

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

THE HOWARD FRANKLAND BRIDGE AND THE MAN BEHIND IT



By Pete Magnani, Publisher

William Howard Frankland was born in Jackson, Tennessee on November 26th, 1901. He was the third of five sons born to Frank Mortimer Frankland and Bertha Vorsburg. Frank Sr. owned the Frankland Carriage company, selling tires, auto parts, and later, furniture.

After graduating high school, Howard traveled to Akron, Ohio to study the tire business at the Goodyear Industrial University. It was the world's first industrial school, offering male students degrees like Master Rubber Worker, Graduate Rubber Mechanic, and Machinist. Women were welcome also, for schooling in "household arts" which included domestic science, housekeeping, and sewing, as well as stenography and typing.

After completing his training, Howard returned to Tennessee and was named vice president of the Frankland Carriage Company. In 1921, he married Winifred Perry. In 1925, the couple moved to Tampa during the Florida real estate boom. He purchased the Pioneer Filling Station at 817 Grand Central on the corner of North Boulevard and founded the Pioneer Tire Company in 1928, selling tires, gasoline, and batteries. Pioneer also provided vehicle maintenance and service.

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Sugar Sand Festival Returns

The beach at Pier 60 will be transformed into a magical display for the 11th annual event.

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Light Therapy

Lights are being used to treat ailments ranging from skin conditions to cancer.

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Spring Cleaning

Hypnotherapist Mercedes Locke discusses dusting out your emotional cobwebs.

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DUNEDIN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS MAGAZINE

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our neighborhood, Dunedin. This magazine 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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN MAY



CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL 298-3000

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737 Louden Ave
DunedinGov.com

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- DEPUTY MANAGER** Jorge Quintas
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- Solid Waste: 298-3215
- Public Library 298-3080
- Community Center 812-4530
- MLK Rec Center 738-2920
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- ELECTRICITY** 443-2641
- WATER** 298-3100
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- 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
- ANIMAL SERVICES** 582-2600

- CODE ENFORCEMENT** 464-4761
- HUMAN SERVICES** 464-4200
- VETERANS SERVICES** 464-8460

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- 400 Monroe St.
- Tallahassee, FL 32399
- Ron.DeSantis@MyFlorida.com
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- 3450 East Lake Rd Suite 305
- Palm Harbor, FL 34685
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- Republican, District 57
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- 1017 Longworth House Office Bldg
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CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

MARCH

- Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival Ends 2
- St. Pete Grand Prix Ends 2
- Academy Awards 2
- Mardi Gras 5 and 10K 2-3
- Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade 4
- Fat Tuesday 4
- Ash Wednesday 5
- City Commission Meeting 6
- International Women's Day 8
- Employee Appreciation Day 7
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 9
- Peace Memorial Concert Series 9
- Florida Strawberry Festival Ends 9
- Reggae Rise Up St. Pete 13-16
- Foreigner at the Sound 15
- Causeway Beach Cleanup 15
- Diana Ross at the Sound 16
- St. Patrick's Day 17
- Valspar Championship 17-23
- Public Schools Spring Break 17-21
- City Commission Meeting 20
- Spring Equinox 20
- Kids' Night at the Aquarium CMA 21
- Hurricane Eddie's Beach Cleanup 22
- Tampa Home Show 22-23

APRIL

- City Commission Meeting 3
- Dunedin Highland Games 5
- Community Chorus Spring Concert 6
- Moonshine Music Fest Hale Ctr 11-12
- Income Taxes Due 15
- City Commission Meeting 17
- Classic Car Show Heritage Village 19
- Patriots Day 19
- Public Schools Closed 18-21
- Easter Sunday 20
- St. Pete Renaissance Faire Begins 20
- Earth Day 22
- Library 130th Anniversary 25-26

MAY

- Derby Day 3
- Cinco de Mayo 5
- Teacher Appreciation Day 5
- City Commission Meeting 8
- Letter Carriers' Food Drive 10
- Mother's Day 11
- St. Pete Renaissance Faire Ends 11
- Armed Forces Day 17
- Safe Boating Week 17-23
- City Commission Meeting 22

A Little bit of Britain
IN DUNEDIN



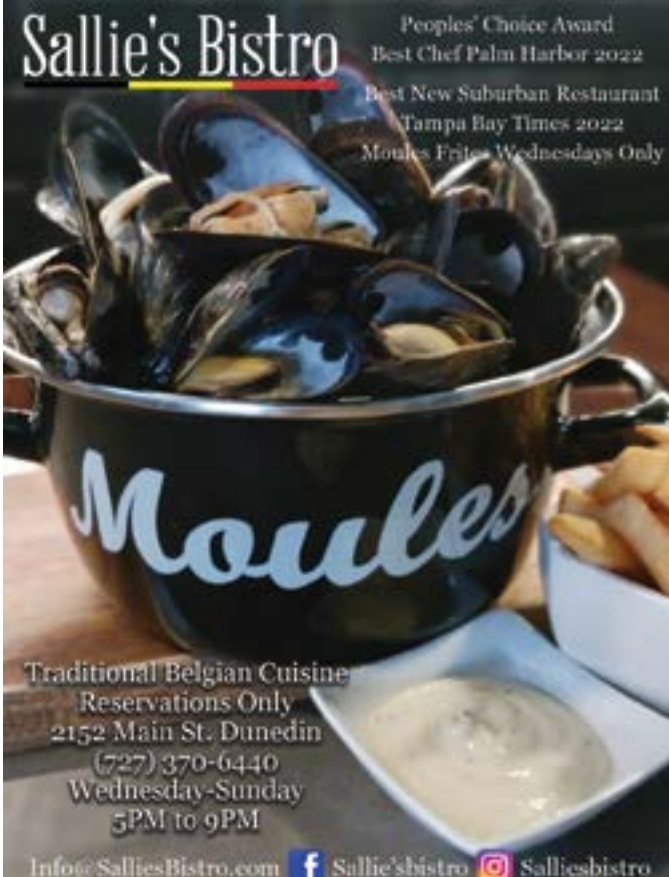
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Did You Know

PARK REOPENED

After extensive repairs and cleanup following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the historic fort, dog beach and both fishing piers at Fort De Soto Park have reopened. These amenities had been closed to the public since September.



The park's causeway, boat ramp, East Beach and Area 3 of the campground reopened late last year. North Beach opened last month. Visitors should still exercise caution throughout the park as there may be some storm debris in reopened areas. Visit Pinellas.gov/parks for more information.

NEW PET ADOPTION CENTER The Humane Society of Pinellas opened the Sjouwerman Adoption Center in December. The state-of-the-art facility features large enclosures, an auto-flush drain system, and a fresh air intake. The facility can accommodate thirty-nine dogs and sixty cats, that will be kept on two separate levels to reduce the animals' stress. It also has a gift shop.

Sjouwerman Adoption Center is located at 3040 State Road 580 in Clearwater. For more information or to donate, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org.

NEW SAND DUNE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Recognizing the vital role sand dunes play in protecting the barrier island communities from erosion damage caused by storms, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners adopted a countywide dune protection ordinance in January. The new ordinance will allow the County and cities to further protect the dunes and vegetation from damage caused by human activities, such as digging or walking on them. It makes it unlawful for individuals to perform activities regulated by the Florida Statutes without a valid state permit when required.

The ordinance also provides additional assurances for property owners to consider when deciding to sign beach nourishment easements, since they may be able to place signage warning against dune trespassing. Barrier island cities may choose to enact the ordinance in their respective municipalities. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has primary oversight of sand dunes.

POPCORN FOR A CAUSE Clearwater Boy Scout Troop 313 beat the national record during their 2024 Annual Popcorn Sale. The troop raised \$303,000, making them number one in the country. 11-year-old Grayson van den Berg led the troop with a whopping \$26,000 in sales.

Although there is an online purchase option, the majority of sales were done in-person with the scouts setting up stands outside supermarkets and other retail locations. The revenue generated by popcorn sales is used to purchase camping supplies, uniforms, annual fees, and more.



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PREPARING FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

In January, the Florida Forest Service and local emergency responders conducted a multi-agency aviation exercise in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season. The exercise provided an opportunity for state and local departments to practice interagency



communications, coordinate multiple air resources, and practice operating equipment for wildfire suppression before a wildfire begins. Approximately 80 personnel from across various agencies participated in the exercise, using resources and equipment like helicopters, drones, fixed-wing aircraft, bulldozers, and trucks.

The Florida Forest Service employs approximately 30 qualified USAS pilots in its fleet. There are fixed-wing aircraft located in all 15 Florida Forest Service Districts, with 5 helicopter bases located throughout the state. The helicopters are outfitted with Bambi Buckets, which range from 180 to 320 gallons and are used to collect and carry water to nearby wildfires.

WASH YOUR HANDS Stomach bugs have surged nationwide in recent months, with Florida ranking second in the country for confirmed norovirus cases. Outbreaks are most common from November to April, however this season started early in Florida, with twenty-four confirmed outbreaks between September 1st and October 31st. Norovirus cases generally peak between December and March.

The virus spreads easily, often in enclosed environments such as cruise ships, day care centers, and nursing homes. Eating contaminated foods, touching infected surfaces and then your mouth, or direct contact with an infected person are the most common modes of transmission.

There is no specific treatment for norovirus, but doctors recommend hydrating with water or sports drinks and avoiding caffeine and alcohol. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is the best way to reduce the risk of contracting the virus.

USE YOUR BLINKERS Florida State Statute 316.155 governs the use of turn signals on every road in Florida. It states that a signal must be used any time a vehicle or bicycle moves left or right, including turns and lane changes. The signal must be given for at least the last 100 feet before turning, except that arm signals need not be given continuously by a bicyclist if the hand is needed for operation of the bicycle. Violation of the statute is a noncriminal moving violation and can result in a fine of up to \$150.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN MAY Read this issue, and others, online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazines for ongoing local news updates.

Howard Frankland Bridge, Continued



Howard Frankland
Credit: University of
Florida Digital Collections

After completing his training, Howard returned to Tennessee and was named vice president of the Frankland Carriage Company. In 1921, he married Winifred Perry. In 1925, the couple moved to Tampa during the Florida real estate boom. He purchased the Pioneer Filling Station at 817 Grand Central on the corner of North Boulevard and founded the Pioneer Tire Company in 1928, selling tires, gasoline, and batteries. Pioneer also provided vehicle maintenance and service.

During the Great Depression, Howard learned all he could about rubber, particularly how to "reclaim" rubber from used tires.

He caught the attention of the General Tire company, which hired him to design and build a pilot plant in Tampa. Howard began recapping and retreading tires and experimented with ways to reuse the rubber dust that was a byproduct of the process.

He eventually discovered that, when combined with cork, the dust could be strengthened and reconstituted into rubber balls through a process called vulcanization. Howard and his brother Frank formed a new company, Hofran, and began producing rubber balls in a factory in Tampa. They eventually sold it to AMF and Voit.

The Gandy Bridge had been completed in 1924 as a two lane span. The Ben T. Davis Causeway (later renamed after Courtney W. Campbell, who represented Florida's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives) opened in 1927. In the mid-1950s, Howard saw a need for an additional bridge connecting Central Pinellas to Tampa. As a member of the Florida State Road Board, he used his influence to lobby for a new span and proposed extending Interstate 4 across Tampa Bay between the two existing bridges.

Dredging began on the new structure in June 1957 and by the end of the year they began setting pilings. The bridge had not been named and was referred to as the Third Bay Bridge. Construction was completed in August of 1959, with the cost for the bridge and its approaches totaling \$16 million (\$170 million in today's dollars). The overall length of the four-lane span and its approaches was over eleven miles, using 15 million pounds of steel and 84,000 cubic yards of concrete. The state chose to name the bridge after its founder.

With great fanfare, the W. Howard Frankland Bridge opened on January 15th, 1960. The MacDill Air Base Color Guard raised the American Flag over the bridge, which was christened by Mrs. Winifred Frankland. Howard's grandchildren, Winifred and Jennifer cut the ribbon to open the bridge. A motorcade led by Governor Thomas Leroy Collins proceeded west from Tampa across the span, turned around at State Road 694, and proceeded eastbound back to Tampa.

Due to the bridge's narrow span and lack of a center median wall, head-on collisions were frequent and devastating. The crashes led to several disparaging nicknames, including "Howard Frankenstein," "How Weird Frankland," and "Car Strangled Banner." A state highway official proclaimed the span a "death trap." In 1962, after the bridge had recorded its tenth collision fatality, a steel-reinforced concrete dividing wall was installed to separate the north- and southbound lanes.

As the Tampa Bay Area population grew, traffic projections increased and the need to expand the Howard Frankland's capacity became clear. Construction to increase the bridge to eight lanes began in 1988. The \$54 million four-lane southbound span opened in 1990. The original bridge closed for rehabilitation and reopened in 1992. The construction doubled the number of lanes on the bridge itself, but did not address the capacity of its approaches. Traffic snarls remained prevalent, particularly during rush hour. A ten-year project increased northbound Interstate 275 to six lanes from downtown St. Petersburg to Gandy Boulevard, and eight lanes from Gandy to the bridge. The interstate was widened several times on the Tampa side.

In 2017, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began planning to further expand the capacity of the bridge with an additional span adding two express lanes in each direction. The express lanes will come with a dynamic toll structure, giving drivers the option to avoid congestion at a premium. The cost of utilizing the lanes will increase as they become more congested and decrease as congestion goes down. According to FDOT plans, the toll lanes will connect to express lanes on the I-275 Pinellas Corridor, the recently opened Gateway Expressway, I-275, I-4, I-75, and the Veterans Expressway. The Howard Frankland plans also include future construction of a fourth span with Light Rail tracks connecting Pinellas and Tampa. The 2020 cost estimate put construction totals at \$865 million, with the first phase being completed this year.

Howard Frankland participated in numerous charitable and civic organizations, including the Hillsborough Taxpayers Association, the Boys' Clubs, and Merchant's Association. He became vice-chairman of the Florida State Turnpike Association. He was named "King of Gasparilla" for the 1950 festivities, and won the 1956 Civitan Award, being named "Tampa's Outstanding Citizen" for that year. Howard spent his later years growing azaleas and other flowers in the vast gardens surrounding his home in the Golfview neighborhood in South Tampa. He died on December 17th, 1980.



Construction of New Span, January 2025 Credit: FDOT

DINOSAURS IN THE SAND

The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival returns to bright and beautiful Clearwater Beach April 11th - 27th. This year, the festival celebrates its eleventh year and its biggest year yet with the theme, "DinoShores: A Prehistoric Adventure in Sand!"

From architectural masterpieces created with Clearwater's famous sugar sand to concerts, performers and daily entertainment, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival Presented by Visit St. Pete Clearwater is an annual event attracting visitors from around the world. This year's festival will again stretch for 17 days, which allows people more time to attend and gives those visiting for Easter a chance to see this incredible and affordable festival.

The Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit is expanding to an impressive 24,000 square feet, featuring an exciting, new augmented-reality experience that brings the intricate sand sculptures to life through vivid, interactive imagery.

Seventeen world-class artists craft elaborate sand sculptures from Clearwater's internationally famous sugar sand. The works of art are on display in a 24,000-square-foot structure. More than 1,000 tons of Clearwater sand takes on a new life, bringing visitors on a unique and special adventure. The Sugar Sand Festival is proud to partner with Tampa Bay Sandsculpting Co., which will build this year's exhibit and offer free sand-sculpting classes during the festival.

Each year, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival continues to grow in popularity and garner national attention. Last year's event drew more than 200,000 visitors through a 17-day run. General admission is \$14 per person (plus tax) and free for children 3 years old and younger. Discounted tickets for military personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers and healthcare workers can be purchased for \$10 each on Beachside Hospitality "Frontline Fridays," which are April 11th, 18th, and 25th. These discounted tickets will be available at the gate only with proper identification. All other tickets can be purchased online at SugarSandFestival.com.

The festival continues to attract visitors from around the world and is a joint effort between Sunsets at Pier 60 Daily Festival, a 501(c)3 organization and the city of Clearwater.



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- Ube Colada \$8
- Tahitian Limeade \$8
- Jungle Bird \$10
- Honi Honi \$10

\$5: Draft Beer, All Wine, Blueberry Sangria and Wells + 1 mixer

Food

- Musubi \$4
- Chips and Queso, Guac, OR Salsa \$5
- Edamame \$5
- Veggie Spring Rolls OR Pork Egg Rolls \$6
- Dos Tacos \$10

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Bar & Restaurant News

THE POOL IS OPEN Marker 8 on the Water is bringing back their Spring Fling and Summertime pool parties. They will have a live DJ one Saturday a month from 1pm-4pm starting in March and continuing through September. There will be an inflatable horse pool float race on Derby Day, May 3rd.



There will be specialty parties for Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. Marker 8 has live music every Friday-Sunday and Happy Hour Monday-Friday from 2-6pm. Patrons can grab something to eat off their newly updated menu as well. Follow them on Facebook to see band lineups and other specials. Marker 8 is located at 1420 Bayshore Blvd.

THREE DAYS OF GREEN Cricketers Pub will be having a three-day parking lot party for St. Patrick's Day March 15th-17th. There will be food, drinks, games, and live music. There is no charge for entry or parking. There will be a 50/50 raffle drawn on St. Patrick's Day at 10:30pm. All proceeds from the raffle benefit the Suncoast Animal League. Tickets can be purchased now through March 17th. Suncoast Animal League will be holding adoptions at 2pm on Saturday, March 15th.

The band lineup for the event is as follows: Jeriko Turnpike at 8pm on Saturday, Doyles Revenge at 3pm and Shakes Society at 8pm on Sunday, Chas Collins at 2pm and Bearded Brothers at 7pm on Monday (St. Patrick's Day).

Cricketers Pub is located at 2634 Bayshore Blvd in the Causeway Plaza. For more information about the event or any upcoming specials follow them on Facebook or call (727) 736-1322.

NEW LOCATION The Original Crabby Bill's announced they have opened a new restaurant in downtown Palm Harbor. "After the challenges brought by the hurricanes of 2024, I realized the importance of securing a high and dry location for our family business. Today, we are proud to say that this Palm Harbor venue is the perfect fit for us," says owner Matt Loder Sr., who also owns Bon Appetit.

Crabby Bill's has had several restaurants in the Palm Harbor area over the years and is excited to be returning. The whole family worked hard to get the new place up and running from painting the walls to mopping the floors.

They are currently hiring all positions. Apply in person at 1114 Florida Ave (previously Buchanan's Landing) between 9am-6pm. For more information, call at (727) 498-4600 or follow them on Facebook.

SAME PARTY, DIFFERENT DAY With St. Patrick's Day falling on a Monday, Flanagan's Irish Pub is doing things a bit differently this year. Their St. Patrick's Day Street Party will be held on Saturday March 15th. There will be live Irish music and performances, authentic Irish Dancers, bagpipes, cold beers, Irish cocktails, food specials, and local arts and crafts vendors. Cage O'Hanlon will kick things off on the main stage in Pioneer Park at 12:30pm and festivities will continue until 10pm. Wear your best green, Irish, Celtic gear and bring on the craic. Slainte!

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event we can include in this News Magazine, please e-mail Lora@MagriffProductions.com or call (813) 361-7376.

SOUL SPRING CLEANING

By Mercedes Locke, Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist

Aw, sweet spring! The time of year when the temperatures rise, and our wintry layers are shed. It is also when many of us thoroughly clean our homes and personal spaces. This practice is commonly referred to as "spring cleaning" - a seasonally appropriate action intended to remove all the dust and darkness of winter, thus making space for the lightness of a warmer and brighter time of year.



The practice of spring cleaning can be traced back to ancient Iranian traditions as they prepared for the Persian New Year by fully cleaning their homes. The concept can also be found in the Jewish customs of removing any leavened foods in order to prepare for Passover. The Catholic church and Greek Orthodox culture prepare for the spring holiday of Easter by cleaning their homes and churches during Lent. In northern areas, wrought by freezing temperatures and snow, spring offers more moderate weather, encouraging us to open windows, letting fresh air in and the dust of winter out.

Religions and cultures aside, we all know how good it feels to give those closets and dresser drawers a big overhaul. Who hasn't felt a surge of pride over a tidied space that once was a mess? The process can feel daunting at first, but once we start to take action, we will most likely feel encouraged to continue the process, knowing a more cleansed and organized space is our reward. Most of us thrive in an external environment that is tidy and clean because a decluttered space makes our lives simpler and more efficient.

It's probably no surprise to anyone that we thrive even more when our internal environment is also fresh and clear. Dusting out the emotional cobwebs - like resentment, guilt and grudges - leaves everything in life brighter and shinier. Intentionally creating more emotional space helps us feel like we can easily move forward towards what will work better in our lives. By removing that which no longer serves us: outdated thoughts and patterns, we open up space for that which will serve us: new behaviors and aligned action towards what we really desire.

If you are looking for support to release the old and embrace the new, book a free telephone consultation at mercedeslockehypnotherapy.com. I look forward to sharing with you how hypnotherapy can shed light on what is no longer working in your life - old sweaters and old behaviors alike!

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THE PERFECT TIME TO MOVE... IS WHEN YOU ARE READY!

By Alison Ross Tompkins, Broker
Associate for Coldwell Banker

Making the decision to move to a retirement community is a big step, and the timing should feel right for you. Here are some helpful questions to consider:



- Do you value peace of mind? Imagine the comfort of knowing you'll be well taken care of no matter what happens.
- Do you know where you'd like to move? Exploring options early can give you time to find the perfect fit.
- Is your house ready for the market? Preparing your home is key to getting the best possible return when you sell.
- What does downsizing involve? It's not just about letting go of things—it's about creating space for your next chapter.
- Who is on your moving team? Having the right professionals, like movers, packers, an Estate Sale company, Realtor and stagers, can make the transition much smoother.
- Should you take advantage of the current market? Now may be a good time to sell for some people, but it's worth discussing your unique situation with a trusted expert.

Cost of Living

A move to a retirement community comes with financial considerations, so it's important to evaluate your current costs versus potential new expenses. Are rising condominium fees, flood insurance, or home maintenance costs becoming a concern? How do your property taxes and other living expenses compare to retirement community costs? Should the proceeds from selling your home or condominium cover the cost of moving into a community?

Finding the Right Community

There are many types of retirement communities to explore, from LifeCare (continuing care retirement communities) to rental communities. Understanding the differences and comparing options can help you find the one that best suits your needs.

When Is the Best Time to Sell?

The best time to sell in Florida—or anywhere—is when you're ready and feel confident in your plan. Take the time to do your homework and partner with a trusted Seniors Real Estate Specialist who understands the unique needs of older adults.

Take the First Step

Investing in your future well-being starts with having the right conversations. Whether you're ready to move now or just beginning to explore your options, connecting with an experienced real estate professional can help you chart the best path forward—even if that means staying in your current home.

Your next chapter should bring you peace of mind, comfort, and joy. Let someone who truly cares about you help make that happen!

Alison, Broker Associate for Coldwell Banker, has been in sales and Real Estate for 30 years. Reach her on her cell at (727) 729-9942 or at the Belleair/Dunedin offices at (727) 581-9411.

Business Briefs

NEW OWNER Congratulations to Lisa Connolly, the new owner of Lafayette & Rushford Boutique at 748 Broadway. Lisa says she is eager to continue the legacy that Linda Painter and Rick Davies have built over the past 26 years. Customers can expect to see the same beautifully curated home décor and gift collections, with some new vendors and collections added in as well. Linda and the rest of the staff will remain working at the shop. Stop in, shop a little and say hello.



NEW BUILDER ON THE BEACH Seasafe Homes was born in between Hurricanes Helene and Milton when founders Chad Lubke and Michael Zehnder realized the need for strong, flood-resistant, elevated homes using a streamlined process for faster recovery. Semi-custom home modules are constructed in a controlled, enclosed, Offsite Build Center.

While being built to Miami-Dade wind rating of upA to 180 mph, elevated Seasafe Homes can be completed in six months. Design options allow for custom porches, outdoor living spaces, and storm-safe features. Modular construction saves time and money by reducing delays, material waste, and overall costs compared to traditional homebuilding.

Seasafe is building two waterfront models expected to be complete in July but, currently potential homebuyers can view homes through Seasafe's build partners in North Fort Myers Beach. Visit SeasafeHomes.com to view models or call (727) 248-8757 for more information.

PAMPERING PAWS Dunedin Pet Supply at 1045 Main Street was recently acknowledged as the "Top Community Donor" at Baurserween's "Nightmare Before Christmas" event for their generous donations to the Dunedin Bark Box throughout the year.

The store offers customers holistic pet foods, healthy treats, and durable toys. They have a self-serve washing station that customers can use (by appointment only) for a small fee. However, if they would prefer to leave it to the professionals, they also offer professional grooming. They have multiple groomers who groom dogs and cats, and even trim small critters nails. To book your fur baby's next S-PAW session call them at (727) 601-4661.

FURNITURE WITH STYLE Cheri Dunbar, a self-taught painter, revamps old furniture into stylish, fresh pieces full of life, personality, and charm. After six years in consignment and antique marketplaces, she recently opened Almost Forgotten Furniture at 1572 Main Street. In addition to one-of-a-kind furniture pieces, she also offers hand-painted jewelry, shoes, and art. The shop is open Wednesday-Saturday from 11am-5pm and Sunday from noon-4pm. Find her on Facebook and Instagram.

MARINE MAX HAS MOVED The largest recreational boat and yacht dealer has moved its headquarters to Oldsmar. MarineMax of Clearwater, formerly located at 2600 McCormick Dr, moved to an approximately 40,000-square-foot space within the same office park as Nielsen Media Research at 501 Brooker Creek Blvd. in Oldsmar. MarineMax made the move without a formal announcement.

Community News

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA DUNEDIN

Submitted by Gordon Thomas

Boat America Course

March 15th and 16th Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 1PM

Must attend both of these days.

April 5th and 6th Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 1PM

Must attend both of these days.

May 3rd and 4th Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 1PM

Must attend both of these days.

Basic Navigation Courses

March 29th 9am-noon Saturday only

April 12th 9am-noon Saturday only

May 24th 9am-noon Saturday only

All courses are given at the Dunedin Marina, 51 Main Street, second floor on the north side. Call (727) 736-1191 or email PublicEducation1110@gmail.com for further details.

STIRLING ART STUDIOS AND GALLERY

The Gallery will feature Studio 1212 as their March exhibit. The Second Saturday reception will be March 8th from 1-4pm.

Stirling will feature The Exhibiting Society of Artists (TESA) as its April exhibit. The second Saturday reception will be Saturday, April 13th from 11am-4pm.

Both receptions feature complimentary wine and snacks. Visit StirlingArtStudiosandGallery.com for more information.

MORTON PLANT MEASE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Submitted by Lauretta Fernandez

CareLift Van Transportation Service -Need a Lift?

CareLift Van Transportation Service, a member of Morton Plant Mease Hospital is available to people who live in the local area from Largo to Palm Harbor. We provide free transportation to BayCare hospital campuses for those ambulatory members of our community that don't have the option of using their own vehicle. The service is available Monday through Friday and helps to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in our community.

To register for CareLift, please call (727) 734-6107. We are in the office Monday – Friday from 8am-3:30pm.

CareLift is also looking for volunteers in Dunedin and the surrounding area. We provide over 1,000 free rides every month, but we can't do it without our volunteers. If you enjoy meeting new people, we would love to have you join our dynamic volunteer team. A few hours of your time can make a positive difference in your life and the lives of others.

Opportunities available at CareLift include Dispatcher, Driver and Driver's Aide. In addition, we have volunteer opportunities in Dunedin Hospital and at The Tree House, our thrift store, located on Virginia Street.

To volunteer please contact the Volunteer Coordinator: Lauretta Fernandez at Lauretta.Fernandez@Baycare.org (727) 734-6046.

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Saturday, April 12th	Moonshine Celtic Concert	6:30pm




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RESTORING DUNEDIN: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

By Commissioner Rob Walker

As Dunedin welcomes the annual influx of visitors, we are reminded of how vital “The Season” is to our community. Tourism supports our small businesses, from restaurants to retail shops, and is the backbone of our local economy. The return of spring training for the Toronto Blue Jays is another highlight, bringing fans, energy, and a boost to our city’s businesses.



However, as we enjoy these seasonal traditions, our city must focus on recovery and resilience. The trifecta of storms—Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton—left a significant impact on Dunedin’s coastal infrastructure. Our marina, docks, and stormwater systems were hit hard, and recovery efforts must be a top priority to ensure safety, accessibility, and future resilience.

These storms were unprecedented in their strength, their path and their sequencing and as much as we were impacted, it could have been much worse had any of these storms made landfall closer to our community. The good news is that although the recovery is significant, we have the benefit of hind sight by taking a hard look at our strengths and weaknesses. We have learned lessons and as a result of these lessons, we will recover and we will be better prepared to meet future challenges.

As we head into the spring and summer months, the City of Dunedin will be hard at work preparing the 2026 budget where we will focus our planning on applying the lessons learned to our future preparedness.

Specifically, the restoration of our waterfront is more than just rebuilding—it is an opportunity to strengthen Dunedin for future generations. Investments in storm-hardening measures, enhanced structural protections, and environmental sustainability will ensure that our marina and surrounding areas remain both functional and beautiful. Local boaters, businesses, and environmental experts will play a key role in developing a long-term plan that balances economic growth with coastal preservation.

Beyond the marina, stormwater infrastructure upgrades are essential. Recent hurricanes exposed vulnerabilities in our drainage systems, underscoring the need for modern solutions to mitigate flooding. Protecting our homes, businesses, and public spaces from extreme weather must be central to our city’s 2026 budget planning. Upgrading stormwater systems will help manage heavy rainfall, improve water quality, and reduce the risk of future flooding, making Dunedin more resilient in the face of climate change.

While we celebrate the reopening of the Dunedin Golf Club—restored to the original Donald Ross standard—we must also acknowledge the work ahead in rebuilding our city’s infrastructure. Our commitment to preservation and progress must extend beyond recreational spaces to ensure that our essential facilities, from roads to drainage systems, are storm-ready and sustainable.

The Season brings excitement and prosperity to Dunedin, but it also serves as a reminder of the work we must do to protect our community. Through smart investments in restoration, resilience, and preparedness, we will not only rebuild but emerge stronger. Together, as residents, business owners, and local leaders, we will ensure that Dunedin thrives now and for generations to come.

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Community News

HALE SENIOR CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Submitted by Caitlin Beavers

Senior Planet Technology - Lectures & Workshops

Through lectures and workshops, you can learn about the latest and most popular tech topics, the general purpose of various devices or concepts, as well as tips and tricks of how to effectively use specific features of a website or apps through guided, hands-on experiences. Walk-ins welcome & no registration required. Free to attend.

Lectures 10-11:15am

March 25th: Intro to Smartphone Photography

April 1st: Protecting Your Personal Information Online

Workshops 2-3:30 pm

Free to attend. Limited space. Must register by the Monday before class to reserve your spot.

March 27th: Getting Started with Facebook

The Dunedin Three O'Clock Big Band: Dance & Concert

Enjoy live music and dance to swing, ballads, waltzes, polkas and Latin music. The band is made up of some of the finest musicians in the Tampa Bay area and is led by Big Band Veteran Greg Howard, who has led and performed with big bands and jazz combos throughout his musical career. \$5/person.

March 19th and April 16th, 3-4:30pm

Broadway Musicals Explained

Learn from Ellen Katz, a Broadway Edutainer during her live, in-costume presentation as she teaches and entertains using musical clips, fascinating history, and enjoyable anecdotes. \$5/day Mondays 12:30 - 2 pm

March 24th: Producers

April 28th: Hamilton

The History of Broadway

Discover the rich history of Broadway musicals! Between 1890-1920, a wave of immigrants flocked to the U.S., and many brought extraordinary talents that led them to the theaters of lower Manhattan and the emerging theater district known as "Times Square." 18+ yrs welcome. Must register by April 4th. \$10/\$12. April 7th and 14th 10-11:30am

STUDIO 1212 ART GALLERY

Submitted by Collen Baxter

Studio 1212 Art Gallery at 234 Monroe Street (behind Hog Island Fish Camp Restaurant) announces a new exhibit, "Re-Imaging a Pachner Legacy." As a teenager, William Pachner fled the Nazis and his homeland of what was then Czechoslovakia ending up as a commercial artist in New York City.

Even though his entire family perished during the war, he became an internationally known artist and for a time lived, exhibited and taught in the Clearwater-Dunedin area. He encouraged his students to open a venue within which to exhibit and sell their art and in 1971, Studio 1212 Art Gallery was born.

Join local award-winning artists on April 6th from 1-4pm for live music, a light buffet, wine, beer, and other refreshments. This exhibit runs until May 11th, Wednesdays through Sundays from 11am to 3pm.

This charming boutique gallery also offers unique and affordable hand-made items such as small art originals and prints, jewelry, journal books, note cards, tote bags, and more. View additional art, gallery events and workshops at Studio1212.org.

PALM HARBOR NEWCOMERS CLUB

Submitted by Michelle Scott

Palm Harbor Newcomers Club is organized exclusively as a social club for women, providing an atmosphere of fun and good will for the enjoyment of its members. The club fosters friendships through a variety of social activities, special events, excursions and other get-togethers. Whether brand new, a snowbird or a life-long native to Palm Harbor and the surrounding area, any woman looking for a way to engage within the community will find there are "No strangers, only friends you haven't met."

Special events occur throughout the year and have included a Holiday Cookie Exchange, Calypso Cruise on the Bay, Casino Night and an evening social Gala.

Each month we meet the third Tuesday for a luncheon and enjoyable program at Cypress Run Golf Club in Tarpon Springs. All members and guests are invited to attend.

Please contact Michelle Scott at michellescott127@att.net or 630-567-4111 for further information.

WE WANT TO PRINT YOUR NEWS

Does your organization have news you would like to see printed here? Community News is always free! We would like to promote your upcoming events, anniversaries, and other important information. Send your information to Pete@MagriffProductions.com.

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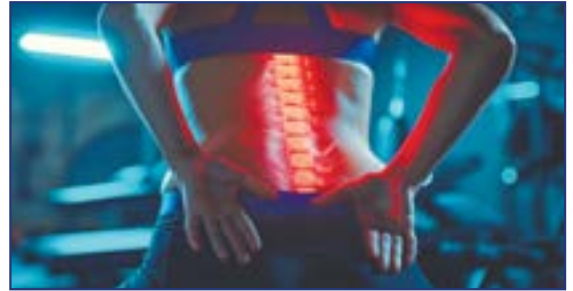
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USING LIGHT TO HEAL

By Pete Magnani

The first electric light bulb was invented in 1879 by Thomas Edison. The device was a solution to the use of flame or sunlight for illumination, but it would be fourteen years before light was first used therapeutically. Danish physician Niels Ryberg Finsen suffered from Pick's Disease, which resulted in reduced function of the heart, liver, and spleen. Symptoms included general weakness and fatigue, which he noted were alleviated by exposure to the sun. In 1893 Finsen succeeded in using concentrated light rays to treat smallpox and lupus. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1903 for his work.



In 1917 Albert Einstein laid the theoretical foundation for the laser, which he described as the theory of "simulated emission." The first practical use of the lasers came in the 1940s when physicist Charles Townes developed the MASER or Microwave Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Townes and colleagues continued experimentation, and the first functioning laser was produced by Theodore Maiman in 1960.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the therapeutic effects of laser therapy were discovered, beginning with veterinary medicine and progressing to human use including treatment of cancers, angioplasty, dentistry, and cosmetic dermatology. In the early 1990s, research funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) led to the discovery that rays from light emitting diodes (LED) stimulated and increased plant growth. In 1995, they used an LED plant growth unit to grow potatoes on the space shuttle. The LEDs used red and blue wavelengths, and scientists that worked long hours under the red lights noticed that wounds on their hands healed much faster.

LED devices were provided to the United States Navy for treatment of training injuries. These studies showed red and near-infrared light produced more than forty percent greater improvement in musculoskeletal injuries and fifty percent faster healing time for lacerations. These results spurred commercial research and development of treatment devices including full body beds, LED panels, and handheld devices.

Further studies have shown red light therapy to stimulate skin rejuvenation, accelerate muscle recovery, and reduce inflammation. Other benefits include reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, boosting mood and cognitive function, and improving circulation and cardiovascular health.

Rayz Tanning Salon at 1580 Main Street in Dunedin offers red light therapy. Visit ClearwaterTanning.com for information. Dermaclinique offers laser and blue light therapy, visit TheDermaclinique.com for more information.



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