

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

## THE MAN WHO BROUGHT SAILING TO THE YOUTH OF PINELLAS COUNTY



By Pete Magnani, Publisher

In the 1940s, long before PlayStations and iPads, options for keeping children occupied were limited. Clark W. "Clarkie" Mills devoted many years of his life to ensuring local youth had a safe and exciting way to spend their time outdoors.

Mills was born in 1915 in Jackson, Michigan, and his family moved to Clearwater when he was three years old. As a young boy, Mills was constantly tinkering, helping his father with household repairs and carpentry. He was also always interested in boats. Mills became a member of several boating clubs and built his first boat at age 10.

When World War II began, Mills was drafted into the Navy and was stationed at a Philadelphia Navy yard. Two years later he was sent to the Panama Canal Zone, where he developed his boat building skills. Upon his return to the states, he opened Mills Boat Works at 985 Douglas Avenue in Dunedin. Mills began building "Snipe" sailboats, sleek-hulled vessels designed for racing. He also built his reputation.

- Continued on Page 6

### Also in this Issue:



#### Sugar Sand

The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival had a successful eleventh year in April.

- page 14

#### Local Hero Recognized

Martin "Steele" Thomas was recently honored by the American Red Cross for his actions after Hurricane Helene.

- page 13



#### Help your Neighbor

Neighborly Senior Care, the provider of Meals on Wheels in Pinellas County, needs volunteers to help those in need.

- page 12

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## CREDITS



This newsletter is published by MAGRIFF PRODUCTIONS and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767 - about 6,000 households.

We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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## CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it Neighborhood News because it is about your neighborhood - Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - about 6,000 households, six times a year.

You can pick up additional copies at the Pier 60 Welcome Center, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

We hope you enjoy our magazine and we want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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

Thank you for reading,  
Lora and Pete Magnani (813) 361-7376  
[Lora@MagriffProductions.com](mailto:Lora@MagriffProductions.com)

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|  |              |
|--|--------------|
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## CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

### JUNE

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| No Fertilizing June-September         | 1     |
| Hurricane Season Begins               | 1     |
| International Children's Day          | 1     |
| Pet Appreciation Week                 | 1-7   |
| City Council Meeting                  | 5     |
| D-Day Remembrance Day                 | 6     |
| Belmont Stakes                        | 7     |
| 1st Responders Night Baycare Ballpark | 7     |
| World Oceans Day CLW Aquarium         | 7     |
| FamFest Coachman Park                 | 8     |
| Tony Awards                           | 8     |
| Flag Day                              | 14    |
| U.S. Army Birthday                    | 14    |
| BBQ and Jazz Fest Clearwater          | 14    |
| Market Marie Coachman Park            | 14    |
| Father's Day                          | 15    |
| Nikki Glaser at The Sound             | 15    |
| Juneteenth                            | 19    |
| Summer Solstice                       | 20    |
| Ringo Starr at the Sound              | 21    |
| Tampa Bay Boat Show                   | 27-29 |
| Pins for Patients CLW Free Clinic     | 28    |
| St. Pete Pride Parade                 | 28    |
| Wimbledon Begins                      | 30    |



Happy Independence Day!

### JULY

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Independence Day                  | 4  |
| Fireworks at Coachman Park        | 4  |
| City Council Meeting              | 10 |
| Market Marie at Coachman Park     | 12 |
| Bastille Day                      | 14 |
| MLB All-Star Game                 | 15 |
| Counting Crows at the Sound       | 20 |
| Tampa Bay Ice Cream Fest St. Pete | 21 |
| Parent's Day                      | 27 |
| NFL Hall of Fame Game             | 31 |





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## Did You Know



**SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON** From May 1st through October 31st, Loggerhead Sea turtles successfully nest and hatch along Pinellas County beaches.

Sea turtles can be disoriented by lights visible from the beach causing hatchlings to become attracted inland. When this happens, they most often die of dehydration, predators, or are run over by motor vehicles. Occupants of beachfront properties are asked to minimize the use of lights that shine directly on the beach. Information about turtle-friendly beach lighting from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission can be found in the Sea Turtle Lighting Guidelines on MyFWC.com.

### DISCUSSION OF A PINELLAS COUNTY MAYOR

During a commission work session last month, Pinellas County Commissioner Chris Latvala proposed discussion on whether or not the county should continue to be led by a commission-appointed county administrator, as it has since 1964, or if an elected county mayor would be more appropriate. Although most Florida counties utilize a county administrator, several, including Orange, Miami-Dade, and Jacksonville counties have a mayor.

Commissioners agreed to a discussion on the matter. If a measure were placed on the ballot next year and passed, the mayor would take office in 2028.



### NEW ROOF COMING FOR TROPICANA FIELD

After several delayed votes, The St. Petersburg City Council has approved a \$22.5 million plan to replace the roof at Tropicana Field, after it was destroyed by Hurricane Milton. The project is expected to be completed by December, and the Rays hope to play the 2026 season at the Trop. The new roof will be made of the same material as the original, six acres of translucent, Teflon-coated fiberglass and supported by 180 miles of cables connected by struts.

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## OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

Drop off your expired or unused medications during business hours at Operation Medicine Cabinet drop boxes located throughout Pinellas County. If possible, please safely remove medications from bottles and place in zip lock bags. Liquids should remain within their original containers and the caps secured with tape. Remember to remove labels from the bottles and destroy them. This is the best way to dispose of your unwanted medications.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is a dedicated partner in the effort to stop the illegal prescribing, sale, and abuse of prescription drugs.

Any prescription drug or medicine used for people or pets including pills, liquids, inhalers, patches, and Epi-Pens are accepted. Syringes and medical equipment are not.

Operation Medicine Cabinet drop boxes are located at the Belleair Police Department at 901 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Largo Police Department at 201 Highland Avenue, and Clearwater Police Department at 645 Pierce Street.



**PINELLAS TRAIL RULES** Pinellas County had a record-breaking tourism season in 2024, with over 15.4 million visitors. The increase, combined with the explosion in popularity of electric bikes, scooters, and skateboards has led to a surge in traffic on the Pinellas Trail. Many pedestrians and riders are not aware of the basic rules of the trail.

The Pinellas Trail is open from 7am-sunset every day, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Users must obey all traffic controls, signals, and the posted speed limit. The maximum speed allowed is 20 miles per hour. Riders under 16 must wear a helmet, and motorized vehicles (except electric bikes, electric wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles) and horses are prohibited. Keep right, pass on the left, and warn before passing. Animals must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet.

**RETIRING AS A RAY** Evan Longoria will sign a one-day contract during a pre-game ceremony on June 7th allowing him to retire as a Rays player. The fan favorite was drafted by the Rays in 2006 from Long Beach State University and entered the major leagues in 2008, becoming the American League's Rookie of the Year. Longoria spent ten seasons with the Rays before being traded to the San Francisco Giants after the 2017 season. He still holds Rays records for home runs, runs batted in, doubles, walks, and games played.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE AUGUST** If you need another copy of this magazine, pick up one up at the library, rec center, or the UPS Store on Island Estates. If you need more than a few, call (813) 361-7376.

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## Clark Mills, Continued

At the time, The Clearwater Optimist Club was a civic organization centered around providing activities for local children. This included organizing soap box derby races in town. The premise of the derby was a simple car that could be built by the average father and son as a bonding experience culminating in a downhill children's race. The mostly flat landscape of the area did not lend itself well to races that depended on gravity for propulsion. The vehicle would be used once or twice and before long usually ended up as firewood.

In a 1947 speech to the club, Major Clifford McKay, manager of the local radio station TWAN, laid out a four-point plan to curb juvenile delinquency. His plan included the creation of a baseball diamond, swimming pool, recreation center, and a sailboat competition for young people. McKay's idea for a youth racing competition was born out of his son's love for sailing and both of their frustrations with the soap box derby. McKay believed a sailboat would hold a child's interest much longer and teach them responsibility and self-confidence. The idea was well received by the Optimists, and the next day McKay contacted Mills.

McKay wanted Mills to design a vessel that would cost less than fifty dollars, could be crafted from two regular sheets of plywood, and use a bed sheet for a sail. Mills accepted the challenge and got to the drawing board. His first designs featured the standard pointed bow. Unfortunately, those were not able to keep under the \$50 requirement. Mills squared the bow off to accomplish the goal, and the Optimist Pram was born.

The skiff had a length of seven feet, nine inches and a width of three feet, eight inches, the largest Mills could get out of two sheets of plywood. The sail had an area of about 35 square feet. The pram was steered by a rudder and had a daggerboard, which is a removable keel that added necessary stability and safety in a boat designed for children. Though one sailor could safely operate it, it was designed for a crew of two. Mills sold the plans for \$2.50 each.

Pram racing immediately became popular, with races being sponsored regularly by the Optimist Club. The club also sponsored the first statewide regatta. Mills donated twenty-nine prams for the club's first fleet which were used for early races. In April 1949, a fire swept through the Sea Scout Base where the boats were stored, destroying all but nine. Clearwater residents responded generously, donating enough to replace the twenty burnt vessels and add twenty-two more.

Races were also sponsored by the Dunedin Boat Club, which sponsored the first statewide regatta. Mills donated twelve prams to the City of Dunedin. One of the original twelve has been preserved and is on display at the Dunedin History Museum.



1963 Windmill

with most current Olympic sailors starting out at an early age with his pram design. Today there are more than 500,000 Optimist prams sailing in over 120 countries.

Mills remained in the Clearwater area and passed away on December 11th, 2001, at Morton Plant Hospital at the age of 86. In 2017, he was inducted posthumously into the National Sailing Hall of Fame.

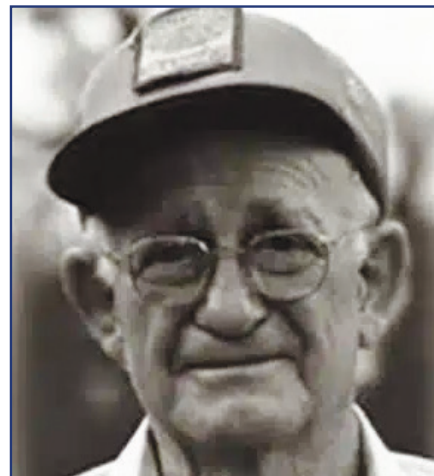
Those interested in Mills' work can visit The McKay Creek Boat Shop at Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street in Largo. Built in 2012 from the plans of one of Mills' boat works, the museum has several of his boats on display, as well as photographs and memorabilia. Woodwright Brewing Company, located in Mills' first shop at 985 Douglas Avenue in Dunedin, also has an Optimist Pram and other Mills memorabilia on display.



First Optimist skipper  
Clifford McKay, Jr.

Soon, Mills began to consider that the youngsters that had developed a passion for sailing by racing in Optimists and set to work designing a boat for teenagers that has outgrown the original pram. He knew the Snipes he built would be too expensive for the target families, so he reworked the original Optimist into a new boat called the Windmill. The Windmill could be built out of four sheets of ordinary plywood, had a pointed bow, and two sails. The design resulted in a significantly faster vessel but could still be constructed at home by young sailors from a set of plans. It had a length of 15.5 feet and a width of 4.75 feet. Like the Optimist, it was designed to be crewed by two sailors.

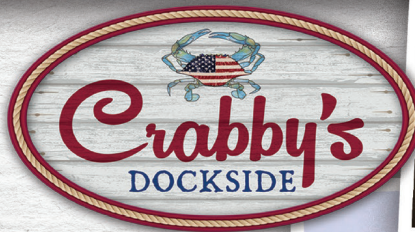
Mills continued designing and building boats of various styles, but his true legacy lies in the boats he designed and crafted for the wellbeing of area youth. Never collecting royalties, his designs have spread all over the world,





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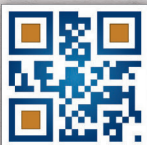
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## FIXING AMERICA'S FINANCES

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

For the better part of six decades, the U.S. government, like a household that regularly fails to balance its budget, has spent more than it earns. The Trump administration has wasted no time trying to rein in federal spending through a downsizing of the federal workforce. But making meaningful spending cuts will be an uphill battle. Let's look at the challenge of lowering federal spending.



Government borrowing has fueled a dramatic increase in our national debt. In fiscal 2024, the national debt topped 120 percent of GDP, nearly double what it averaged between 1940 and 2023. What are the opportunities to make meaningful spending cuts or other reforms?

The cost of entitlement programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, represents two-thirds of the federal budget. The aging of the U.S. population has been a major driver of spending on Medicare and Social Security. Immigration policy will also impact their financial health since it affects the supply of younger workers who can pay into these programs.

For 20 years, interest costs on the national debt declined. But now rates are higher and the cost of servicing the national debt is quickly becoming a problem. Interest expense as a percentage of federal revenue was 18 percent in 2024, nearly double what it was in 2020. In fiscal 2024, the federal government spent more on interest costs than it did on defense or Medicare.

The Trump administration aims to reduce the deficit to 3 percent of GDP through a combination of cost-cutting and pro-growth, including deregulation, tax reform and stimulating energy production. In the meantime, President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by Elon Musk, tasked with cutting spending, has garnered headlines and political and legal pushback for its efforts to shrink the federal workforce, cancel contracts and more. From a budgetary perspective, DOGE can only do so much. The scope of its work is limited to non-defense discretionary spending, which represents only about 14 percent of the federal budget.

Addressing government spending and borrowing is not a quick or easy process. But it's worth doing thoughtfully. As we have noted before, it's an American problem, not a political party problem.

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## ARE YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES UP TO DATE?

By Kristin Asbury, GreatFlorida Insurance

Hurricane season is here! It's a good time to freshen up on homeowners' and flood insurance policies. While both offer protection for property owners, they cover different types of damage and are issued by separate providers under separate policies.

Florida Homeowners Insurance is designed to protect a property owner from financial loss due to damage to the home and personal belongings caused by a wide range of covered perils. These perils usually include fire, windstorms, hail, lightning, theft, vandalism, and some water damage (such as a burst from a pipe). Most policies also provide liability protection if someone is injured on the property. In Florida, windstorm coverage – especially from Hurricanes – is a critical component of homeowners insurance and is subject to higher deductibles or even require a separate policy depending on the location and insurer.

One major limitation of standard homeowners' insurance is that it does not cover flood damage. Flooding is defined as water damage from rising water levels caused by natural sources such as heavy rainfall, storm surge, overflowing rivers, or coastal inundation. Florida, with its flat terrain, frequent storms, and proximity to water bodies, is especially vulnerable to flooding.

Flood insurance must be purchased as a separate policy, most often through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This type of insurance specifically covers losses due to flooding and includes both building coverage (for the home itself) and contents coverage (for personal belongings inside the home). Building coverage includes elements such as

walls, foundation, HVAC -systems, and electrical systems, while contents coverage includes items like furniture, electronics, and clothing.

For Florida homeowners, having both policies is essential. A strong hurricane, for example, may cause wind damage (covered by homeowners' insurance) and flood damage from storm surge (covered by flood insurance). Without flood insurance, the homeowner would bear the full cost of repairs from the flooding, which can be extensive and financially devastating.

Another key difference is the requirement and cost. Lenders require flood insurance if the property is located in a designated high-risk flood zone. The cost of flood insurance is based on the flood risk of the property, elevation, and coverage amount. In contrast, Homeowners insurance is required by lenders regardless of flood zone and is priced based on a broader range of risk factors.

Homeowner insurance and flood insurance in Florida compliment each other. Homeowners insurance covers many common perils but excludes flooding, while flood insurance fills that critical gap. Given Florida's climate and geography, both types of coverage are crucial for comprehensive protection.

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# Bar & Restaurant News

## NEW ADDITION

Coco's Crush Bar is excited to welcome their newest team member, Sales Events Coordinator Daniele Goll. Originally from the Philadelphia area, Daniele relocated to the Clearwater/Largo community 24 years ago with her husband and has been calling it home ever since.

She brings an extensive background in corporate meeting & event planning, having successfully managed everything from large-scale conferences and business meetings to social gatherings and community activations.

Daniele is known for her keen eye for detail, her ability to coordinate complex logistics, and her strength in collaborating cross-functionally to deliver seamless, impactful events. Her passion lies in bringing people together and creating memorable, fun experiences that align perfectly with each client's vision.



**ROLLING UP AND MOVING SOUTH** Fusion Cigar Lounge at 483 Mandalay Ave in the Pelican Plaza on North Beach, is packing up and moving to South Beach. Fusion will be moving into 696 South Gulfview Blvd, formerly occupied by The Sandal Factory. The move is expected to happen in July. For more information, visit the North Beach location or call (727) 330-7649.

**PROGRESS ON TAVERN IN THE BLUFFS** Last October, this magazine reported that Tavern in the Bluffs, a sports bar and tavern, would be opening at 2890 West Bay, previously occupied by Cody's Roadhouse. Now the Pappas family, owners of Backwaters on Sand Key, have received their permits, are moving forward, and hinted that opening day is on the horizon.

Expect wall-to-wall big screen televisions with every game every night, a wide selection of beer and craft cocktails, a full kitchen serving bar favorites, themed nights and special events. Follow them on Instagram @TavernInTheBluffs and stay tuned for their Grand Opening announcement.

**ROUND TWO** Real estate on Clearwater Beach does not stay vacant for long. Jimmy Hulas left North Clearwater Beach last year, and soon after, The Boxer group took over the space and opened a new sports bar. Now, they have done it again.

The Boxer Coronado (formerly Rock House Live) is coming to 207 Coronado Drive. The new sports bar has the same concept and menu as their North Beach counterpart. It will be open 11am-3am with live music daily. They are also adding DJs on the weekends.

The Boxer Coronado has not opened as of this publication, for more information follow them on Facebook or call the North Beach location at (727) 221-7794.

**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.

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## MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOUR HELP

By Pete Magnani, Publisher

Neighborly Senior Care Network is a non-profit 501c(3) dedicated to improving the lives of Pinellas County's older people in need of home and community-based services. They have provided Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Programs, Senior Dining, and Transportation since 1966 with a mission of keeping older residents independent and in their homes. The vast majority of their work is done by volunteers. Neighborly has a ten to one ratio of volunteers to clients, but every summer the number shrinks by a third as seasonal resident volunteers return home to other states or take extended vacations.

The effect Neighborly volunteers have on their clients is immeasurable. For many of the county's seniors, the person that delivers their food is the only human contact they have most days. "Our volunteers are not just delivering meals," said Volunteer Coordinator Hilary Justice. "They're delivering hope while reducing social isolation and loneliness. Studies have shown that the lonelier and more isolated a patient is, the higher their rate of hospitalization." While the primary focus of Meals on Wheels is to ensure seniors have proper nutrition, the food is sometimes secondary to the impact volunteers have on the client by checking their overall wellbeing and reporting concerns to program staff.

Ric Perry has been volunteering for Meals on Wheels for three years. One of his clients, Nell, just turned 101 years old. Last December, Nell experienced a fall that resulted in a broken hip, an injury that can be fatal at an advanced age. Ric was amazed to see Nell back on his delivery schedule a few months later, after receiving a new hip, she is up and walking. Nell once volunteered with Meals on Wheels and now in her

later years is a recipient. Perry says she is always positive and friendly, with a quick smile and a wonderful sense of humor.

Neighborly Adult Day Centers provide quality day services for seniors aged 60 or older with physical or memory-related disabilities. Centers are warm and friendly atmosphere managed by a licensed

healthcare staff providing a safe, supervised environment each day.

Participants can enjoy meals approved by a licensed dietitian, customized care plans and assessments, assistance with personal care, physical and cognitive activities, and group discussions. "I was just sitting at home alone, depressed and falling apart," said client Patricia. "This program is such an asset."

Neighborly's transportation division helps prevent loss of independence for seniors that can no longer drive. The Neighborly Bus brings clients to medical appointments, the Adult Day Center, shopping centers and Neighborly's Senior Cafes, which offer elderly residents a fun place to socialize and enjoy delicious food. Along with a hot, nutritious meal, Neighborly offers participants informational programs, entertainment, and activities like karaoke, movies, and group exercise.

If you are interested in giving some of your time to volunteer with Neighborly, visit [Neighborly.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://Neighborly.org/volunteer-opportunities).



Ric and Nell

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## A TRUE MAN OF STEELE

By Lora Magnani, Publisher

Hurricane Helene was a storm that most Pinellas residents would probably prefer to never hear of again. The devastation was life-altering for most, with people losing their homes, pets, possessions, and in extreme cases, their lives or loved ones.

During the storm, one local man stepped up and saved many people and their pets, all on his paddleboard. Martin Thomas III, more commonly known as Martin Steele, longtime Indian Rocks Beach resident has been called a local hero since Helene but in March he was recognized nationally. The American Red Cross presented Steele with the National Hero Award at the American Red Cross Gala in Manhattan at the Ziegfeld Ballroom.

Steele is originally from Toledo, Ohio and moved to Indian Rocks Beach in 1979 at the age of six. He is employed at Rad Rentals in Redington Shores where he offers eFoiling, paddleboarding, kite boarding, and surfing lessons. He also works in construction for CWA Construction of Largo in the off season and colder months.

Steele describes the day of the storm and the events leading to the rescues as follows:

"I rarely evacuate the beach when a storm is coming because I love to surf, and it is hard to get back on the island after a storm. I usually ride it out, so to speak. The day of Helene was sunny, and the waves were great, so I surfed all day. Later, when the weather worsened and waves began to break on the dunes, I knew we were going to flood. I began checking my street every 20 minutes to calculate the surge. When I saw how fast the water was rising, I began banging on all my neighbors' doors yelling 'It's time to go.'"



"The water rapidly rose to waist deep in a matter of ten minutes. My neighbors quickly loaded into two jeeps and moved to higher ground, but I chose to stay to try and salvage my home. When the water hit my window, I knew I had to go. I jumped on my paddleboard and headed to my friend George Grant's place, he lived in a three story, about two blocks away."

"While paddling I heard people and saw that they were in distress. Grant's neighbors and other people told me of more people who needed help as well. We saved a total of ten people and ten dogs."

"I lost my apartment and my longtime family home to Helene; it was pretty much a total loss. I am grateful for Sheila Larosa who had a duplex that wasn't destroyed in the storm and blessed me and two of my neighbors with a place to live so we weren't displaced off the beach like so many."

"Everyone has been so kind," Steele says. "I never expected any of this attention and recognition." Locals first praised his heroism and selflessness on social media, then the local news channels caught wind of his story. It was not until he received a call from President Biden that he realized how big this had become. Soon after, the American Red Cross informed him of the award.

"The American Red Cross made me a national hero," Steele says. "But it's the American Red Cross that are the real heroes. The storms go through in a matter of hours, but the cleanup takes months, if not years. Everything the Red Cross does is amazing."

"With everything that happened after Hurricane Helene, I am so proud of our tiny little beach town. Everyone has been so thoughtful, not just to me, but to everyone who was affected, and I think everyone in the neighborhood has a stronger bond from the events of that night."

When asked what advice he would give before the 2025 hurricane season begins in June, Steele replied "It's best to have a plan."

Visit [Pinellas.gov/Make-A-Plan](https://www.pinellas.gov/Make-A-Plan) for more information about what to do and evacuation zones.







Lisa and Steve Chandler

## Dinos in the Sand

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

From architectural masterpieces created from 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, the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit expanded to an impressive 24,000 square feet, featuring an exciting, new augmented-reality experience that brought the intricate sand sculptures to life through vivid, interactive imagery.

Lisa Chandler, founder of the Sugar Sand Festival, was introduced to the concept of a walk-through sand sculpture exhibit more than fifteen years prior to the debut of the first Sugar Sand Festival. She and her husband Steve have been business owners on Clearwater Beach for over thirty years but serve as volunteers for both the Sugar Sand Festival & Sunsets at Pier 60.





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## ADDRESSING SWIM SAFETY IN PARENTING PLANS

By Jake Hornstein & Greg Hill, Our Children Have Rights.Org (OCHR)

One of the more difficult areas to address in Parenting Plans is extracurricular activities. These are optional activities, such as swimming lessons, soccer and dance lessons.

With shared decision-making, participation may be determined by each parent on the days they have time-sharing. Items such as **decision-making, scheduling, and transportation** determine what activities the child participates in, and should be addressed in the parenting plan.



What if a parent believes an activity traditionally considered “extra-curricular” is too important and should be mandatory? We want to discuss Water Safety & Swim Lessons. It deserves attention and it’s getting attention. In a matter of time, it will be a hot topic for parenting plans.

In 2021, the Florida Legislature passed “Every Child a Swimmer.” This legislation requires all schools in the state to provide parents with information on the importance of water safety and local options for swimming lessons, as well as how to receive lessons at free or reduced costs.

4,000 lives are lost from drowning each year nationwide. Florida leads the nation. **Drowning is the #1 cause of unintentional deaths for children ages 1-4.** The numbers are daunting... 97 child deaths in 2023 and 105 in 2024. Florida has 1.5 million backyard pools and thousands of natural bodies of water. All public schools provide educational materials for swimming lessons, including reduced cost lessons and safety courses.

The goal of Every Child a Swimmer is to empower every child with life-saving swimming skills, raise water safety awareness and encourage swimming lessons, **which reduce the risk of drowning by 88%.**

With daunting statistics, an abundance of readily available Water Safety Tips, and greater access to swimming lessons, more parents are insisting their child participate in swimming lessons. To avoid their child missing out on lessons, some parents want participation required in the parenting plan.

There will be disagreements on decision-making, which will cause disputes due to factors like scheduling and transportation. It will make developing plans more complicated for co-parents who aren’t in sync on required participation. When disagreements are prolonged and parents cannot agree, a judge decides for them. The result, both parents have less control over the outcome. When parents can anticipate these disagreements and better understand each other’s concerns, they are more likely to develop a plan they can agree on without the decision being left to the courts. Learn more at [EveryChildASwimmer.com](https://EveryChildASwimmer.com).

Our Children Have Rights is a 501c3 nonprofit that helps parents with child custody & co-parenting, **at no cost to the family.** Why? Because Our Children Have Rights.

Contact [info@ourchildrenhaverights.com](mailto:info@ourchildrenhaverights.com) Learn more or donate at [www.ochr.org](https://www.ochr.org).





# Business Briefs

**HEALTHCARE AT HOME** Nurse Practitioner Peggy Cordle, founder of GoodCall Housecalls, has been treating residents and their visiting friends and family in Belleair and the surrounding Beach communities for over six years. Whether treating minor emergencies and illnesses or providing preventative and holistic options for overall health and wellness, GoodCall Housecalls only treats patients in the comfort and safety of their homes.

The practice is now expanding to Clearwater and the North Beaches with the addition of Laura Wallace, MS, APRN-C Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner. A long-time Clearwater resident with over 10 years' experience in critical care and in local outpatient clinics, Laura is now available to patients in the area. Schedule an appointment with Laura at [GoodCallhousecalls.com/schedule](http://GoodCallhousecalls.com/schedule) or call (727) 421-4230.

Whether preventing an unnecessary trip to the ER or seeing a patient who can't get in soon enough to see their doctor, this valuable resource is available to residents and visitors in need of healthcare. GoodCall Housecalls also provides mobile imaging including STAT X-Ray and ultrasound, IV nutrient infusions, vitamin injections, and more. Visit [GoodCallHousecalls.com](http://GoodCallHousecalls.com) or call (727) 421-5380 for more information.

**NEW HOTEL ON THE BEACH** The Chart House Hotel at the Clearwater Beach Marina is now open and taking reservations. It is centrally located on the south side of the marina at 40 Devon Drive next to Pier House 60, one of its sister hotels on the beach.

Clearwater Beach is a quick two-minute walk from the property, which has onsite parking and a marina with ten boat slips for guests. For entertainment and relaxation, they provide a resort-style pool with easy walk-in access, a hot tub, and rainfall misters. It also has an outdoor projection screen for music videos and movie nights, and a rooftop mini golf course. For food and beverage options, there is a 4th floor sundeck and tiki bar with firepits and Jimmy's Island Grill and Poolside Bar.

Chart House guests can enjoy the panoramic views of Clearwater Beach and famous sunsets next door at Jimmy's Crow's Nest and also have access to the Splash Harbour Water Park in Indian Rocks Beach for an additional fee.

As of this publication, some amenities have not been completed. For more information visit their website at [ChartHouseMarinaHotel.com](http://ChartHouseMarinaHotel.com) or call (727) 601-4420.

**CONDOMINIUM MODEL OPENS** Viceroy Residences Clearwater Beach announced the opening of a Presentation Gallery and model showcasing the two waterfront condominium towers under construction at 551 Gulf Blvd on South Beach. The \$250 million project will include 86 residences with floorplans ranging from 2,700 to 6,700 square feet starting \$2.5 million.

Amenities will include a fitness center, yoga studio, plunge pools, steam room, and full-service spa, as well as a sports bar and clubhouse.

The Presentation Gallery and model are open by appointment. For information, visit [ViceroyCWB.com](http://ViceroyCWB.com) or call (727) 334-2688.

**BUSINESS NEWS WANTED** If your company has news or an upcoming event we can include in this News Magazine, please e-mail [Lora@MagriffProductions.com](mailto:Lora@MagriffProductions.com) or call (813) 361-7376.

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# Community News

## PINS FOR PATIENTS 2025

Submitted by Maria Christiano

Clearwater Free Clinic (CFC) is thrilled to introduce our 2025 Pins for Patients bowl-a-thon on Saturday, June 28th at Maple Lanes, 27867 US HWY 19 North in Clearwater. This inaugural event is open to all ages and abilities. The family-friendly event puts the fun into fundraising by offering a spirited competition amongst bowlers to raise the most donations. Bowlers will enjoy two hours of bowling, food, drinks, and prizes.

Your participation directly impacts the lives of those we serve. The CFC provides accessible, compassionate, and integrated medical and mental health care that changes the lives of our uninsured neighbors.

Visit [ClearwaterFreeClinic.org/pins-for-patients](http://ClearwaterFreeClinic.org/pins-for-patients) or call (727) 331-8146 for more details. For sponsorship opportunities, email [mchristiano@clearwaterfreeclinic.org](mailto:mchristiano@clearwaterfreeclinic.org). The Clinic is located at 1218 Court Street in Clearwater.

Founded in 1977, the Clearwater Free Clinic provides comprehensive, integrated medical and behavioral health services to low-income uninsured residents of Pinellas County. Today, the Clinic supports nearly 4,000 patients each year and continues to be largely volunteer-driven. The CFC is the only free clinic in Pinellas County that sees children. The mission of the Clearwater Free Clinic is to deliver comprehensive medical care to uninsured families through volunteerism and community partnerships.

## THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN & WILDLIFE ART

The museum announced its Sun-Sational Summer Specials, a season-long celebration packed with more than 30 days of free and discounted admission. From family fun to solo escapes, local residents and area visitors can enjoy exciting exhibits at unbeatable prices all summer long.

To make the season even more special, The James Museum is offering \$10 off Member and Member Plus museum memberships and a free gift with purchase just in time for Father's Day from June 9th–15th. This is the perfect way to celebrate loved ones while unlocking a full year of unforgettable experiences.

**Free and Discount Days Include:**

- June 15 | Father's Day: Free admission for dads with the purchase of one other admission ticket.
- June 19 | Juneteenth: Free admission for all; timed reservations required.
- July 26 | National Day of the Cowboy & Cowgirl: Wear a cowboy hat or boots to the museum for half off admission.
- July 1–31 | Free Educators Month: Educators receive free admission all month (with valid ID, such as a school ID or business card).

For more information about The James Museum, its collection, special exhibitions and special events, visit [JamesMuseum.org](http://JamesMuseum.org). The museum is located at 150 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg.

## WELCOME NEWCOMERS CLUB

This club is open to the women of Pinellas County; all are welcome to come and socialize. Luncheons are held the first Tuesday of each month at Belleair Country Club. There is always a guest speaker or other entertainment with cards following for those interested. Please contact Mary at (727) 240-5372 with any questions.



## LOCAL BESTIES

Congratulations to **Clearwater Beach's** winners of the Visit St. Pete - Clearwater 2025 "Besties" Awards ceremony held at The Floridan Social in downtown St. Pete on May 8th. The winners of these awards are picked by locals and visitors alike in a survey taken prior to the ceremony. There were 280 nominees in 34 hospitality-based categories. View all winners at [VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://VisitStPeteClearwater.com).

### Best Beaches and Outdoor Fun

Best Beach: Winner: Clearwater/Sand Key, 3rd Place: Caladesi/Honeymoon Island State Park

Best Boat Experience: 2nd Place: Little Toot Dolphin Adventure, 5th Place: Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise

Best Water Experience: 2nd Place: H2O Jet Ski Rentals

### Best Places to Stay

Best Inn & Cottage: Winner: Palm Pavilion Inn, 2nd Place: The Bellevue Inn

Best Beach Resort: 2nd Place: The Wyndham Grand, 3rd Place: The Sandpearl Resort, 5th Place: Opal Sands Resort

Best Boutique Hotel: 2nd Place: The Edge Hotel, 4th Place: The Hiatus

### Best Things to Do

Best Family Fun: Winner: Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Best Mural: Winner: "Clear Water Wonders" by Naomi Haverland at Coachman Park, 3rd Place: "Mother Kali" by Derek Donnelly at The Hiatus

Best Market: 4th Place: The Market Marie at Coachman

Best Spa: 2nd Place: Pallavi Spa at Wyndham Grand, 3rd Place: Opal Spa, 4th Place: The Spa at Sandpearl

Best Local Shop: 2nd Place: Freaky Tiki

### Best Restaurant & Dining

Best Casual Eats: Winner: Clear Sky Café

Best Brunch: Winner: Island Way Grill, 2nd Place: Clear Sky Café

Best Grouper Sandwich: Winner: Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, 2nd Place: Palm Pavilion

Best Bars, Cocktails, & Breweries

Best Beach Bar: Winner: Palm Pavillion, 3rd Place: Shepard's Beach Resort

Best Rooftop Bar: Winner: Jimmy's Crow's Nest at Pier House 60

Best Cocktails: 3rd Place: Bob Heilman's Beachcomber

### Best Festivals, Events, & Live Music

Best Festival: Winner: Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, 3rd Place: Clearwater Jazz Holiday

Best Sporting Event: Winner: MLB spring Training Clearwater & Dunedin, 4th Place: Clearwater Offshore Nationals, 5th Place: MLB Threshers & Dunedin Blue Jays

Best Live Music Venue: Winner: The Baycare Sound at Coachman Park, 3rd Place: Ruth Eckerd Hall

### Best Trip & Event Planning


Best Wedding Venue: 3rd Place: Wyndham Grand Resort, 4th Place: The Sandpearl Resort

Best Way to get Around: Winner: Jolley Trolley, 4th Place: Way2Go Rides, 5th Place: Clearwater Ferry

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# Community News



## SHEPHERD'S VILLAGE

Submitted by Sherry Chandler

For the first time in Shepherd's Village's history, five single mothers are stepping into the life-changing reality of homeownership after completing our two-year residential program and partnering with Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside.

These incredible women didn't just find shelter—they found stability, strength, and a new story. As part of their journey, each mom successfully completed a rigorous 38-course educational curriculum, volunteered 350 - 450 hours of hands-on "sweat equity" with Habitat, contributed \$2,000 toward closing costs, and maintained both a qualifying income range and a dedicated savings account. Some worked two jobs, all balanced the weight of raising a family solo. Every one of them persevered.

This fall, you'll get the chance to hear directly from these trailblazing women. At our upcoming Circle of Influence Gala, you'll experience powerful firsthand testimonies from the moms' stories of struggle, hope, and finally, keys to a home of their own.

At Shepherd's Village, we help single moms, and their children face their future with confidence. Join us for a night that celebrates strength, community, and the power of a fresh start. The gala will be held at Opal Sands Resort Clearwater Beach on Friday, September 26. Visit [ShepherdsVillage.com/2025gala](http://ShepherdsVillage.com/2025gala) for event details.

## U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY CLEARWATER

Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a Florida Boating Safety ID Card. For the convenience of our students, some classes are held online via Zoom. These virtual classes utilize the same instructors and materials you would enjoy during the in-person classes. The schedule below notes whether the class is in person or via Zoom.

- June 28th - 29th from 9am - 2pm - Zoom
- July 26th - 27th from 9am - 2pm - In-Person

Visit [CLWBoatingSafety.com/boater-class-registration](http://CLWBoatingSafety.com/boater-class-registration) or send an email to the Flotilla 11-1 Public Education Officer at [clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com](mailto:clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com) to register for classes.

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## LOOK OUT FOR LIGHTNING

by Pete Magnani, Publisher

Summer is here, and the weather pattern will soon shift, bringing afternoon thunderstorms. But why do these storms form? When the sun heats lower-level air, the airpockets begin to rise forming cumulus clouds, which grow vertically. As the cloud grows, an anvil shape is formed, moisture condenses, and a thunderstorm is born. The top and bottom of the cloud become positively charged while the middle becomes negatively charged. The imbalance between these charges produces lightning.

An electrical discharge caused by the imbalance within the cloud is called "cloud lightning," also known as "cloud flashes." Those caused by an imbalance between the cloud and ground are "cloud-to-ground lightning." When the air surrounding a cloud top is negatively charged, "cloud-to-air" lightning occurs.

Although it occurs infrequently, "bead lightning" is one of the most interesting types of lightning to observe. It is of longer duration than typical lightning and appears to be segmented instead of the traditional continuous bolt. The cause of bead lightning is unknown, some theorize it is simply a long duration bolt, portions of which are obscured by clouds or other objects.

Most homes in the United States are wired with a 100-200 volt electrical service at up to 400 amps. In contrast, lightning contains up to three hundred million volts and three hundred thousand amps of electricity. The air around a lightning bolt instantly heats to 50,000 degrees, five times hotter than the surface of the sun, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). This rapid heating causes a shockwave similar to a sonic boom, which we know as thunder.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no such thing as "heat lightning." The phenomenon that term refers to is regular cloud-to-ground lightning that occurs too far away for the sound of thunder to be heard. While lightning can be seen from up to 100 miles away, thunder is only audible about 16 miles. Because of Florida's strong summer sea breezes, lightning is often seen far out at sea, popularizing the term "heat lightning."

Since light travels faster than sound, thunder can be used to gauge the distance of a lightning strike. Every five seconds between the visible strike and the sound of thunder represents one mile between the observer and the strike. Lightning can travel up to 12 miles from the storm that created it. In July 2019, eight people on Clearwater Beach were struck by a lightning bolt that came from a storm more than ten miles east of the city. If you can hear the thunder, you are within range of lightning and should seek shelter indoors.



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# Community News

## ISLAND ESTATES WOMENS CLUB

*Submitted by C. Genovese, IEWC Publicity Chair*

Nearly 170 members and guests attended the Island Estates Women's Club (IEWC) Annual Scholarship Fundraiser at Belleair Country Club in March, raising almost \$17,000. The event featured a Silent Auction and Fashion Show hosted by PoolSide, Inc. Due to this success, IEWC awarded six graduating female students from Clearwater High School scholarships totaling \$20,000. The recipients were Jayla Gray, Annabelle Wininsky, Alana Hanson, Ibadete Murseli, Ilyana Ramos-Greene, and Mara Drahota.

Ms. Gray was the recipient of the Rita O'Neil Memorial Scholarship and Ms. Wininsky received the Marie Wadsworth Memorial Scholarship. The others benefited from the IEWC Charitable Trust Fund.

The Award Ceremony was held at Bon Appetit Restaurant. The IEWC is proud of their commitment to the community and education, awarding scholarships to deserving high school girls since 1997. There have been nearly 100 IEWC scholars.

The IEWC Scholarship program, club events and membership information can be found at [IslandEstatesWomensClub.com](http://IslandEstatesWomensClub.com).

## CHAPEL BY THE SEA

As Chapel by the Sea was concluding its 75th anniversary celebration, the finishing touches on an extensive sanctuary renovation were unveiled on Easter.

The Chapel sanctuary received a newly renovated pipe organ that was originally housed at Unity Church in Owensboro, Kentucky. The impressive instrument features approximately 1300 pipes and stands 14 feet long by 32 feet wide.

Lewtak Pipe Organ Builders of Mocksville, North Carolina, completely disassembled, rebuilt, and customized this organ specifically for Chapel by the Sea's acoustic environment and worship needs.

The precision required to transport such a delicate instrument is remarkable. Each of the 1,300 pipes were individually wrapped in protective foam before being carefully packed into crates. The ornate woodwork was secured with moving blankets and shrink wrap. A full-size tractor-trailer delivered the disassembled organ to Clearwater Beach in a single day's journey.

Upon arrival, Lewtak's specialized team spent just over one week meticulously assembling and voicing the organ to perfection within the sanctuary space.

Chapel by the Sea invites the community to join them to experience the sound and beauty of the instrument. For additional information, please contact Rev. Rhonda Blevins at the Chapel's office, (727) 446-0430.

## 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).



## CREATIVE PINELLAS

*Submitted by Roman Black*

Join Creative Pinellas for The Shape of Us, a dynamic new exhibition spotlighting six talented Pinellas County artists. This exhibition explores themes of identity, environment, and shared experience through a wide range of artistic media - from striking paintings to innovative mixed media works. Discover the power of local art and the stories that shape our community. The exhibit runs through August 10th.

We're excited to share that the brand-new Sightline Gallery is now officially open at St. Pete - Clearwater International Airport (PIE)! A collaboration between Creative Pinellas and PIE, Sightline Gallery is a fresh addition to the airport's cultural landscape - inviting more than 2.5 million travelers each year to experience the creative energy of Pinellas County from the moment they arrive.

Now on view through August 15 at Sightline is Made in the Shade - the gallery's inaugural exhibition brings together nature, relaxation, and creativity - offering travelers a unique and memorable arts experience right in the terminal. Creative Pinellas is proud to lead this new initiative and oversee the care and maintenance of PIE's public art collection - supporting local artists and showcasing the vibrant arts community of Pinellas County. Learn more at [CreativePinellas.org/sightline-gallery](http://CreativePinellas.org/sightline-gallery).

Creative Pinellas invites Pinellas County artists to Mind Your Business - a free professional development workshop series designed to help artists build the skills they need to succeed in today's creative economy. Covering everything from business basics to relationship-building, grant writing, and social media, each session is led by expert speakers offering practical tools for professional growth. Workshops are free, but space is limited for in-person events (max 50 attendees). Light refreshments will be provided.

### Upcoming Sessions:

#### Building Relationships with Collectors

June 23 · 6-8 PM · FloridaRAMA Speaker: Liz Dimmit

Learn what galleries and collectors really value—and how to foster meaningful connections.

#### Artists Excelling at Grant Applications

July 16 · 6-8 PM · Central Park Performing Arts Center

Speaker: Todd Wellman

Discover what makes a strong grant proposal and how to stand out in a competitive field.

Creative Pinellas is located at 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo. For more information, visit [CreativePinellas.org](http://CreativePinellas.org).





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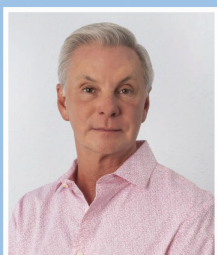


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