

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

The Artemis Program: Legacy of Human Space Exploration

By Pete Magnani, Publisher

The Artemis program is a Moon exploration initiative led by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its goal is to return humans to the lunar surface and establish a permanent presence there as a stepping stone for future human missions to deeper space. Florida has played a large role in this and all previous programs.

The Early Space Race

During the Cold War, a space race began between the United States and the former Soviet Union, driving an unprecedented era of scientific exploration. The Soviets were first to send a human into space on April 12th, 1961. In response, President John F. Kennedy challenged the nation "to achieve the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth."

Project Mercury (1958–1963)

Project Mercury included 25 flights between 1958 and 1963, six of which carried astronauts. Its main objectives were to orbit a human spacecraft around Earth, study human performance in space, and safely recover both astronaut and spacecraft. More than two million people from government agencies and aerospace industries contributed their expertise to make the project possible. Mercury proved that humans could function in space for periods of up to 34 hours in weightlessness.



NASA's First Astronaut team, the Mercury "Original Seven." Front row, left to right, Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Donald K. Slayton, John H. Glenn, Jr., and M. Scott Carpenter; back row, Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and L. Gordon Cooper. (1962) Photo Courtesy of NASA and Life Magazine

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Also in this Issue:



The FIFA World Cup Returns

The 2026 World Cup Returns in June with competition spread across three nations and eleven U.S. metro areas.

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From Swingsets to Selfie Sticks

From the Greatest Generation to Gen Alpha, every generation has changed the world.

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Sugar Sand Festival Recap

In case you missed it, see photos from the 2026 Sugar Sand Festival at Pier 60.

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CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This magazine is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, and Indian Rocks Beach Library. We hope you enjoyed our magazine. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us.

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862
Pete@MagriffProductions.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN JULY!



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CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change. Please verify dates and times.

MAY

- Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins 1
- May Day 1
- Stone Crab Season Ends 1
- IRB Community-wide Garage Sale 2-3
- 152nd Kentucky Derby 2
- Star Wars Day 4
- Cinco de Mayo 5
- Teacher Appreciation Day 5
- National Nurses Day 6
- Country Thunder at the Sound 8-10
- Letter Carriers' Food Drive 9
- Rock the Rocks at Crabby Bill's 9
- Mother's Day 10
- City Commission Meeting 12
- Armed Forces Day 16
- 151st Preakness Stakes 16
- Sharkapalooza Coachman Park 16
- Jason Mraz at Ruth Eckerd Hall 16
- Safe Boating Week 17-23
- Largo Disc Golf Tournament 17
- Dunedin Rotary Triathlon 19
- Tampa Bay Barbecue Festival St. Pete 22
- Memorial Day 25
- Public Schools Closed 25
- Clearwater Veterans' Honor Fest 25

JUNE

- No Fertilizing June Through September
- Hurricane Season Begins 1
- Red Bull Cliff Diving St Pete Pier 5-6
- 158th Belmont Stakes 6
- Corey Av Art & Craft Fest St Pete Beach 6
- City Commission Meeting 9
- 23rd FIFA World Cup Begins 11
- FIFA USA vs Paraguay 12
- Rock the Rocks at Crabby Bill's 13
- Flag Day 14
- FIFA USA vs Australia 19
- Father's Day 21
- First Day of Summer 21
- FIFA USA vs Turkey 25
- St Pete Pride Weekend 26-28
- Wimbledon Begins 29

JULY

- Fourth of July 4
- Clearwater Celebrates 250 3-4
- Fireworks at Coachman Park 4
- Rock the Rocks Crabby Bill's 11
- MLB All-Star Game 14
- City Commission Meeting 14
- Bastille Day 14

More details for items highlighted in red can be found in the Did You Know? Bar/Restaurant News, Business Briefs, Community News, or in articles or ads.



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Did You Know



VETERANS' TRIP In March, 159 women veterans flew from Lakeland to Washington, D.C for their inaugural Flight of Honor. Along with sightseeing, the vets visited the Military Women's Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Memorial is a tribute to America's Servicewomen and features an education center, interactive exhibits, and a collection of military women's stories.

PROPERTY RETURNED Florida Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia announced in March that \$88 million in unclaimed property was returned to Floridians in February. Unclaimed property includes dormant bank accounts, unclaimed insurance proceeds, stocks, dividends, uncashed checks, deposits, credit balances and refunds. It can also include watches, jewelry, coins, stamps and more. \$23.8 million was returned in unclaimed property last month, the CFO said.

According to the Florida Division of Unclaimed Property, one in five Floridians has unclaimed funds from a forgotten financial account.

To search for unclaimed property, visit FLTreasureHunt.Gov. You can search for an account owned by a person or business.

LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE The 2026 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive is held on Saturday, May 9th, marking the nation's largest one-day food drive. Residents can participate by leaving non-perishable food items, such as canned goods or peanut butter, next to their mailboxes for pickup by letter carriers.

NEW DOLPHINS AT CLEARWATER AQUARIUM Clearwater Marine Aquarium recently welcomed two bottlenose dolphins and several other animals from the Miami Seaquarium to their new home at CMA.

The two female bottlenose dolphins are Star, 26, born in 1999; and Squirt, 15, born in 2010. After a period of quarantine and acclimation they will join three resident bottlenose dolphins and six rough-toothed dolphin residents in the Ruth & J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex.

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

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CONGRATS CITY MANAGER

Indian Rocks Beach City Manager Ryan Henderson has earned the prestigious designation of Credentialed Manager (CM) through the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

This distinguished recognition is awarded by ICMA's Executive Board following a rigorous review and recommendation by the Credentialing Advisory Board.

The ICMA Credentialed Manager designation affirms a local government professional's commitment to integrity, lifelong learning, and excellence in public service.

Henderson's achievement reflects his dedication to advancing professional development and delivering high-quality leadership to the Indian Rocks Beach community. As a Credentialed Manager, he joins a select group of local government leaders who uphold the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and effective governance.

As part of this achievement, Henderson is now authorized to use the designation ICMA-CM and will participate in exclusive professional development and leadership opportunities through ICMA, further strengthening his ability to serve the City and its neighbors.



FLORIDA LAGS IN TIPPING SERVERS The Restaurant Trends Report, powered by Toast, a restaurant point-of-sale platform, uncovers key trends across the restaurant industry through aggregated sales data from approximately 140,000 bars and restaurants nationwide. According to the report, while declared tips at full-service restaurants rose slightly in 2025, Florida tied Nevada for third lowest tip rates in the country, with both states averaging 18.2 percent. California took first place of the worst with a 17.3 percent average and Washington state came in second with 17.8 percent. Delaware remained the best state for tipping for the second quarter in a row with an average of 22.1 percent.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) is currently rescoping the Terminal Improvement project to meet budget and infrastructure priorities. With the immediate need for additional parking, the Parking Garage project was prioritized in their Capital Improvement Plan.

The plan, approved last year, includes a 2,000-space parking garage to replace the 76-spot "Strawberry Pine" lot. The garage is expected to open in Summer 2027 along with a Terminal Improvement Project, with approximately \$110 million allocated for upgrades including more terminal seating and new jet bridges.

Terminal Improvement Design work is expected to resume soon. The work will involve improvements to the existing terminal building, as well as a terminal building expansion just north of baggage claim with jet bridges.

In other PIE news, Mark Sprague was named Director of St. Pete-Clearwater Airport. Sprague became the Deputy Director in 2015 and then the Interim Director in October of last year, where he guided strategic planning, oversaw daily and emergency operations and led construction planning for a new terminal building and parking structure.

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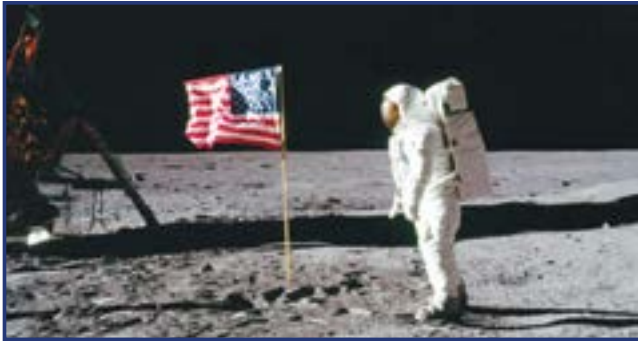
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The Space Race, Continued



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the Moon, NASA

Project Gemini (1961–1966)

Conceived in 1961, Project Gemini followed Mercury and tested equipment and mission procedures essential for the upcoming Apollo Moon missions. Its main goals included evaluating long duration spaceflight (up to 14 days), perfecting orbital rendezvous and docking techniques, improving re-entry and landing methods, and studying the effects of extended space travel on astronauts. Named after the constellation "The Twins," Gemini spacecraft carried two astronauts per mission. Between 1965 and 1966, ten Gemini missions flew with sixteen individual astronauts.

Project Apollo (1961–1972)

Project Apollo conducted eleven crewed missions, including six successful Moon landings. These followed a series of uncrewed test flights.

In July 1969, Apollo 11, crewed by Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, achieved the first lunar landing. Armstrong became the first human to walk on the Moon, followed by Aldrin.

In April 1970, Apollo 13 launched with the goal of becoming the third lunar landing. Two days into the mission, an oxygen tank in the service module exploded, crippling the spacecraft's life-support and power systems. The landing was aborted, but Commander Jim Lovell, Pilot Jack Swigert, and Lunar Module Pilot Fred Haise returned safely to Earth using backup systems, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

By the mid-1970s, political tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union had begun to ease. Competition gave way to cooperation with the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, setting the stage for international partnerships in the Space Shuttle Program and later the International Space Station (ISS).

The Space Shuttle Era (1981–2011)

Beginning in 1981, the Space Shuttle Program flew 135 missions and carried 355 astronauts from 16 countries into space. Each shuttle consisted of an orbiter, two reusable solid rocket boosters, and a disposable external fuel tank. The system could carry up to eight astronauts and 50,000 pounds of payload into low-Earth orbit.

Over three decades, the reusable orbiters Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour conducted satellite launches and repairs, carried out scientific research, and helped construct the ISS. However, NASA tragically lost two crews of seven astronauts in the 1986 Challenger and 2003 Columbia accidents. The shuttle program concluded in 2011 with Atlantis' final flight. It was retired due to high costs, aging technology, and safety concerns.

The Artemis Program: A New Chapter

Established in 2017, the Artemis Program marks NASA's return to lunar exploration, aiming to use the Moon as a waypoint for future human missions to Mars and beyond. At its core is the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV), a partially reusable spacecraft designed by Lockheed Martin Space Systems. Modeled after the Apollo Command and Service Module, Orion includes an aluminum Crew Module (CM) paired with a European Service Module (ESM) that provides power and propulsion. It can support a crew of four for up to 21 days undocked or six months while docked. Orion is launched atop NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and equipped with a launch escape system for safety.

Artemis I, launched on November 16th, 2022, sent an uncrewed Orion capsule around the Moon. Artemis II, launched on March 30, 2024, carried four astronauts on a lunar flyby-returning humans to deep space for the first time since Apollo 17.

Artemis III, scheduled for 2027, will test a Human Landing System (HLS) in Earth orbit, and Artemis IV, planned for 2028, aims to land astronauts on the Moon for the first time in over half a century. Subsequent annual missions will establish a permanent lunar base for scientific research, resource development, and preparation for crewed Mars missions.

Artemis II: "Integrity" Sets New Records

Sixty-five years after the first human spaceflight, Integrity—the name chosen by the Artemis II crew for their Orion spacecraft, launched from Florida's Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39B on Wednesday, April 1st.

The mission began with Orion entering Earth orbit, where Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, and Mission Specialists Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen tested life-support systems, including the water dispenser, firefighting masks, and onboard toilet. On day two, Integrity set off on a free return trajectory, looping around the Moon and returning to Earth without major propulsion maneuvers other than course corrections.



The crew of NASA's Artemis II mission (left to right): NASA astronaut Christina Hammock Koch, Reid Wiseman (seated), Victor Glover, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, NASA


On April 6th, Integrity flew within 4,067 miles of the lunar surface and reached 252,756 miles from Earth setting a new record for the farthest crewed mission in history. The spacecraft and crew reentered Earth's atmosphere on April 10, splashing down safely in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego, California, at 6:07 pm Eastern Time. Recovery was carried out by a joint NASA-U.S. Navy team.

Artemis II achieved multiple milestones, including traveling a record distance of 252,760 miles from Earth and completing a 694,481-mile round trip. Christina Koch became the first woman, and Jeremy Hansen the first non-U.S. citizen, to travel to the Moon. This historic mission paves the way for humanity's return to the lunar surface for the first time in more than fifty years.

The Kennedy Space Center is open to the public. They provide tours of each mission's equipment. It is located at Space Commerce Way on Merritt Island. Visit [KennedySpaceCenter.com](https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com) for more information and tickets.



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ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES OF CONVERTING A TRADITIONAL IRA TO A ROTH IRA

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



Converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA can be a powerful financial planning strategy. It allows individuals to shift retirement assets from a tax deferred environment to one with tax free growth. This decision is multifaceted and should be evaluated carefully, particularly in the context of current and future tax expectations, cash flow needs, estate planning goals, and investment horizons.

One of the most appealing benefits of a Roth IRA is the ability to take qualified withdrawals tax free. Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs have no lifetime Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Because the owner is not required to take RMDs, the full value of the account can be passed to heirs, who may also withdraw the funds tax free.

Tax diversification allows retirees to control their taxable income year by year, potentially reducing the impact of Social Security taxation, Medicare IRMAA surcharges, or general tax bracket creep.

The most obvious downside of a Roth conversion is the immediate tax bill. The amount converted is treated as ordinary income. Because a Roth conversion increases taxable income, it may have ripple effects on Medicare premium surcharges (IRMAA), increase taxes on Social Security benefits, and reduce eligibility for certain deductions or credits.

It is possible that future tax laws could shift in ways that reduce the relative advantage of a Roth IRA or make traditional tax deferred strategies more appealing. Paying tax on a conversion requires liquidity. For individuals who must use personal savings, or worse, must withdraw from the IRA itself, conversions can reduce total investment capital.

Roth conversions generally make the most financial sense when there is enough time for tax free growth to outweigh the upfront tax cost. Those who expect to use the funds in the near future or have a limited investment horizon may not benefit.

Consider doing a little each year to fill up your current tax bracket. Let's suppose a couple has \$150,00 of taxable income. By converting \$50,000 they stay in the same 22 percent tax bracket. Two caveats: 1) you must pay the tax with other savings; and 2) you need to make sure that the additional income does not affect too negatively the other areas mentioned above.

Take advantage of our complimentary one-hour consultation in our Clearwater office or by Zoom. We can help determine whether a Roth conversion makes sense for your financial/retirement plan.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Founder and Executive Chair
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Bar & Restaurant News



E&E STAKEOUT GRILL SOLD Eugen's Restaurant of Belleair Bluffs owned by Eugen Fuhrmann and Chef Erwin Scheuringer opened in 1985. In 1995 it was remodeled and reopened as E&E Stakeout Grill. It was owned by Eugen and Chef Erwin – thus the name, E & E. However, like all great things do, this too, has come to end. Eugen and Chef Erwin have sold E&E to Canadian restaurateur, Peter Armanious of PBJ Food Group. Peter is no newbie to the hospitality world with eight restaurants under his belt. Have no fear though, Chef Erwin says he will still be nearby. He plans on retaining ownership of The Plaza and being part of their sister restaurant, Guppy's, located at 1701 Gulf Blvd on Indian Rocks Beach. "I plan on helping with the transition," says Chef Erwin. "The name, the menu, and the staff will remain the same as well."

The new owners took over last month. E&E Stakeout Grill is located at 100 Indian Rocks Road in The Plaza in Belleair Bluffs. For more information about specials and upcoming events visit their Facebook page or call (727) 585-6399.

BREAKFAST IS BACK Monstah Lobstah, previously JD's, located at 125 Gulf Boulevard, has brought back breakfast. They now open at 8am daily and serve breakfast until 11am. The menu features classics like the all-American breakfast, steak & eggs, corned beef hash, omelettes, pancakes and French toast from the griddle, handhelds including Cuban breakfast sandwiches and lighter fare such as yogurt parfait and avocado toast.

Monstah Lobstah has karaoke Friday and Saturday nights in the lounge from 7-11pm and live entertainment on the back porch Thursday-Sunday. Follow them on Facebook for their entertainment schedule.

FINALLY BACK OPEN Hurricane Eddie's Gulfport, the sister location of Hurricane Eddie's IRB, Dunedin, and Clearwater Beach, has finally reopened after a year and a half of hurricane repairs. They celebrated with a ribbon cutting by the Gulfport Merchant Chamber and continued the party with live music, prizes, and giveaways.

Hurricane Eddie's Gulfport opens at 11am seven days a week. Follow them on Facebook for specials and upcoming events. They are located at 5413 Shore Blvd S.

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.

Bar & Restaurant News



NEW SPECIALS AT THE HIDEAWAY Belleair Hideaway, located next to the Belleair Market, at 560 Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs, is giving locals more reasons to stop by during the week with two new recurring events: Cigar Sundays and Wine Down Wednesdays. Owners Chris Scott and Julie Champion, seen above, have created a relaxed neighborhood atmosphere, the Hideaway continues to bring the community together with casual gatherings centered around great drinks and good company.

Wine Down Wednesdays invite guests to unwind midweek with a special happy hour from 4 to 7 PM, featuring \$3 off all Tapas menu items. It's the perfect opportunity to meet friends after work, enjoy a glass of wine, and take advantage of the full menu at a discount. On Cigar Sundays, guests can sit back, enjoy a cigar, and relax in a laid-back setting designed for conversation and connection. Enjoy a Beer and Gourmet Flatbread for only \$26. For more information on weekly events and specials, follow Belleair Hideaway on social media or stop in and experience Belleair Bluffs' brand-new Speakeasy!

Wine 101 at Belleair Hideaway is the last Monday of every month from 5-6:30pm, featuring wine, hors d'oeuvres and discussion about wines from all over the world. Reservations are \$50 (including tax and gratuity), and seats are limited to 20 each month, so reserve your spot early. Call Belleair Hideaway at (727) 223-4568 for more information.

TAVERN COMING SOON Tavern in the Bluffs, the newest sister restaurant to Backwaters on Sand Key and North Redington, recently put out a teaser post that they are "Coming in Hot." The new sign and drywall are up, the cement floors are poured, and the furniture is rolling in. The new location will be located at 2890 West Bay Drive (previously occupied by Cody's Roadhouse). Follow them on Facebook for more information on their soon to be opening.

TEN YEARS AT THE MARINA Frank Chivas and the Baystar Restaurant Group celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the opening of Marina Cantina Tequila Bar and Grill and Salt Cracker Fish Camp, both in the Clearwater Beach Marina. Baystar Restaurant Group is the parent company of 10 restaurants in the Tampa Bay Area and aims to provide both a delicious experience and excellent value. Baystar restaurants have a warm tropical feel, and feature menus dominated by fresh seafood, much of which is provided by Chivas's own fleet of dayboats. This source of fresh local seafood combined with creative chefs has established a strong reputation for Baystar's restaurants as excellent dining destinations. For more information, visit MarinaCantina.com or SaltCrackerFishCamp.com. Both restaurants are located at 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach.

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Website coming soon: 18ontheBay.com
Find us on Facebook and Messenger @ 18 on the Bay



Business Briefs



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Peggy Cordle
MS, APRN-C
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PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING SERVICE Plumbers Near Me, Inc. is a family-owned plumbing company serving Belleair, Largo, Clearwater, Seminole, and the surrounding communities. Founded by the Aldrich family - lifelong residents of Largo-the business was created to place a greater focus on the plumbing services that have long been a core part of their work.

Charlie Aldrich has been a resident of Largo for more than 60 years and has over 34 years of experience as a State Licensed Building Contractor. His sons, Charles and Kyle Aldrich, contribute 17 years of combined plumbing experience. For decades, the Aldrich family has provided construction and plumbing services to homeowners and businesses throughout the area through Aldrich Construction Services, Inc. Building on that history, Plumbers Near Me, Inc. represents the next chapter of the family business, dedicated specifically to delivering professional plumbing services with the same values they have always operated by: quality workmanship, exceptional customer service, and honest pricing.

After receiving their official Florida State Plumbing Contractor license (CFC1434135) in December 2025, Plumbers Near Me quickly established itself as one of the highest-rated plumbing companies in the community. A significant milestone in the company's growth was achieving one of the highest numbers of 5-star Google reviews among local plumbing providers for the month of July 2025, reflecting the company's strong commitment to customer satisfaction.

Plumbers Near Me is located at 2401 W Bay Drive Suite #432 in Largo. For more information, visit PlumbersNearMePinellas.com or call (727)288-0703.



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ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY Michael Moran moved to IRB from Toledo, Ohio in March 2017 to help open the Fedex Ground station in St. Pete as a maintenance tech manager. After retiring from Fedex last year, he started Moran's Landscaping and Designs. Michael studied turf management and horticulture in Ohio and has ten years' experience in landscaping and lawn service.

Moran's is a full-service company, offering everything from a simple mow to a complete tear out and new design. Services include palm tree and hedge trimming, laying mulch, shell, and sod, and power washing.

Moran's offers a five percent veteran's discount. For more information, visit MoransLandscapingandDesigns.com or call (727) 215-8746.

NEW VACATION APARTMENTS Mark Aleksin, the owner of Aleksin Construction and CKBB, Custom Kitchen Baths and Beyond is a long-time resident of FL, living in Indian Rocks Beach. Mark has been in business for 40 years.

CKBB specializes in kitchen and bath renovations, while Aleksin Construction concentrates on full residential construction projects from the ground up along with room additions. Mark also owns a 78-unit storage facility just across the bridge in Largo.

Mark recently added a boutique-style, seven-unit apartment complex in Indian Rocks Beach to his portfolio. It was in disrepair after Helene and Milton hit in 2024. Mark bought the property and fully renovated it. Now called *18 on the Bay*, IRB's newest addition is located at 1801 Bay Blvd. See their ad on pages 12 and 13.

Business Briefs



CHIPS FOR CHARITY Irena Nolasco, the owner of Stefane's South barber shop in Belleair Bluffs and Olde Time barber shop in Largo, recently helped raise funds for the local charity, Raising Relief Foundation, by hosting a "Poker Night" at the Belleair Bluffs Community Center. "It was an epic night!" says Nolasco.

It was a full house with all 66 seats occupied by players. The tournament brought in over \$10,000 with all proceeds benefiting Raising Relief. Belleair Bluffs' Mayor Chris Arbutine and Silver Queen owner donated a grand prize gold coin worth \$3500. Belleair resident Rob Pierson outlasted the other 63 players to claim the top prize following several hours of play. "It was a very memorable night that will be repeated annually," Nolasco stated.

The Raising Relief Foundation is continually working on various projects to address the critical needs of the community. Their current initiatives focus on community development, emergency relief, education, and health and well-being. For more information on Raising Relief, visit their website at RaisingReliefFoundation.org.

RADIANCE NOW 20 Last month, Radiance Medspa, located at 2894 West Bay Drive, celebrated its 20th year in business. The Med Spa specializes in non-surgical cosmetic services for the face and body and is the #1 provider of BOTOX and Juvederm in Tampa Bay and among the top 1% in the United States. Radiance is woman founded and woman led by owner Stephanie Schlageter. "20 years of excellence when most medspas don't survive their first five. Our longevity isn't just a number-it represents thousands of successful treatments and satisfied clients who trust us with their most personal aesthetic goals" says Schlageter. To view treatments, services, read about their team and book appointments visit RadianceMedSpa.com or call (727) 518-7100. They open Monday-Thursday at 9am.

MOVING EAST The last tenant in the shopping center next to BayCare Ballpark, the spring training home of the Philadelphia Phillies, is moving east. Floor & Décor is moving to the prior location of the Rooms-To-Go Outlet Center and a portion of Best Buy at 21411 US Highway 19. This move, most likely happening in the fall, will set the stage for a mixed-use development that is still years away.

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 or call (813) 361-7376.

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WORLD CUP 2026

By Pete Magnani, Publisher

The World Cup, held every four years, features competition among national teams of the members of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the governing body of international competition. Prior to the inaugural World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930, football's paramount tournament took place at the Summer Olympics. It has been included in every Summer Olympic Games with the exception of the inaugural games in 1898 and the 1932 Games, where it was omitted due to a dispute between FIFA and the International Olympic Committee over the status of amateur players. Although the game is still an Olympic sport, the World Cup is considered the sports highest achievement.

The first two World Cup matches were held on July 13th, 1930, with the US defeating Belgium 3-0 and France besting Mexico 4-1. Uruguay became the first World Cup winner, defeating Argentina 4-2 in front of 93,000 viewers. 13 countries from North America, South America, and Europe took part in the inaugural tournament, with the field expanding to 16 in 1934, 24 teams in 1982, and 32 teams in 1998.

The first Women's World Cup, which was not a FIFA-sanctioned event, was held in Italy in July 1970. Several countries lifted bans on women's football during the '70s, resulting in new teams being established in many countries. In 1988, FIFA hosted a Women's Invitation Tournament in China with twelve national teams competing. Norway defeated Sweden 1-0 in the final match, with Brazil taking third place. The opening match drew 45,000 spectators, and tournament's success led to FIFA establishing a Women's World Cup.

The inaugural FIFA Women's World Cup was held in China in 1991. 12 teams competed, with the US defeating Norway 2-1 in the final match. The event has been held every four years since, during the year following the men's World Cup. The field increased to 16 teams in 1999 and 24 in 2015. In 2023, Australia and New Zealand hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time as joint hosts, and the number of participants was expanded from 24 to 32. Brazil will host the 2027 tournament.



FIFA World Cup 26 will take place June 11th- July 19th and will feature some notable firsts. The tournament will include 48 teams for the first time, expanding from the previous field of 32. Co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, it is the first men's World Cup tournament to be co-hosted by multiple nations and the first hosted or co-hosted by Canada. Morocco unsuccessfully bid to co-host, the country's fifth unsuccessful attempt.

In the US, games will be played in Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, New York/New Jersey, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Canadian host cities include Vancouver and Toronto, and Mexico's host cities are Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey.

Team USA will face off against Paraguay on June 12th at 9pm, Australia on June 19th at 3pm, and Turkey on June 25th at 10pm. Visit FIFA.com for more information.

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BEWARE OF TECH SUPPORT SCAMS DURING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

May is Older Americans Month, and we celebrate the strength, resilience, and wisdom of our older community and the many contributions they have made. We also want to help keep older Americans safe from scams.



It's no insult to the elderly that we're singling them out like this—in fact, young people are far more likely to be victims of scams than the elderly. In recent years, Gen Z, Millennials, and Gen X people were more likely to be victims of fraud than older adults. But the types of scams differ. Younger people are more likely to fall prey to social media-based scams, employment scams, or fraudulent investment offers involving things like crypto. The scams are often based on them being new adults with a need to make money, and the amount they lose tends to be low, around \$500 for people age 18-59.

But when older people are scammed, the financial hit tends to be harder, either because of the types of scams, or because older people tend to have more money to lose. People aged 70 to 79 had a median financial loss of \$800, while those over 80 lost about \$1,500. Worse yet, in some of the most severe cases, older Americans lost their life savings.

Some of the most common scams that older people fall victim to are tech support scams. Older people didn't grow up with computers and cell phones and may not be completely comfortable with the new technology—something that scammers will try to take advantage of.

The scam starts with a call or text impersonating tech support from a well-known company. Or, the person might even get a popup on their computer warning them that they have been compromised and urging them to call the phone number provided to get help.

In a simple scam, they will pretend to scan for viruses, but actually do nothing (and of course there wasn't a virus to begin with) and then charge for a useless service. In more insidious scams they may pretend to run a scan and then claim to have discovered links to crimes like drug trafficking or child sexual abuse material. They may demand money to hide the alleged crime. Or, they may say that the person's accounts have been hacked and their money is in danger, but they can help authorities by taking part in a sting operation to catch the bad guys and keep their money safe. Of course, the sting involves the victim giving them large sums of money that will be used to catch the criminals.

In another tech support scam, the victim gets a notification that they have been billed for a tech support or antivirus subscription. The message says they have to call immediately to dispute the charge. When they do, they are sent to a fake site and told they have to enter their credit card information to start the refund process. From there, the criminals can either charge money to the victim's card or take the scam a step further and claim they processed a refund for far too much, and demand that the victim pay it back in gift cards or crypto. These scams can be convoluted and confusing, leading victims to part with more and more money and personal information.

Whatever your age, don't let uncertainty about technology, or a careless moment, cost you money when a scammer targets you. If you think you've been the victim of a scam or scam attempt, you can call our non-emergency number to make a report.

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WHAT MAKES YOUR FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL

By Chief Ken Grimes, PSFRD

How Your Fire Department is Funded and Why it Matters

After understanding what makes a special fire district different, the next logical question is simple. How is your fire department funded, and what does that mean for you?

Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District uses a blended funding model. A flat fee paid by every property, combined with a small ad valorem tax based on property value. In my opinion, this approach strikes the right balance. Each model on its own has strengths, but also real limitations.

A flat fee is simple and predictable. Everyone contributes, and it is easy to understand. But it has a built-in challenge. It does not grow with inflation. Over time, the cost of everything increases. Fire engines, medical equipment, building materials, and firefighter salaries all rise. If revenue stays flat while costs increase, the gap eventually becomes unavoidable.

On the other hand, a system funded entirely by ad valorem taxes moves in the opposite direction. As property values increase, revenue can grow quickly, often outpacing inflation. That can be helpful in keeping up with costs, but it can also create volatility and place a heavier burden on higher value properties. Our model is a combination of both. Think of it as a balance between stability and growth.

The flat fee provides a steady, predictable base that ensures everyone contributes to the system that protects them. The ad valorem portion allows revenue to adjust over time so we can keep pace with real world costs. Not too static, not too aggressive, just right.

For many years, the district relied entirely on a flat fee. That model worked for a long time, but eventually the math caught up. Costs increased while revenue did not. Stations aged, capital improvements were delayed, and salaries began to fall behind comparable agencies.

Residents recognized that reality and supported adding a small ad valorem tax. That decision allowed the district to reinvest in infrastructure, improve firefighter compensation, and maintain the level of service our community expects.

Another important part of the equation is how those dollars are managed. Your fire district is governed by a local board made up of residents who live in the community. They experience the same risks, storms, and challenges you do. Their decisions are made locally, with a direct focus on fire and emergency services.

We also take seriously our responsibility to spend those dollars wisely. When we were recently told a new fire station could cost as much as \$10 million, we challenged that approach. Instead, we purchased an existing property and are adapting it into a station at a fraction of the cost. This saved \$7 million and, in many ways, it will also provide a better living and working environment for our firefighters.

That mindset matters. Every dollar saved is a dollar that can be reinvested into staffing, equipment, and readiness. At the end of the day, funding is not just about taxes or fees. It is about making sure that when you call 911, the right people and equipment get to you quickly, every time.

In the next article, we will talk about how response times are measured, where challenges exist, and what we are doing to make sure every part of our district is covered.

Michael Perez

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United in Sand: Celebrating Sports and Spirit

This year, the festival celebrated sports and spirit during its biggest and best year yet with the theme, "United in Sand: Celebrating Sports and Spirit!" This year's theme celebrated teamwork, a strong sense of American pride, and the defining stories that shape our nation. The exhibit ran from March 27th-April 12th.

The 2026 Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit expanded to an impressive 24,000 square feet, and featured an exciting, augmented reality experience that served as a tribute to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and as an ode to this historic celebration.

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. Each year, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival continues to grow in popularity and garner national attention. The festival continues to attract visitors from around the world.



A TALE OF MANY GENERATIONS: FROM SWING SETS TO SELFIE STICKS

By Bob Griffin, Contributor

My parents were born in 1921 and 1922 - smack in the middle of the Greatest Generation-and honestly, their résumé is exhausting just to read: the Great Depression, the Stock Market Crash of 1929, World War II. Casual stuff. I'm a Baby Boomer, born in 1953, and I've had my own highlight reel of chaos: Vietnam, JFK, Nixon's dramatic exit, the Challenger explosion, and COVID-19. Our kids? Split between Gen X and Millennials-they've inherited 50 years of "events," bless their hearts. Turns out, no generation gets off easy.

Let's take a little journey through time. Buckle up, because we're covering roughly 120 years of humanity awkwardly figuring itself out.

First up: **The Greatest Generation** (1901–1927). These folks survived the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and came home to build the modern world-all without a single motivational podcast. They valued hard work, sacrifice, and keeping their emotions deeply, deeply buried. Their idea of self-care was "walking it off." They were, objectively, tougher than all of us and they absolutely knew it.

Hot on their heels came **The Silent Generation** (1928–1945), and no, they weren't called "silent" because they were shy. They just kind of got sandwiched between two massive historical events and decided to keep their heads down and work. They were the original "don't make a fuss" crowd. Reliable, disciplined, and deeply confused by the generations that came after them.

Then the war ended, and apparently people celebrated enthusiastically, because suddenly we had **The Baby Boomers** (1946–1964). The largest generation in history, Boomers grew up during an era of unprecedented prosperity. They protested Vietnam, invented rock and roll culture, and then-plot twist-grew up and became the establishment they once raged against. They also really, really love talking about how cheap houses were in 1978.

Next came **Generation X** (1965–1980), the generation history almost forgot. Raised by latchkey, MTV, and general neglect, Gen Xers became the original cynics. They watched disco die, saw the Cold War end, and somehow survived without helicopter parents or participation trophies. They're fine, by the way. They don't need your validation. They never did.

Then came the **Millennials** (1981–1996), and oh boy did the internet change things. Millennials grew up during the rise of the web, graduated into a financial crisis, and got absolutely roasted for eating avocado toast instead of buying homes — as if brunch choices were the reason housing prices exploded. They invented the "hustle culture" they secretly hate, and they're currently managing the world while also managing crippling student debt. They're doing great! (They're not doing great.)



Generation Z Kids

Hot on their heels: **Generation Z** (1997–2012). Gen Z never knew a world without smartphones and had their formative years upended by a global pandemic. They're hyper-aware, digitally native, socially conscious, and have absolutely no patience for corporate nonsense. They communicate largely in memes and are terrifyingly good at calling out hypocrisy. Boomers find them exhausting. Gen Z finds Boomers exhausting. It's very mutual.

Finally, the newest kids on the block: **Generation Alpha** (2013–present). These tiny humans are growing up with AI, iPads in kindergarten, and parents who document their entire lives on Instagram. We genuinely don't know yet what they'll be like as adults, but statistically at least one of them will invent something that makes all previous generations feel very, very old.

So what's the big takeaway? Every generation thinks the ones before them were too rigid and the ones after them are too soft. Every generation faces challenges unique to their time. And every generation, without fail, eventually turns to the next one and says, "You have no idea how easy you have it."

To which the next generation rolls their eyes-and then goes and changes the world anyway.



Generation X Kids



Four Generations of This Magazine's Family

Community News

ACTION 2000 IRB (A2K)

Submitted by Daryl Frahn

Big News: Leadership Updates!

We're thrilled Paul Zagami is continuing on as President. His strong, steady leadership has been a driving force for everything we've accomplished, and we couldn't be happier to have him leading the way. Also staying on are Laurie Oates as Vice President and Jan Dalina as Treasurer. Their dedication and leadership keep us moving forward, thank you both for all you do.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Ron Hubbard, our newest Executive Board member. We're grateful for his willingness to step into this important role and look forward to his contributions in the months ahead.

We also want to give a huge thank you to outgoing Executive Committee members Diane Agar and Earl Wesson. Their dedication, time, and heart have made a lasting impact on our organization-and we're so grateful for all they've done. Please welcome new Board members Alan Heaslip and Jeff Wilson! Alan has already made his mark through his leadership on the Project Committee, and Jeff-our Oktoberfest games chair-has been a powerhouse of support and enthusiasm. Great people. Strong leadership. Exciting things lie ahead.

10th Avenue Walkway Project

While we were excited to hit the ground running on the 10th Ave walkway project, we're currently pressing pause as utility undergrounding work continues. The good news? Our team has already selected beautiful plants and shrubs, and we're all set to go the moment we get the green light from the city.

We can't wait to bring this vibrant beautification project to life and create an even more welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. Stay tuned-great things are growing.

Oktoberfest on the Beach

We're already in the planning stages for the legendary A2K Oktoberfest on the Beach 2026-and the excitement is building! Want to be part of this incredible community festival and help bring the fun to life? We'd love to have you join us.

Come connect with us at our monthly meetings at the Church of the Isles, held the second Monday of every month at 6pm. Start with our social hour, meet great people, and get involved with the team making IRB happen. There's a seat at the table for everyone-come join the fun!

HUMANE SOCIETY OF TAMPA BAY

Kitten season has arrived in Tampa Bay! Over the next few months, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay will welcome thousands of vulnerable kittens into their care. Many will need bottle feeding, medical treatment, and around the clock support to survive. You can make a lifesaving difference by participating in the Virtual Kitten Shower. Browse the kitten registry or donate at HumaneSocietyTampaBay.org. Your donation of supplies helps ensure tiny kittens at both the Hillsborough and Pinellas campuses receive the care they need during this critical time. You can also choose to become a monthly donor, providing steady support that helps kittens and other vulnerable animals all year long.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Nan Jensen

The Indian Rocks Historical Museum is now open. Stop by and visit us before we close for the summer. We are open Wednesday-Saturday from 10am-2pm. Please note that the museum will be closed from July through September. We are located at 203 4th Avenue directly across the street from the post office.

The museum hosted a covered-dish luncheon on March 28th, featuring guest speaker Michael Roger Shea, administrator of the Facebook page *Ghosts of Indian Rocks Beach*. Mike shared fascinating stories and photos from popular nightlife venues, restaurants, and shops in Indian Rocks Beach and throughout the surrounding Pinellas County area from days gone by. He also invited guests to share some of their favorite beach memories. Watch for an announcement about our fall luncheon.

The museum is seeking volunteers to serve as board members and hosts during our regular opening hours. Training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Carol McGlaughlin at (727) 420-8662.

VACATION DONATIONS

Submitted by Diane Daniel

Visitors, if you have leftover food you can't take home with you, please consider donating it to locals in need. To donate directly to these pantries, visit VacationDonations.org/food for details. When possible, Vacation Donations will pick up food at your rental (IRB only). We accept unopened food and beverages, both perishables (fresh) and nonperishables, such as canned and boxed goods. You can also donate open containers of food if they have casings, such as eggs, individually wrapped cheese singles, etc. Donations will go to: Beach Community Food Pantry in IRB, and occasionally Lifeline Ministries at St. Jerome Catholic Church and Christ the King Lutheran Ministries in Largo. For pickup or bin signup, call or text Diane at (727) 201-2333 or email VacationDonations@gmail.com.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS

Does your community organization have news, upcoming events, anniversaries, or a member that deserves recognition? We want to publish that in this magazine. We also cover the Belleair Area, Clearwater Beach, and Dunedin.

Please send information to Pete@MagriffProductions.com.



Community News



CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by *Mishelle Hargett*

The City of Indian Rocks Beach proudly recognizes National Public Works Week, May 17th-23rd, as an opportunity to honor the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our community safe, functional, and beautiful.

Our Public Works Department plays a vital role in maintaining the quality of life we enjoy every day, from caring for our streets, facilities, and infrastructure to preserving the cleanliness and natural beauty of our beaches and public spaces. Their commitment, responsiveness, and attention to detail ensure that Indian Rocks Beach remains a welcoming and resilient coastal community.

Rain or shine, often without recognition, these individuals work diligently to protect our environment, support public safety, and enhance the charm that makes our city so special.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Public Works team for their hard work, professionalism, and continued dedication to serving our community.

Paid Beach Parking Scheduled to Begin May 18th

Starting May 18th, public parking at Indian Rocks Beach access points will transition to a paid parking system as part of a pilot program approved by the City Commission in February.

Visitors using public parking spaces at beach access points will be charged \$4.50 per hour, with parking enforced seven days a week from 8am-10pm.

For our Indian Rocks Beach Property Owners/Residents, there is no cost for the Resident Parking Decal and there will be no change to your parking benefits. Property Owners/Residents with a properly displayed City-issued decal may continue to park free of charge in designated resident spaces or in paid parking spaces throughout the City. The only exception is the Pinellas County Beach Access Park, where county parking rules apply.

The city will utilize the ParkMobile app for convenient payment. Visitors are encouraged to download the app in advance to make parking quick and easy when arriving at the beach.

To help keep parking accessible and orderly, the City has increased fines for parking violations, from \$75 to \$100, for issues such as parking in "No Parking" areas or failing to pay for required parking.

Based off the success and review of the Paid Parking Pilot Program, the City of Indian Rocks Beach will be looking at expanding paid parking to other areas of the city, including public parks.

Details on how to obtain a Resident Only Decal can be found at the following link: Indian-Rocks-Beach.com/residential-information/parking-information. Additional information on ParkMobile and Paid Parking will be posted to the City's website in the upcoming weeks.

FRIENDS OF THE IRB LIBRARY

Submitted by *Diane Daniel*

The IRB Library is restocking its shelves with more books for children and adults. Come see our new titles! We also accept book donations to fill the used bookstore and little free libraries around town (see a list on the library's website).

Florida Explorers, our monthly children's books and nature program, continues this summer with two exciting themes. On May 16th, the spotlight is on seashells and on June 13th, kids will explore the world of turtles. The events, held in the IRB Civic Auditorium, are free, but please register in advance. More information can be found on the library website.

Our weekly Wednesday children's program, "Storytime with Miss Beth," has moved to 11:30am. The library also hosts an adult book club, which meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 4-5pm.

June kicks off Reading with the Rays, an annual summer reading program, which the library participates in. It runs through July 31st, so make sure to visit in May to sign up at the library and get your reading logs and instructions. The pre-K through 8th grade program is hosted by the Tampa Bay Rays and Suncoast Credit Union. Participants can win game tickets and IRB city prizes.

The library is open 10am-4pm Monday-Friday. Friends membership is \$10 a year or \$100 for a lifetime. The Friends can be reached at FriendsofIRBLibrary@gmail.com. Visit Indian-Rocks-Beach.com/our-community/irb-library or call (727) 596-1822 for more information.



BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by *Hope Fitch-Mickiewicz*

The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach is growing its lineup of creative opportunities with youth programs, art classes, and summer camp. The Creative Kids Camp begins this June and features six weeks of hands-on art experiences designed to inspire imagination and build confidence. Families are encouraged to sign up early, as spots fill quickly.

The Center also offers a variety of art classes for all ages and skill levels, providing a welcoming space to learn and create. New this year is the Gaia Kids Club, a monthly youth program for ages 2-13 focused on creativity, exploration, and connection through art.

The Beach Art Center is also available as a unique venue for private events, including birthday parties, workshops, and small gatherings. It is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. Learn more and register at BeachArtCenter.org.

Community News

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

Is there someone you would like to honor for their service to our country or community?

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach is joining America in the celebration of its 250th Anniversary by presenting our fifth annual Flags for Service fundraiser that will allow the community to honor those who are or have served us, locally, nationally, or globally.

The 2026 Flags for Service will be different from past years and will allow people to give personal messages to those who served our great country. This year's banners will allow people to identify themselves as well as those they wish to honor. People who have served this nation in the Military, as Law Enforcement, as First Responders, in Community Service, or in Service Clubs can be honored.

From Memorial Day (May 25th) until Flag Day (June 14th), U.S. Flags, along with the banner mentioned above, will be displayed at Chic-A-Si Park in Indian Rocks Beach to honor anyone who has served the community or the nation.

To sponsor a flag and create a custom banner for those being honored, please visit our website at IndianRocksRotary.org. Click on the Flags for Service tab for event details and the flag/banner order form. Please make sure to create a separate order for each person to be honored.

After our Flag Day celebration, you will be able to collect your banner as well as one of the flags displayed.

Proceeds from the project will be used to continue supporting various programs in our community with emphasis on charities that focus on military and first responders. Our dear friend Rick Walker, who passed away suddenly in 2022, was an avid supporter of this event, a past president of our club, and a member of Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue.

Please contact Rotarian Paul Burns at (727) 595-4540 or RotaryClubofIRB@gmail.com for additional details.

Flag Day 2026

We cordially invite everyone from the surrounding community to join us on Sunday, June 14th, as we celebrate the enduring symbol of America during the 250th anniversary of this great nation. The 2026 Flag Day ceremony will be held at Chic-a-si Park in Indian Rocks Beach. Festivities will start at 2pm. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Honor Guard will attend, and a keynote speaker will offer perspective on this special day.



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