

Priceless!

Priceless!

TAMPA BAY INFORMER

Volume VI, Issue 9 • Pinellas Edition • www.tampabayinformer.com

The Good News Newspaper



"The American Matisse"

"What is more fantastic than dancing? It's all about love, it's all about life," Pierre Matisse says, as he explains one of his paintings enthusiastically in a debonair French accent during a recent art show...

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Dogs Dig Downtown

On May 9th, Cleveland Street went to the dogs! But don't worry, they had their owners with them.

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Meet Nicholas!

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is asking what the 4th of July means to your child by starting a contest...

Read more pg. 6



The Space Shuttle Atlantis takes off at Cape Canaveral
Photo by Wayne Cathel

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Seven-Person NASA Crew Completes Historic Space Shuttle Mission

by Matt V. Phillips

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CA

"At last!" was the first quote appropriately spoken by Space Shuttle Commander Scott Altman during the crew press conference from the tarmac of Edwards Air Force base in California. He uttered these words about 4 hours after the Space Shuttle Atlantis landed safely at their alternate landing site after a successful Mission and extended stay in space.

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MOMENTUM BUILDS ECONOMY

by Brittany Perkins

CLEARWATER

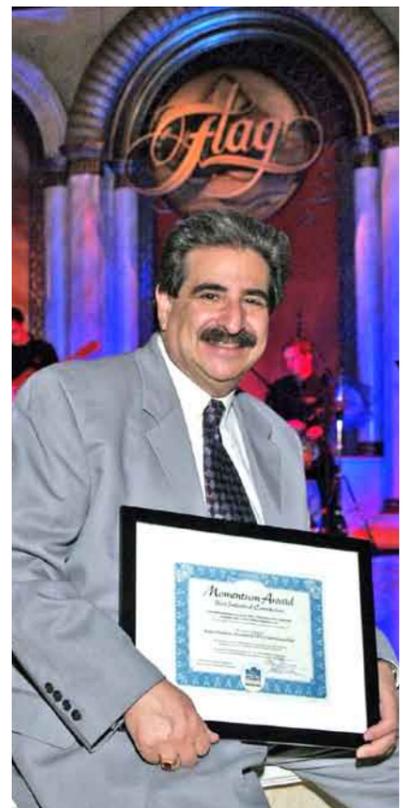
To honor the dedicated efforts of local businesses and individuals, the Clearwater Downtown Partnership (CDP) held their aptly-named "Momentum Awards Ceremony" at the newly-renovated Ft. Harrison Hotel on Wednesday, May 13th. This is the second year for the Momentum Awards which encourage and acknowledge the positive efforts taken by Clearwater business owners and residents to build a healthy economic dynamic in the downtown area.

The night consisted of not only celebrating the successes of the past year, but also of sharing plans for the future. Nancy Howe, publisher of the Maddux Business Report, hosted the ceremonies and was joined by Vice-Mayor John Gibson, who highlighted plans for welcoming three new fine dining establishments to the Cleveland Street District in the next three months with three additional new restaurants in the works. Gibson went on to describe the newly-opened Capital Theater, formerly the Royalty Theater, which provides "the much needed cultural anchor to attract patrons to the Cleveland

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Louis (left) and Angie Chaconas (center) with Bill Sturtevant, Chairman of the Clearwater Downtown Partnership
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



Robert Freedman, President & CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



Read more pg. 5

Beth's Closet Gives Hope to Teenage Girls

by Heidi Lux

On May 8th, girls from the PACE Center for Girls (Practical Academic Cultural Education) were treated to some "prom magic." At the Hilton Carillon in St. Petersburg, the Beth Dillinger Foundation held a fashion show and luncheon to benefit the charity and the PACE program.



Read more pg. 8

"Got Jokes?" Brings Comedy to Tampa Bay

by Joshua T. Gillion

If laughter is truly the best medicine, these guys should require a prescription. Got Jokes? is a rising star in the comedic sky, and one of the Tampa area's premiere improv comedy troupes. If you're looking for a side-splitting good time, they deliver!



Read more pg. 11

Pinellas Trail to be Enhanced

by Joshua T. Gillion

The City of Clearwater has been awarded \$1.39 million in stimulus money, under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, to enhance the section of the Pinellas Trail traversing downtown Clearwater.



Crew of the Space Shuttle Atlantis - Photo by Matt V. Phillips

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

by Matt V. Phillips

Continued from front page

Altman continued, "When we got to Florida (for the liftoff) I turned and said to everyone "At last" (since it took so long to get to that point). I didn't realize it was going to be so hard to get back to the Earth, landing here just felt great to everybody." Altman added "Again, I guess I say the same thing: At last we are back on the ground."

The planned 11-day mission ended up lasting 12 days, 21 hours, 37 minutes and 9 seconds due to poor weather conditions in the Cape Canaveral, FL area which forced NASA officials to wave off the probable landings in Florida on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, ultimately resulting in the decision to use the backup landing site in California.

This was the 53rd time that the Shuttle has had to use Edwards Air Force Base as a landing site, while 70 landings have occurred at the preferred site at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and 1 landing at the other alternate U.S. landing site in White Sands Space Harbor, New Mexico.

During a press conference held at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate Ed Weiler said, "Now and only now can we declare this mission a total success — the astronauts are safely on the ground."

Weiler called NASA's Hubble Space Telescope "the great comeback story". He added, "The public continues to be captivated by the telescope's images of the universe

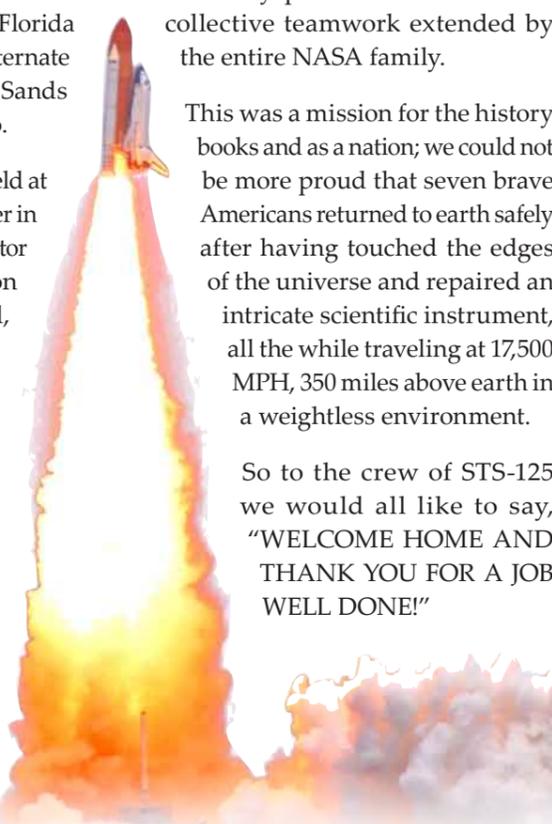
and he hopes to see Hubble operate into its third decade of service."

During the Mission, the seven-person crew of "space surgeons" worked in complete harmony with their "patient", the Hubble Telescope and their ground support "surgical team" to complete all scheduled repairs during the 5 EVA's (extra vehicular activities – a.k.a. spacewalks). The challenges of years of planning and hundreds of hours of practice gave way to the exuberance of accomplishment as the hatch door closed after the last EVA on Monday, May 18, 2009 and the crew breathed a sigh of relief knowing that all of their ambitious goals had been reached.

If you were "obsessed" with the live NASA coverage like many Americans, the 2 things that you had to be impressed by was the attention to detail by every member of the NASA team and the incredibly positive nature of the collective teamwork extended by the entire NASA family.

This was a mission for the history books and as a nation; we could not be more proud that seven brave Americans returned to earth safely after having touched the edges of the universe and repaired an intricate scientific instrument, all the while traveling at 17,500 MPH, 350 miles above earth in a weightless environment.

So to the crew of STS-125 we would all like to say, "WELCOME HOME AND THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!"



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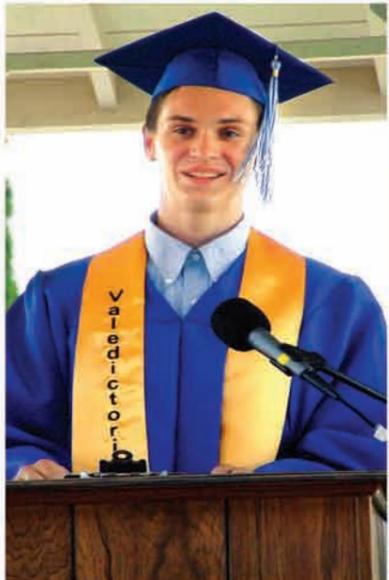


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VITAMIN D: THE SUNSHINE VITAMIN

by Shelley Jaffe



Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin (meaning it is dissolved in fat) that is produced internally by the body when ultraviolet rays from the sun hit the skin. There are two forms of vitamin D produced by living creatures: D-2 and D-3. Vitamin D-2 is produced by invertebrates, fungus and plants. Vitamin D-3 is produced by human bodies. Therefore vitamin D-3 is generally the most commonly recommended since it is the one our bodies produce.

Vitamin D is essential in calcium absorption in the digestive tract and maintaining proper calcium and phosphate levels which enable mineralization of the bone and bone development. If the body doesn't have enough vitamin D, bones can become brittle, thin or deformed. It is a component in the prevention of osteoporosis.

Vitamin D has other roles in human health, including proper function of the neuromuscular and immune system and reduction of inflammation, as well as the prevention of breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, weight gain and depression. Deficiencies in vitamin D may also be linked with dementia, including Alzheimer's. According to the May 2009 issue of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, there is enough evidence to indicate that further research should be done to explore

links between vitamin D deficiency and dementia.

Vitamin D is naturally present in very few foods and the only other way to get this vitamin besides supplements, is the sun. But most people don't want to expose themselves to the sun without protection because of the risk of skin cancer.

So how do you know you're getting enough? According to the National Institute of Health, levels of D in the bloodstream do not typically decrease until the vitamin D deficiency is severe, so blood tests can be inaccurate. The current recommended daily dose of vitamin D is 200 IU for people up to age 50, 400 IU for people ages 51 to 70 and 600 IU for people over the age of 70. But most scientists and experts agree that just isn't enough. Boston University Vitamin D expert, Dr. Michael Holick, MD recommends a dose of 1,000 IU a day. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends at least 400 IU for children from infants to teens. And the Vitamin D Council, a group of respected medical doctors and scientists who are trying to educate people on this nutrient, recommends that healthy adults take 2,000 IU of vitamin D daily.

But can you get too much and how would you know? Too much can cause nausea, constipation, confusion and abnormal heart rhythm. As with any supplement, it is best to consult a competent professional to determine how much you should be taking.

Shelley Jaffe is a Certified Nutritional Consultant and the Executive Director of Peter Gillham's Nutrition Center in Downtown Clearwater.

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Call the store and mention this article to receive a free introductory nutritional consultation. We welcome your comments and questions.

TAMPA BAY INFORMER

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CORRECTION: JOHN WILSON

An article in Volume VI, Issue 8 about the Sunscreen Film Festival mistakenly stated that actor Patrick Wilson's father's name is "Brian Wilson". The article should have said his father is **John Wilson**, the co-anchor of the FOX 13 6-O'clock News and the FOX 13 10-O'clock News and offers an Emmy-winning weekly commentary called "My View."

TAMPA BAY INFORMER'S PURPOSE

"To improve the community by raising awareness and responsibility and providing solutions to community issues.

We are achieving this purpose by publishing informative articles related to issues in the community which include community activities sponsored by non-profit and civic groups. Our articles invite members of the community to get involved and take action to help improve our community.

Our advertisers help fund our purpose, and in turn, our marketing department is continuously expanding our circulation and increasing the exposure of our advertisers, resulting in expansion of their businesses."



Editor
Angela LeMay



FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF JIM COATS

for our deputies to respond to them. Fewer false alarms will contribute to the efficiency of deputies on patrol, by freeing them up to respond to other calls for service.

The ordinance covers the unincorporated area of Pinellas County and the 12 cities that contract with us for law enforcement services. The contract cities are Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shore, Belleair Beach, Dunedin, Indian Rocks Beach, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Oldsmar, Redington Beach, Safety Harbor, Seminole and South Pasadena.

In order to assist home and business owners in all of these areas in complying with the new county alarm ordinance we have created the Sheriff's Alarm Registration Program, or "SHARP."

Alarm subscribers registered with SHARP who experience a false alarm event due to equipment malfunction or other related problems receive two free

passes annually on false alarms. Home or business alarm owners who are not registered with Sharp do not receive any free passes and will be subject to a fine as identified in the schedule below.

# of Alarms	Fine Per Alarm	
1-3	\$175 4	\$200
5	\$250 6	\$400
7 and above		\$600

Registered alarm owners who experience more than two false alarm events in one revolving year will be subject to fines, as identified below:

# of Alarms	Fine Per Alarm	
3	\$75 4	\$100
5	\$150 6	\$300
7 and above		\$500

An appeals process is available to both registered and non-registered subscribers. Fines will be collected by the Sheriff's Office after the alarm subscriber is notified following a violation.

There is no registration fee to sign up with SHARP.

There are several ways to register: Go to Pinellas County Sheriff's

Office website at www.pcsoweb.com and click on the SHARP icon to fill out the registration form online. Click on the Sheriff's Office link on the Pinellas County Government website at www.pinellascounty.org, or from the websites for any of the twelve contract cities. Pick up a SHARP registration form at the following locations;

Pinellas County Sheriff's Administration Building
10750 Ulmerton Rd., Largo
Pinellas Sheriff's North District Office
737 Loudon Avenue, Dunedin
Pinellas County Courthouse - Information Desk
315 Court Street, Clearwater
The city halls of the Sheriff's twelve contract cities.

For more information on SHARP or for answers to questions about registration, please call (727) 582-2870 or email sharp@pcsonet.com.

We look forward to working with home and business owners as we transition into compliance with the new county ordinance.



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Pam Ryan Anderson

OPTIONS IF YOU ARE IN TROUBLE WITH YOUR MORTGAGE

Although reports are that single-family home sales is stabilizing, and prices will soon stop going down, I know from personal conversations with many people, that most homeowners that are in trouble with their mortgages do not know what to do to fix the problem they are having now. I've written about these same topics before, but I feel they are important enough to cover again.

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE MAKING YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

There are a few options available to you. The first and foremost thing is that you have to stay in communication with your lender, no matter how hard, time-consuming and frustrating that may be. One of my clients told me that it takes about an hour to get someone on the phone every time he calls his lender. Unfortunately, this is a very important step to saving your home.

And what do you do once you get them on the phone? Again, there are different options. One option is to tell your lender

you need a loan modification, which is simply having your lender re-write your mortgage for the current value of your property. This would lower your payments considerably in almost all cases. This is a time-consuming process however, simply due to the vast number of people that are in trouble with their mortgages. You will have to call every couple of days and really stay on top of getting this done. If you are persistent, most banks and lenders will work with you.

Now, interestingly enough, some lenders are even starting to do loan modifications for investors, or for a second home. Previously, lenders would only consider a loan modification if it was for your primary home.

Another option is asking your lender to lower the interest on your loan. Or another option is to ask for a longer time to pay off your loan, maybe adding 10 years onto the repayment of your loan.

If all else fails and you feel you really have to sell your home, there is always the possibility

of selling your home as a "short sale". A short sale is when the bank or lender agrees to accept less than you own on your mortgage, in order to sell the house. Almost all lenders would rather do a short sale than have a foreclosure, as they're really not in the business of owning property. When you sell your home through a short sale, you don't make any money at all, but in most cases, you also don't have to pay anything to sell your property, either.

If you are going to do a short sale, you really need to have someone help you who is experienced. But that doesn't mean you have to pay someone to help you do a short sale. There are a lot of criminals out there that are waiting for innocent people to come along so they can make a fast buck. As a short sale expert, I'm available to consult with you to see what your best options are. Please feel free to contact me, I'm here to help!

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Mr. Skolfield is an independent professional digital-image-capture photographer, 'writing with light', at home here in Clearwater, Florida.

You can contact him at 727-557-6407



CLEARWATER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC FORECASTING SUMMIT

Wednesday, June 24, 8-10am

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Clearwater Beach

Guest Speaker: Alejandro "Alex" M. Sanchez

President and CEO, Florida Bankers Association

Presentation "Banking on your Business" will delve into how Florida Banks have fared in response to the adverse press they have received and how they will move forward. Alex will discuss what businesses can expect from banks for the remainder of 2009 and 2010.



He will also address when he thinks access to capital will ease and how businesses can prepare for this change. He will discuss when and how he feels the economic stimulus package will impact Florida.

As President and CEO of the Florida Bankers Association, Alex Sanchez "IS" the leading voice for Florida's banking industry.

Chamber Members \$20 Non-Members \$25 must RSVP.

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ST. PETE COLLEGE OFFERS CHIROPRACTIC PROGRAM

by Heidi Lux

ST. PETERSBURG

Starting in September 2009, St. Petersburg College (SPC) will be partnering with the National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) to offer a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine program.

This program will train students to be the first-call, primary care doctor and not just a "back doctor" patients see on the side. Graduates from this program will be qualified to diagnose, treat and manage a wide variety of conditions. They will be able to help patients manage anything from asthma to diabetes and heart health to allergies as well as joint and spinal care; with treatments including nutrition, lifestyle counseling and supplements, among other natural care techniques.

Chiropractors offer a valuable and valid alternative to mainstream medical care. SPC and NUHS will be providing their students with a full medical curriculum, with an emphasis on basic science, and "Of course they also receive a solid curriculum in neuromusculoskeletal care as well as a comprehensive set of drug-free and surgery-free health care modalities," says Tracy Litsey, a representative for the NUHS.

The NUHS program is based on a philosophy of integrative medicine; i.e. students are trained and encouraged to work together both with MDs and other alternative-care professionals

to provide their patients with the best treatment solutions possible. Or, as Ms. Litsey put it: "Instead of competing with each other, we believe these different health professions can work together and learn from each other." This is why the NUHS campus in Illinois is one of only two in the country to host not only a DC degree program, but also degrees in naturopathic medicine, acupuncture and oriental medicine on the same campus. Only the DC program will be available at SPC this fall, but the NUHS hopes to introduce more of its programs in the future.

The NUHS was founded in 1906. Their main campus is located in Lombard, IL (a suburb of Chicago). Graduates of their DC program have gone on to become world leaders in the chiropractic profession. The NUHS has the highest admission and academic standards of any program in their field, they require enrolling students to first complete a bachelor's degree and are the only doctor of chiropractic medicine program in the country to do so.

The NUHS DC program at SPC will be one of only two doctor of chiropractic medicine programs in the state of Florida. NUHS is currently accepting applications for admission to its St. Petersburg DC program online at www.nuhs.edu, or through its Admissions Office at 1-800-826-6285.



The Momentum Awards took place at the newly renovated Fort Harrison Hotel. Photo by Randall Gillion

MOMENTUM BUILDS ECONOMY

by Brittany Perkins

Continued from front page

Street District," and which will be part of the ongoing "4th Friday" events.

Gibson also voiced the thoughts of many attendees when he stated, "The Cleveland Street District has experienced a series of successes during the past year despite the economic problems. It's truly amazing when you think about what was just announced about all the new businesses opening in downtown Clearwater."

There were in fact 25 businesses and 16 individuals nominated among four categories of awards this year. However, the most prominent emotion was not competition, but camaraderie.

"If one business markets heavily, they actually not only help themselves, but they help others because people want a variety. Everyone is coming together. That was our dream four years ago," explains Karla Jo Helms, CDP committee member. The encouragement of marketing and public relations for local businesses actually spurred the creation of a new award category: "Best/Most Creative Marketing Plan".

This year a Special Humanitarian Award was also bestowed upon longtime business owner Angie Chaconas of Angie's Restaurant. Originally from Greece, Angie shared with us her memories of hunger during the political conflicts at that time which continue to spur her to help others to this day. Angie provides meals to those who are needy every Thanksgiving and is happy she can continue the tradition in memory of her family and their journey to "the land of opportunity."

The other award winners were:

- Most Improved Property – Ft. Harrison Hotel
- Individual Contribution – Robert Freedman, CEO Ruth Eckerd Hall
- Business Sustainability – Chiang Mai Thai Restaurant
- Best/Most Creative Marketing Plan – "Miracle on Cleveland Street" by PostcardMania/Joy Gendusa

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BETH'S CLOSET GIVES HOPE TO TEENAGE GIRLS

by Heidi Lux



Christina Battaglia models Ambria's Gallery of Wearable Art - Photo by Heidi Lux

ST. PETERSBURG

On May 8th, girls from the PACE Center for Girls (Practical Academic Cultural Education) were treated to some "prom magic." At the Hilton Carillon in St. Petersburg, the Beth Dillinger Foundation held a fashion show and luncheon to benefit the charity and the PACE program.



Brittany Jahn received the Beth Dillinger Scholarship Photo by Heidi Lux

Created in 1983, the PACE center for girls "provides a non-residential delinquency prevention program in 18 locations statewide" for girls aged 12-19. The girls who enter the PACE program are "identified as dependent, truant, runaway, ungovernable, delinquent, or in need of academic skills." The program continues to monitor each girl's "educational and personal development" for three years upon completion of the program.

The theme of the afternoon was "Prom Magic" and girls from the PACE program arrived in style, courtesy of limousines donated by Ambassador Limousine, and wearing prom gowns donated by the Beth Dillinger foundation. Six girls from the PACE program got to strut the catwalk, emceed by Sheriff Jim Coats's wife, Cat. In order to model for the event, the PACE girls put their best foot forward.

The Beth Dillinger Foundation was started by Kay Dillinger, wife of Public Defender



Cat Coats emcees the "Prom Magic" fashion show Photo by Heidi Lux

Bob Dillinger, and named after their late daughter, Beth. The foundation provides three different means of support. It gives "support and education to children and young women in need" through the Beth Dillinger Scholarship Fund - a scholarship for PACE students, Beth's Closet, which

provides clothing, shoes and accessories to PACE students, and The Hope Chest. Located in the Public Defender's Office, it supplies basic necessities, like clothes, shoes, pajamas, personal hygiene items, bedding and books to abused, neglected or abandoned children, many of whom are taken from their homes without their personal possessions, with only the clothes on their backs.

Beth Closet started out small, but quickly expanded, now offering clothes ranging from casual wear, to business suits, to prom gowns. "They turned a hope chest into a fashion boutique," said one attendee. Those benefitted by Beth's Closet are given unlimited clothes and supplies, and girls who had nothing have gone in and left with three full bags of clothes. "They're not asking for a hand-out, they're asking for a hand-up," said Dick Crippin, one of the speakers that afternoon.

At the luncheon, Brittany Jahn received the Beth Dillinger Scholarship. She was once struggling in school, and is now going to PTEC to study to be a nurse. She was in the PACE program for 2 1/2 years. Clothes for the programs have been donated by Macy's at Tyrone Square in St. Petersburg, and survival kits have been donated by girl scout troops. The Spirit of Hope Award was given to Macy's, to which the store manager stated, "We're grateful to do it."

Proceeds from the luncheon benefited the Beth Dillinger Foundation, Beth's Closet at PACE Center for Girls and The Hope Chest.

To learn more about these programs, visit bethscloset.com and pacecenter.org



Girls from the PACE Center Photo by Heidi Lux

"THE AMERICAN MATISSE"

by Heidi Lux

ST. PETERSBURG

"What is more fantastic than dancing? It's all about love, it's all about life," Pierre Matisse says, as he explains one of his paintings enthusiastically in a debonair French accent during a recent art show at the Michael Murphy Gallery in Tampa.

Dubbed "The American Matisse", Pierre Matisse cannot help but paint. It is in his blood. "Basically, I was born in an art studio," Matisse explains. "I love art. It is something inbred in me." His grandfather was, of course, the great French Fauvist painter and sculptor Henri Matisse, his mother Louise Milhau was a painter, sculptor and ceramist, and his father Jean Matisse was a sculptor. As a child, Pierre



Pierre Matisse with his work, "Spirit of America" Photo by Simaen Skolfield

lived in Montparnasse, the artistic section of Paris and Costa Brava (an artistic section of Spain where Salvador Dali lived). He also spent time in the French Rivera, where he was exposed to the great artists of the early 20th century including, (of course) Henri Matisse and Henri Matisse's friend and rival, Pablo Picasso. "I spend the best years of my childhood in my grandfather's studio. It was like being a kid in a candy store," Pierre reminisces. "I had no idea they were famous," and found them to be "very passionate and enthusiastic people."

Pierre's art, alive and bright with eye-catching colors in active shapes that instantly communicate joie de vivre, is ironically influenced by one of history's darkest chapters, World War II. "It is a reaction



Matisse explains his painting, "Celebration Parisienne" to two young art students. Photo by Simaen Skolfield

to the sufferings of war," he says. Pierre lived history during his teenage years in Nazi-occupied France. He stood on one of the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, having just turned sixteen. His father worked with the British Intelligence Service and his mother and aunt were both arrested by the Germans. "This also impacted my art because I cherish my freedom and I had a pretty good look at how much it costs to keep it. There is no negotiation on freedom. Either you are a slave or you are free. There is nothing in between," says Pierre. "That is why I am an American - because America stands for freedom." Today, he bears the moniker, "The artist of love and freedom," for a very good reason.

"Graphic artists mature very old," says Pierre. "There are very few prodigies. In music you have a lot, but in art, very rare. I knew right away it would take me a long time to become a real artist." So, after the war, Pierre got a degree in antique restoration, volunteered for a French outfit in Algeria, and spent time gathering the life experience his paintings would later require. He even worked on a hydroelectric dam in Canada,

despite having a degree in Louis XIV, XV and XVI furniture. "You have to live life to the fullest so you can express it in your art," explains Pierre.

Pierre uses some of his childhood memories as inspiration.

For instance, "Fishes and Flowers and Frogs, Oh My!" was inspired by a pond he knew as a kid. He is inspired by Paris and Spain and paints flowers of his own invention. His work is like fireworks, a burst of spectacular and colorful energy that dazzles the eye. Pierre makes his magic using cutouts, drawing, pastels, oils and mixed media.

Pierre did the official poster for the 2002 winter Olympics in Utah. To view his work, visit www.matissemuseum.com



Pierre demonstrates his craft. Photo by Simaen Skolfield



A visitor admires "La Joie de Vivre." Photo by Simaen Skolfield

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Nicholas, one of the friendly dolphins at the Aquarium - Photo © Clearwater Marine Aquarium

MEET NICHOLAS!

4th Of July Extravaganza at the Aquarium

by Joshua T. Gillion

CLEARWATER

The Fourth of July. The phrase conjures memories of hotdogs, apple pie, family picnics and fireworks – and thoughts of freedom, liberty and patriotic pride. For each of us perhaps it means something a little different, but for all of us it means something. Now the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is asking what it means to your child, with a contest for children ages 5 to 15. Six winners will be chosen for a meeting with the CMA dolphins, and the chance-of-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of the dolphin show at the Fourth of July extravaganza.

To enter, simply email the CMA at jhatter@cmaquarium.org with the child's name and age and the child's explanation of what Independence Day means to them.

This contest is part of the Aquarium's first

ever Fourth of July celebration extravaganza. The event will include live music, food and activities for the whole family – even an Independence Day-themed dolphin show. There will be plenty of fun for everyone!

Admission to CMA is \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors (ages 60 and over) and \$7.50 for kids (ages 3-12). Picnic fare is available for additional purchase at \$5 for adults, \$4 for children.

The CMA also has an 11-week summer camp beginning Monday June 8th and running through August 21st. Spaces are filling up quickly, so visit www.cmaquarium.org for registration information.

For more information on the Fourth of July celebration or summer camp, contact Jeni Hatter at jhatter@cmaquarium.org or at (727) 441-1790 ext. 228.

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SINGER/ACTOR PAUL WILSON TO PERFORM ON SAT, JUNE 20 AT THE SUNSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

ST. PETERSBURG

Singer/Actor Paul Wilson has been added as a special guest performer at the upcoming Sunscreen Film Festival concert/fundraiser on June 20th at the Ft. Harrison Hotel. The event features the concert "Hit Songs From Movie and Stage" and will be accompanied by the screening of two entertaining and uplifting short films, as well as great desserts and libations. Paul will join the fabulous "Broadway & Beyond" group, featuring Joanie Sigal and Tom Godfrey, the nimble fingers of Jim Nelson backed by the mellow tones of the Fort Harrison Band. "Broadway and Beyond" has performed all over the Tampa Bay area and has delighted audiences with their mix of Broadway hits and comedic timing. Paul Wilson has sung with some of the country's most prestigious orchestras and conductors including Robert Shaw, Leonard Slatkin and Skitch Henderson, and has performed in American Stage productions of Shakespeare in the Park.



Actor and singer Paul Wilson



A still from the short film, "Validation"

Heartwarming, Enchanting, Award Winning Short Films "Struck" and "Validation" to be Shown

We are excited to be screening "Struck", a short film that has won over 12 film awards over the past year, as well as being an official selection at the Cannes Online Film Festival. The film was produced by Nathan Lorch and directed by Taron Lexton, whose award-winning ads and short films have been featured on MTV, Fox and the Discovery Channel. The star-studded cast features Bodhi Elfman, Beth Riesgraf, Nancy Cartwright, Jason Dohring, Marisol Nichols, Jenna Elfman, Kelly Preston, Jennifer Aspen, Erika Christensen and Ethan Suplee.

We are also screening the heartwarming short film "Validation" - the story of a parking lot attendant that changes the lives of everyone he meets. How

he does this will inspire you and bring a smile to your face. Validation is directed by Kurt Kuenne (named one of the Top 25 New Faces of Indie Film by Filmmaker Magazine) and stars Jonathan Atkinson.

If you missed these uplifting short films at the Sunscreen Film Festival, don't miss this chance to see them now and be part of our celebration.

Tickets are \$20 per person or \$200.00 for a table of ten.

- Cash Bar
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- In Downtown Clearwater
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Visit the official site to get your tickets now at: sunscreenfilmfestival.com/news

Or call (727) 446-8883 for more information.

Saturday, June 20th, 2009

Doors open at 7:30pm—show starts at 8:00pm
Ft. Harrison Hotel—210 S. Ft. Harrison Ave.



CLEARWATER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Fashions with Flair

2009 ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

AUGUST 29TH, 2009

Hello! My name is Pam Ryan Anderson and I am the Executive Director of the Clearwater Community Volunteers (CCV).

The 2009 Annual "Fashions with Flair" Silent Auction and Fashion Show fundraising event will be held at the Belleair Country Club on Saturday, August 29th. We anticipate 400 attendees from the greater Clearwater region. There will be a silent auction, great food and many surprise guests in attendance, as well as participating in the fashion show as models. In the past our Fashion Show models have included numerous women notable for their leadership roles in our community, such as Pinellas County Commissioner Susan Latvala, Florida House Representative Kim Berfield, Cat Coats, wife of Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats, Kay Dillinger, wife of 6th Judicial Circuit Public Defender Bob Dillinger, Linda Greco, wife of former Tampa Mayor Dick Greco and Margaret Word-Burnside, publisher of Tampa Bay Magazine.

Since 1994, Clearwater Community Volunteers has raised money, food and toys for family and children's charities such as the Police Athletic League, the CL Kennedy Community Center, Boys & Girls Club, The Homeless Emergency Project, the Red Cross, Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Northern Florida, Suncoast Region, victims of Hurricane Katrina and, of course, Winter Wonderland.

Once again this year, the proceeds from the Silent Auction and Fashion Show will go to benefit Winter Wonderland and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Northern

Florida, Suncoast Region. This organization grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

We invite your participation. We are requesting a donation of your product or service for this year's event. We have a huge silent auction every year with a variety of items of all price ranges and your product or service would be a wonderful addition.

CCV is a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt organization with the purpose of helping to create a better community for all citizens in Clearwater and Pinellas County. CCV is affiliated with the Church of Scientology and since 1994 has produced many charitable events to help families and children, including the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Coachman Park, "Say No to Drugs Holiday Classic" race and "Winter Wonderland". Winter Wonderland donates food and toys to Everybody's Tabernacle and other local charities.

Your donation is tax deductible - our tax exempt number is 85-8012598790C-2. This is going to be a fabulous event and your help will make it even more special! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the number below. Also contact me or any member of the Clearwater Community Volunteers if you would like tickets for this year's show.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely, Pam Ryan Anderson
Executive Director

(727) 432-1528

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Park opens 12 noon to 10 pm

On June 13th and 14th, the 17th Annual Tampa Bay Caribbean Carnival will take place in the Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg, and will feature concerts from Sean Paul, Soca Queen Allison Hinds on Sunday. The carnival will feature live steel band music, ethnic food and crafts, and a "Mas" Costume parade on Sunday. To get more information, and to view the schedule, visit tampacarnival.com.

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DOGS DIG DOWNTOWN

by Heidi Lux



Dogs competed in races at the festival
Photo by David Ziff

a Hedgehog Rescue present. The Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida was there to do away with any false ideas about Siberian Huskies, such as the myth owners should shave their dogs during the summer months. The coat of the Siberian Husky, thick as it is, actually insulates the dogs from both the hot and the cold.



Scott Traylor and Sheri-lyn Shepler, publishers of Gulfcoast Dog Magazine
Photo by David Ziff



Puppies up for adoption at the festival
Photo by David Ziff

CLEVELAND STREET DISTRICT, CLEARWATER

On May 9th, Cleveland Street went to the dogs! But don't worry, they had their owners with them. The 4th Annual Pet Festival was held in the Cleveland Street District, between East Avenue and Ft. Harrison. Animal lovers and the animals they love browsed booths while picking up information on canine-related issues.

Dogs of all shapes and sizes and breeds were there to see and be seen, and to compete in the festival's races. Gail Michailides and her four year-old Bichon Frise came all the way from New Hampshire just to be there and Millie even won one of the races!

A rescue society representing nearly every dog breed was present and there was even

available for adoption. The Suncoast Animal League also offered free micro-chipping for small pets. Microchips are an identification system for pets that can serve as a backup if a pet collar is somehow removed. The Pinellas County Animobile, a "mobile surgical unit staffed with skilled and experienced veterinarians and veterinary technicians" was parked on the street. The Animobile offers spay and neutering services, as well as rabies vaccines.



Two Newfoundlands with their owner (left), Cleveland the Cat (center) and Geri Aranjo (right)
Photo by David Ziff

The event was sponsored by the Clearwater Downtown Development Board to "showcase downtown businesses in the Cleveland Street District," and was a wrap-up for National Pet Week.

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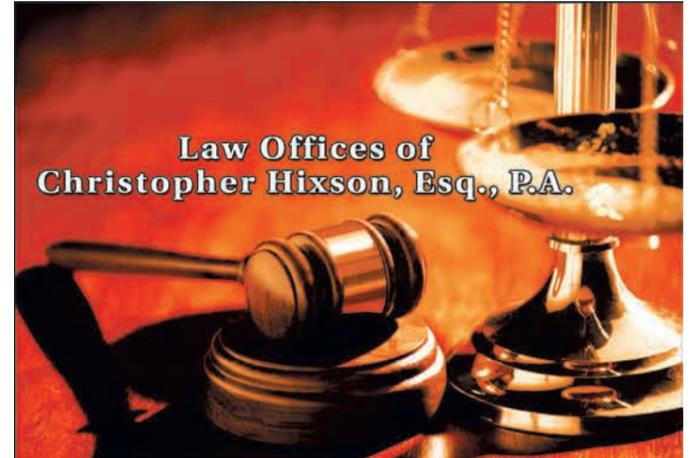
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"GOT JOKES?" BRINGS COMEDY TO TAMPA BAY

by Joshua T. Gillion



The cast of "Got Jokes?"
Photo by Brian Leighty

TAMPA

If laughter is truly the best medicine, these guys should require a prescription. "Got Jokes?" is a rising star in the comedic sky, and one of the Tampa area's premiere improv comedy troupes. If you're looking for a side-splitting good time, they deliver! Their show is a high-energy, in-your-face style

of short-form improv driven by the crowd. The audience is involved with everything from scene suggestions to direct participation in the show. Nothing is more enjoyable than getting up on stage and exchanging quips and lines with the cast while seeing how they react and mold their show with whatever they are given. In the words of Daniel "Motown Pride" Jefferson, founder of Got Jokes?, "[It] is an interactive comedy experience whose goal is to unite the masses through laughter. Got Jokes? is simply whatever you want it to be, with our creative spin."

The cast of Got Jokes? is a mix of stand-up comics, spoken-word artists, trained improv comedians and actors that have come together to create a unique comedic expression. They obviously have fun on stage, which adds to the show's energy and

vibe. Daniel states, "I wanted to create a diverse unit that could perform in any venue for any demographic. I wanted to see what would happen if I assembled contrasting comedic styles and different artists into one room and reinvented the art of free style performance. The result was something unique that is very difficult to emulate. It makes you want to be a part of the action." The group has been a success, having found



The cast of "Got Jokes?" during an improv scene
Photo by Brian Leighty

a faithful following in the Tampa Bay area. They have performed venues including the Sidesplitters Comedy Club and Tampa's premiere comedy club, The Improv. The future will only bring more. Beginning June 7th, Got Jokes? will be hosting an amateur variety show/competition, every Sunday at 6pm, at Nova 535 in St. Petersburg. Daniel describes the show as "... Gong Show meets American Idol meets Whose Line is It Anyway? It's an original contest that brings the excitement of watching contestants try to realize their dreams while allowing the crowd to become an interactive part of the show."

This promises to be a great evening of laughter and good times! Got Jokes? Has two remaining shows upcoming at The Improv: June 24th and July 22nd. Don't miss it!

For more information, see our full Q&A with Daniel online at www.tampabayinformer.com and visit the Got Jokes? website at www.gotjokesimprov.com

CITY OF CLEARWATER AWARDS LOCAL HOMEOWNERS

by Joshua T. Gillion



Mayor Hibbard presents the Neighborhood of the Year Award at the City Council meeting. Photo by David Ziff

CLEARWATER

At the Clearwater City Council meeting on Thursday, May 21st, the City of Clearwater Neighborhood Services Division presented their annual Neighborhood of the Year and Home of the Year awards for 2008/2009.

The awards are presented as part of the city's Neighborhood and Home Recognition Program. This program was established in 2001 to celebrate "the uniqueness of Clearwater's many neighborhoods and its residents," according to their website, and giving the City of Clearwater an opportunity "to recognize those neighborhoods and

residents that make a commitment each day to improving the quality of life for all residents in Clearwater."

The Edgewater Drive Neighbors Homeowners Association took this year's Neighborhood of the Year Award and given in acknowledgement of "a neighborhood whose work and activities have resulted in less neighborhood crime and fewer code violations, and/or increased neighborhood involvement and empowerment," according to a City of Clearwater press release.

The Home of the Year Award, recognizing "a homeowner who has made significant improvements to his or her property and enhanced the neighborhood's appearance," was presented to Peter and Dona Leach of 1715 Sunset Drive.

These awards recognize hard work, pride in ownership as well as commitment to

improving the quality of life in Clearwater. The city also presents Neighborhood of the Quarter and Homeowner of the Quarter awards as part the program.

For additional information about the program or to download a nomination form, visit www.myclearwater.com/neighborhoods



Peter and Donna Leach accepting the Home of the Year Award - Photo by David Ziff

CITY, CITIZENS, COPS AND CUTS

by Heidi Lux



The East Gateway (aka five points to water) neighborhood

is run for the most part efficiently, but could save by reducing the number of bike team staff as well as eliminating the Beach Walk team, despite the fact that Clearwater already has the lowest officer-to-1,000 citizens ratio for any tourist destination city in Florida and that crime in the beach area has been significantly reduced.

However, even if the city does not cut back on the police, the city must make

cuts. During the same city council meeting, citizens also spoke against cuts to the North Greenwood library and complained about the service's already inconvenient hours. The possibility of shutting down libraries, or cutting back rec-center programs leads to the question posed by Mayor Hibbard: "Does Clearwater want to be a city with just a police department and a fire department?" Having a large police department, but no libraries or city art, is unlikely to increase the quality of life in the city, no matter how safe it feels. It would be a shame to cut those programs



The East Gateway Business & Neighbors Association

that do increase quality of life and draw both visitors and new residents to the area.

This is a tough issue for city officials who face a budget crunch that will, unfortunately, require them to make cuts somewhere. While this is bound to disappoint someone, whatever they decide to do they are working to the best of their ability to try to implement the will of the voters, save money and continue to make Clearwater a "nice place to live, work and play."

At that Thursday's city council meeting, no conclusion was drawn. The city must first determine what their final budget actually is. However, one thing Councilwoman Carlen Peterson did seem decided about: no more costly efficiency studies!

We'd like to hear what you have to say on this issue—Go to tampabayinformer.com to leave your opinion in our comment section.

CLEARWATER

On a rainy Thursday evening in late May, concerned citizens from the East Gateway neighborhood of Clearwater came together in the City Chambers to speak out regarding potential cutbacks to the police contingent in their neighborhood. The City of Clearwater is facing \$7 to \$13 million dollars worth of budget cuts. The City of Clearwater commissioned a matrix efficiency study to find out any areas of potential improvement or cost reduction. This study reported the police department

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CLEARWATER

Fred DeFelice, Florida-based owner of "Natural Water from Air", was one of the featured vendors at Clearwater's recent Living Green Expo. While participating in the event, he ran the contest of guessing how much money was hidden in a helium-filled balloon. Fred had the following words to say when awarding the contest winner:

"I am happy to report that I met with Stephanie Krenzelok last Monday and presented her with the grand prize of

\$86.00 in \$2 bills. She is a great gal and I enjoyed meeting with her. Stephanie was really impressed with our unit and is telling everyone about it!

"Stephanie is a full time student in pursuit of her Bachelors Degree. Justin, her husband of 2 1/2 years serves in the Air Force and is stationed at MacDill Air Force Base. "We wish her much success and extend our thanks to Justin for his service to our country."

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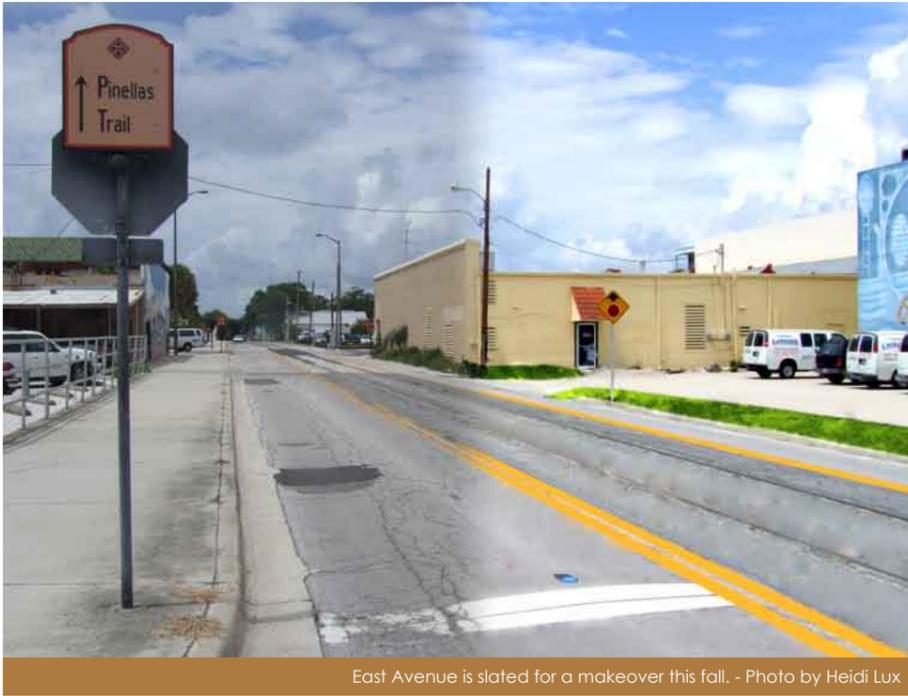
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PINELLAS TRAIL TO BE ENHANCED

by Joshua T. Gillion



East Avenue is slated for a makeover this fall. - Photo by Heidi Lux

addressed another concern: "I do have one more question along those lines," he said, "that has to do with the maintenance of the project after it's completed." His concern was put to rest however, as the pavement, striping and signage of the new bike path is replacing that of the existing roadway, all costs being absorbed by the current budget of maintaining that roadway – no additional expense to the city.

This project has good implications for downtown Clearwater, potentially attracting some of the Pinellas Trail's estimated 90,000 monthly users to within one block of many downtown restaurants and other businesses. It will also result in the resurfacing of East Avenue—which has long been overlooked due to issues with the railroad—with a new asphalt type ideal for bikes and pedestrians. This will further enhance the ongoing beautification of the downtown street-scape.

To qualify for federal stimulus funding, the city was required to submit complete design plans, ready for implementation. Speaking about the East Avenue proposal, Mayor Hibbard said, "This is a good project, and one of the only enhancement projects in the whole district that got money. So it rated very highly in an extremely competitive process."

Construction begins this fall, lasting 180 days. When complete, drivers will not have southbound access on East Avenue from Drew Street to Turner Street. Traffic will use alternative routes on Myrtle, Garden, or Fort Harrison avenues.

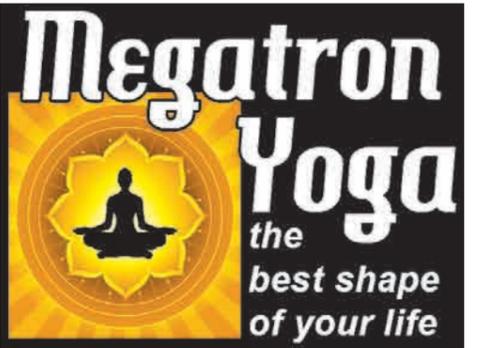
CLEARWATER

The City of Clearwater has been awarded \$1.39 million in stimulus money, under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, to enhance the section of the Pinellas Trail traversing downtown Clearwater.

When the Pinellas Trail opened in the 1990's, no designated trail was built through downtown Clearwater. A larger sidewalk was later built along East Avenue, from Drew Street to Turner Street, to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. The current

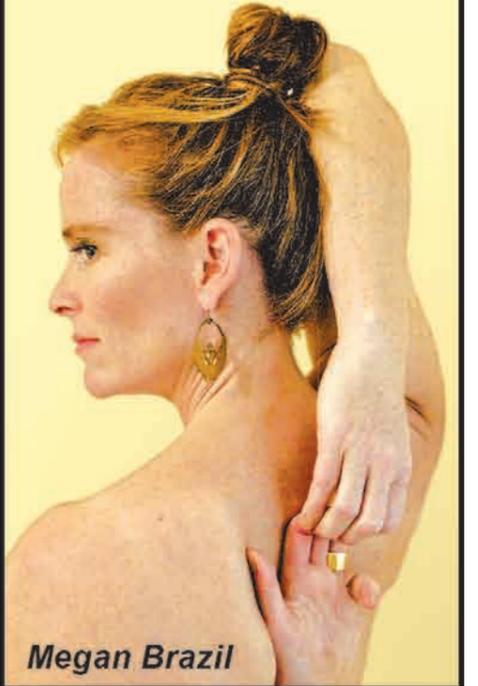
plan, approved for the federal stimulus money, will transform the southbound lane of East Avenue into a two-way bicycle lane, through this same stretch.

Councilman Cretekos, answering citizen's spending concerns, said, "This isn't the city's money, this is the federal government's money, which is still your money. But if we don't do it, what happens to the money? What happens is someone else spends the money anyway, in another town or county. He added, "So, this is an opportunity to do something for our citizens in Clearwater." Cretekos



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LONGENECKER SAYS KEEP THE "TROLLEY JOLLEY"

by Heidi Lux



The Jolley Trolley does its rounds on Clearwater Beach.

CLEARWATER BEACH

The fate of the Jolley Trolley could be in limbo, but newly-named Executive Director of the service, Bob Longenecker, has dedicated himself to saving Clearwater Beach's familiar yellow and red trademark. The city of Clearwater is in the tough position this year of having to make budget cuts, meaning the Jolley Trolley is likely to lose some or all of its funding. Longenecker says that the trolley could possibly take up to a \$20,000 budget cut, however if the trolley loses all of its funding, it is likely to go under. "If the city funding gets cut too dramatically, too fast, we don't see how we can be viable," Longenecker says. Currently, for every dollar of revenue the trolley receives, \$0.30 comes from city funding. The rest comes from fares, charters and advertising. Longenecker predicts that in the future, the trolley will require less subsidized funding from the city, but it is not there yet at the moment.

When appointed on April 1st, Longenecker immediately rolled up his sleeves and focused his efforts on improving the service. Within six weeks, he evaluated the trolley's

current operations, by conducting surveys of the public and businesses. He partnered with local businesses to sell advertising on the Jolley Trolley, created a website for the service, extended the office hours and made plans for an annual trolley pass. The Jolley Trolley, which costs \$2 per ride, \$1 for seniors and children ages 4-12, currently offers a day pass for \$6. Children three and under are free. In September, the trolley will unveil an annual pass, to sell in the \$300-\$400 range. Patrons will also be able to present their pass for discounts at local restaurants and shops.

Longenecker believes the trolley is a necessity in Clearwater Beach. "Clearwater Beach cannot lose any more tourist amenities," says Longenecker. "The Jolley Trolley is one of the tourist amenities that make Clearwater Beach what it is." It gives the area a certain charm and ambiance. Having a mode of transportation for visitors to get around provides tourists with a variety of activities to do, letting them get out and explore instead of being limited to the area near their hotel. "These people need variety or they won't be back next year," says Longenecker.

The Jolley Trolley also benefits locals. Having the trolley on the beach reduces the need for people to bring their cars, easing congestions in the area and making it easier to find parking.

In the future, Longenecker would like to see the trolley's downtown loop reinstated. Previous funding cuts forced the cancellation of the loop, but if it were brought back, the downtown area and the merchants would be more accessible to tourists visiting the beach, no doubt benefiting the economic growth of both sections of the city. It would also reduce automobile traffic going to the beach, further alleviating the congestion that can swell during weekends and holidays, as well as the convenience of easy parking downtown and a trolley ride to the beach could be enticing to local residents seeking to avoid the hassles of beach parking.

The Jolley Trolley runs from North Clearwater Beach to Island Estates to South Clearwater Beach. It is also available for weddings.

We'd like to hear what you have to say on this issue—Go to tampabayinformer.com to leave your opinion in our comment section.

Visit clearwaterjolleytrolley.com for more information.

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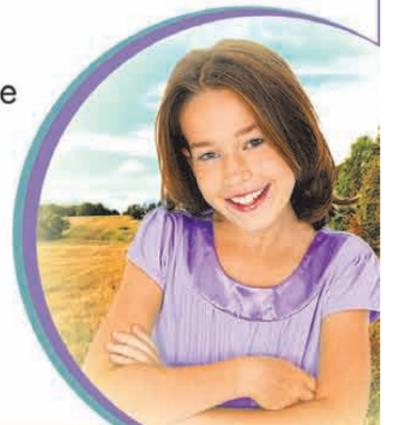
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