

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

The Story of Boca Ciega Bay: From Ancient Shores to Our Modern Backyard

By Pete Magnani, Publisher

Boca Ciega Bay—the scenic, shallow estuary framing the local Intracoastal Waterway—is bordered by St. Petersburg, Gulfport, Seminole, and South Pasadena to the east, and the barrier islands of Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, and St. Pete Beach to the west. Its Spanish name translates to “blind mouth,” a nod to the bay’s confusing inlets, shallow waters, and shifting shorelines. For centuries, this vital body of water sustained Florida’s earliest indigenous peoples and, later, European settlers. Eventually, it fueled the mid-century development boom that altered the local landscape, ultimately sparking the modern conservation efforts that protect the bay today.

Early Peoples and the Tocobaga

Long before modern homes lined the waterfront, these shores supported thriving Indigenous communities who depended entirely on the bay’s rich resources. Archaeological evidence connects the eastern shoreline with the late Weeden Island and Safety Harbor cultures, spanning from roughly 800 A.D. to 1700 A.D. The Tocobaga people are most famously tied to this area, leaving behind remnants of their civilization in the historic Jungle Prada area of present-day St. Petersburg.

The Tocobaga Chiefdom was a powerful society centered around Tampa Bay, with its main political hub located near Safety Harbor. Their villages stretched from northern Tampa Bay down to Sarasota, usually nestled along productive coastal waters. They reshaped the local geography by building massive mounds: platform mounds made of shell and clay served as elevated foundations for homes; middens of discarded shells and bones doubled as elevated lookout points; and sacred sand mounds served as resting places for their ancestors.



Map of Boca Ciega Bay,
circa 1919
State Archives of Florida/
Pinellas County
Board of Trade (Fla.)

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Also in this Issue:



Florida During the American Revolution

Although it was not one of the thirteen original colonies, Florida played a role in the birth of our nation.

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Follow the Rules on Two Wheels

Knowing the laws can keep everyone safe on the sidewalks, streets, and trails.

- page 14

Local Student Recognized

San Jose Elementary student Kalli Anni Bolduc was recently recognized for an essay about her relationship with her big sister.

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

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DUNEDIN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS MAGAZINE

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

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

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani (813) 239-6862
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SEE YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER



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DEPUTY MANAGER Jorge Quintas

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Luna.house.gov

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

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



JULY

Kiwanis Midnight Run 3

Hometown USA TD Ballpark 3

Patriotic Golf Cart Parade 3

Clearwater Celebrates 250 3-4

Fourth of July 4

Fireworks at Coachman Park 4

City Commission Meeting 9

Tarpon Springs Art & Craft Fest 11-12

MLB Home Run Derby 13

MLB All-Star Game 14

City Commission Meeting 23

Parents Day 26

The Black Keys at the Sound 28

Back to School Bash MLK Rec Center 31

AUGUST

Back to School Sales Tax Holiday Month

Coast Guard Appreciation Month

NFL Preseason Begins 6

City Commission Meeting 6

Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony 7

Public School Begins 11

Dog Day at Baycare Ballpark 21

Asian Food and Music at the Sound 21

DFAC Wearable Art Fashion Show 22

DEVO at the Sound 27

Jimmy Buffett Day 30

SEPTEMBER

City Commission Meeting 3

97X Next Big Thing at the Sound 4

First USF Home Game 5

Labor Day 7

Patriot Day 11

Modest Mouse at the Sound 16

City Commission Meeting 17

Pasco Scallop Season Ends 18

Buccaneers Home Opener 20

International Day of Peace 21

First Day of Fall 22

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

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

The Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday runs from August 1st – 31st saving parents on supplies for the upcoming school year. Exempt items include clothing (\$100 or less), footwear (\$100 or less), wallets/bags (\$100 or less), school supplies (\$50 or less), learning aids/jigsaw puzzles (\$30 or less), and personal computers/accessories (\$1,500 or less). Visit FloridaRevenue.com for more information and a complete list of included items.



SPECIAL NEEDS EVACUATION PROGRAM With hurricane season underway, Pinellas County Emergency Management is encouraging residents with qualifying needs to register now for the Special Needs Evacuation Program.

During emergency evacuations, the program provides transportation and shelters for residents of all ages with medical, functional, or special transportation needs including requiring assistance with routine care and medications, being dependent on oxygen or electricity for medical equipment, requiring assistance with walking or getting out of bed, or requiring transportation assistance to an emergency shelter during evacuations.

Key program features include generator-powered shelters to ensure uninterrupted power for medical devices and life-safety equipment, onsite health professionals available throughout the evacuation to assist with medical needs, transportation assistance for registered participants without other evacuation options, personal outreach from Emergency Management staff to verify needs and confirm enrollment, shelter access for immediate family members and caretakers, and pet care provided by Pinellas County Animal Services for registrants without alternative arrangements, until they return home.

County staff recently contacted all program registrants to confirm their information is up to date and they are still eligible for the program. Existing registrants who have not confirmed their information with program staff this year are asked to call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800 as soon as possible to ensure they remain on the registration list.

For more information or to register for the Special Needs Evacuation Program, visit Pinellas.gov/SpecialNeeds or call (727) 464-3800.

CHANGES AT THE CAUSEWAY City officials are drafting an ordinance banning the launch of jet skis and other motorized watercraft from the south side of Dunedin Causeway. Launching has been temporarily suspended while Pinellas County makes hurricane-related repairs, during which time residents and City Manager Jennifer Bramley have reported improvements to the environment and public safety.

While the county has authority over the causeway, Bramley reports the city has received assurances that the county will defer on the issue of launching from the south side. Launching from the north side has been prohibited for years. Adopting the ordinance would still require two public hearings.



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CLEARWATER AQUARIUM UPDATES Clearwater Marine Aquarium's (CMA) Nesting Team located its first sea turtle nest in Pinellas County in May. The CMA Sea Turtle Conservation Program monitors approximately 21 miles of beaches between Caladesi Island and Treasure Island with daily patrols starting before sunrise every day during the nesting season. As nesting sea turtles return to the coast and begin to emerge from the Gulf looking for a safe and suitable nesting site, CMA reminds everyone to please put away any beach furniture and other potential obstructions that may deter sea turtles, slow down on the water, and switch to sea turtle-friendly lighting to help ensure the survival of these endangered animals.

On a somber note, CMA announced the passing of Star, age 27. The Atlantic Bottlenose dolphin joined the CMA family in December 2025. In May, Star appeared to show signs of discomfort requiring supportive care. CMA's veterinary team, animal care specialists, and independent outside experts evaluated and monitored her health around the clock. Despite their best efforts, Star's condition declined and she passed away on May 8th.

NO FERTILIZER DURING SUMMER Pinellas County's Fertilizer Ordinance prohibits the sale or application of lawn and landscape fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus through September 30th.

Phosphorus cannot be used at any time of the year unless a soil test confirms it is needed. Also, fertilizer can never be applied within 10 feet of the top of a slope leading to a seawall, wetland, or waterbody.

The purpose of the restrictions is to prevent fertilizer runoff and yard waste from harming lakes, ponds, rivers, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of America and from leaching into groundwater. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus can cause harmful algae blooms that lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills.

Pinellas County recommends using summer-safe lawn care products and landscaping best management practices to keep a healthy landscape during the summer: For more information, visit Pinellas.gov/fertilizer-landscape-information.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN SEPTEMBER 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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Boca Ciega Bay, Continued

The Tocobaga occupied Jungle Prada from approximately 1000 to 1700 A.D. Surviving shell middens show just how deeply these early residents relied on what we now call Boca Ciega Bay. Fish, oysters, clams, and sea turtles formed the basis of daily life. Unfortunately, much of this ancient mound landscape was damaged or leveled by twentieth-century housing development, making the surviving, protected portions of Jungle Prada incredibly precious to our local history.

Today, the Jungle Prada archaeological site spans both public parkland and private property, showcasing these surviving ancient mounds alongside an educational museum. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, Jungle Prada is also famous as the setting for the 1528 landing of the Spanish Narváez expedition.

Spanish Exploration and the Narváez Expedition

Pánfilo de Narváez sailed from Spain in 1527 to explore La Florida, a vast territory named in 1513 by Juan Ponce de León. The expedition navigated into Boca Ciega Bay in April 1528, where the crew spotted indigenous buildings perched high atop platform mounds. Narváez made landfall near Jungle Prada, officially claiming the entire region for King Charles V.

While the expedition sought to secure vast colonial wealth and new territory for Spain, it ended in disaster. After landing, Narváez split his forces, marching inland with 300 men while ordering his ships to wait. The plan failed catastrophically; the ships lost track of the land party, and only four members of the expedition ultimately survived to tell the tale. Tragically, these and other explorers also introduced European diseases and violence, causing the Tocobaga to vanish from historical records within two centuries. Despite the grim outcome, this fateful landing permanently links Boca Ciega Bay to one of the earliest European encounters on the Gulf Coast.

Settlement, Fishing, and Waterfront Life

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Boca Ciega Bay remained the heart of daily life in western Pinellas County. The bay's shallow seagrass beds, oyster bars, and tangled mangroves offered both abundant food and natural shelter, allowing small, tight-knit waterfront communities to take root.

By the late 1800s, rustic fishing camps and pioneer homesteads dotted the shoreline near modern-day Gulfport, St. Petersburg, Madeira Beach, and Treasure Island. In Gulfport, the waterfront evolved into a popular community gathering place. The town built its first public fishing pier in 1907, and the iconic Gulfport Casino (originally

built in 1906) marked the community's transition from a quiet fishing village into a vibrant social destination. Steamships, ferries, and small skiffs ferried goods and passengers across the water, where early winter residents fell in love with the mild climate, world-class fishing, and serene coastal views.

When the railroad reached St. Petersburg in the late 1880s, local growth accelerated. The rail lines connected the lower Pinellas peninsula directly to national markets and wealthy winter tourists, sparking a boom in grand hotels, cozy boarding houses, and waterfront recreation. Commercial fishermen continued to harvest the bay to feed their families and tourists, and the shoreline adapted to the influx of new residents and vacationers.

The arrival of the automobile marked the bay's next great transformation. Roads, bridges, and causeways provided easy, direct routes to our barrier islands, slowly replacing the old reliance on boats and ferries. The original Welch Causeway opened to Madeira Beach in July 1926, followed by the Treasure Island Causeway in 1939. These new thoroughfares carried steady traffic across Boca Ciega Bay, transforming isolated islands into the bustling, beloved beach communities we know today.

By mid-century, neighborhoods around the bay actively promoted our region as a paradise for boating, fishing, and retirement living. Yet even as neighborhoods expanded, commercial fishing remained a cornerstone of the bay's identity, bridging early maritime history with modern coastal growth and setting the stage for future conservation battles.

Dredging, Filling, and Development

The most dramatic visual transformations occurred during the post-WWII boom. Rapid population growth and an insatiable demand for waterfront real estate led to massive dredge-and-fill operations. To create competitive waterfront property, developers reshaped the shallow bay bottom into residential finger canals and man-made subdivisions. Scientific studies estimate that roughly 3,500 acres of Boca Ciega Bay were filled in after 1950, shrinking the bay's total surface area by 20 percent and devastating vital seagrass beds, shellfish habitats, and marine nurseries.

These massive engineering projects forever altered natural tidal flows, water circulation, and the coastline itself. The bay quickly became a stark, cautionary example of the delicate conflict between rapid coastal development and environmental preservation in Florida.



Pasadena Estates across Boca Ciega Bay, early 1900s. Archives Heritage Village

Protection and Restoration

Mounting public alarm over this environmental degradation during the mid-twentieth century sparked an organized movement to protect Boca Ciega Bay's remaining natural resources. Decades of dredging, neighborhood expansion, and navigation projects had severely altered the shoreline and submerged habitats. Residents, scientists, and environmental advocates united to raise the alarm about dropping water quality, disappearing mangrove wetlands, and the steep decline of local fish and wildlife populations.

In response to this grassroots pressure, the state designated Boca Ciega Bay as an official aquatic preserve in 1969, making it one of Florida's very first protected estuarine systems. This designation successfully halted large-scale dredge-and-fill projects, preserving the bay's ecological future. This success inspired the creation of the neighboring Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve in 1972, extending vital protections to surrounding coastal waters and preventing further habitat loss along our coast.

Over the last few decades, local conservation efforts have focused heavily on restoring these precious marine habitats. Today, our mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, oyster bars, and salt marshes are recognized as essential infrastructure that cleans our water, stabilizes our shorelines, and protects our properties. Current initiatives include seagrass monitoring, constructing artificial oyster reefs, and neighborhood education programs that teach homeowners how to practice good stewardship in their own backyards.

Our local waterfront parks play a starring role in connecting residents with this shared history. Beautiful spaces like Boca Ciega Millennium Park, Clam Bayou Nature Preserve, and Jungle Prada de Narváez Park give neighbors a place to experience untouched coastal habitats while learning about our past. Together, these parks remind us of the enduring bond between people and Boca Ciega Bay—from the ancient Tocobaga to the modern homeowners working to protect our county's most precious coastal ecosystem.

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Alexis Honigbaum, MD, FAAD is a board-certified dermatologist specializing in medical and surgical dermatology. Originally from Massachusetts, she obtained her undergraduate degree from University of Miami and medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. She then completed her Dermatology Residency at the University of South Florida, which eventually brought her back to the Tampa Bay Area and private practice.

She has been published in peer-reviewed journals, presented at national meetings, and was recognized in Newsweek's "America's Best Medical Dermatologists" in 2022. She is excited to join Dr. Nayyar and the team at Dermaclinique, where she looks forward to providing compassionate, high-quality dermatologic care to the community.

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Bar & Restaurant News

QUARTER CENTURY FOR ISLAND WAY GRILL

Congratulations to Island Way Grill on their 25th anniversary in May. Island Way is one of many restaurants in the Baystar Restaurants Group (BRG) led by Frank Chivas on Clearwater Beach and surrounding areas.

The menu at Island Way features dishes from land and sea including Tomahawk ribeyes, succulent filets, "boat-to-table" fresh catches from Baystar's own fleet of fishing boats, and hand-rolled sushi.

Island Way offers daily specials including "Wine Down Wednesdays" with half-off wine bottles and Sam on the Sax playing live music on the patio. Sunday Brunch, from 10am-2pm, is a buffet style brunch featuring an array of different stations: pastry, breakfast, sushi, dessert, shellfish, salad, lunch, carving, and made-to-order omelet station. One complimentary mimosa or champagne is included, as well as coffee, tea, and soft drinks. The Early Bird menu runs Sunday-Friday from 4-5:30pm and Noon-5:30pm on Saturdays.

Island Way is located at 20 Island Way, come by land or sea (docking is available at the Island Estates public dock). For more information about the menu or to make reservations, visit IslandWayGrill.com. Follow them on Facebook to view specials and upcoming events.



NEW BREWERY Downtown Dunedin's eighth brewery is now open. Unrefined Brewery, at 306 Monroe Street (previously occupied by Wine at the Docks) opened in May. This is the sister bar to their Tarpon Springs location.

In 2019, a group of friends took a trip to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras and decided to open a brewery in Tarpon Springs. Unrefined focuses on small-batch brewing with the finest available ingredients.

Club 34698 is Unrefined's locals club. Providing your name, email address, and birthday, qualifies you for weekday specials designed exclusively for local customers. The brewery is open Tuesday-Sunday, times vary. For more information about specials and live entertainment follow them on Facebook. To learn more about their beers and brewers, visit UnrefinedBrewing.com or call (727) 400-6300.

REVISITING YOUTH For years, 368 Patricia Avenue was home to Fritzee-Freeze, a beloved ice cream shop and one of Dunedin's most popular meeting places going back to the 1980s. More than just a place to grab a cone, Fritzee-Freeze was a vibrant hub where friends, families, and neighbors gathered after games, caught up on weekends, and created memories that lingered long after the last scoop.

To recapture the carefree fun of their youth, friends Brent Gardner, Aaron Lucas, and Andy Polce came up with the idea for The Playground, a casual destination with Outdoor games, elevated food experience, and a welcoming vibe for everyone.

The Playground offers beer, wine, and seltzers, including a rotating selection of local drafts. The menu features comfort staples like Tater Tots, smash burgers, and nachos. Games include Cornhole, Beer Pong, and Jenga. Join them for Trivia Tuesday every week from 7-9pm.

For more information, follow them on Facebook, visit ThePlayground.biz, or call (727) 223-3569.

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Depiction of the Continental Army circa 1776

By Jeanne Holmquist, Clearwater Historical Society Museum

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, we thought we would share what was happening in Florida history at that time. Everyone remembers that Ponce de Leon came to Florida in 1513 and planted a Spanish flag along the Atlantic coast. In 1563, the French settled at Fort Caroline near present-day Jacksonville, but in 1564, the Spanish attacked and massacred the French forces, and Florida was once again entirely ruled by Spain. Fast forward 200 years, to 1763, during the Peace of Paris Treaty, that not only ended the French and Indian War, but it also included in the agreement that Britain trade Cuba to Spain for Florida. Although the thirteen colonies declared their freedom from Britain in 1776, it was not until the signing of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that the Americans were truly free from British rule.

The American Revolution lasted from 1763 until 1783, and during that time the British ruled Florida and most of the Spanish people who had lived in Florida moved to Cuba. Florida was a safe place for northern British Colonists uninterested in fighting Britain over taxation or religion and new British loyalists emigrating from Europe.

In 1763, Britain took possession of Florida and divided it into East and West Florida, separated by the Apalachicola River. As strange as it seems, Clearwater and the entire peninsula would have been part of the East Florida colony. The capital of East Florida was St. Augustine. The West Florida colony was the panhandle of Florida, from the Apalachicola River west to Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River, and its capital was Pensacola. In 1774, the thirteen colonies asked Florida to join the Continental Congress, but Florida declined to attend. They were happy to live under British rule.

The British forces in St. Augustine played a key role as a supply port for the British Army during the American Revolution. There were at least three attempts by the Continental Army to take St. Augustine from the British. All three attempts failed due to a lack of supplies or manpower. The Continental Army got as far south as the St. Mary's River but then they received a surprise attack from the British and retreated into Georgia. The British were able to hold onto St. Augustine and East Florida. Being further away from the other colonies, there was a much more scattered population in West Florida. In Pensacola, the people were more concerned with the Spanish and the French in New Orleans than the British. They were not interested in joining as the next colony and would not swear allegiance to the United States.



Spain reentered the war in 1779 and by 1781 saw their opportunity to retake West Florida from by capturing Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola. Back in Paris in 1783, the British returned both East and West Florida to the Spanish and their 20-year rule of Florida was over. During the 1783 Treaty of Paris, the original thirteen colonies officially won their independence from the British and formally ended the Revolutionary War.

Florida was back under Spanish rule until 1821. During that time, Spain was weakened by Napoleon's attack on the Spanish mainland, and both the East and West Floridians declared their independence from Spain. In 1810 President James Madison claimed Florida as a U.S. territory, and by 1818, General Andrew Jackson took this opportunity to seize Spanish forts in St. Marks and Pensacola. Negotiations between Spain, Don Luis de Onís, and the U.S. started in 1815, but it wasn't until James Monroe was President and John Quincy Adams was Secretary of State that the treaty was signed making Florida a U.S. Territory.

Florida became the 27th state in 1845.

Business Briefs

GET YOUR GLOW ON

Rayz Tanning Salon, at 1580 Main Street, is now offering an expanded lineup of beauty treatments. Madison (Madi) Stapp, the daughter of Rayz owner Fallon Bahamondes, recently graduated from the Beauty and Health Institute in Tampa as a licensed Medical Aesthetician with a certifications for facial skin care and laser/light-based devices. Madi has started her own business, Madi's Beauty Vault, inside Rayz and is now offering facials, red-light therapy, derma planning and, waxing services. Services are by appointment only. To book an appointment, call or text (727) 386-2024 or visit MadisBeauty.com. Rays Tanning Salon is open Monday - Friday from 10am-8pm and Saturday-Sunday from 8am-3pm.



SISTER STORE NOW OPEN After Black & Glen Men's opened at 735 Broadway last year, customers began asking when they were going to start offering women's clothing. Owners Neil Brown and Tina Taylor finally decided to take the leap, and Black & Glen Women's was born four doors down from the original store—bringing the same commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and personal service that made Black & Glen a local favorite.

The store offers thoughtfully curated contemporary and resort-inspired brands, versatile pieces that transition seamlessly from day to evening, and personal styling guidance designed to help women feel comfortable and confident in what they wear. Like its men's counterpart, Black & Glen Women's focuses on quality over quantity.

The new store is located at 719 Broadway. Follow them on Facebook or visit BlackandGlen.com for more information.

RECLAIM YOUR INVESTMENT A life settlement is the sale of all or part of an existing life insurance policy. Perhaps the policy is no longer needed or affordable. Instead of letting it lapse or surrendering to the insurance carrier, a structured life settlement transaction may be a better financial option. Boyd Crisler has been providing his expertise to help clients successfully sell all or part of their life insurance policies for over 20 years.

Most types of policies qualify for a life settlement transaction, including universal life, term, group life, convertible term, and others. Clients can receive the money as a lump sum, or in some situations, can receive some of the proceeds now and keep the rest as a death benefit for a beneficiary. For Financial Professionals, the emergence of the life settlement market has helped many people uncover value for an asset that wasn't thought to have had much value. Recognizing the fundamental right of a policy owner's ability to assign ownership to a third party can be extremely impactful for your clients.

For more information on life settlement transactions, visit BoydSettlements.com or call (727) 365-0076.

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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Community News

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA DUNEDIN

Submitted by Gordon Thomas

Boat America Safe Boating Course-Learn essential boating safety skills and Florida boating laws. The course covers Florida boating laws and legal requirements, aids to navigation and navigation rules, safety equipment, and emergency procedures. Upon completion, you will receive the FWC Safe Boating ID Card. This class will satisfy the boating requirements for those born after January 1st, 1988.

- July 11th-12th, August 8th-9th, and September 12th-13th

All classes are Saturday and Sunday 9am-1pm. Must attend both of these days.

Introduction to Basic Navigation-Gain essential navigation skills including latitude/longitude, compass use, compass rose, calipers, rolling ruler, and plotting a location and course on a nautical chart.

- July 25th, August 29th, and September 26th

All classes are 9am-noon Saturday only.

All courses are \$50 per person, \$45/each family member (cash, check, PayPal) Courses are given at the Dunedin Marina, 51 Main Street, second floor on the north side. Call (727) 736-1191 or email PublicEducation1110@gmail.com for further details.

Join us to enhance your boating skills and navigate with confidence!

CITY OF DUNEDIN

Submitted by Jorie Peterson

Hometown USA - Friday, July 3rd – gates open at 6pm. Free to attend, Ballpark concessions available for purchase. This event kicks off with the Dunedin Goes Carting patriotic golf vcart parade, which travels through downtown Dunedin and ends at TD Ballpark. The celebration and festivities continue at the ballpark with Something Major Band, Miracle movie, fun games and activities, face painting, a photo booth, and a spectacular fireworks show to cap off the night. The band will perform in the third base concourse area. Seating is limited. Grandstand seating will be open for guests to enjoy the movie and fireworks, though field access will be restricted.

Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony – Friday, August 7th at 10am. Join the City of Dunedin at Purple Heart Park, 300 Main Street, for this special ceremony honoring all Veterans, with a heartfelt tribute to Purple Heart recipients whose courage, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to our country will never be forgotten.

For more information, visit Dunedin.gov/Community/City-Calendar.

WE WANT TO PRINT YOUR NEWS

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

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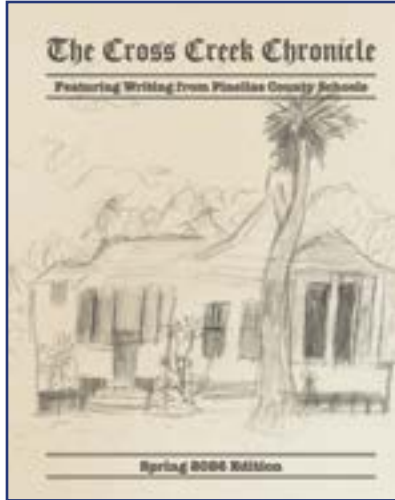


LOCAL AUTHOR RECOGNIZED

By Lora Magnani, Publisher

More than 150 students from across Pinellas County gathered at the Palladium Theatre in St. Petersburg in May to receive a certificate and a published copy of the *Cross Creek Chronicle* featuring their work. Dunedin resident Kalli Ani Bolduc was recognized for her story, "All About Molli, My Sister." It was not the first time a Bolduc author took the stage at the Palladium—Kalli's sister, Molli, received the honor in 2024.

The *Cross Creek Chronicle* features writing by Pinellas County Schools elementary students. Selected from submissions throughout the district, it is published annually in partnership with the Florida Writers Foundation (FWF) to showcase the talents of young writers. The Chronicle honors kindergarten through fifth-grade students whose work is first submitted by classroom teachers and then blind-scored by an editorial board that knows only each writer's grade level.



Kalli enjoys the sense of calm she feels when putting pen to paper. "Writing makes me happy and calms my brain," said the San Jose Elementary School kindergartener. "My favorite part about writing is I can draw a picture afterward of what I thought." The story is especially meaningful to Kalli because it gave her the opportunity to express how much she admires her big sister. "Seeing my older sister gives me a great start to every day."

The mission of the Florida Writers Foundation is to inspire a love of reading and writing by supporting nonprofit organizations that advance literacy throughout Florida. Volunteers visit elementary schools for reading days, sponsor poetry contests, donate books to underserved schools, and provide funding for middle school writing contests. The foundation also donates books, educational games, and puzzles to classroom libraries, public libraries throughout Florida, the Ronald McDonald House in St. Petersburg, the Space Coast Women and Children's Center, nursing homes, and communities affected by hurricanes and flooding in Florida and neighboring states. For more information, visit FloridaWritersFoundation.net.

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By Pete Magnani, Publisher

In Florida, bicycles are legally defined as a vehicle and the bicyclists as drivers. People riding bicycles have the same right to the roadways as drivers of motor vehicles and must obey the same traffic laws, as those specific to bicycles as defined in Florida State Statute 316.2065.

Cyclists must obey all traffic controls, stop signs, and signals. If a bike lane is present, it must be used, if not cyclists must ride in the right-most lane, or as close to the right-hand curb as possible. They may use the full lane to turn left, avoid hazards, or pass another vehicle. Bicycles are permitted on sidewalks, but cyclists have the same rights and duties as pedestrians. They must yield right-of-way and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.

Between sunset and sunrise, the law requires a white light on the front and a red reflector/light on the rear. Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake which will enable its rider to stop the bicycle within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

Bikes cannot carry more people than they are designed for, with the exception of an adult rider carrying a child securely attached to their person in backpack carrier or sling. A rider may carry a child under four years of age or weighing 40 pounds or less in a seat or carrier that secures and protects the child from the moving parts of the bicycle. The rider cannot leave a child in the seat or carrier when they are not in immediate control of the bicycle.

Helmets are mandatory for all riders and passengers under age 16, including a child riding in a trailer attached to a bicycle, and wearing headphones or earplugs while riding is prohibited. It is illegal to ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

When riding in groups, cyclists may not ride more than two abreast, except on a bicycle path. Where bicycle lanes are present, riders may only ride side-by-side if both are able to remain in the lane. If it is too narrow, they must ride single file. When groups approach a stop sign, they may only proceed after coming to a full stop, and then in groups of ten or fewer at a time.

A rider who violates any of the provisions of the statute commits a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a pedestrian violation subject to a fine.

The rapid popularity surge of electric bicycles, or e-bikes, necessitated additional regulations, which are spelled out in Florida State Statute 316.20655. E-bikes are considered vehicles to the same extent as bicycles and riders have the same rights and duties under State law, but local governments may adopt stricter ordinances governing the use of e-bikes on bicycle and multiuse paths, trails, beaches, and sidewalks.

Currently, electric bicycles and their operators are not subject to the provisions of law relating to insurance, driver or motor vehicle licenses, vehicle registration, or title certificates. State legislators and many local governments have recently begun exploring stricter e-bike laws. Last month, the State Senate passed SB 382, which if passed would require e-bike riders on a sidewalk or any other area designated for pedestrian use to maintain a speed of ten miles per hour or less, yield to pedestrians, and give an audible signal when overtaking and passing. Violators would commit a non-criminal traffic infraction punishable as a moving violation as opposed to a pedestrian offense. The bill would also require the Florida Highway Patrol and each police department and sheriff's office in the state to maintain a list of all the traffic crashes that each respective agency investigates which involve an electric bicycle, then send an annual report to the state.

There are three classifications of electric bicycles:

Class 1 bikes (Low-Speed Pedal-Assisted) are equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, ceasing assistance at 20 miles per hour. These are often permitted on paved trails and mountain bike trails.

Class 2 bikes (Low-Speed Throttle-Assisted) are those equipped with a motor that can propel the bike without pedaling, provided power cuts off at 20 miles per hour. They are often allowed in the same areas as Class 1.

Class 3 bikes (Speed Pedal-Assisted) are equipped with a motor that assists only when the rider pedals, up to a maximum speed of 28 miles per hour. They usually feature a speedometer and are often permitted on roads and in bike lanes.

Electric bicycles manufactured after January 1st, 2021, are required to have a manufacturer-affixed label listing the bike's classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage. Modifying an e-bike to change the motor-powered speed of an electric bicycle is prohibited unless the label indicating classification number and top speed is replaced with the updated information. All e-bikes must operate in such a manner so that the motor disengages when the rider stops pedaling or the brakes are engaged.

Senate Bill 382 was passed by the Florida Legislature and was sent to Governor DeSantis prior to this publication. The bill sets a speed limit of 10mph on sidewalks, shared-use paths, or areas designated for pedestrians if a pedestrian is within 10 feet of an ebike. Florida's roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails are shared space. Motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians must follow the rules and be respectful of each other to ensure their safe and enjoyable use.



Community News

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) announced plans to move forward with a new clubhouse initiative, replacing the Club's current facility with a purpose-built, modern waterfront destination. The approximately \$15 million project represents the Club's largest capital investment in its 115-year history.

For more than a century, CYC has been a beacon of excellence, camaraderie, and maritime tradition on Florida's Gulf Coast, fostering friendships, celebrating local culture, and hosting memorable events for generations. The new clubhouse will be a significant upgrade in both form and function. Key features of the design include modern dining and bar areas, a large pool with a dedicated family pool area and a resort-style pool bar, enhanced waterfront and dock access, covered parking, and dedicated event space.

Construction is planned to begin next Spring with a Grand Opening targeted for Fall 2028. CYC will remain fully open and operational throughout the construction period, ensuring members can continue to enjoy the Club without interruption. CYC invites members, guests, and the broader Clearwater community to be part of this historic chapter, where tradition meets innovation and the spirit of Clearwater sails on. For more information, visit ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

HALE SENIOR CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Luncheons (for ages 50+) Wednesdays at noon. \$6/rec card, \$7/no card (per month)

July 8th: Stars & Stripes theme, August 12th: Cruising Along theme
Pancake Breakfast (for ages 50+) Every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30am. \$4/rec card, \$5/no card

Wreath Making (for ages 50+) Mondays from 1-4pm. \$25/rec card, \$35/no card (per month)

July 13th: Summer/Welcome Wreath, August 10th: Sunflower Wreath
Vintage Vibes Dance Nights (for ages 50+) 4th Thursday of every month from 6-8pm. \$5/person

Ukulele Lessons for Beginners (for ages 50+) Thursday, July 2nd, 9th, and 16th from 6-7:30pm. \$12/rec card, \$15/no card

Free Seminar: Telemarketing Fraud Tuesday, July 14th at 10am. Free to attend, walk-ins welcome.

All events are at the Hale Senior Activity Center, 330 Douglas Avenue. Call (727) 298-3299 or visit Dunedin.gov for more information.

STUDIO 1212

Submitted by Colleen Baxter

Our Fine Art Sale runs through August 30th at 234 Monroe Street in downtown Dunedin. In its 55th year and voted Best three years in a row, this charming boutique gallery also offers smaller fine art originals and prints, hand crafted items such as jewelry, unique wood sculptures, note cards, journaling notebooks all perfect for those special gifts. View additional art in the artists' galleries, workshops offered, gallery news, and other events at Studio1212.org.

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.



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