

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.beachnewsletters.com

Magazine

## CARL FISHER AND THE TAMAMI TRAIL

By Bob Griffin, Local Historian

America is a nation of roads. Roads keep us connected, allowing us to freely pass across state lines. Roads allow us to visit family, travel to unfamiliar places, and to see the country. Zipping down the highway in an automobile can be one of the most relaxing weekend experiences.

The Tamiami Trail is a highway that runs from Tampa to Miami. It is the southernmost part of US Highway 41, which begins at Florida's state line. It runs down the west coast of Florida before crossing the state and running directly into downtown Miami. Few people know its origins – it began with Carl Fisher the founder of the Indianapolis Speedway.

Carl Fisher, who established the original "Brickyard" Indianapolis Speedway, was a major Miami Beach developer. Born in Indiana, Fisher was addicted to speed at an early age, both while running and on bicycles. With the popularity of the automobile, his obsession turned to cars. Fisher bought the first automobile in Indianapolis. It was a French made, three-wheeled De Dion Bouton with an internal combustion engine. Before long, he was racing motorcars at local fairgrounds and area dirt racetracks. In 1904, at the age of 30, Fisher set the world speed record on a 2-mile dirt track - at 60.6 miles per hour. Fisher established Indiana's first car dealership, "Carl Fisher Automobiles," which featured both passenger cars and trucks. It was possibly the first auto dealership in the United States.

*Continued on page 3*



### Also in this Issue:



#### Generative Art

Artist Laureat Mikhail Mansion uses his engineering background to blend nature with technology.

- page 15

#### Planning on a Puppy?

Adding a new family pet not only brings a family joy, but also new responsibilities.

- page 23

#### Keep an Eye Out for Bobcats

March is the peak breeding season for one of Florida's two wild cat breeds, giving residents a better chance at spotting one.

- page 7



#### What is a Michelin Star?

Learn about prestigious culinary accolades and the criteria used in awarding them.

- page 6

**CREDITS**



This newsletter is published by Magriff Productions, LLC. and is mailed to residences, business and vacation rentals in the Dunedin core. We are not associated with the City of Dunedin.

**PUBLISHERS**

Lora and Pete Magnani

**ART DIRECTION**

Pete Magnani

**SALES**

Lora Magnani  
(813) 361-7376

**CONTACT INFO**

P.O. Box 2628  
Dunedin, FL 34697  
(813) 239-6862

**BeachNewsletters.com**

If you are interested in advertising, we offer multi-city and annual discounts. Ads need to be reserved one month in advance.

E-mail: [pete@magriffproductions.com](mailto:pete@magriffproductions.com) or visit [beachnewsletters.com](http://beachnewsletters.com) for more information.

© 2024 Magriff Productions, Inc.

**DUNEDIN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS MAGAZINE**

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862  
[Pete@MagriffProductions.com](mailto:Pete@MagriffProductions.com)

**SEE YOU AGAIN  
MAY**



**CITY NUMBERS**

**CITY HALL 298-3000**

Mon - Fri, 7am to 6pm  
737 Louden Ave  
[DunedinGov.com](http://DunedinGov.com)

**MAYOR** Julie Ward Bujalski

**CITY MANAGER** Jennifer Bramley

**DEPUTY MANAGER** Jorge Quintas

**COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Mayor Maureen "Moe" Freaney  
Jeff Gow • John Tornga • Robert Walker

Community Development: 298-3321  
Public Services: 298-3232  
Solid Waste: 298-3215  
Public Library 298-3080  
Community Center 812-4530  
MLK Rec Center 738-2920  
Code Enforcement 298-3190

**ELECTRICITY** 443-2641

**WATER** 298-3100

**EMERGENCIES:** 9-1-1

**SHERIFF NON-EMERGENCIES** 582-6200

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

**SHERIFF DISPATCH** 582-6177

**DUNEDIN FIRE RESCUE** 298-3102

Fire Chief Jeff Parks

**POST OFFICE** 738-0661

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

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** 733-3197

**MUNICIPAL MARINA** 298-3030

**PINELLAS COUNTY:**

**INFO** 464-3000

**COMMISSION OFFICES** 464-3377

Dave Eggers 464-3276

315 Court St  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
[DEggers@Pinellas.gov](mailto:DEggers@Pinellas.gov)

**ANIMAL SERVICES** 582-2600

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** 464-4761

**HUMAN SERVICES** 464-4200

**VETERANS SERVICES** 464-8460

**STATE:**

Governor Ron DeSantis (850) 717-9337  
400 Monroe St.

Tallahassee, FL 32399

[Ron.DeSantis@MyFlorida.com](mailto:Ron.DeSantis@MyFlorida.com)

Senator Ed Hooper 771-2102

Republican, Dist. 21

3450 East Lake Rd Suite 305

Palm Harbor, FL 34685

[Hooper.Ed.Web@FLSenate.gov](mailto:Hooper.Ed.Web@FLSenate.gov)

Representative Adam Anderson 626-4440

Republican, District 57

600 Klosterman Rd Suite BB038

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

[Adam.Anderson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Adam.Anderson@myfloridahouse.gov)

Representative Kimberly Berfield 216-6035

Republican, District 58

2189 Cleveland St, Ste 229

Clearwater, FL 33765

[Ron.Ogden@MyFloridaHouse.gov](mailto:Ron.Ogden@MyFloridaHouse.gov)

**FLORIDA UNITED STATES SENATORS:**

Marco Rubio (202) 224-3041

284 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Rubio.Senate.gov

Rick Scott (202) 224-5274

110 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

[RickScott.Senate.gov](mailto:RickScott.Senate.gov)

**AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

Anna Paulina Luna (202) 225-5961

1017 Longworth House Office Bldg

Washington, DC 20515

**CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

*As always, this is subject to change.*

**MARCH**

HOB Music and Craft Beer Fest 2  
BBQ and Blues Fest Tropicana 2  
City Commission Meeting 7  
St. Pete Grand Prix 7-10  
DDMA Second Friday 8  
Latin Food Festival Safety Harbor 9  
Tarpon Springs Art Fest 9-10  
Daylight Savings Time Begins 10  
Spring Break Public Schools 11-15  
Fine Art Center Trashy Treasures 15-16  
St Paddy's 5/10K HOB Brewing 16  
St. Patrick's Day 17  
Valspar Championship 18-24  
Primary and Municipal Elections 19  
City Commission Meeting 21  
Dunedin Seafood Festival Olde Bay 23  
Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt MLK Rec 23  
Tampa Home Show 23  
MLB Opening Day 28  
Rays First Home Game 28  
Sugar Sand Festival Begins 29  
Tampa Bay Airfest 29-30  
Bunny Brunch Community Center 30  
Easter Sunday 31

**APRIL**

April Fools' Day 1  
City Commission Meeting 4  
Palm Harbor Festival 4-7  
Dunedin Highland Games 5-6  
Dunedin Causeway Beach Cleanup 6  
Highland Games 5K 6  
Classic Car Show Heritage Village 6  
DDMA Second Friday 12  
Holocaust Remembrance Day 12  
Tampa Bay Blues Fest Vinoy 12-14  
Pinellas Park PepperFest 13  
Sugar Sand Festival Ends 14  
Patriots' Day 15  
Income Taxes Due 15  
City Commission Meeting 18  
Family Fun Fest Highlander Park 19  
Downtown Art and Craft Fest 20-21  
Great American Cleanup 21  
Mainsail Art Festival Vinoy Park 20-21  
Earth Day 22  
Administrative Professionals Day 24  
Public Schools Closed 26  
County Recycling Countryside 27  
National Arbor Day 29

# The Tamiami Trail, Continued

Carl Fisher was a prolific salesman with a talent for showmanship, or ballyhoo as it was called, which he used to promote his dealership. One idea was to build a major racetrack in his hometown. With two partners and \$75,000, he created the "Indianapolis Motor Speedway." The first race, on a dirt track, was to be a three-day, 300-mile endurance event but it became a race around ruts and potholes and ended after 235 miles with the death of five - three racers and two spectators.

Fisher rebuilt the track with 3.2 million glazed, hand-laid bricks, adding higher protective walls. The remodeled speedway opened in 1909 and 80,000 spectators turned out to watch the first "Indianapolis 500." Over the next half century, this racing event has turned into the "largest single-day sporting event in the country," drawing more than 150,000 fans to what became known as "the Brickyard."

What has this got to do with The Tamiami Trail? In 1912, at a meeting in Indianapolis with other car industry leaders, Fisher proposed building an east-west highway from New York's Times Square to San Francisco's Lincoln Park. Billed as, "a road across America," he proclaimed, "let's build it before we are too old to enjoy it."

Fisher came up with a plan to fund the project. He persuaded the car makers, dealers, suppliers, and even jobbers to contribute a small percentage of their annual sales to a construction fund to be used once the fund reached \$10 million. At the time, states spent little to no money on road construction. Most of the nation's roads were still dirt and as a result, were muddy and many times almost impassable in a horse-drawn carriage, much less in automobiles. Henry Ford, owner of Ford Motor Company, refused to contribute believing governments would build the roads.

When the road, originally called the "Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway," was completed it, became known as the "Lincoln Highway," and was mostly complete in 1915. Interstate 80 runs parallel to this highway today. The project was the motivation behind the National Interstate Highways Act of 1956, created under President Dwight Eisenhower.

In 1910, at the invitation of a Miami developer, Fisher and his wife visited Miami Beach, which required them to take an exceptionally long train ride from Indianapolis. Fisher fell in love with the area and immediately started

buying land on what was really just a sandbar. Following his Lincoln Highway project, Fisher proposed a link from Chicago and upper Michigan to Miami, what he called the "Dixie Highway." In reality, it was a pair of roads—an east and a west route converging in Miami. Because of the parallel roads, it would cover 5,786 miles, far longer than his east-west highway. The project was estimated to take over a decade to complete.

In 1915, the Florida State Road Department was created. That April, at an informal meeting between the presidents of the Ft. Myers and Miami Chambers of Commerce, building a new highway was discussed. The goal of the plan was to create a hard-surfaced road connecting Tampa and Miami called the "Tamiami Trail."

Building a road through the Everglades proved more difficult than expected, and in 1922 the state ran out of funds. Entrepreneur Barron Collier offered to finance the completion of the highway, he wanted access to the wealth in the Miami area, but his offer came with a catch - the state would have to create a new county named after him. Collier County was carved out of Lee County. In exchange, Collier paid for the dynamite to break up the swamp land and the workers and oxen needed to dredge the area and build the road high enough to prevent flooding. The men worked in the swamps during Florida's 95 plus degree summers, battling mosquitos and alligators.

In 1923, while construction was still underway, Fisher organized a fifteen car caravan, which he called "the Dixie Highway Pathfinders" to travel to Miami. They arrived in October with Fisher in the lead car, of course. It was no accident he planned the highway to end in Miami. Fisher had plans to move from being a car salesman to being a real estate developer - in Miami! He established himself in Alton Beach; it was later to be incorporated as Miami Beach.

Originally intended to be one thoroughfare, the highway was officially designated two U.S. Highways. The north-south portion became U.S. Highway 41, and the east-west portion was designated U.S. Highway 94. In 1949, the U.S. 94 moniker was decommissioned, and the entire route became U.S. 41.



Carl Fisher

The final segment of the Tamiami Trail was completed in April of 1928 and is considered to be one of the largest influences on Florida's tourism industry.

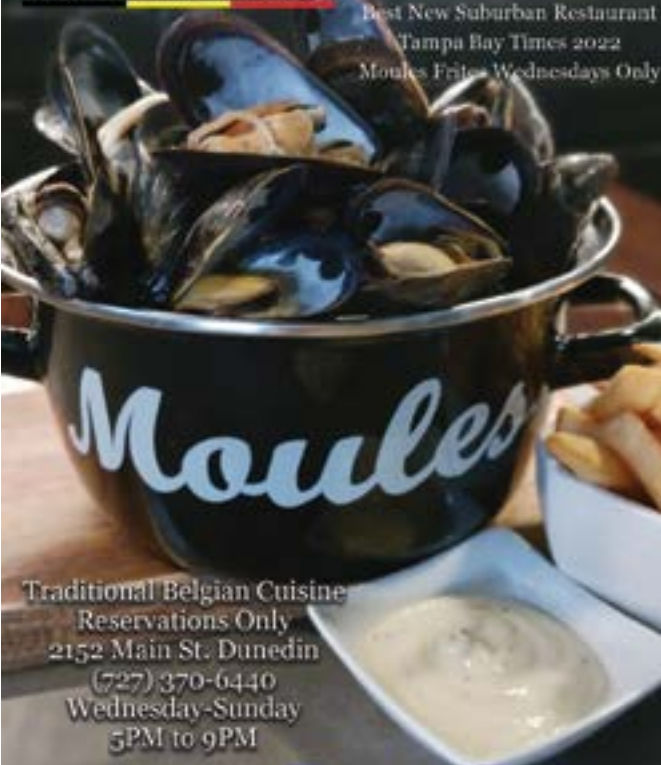
In the early 1960s, Interstate 75 opened following a similar path to US 41 ending in Tampa. By 1970 it was agreed the Interstate would be extended to Naples and across the state to Miami. The portion of I-75 from Naples to Miami is what we call "Alligator Alley." In the late '60s while the Interstate was being planned, the American Automobile Association (AAA) referred to it as nothing but "Alligator Alley." They believed it would be unused and merely an "alley for alligators." However, alligators are often seen in the waterways along the road and the nickname stuck. The state officially adopted the name "Alligator Alley" in 1966.

In 2003, US 41 from Naples to Miami was renamed the "Windows to the Gulf Waters Scenic Highway" under the Florida Department of Transportation's Scenic Highway Program. A \$60 million Federal Highway Administration grant was awarded to fund the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project improving water flow into the Everglades National Park.





Tamiami Trail Next Steps Construction

**Sallie's Bistro** Peoples' Choice Award  
Best Chef Palm Harbor 2022  
Best New Suburban Restaurant  
Tampa Bay Times 2022  
Moules Frites Wednesdays Only



**Moules**

Traditional Belgian Cuisine  
Reservations Only  
2152 Main St. Dunedin  
(727) 370-6440  
Wednesday-Sunday  
5PM to 9PM

Info@SalliesBistro.com  Sallie'sbistro  Salliesbistro

# Did You Know



**CHANGES COMING AT THE AQUARIUM** In February, Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) announced a multi-year plan of expansion encompassing strategies to welcome new wildlife, create habitats, and launch global conservation efforts. The first of these additions is the Manatee Rehabilitation Center slated to open this spring. The new center will allow CMA to accept the influx of manatees needing critical care. Internationally, CMA will be breaking ground this summer on a Belize Marine Rescue and Educational Center. CMA Research Institute (CMARI) has rescued and released manatees for 20 years in Belize, which has the highest density of Antillean manatees in the world.

CMA will welcome many new marine ambassadors, including manatees, sea lions, sharks, penguins, albino alligators and additional dolphins. To provide world-class healthcare to these new residents, there will be a significant renovation and expansion to their animal hospital.

## HOW DID MARCH AND APRIL GET THEIR NAMES?

March is the third month of the Gregorian calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war. Most statues and art depict him in battle gear.

March was the first month of the Roman (Julian) calendar and the months of January and February were added later, after a reform to the Gregorian calendar in the 1580s.

There are several theories on the origin of April's name. One is that it derives from the Latin *apriere*, which means "to open," referencing the Spring blossoming of trees and flowers. Another theory follows the naming of months after mythological deities. April could derive from Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, whose festival begins in April.

**GRAND PRIX** The Annual "Firestone Grand Prix of St Petersburg" is back for its 20th year Friday through Sunday, March 8-10 in Downtown St. Petersburg.

This is a series of races along a picturesque 14-turn, 1.8-mile temporary track. The races feature different types of race cars, culminating in the IndyCar Series race on Sunday, March 10th. Pricing starts at \$78 for general admission for all three days. Sunday only, general admission is \$60 per person. Tickets are available at [GPStPete.com](http://GPStPete.com) or by calling (727) 898-4639.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 1** If you need another copy of this newsletter, you may pick up one up at the Chamber, Rec, Hale, and Fine Art Centers, UPS on Main, and Library. Read this issue and others online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).



**Wild Iris CAFE**

424 Virginia Lane  
Next to the Stage at Pioneer Park  
In "Downtown" Dunedin, Florida  
(727) 400-6038

Mon-Thurs 8a-2p  
Fri-Sun 8a-3p

# and More...



**RARE GATORS GET THEIR NAMES** After a month of public input, Gatorland Florida announced the new names of the twins born at the park last summer. The leucistic female was named Mystic and her brother named Mayhem. Leucistic alligators are recognizable by their white skin and blue eyes and are sensitive to sunlight.

Gatorland is building a special exhibit for the siblings with a spring opening anticipated.

**PINELLAS CHARITY GETS A BOOST** In February, Pinellas County Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas presented Clothes to Kids in Clearwater with a \$3,296 donation.

Each year, tax collector employees nominate and vote for one local nonprofit organization to fundraise for all year long. Clothes to Kids received the most votes for 2023 and employees raised funds internally for the organization with various initiatives.

Along with the cash donation, the tax collector offices also held a sock drive in 2023, and the public was invited to help support the cause. As a result, over 2,000 pairs of socks were collected to help build wardrobes for 409 Pinellas County students.

Clothes to Kids serves Pinellas and Hillsborough counties by providing new and gently used clothing to low-income or in-crisis school-age children, free of charge. They provided over 350,000 wardrobe items to kids in 2023. Find more info about Clothes to Kids at [clothestokids.org](http://clothestokids.org).

The tax collector team voted to support Suncoast Animal League throughout 2024. For more information about that fundraising campaign as well as the other charitable organizations they support, visit their website at [PinellasTaxCollector.gov/community-involvement](http://PinellasTaxCollector.gov/community-involvement).

**ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE RECOGNIZED** U.S. News & World Report has again ranked St. Petersburg College's (SPC) online bachelor's programs first in the Tampa Bay area.

The 2024 study listed SPC first in the Tampa Bay region in two categories: Best Online Bachelor's Program and Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans. This is the fourth year that SPC received top rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

Among eligible participating colleges in the Florida College System, SPC ranked second for Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans and third for Best Online Bachelor's Program in the 2024 study. The College also ranked seventh for the Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans and 10th for the Best Online Bachelor's among all participating institutions in the state of Florida.

**Marker 8**  
On the Water  
**TIKI BAR & GRILL**

Home of the Free Sunset Shot  
Happy Hour Mon-Fri  
Live Music  
Come by Boat!

1420 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin  
(727) 738-5000 [Marker8.com](http://Marker8.com)

10TH ANNIVERSARY  
**Life Farms**

LOCAL ORGANIC VEGGIES  
Our Soil to Your Soul

Visit us at our farm store and at the Dunedin and St. Pete markets

Join Our CSA!  
Community Supported Agriculture

2759 Woodring Dr., Clearwater  
727-754-2901 [www.lifefarms.net](http://www.lifefarms.net)

# CUISINE AWARDS EXPLAINED



By Becky Griffin, Local Author

This time of year, everyone is publishing last year's top 10 lists – especially restaurants. Whether it's with eagerly awaited Michelin Stars, the coveted James Beard Awards, Bon Appétit's anticipated Best New Restaurants list, or well-known Zagat ratings, chefs and restaurateurs hope to see their names on these lists. But for those of us not part of the industry, how are these awards determined? What is a Michelin and who is James Beard?

## Michelin Star

A Michelin Star is awarded by the Michelin Guide to restaurants based on the food on the plate, not the decorations or style of the restaurant. And contrary to the rumor, there doesn't need to be a fancy washroom. This organization does not care if a restaurant is formal or casual; it is all about outstanding cooking.

Michelin Guide Inspectors are former hospitality professionals. They are full-time employees, traveling the world to visit restaurants, anonymously. Each inspector eats approximately 250 restaurant meals a year. They act like any other customer so that the Guide's readers will have the same experience. They book reservations under an assumed name, order and eat in the restaurant, and pay the bill just like you and I.

Inspectors rank the restaurant based on: the quality of the ingredients, the harmony of flavors, the mastery of techniques, the personality of the chef as expressed in the food and, consistency across the menu and over time.

Once several inspectors have eaten at a restaurant, they meet to compare their experiences. The Stars are awarded unanimously. If anyone disagrees, further visits are scheduled.

The highest award is three Michelin Stars given to chefs at the peak of their career. In 2023, thirteen Chefs in the United States were awarded three stars.

Florida has nineteen Michelin Star restaurants; three are in Tampa. All three received their star for the first time this year.

## James Beard Awards

The James Beard Foundation recognizes U.S. chefs, restaurateurs, authors, and journalists through its prestigious James Beard Awards, long considered the Oscars of the culinary world.

Known as the "Dean of American Cookery," James Beard, an influential figure in the shaping of American cuisine and food culture, was born in 1903 in Portland, Oregon. He later moved to New York, where he championed the art of American cooking. He was a close friend of Julia Childs.

An author, teacher, and television personality, Beard shared his knowledge and passion through numerous cookbooks. His use of seasonal

produce and locally sourced ingredients played a pivotal role in the development of today's farm-to-table dining experiences.

The James Beard Foundation, founded after his death in 1985, perpetuates Beard's legacy. The foundation offers scholarships, education, and awards to encourage chefs, writers, and food enthusiasts to pursue their passions in the culinary arts.

The Award process starts with an open call for recommendations. Each Fall, the public nominates their favorite chefs and restaurants online. Local experts, including appointed judges, make recommendations, too. Then, the Committee meets to review and confirm the eligibility of the entries and recommendations. Twenty semifinalists for each category—which range from Outstanding Restaurateur to Best Chef – are determined in twelve regions across the country. The voting body, including judges chosen for their expertise, review and vote on the entries to determine the winners.

## Zagat Ratings

Zagat is a public survey allowing anyone to rate a restaurant. The rating scores from the general public are used to produce ratings on a 30-point scale. Extraordinary restaurants rate from 26-30.

It began when New York residents Tim and Nina Zagat suggested their friends list their favorite restaurants. The circle of friends quickly expanded to 200 people. The couple published their survey and distributed it all over the city. Today, operating in multiple countries, it is the most well-known brand of public ratings.



## MARCH IS FOR MATING

By Lora Magnani, Publisher

"Here kitty kitty kitty!" you might say if a cat crosses the street in your neighborhood. It would be a surprise, however, if that mouser turned out to be a Bobcat. Bobcats are abundant all over Florida, unlike their cousin the elusive Florida Panther, which makes their sightings more frequent, especially during mating season.



Bobcats are about twice the size of a domestic cat and have long legs, large paws and a short tail. The "bobbed" tail gives the cat its name. Other common features of bobcats are their spotted coat and the tufts on their face and ears. Their coats can range in color from gray to reddish-brown and can appear almost black when wet.

Bobcats mate between August and March, peaking in February and March when prey is the most plentiful. These wildcats are territorial and solitary animals. Bobcats of the same sex do not share territory, no two females nor two males share the same area, however, neighboring territories may overlap. Females will allow males to wander through their range and vice versa. Bobcats have a territorial range of about five or six square miles. They cover their territory in a slow, meticulous manner. These boundaries are oval in shape and follow roads, streams, or other natural contours. Male bobcats tend to expand their boundaries during the breeding season while searching for a mate, whereas female bobcats often use less area after having a litter, allowing them to tend to their young more effectively.

During the mating process, males and females will hunt, eat, and travel together for a day or two. The female is pregnant for 50-60 days. The kittens' eyes will open about nine days after birth, and they are weaned in about two months. The dam, or mother bobcat, will teach them to hunt and defend themselves for eight to eleven months before sending them out into the world. Mating and rearing are the only times bobcats are not solitary.

There are two types of big cats in Florida, the panther and the bobcat. Panthers are yellowish tan in color, with white under the chin and black on the back of the ears. They have a long tail and can weigh up to 130lbs. While the Florida panther is protected under the Endangered Species Act with less than 200 left in the state, the bobcat is abundant all over Florida and has been found in all 67 counties, however none have been spotted in the Florida Keys for a few decades. The bobcat's nature allows them to live in a variety of habitats and eat several types of food. These traits also allow them to adapt quickly to changes such as population growth, increased human development, and landscape alterations, which has not been the case for the other big cats around the world.

It is likely that bobcats are closer than you think. For more information on bobcats and other Florida animals, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission online at MyFWC.com.

**EAT  
DRINK  
and BE  
LOCAL**

Lunch | Dinner  
Sunday Brunch  
Live Music Friday  
& Saturday  
Social Hour 3-7pm

*'N Old Florida Vibe*  
221 Main St | Dunedin | 727.734.1445  
www.SeaSeaRidersDunedin.com

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

**VARIOUS MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!**  
Full • Social • Junior • Active Military • Legacy

**PERKS OF BECOMMING A MEMBER**  
Extensive Menu Offerings  
Craft Cocktails & Drinks at Three Bars  
Weekly & Monthly Entertainment  
No Monthly Minimums  
& The Opportunity to Make New Friends!

No boat required! Your love of the water, great food, & camaraderie is all you need!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN**  
Contact Clearwater Yacht Club  
727.447.6000  
marketing@clearwateryachtclub.org  
830 S. Bayway Blvd, Clearwater FL 33767

Sunset Sips  
Coastal Bites  
Vibrant Nights

**\$10 off**  
\*Order of \$50+. Cannot combine with other offers.  
Code MAG EXP: 6/2024

Live Music and DJs  
40+ TVs | Full Arcade

[www.SaltHouseSocial.com](http://www.SaltHouseSocial.com)  
465 MANDALAY AVE. CLEARWATER BEACH  
(727) 441-6000

# Business Briefs

## NEW PEDIATRIC THERAPY CLINIC

Jennifer Mazurkiewicz MS OTR/L C/NDT is launching Reimagine OT LLC, a specialized pediatric occupational therapy clinic that will focus on intensive based rehabilitation services as well as offer intensive camps, play groups, and educational classes for parents. Jenny has been a pediatric occupational



therapist for over 16 years and recently moved to Indian Rocks Beach from Michigan eight months ago. Reimagine OT focuses on high intensity and short duration of therapy, maximizing goal achievement in a shorter period of time with parent education and empowerment.

Reimagine OT is currently taking new referrals and offering free virtual consultations to ensure their services are right for your child. If you think your child would benefit from services feel free to visit the website at [reimagineot.com](http://reimagineot.com), or contact the business directly by phone (727) 902-0756 or email [Info@ReimagineOT.com](mailto:Info@ReimagineOT.com).

**Natural Gas**  
*It's The Natural Choice!*

The difference is clear – save up to 54% annually when using natural gas energy!

	NATURAL GAS COSTS	ELECTRIC COSTS
Water Heating	\$130.00	\$418.89
Cooking	\$45.00	\$137.53
Heating/Pumpout	\$169.00	\$664.30
Clothes Drying	\$65.00	\$224.77
Space Heating	\$162.50	\$638.75

Clearwater Gas System  
Live Greener with Gas

Call Clearwater Gas System at (727) 962-4960 to switch to energy efficient natural gas and/or visit our website at [www.clearwatergas.com](http://www.clearwatergas.com)



**LOCAL BUSINESSES AWARDED** AMPLIFY Clearwater awarded \$20,000 to St. Pete-based CR World and \$10,000 to Belleair Bluffs' Allori Blow Dry bar at AMPLIFY's "Pitch Night" in December. The event was the culmination of a ten-week "Business Incubator" program, during which ten local startups received assistance with business planning, networking, market research, and other strategies.

CRWorld is a web-based retailer offering hemp and cannabis-infused wellness products. Its website is [ComeCRWorld.com](http://ComeCRWorld.com). Allori is a full-service salon offering hair services, makeup, IV therapy, and aesthetics, located at 2917 West Bay Drive. Visit their website at [AlloriBlowDryBar.com](http://AlloriBlowDryBar.com).

Applications are being accepted for AMPLIFY's spring incubator at [AmplifyClearwater.com/incubator](http://AmplifyClearwater.com/incubator).



# Business Briefs



**GARDENING STORE CLOSING** It is with a heavy heart that Seeds at 500 Main Street is closing its doors at the end of March after a five-year residency. The plant-powered boutique offered an assortment of house plants, succulents, cactuses, hanging baskets and a variety of unique fixtures and decorations. However, it will not disappear completely. Seeds will be launching a website that will ship products nationwide and offer local pick up. Seeds will be starting this new adventure as a retail partner inside the new concept Ten Rooms in Ybor City. Follow Seeds on Facebook for more information.

**PLANT CLOSURE** The Coca-Cola Dunedin plant at 427 San Christopher will shut down at the end of spring. Layoffs will begin in April with 198 terminated employees projected by the end of May. Employees were notified of the closure in February. In 2020, Coca-Cola announced their intent to close the plant and move their operations to a third-party operator, Peace River Citrus Products, in Bartow.

Coca-Cola determined the Dunedin plant, opened in 1945, would be cost-prohibitive to update and maintain. The company believes that moving to the Bartow location, a newer facility that recently underwent a \$98 million expansion, will allow them to modernize their manufacturing capacity. The transition is said to be completed by July 2024.

**LOCAL PET SUPPLY STORE STEPS UP** In January, Rescue not Retail reached out to the citizens of Dunedin for help with restocking their Community Bark Box located at Bauser's Bar. Dunedin Pet Supply & Grooming answered the call, donating over \$1000 of dog and cat food the following day. The business also donated 1,558 pounds of pet food to the Dunedin Cares food pantry during 2023.



Dunedin Pet Supply is a locally owned, all-natural, pet supply store offering dog grooming services, a self-service dog wash, holistic pet food, healthy treats, durable toys and more. They take specialty orders and will deliver within Dunedin. The store is located at 1045 Main Street. Follow them on Facebook or visit their website at DunedinPetSupply.com. Remember, "Adopt, Don't Shop" and "Shop Local."

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

**Fun Beach Vibes Two Great Locations**

**HURRICANE Eddie's**

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH** - Beach access across street  
 Full liquor bar & food | Daily specials | HH open til 6  
 1407 Gulf Blvd., Mile Marker 17.2, (727) 596-5411

**DUNEDIN** - On the Dunedin Causeway  
 Full liquor bar | Daily specials | HH 11-6pm  
 300 Causeway Blvd., (727) 221-0001

**Your Trusted Real Estate Advisor.**



As a Compass agent, I offer innovative solutions designed to meet your unique needs at every stage of life.

I am here to guide you every step of the way.

Are you ready for your next move?



(336) 847.4030  
 natalia.murphy@compass.com



### TAX SEASON SAFETY TIPS From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

One of the best ways to shield yourself from scams is to be aware of some of the things that government agencies, utilities, and other entities will never ask you to do. We at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) will never call to tell you that you have a warrant and have to pay a fine to avoid arrest. And yet citizens in our community have been losing money to a scammer calling them and impersonating our deputies. And no one – not PCSO, or Duke Energy, or your bank – will ever ask for payment in a non-traditional form. You can bet that if someone wants you to pay in gift cards or cryptocurrency then everything is not on the up-and-up.

Tax season brings its own financial dangers as scammers try to take advantage of your stress. Most of us are a little uncertain about our taxes – are we getting the right deductions, are we doing everything the proper way? We're ready to believe that we might have made a costly mistake that will involve sending the IRS more money. Criminals will take advantage of that anxiety, playing on your fears to convince you that you owe money – and then persuade you to pay them instead of the government.

The first clue that someone might be scamming you is this method of communication. In almost every circumstance, the IRS will contact you by mail if there is a problem. In special circumstances you may eventually get a personal visit from an IRS agent – for a delinquent tax return or for a criminal charge of tax evasion – but even in those instances you would have received many letters in the mail first.

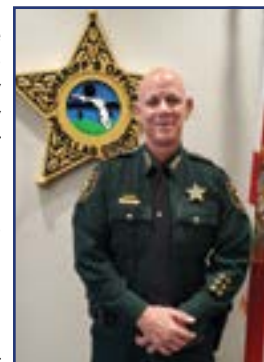
What you will NOT get from the IRS is a scary phone call. If anyone cold calls you claiming to be from the IRS, you can safely assume they are trying to scam you out of your

money. The same holds true for an email or text. (Note that if you have contacted the IRS yourself by phone about a specific problem they may then get back in touch with you by that method to help you or answer your questions).

Scammers will do whatever they can to make you afraid – and since the tax system is inherently intimidating, that is a prime target. They'll threaten you with arrest, suspension of your driver license, or question your immigration status if you don't pay immediately. But the IRS doesn't have the authority to revoke your license or change your immigration status, and an arrest for large-scale and deliberate tax evasion would be a long and complicated process. Believe me, if you were going to be arrested for tax fraud, you'd know about it years in advance.

Even if you know you owe money to the IRS, don't let yourself be scammed. The IRS assigns overdue tax debts to private debt collection agencies and only uses CBE Group, Coast Professional, and ConServe. And these agencies would only ask for payment made out to the U.S. Treasury.

If you're unsure if you owe money to the IRS, you can check your tax account by visiting: [www.irs.gov/payments/view-your-tax-account](http://www.irs.gov/payments/view-your-tax-account). If you believe that you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, contact the PCSO non-emergency line at (727) 582-6200.



**COME ENJOY THE SUNSET WITH US**  
Experience The Magic Of Dunedin's Premier Waterfront Restaurant Since 1976

**BON APPETIT RESTAURANT**  
THE WATERFRONT DINING

RESERVE NOW FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FINE DINING EXPERIENCE OR INQUIRE ABOUT OUR ON-SITE CATERING & EVENT SERVICES  
Give us a call at (727) 733-2151, visit our website [www.bonappetitrestaurant.com](http://www.bonappetitrestaurant.com) or scan the QR code

New exciting menu with emphasis on seafood and international cuisine

Our talented events team is ready to execute your vision for that special occasion at Bon Appetit!

148 Marina Plaza, Dunedin, FL 34698 | Follow us on

Mikell Herrick Photo

## JUST DO IT, BECOME A BIRD NERD

By Lara Milligan, Natural Resources Agent UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County

“So, there I was minding my own business...”

When these words came out of my teacher’s mouth, we all dropped our pens and tuned in; it was story time! Mr. Weinrich was not only one of the most inspirational, funny, and captivating teachers I ever had, he was also a total bird nerd. As a high school student, I did not think birding was cool. I didn’t get the attraction or the draw. But, as any incredible teacher can do, Mr. Weinrich inspired me to become a bird nerd too. And I’m here to say it is cool! While I’m no Mr. Weinrich, I’m hoping to inspire you today to start your journey to the amazing world of birds.

From large to small, there are birds of all shapes and sizes you can observe. In Pinellas County, in 2023, there were 127 distinct species documented on iNaturalist.org. From 2015-2023, there were 416 species sighted in Pinellas County according to eBird.org.

Birding is a hobby you can do anywhere, any time of year. Pinellas County is blessed with migrants in the fall and spring too, so just when you think you’ve got your resident birds down, a flash of yellow passes by and it’s a bird you’ve never seen before - a migrant!

Once you learn to identify one bird by its call or characteristics, it’s likely you will want to learn more! One becomes two, two becomes four, and the learning never stops. It’s a way to enjoy nature, build a connection with your local environment, and seek out new opportunities to go birding in places you’ve never been. Speaking of places you’ve never been, did you know there is something called the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail? There are 15 sites within Pinellas County

alone! We may be the most densely populated county in the state, but we still have some amazing wildlife wonders to see.

So, use your eyes to observe or your ears to listen. If you see a bird, take note of its size, color, any distinct markings, time of year, and habitat. It’s fun to learn bird calls too. You can know what is nearby just by learning which species make which calls. There are endless resources to help you start identifying birds once you gather some information. You can download a smartphone app or pick up some field guides to get started. I am always here as a resource as well. If you’re able to snap a picture or record some audio, I would love to try to help you identify the birds you’re observing.

The best news is this is a hobby you can do for free, at least to start. I highly recommend binoculars if you’re going to get into identifying our smaller songbirds. For me, I always have binoculars within reach because you never know when you will see something cool. Happy Birding!

UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County is an Equal Opportunity Institution



## READY TO UPGRADE WINDOWS & DOORS?



Family Owned and Operated



Lifetime guarantee on products and workmanship

[www.thewindowdepotllc.com](http://www.thewindowdepotllc.com)

QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICE  
WITH PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION

Lic CGC1504775

Call Today for your  
**FREE In-Home Estimate**  
813.901.5555

- Premium Products
- Professional Installation
- Peace of Mind Warranty



## Wonders Beneath the Sea

Two thirds of the planet is covered in water, which means only those who SCUBA dive get to see the wonders of the undersea world. However, artist and Indian Rocks Beach resident Seth Pikal combines his love of diving and his skill with an underwater camera to bring images of sea life to those who do not get to see in person.

Seth was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and moved to Indian Rocks Beach with his family in 2001. His mother was an artist, and Seth spent most of his summers at art camps, where he excelled in sculpture and ceramics. Later, he learned welding and began creating large-scale, functioning sculptures from metal and wood. His ten-person bicycle carousel was exhibited at Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry in 2011. He studied art and sculpture at St. Petersburg Junior College and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of South Florida.

Living in Florida introduced Seth to another passion, SCUBA diving. In 2010, he worked as a dive professional in Australia where he gained his SCUBA instructor certification. He returned to Indian Rocks Beach in 2012 and continued his career locally, teaching divers, and earning his captain's license. Over the next several years, he began developing his underwater photography skills. He captured images of sea life on both coasts of Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean, traveling as far as Indonesia to photograph the underwater world.

During his free time, Seth also learned silversmithing and began making jewelry. He polishes and shapes semiprecious stones such as opal and turquoise, then sets them in silver to create rings, bracelets, and pendants.

Seth currently works as a captain for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. He pilots the FWC research vessel Gulf Mariner, bringing researchers and scientists offshore in the Gulf of Mexico where they conduct fish counts, habitat analysis, and ecological monitoring. He also continues his underwater photography with trips planned to the Sea of Cortez and Bocas del Toro, Panama. You can find his artwork on Instagram @sethpikalphotography.





PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENTS  
FOR 15 YEARS

Home

Boat

Umbrella

Auto

Motorcycle

Flood



**Kristin Asbury**  
**Faron Estep**

12998 Walsingham Rd.

Largo, FL

(727) 595-6000

[indianrocks.greatflorida.com](http://indianrocks.greatflorida.com)

[mygreatflins@gmail.com](mailto:mygreatflins@gmail.com)



**Authentic Italian Food**



Indoor and Outdoor Seating  
Sun-Thur 12pm-9pm  
Fri-Sat 12pm-9:30pm

600 Palm Harbor Blvd.  
Palm Harbor

(727) 351-7020

[DolceVitaPalmHarbor.com](http://DolceVitaPalmHarbor.com)

### THE OFFSHORE REPORT

by Captain T.J. Shea, 2Shea Fishing and Diving



Spring is almost here and that means it's time to get back to doing what we all love, catching fish! Red grouper, to be more specific. They are back in season and should be ripe for the picking since the emergency closure last July. Weather will most likely limit your trips until Spring, so I suggest you take advantage of every fishable day possible.

Our starting point will be somewhere around 90-100 feet of water. Remember that from February 1st-March 31st, we are not allowed to target grouper west of the 20-fathom break. You can start a little shallower, around 75-85 feet, but you will have to work a lot harder to get that boat limit. The deeper you go, the bigger they get. We have found that 100-foot area to be a nice, sweet spot with quality fish and very little red snapper bycatch.

The Central Gulf Coast has acres upon acres of live bottom loaded with red grouper. If the drift is slow enough that's always the best way to cover ground. When you roll over a spot where you get a few good fish, mark that on your machine. I guarantee that's where the best potholes are. Diving gives us the luxury of seeing exactly what the bottom looks like. It's either hard limestone with lots of sea fans and cracks in the stone or hard sandy bottom with holes that go down to who knows where. Your fire truck reds will

stay right next to these holes and cracks, so you need to get your baits close. The more area you cover the more holes you will drift across.

The best part of red grouper fishing is constant action and quality bycatch. Porgy's, lane snapper, trigger fish, mangrove snapper and hogfish all inhabit the same bottom. I would take any of these over a red grouper for my freshly caught meal. We



will typically designate two or three clients fishing with big chunks of squid or live baits for the reds and the rest fishing light combos with shrimp for the bycatch. We have found this to be the best way to maximize what you put in your fish box. Just switch it up as you go from spot to spot.

If you want to play with big Amberjack, throw a few of the porgies into your live well and hit any of the wrecks on the way in. Bait size doesn't matter, big jacks will destroy these guys well before they make it to the bottom. You can't keep them as they are protected until August, but the fight is a great way to top off your trip.

We may get limited fishing days until Spring, but the days you do will most likely be ones you won't forget.

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



MARDI GRAS



MARDI GRAS



MARDI GRAS

### In Case You Missed It COMMUNITY EVENTS FROM THE LAST FEW MONTHS



HOPE SPOT FESTIVAL



BLUE JAYS FAN FEST



TASTE OF LOVE MEET AND GREET

## LOCAL ARTIST FUSES ENGINEERING WITH ART

By Pete Magnani

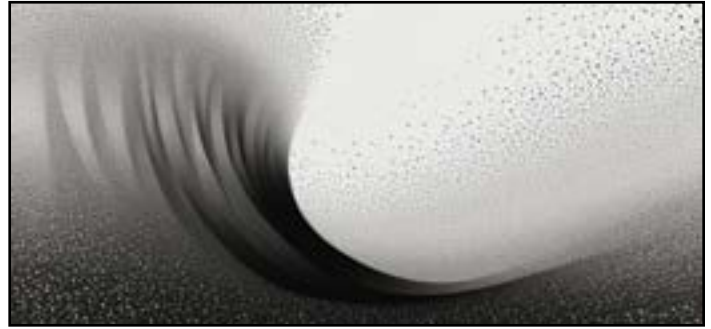
On February 22nd, Creative Pinellas held an opening reception for Nature Pix, a multimedia exhibition by Mikhail Mansion. The artist and software engineer combines computer code with sculpture to “celebrate the creative synergy between nature and technology.” The free exhibit will be displayed at The Gallery at Creative Pinellas, 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo through April 21st.

Early in 2023, Mansion was named Creative Pinellas’ Artist Laureate and given a professional artist’s grant. He envisioned creating an “exquisite data sculpture” driven by wind. “The exhibit is looking at nature through the lens of the computer,” says Mansion. Cameras and weather sensors placed in the nearby Florida Botanical Gardens capture images and data from the wind, water, and sky. The data is fed through a network into the gallery and transmitted into monolithic sculptures that are custom-made LED screens. The gallery floor is transformed by a grid of thirty-nine four-foot by four-foot LED panels into a digital canvas that displays data-driven images.

Speakers throughout the gallery provide an audible complement. “It is a sound sculpture as well,” says Mansion. “There is a real-time presence in spatial audio, so you will be hearing the wind represented in different sounds that move around the gallery space.”

The digital exhibit is surrounded by more than fifty new pieces of Mansion’s visual art. These are a blend of his hand-drawn works and what the artist calls “creative coding,” using the computer as a creative medium to generate art.

Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Mansion studied at the



University of Tampa and the Rhode Island School of Design. He began his career in the U.S. Air Force working on weapons design but became uncomfortable with the potential consequences of his work. Mansion’s engineering background translated well into his primary medium of algorithmic and generative art.

In 2021, Mansion co-founded Fairgrounds St. Pete, an art and technology museum celebrating original Florida stories. His work has been exhibited at venues such as the Smithsonian Design Museum, Miraikan -The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo, and the Pyongyang Winter Olympics. He plans to move to Japan this summer to finish his Ph. D. at the University of Tokyo. Mansion published a series of articles on the Creative Pinellas website explaining digital and algorithmic art, as well as using computer code as a creative medium. You can find them at [CreativePinellas.org/Artist/Mikhail-Mansion](http://CreativePinellas.org/Artist/Mikhail-Mansion).

# Plan Ahead for Peace of Mind!

## Save Money with Sunstar FirstCare

In 2022, the membership plan saved residents an average of \$175 per transport.

### Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership:

Life-saving medical transport without the worry of high medical transportation bills.

- ✔ **Covers 100% of copay & deductibles**
- ✔ **Covers 50% of trips with insurance denial**
- ✔ **Covers 20% of trips with no insurance**

\* **Medically Necessary:** a specific medical need for an ambulance, to or from a medical facility for medical treatment using Medicare standards.

Enroll to reduce costly ambulance transportation costs:

**Single Membership \$86** (annual)    **Family Membership \$129** (annual)

Visit [www.pinellas.gov/fcmembership](http://www.pinellas.gov/fcmembership) or call (727) 582-2008 for more information.

Pinellas County complies with all federal, state and local laws related to persons with disabilities. To request alternate formats of this information, contact the Office of Human Rights at (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD) or email [accommodations@pinellas.gov](mailto:accommodations@pinellas.gov). Funding for this ad was provided by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services. 1/24



**JOIN US FOR OUR FASHION SHOW**

**March 23rd 6-9pm**

Scan the QR code for your free ticket



Come enjoy the launch of our spring collection with an energetic fashion show, drinks, an expansive charcuterie, photo booth and exclusive show discounts. Vip tickets get 2 free drinks, front row seating and a swag bag!

**Full service salon & spa**  
 Hair extensions, colors, cuts, blow-outs  
 Manis/Pedis, Gel X, Gel Structure, Facials,  
 Waxing, Microneedling & Permanent Jewelry

**Full Boutique - come shop our Jean Wall!!**



952 Patricia Ave S#A, Dunedin, FL 34688

## Bar & Restaurant News

**PARTY AT NEW PALM HARBOR VENUE** Buchanan's Landing Coastal Cucina, located at 1114 Florida Avenue in Historic Downtown Palm Harbor, opened its doors at the end of January. Owners Robert S. Dinan and Joe Nicelli bring their love for Italian cuisine and fresh seafood to the new menu with items like Ravioli all' Aragosta (Lobster Ravioli), a Sicilian octopus appetizer, and the classic favorite Pollo Parmigiana. Buchanan's Bimini Deck, their upstairs sports bar, is a great place to catch a game with ten TVs and a laid-back feel. The restaurant has large rooms and a banquet menu to accommodate larger gatherings such as rehearsal dinners, graduations, birthdays, and corporate events.

On Saturday, March 16th, Florida Avenue will be closed between 11th and 12th streets for the Buchanan's Landing First Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. This large street party will include bag pipes, green beer, and North of Argyll performing on the main stage. They are a high-energy Scottish/Celtic band from the Tampa area that has played in many Celtic and Highlands games as well as Renaissance and folk festivals.

Check out Buchanan's Landing Coastal Cucina's upcoming events and specials on their Facebook page. Their phone number is (727) 771-8910.

**COFFEE SHOP REOPENS WITH A REFRESH** Dunedin Coffee Company and Bakery reopened on January 21st after the addition of new equipment and renovations by new owners Heather Shell and Steven and Jennifer Wojteki. They plan to keep many of the fan favorites such as fresh baked goods, energy bites, and gluten free options. Look forward to some new items as well, such as brisket and pulled pork sandwiches to be served during lunch hours. Additionally, they offer matcha teas and kava. Dunedin Coffee Company and Bakery is located at 730 Broadway. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

**NEW BREWERY OPENS** After an injury ended his thirteen-year firefighting career, Josh Feltman relocated to Florida from Adrian, Michigan. With experience working at a friend's brewery, he struck out on his own and opened Truck and Ladder Brewing Company in January. Feltman describes Truck and Ladder's mission as making "beer for people who like beer." The first two styles are a blonde ale and Centennial SMASH, or single-malt/single hop. He hopes to add food and entertainment soon.

Truck and Ladder is located at 2058 Bayshore Blvd #5 and is open Wednesday-Sunday. Visit [TruckandLadder.beer](http://TruckandLadder.beer) or find them on Facebook for more information.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** La Dolce Vita Trattoria celebrated its first anniversary in November. The restaurant serves authentic Italian cuisine in a cozy environment, featuring recipes passed down from generation to generation. It is located at 600 Palm Harbor Boulevard, book your table online at [DolceVitaPalmHarbor.com](http://DolceVitaPalmHarbor.com) and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

**DUNEDIN MIX HAS ARRIVED** The much-anticipated Dunedin Mix had its "surprise" soft opening on February 9th. Without prior announcement, the venue opened its doors and let social media spread the word, leading to a full house by evening. Guests can order food at the restaurant windows and drinks at the bar or get table service from waitstaff. Dunedin Mix is located at 990 Broadway, across from the Holiday Inn Express. For more information and hours, visit [DunedinMix.com](http://DunedinMix.com) or call (727) 216-8861.



**Flanagan's IRISH PUB**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT**  
**DELICIOUS FOOD & COLD BREWS**  
 ARTS, CRAFTS, VENDORS & FUN FOR ALL AGES

**SUNDAY March 17**

**11am - 11pm**  
**Free Admission**

465 Main Street | Dunedin, FL | 34698 - [www.flanagansirishpub.net](http://www.flanagansirishpub.net)



# Bar & Restaurant News



**HAPPY ST. ANNIVERSARY AT THE DOCKS** On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, Wine at the Docks will celebrate their Dunedin location's one-year anniversary with tumbler specials, entertainment, drink specials and more.

In July of 2022, Patti Bryant opened Wine at the Docks in Tarpon Springs. Last January, while on a Trolley beer tour in Dunedin with friends from Maine, they came across the location for their next addition, Wine at the Docks Dunedin. With partners Jayme and Wayne Wardell, they gutted, renovated, and opened the new location in less than two months.

Wine at the Docks' mantra is "Try Something New." They offer free tastings on all wines and encourage customers to taste wines they might not know. They have rotating local craft beer, sangrias, and a large variety of wines including Greek and varietal selections, many from local wineries. One of their specialties is house-made craft sangrias that changes every week. They also offer "Make and Take" sangria classes, charcuterie board building classes, and painting parties, all with wine pairings throughout. Plans for a book club are also in the works.

Wine at the Docks is located at 306 Monroe Street in Dunedin and 850 Dodecanese Boulevard in Tarpon Springs. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram or visit WineattheDocks.com for more information.

**LOCAL RESTAURANT GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION**

"Q" Southern BBQ opened its doors on February 20th, 2020, and was open for three weeks before the Covid closure. They survived the shutdown with their finger-licking barbeque, take-out orders, and support from the Dunedin community. Last year, owner, chef, and pitmaster Cameron Capri was invited to compete in the Heritage Fire Tour competition. Heritage is a live-fire cooking competition that brings significant national publicity. From their performance in the competition, America's Best Restaurants, a national media company focusing on small, independent restaurants, picked "Q" Southern BBQ to be featured on their internet special "Roadshow." The episode premieres March 5th at 7:30pm on the America's Best Restaurants YouTube Channel and their other social media platforms. The restaurant is located at 664 Main Street beside Soggy Bottom Brewery and Clear Sky Draught Haus. Call (727) 734-7227 to order and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Live Music and Pop-Up Shops on Weekends

Happy Hour Tues-Thurs 2-5pm

DUNEDIN, FLORIDA

**Salty Soul**

ISLAND KITCHEN

903 Douglas Avenue  
(727) 221-9667  
SaltySoulDunedin.com

**BUCHANAN'S LANDING**  
Coastal Cucina

American Cuisine with an Italian Flair

Live Music Weekly

Bimini Deck Sports Lounge

Happy Hour Specials

Fresh Ingredients

Open 7 Days  
Monday - Saturday 11:30AM-10:00PM  
Sunday 11:30AM-9:00PM  
Bimini Deck 'til 11:00PM Nightly

727.771.8910  
1114 Florida Ave | Palm Harbor



## The Evolution of Big Man's Moving Company

We used a well-known moving company for a local move. Upon investigation of our furniture, we found nicks and scratches all over our belongings. How could such an expensive service come with so much negligence? We realized a careful and diligent boutique moving company would be a huge opportunity in the marketplace... hence, the vision for Big Man's Moving Company was born!

### From Humble Beginnings

In late 2016, we got married and collectively decided to pursue our dream of owning a family business, and used our wedding gifts to partially fund our first 26' truck.

*Josh and Brooke Anderson,  
owners of Big Man's Moving Company*

Brooke had nicknamed Josh "Big Man" way before they started the moving company. At 6'8, his tall stature was the inspiration behind the name. When deciding on a name for the business, it seemed to be an obvious choice – and now Brooke refers to her husband as the company "mascot".

### To Award-Winning Services

Our professional team has successfully completed over 10,000 local, state-wide, and out-of-state moves. The company has evolved from 1 truck and working out of our home to 8 trucks, 30 employees, and an office just off of US-19. Despite the growth, our biggest accomplishment is being voted the #1 Moving Company in Tampa Bay by readers of the Tampa Bay Times for 3 consecutive years and by Creative Loading in 2023.

*For more information about their full services, guarantees, insurance, and free estimates, visit [www.bigmansmoving.com](http://www.bigmansmoving.com) or call (727) 772-3458. Licenses: IM2726, DOT2951960*

# Bar & Restaurant News

## DYNGUS DAY CELEBRATION AT CRABBY BILL'S

The annual post-Lenten Polish celebration will be held at the Original Crabby Bill's Indian Rocks Beach on Monday, April 1st. They will serve traditional Polish fare including pierogies, kielbasa and potato pancakes. Nu Soundz will be on stage performing polka music and a splash zone will be set up with water guns and balloons for the necessary water fight ritual. There is no cover charge for the event which will run throughout the day. While you are there, check out the new cornhole area on the patio. Call (727) 281-2193 for more information.

**WINGS ON THE FLY** Buffalo Wild Wings-Go opened February 1st at 1785 Main Street next door to Starbucks. It offers their famous wings, burgers, and other restaurant favorites in takeaway form. Buffalo Wild Wings has made it easy with three different ordering options: online, on the app, or at the counter. It is a convenient way to get your wing fix without having to go to their sports bar. Find them online at BuffaloWildWings.com.

**NOW SERVING BREAKFAST** Mio's Grill and Café in St. Petersburg was recently awarded 12th place on Yelp's Top One Hundred Places to Eat in the U.S. The restaurant, specializing in Turkish and Greek cuisine, won over Yelpers with its baba ghanoush, falafel, Greek salad and baklava. Beach-area diners can now enjoy Mio's cuisine without trekking to St. Pete while sitting over the water on Sand Key where Chef Bora Calsikan opened his second location. The restaurant is in The Shoppes of Sand Key at 1261 Gulf Blvd.

Mio's recently began breakfast service with a twist. They offer cheese plates with assorted vegetables and a Turkish Salami called Sujuk. It is a spicy, dry fermented sausage that is high in fat. Sujuk is similar to salami but usually made of beef or lamb, not pork. Sujuk is also used in egg scrambles and similar breakfast dishes.

Mio's Sand Key is open from 9am-9pm seven days a week with breakfast served daily from 9am-1pm. Visit Mio's Grill.com or call (727) 281-2193 for more information.

**CLEVELAND STREET MARKET** A new multipurpose food and drink hall opened in Clearwater at 1011 Cleveland Street in the new Cleveland Street Market. The first five tenants are Deja Brew Coffee, Top Nosh Street Food, Tap Haus on Cleveland, Jersey Dogs, and The Smokin' Cuban BBQ-Fusion.

Deja Brew will offer a variety of coffee drinks with breakfast sandwiches, pastries and baked goods. Top Nosh is described as "comfort food with a twist," serving a variety of burgers and mac n' cheese dishes. Tap Haus on Cleveland offers 32 beers and 64 wines. Customers are assigned a card that they scan at self-service taps. Smokin' Cuban serves BBQ-Cuban fusion cuisine and recently won the "World's Best Popular Cuban Sandwich" award at the 12th annual Cuban Sandwich Festival. Jersey Dogs will offer Sabrett hot dogs and disco fries. (It is still under construction as of this printing). There is also an outdoor courtyard where guests can bring their four-legged companions. For more information follow Cleveland Street Market on Facebook and Instagram

**RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED** If your restaurant has an upcoming event, we want to include it here. Email Lora@MagriffProductions.com or call (813) 361-7376.

**Your Hometown Pet Store**  
 (727) 601-4661 WWW.DUNEDINPETSUPPLY.COM  
 1045 Main Street Dunedin, FL 34698 DUNEDINPETSUPPLY

**FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE SEASON 94**

**UPCOMING PRODUCTION**

by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

**WRONG THAT GOES THE PLAY**

**Scan for tickets & info!**  
727-446-1360

**See you at the theatre!**

**Richard Weaver**  
 (727) 433-8044  
 Rich@FloridaPaintService.com  
 www.FloridaPaintService.com

- Interior and Exterior Painting
- Patio and Deck Painting
- Free Estimates

# Community News



## CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Submitted by Holly Fulmer

Ready to jump start your social life? Become a member of Clearwater Yacht Club! Enjoy extensive menu offerings, prepared by our brand-new award-winning and talented chef, David Sanchez, Craft cocktails and drinks in one of our three bars, Poolside Tiki, our newly renovated dry dock bar, and upstairs lounge. A variety of weekly and monthly entertainment and social events with no monthly minimums. It's a perfect opportunity to make new friends! No boat required, your love of the water, great food, and camaraderie is all you need. Call or stop in for a tour today and see what you've been missing, you'll wish you joined a long time ago.

## DUNEDIN FINE ART CENTER

The Dunedin Fine Art Center (DFAC) presents Art Talks with Dee Kilgo on March 6th from 6:30-8pm. Explore the remarkable, the mysterious, and the weirdly wonderful in art with Dee Kilgo, Ph.D. Art Historian. Dee's knowledge and humor make art history fun, accessible, and intriguing. All proceeds go to support the educational programs.

On March 15th, join DFAC for the *Best of Trashies Party*, an evening of hotdogs, drinks, live music, and community. This event is the pre-party for the annual *Trashy Treasures* fundraiser. During the silent and live auctions, attendees get an exclusive opportunity to win some of the most desirable Trashy Treasures that have been hand-selected by DFAC curatorial staff. Don't miss the chance to mingle with guests, get inspired, and find your very own trashy treasure to take home.

DFAC will host the *Trashy Treasures Art Garage Sale* on Saturday, March 16th from 10am-2pm, featuring art, art supplies, frames, books, & more. This annual event is Dunedin's biggest rummage sale and is a wonderful opportunity to purchase decor for your home, revamp your art supplies, or grab a book.

DFAC members get a head start on the sale with members-only priority entry at 9am. If you wish to become a member, visit [DFAC.org](http://DFAC.org) and click "Get Involved."

All proceeds from Trashy Treasures support Dunedin Fine Art Center's education/exhibition programming and operations. DFAC is located at 1143 Michigan Blvd. For more information, call (727) 298-3322 or visit them online.

## FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Submitted by Allie Fisher

The Florida Botanical Gardens welcomes the public to explore the Majeed Discovery Garden, a place connecting children to nature. This children's garden has many interactive and educational features across more than two acres. Our Children's Garden Educator will be leading preschool and family programs in the Majeed Discovery Garden this spring. Preschool programs include Plant Play, Imagination Time, Story Time and Sensory Exploration.



Family programs include topics of sustainability, reading, growing your own garden and more. View the preschool and family programs on the Event Calendar of our website at [FLBGFoundation.org/events](http://FLBGFoundation.org/events). In addition to programs, the Majeed Discovery Garden is the perfect place to host birthday parties and other events. For more information on rentals, visit [FLBGFoundation.org/rentals](http://FLBGFoundation.org/rentals). We hope to see you soon in the Majeed Discovery Garden!

## 8TH ANNUAL REDS, WHITES, & BITES

On April 19th at 6:30pm, the Community Dental Clinic (CDC) will host the annual Reds, Whites, & Bites at the Kapok Special Events Center. This signature fundraiser provides a significant portion of the CDC's operating budget. As the need for dental care continues to rise, so does their need for resources. Honorary Chairs Dr. Lee Ann Brown and Mr. Bradley Meinck, along with the Reds, Whites, and Bites Committee hope you will become a sponsor this year in support of the clinic's efforts to continue providing comprehensive dental health services to the low-income, uninsured of Pinellas County. Join them for an evening of wines, cocktails & delicious bites while experiencing the historic Kapok Tree.

For event details, please visit [CommunityDentalClinic.net](http://CommunityDentalClinic.net) or contact Executive Director Theresa White at (727) 216-6155 ext. 5 or [Theresa@CommunityDTLClinic.org](mailto:Theresa@CommunityDTLClinic.org).

## TAMPA BAY WATCH

Submitted by Rachel Arndt

Registration is now open for Spring Break Camp, and we can't wait for your 6-10-year-old to join us on the bay! Whether they spend the whole week of March 11-15 with us or just a day or two, the choice is yours. Discover the exciting adventures that await at our two fantastic locations - the Auer Marine Education Center in Tierra Verde and the Discovery Center on the St. Pete Pier.

Visit [TampaBayWatch.org/education-main/spring-break-camp](http://TampaBayWatch.org/education-main/spring-break-camp) for more information or to register.

Earth Night is a sustainable foodie event that will feature sustainable global ingredients prepared by top local chefs, paired with delicious drinks. Join us April 18th from 5-8pm at Tampa Bay Watch Headquarters, 3000 Pinella Bayway South, Tierra Verde. The event will benefit students from underserved local communities to participate in meaningful marine science education programs hosted by the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center.

## HALE SENIOR CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

• March 5th, 10:00am Senior Scams Seminar, free to attend  
Learn how scammers target their victims, how to spot a scam, and what to do to avoid becoming a victim.

• March 11th, 12:30-2pm Broadway Musicals Explained: Fiddler on the Roof, \$5 per ticket, available at the door or preregister at the Hale Center

Learn from Ellen Katz, a Broadway Edutainer, about the hit musical *Fiddler on the Roof*.

• March 19th, 10-11am Personal Legacy Writing Workshop, free to attend

Learn about the simple, free tools available to help create a personal legacy document for your loved ones.

• March 20th, 3-4:30pm The Dunedin 3 O'clock Big Band: Dance and Concert, \$5/ticket at the door

This spectacular 18-piece Big Band will perform the jazz hits made popular by Woody Herman.

• March 20th, noon-2pm St. Paddy's Party Luncheon, \$6 with a rec card/\$7 without (please pre-register at the Hale Center)

Wear your green and join us for a St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon.

• March 25th, 12:30-2pm EGGstravaganza Bingo, \$3 with a rec card/\$4 without (please pre-register by March 22nd)

Wear your favorite Easter or good luck hat while we play Bingo. Refreshments will be provided.

• March 26th, 10-11am, Probate and Trust Litigations Seminar, free to attend.

Learn the intricacies of probate, trust, and estate litigation.

### APRIL

• April 8th, 12:30-2pm Broadway Musicals Explained: Chicago, \$5/ticket (tickets available at the door, or pre-register at the Hale Center)

Learn from Ellen Katz, a Broadway Edutainer, about the hit musical *Chicago*.

• April 16th, 10-11am Hiring a Contractor Seminar, free to attend

A representative of Pinellas County Consumer Protection will tell you what steps you should take before hiring a contractor.

• April 17th, 3-4pm The Dunedin 3 O'clock Big Band: Dance and Concert, \$5/ticket at the door

This spectacular 18-piece Big Band will be performing the music of the "King of Swing", Benny Goodman.

• April 17th, 12-2pm Italian Feast Luncheon, \$6 with a rec card/\$7 without (please pre-register at the Hale Center)

Join us for an Italian luncheon with great food *and friends*.

• April 23rd, 10-11am Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning Seminar, free to attend.

Receive information on creating a will, trust, guardianship, and how to make your wishes known concerning health care decisions. Discuss the roles of individuals named in such documents, and what to keep in mind when selecting them.

• April 30th, 10-11am Caregiver Survival Tips Seminar, free to attend

Learn about tools that help caregivers get organized, be informed, and practice good self-care. Presented by Kelly Siegal of Empath Health.

**HOB Brewing**  
**Music & Craft**  
**Beer**  
**FESTIVAL**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**& VENDORS**

**SAT MAR 2nd**  
**Edgewater Park - Dunedin Fl**

For Vendor and Sponsor information please visit:  
[HOBBeerFest.com](http://HOBBeerFest.com)

**FREE ADMISSION 12:00PM 10:00 PM**

# Community News

## DUNEDIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

Submitted by Rosemary O'Hara

The Dunedin Newcomers Club is a face-to-face social network established 64 years ago that welcomes people who are new to the area, newly retired, or who now have the time to explore the region, attend monthly luncheons and participate in our many fun activities. Our purpose is to introduce residents to what's special about Dunedin and northern Pinellas. And don't be fooled by the name. Some of us have lived here for more than 30 years.

We meet once a month for lunch, with a guest speaker or fun program. Some recent topics include how the Tampa Bay Times is responding to the challenges facing metro newspapers, Dunedin's Sister City relationship with Stirling, Scotland; and the shorebirds of Florida's West Coast. We also organize field trips that offer interesting peeks behind the scenes, we host a book club, Mexican Train get-togethers, and a theater group. Though we are almost exclusively female, we're open to all.

For more information about joining, contact me at RosemaryOhara14@gmail.com.

## ISLAND ESTATES YACHT CLUB

Submitted by Scott Lefebvre

The men of the Island Estates Yacht Club (IEYC) hosted their annual club event at DeLuka's restaurant in Clearwater on February 24th. This year's theme was Nautical Jeopardy. The Social Committee has a full slate of events planned for this spring, including a Sunday Brunch at the Island Way Grill, an adventure on the Little Toot out of Clearwater Marina, and a sunset beach party on Sand Key.

The Island Estates Yacht Club (IEYC) was officially started in 1975. We are an incorporated not-for-profit club whose mission is to foster fellowship among its members. Please visit the IEYC website at <https://www.islandestatesyc.org/> for more information on the club.

Reservations are required for all events and guests need to be sponsored by a member. Membership in the IEYC is a one-time \$200 initiation fee and \$200 per calendar year for a family and \$100 for a single membership. You don't need to live on Island Estates, or own a yacht, to be a member of the IEYC. Email [islandestatesyc@gmail.com](mailto:islandestatesyc@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## STUDIO 1212 ART GALLERY

The Studio announced a new art exhibit "Art Squared," which is free and open to the public. The opening reception is Sunday, March 3rd from 1-4pm with live music, wine, and a light buffet. View fine art and meet the local, award-winning artists who create it.

Join them at their annual art exhibit "Nature's Fragments" at the Stirling Art Studios & Gallery, 730 Broadway, second floor. The public is invited to the opening reception on Saturday, March 9th from 1-4pm with wine and a light buffet.

Studio 1212 Art Gallery is located at 234 Monroe Street in Downtown Dunedin, Florida, behind Hog Island Fish Camp Restaurant. It offers small art originals and prints, unique hand-made items such as jewelry, note cards, small handbags, journal books, tote bags, and more. Regular hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 11am to 3pm. View additional art and gallery sponsored events at [Studio1212.org](http://Studio1212.org).

## STIRLING ART STUDIOS AND GALLERY

The Gallery will feature Studio 1212 as their March exhibit, themed "Nature's Fragments." The Second Saturday reception will be March 9th from 1-4pm. Meet the artist and enjoy complimentary appetizers.

Stirling will feature The Exhibiting Society of Artists (TESA) as its April exhibit. The theme is "Art Blooms," artists can apply at [ArtTESA.org/events](http://ArtTESA.org/events). The second Saturday reception will be Saturday, April 13th from 11am-4pm.

Stirling Art Studios & Gallery will again be hosting its annual fundraiser for Dunedin Doggie Rescue during the month of May. This animal-themed display is open to all artists.

They will also be sponsoring a fundraiser for the Dunedin Fire Department Honor Guard during the months of July and August. There is an open call for Dunedin-related artwork. Visit [StirlingArtStudiosandGallery.com](http://StirlingArtStudiosandGallery.com) for more information.

## DUNEDIN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Submitted by Gordon Thomas, Flotilla Commander

The Dunedin Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering Boat Safety courses and Basic Navigation courses at the Dunedin Marina, located at 51 Main Street.

The next Boat Safety courses are March 9th and 10th, April 13th and 14th, and May 11th and 12th from 9am-1pm.

The next Basic Navigation courses are March 30th, April 27th, and May 25th from 9am-noon.

The Boat Safety course includes emergencies, operating your boat, legal requirements, weather factors, and more. Graduates will receive a Florida state certification card.

The Navigation course teaches plotting a simple course, locating positions, true course versus magnetic course, and other navigation factors. The course supplies rolling rulers, dividers, and a chart. The fee for either course is \$50 and is taught by certified instructors.

We also offer free vessel safety exams at your boat location or home resulting in a safety sticker for your boat. You may contact us at [PublicEducation1110@gmail.com](mailto:PublicEducation1110@gmail.com) or (727) 736-1191.

## MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS

The Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Blvd, Dunedin. Social hour is at 11:30am followed by lunch and a short program. Active duty, retired or former Military Officers and their spouses are invited to attend. The MOWW Clearwater Chapter invites those interested to RSVP for lunch by emailing Col. Brian K. Smith at [SmithBK@comcast.net](mailto:SmithBK@comcast.net).



## THINK YOU WANT A PUPPY?



Picking a puppy is a decision loaded with anticipation, joy, and the promise of years of companionship. The task, while delightful, also comes with critical implications for both the pet owner and the puppy. It should be approached with careful thought and consideration, not just to one's lifestyle, but also to the well-being of the future furry family member.

The selection of a puppy goes beyond preferences for a certain breed or coat color. It isn't just

a matter of finding the cutest or most energetic pup; it's a commitment that spans the lifetime of the pet, deeply influencing both the animal's life and that of its human family. You need to consider a puppy's temperament, energy levels, and genetic health. These factors can significantly influence the long-term happiness and harmony within their homes.

From a practical standpoint, the process of picking a puppy must be approached with careful consideration of the breed's temperament, size, and energy levels, ensuring they align with your lifestyle and living situation. It's essential to account for the need for regular exercise, mental stimulation, and grooming. The cost of owning a dog, including food, health care, training, and pet insurance, must also be factored in your decision.

Firstly, select a breed that matches your lifestyle. High-energy breeds, for example, may not be the best fit if you live in a small apartment or have limited time for exercise and play. A more laid-back companion breed may suit you if you are searching for a calmer companion. Remember to consider not just your current lifestyle, but also any possible changes, such as moves or additions to the family.

Secondly, the importance of choosing a healthy puppy cannot be overstated. With the rise of puppy mills and irresponsible breeders, potential owners are encouraged to research and visit reputable breeders who prioritize the physical and emotional health of their animals. This includes proper veterinary care, vaccinations, and early socialization practices. Selecting a healthy puppy not only has a direct impact on the pet's quality of life but also on your emotional and financial well-being avoiding costly and heart-wrenching health issues in the future.

The choice of a puppy has ethical dimensions as well. Pet owners are increasingly encouraged to consider adopting from shelters to provide homes to animals in need rather than purchasing from breeders. This not only addresses the problem of overpopulation and euthanasia in shelters, but helps discourage the operation of puppy mills, where dogs are often bred in inhumane conditions and overbreed causing chronic health problems.

The breed of the puppy may also be a factor. Certain breeds are stigmatized due to perceived aggressiveness, which can influence housing options and social encounters. It's crucial you understand these breed-specific challenges and be prepared to advocate for your pet, ensuring it is properly socialized and trained to be a well-adjusted member of society.

When picking a new puppy, the decision should be made with an informed and conscientious mind, recognizing it as a lifelong journey that will bring about personal growth, responsibility, and the joy that comes with canine companionship.

# FRESH OFF OUR BOATS

*and onto your plate*



*Thank you for supporting our local business & fisherman!*



# BAYSTAR



## RESTAURANT GROUP



[BaystarRestaurantGroup.com](http://BaystarRestaurantGroup.com)

