saturday and Sundays from 11 am-3pm. They are closed on Tuesdays. Visit this family-run establishment, let them wine and dine you. Mangia!



DO THE CRAB CRAWL Did you know you could win a FREE t-shirt just by drinking a few yummy drinks? That's right, grab a bar crawl passport at any of the four Indian Rocks Beach Crabby Bill's Family Brands: JDs Restaurant & Lounge, Guilty Seas Sports Pub, Jake's Coastal Cantina, and of course The Original Crabby Bill's. Show your passport at each of these establishments and receive a stamp for drinking a signature adult beverage. Once you have your passport, return to Crabby Bills gift shop at 401 Gulf Blvd and retrieve your prize. You get to keep the cups as well. Bonus!

ANECDOTE BREWING CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

The craft brewery will celebrate three years on Indian Rocks Beach on September 23rd with an anniversary party featuring music, vendors and new beer releases. They will also celebrate Oktoberfest on October 7th with a "Paint Your Own Stein" event and an Oktoberfest beer release. Anecdote is located at 321 Gulf Blvd. For hours and details, visit AnecdoteBrewing.com.

BEST BEACH RESTAURANTS LATEST ISSUE

This free magazine highlights many of the best restaurants on the Pinellas Beaches. The September issue is out now. It is given to every hotel, motel and accommodation on the beaches--but you can pick one up in a few locations in Indian Rocks Beach, such as the Welcome Center on Walsingham, CVS, Crabby Bills, Guilty Seas Sports Bar, the new Coco Crush B&G and a few other area restaurants.



This is their 52nd issue. It features Hooters Restaurants, which will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a concert in Coachman Park on October 4th. Pick one up - It is Free!



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Bar & Restaurant News



OFFSHORE RACES RETURN The Baystar Clearwater Offshore Nationals sponsored by Visit St. Pete Clearwater will return to Clearwater Beach September 22nd to 24th, 2023. For over a decade, offshore powerboat racing teams and fans have come to town for an exciting weekend of entertainment, with fireworks, parties, and much more.

Race day sees 50,000 people and over 2,500 boats lining the beaches along the 2.5-mile-long racecourse. Proceeds from the Baystar Clearwater Offshore Nationals support Tampa Bay Charities, Inc. which benefits the Clearwater Community Sailing Center and Sailability. These Charities share the common focus of connecting our community to our waters and enabling children and adults alike to enjoy the paradise in which we live. Learn more at ClearwaterNationals.com.

Event sponsor Baystar Restaurant Group is the parent company of eleven Pinellas County restaurants including Salt Rock Grill, Seaweed, and Island Way Grill.

NEW RESTAURANT IN BELLEAIR BLUFFS

The long-awaited Clean EatZ, located at 2927 West Bay Drive next to Bonefish Grill, opened on August 10th. Their concept includes a menu filled with bowls, flatbreads and wraps to be stacked with carbs, proteins and fats. They also specialize in meal-prepping where there are no subscriptions needed. View their menu at CleanEatZ.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram.



THE HAUS COFFEE SHOP ADDS ICE CREAM

Since 2014, The Haus Coffee Shop has been serving hand-crafted lattes, macchiatos, and tea drinks as well as breakfast and lunch sandwiches, baked goods, and other snacks. It has recently expanded to include the Haus Ice Cream Shop, serving espresso shakes, seasonal ice cream drinks as well as ice cream and sundaes. The Haus also features a wine bar which includes craft beer on tap and an evening wine bar menu. It is located at 12199 Indian Rocks Road in Largo. See the full menu at hauscoffeeshopirb.com.

SEASONAL SENSATIONS WITH NEW LIBATIONS

The Indian Rocks Café Deli and Market will be adding seasonal soups and breads to their café menu. Beer and wine is also coming to the shelves at the market soon. The café is located at 1401 Gulf Blvd. To view the menu visit IndianRocksCafe.com.

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.

COMMISSION APPOINTS NEW CITY CLERK CITY MANAGER CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

The Indian Rocks Beach City Commission appointed Lorin Kornijtschuk as city clerk in June after the retirement of Deanne O'Reilly, who served more than 30 years in the position. The city clerk is responsible for records management, preparation of commission meeting agendas and minutes, legal advertising, and administration of municipal elections.

Kornijtschuk began employment with the city in September 2013 when she was hired as the administrative assistant to Public Works Director Dean Scharmen. "I was given the opportunity to gain experience from ground level about what makes the city work and what a great team of public works employees we have," said Kornijtschuk. "It was a very interesting opportunity to understand the city better."

Kornijtschuk was later promoted to Office Administrator, where she worked directly under City Manager Gregg Mims. On June 1st, Kornijtschuk was appointed interim city clerk at Mims' recommendation. The City Commission unanimously approved her appointment at the July 11th commission meeting. "I'm very happy to be here," said Kornijtschuk. "I've strived to be a city clerk for a long time." She took the initiative early and joined the International Institution of Municipal Clerks in 2018. The association provides two certifications earned through educational programs and professional development activities.

Born in Chicago and raised in the Chicago Metro area, Kornijtschuk graduated with a degree in business administration from the College of DuPage in Wheaton, Illinois. She currently lives in Redington Beach with her husband Tim, who is the vice mayor of their hometown.



City Clerk Lorin Kornijtschuk and City Manager Gregg Mims

In other city hall news, City Manager Gregg Mims celebrated his 10th anniversary with the City of Indian Rocks Beach in July. In a public service career spanning nearly forty-five years, Mims held positions in local governments in Mississippi and Alabama before finding his home in Indian Rocks Beach. "My wife and I are beach people," said Mims. "When I first came over the bridge, I called her and said, 'I can just tell you I like this this place.'"

After ten years, Mims remains focused on serving the citizens of Indian Rocks Beach and recognizes the team philosophy at city hall. "It's not a 'me' thing here, it's an 'us' thing," said Mims. "We've gotten a lot of fun things done here, and we're going to do a whole lot more."

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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

School is back in session and the roads – and sidewalks – are busier. Make sure you allow extra time on your morning commute as you drive through school zones and watch out for pedestrians. We must do everything we can to keep children safe and you can do your part by brushing up on traffic laws related to school buses, school zones, and pedestrians.



Be aware of designated school zones – they will be clearly marked with signage and flashing lights alerting drivers. The speed limit in most local school zones is 15 miles per hour. The slow-speed zone is enforced half an hour before students are expected to arrive at school. Remember, this doesn't just mean the official start of classes, but may be earlier for breakfast service. The school zone may be active for up to half an hour after class begins. In the afternoon, the school zone is active until 30 minutes after students are released. With elementary, middle, and high schools all starting and ending at different times, you may encounter several different school zones in your daily travels. The fine for speeding in a school zone is double that of speeding in most other areas.

Also remember that you can't have your cell phone in your hand at all in a school zone – not only is it unsafe, but it is also illegal. This applies to calls, texts, and any other hands-on use of your phone, including navigation. If you must use a device in a school zone, it needs to be completely hands-free. Your full attention needs to be on the road and on pedestrians.

Crossing guards are stationed near schools as well as at intersections on the routes where children walk or bike to school. Crossing guards enter the crosswalk when it is safe to do so and ensure that children only cross the road when all traffic has stopped. Be alert for the crossing guard's sign and whistle, and follow their directions. They are considered a traffic control device, the same as a stop sign, and their instructions should be followed for the safety of young pedestrians.

If you would like a rewarding part-time job helping to keep children safe, consider becoming a school crossing guard. You will receive uniforms, equipment, and training, and make \$22 an hour. Contact Human Resources at 727-582-6208 for more information.

Along with pedestrians, there are many more school buses on the roads. The rules about when to stop for a school bus may seem confusing but they are actually simple. When you are driving behind a bus you must always stop when the bus activates its flashing red lights and displays its STOP signal, no matter how many lanes there are. However, if you are driving in the opposite, oncoming lanes, whether or not you stop depends on the median. If there is a raised median, physical barrier, or unpaved space at least five feet wide between lane directions you do not have to stop. Painted lines and pavement markings are not considered barriers. If that barrier is not there, oncoming traffic must stop. Failure to stop for a school bus carries a hefty fine and repeat offenses can result in a driver's license suspension.

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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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Business Briefs

PLAZA FACE LIFT ALMOST COMPLETE

The construction you have seen at The Plaza was just a face lift. The sign on Indian Rocks Road was totally replaced as well.



A new tenant is moving into the middle of The Plaza where the artist store was. It will be a lady's dress shop specializing in French clothing.

PROVISE MANAGEMENT RECOGNIZED The annual Best Companies To Work For In Florida list featured in the August issue of Florida Trend magazine ranked ProVise as one of the top 100 employers in its category.

"We are honored to be included in Florida Trend's list of Best Companies with these other outstanding businesses across Florida," said Ray Ferrara, CFP®, Founder and Executive Chair of ProVise. "Our wonderful team works hard on behalf of our 1200 clients who have entrusted us with \$1.7 billion of their money."

The Best Companies To Work For In Florida program is managed by Florida Trend and Workforce Research Group and is endorsed by the HR Florida State Council.



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LOCAL CHARTER CAPTAIN AWARDED Belleair Beach resident Captain Scott Flesch and his company Fishing Clearwater Inshore (FCWIS) won the plaque for Best Fishing Charter boat in the Tampa Bay Best of the Best Contest. The competition recognizes local businesses across varying categories. Captain Flesch (pictured above with Indian Rocks Cafe's Jean Tacy and family) has been fishing the backwaters of Pinellas County since childhood.

Flesch started FCWIS after a career in tech and management, and has brought a business approach to chartering, securing partnerships with corporate clients and team-building charters as well as collaborating with area hotels.

FCWIS was also a finalist in Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay award in the Best Boat Charter category, the results of which were not finalized prior to this edition. For more information, visit FCWIS.com.

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

LARGO RESIDENT PUBLISHES CHILDREN’S BOOK

By Pete Magnani, *Publisher*

Largo resident and author Nathaniel Jenks recently published his first children’s book, *A New Day for Umwell the Gray*, illustrated by Rebecca Evans. The book tells the story of a boy named William who sees life through a gray lens. His world, his mood, and even his clothes are gray. One day a mysterious girl appears and introduces herself as Purple. When she asks his name, he stammers and responds “um...well” so Purple begins calling him Umwell. As they talk, William complains that his life is boring and nothing ever changes.



Purple takes him on a walk through the woods to the beach and shows him that everything in nature is constantly changing, from the running water in a stream to the leaves falling from the trees. The illustrations in the book begin as drab shades of gray and vibrant colors are added throughout as William begins to appreciate the changing beauty inherent in nature.

“I believe children’s writing is very important,” says Jenks. “If you give them a positive message, they can take that forward in their lives and into the world. The book is aimed at children six to ten years old. “When you publish for this age range, you must be economical with your words. However, because children might still be reading the story with their parents, I tried to write it so that it works on two levels.” He hopes that both the children and their parents will be able to get something out of it.



Jenks was born in St. Petersburg and moved to Largo at an early age, attending both Largo Middle and High Schools. He also lived in Oregon for 10 years, where he developed a passion for nature and spent as much time as possible hiking and camping. He also found an interest in eastern philosophy, particularly Taoism. “Sometimes in our rational adult world, we think things are so fixed and you get stuck,” says Jenks. “If you have that intuition that things are actually always changing in nature, you can relate it to human beings as well.”

Jenks spent four years teaching English, Science and Grammar in Thailand before returning to Florida. He lived for a time in Naples, where he published articles on his nature excursions, including several about a two-week kayak journey he took from Naples to the Keys. He also worked in the tennis industry for many years and published several articles about the sport.

Jenks is currently working on another children’s book unrelated to *A New Day for Umwell the Gray* but is also planning a prequel and sequel to further explore William and Purple’s lives. This inspirational book is in the Pinellas County Library system and can be purchased at some local bookstores, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble. Links to those sites are available at nathanieljenks.com.

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Community News

IRB HOME

Submitted by Marybeth Dunn

IRBHOA has officially changed its name to IRBHome. The new name better represents our mission and the makeup of our membership. We are a non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting positive interaction between locals, visitors, and businesses. By hosting community events and activities that directly benefit our local businesses and fund community projects, the IRB Home contributes to the overall health and well-being of the community. Membership is free and open to all. All we ask is that you give back by volunteering your time to help at our events when you can. Join us at www.irbhome.com and at our

Upcoming events:

Mix and Mingles September 21st from 6-8pm at Slyce
Thursday, October 19th - TBD

Taste of IRB Saturday, November 4th from 3-9pm

IRBHome is a sponsoring organization for Wreaths Across America again this year. Our goal is to place wreaths on the graves of 100 of our fallen soldiers who have been laid to rest at Bay Pines Cemetery. Help honor veterans by sponsoring a wreath. For more information, visit bit.ly/IRBHomeWreathsAcrossAmerica.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, and inviting your family and friends to do the same.

REMEMBER ME NFP

This nonprofit announced the launch of its mobile unit aimed at providing vital services in the areas of suicide prevention and drug overdose. The organization offers comprehensive education, intervention, and recovery programs to individuals and communities affected by mental health issues.

Remember Me NFP aims to create awareness and provide necessary resources to prevent these tragic occurrences. The mobile unit will allow the organization to reach individuals in various communities and offer support at their convenience.

Remember Me NFP offers innovative programs such as "Paddle for Prevention," which utilizes water therapy as a form of mental health education, and "Paws Up for Mental Health," a program that utilizes music, literacy, and puppets to establish a mental health plan for children aged 2-12 and their caregivers.

To further educate the community about the warning signs of failing mental health, Remember Me NFP offers informative presentations called "Talk Saves Lives." These presentations aim to raise awareness and equip individuals with the knowledge needed to identify and support those in need. Additionally, the organization provides a Suicide Survivor Support Group, where individuals with lived experiences can find solace and understanding.

For more information about Remember Me NFP and the programs they provide, visit RememberMeNFP.com or call (727) 688-4544.

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Community News

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

Training camps are in full swing. The preseason games are almost over. The season is ready to start. Are you ready?

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is sponsoring the 21st edition of our biggest fundraiser, the 'Big Game Raffle'. One lucky winner will win a Grand Prize package including two tickets to the 58th edition of the world's biggest football game, to be held on February 11, 2024, at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, as well as 4 nights lodging and \$1000 spending money. There are also cash prizes for second through fifth place winners.

Tickets are \$20 for a 5-ticket package and can be purchased from any Indian Rocks Beach Rotarian or by calling or texting event chairperson David Kline at (727) 418-1673.

The proceeds from this and all IRB Rotary fundraisers support the charitable good works of Rotary, locally and internationally. For more information on our club and the organizations that we support. Please visit our website at indianrocksrotary.org

If you have a desire to help us serve those who are challenged by life's adversities, we invite you to visit our club, learn more about Rotary, and sample our "Rotary Hospitality." We meet each Wednesday at 7:15 am at Crabby Bill's main restaurant. Hope to see you soon!

On Saturday, August 12, the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach inducted the 2023-2024 Officers and Directors to serve a one-year term. The event was held at the Cambria Hotel, Madeira Beach.

New President, Chris Smaridge, of Seminole, was elected to a one-year term, succeeding the 2022-2023 President, David Kline.

Assisting President Chris will be President-elect, Michael Schulz; Secretary, Paul Burns; Treasurer, Lynn Johler, and Directors Mark Arnold, Shawn Barklow, Vernon Bryant, Marykay Csege, Claire English, and Cliff Koch.

Rotary International, a 118-year-old global service organization, established the normal Rotary year as July 1st to June 30th.

The event celebrated the accomplishments of outgoing President, David Kline, his Officers and Directors and welcomed the new leadership, led by President Chris.

We also congratulate and thank the members of our extended community, without whose support our club could not exist. Through our fundraisers, "The Big Game Raffle", "Rotary Runs the Beach", "The Pancake Breakfast" (supporting the Lou Gregor Scholarship) and "Flags for Service", we support Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus: Peace and Conflict Resolution; Prevention and Treatment of Disease; Clean Water, Hygiene and Sanitation; Maternal and Child Health; Education and Literacy; Economic and Community Development; the Environment.

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.

Community News



BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Andrea Harms

The Beach Art Center had a fun and busy Summer! Our Creative Kids Summer Camp was a blast again this year, with 7 weeks of arts and crafts including painting, pottery, Claymation, and decoupage. We ended the 2023 Camp with a party and a KID PWR Gallery Show featuring the Campers' best artwork. Thanks to our Camp Sponsors - Island Surf Shop, Slyce Pizza IRB, ZEN Massage & Yoga, Pioneer Mortgage Funding, Great Florida Insurance, Plumlee Realty, Salty Pelican Seafood, Bonham Dental Arts, No Place Like Homecare, Sunshine Stay IRB, and IRB Creamery.

We are starting a kids art class this Fall called "Creative Kids Classes." The first class is on Saturday, September 9th with local artist, Deb Vest. The kids will make Garden Flags to take home. On September 30th we'll invite the kids to make "Spooky Halloween Totems" made of clay, and a Halloween Painting class is planned for October 15th. Check out our kids schedule at beachartcenter.org/kids

Adult Classes and Open Studio are starting up as well. This Fall we have weekly classes in Drawing, Acrylics, Watercolor, Oils, Mixed Media, Plein Aire, and Pottery. Limited Series classes include our popular Ukulele 101, Fearless Abstract with Dane Capo, and a new Writing Class with local author Tom Cosentino. Visit beachartcenter.org/classes to view our full schedule.

For something fun and different, try our "Art on the Rocks" classes, which are step-by-step classes in a relaxing atmosphere. Bring your own drinks and snacks and hang out with us! \$38 includes all your supplies and you'll take home your creation. Upcoming classes include including Folk Art Baskets, Paint Pouring Waves, Acrylic and Watercolor Painting, Mandala painting, Seashell Mosaic, and more get scheduled all the time: www.beachartcenter.org/artontherocks

Another night you're sure to enjoy is our new "Storytelling with Walt Belcher" the 4th Thursday evening of the month. In July we had about 20 participants who listened to interesting, funny, sad, and thought-provoking stories from our Storytellers. Join us on 8/24, 9/28, and 10/26 from 7-9pm. Visit www.beachartcenter.org/community for details.

And finally, we're so proud of our Summer Gallery Show "I'll Read What I Want." This unique exhibit is open Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm until September 22nd. Next up will be our Fall Gallery Show "Don't be Square" with art take-in Sep 25-27 and a gallery reception on Friday, October 6th from 6-8pm. Free and open to everyone!

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Community News

TAMPA BAY WATCH

Submitted by Rachel Arndt

We have exciting news to share! The universe has spoken, so the highly anticipated Evening for the Bay: The Reef Ball, will once again be held at our beautiful TBW Tierra Verde Marine Center on Saturday, October 21.

Due to unavoidable challenges with reserved parking and newly announced road construction in downtown Tampa near the Tampa Museum of Art, the venue change will create an elevated guest experience.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary milestone, guests can expect to enjoy delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on our iconic wraparound porch, open bar, elegant plated dinner, and an exciting auction. Plus, Tampa Bay's own 18-piece Jazz Orchestra – The TomKats – is lined up to provide entertainment throughout the evening. And we'll be treated to a magnificent Tampa Bay Watch sunset!

Ghost Trap Rodeo was a Success!

Tampa Bay Watch, in partnership with Ocean Aid 360, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and Coastal Impact Fund worked with 115 volunteers for the Ghost Trap Rodeo on Saturday, July 15. Thanks to everyone involved, 260 ghost traps and 8,384 lbs. marine debris were removed from Tampa Bay! "This event is great because it gets community volunteers involved in helping to preserve and protect the bay by removing debris and keeping marine life from needlessly getting caught and killed in abandoned traps," said Serra Herndon, Habitat Restoration Director.



DALÍ MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Dalí Alive 360°

This immersive experience showcasing Salvador Dalí's works in the new dome on the grounds of Museum opened August 3rd and will run indefinitely.

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.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH LIBRARY

The library is open Mon-Fri from 10am-4pm. We host the "On the Rocks Book Club" on the last Tuesday of the month at 4pm in the library. For more information on the club and book selections, contact the library at (727) 596-1822.

Pre-readers' story time is on Wednesdays 11:30 AM. Join us for a story, songs, and activities.

The library is located at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

A2K / ACTION 2000

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

BEACH ART CENTER

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Andrea Harms (727) 596-4331
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Local Environmental Youth Group
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www.GreenTownKids.org
GreentownKids@gmail.com

IRB HOME

Marybeth Dunn, Pres. (727) 272-5251
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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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 Scripps 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 second 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.

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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Community News

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

GreenTown Kids is planning for our fall garden and anxiously awaiting cooler weather! We will hold our annual Fall Garden Party to prep the IRB Community Garden boxes and replant for the season in the beginning of October. The "Give Thanks for a Clean Beach" International Coastal Cleanup will take place on November 4th from 8-11am at the 18th Ave. Beach Access. Community volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate and help keep our beach and water clean and healthy. If you'd like your own garden box in the IRB Community Garden, contact us at greentownkids@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with all our events. GreenTown Kids is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Indian Rocks Beach and the surrounding schools. Visit greentownkids.org to get monthly newsletters, become a member, and donate.



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Nan Jensen

The museum will reopen on Wednesday, October 4. The hours of operation are 10am-2pm, Wednesday through Saturday. We are located at 203 4th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach across the street from the post office. A new sign has been installed on the grounds to mark the location.

The museum will be hosting a covered dish luncheon on October 21, beginning at 12pm. The speaker for the luncheon will be Dr. Roger Block, a Native American scholar and educator as well as past president and thirty-year member of the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society. Roger will review the recently dedicated Tocobaga Memorial located at the Tiki Gardens Beach parking area in Indian Shores. The memorial honors the Tocobaga Indian nation that occupied the Tampa Bay area in the 1500s when the first Europeans set foot on our shores as part of the Spanish expeditions seeking gold in the New World. We are asking those who want to attend the luncheon to bring a dish to share with the group.

The museum is looking for volunteers to serve as hosts during our opening hours. Training will be provided. Contact Carol McGlaughlin at (727) 420-8662 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.



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Community News



IRB SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Submitted by Rick Burdick

Congratulations to Coach Lloyd Roberts and the Blue Team for winning the Summer Season "Robin Scholtz Championship Trophy" by defeating the top seeded Orange Team.

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. Visit irbssl.com for more information.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Submitted by Chief Jeffrey Davidson

This year we are hosting our second annual September 11th walk. The route will start at Belleair Beach City Hall, heading south along the west side of Gulf Blvd to 14th Avenue in Indian Rocks Beach, then north on the east side of Gulf Blvd returning to Belleair Beach City Hall.

The walk is 3.43 miles, representing the 343 firefighters who gave their lives on that day. There will be refreshments provided. Join us for the entire walk, part of the walk, or as a supporter from your beach chair on the sidewalk cheering us on.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The club recently welcomed a new general manager, Peter Jutis, who brings years of experience in the restaurant industry to the Yacht Club. In addition to rebuilding their docks, they recently completed renovations to the clubhouse, both inside and out. They are accepting applications for winter membership. Call (727) 447-6000 to make an appointment for a tour of the facility. Visit ClearwaterYachtClub.org for more information.

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.



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50/50 Raffle Drawing







Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH



ACTION 2000

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

Are you ready for an unforgettable celebration filled with great food, exciting games, and live music? Look no further! Come join us for the annual Oktoberfest on the Beach Festival, hosted by IRB Action 2000 and the City of Indian Rocks Beach. The event will be held at Kolb Park on October 14th from noon-6pm.

Grab your lederhosen and get ready for:

Live Oompah Band & Dancers: Get ready to dance and sing along to the traditional sounds of Bavaria with our fantastic live Oompah band and folk dances featuring whirling dirndls and lively Schuhplattlers.

Live Music: We welcome back Erica DiCeglie & Band with a lineup of pop, soft rock, R&B, blues and country. Their lively tunes will keep the party going.

Delicious Cuisine: Indulge in mouthwatering brats and so much more. Our food vendors will tantalize your taste buds!

Games: Create cherished moments with your family and friends and win prizes with the annual stein carrying and keg throwing contests.

Beer: It just wouldn't be Oktoberfest without cold beer!

Vendor Fair: Shop 'til you drop at craft vendor booths and stop by and learn more about our small businesses, and local nonprofits.

50/50 Raffle: Don't miss your chance to win. Every year the pot gets bigger!

Silent Auction: You could be the winner of a beautiful original artwork created by Mary Rose Holmes, Plein Aire Cottage Artist. Stop by the A2K booth to place your bid.

Many warm thanks to our supporters for their ongoing generosity. A very special shout out to our generous Event Sponsors - Crabby Bills, Tampa Bay Newspapers ("The Bee"), Attorney Patrick L. Smith, and The Seaside Real Estate Store. Cheers to the many business owners and individual sponsors who continue to support our nonprofit and our community. We appreciate you!

IRB Action 2000 is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to the preservation and beautification of our unique small town. We hope you'll join us for our monthly meetings the second Monday of the month, at 6:30 pm at IRB City Hall Auditorium. All are welcome!

Follow us on social media at facebook.com/Action2000IRB and facebook.com/oktoberfestirb.

Community News



PLEIN AIRE COTTAGE ARTISTS

Mary Rose Holmes, one of the three renowned Plein Aire Cottage Artists, has generously donated one of her beautiful paintings to IRB Action 2000's Oktoberfest silent auction. The artwork, titled "Save Our Cottages," is expected to make a significant impact in raising funds for the non-profit dedicated to beautification and preservation of IRB.

Mary Rose and the Plein Aire Cottage Artists are known for their captivating use of colors and highlighting the endangered cottages, with their paintings become a symbol for a cause – to help Save Our Cottages. Their artwork has been showcased in numerous galleries and exhibitions, earning them worldwide recognition and a devoted following of art enthusiasts.

You will have an opportunity to bid on this original oil painting at the Oktoberfest Festival on October 14th from noon-6pm. The painting will be displayed at the Beach Art Center starting mid-September with bidding to take place at the A2K booth during the festival.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Florida Botanical Gardens Needs Your Help!

Join us in naming our new mascots for the Majeed Discovery Garden (MDG), a brand-new children's garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. The mascots include a blue heron, turtle, and bee - commonly found in this botanical oasis within the heart of Pinellas County. Those up for the challenge can fill out this survey: tinyurl.com/mdgmascotcampaign. The top three names will be entered into the second round, with voting from the public online and in-person at the gardens through September 16th. A Grand Opening celebration for the MDG is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 10am-2pm. The winners will be announced at the opening, along with the unveiling of the new names.

Grand Opening of the Majeed Discovery Garden (MDG)

Save the date! On Saturday, October 7 from 10am-2pm we celebrate the opening of the new children's garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. The event includes a reception and ribbon cutting in the morning and a variety of children's activities in the afternoon. All ages welcome, free to enjoy.

Pumpkin Fest in the MDG

This fall favorite at the Florida Botanical Gardens returns on Saturday, October 21 from 12-4 PM in the new children's garden. Enjoy a pumpkin patch, pumpkin carving, scarecrow contest, and more! Free to the public, all ages welcome.

Holiday Lights in the Gardens

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is pleased to announce the return of its annual winter fundraiser, Holiday Lights in the Gardens. This Pinellas County holiday tradition is open nightly and runs from Friday, November 24, 2023-Sunday, December 31, 2024.

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