

2024

NEW MOVER  
GUIDE

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Thank you for supporting the  
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# BELOCAL

BEACHES & CLEARWATER

**FRONT COVER:**  
Indian Rocks Beach-Public Access  
Photographed by Bill Woerner  
www.billwoernerphotography

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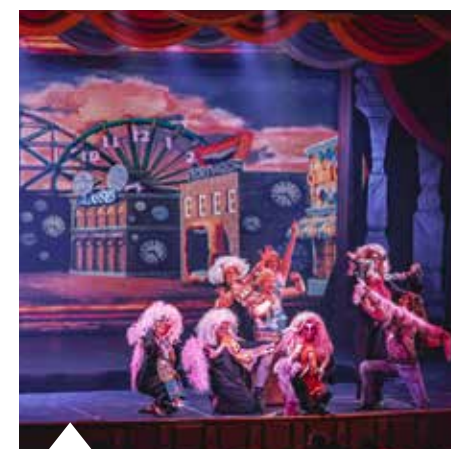
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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### POLICE DEPARTMENTS

911 Emergency  
 727-562-4242 Clearwater PD  
 727-587-6728 Largo PD  
 727-582-6200 Pinellas County Sheriff  
 727-587-6737 Belleair PD  
 800-873-8477 Pinellas Crime Stoppers  
 1-800-500-1119 Domestic Violence Hotline

### UTILITIES

727-462-4900 Clearwater Gas Company  
 727-464-4000 Pinellas County Utilities – Water/Sewer  
 727-562-4600 City of Clearwater – Sewer  
 727-298-3100 Dunedin Public Works – Water  
 727-298-3256 Dunedin Public Works – Sewer  
 727 588-3795 Belleair Water Dept.

### CABLE / INTERNET / PHONE

727-482-4000 Frontier Fios  
 727-329-5020 Spectrum  
 866-496-9669 Wow

### ELECTRIC SERVICE

727-443-2641 Duke Energy Florida

### HOSPITALS

727-588-5200 Largo Medical Center  
 727-462-7000 Morton Plant Hospital  
 727-398-6661 VA Medical Center

### MISC.

727-464-7777 Pinellas County Tax Collector  
 727-582-2600 Pinellas County Animal Control  
 727-588-6300 Pinellas County School Board  
 727-524-4410 Pinellas County Health Dept.  
 888-404-FWCC Florida Wildlife Conservatio Commission

### POST OFFICES

727-738-0661  
 1350 County Rd. 1,  
 Dunedin, FL 34698

727-464-2906  
 1851 N. Hercules Ave.,  
 Clearwater, FL 33765

727-394-0847  
 650 Cleveland St.,  
 Clearwater, FL 33755

727-464-2906  
 100 S. Belcher Rd.,  
 Clearwater, FL 33765

727-446-2331  
 1224 S. Highland Ave.,  
 Clearwater, FL 33756  
 Loc. in Highland Plaza Pharmacy

727-585-0301  
 50 Eighth Ave. SW,  
 Largo, FL 33779

727-319-8989  
 11321 Starkey Rd.,  
 Largo, FL 33773  
 Located in Mission Plaza

727-596-2894  
 204 Fourth Ave. N.,  
 Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

# WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME! ▶

DISCOVER WHY THE GREATER CLEARWATER AREA STANDS OUT AS THE PREMIER DESTINATION FOR FLORIDA LIVING, OFFERING UNPARALLELED LIFESTYLE AND AMENITIES.



Ready to unlock the treasure trove of hidden gems that Greater Clearwater has to offer? This vibrant area is not just about its stunning coastline, top-notch entertainment, extensive shopping options, and sprawling biking trails—it's also a foodie paradise! Whether you're a beach enthusiast, a culinary connoisseur, or an outdoor adventurer, the greater Clearwater area promises an abundance of experiences waiting to be discovered.

We understand that relocating can be both exhilarating and daunting. Settling into your new home, establishing routines, and discovering local services takes time. That's where BeLocal Greater Clearwater and Beaches Magazine comes in. Our mission is to make your transition smoother by offering insights, tips, and recommendations from local residents, who reveal all of their favorite hidden spots that truly make this area special.

Throughout this guide, you'll uncover these local favorites, connecting you with some of the finest local businesses, each passionately dedicated to serving their community. From charming boutiques to family-owned restaurants, these hidden gems offer a unique glimpse into the heart and soul of Clearwater.

By supporting these local enterprises, you're not just accessing quality products and services but also contributing to the growth of local jobs and families. Embrace this guide, venture out, and immerse yourself in all that this vibrant area has to offer. Whether you're looking for the perfect brunch spot, a unique gift, or a peaceful retreat, Clearwater's hidden gems await your discovery.

Got questions, want to shout out a remarkable local business, or need more resources for settling into your new home and community? Don't hesitate to reach out. Clearwater is brimming with hidden treasures, and we're here to help you find them all.

**DEVIN PAPPAS** >> Publisher, BeLocal Magazine  
 Devin.pappas@n2co.com >> 727.657.9615



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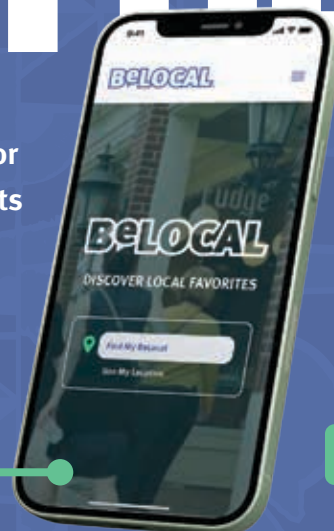
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# Your **BeLOCAL** Favorites ON THE GO

This magazine is your source for authentic tips and favorite spots from locals – but no need to take it with you to explore!

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**WELCOME TO THE SUNNY SHORES OF FLORIDA!** IF YOU'RE NEW IN TOWN AND ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RELIABLE SERVICES, LOOK NO FURTHER. AT BELOCAL BEACHES AND GREATER CLEARWATER MAGAZINE, WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON HIGH STANDARDS AND A RIGOROUS VETTING PROCESS FOR OUR ADVERTISERS.

Moving to a new place can be daunting, especially when it comes to finding trustworthy businesses. That's where we step in – your go-to for all your service needs. From plumbers to pet services, our network meets strict criteria for reliability.

Welcome to the Sunshine State, where the sun is shining, the people are friendly, and BeLocal Beaches and Greater Clearwater Magazine, is here to make your transition smooth.

**When you need any service, our trusted partners are ready to provide top-notch service, ensuring you feel at home in Florida. Support local businesses and become part of the community with our recommendations.**

Call us for all your needs – we're excited to help you make the most of your Florida adventure!

We would love to hear from you at [Devin.pappas@N2pub.com](mailto:Devin.pappas@N2pub.com) or text **727-657-9615** if you ever need a referral or want to recommend an awesome business that you have found.

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 FOR EVERYONE.



*Bill Voerner*  
 PHOTOGRAPHY

**beaches**

There is no doubt that the Gulf Coast has some of the best beaches anywhere in the world; in fact, Clearwater Beach has been ranked by Dr. Beach as the number-one beach in the world many years running. There is never a loss of things to do in Clearwater. If

you're looking for an adventurous happening place where all the tourists go, then this beach is your pick. However, there are so many beautiful beaches in the area each offering its own style; you might want to check out where the locals soak up the sun.



**Indian Rocks Beach**

While all of the tourists are stacked deep at Clearwater Beach, most locals head for the white sandy dunes of Indians Rocks Beach, where there are usually very few people on the beach, and you'll be able to spread out and enjoy a peaceful relaxing experience. After a long day at the beach, head to the original Crabby Bills on Gulf Boulevard at Fourth Avenue North for a premium adult beverage and a dozen fresh succulent oysters to start. Sit back and relax while listening to live music at their outdoor bar where a full menu is available for dinner.

**1700 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 34635**

**Indian Shores / Tiki Gardens**

This public-access beach is situated on 9.9 acres and offers restrooms, beach showers, a water fountain, and a 170-space parking area (parking fee charged).

**19601 Gulf Blvd.  
 Indian Shores, FL 34635**

**Clearwater Beach**

Clearwater Beach is one of the most beautiful (and most popular) beaches in the country. In fact, it's consistently ranked as one of the top beaches in the U.S. by authorities like TripAdvisor and Travel and Leisure. And it's no surprise why – the wide, sweeping, white-sand beach is absolutely stunning. And the warm, calm waters of the Gulf of Mexico are just unbeatable.

**Caladesi Island State Park**

This beautiful state park is located just off offshore from Dunedin and can be accessed by ferry, which operates 365 days a year and only costs \$6 per person (well worth the cost).

Caladesi Island State Park has a marina with floating docks with 30-amp electric service and water hookups. A covered pavilion with a grill is available for picnicking. A snack bar and gift shop are located in the marina. Some of the amenities include fishing, hiking, paddle boarding, picnicking, and swimming. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent.

**1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698  
 (727) 469-5918(ferry)**

**Honeymoon Island Beach State Park**

One of Florida's best-loved state parks, Honeymoon Island has more than four miles of beach to explore along with a three-mile trail through one of the last remaining virgin slash pine forests. A natural barrier island, this state park boasts pristine nature trails and abundant wildlife, including eagles, osprey, and great horned owls. Ground animals include raccoons, armadillos, and don't be surprised to see an endangered gopher tortoise walking across your path or hear the call of an osprey—or the bark of Fido, who may explore the dog beach, which is a half-mile hike off the main road. The Pinellas Trail has a spur that runs the length of the Dunedin Causeway right to the park entrance.

**1 Causeway Blvd. Dunedin, FL 34698  
 (727) 469-5942  
[www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland](http://www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland)**



county parks

**John S. Taylor Park**

Taylor Park consists of 156.5 acres, including a 53-acre fresh-water lake.

Discover the sport of disc golf on a course set in the natural beauty of this park that also hosts a tree-lined 1.8-mile multi-purpose shell trail.

Amenities include a ball field, boat ramp (non-motorized), disc golf, fishing, picnic area, playground equipment, restrooms, seven picnic shelters with grills, and is located on the Pinellas Trail.

**1100 Eighth Ave. SW.,  
Largo, FL 33770**

**Eagle Lake Park**

Great care was given to the restoration of the land's natural habitat during the park's development. One key feature is a wetlands section on the western side of the park, which has been restored with 100-percent native plants. The park is home to fox squirrels, numerous bird species, gopher tortoises, and water turtles.

Amenities include six picnic shelters, three restrooms, playground, dog park, a paved 12-foot wide recreation trail, numerous shell paths for walking and enjoying nature, 2,000 feet of boardwalks over restored wetlands, fishing, three vending stations

**1800 Keene Rd.,  
Largo, FL 33771**



*Bill Joerner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



LOCAL TIP



"One of the best-kept secrets is Sand Key Park. One of the most beautiful beaches with plentiful parking on beautiful Sand Key." – Deborah V.

*Bill Joerner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



*Bill Joerner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Sand Key Beach State Park**

This beautiful park has two distinct areas—a beach and a park. In the park proper are two picnic shelters with grills, a playground, a restroom, and a dog park. Grills, picnic tables, and water fountains are but a few amenities.

A salt marsh with viewing benches further enhances the park where heron, roseate spoonbill, great horned owl, anhinga, and common moorhen nest and feed.

Sand Key Park houses the base of operations for the artificial reef program, an interdepartmental cooperation program to build a reef in the Gulf. Sand Key Park's natural communities include a beach where sea turtles annually deposit eggs.

Amenities include a concession booth, boardwalk, nature trail, two beach wheelchairs, outdoor showers, two bathhouses with separate changing stalls and restrooms, parking (fee charged), dog park, playground, restrooms, two shelters with grills, umbrella and cabana rentals as well as kayak and bicycle rentals.

**1060 Gulf Blvd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 588-4852  
[www.pinellascounty.org/  
park/15\\_sand\\_key.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/15_sand_key.htm)**



**LOCAL TIP**



"Largo Central Park is beautiful to walk through during the holidays with all of the beautiful lights they put up." – **Dottie S.**



*Bill Woerner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**largo city**

**parks**

**Largo Central Park**

Largo Central Park is a beautiful, 70-acre park located in the heart of Largo. Its rolling grounds and fountains have set it apart as one of the finest parks in the county. Rainbow Rotary Playground is one of the only playgrounds in the Bay area completely accessible to disabled users.

**101 Central Park Dr.,  
Largo, FL 33771  
(727) 586-7415**

**George C. McGough Nature Park**

This park is also known as "the turtle park" for its abundant aquatic turtle population. Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and stroll through the shady oak hammock or through the mangroves along the Intercoastal waterway. Make sure you visit the nature center, which houses live animal exhibits and hands-on activities for children.

**11901 146th St. N., Largo,  
FL 33774  
(727) 518-3047**



**Largo Central Park Nature Preserve**

Largo Central Park Nature Preserve (LCPNP) is a 31-acre nature park virtually surrounded by water. The park is home to hundreds of wildlife species for viewing. Over 130 species of birds, otters, red fox, American alligator, marsh rabbits, wild turkey, and bats all feed or live within the park. A 5-mile kayak/canoe route begins at the park and ends at Park Boulevard. Due to environmental reasons fishing is not allowed at the park. Dogs are not allowed.

**150 Highland Ave. N., Largo, FL 33770  
(727) 586-7415**

**John R. Bonner Nature Park**

This park is Largo's best-kept secret! Bonner Park is on the Great Florida Birding Trail because of its diverse migratory bird population. Bonner Park features picnic facilities, nature trails, a playground, and a covered pavilion. This beautiful park overlooks the waterway.

**14444 143rd St. N., Largo, FL 33774**

**LOCAL TIP**



Make a point to watch the sunset at least three times a week—if not seven. My favorite spot is at Indian Rocks Beach. - **Jerilyn**

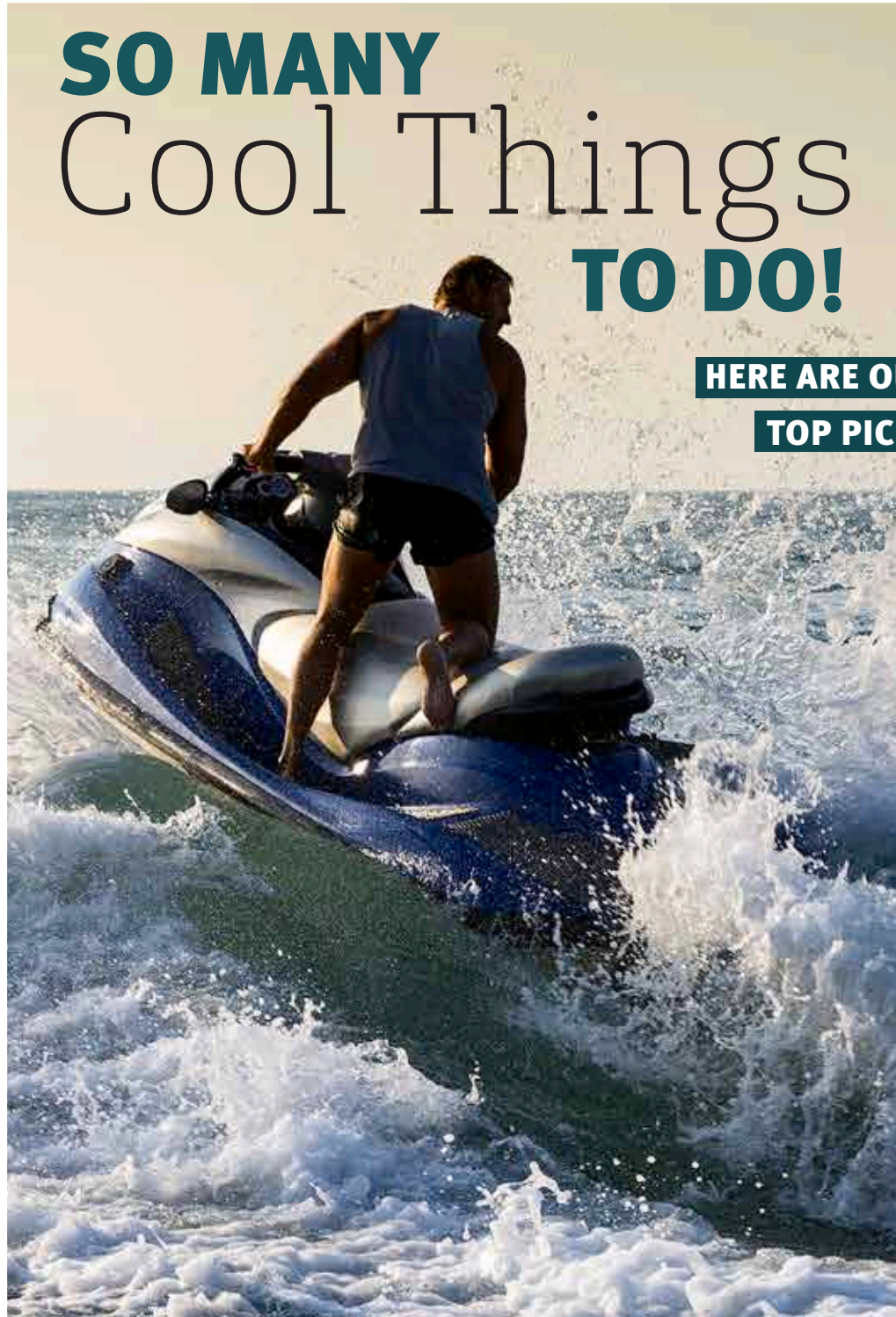


*Bill Woerner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# SO MANY Cool Things TO DO!

HERE ARE OUR  
TOP PICKS



## ► CLEARWATER BEACH MUNICIPAL MARINA

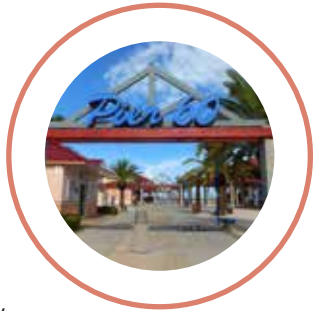
While not really an attraction in itself, it is a hub for all kinds of water-borne activities. Ideally located on world-renowned Clearwater Beach, the marina is a well-equipped and versatile marina with a vibrant beach atmosphere. The marina offers access to a variety of boating activities and is home to the finest fishing charters, sailing charters, sight-seeing boats, dinner cruises, dolphin tours, parasailing, and personal watercraft rentals. It also has some great amenities, including restaurants, a gift shop, barbershop, laundry facilities, mini-mart, and bait house. It is also located close to several shopping and entertainment venues.

25 Causeway Blvd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 562-4955

## ► PIER 60 PARK AND SUNSETS AT PIER 69

Located in the middle of the island of Clearwater Beach, Pier 60 Park is located at the pier's promenade to provide visitors a focal point to gather each evening and watch the sunset. The park features two unique covered-playground areas that include swings, slides, monkey bars, a ship, and one of the world's largest sandboxes, Clearwater Beach. A street festival located on the promenade portion of Clearwater Beach's famous fishing pier, the Sunsets at Pier 60 Daily Festival, celebrates the setting of the sun and features artists, craftsmen, and performers with weekend musical entertainment.

10 Pier 60 Dr., Clearwater Beach >> (727) 449-1036



## ► VERTICAL FLIGHT-HELICOPTER TOURS

Up, up, and away! Soar through the skies of Tampa Bay and across the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico with a helicopter tour from Vertical Flight. See the sunset like never before, enjoy ocean views, spot dolphins, celebrate special occasions, and create magical moments during your ride in the sky.

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**25 Causeway Blvd., Slip #58, Clearwater, FL 33767**  
 (727) 462-2628 >> [www.starlitecruises.com](http://www.starlitecruises.com)



► **CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM**

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a nonprofit organization and aquarium in Clearwater. It is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sick and injured marine animals, public education, conservation, and research.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium opened in 1972 at its current location on Clearwater Beach, in a former water treatment plant (the large pools being well-suited for rehabilitation operations).

Numerous forms of marine life are permanent residents at the aquarium, all of which have serious injuries that prevent their return to the wild.

The aquarium's best-known permanent resident was Winter, a bottlenose dolphin who was rescued in December 2005 after having her tail caught in a crab trap. Her injuries caused the loss of her tail, and the aquarium fitted her with a prosthetic tail, which brought worldwide attention to the facility. Winter later starred in the 2011 film *Dolphin Tale*, and the sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was shot partially on location at the aquarium. Unfortunately, in November of 2021, Winter passed away, but her legacy lives on at the aquarium, where visitors can view her memorabilia, including her iconic prosthetic tail and memorabilia from her movies that honor her remarkable life and the inspiration she brought to millions.

**249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33767**  
 (727) 441-1790 >> [www.cmaquarium.org](http://www.cmaquarium.org)

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**► FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

The gardens are developed and maintained by Parks and Conservation Resources. Visitors to the gardens relish the natural wonder. This destination boasts a formal wedding garden, pathways leading to areas spotlighting local flora, as well as designated natural areas showcasing some of the rarest natural habitats. Learn how Florida grows. Take a refreshing pause in nature and enjoy a pleasant walk through 150-acres of formal gardens, scenic landscapes, and native habitats. The Garden has a number of unique demonstration gardens where visitors can relax and learn. Come enjoy our plant collections as you stroll along our many ADA-compliant walkways. Sorry, but we do not have wheelchairs or scooters for rent on site.

You won't want to miss the Botanical Gardens during the holiday season. They offer one of the best light displays in the area. They ask for a small donation to cover the cost of their extensive display. It's well worth it!

**WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL DONATION DURING THE HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY, ADMISSION TO THE BOTANICAL GARDENS IS FREE.**

**LOCAL TIP**



"Don't miss the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village to learn about our local history and nature. Both are in Largo and are free. Watch for special events throughout the year. You can even bring your dog!" - **Carrie T.**

They are open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Leashed pets welcome. Entrances are located at 12520 Ulmerton Rd. and 12211 Walsingham Rd. **12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo 33774 (727) 582-2100**

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[www.thegardenplasticsurgery.com](http://www.thegardenplasticsurgery.com)





**▶ SEA LIFE SAFARI**  
Sea Life Safari is a two-hour boat trip hosted by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium into the beautiful Intracoastal waters. Look for dolphins, sea birds, and other marine life as staff narrates the scenic ride to a shell island.  
**249 Windward Passage, Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 441-1790**

**▶ PINELLAS COUNTY TRAIL**

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is a rail-trail that stretches from Tarpon Springs in the north to St. Petersburg in the south, passing through the towns of Palm Harbor, Dunedin, Belleair, Clearwater, Largo, Seminole, South Pasadena, and Gulfport. The Trail, created along a portion of an abandoned railroad corridor is a multi-use trail everyone can enjoy. It provides a unique, protected greenspace for walking, jogging, skating, and biking, and skating. Some trail users are able to commute to work using the Pinellas Trail instead of a motor vehicle. The distance that the main trail currently covers is 47 miles. The Pinellas Trail was named after Fred Marquis, a former Pinellas County Administrator who served from 1979 until 2000. Parks and Conservation Resources Admin Office  
**12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, FL 33774**  
**(727) 582-2100 – select option #2**

**▶ HIGHLAND FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER**

The Highland Family Aquatic Center includes an activity and multipurpose pool and offers private and open session rentals by reservation, special events, open swim sessions, swimming lessons, and water aerobics. The aquatic center is a family-friendly mini-waterpark providing a wide variety of fun play experiences for all ages.  
**400 Highland Ave., Largo, FL 33770**  
**(727) 518-3016**

**▶ CAPTAIN MEMO'S PIRATE CRUISE**

Captain Memo's Pirate Cruises offers a variety of cruises for different ages and occasions, all aboard the authentic ship, the Pirate's Ransom, and staffed by a crew of jovial, sea-faring pirates.  
**Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 446-2587**

**▶ JOLLEY TROLLEY**

Clearwater Jolley Trolley runs from Sand Key up to Tarpon Springs! Choose from the beach route which runs through Clearwater Beach and covers the areas from North Beach to Sand Key or the coastal route, which starts at the N. Transit Center on Clearwater Beach and runs to the Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs, with many stops in between.  
**(727) 445-1200**  
**www.clearwaterjolleytrolley.com**



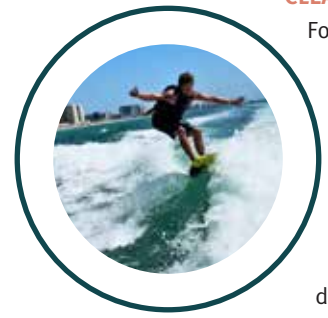
**▶ LAWN BOWLING**

Lawn bowling is a strategic game where players roll biased balls to get close to the jack. It offers low-impact, heart-healthy exercise for all ages and fitness levels. Easy to learn but challenging, it's fun to meet people and enjoy the outdoors. Join us at **1040 Calumet St., Clearwater, FL**  
**(727) 641-9144**  
**clearwaterlawnbowlingclub.org**

**▶ INDOOR SURFING – SURF STYLE'S FLOWRIDER**

The FlowRider is a self-contained wave-pool machine that mimics some of Mother Nature's biggest waves. Water churns nonstop on the indoor FlowRider, which lets boarders of all ages and skill levels ride waves atop skimboards. Instructors stand by as boarders attempt kickflips and aerial maneuvers as the pool's soft surface cushions wipeouts. Located right on Clearwater's Beach Walk within Surf Style's 55,000-square-foot shopping center, you can find the largest skateboard shop in Tampa bay and a variety of swimsuits, surf brands, beach gear, and convenience shop.  
**315 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater**  
**(888) 787-3789**

**▶ CLEARWAKE WATER SPORTS**



For a more intimate experience, we recommend Clearwater Beach's premier watersports attraction, not only do they offer the only Clearwater Beach-based WakeSurfing Experience but they can also do private dolphin-seeing excursions, romantic sunset cruises, or small parties of up to 10 people on their

pontoon boat. Whether you want to go out for two hours or a whole day, you can't go wrong with the great people at ClearWake Water Sports.  
**198 Seminole St., Clearwater, FL 33755**  
**(727) 519-8398**  
**www.clearwakewatersports.com**

**▶ SEA SCREAMER**

The Sea Screamer is the world's largest speed boat. With its dual twin-turbocharged diesel engines, the 72-foot long Sea Screamer gives you a thrill ride you'll never forget. At speeds up to 35 miles per hour on its deep-V hull, the Sea Screamer zips along the waters of the Gulf of Mexico in speed and comfort.  
**Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 447-7200 >> www.seascreamer.com**

**▶ WET RENTALS AND TOURS**

Explore the Gulf with us! Book your adventure today and explore Clearwater Beach, Reddington Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, and St. Petersburg by the Pier.  
**▶ Waverunner Rentals:** Enjoy 30-minute or 1-hour freestyle rentals, or try our guided island and dolphin tours for a unique experience with our top tour guides!  
**▶ JetCar Experience:** Book a JetCar for an out-of-this-world experience, combining exotic car shells with high-performance JetSki "guts" for a drive in the middle of the Gulf!  
**▶ Sunset Cruises & Dolphin Tours:** Relax with a boat cruise, dolphin sightseeing tour, or sunset cruise. Get up close to dolphins and experience breathtaking Gulf sunsets.  
**▶ Tiki Boat Tours:** BYOB, join us on our 2022 Tiki Boat for a floating bar experience. Our Captains will guide you along the Gulf Coast for a memorable trip.  
**▶ Banana Boat Rides:** Visit our Marriott Sand Key location for Clearwater's first Banana Boat rides! Experience this unique adventure on the water!  
**(727) 503-0700 >> GetWetFL.com**

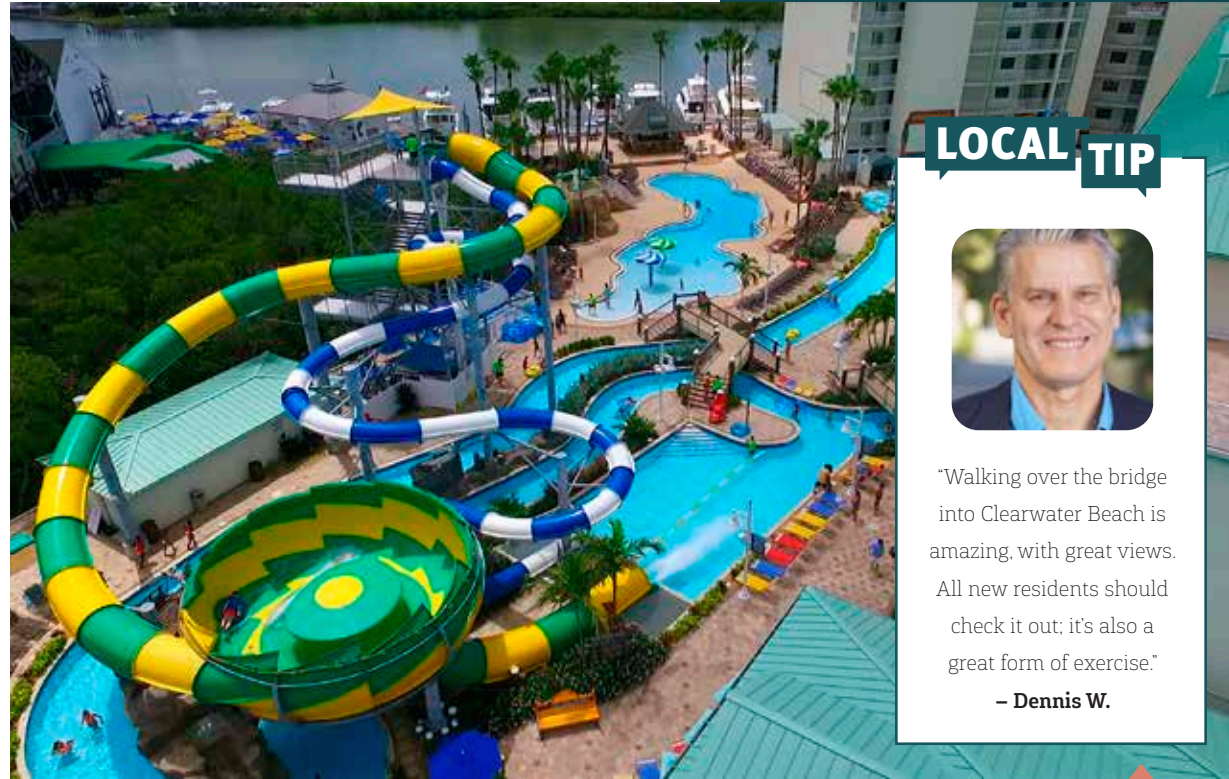


**LOCAL TIP**



"The Narrows Nature Preserve in McGough Park off Walsingham Road in Largo is a delightful place to see turtles, owls, birds of prey, a rehabilitated American Bald Eagle. Great paths to the Intracoastal as well as a view of the Oak Hammocks." – **Diann M.**





**LOCAL TIP**



"Walking over the bridge into Clearwater Beach is amazing, with great views. All new residents should check it out; it's also a great form of exercise."  
 — Dennis W.

► **MOCCASIN LAKE NATURE PARK**

A showcase of the plant and animal species native to the area. Preserve featuring rescued and rehabilitated birds; reptilian, insect, and fish displays; plant and energy exhibits; and nature trails through a diversity of natural Florida habitats, allowing viewing of native birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, and reptiles.

2750 Park Trail Ln., Clearwater  
 (727) 793-2976

► **HERITAGE VILLAGE**

The grounds of Heritage Village include two museum exhibits inside the Visitor Center. The exhibits share the history of Pinellas County using objects from the museum collection and items from the archives and library. Demonstrations occur periodically around Heritage Village throughout the year and during special events.

The demonstration shed area includes a smokehouse, sugar cane mill and boiling shed, and blacksmith and woodworking areas.

While you're there, check out the Shirley McPherson Native Plant Trail that wanders through a Pine Flatwoods habitat featuring dozens of plants used for food and shelter by early inhabitants and pioneer settlers of the Pinellas peninsula. As you walk along the trail, you will learn about the relationship of people to the environment. Hopefully, you will gain a new appreciation for Florida's native plants and wildlife and their value in the past as well as for the future.

11909 125th St. N., Largo, FL 33774 | (727) 582-2123

► **SPLASH HARBOUR WATER PARK**

Water park with a variety of slides, kids' splash zones, a lazy river, casual dining and a tiki bar.

Splash Harbour was designed for the young and the young at heart. From 2 to 102, they have something for everyone. Infants, toddlers, and grade-schoolers will love the Treasure Cove Splash Zone with three slides, several interactive water features, and the large dumping bucket. Grade schoolers through adults will enjoy the thrills of Smugglers Rum and Pirates Plunge a twin 42-foot high tube and body slides, which are over 400 feet long. Everyone will enjoy our Great White Lazy River with over 600 feet of winding turns through the Key West-themed park and the Blue Lagoon Big Pool with raindrop mushrooms and the Iguana Falls rock waterfall. Splash Harbour circulates millions of gallons of water throughout the park daily for a splashtacular time for all ages.

399 Second St.,  
 Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
 (727) 754-6492  
[www.splashharbourwaterpark.com](http://www.splashharbourwaterpark.com)



► **THE SEGWAY ADVENTURE**

Take a tour with Clearwater's first and premier Segway Company. Venture over the Memorial Causeway, taking in panoramic views of the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico, and to the downtown Clearwater Harbor Marina and historic areas, or to Sand Key Park or to the Cleveland Street District.

421 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach  
 (727) 314-8224  
[www.theseawayadventure.com](http://www.theseawayadventure.com)

► **TROPICS BOAT TOURS**

The Tropics Boat Tours is a boat tour and excursion company providing tours of the Intracoastal waterway of Pinellas county and the Gulf of Mexico. We offer several different tours, including Dolphin Exploration Tours, extended Dolphin Tours (known as our Honeymoon and Caladesi Island Tour), Sunset Celebration Cruises, and Saturday Night Party Booze Cruises for our guests 21 and over. We also offer Caladesi Island Excursions and a number of private charter options.

We offer something for everyone, from unlimited beer, wine, and soft drinks for the adults to Tommy the Turtle Story Time for the kids! Just sit back, relax and enjoy the music from our state-of-the-art sound system. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a memorable experience and look forward to serving you.

Clearwater Beach Marina, Slip 5,  
 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater  
 (727) 442-7433  
[www.thetropicsboattours.com](http://www.thetropicsboattours.com)

► **BEACH WALK, CLEARWATER BEACH SOUTH OF PIER 60**

Beachwalk is a winding promenade surrounded by resorts, beautiful white sand, entertainment, and artwork. It offers a unique environment for pedestrians to enjoy a view of the Gulf of Mexico dotted with palm trees, resting areas, and lush landscaping bordering the meandering two-lane drive.

► **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES SPRING TRAINING**

Spectrum Field is home to the Philadelphia Phillies Spring Training, and also teams in the Florida State League, Gulf Coast Rookie League, and the Florida Instructional League.

601 N. Old Coachman Rd., Clearwater  
 (727) 712-4300

► **SIMCENTER TAMPA BAY**

SimCenter Tampa Bay is a first-of-its-kind indoor entertainment center that offers various experiences on very realistic, high-end simulators. Our simulators include a Boeing 737, an F-16 and an F-35 fighter jet, Formula 1 race cars, and a 3D Space Simulator.

802 Court St., Clearwater, FL 33756  
 (727) 643-1781  
[www.simcentertampabay.com](http://www.simcentertampabay.com)

**LOCAL TIP**



The Clearwater Sugar Sand Festival is an incredible experience that no one should miss. The sculptors are so talented.  
 — Kelly S.





# pups just wanna have sun!

parks,  
groomers,  
daycare,  
boarding &  
pet stores

## DOG PARKS

Pinellas County has some wonderful places for your furry friends to stretch out, run and interact with other fluffy puppies. However, the only parks where dogs are allowed on the a real beach are Fort De Soto in St. Pete and our favorite Honeymoon Island Dog Beach in Dunedin. If you're just looking for a place for your dog to get wet, the beaches that line the Pinellas and Gandy Bridge Causeways also allow dogs. For an off-leash treat, you can go to the Honeymoon Dog Park, which boasts beautiful scenery, a long stretch of white sandy beach, and sparkling water as well as a small area at the south east corner of the Belleair Bridge boat ramp.

### Honeymoon Dog Beach

**Address:** Honeymoon Island, Dunedin, FL 34698  
**Hours:** Daily 8 am–8 pm  
**Phone:** (727) 241-6106

### Fort De Soto Dog Park / Beach

**Address:** St. Petersburg, FL 33715  
**Hours:** Daily 7 am–8 pm  
**Phone:** (727) 582-2267



## LOCAL TIP



Ft Desoto is as good as it gets! Countless world-class beaches. We are locals who have developed a tradition of camping at the park for at least one holiday a year. Great setting with good privacy at the campsites that have water access. The whole park offers amazing beaches, the fort and bike trails. -Lily and Roy E

## HERE ARE A FEW MORE PLACES WE THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY:

### Sand Key Park

**Address:** 1060 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater, FL  
**Hours:** 7 am till dusk

### Walsingham Park

**Address:** 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo, FL  
**Hours:** 7 am to sunset

### Indian Rocks Beach Dog Park

**Located in:** Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve  
**Address:** 107 10th Ave. N., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
**Hours:** Daily, 7 am–8:30 pm

### Dog Bone Run – Dog Park

**Address:** 100 Fifth Ave. SW, Largo, FL 33770  
**Hours:** Open 24 hours except for Sunday and Friday, 8 am–8 pm

### Crest Lake Dog Park

**Located in:** Crest Lake Park  
**Address:** 332 S. Glenwood Ave., Clearwater, FL 33755

# Coastal Animal Clinic

**FREE OFFICE VISIT**  
for FIRST-TIME CLIENTS! \$60 VALUE



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**(727) 518-7387**  
www.coastalvets.com  
1019 Highland Ave | Largo, FL





**🐾 GROOMERS/DAYCARE & PET STORE**

Finding that special trusted groomer that will treat our furry friends with care and kindness is so important; after all, they are our best friends and only deserve the best. When it comes to the care of our pets, we can recommend only local groomers and daycare facilities that will treat your pets with compassion and individuality that you can't find at a big-box groomer or daycare.

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*Heaven For Pets*

**HEAVEN GROOMING**

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<b>\$5 OFF</b> New clients	<b>FREE</b> nail trim for new clients
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**727-738-7924**

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL & EMERGENCY CARE 🐾**

**Bluffs Animal Hospital**  
320 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair  
Bluffs, FL 33770  
(727) 585-5682  
www.bluffsanimal.com

**Sun-Surf Animal Hospital**  
1507 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks  
Beach, FL 33785  
(727) 595-8188  
www.sunsurfanimalhospital.com

**Coastal Veterinary Care**  
971 Douglas Ave.,  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 250-1394  
www.coastalvetcaredunedin.com

**Coastal Animal Clinic**  
1019 Highland Ave  
Largo, FL 33770  
(727) 518-7387  
www.Coastalvets.com



**Blue Pearl Veterinary  
24hr Hospital**  
4701 Ulmerton Rd.,  
Ste. 500,  
Clearwater, FL 33762  
(727) 572-0132  
www.bluepearlvet.com

**Fluffy Puppies of Pinellas**

This wonderful, family-owned boutique has been servicing pets in the area for over 18 years. Their small staff is highly trained and really gets to know the pets on an individual basis. They offer grooming of cats and dogs, doggy daycare, and only carry the top brands of food, treats, toys, and more for cats and dogs.  
**14219 Walsingham Rd Suite D & E, Largo 33774**  
(727) 446-7999  
www.fluffypuppiesofpinellas.net

**Bark Life Market**

This unique 14,000-square-foot market, daycare and cage-free pet resort is a must-see. Serving the area for over eight years, this family-owned business has continued to grow and further serve the community with exceptional care and service.  
**10720 Park Blvd. N., Seminole, FL 33772**  
(727) 399-3647  
www.barklife.com

**Clippingdale's Groomers**

Clippingdales in Largo has been a neighborhood favorite for many years and continually wins the Nextdoor Favorite Award in the Grooming Category. The owner, Tina, personally grooms the dogs and treats them like a member of her own family.  
**1890 W. Bay Dr., Largo, FL 33770**  
(727) 586-6559

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL

14219 WALSHINGHAM RD D&E LARGO FL 33774

STOP IN AND  
CELEBRATE THE  
SEASON WITH US!  
NEW HOLIDAY  
TREATS AND  
TOYS!

**FLUFFY PUPPIES  
OF PINELLAS**

CREATIVE GROOMING AVAILABLE





HISTORICAL

# highlights

How some of our local communities got their start.

**CLEARWATER HISTORY**

The area which now is Clearwater was first visited by the white men in 1528. This was 37 years before St. Augustine (1565), 79 years before Jamestown (1607), and 92 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock (1620). Panfilo de Narvaez, a Spanish explorer, landed on this shore on April 15, 1528, with

five ships, 40 horses, and 600 men. De Narvaez's landing ranks second only to that of Ponce de Leon, whose discovery of Florida in 1513 marked the beginning of the explorations of the North American continent. De Narvaez found here a large tribe of Indians, which his army drove out. The Indians recaptured their territory, however, and

held it until conquered in the Seminole Wars of 1835-42.

Occasional white settlers had begun to move into the area by that time. The first was Dr. Odet Philippe, a French Count, who had been a surgeon in Napoleon's Navy. Dr. Philippe came with his family in the mid-1830s and



**DUNEDIN**

Richard L. Garrison was the first person given a land grant in Dunedin in 1852, only seven years after Florida became a state. The settlement was originally named Jonesboro by George Jones, the owner of the area mercantile, who put up a sign over his general store in 1870 that read "Jonesboro." It wasn't until a petition in 1882 by two Scottish merchants, J.o. Douglas and James Somerville, officially named the post office, then the town itself, Dunedin. The town became incorporated in 1899 and a city in 1925.

The name is taken from Scottish Gaelic Dùn Èideann, the Scottish Gaelic for Edinburgh. With a dock built to accommodate larger sailing vessels, Dunedin



DUNEDIN MARINA, CIRCA 1900

became an important trading center and at one time it had the largest fleet of sailing vessels in the state.

Source: Dunedin.gov

built a "plantation" on the site, which is now Philippe Park.

Fort Harrison was built in 1841 on the bluffs overlooking the harbor, then called Clear Water Harbor, the present site of Clearwater. The fort was named for Gen. William Henry Harrison, who became President Harrison. It was used as an outpost encampment for soldiers stationed at Fort Brook (now Tampa), was abandoned when the wars ended a few months later, and the territory was then opened by the Federal Government for homesteading under the Armed Occupation Act. This meant that homesteads would be granted to settlers willing to bear arms for protection against the still-hostile Indians hiding in the area.

James Stevens was the first of the homesteaders, staking out the fort and its surrounding areas as his claim. He was granted the first land title in 1842. This was the real beginning of the Clearwater of today. For years, a plaque at the entrance of the famed "Brown Estate,"

on the waterfront bluff in Harbor Oaks, marked the site of Fort Harrison.

The early settlement, which adopted the name of Clear Water Harbor, grew slowly for several years as an agricultural and fishing community. Its only outside contacts were made either by horse and buggy, wagon, by foot to Tampa, or by sailboat 100 miles up the Gulf to Cedar Key.



The Indians who inhabited this area are said to have called it Pocotopsug, meaning clear water. It was so named because of the many springs of clear, fresh water that bubbled up along the shore, and even below the waterline at low tide. The Indians depended on these springs for their water supply, as did the early white settlers. The action of the tides and the "fills" in recent years have completely changed the shoreline and eliminated most of the springs.

The act creating Pinellas County was passed by the State Legislature in May 1911. Clear Water Harbor was incorporated in 1891 and was chartered as a municipality on May 27, 1915.

Source: Clearwater Historical Society



GULF BOULEVARD, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH



GULF BOULEVARD INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 3

**INDIAN ROCKS**

The origin of the name “Indian Rocks” is shrouded in the mists of time, but the most commonly offered explanation relates to the miraculous healing of native Indian Chief Chic-a-Si.

According to the legend, the chief, who lived in the Ocala region, contracted an illness so severe that members of his village feared death was near. An old friend of Chic-a-Si’s named Chief Nu-Wa recommended that he be taken to a healing spring near some large rocks along the coast to the southwest.

The chief was carried to a rocky campsite along the Narrows to be near the spring, which legend says was the old sulfur spring that once flowed in what is now Kolb Park. That spring was capped years ago due to its unpleasant odor.

Chief Chic-a-Si drank heartily of the mineral waters from the spring and quickly regained his health. After that, the Indians returned to the site each year to drink from the miraculous spring and fish in local waters.

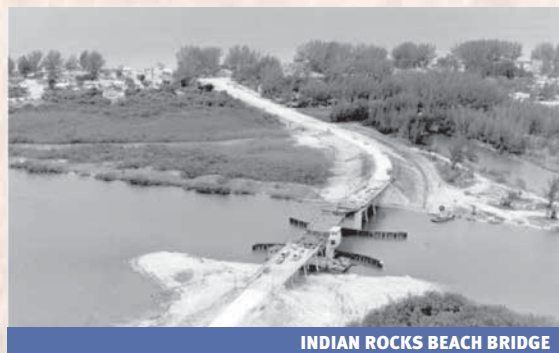
The legend concludes that early settlers to the area, observing the Indians’ pilgrimage to “the rocks,”

originated the term Indian Rocks as an apt description for their settlement.

The Chic-a-Si story is one version of how Indian Rocks got its name. Another simpler legend tells about the Indians crossing over from the mainland to the island to fish along the shore. They chose a narrow spot to cross, where rocks protruding from the water made it easy for them to walk across to the island. So the rocks became known as Indian Rocks.

While neither legend has been documented, both offer a picturesque and plausible explanation for how our slice of paradise got its enduring title: Indian Rocks Beach.

Source: Indian Rocks Beach Historical Museum



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH BRIDGE



**LARGO CITY HISTORY**

The area now known as Pinellas County was first inhabited by the Timucua Indians, one of four tribes in Florida. The Timucuans cultivated cornfields, constructed substantial homes, and were very involved in trading with the tribes of the north. When Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez landed on the Pinellas Peninsula in 1528, he met great resistance from the Timucuans, and he and his crew suffered the ravages of storms, hunger, and exposure, which decimated the exploring party. Only four men found their way back to Spanish settlements in Mexico. Over the next 300 years, various parties of French and Spanish explorers attempted to settle the area, with little success. In fact, it wasn’t until 1823 that Count Odet Phillippe, a surgeon in Napoleon’s army, became the first permanent settler in Pinellas County.

A steady stream of settlers moved to the area throughout the 1800s, including such notable families as the Taylors, McMullens, Wilcoxes, and Belchers. It was 1886 when the Orange Belt Railroad was coming through the area that residents came together to give their community a name. It seemed that the railroad would only build a station if the stop had a name. Some residents wished to name the town after the daughter of a prominent resident, Gideon Blitch – Luluville. But ultimately they chose to name their town Largo, after the town’s large lake. (In an ironic twist, the lake which gave name to Largo was completely drained by the Cross Bayou Drainage District 50 years later.) Others argue that Largo gained its name from the city of Largo, Scotland, where several of the area’s settlers came from. Because of its central location and rich farmlands, Largo quickly became the center of the



area’s citrus industry, earning the title “Citrus City.” Largo citrus was being shipped by the ton to eager customers in the North.

The town was officially incorporated in 1905, and in 1913 became the first town in Florida – and second in the nation – to adopt a town manager form of government. The town grew rapidly through the boom times of the 1920s but was hit hard by a freeze in the latter part of the decade, and then by the Great Depression. Due to mounting debt, the City of Largo was contracted to its original 1905 boundaries and once again became the Town of Largo.

When World War II veterans returned home, they quickly discovered the joys of living on Florida’s Suncoast, previously only known to the local farmers and a few rich vacationers, brought to the area on the rail lines built by Henry Flagler and Henry Plant. The population boomed, growing from just 1,500 residents in 1950 to over 5,300 ten years later. An unexpected freeze in 1962 dealt a serious blow to Largo’s agricultural industry, and as groves were sold off, developers were quick to move in to build homes for a growing population. By 1970, Largo’s population reached more than 22,000, and a new city was born.

Source: City of Largo



SOUTHWEST CORNER OF WEST BAY DRIVE AND SEMINOLE BOULEVARD IS SHOWN IN 1962



# VENUES & CONCERTS

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## LOCAL TIP



"Clearwater Jazz Festival, normally held the third week in October, is one of the Tampa Bay Area's Signature Music events with a 41-year tradition of world-class performances."

– Deborah V.



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### RUTH ECKERD HALL

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1111 McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater, FL 33759  
(727) 791-7400  
www.rutheckerdhall.com



MELISSA ETHERIDGE AT RUTH ECKERD HALL

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### CENTRAL PARK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This hidden gem is a very intimate venue that offers some wonderful theatric shows by the Eight O'Clock Theater productions, as well top-rate musical performances right in the heart of Largo's Central Park.

105 Central Park Dr., Largo, FL 33771  
(727) 587-6793  
www.largoarts.com



**BILLY GIBBONS  
OF ZZ TOP AT  
THE CAPITOL  
THEATER**



**NANCY AND DAVID BILHEIMER  
CAPITOL THEATRE**

The Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theatre, which was also known as the Capitol Theatre and the Royalty Theatre, is a historic theater in Clearwater, FL. The theater has a seating capacity of 750 people. The theater is owned by the City of Clearwater and managed by Ruth Eckerd Hall. This venue also offers “A” list acts as well as comedic acts, Broadway shows, all be it in a much more intimate atmosphere.

**405 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 791-7400  
www.rutheckerdhall.com/  
bilheimer-capitol-theatre**

**THE  
CAPITOL  
THEATER**



**FRANCIS WILSON PLAYHOUSE**

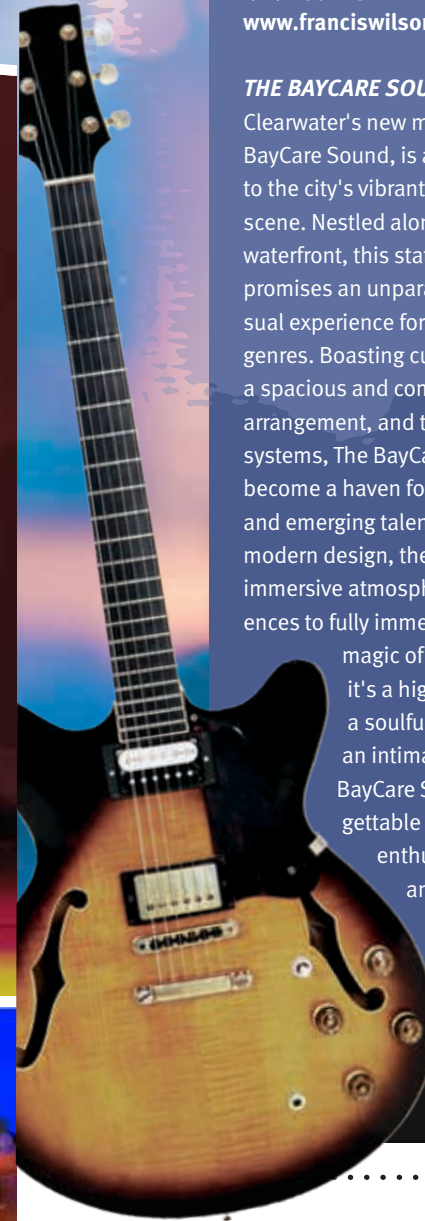
One of the best-kept secret spots that many locals don't even know about, but this little theater has been offering some of the best theatrical performances in the area for 92 years.

**302 Seminole St., Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 446-1360  
www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org**

**THE BAYCARE SOUND**

Clearwater's new music venue, The BayCare Sound, is a breathtaking addition to the city's vibrant arts and entertainment scene. Nestled along the picturesque waterfront, this state-of-the-art facility promises an unparalleled audio-visual experience for music lovers of all genres. Boasting cutting-edge acoustics, a spacious and comfortable seating arrangement, and top-of-the-line sound systems, The BayCare Sound is set to become a haven for both renowned artists and emerging talents. With its sleek and modern design, the venue creates an immersive atmosphere that allows audiences to fully immerse themselves in the magic of live music. Whether it's a high-energy rock concert, a soulful jazz performance, or an intimate acoustic set, The BayCare Sound offers an unforgettable experience for music enthusiasts in Clearwater and beyond.

**225 Drew Street, in  
Downtown Clearwater**



**MAHAFFEY THEATER**

The Mahaffey Theater – Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts is a performing arts facility and concert hall located on the downtown waterfront in St. Petersburg. The 2,031-seat facility features European box-style seating, ballroom space, and views of Tampa Bay.

**400 First St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 892-5767**

**ELTON JOHN  
AT THE  
MAHAFFEY  
THEATER**







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Black, Americano, Macchiato, Café au Lait, Espresso, Latte, Cappuccino, Iced, or with a splash of the Irish.

Some like it hot, others iced, then there is the question: Are you a dark-roast or a light, smooth and mellow connoisseur? Regardless of your fancy, these shops will have the brew for you. If it were just about the coffee, Dunkin's drive-through would make our list, but we wanted to share with you a few spots where you can have more than just a cup of coffee. The shops listed below offer great coffee, pastries/desserts, and an experience that you won't find a corporate Starbucks, Dunkin's, or even Panera, for that matter.

### Alaeddin Brews Coffee and Kava Bar

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(727) 333-7999  
www.thehauscoffeeshop.net



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www.rcclw.com

**Belleair Coffee Company**  
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Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
(727) 501-1010  
www.belleaircoffeecompany.com

**Basimo Beach Café**  
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(727) 281-2193  
www.basimocafe.com

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• restaurants



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Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
(727) 596-6896 >> www.irbsandys2300.com

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www.villageinn.com/locations/largo-fl

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www.bonefishgrill.com

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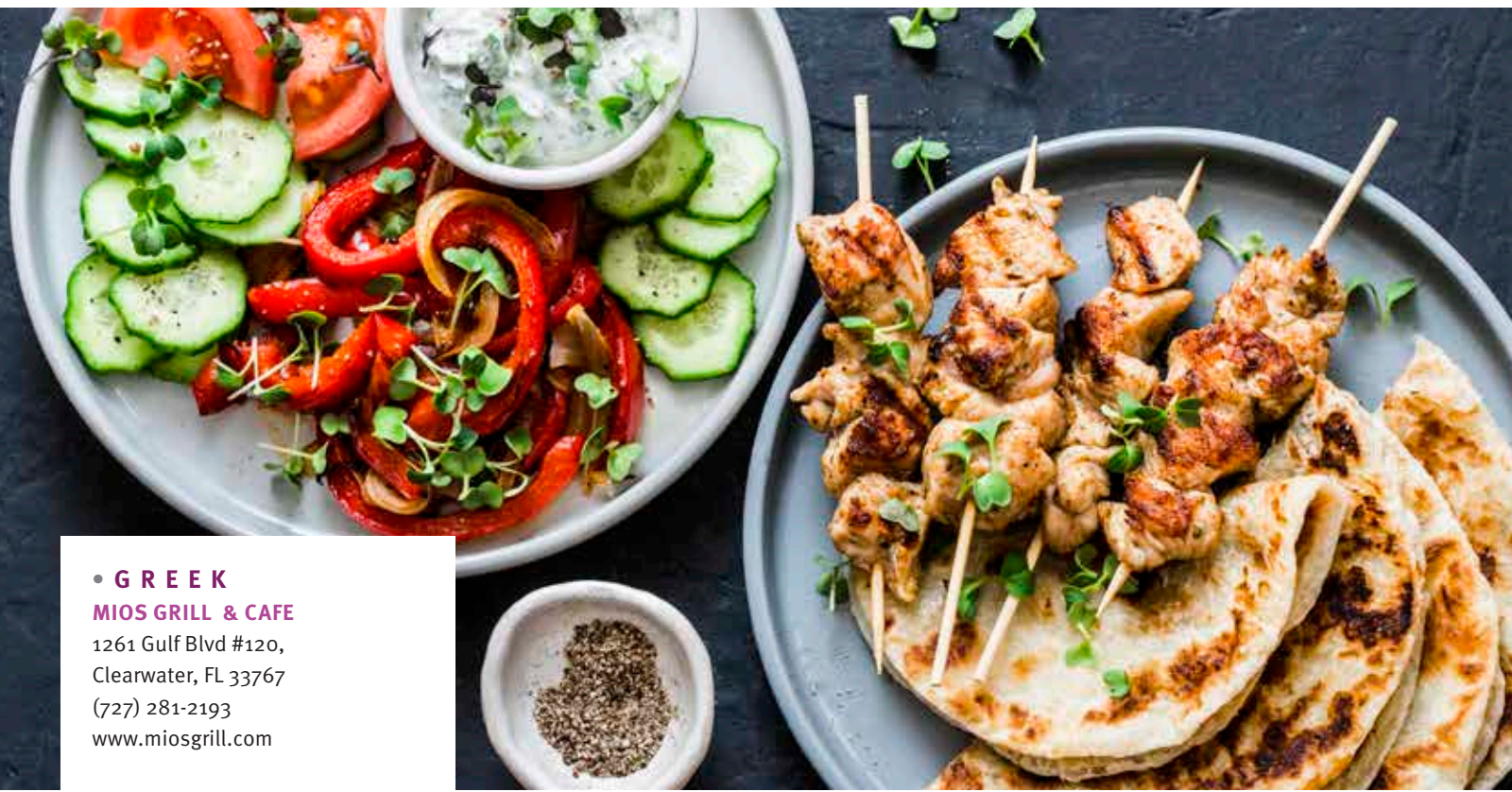
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**LOCAL TIP**



For an authentic Greek experience, visit the sponge docks of Tarpon Springs where you'll find great food, unique shopping, excellent Greek pastries, and desserts as well as some great entertainment. We recommend the waterfront dining at Demetri's Restaurant. - **Marc P.**

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**LOCAL TIP**



October is Stone Crab season in Florida. There are festivals all over the area and most restaurants will have them on their menus, but if you want the biggest and in my opinion the best, you have to go to Frenchy's on Clearwater Beach. We never miss it. - **Lenore S.**



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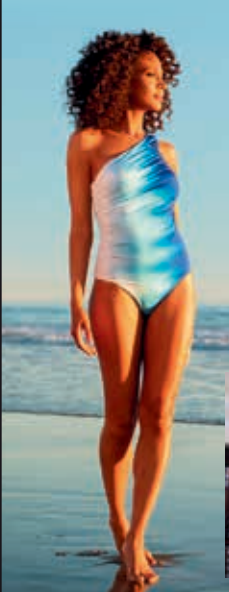


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Annual

# Happenings

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**GARSAPARILLA INVASION – TAMPA ▶ January**

This annual re-enactment of Tampa's historic pirate invasion is something you have to see at least once. It's a uniquely Tampa event that features the Pirate ship Jose Gasparilla filled with pirates as they sail Tampa Bay and dock at Tampa Convention Center where the Mayor of Tampa turns over the key to the city to the Captain of the Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla. The landing at the dock takes place at 1:00 PM but the party and merriment go on all day and well into the night.

[www.main.gasparillapiratefest.com](http://www.main.gasparillapiratefest.com)

An Alternative to the hectic and often very rowdy Gasparilla event is a very family-friendly Pirate celebration event hosted by Party Pirates on the Rock charity. Their flotilla boat parade and party travel from Johns Pass to Clearwater Beach in full regalia. Check out and join this local favorite at [www.partypiratesontherocks.com](http://www.partypiratesontherocks.com)

**FIRST NIGHT ST. PETE – DOWNTOWN SAINT PETERSBURG**

First Night St Petersburg is the largest family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts in Florida. It is a collaboration between local venues, artists, and performers in and around downtown St. Petersburg. Each venue showcases a variety of artistic mediums. This year's First Night team has put together an amazing program with eight hours of music, interactive exhibits, literary arts, aerial arts, fire jugglers, street performers, fire sculpture, a labyrinth, a peace flag project, a sea creature puppet procession, Bubble Stomp with Ann Kelly of WDUV and so much more. The newest addition this year is The Larger-than-life Monarch butterfly installation! Entrance buttons can be purchased online from 11/1 to 12/24 for \$12 or locally from 12/1 to 12/30. Go to the website to view locations. Buttons are also available in the main tent located near the Kapok tree and the MFA beginning at noon or at any of the participating venues. \* Tickets sold on the night of will be \$20. [www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com)



**FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG – ST, PETERSBURG WATERFRONT ▶ March**

The Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is among the most respected motor-sports events in North America and features a week-long festival-like atmosphere that includes the fastest racing series on the planet, celebrity athletes, live entertainment and interactive activities including the Speed Zone, IndyCar Series Fan Village, Beer Gardens, Driver Autograph Sessions, and Interactive games & exhibits Check out their website for more details: [www.gpstpete.com](http://www.gpstpete.com)

**ST PATRICK'S DAY – DUNEDIN ▶ March**

On Saint Patrick's Day, everyone wants to be Irish and parties abound, but if you're looking for a one-stop shop where the entire town parties you need to go to Dunedin. A celebration of Irish culture, the St. Patrick's Day Festival in downtown Dunedin puts on one of the best street festivals of the year with plenty of green beer and delicious Irish food to keep the party going throughout the day. Start your day dining at Flanagan's Irish Pub on Main Street before heading to Pioneer Park Stage, where visitors will find live music, street parades, Irish dancers, and a lively ambiance of partygoers from noon to midnight.

**ST. PETE PRIDE MONTH ▶ June** ▶ This major festival usually takes place in June and is one of the biggest pride events in the USA. Though the event evolves each year, you'll always find a warm and inclusive environment great entertainment, and plenty of good food. Check out [www.stpetepride.org](http://www.stpetepride.org)



**DENIM AND DIAMONDS GALA**

The Raising Relief Foundation Denim and Diamonds Gala is a stylish and charitable soirée that combines the casual elegance of denim with the glitz of diamonds to support vital humanitarian causes. [Raisingrelieffoundation.org](http://Raisingrelieffoundation.org) for dates and details

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL – PLANT CITY ▶ March**

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11day event celebrating the strawberry harvest. The event draws nearly a half million people each year attendees enjoy top-tier entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits, Carnival rides, and of course Strawberries. The festival usually takes place in the latter part of March and admission is \$10 at the gate. For more details, visit [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.







**CLEARWATER OFFSHORE NATIONAL POWERBOAT RACES** ▶ September ▶ This weekend-long event is a local favorite. Start out on Friday with the VIP Party with cocktails, heavy appetizers, and live entertainment. You'll be able to meet the Drivers, Throttlemen, and Team members, and be able to check out the boats up close. Then pick a good spot to watch and cheer on your favorite Team. Saturday, watch the boats out on the water for Race Boat Testing, followed by another party at Shepard's VIP Party Sunset at Pier 6o, Where you will also find Vendors and Live Entertainment. Then Sunday it's off to the Races, followed by an after-race party & awards at Marina Cantina, then "Shephard's Largest After-Race Party". [www.clearwaternationals.com](http://www.clearwaternationals.com)

**PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL – CLEARWATER BEACH** ▶ April

Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is a 17-day sand sculpting festival. This absolutely amazing event draws Master Sand Sculptors from all over the world. This truly unique event is a must-see, not just for the amazing sand sculpture but the event also offers free Beach concerts, Cornhole tournaments, Sand Sculpting classes, numerous street performers, a bounce house, a water slide, even a Ferris wheel, and on Pier 60 you will find so many beautiful handmade items by local artisans and to top it off they produce a spectacular fireworks show. You won't want to miss this local favorite. [www.sugarsandfestival.com](http://www.sugarsandfestival.com)



WHEN YOU THINK OF THE HOLIDAY'S, FLORIDA PROBABLY ISN'T WHAT YOU ENVISION, BUT IN THE GREATER CLEARWATER AREA, THERE ARE TWO STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS TO BRING YOU RIGHT INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT.



**BLUFFS WINE WALK - BELLEAIR BLUFFS** ▶ Late October

Talk about a local favorite. This event has become so popular over the years that now thousands attend this unique event. With the purchase of a \$10 string of tickets, you can meander through the Bluffs Business District stopping at various merchants to shop and sample their wine. It's truly a unique event that has grown to include transportation from the Jolley Trolley, Live music at various locations, plenty of food sampling, and at city hall you will find a free Pig roast. It's a great way to spend a fall afternoon.



**LARGO CENTRAL PARK HOLIDAY LIGHTS** ▶ November

This is a free event and offers plenty of parking. This one is a Kid's favorite, not only does it offer a spectacular light display, but there's also a Carousel, a seven-story Ferris Wheel that overlooks the 70-acre Largo Central Park, and more than two million LED lights, not to mention a train ride for adults and kids will take you around the park. There is also a huge playground for kids and plenty of picnic tables to enjoy a wonderland picnic. You will also find a host of food items such as funnel cakes and popcorn for sale. \*Kids' rides are \$5.

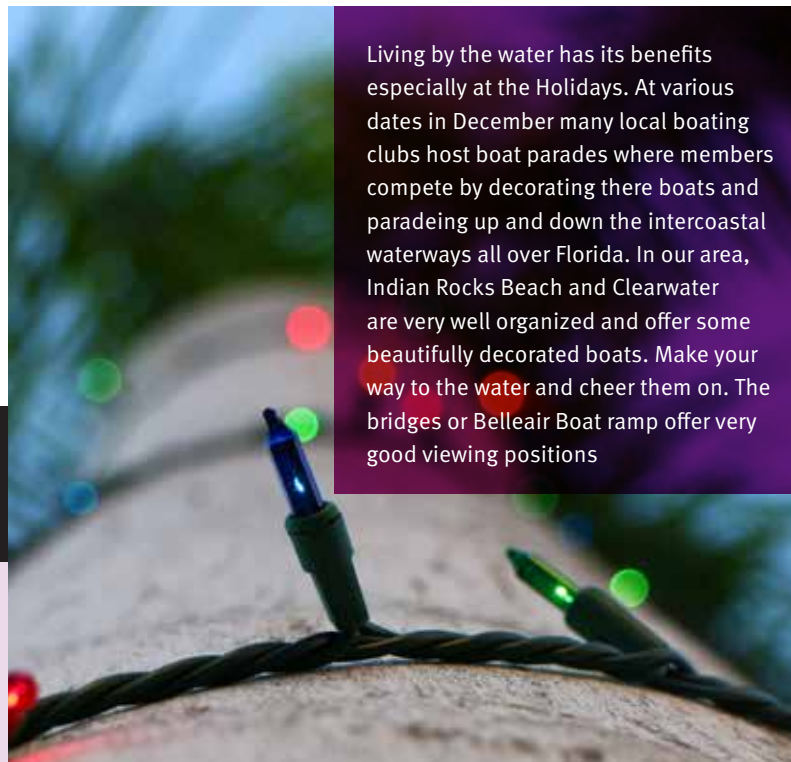
**TAMPA BAY TIMES TURKEY TROTT – CLEARWATER** ▶ November

Slap the turkey in the oven, put on a funky outfit, and head out to join thousands of your friends and neighbors as they walk, run, and trot their way through this yearly tradition. Take your pick of either 1 mile or 5k. You can register officially or just join in, it's fun for all ages. Go to [www.turkeytrot.net](http://www.turkeytrot.net) to see sign-up locations.



**FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS HOLIDAY LIGHTS** ▶ November

Admission is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per person, over the age of 13. The Botanical Garden Display never disappoints, with over 1 million led lights, live local musicians entertaining, and St. Pet Concessions providing great food desserts and of course nonalcoholic beverages. Leashed pets are welcome. [www.flbgfoundation.org](http://www.flbgfoundation.org)



Living by the water has its benefits especially at the Holidays. At various dates in December many local boating clubs host boat parades where members compete by decorating their boats and paradeing up and down the intercoastal waterways all over Florida. In our area, Indian Rocks Beach and Clearwater are very well organized and offer some beautifully decorated boats. Make your way to the water and cheer them on. The bridges or Belleair Boat ramp offer very good viewing positions

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## Finding help shouldn't be a challenge.

Choosing a contractor for your construction project can be a little frightening to some. So, here are a few tips on choosing a contractor from the Pinellas County Building Services website.

### TIPS ON CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR:

- Ask to see their license, and call the appropriate licensing agency to verify the licensee is in good standing, the status of the license, and insurance.
- Ask for and verify references from past customers.
- Check with the Pinellas County Consumer Protection, local Chamber of Commerce, and the Better Business Bureau.
- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Be sure that the estimate includes all work to be done by the contractor, the materials involved, the date of completion, and the total cost.
- If the project is for repairing damage, check with your insurance company first to verify that your insurance will cover the repairs before you sign a contract.
- An occupational license or business tax receipt (BTR) is not sufficient in the construction trades.
- Beware of contractors or alleged contractors who ask to be paid in cash, ask for large payments upfront, or ask for you as the homeowner to pull the permit.

- placard has been signed by the appropriate inspectors, request that he/she obtains all final inspections prior to your final payment. However, you must abide by your contract.
- Make sure your contractor provides you with releases of liens from his subcontractors and suppliers.



### AFTER YOU CHOOSE A CONTRACTOR:

- Make sure your contractor obtains a permit and posts it on the front of the property.
- If the contractor request a final payment before all final inspections are completed and the permit

### BEFORE SIGNING A CONTRACT, BE CERTAIN YOUR CONTRACT INCLUDES:

- The contractor's name, street address, telephone number, and state or local license number.
- A precise description of the work to be completed, including a draw schedule and a list of materials.
- Completion date, including cleanup after work is finished.
- Warranty agreements, including length, terms, and recourse.
- A notice of consumers' rights under the Florida Homeowners' Construction Recovery Fund for contracts involving general, residential, and building contractors.
- Read your contract carefully and personally fill in any blank spaces. Consider having an attorney review the contract. If you do not have an attorney the Florida Bar offers a lawyer referral services.



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**BEWARE OF UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS:**

- If you are planning to build a new home, a room addition, add on a second story, begin remodeling on your home, or have work done that requires a building permit, take care to select a qualified person to perform the work. Under state and local ordinances, any person you hire under contract (verbal or written) to perform construction on your property must be a licensed contractor. The contractor must be state-certified or registered. All printed advertising material such as business cards, newspaper ads, and telephone book ads must show his or her state license number.
- Beware of anyone that asks you to obtain the building permit as an “owner/builder”; this may indicate that they themselves are not properly licensed to obtain the permit.
- Also, beware of people that claim that you will save quite a bit of money by not obtaining a permit. A permit will only lead to compliance with the appropriate building codes; these are only minimum requirements.
- Unlicensed contractors do not have insurance coverage. Any injury that occurs on your property will be a claim against your insurance.
- If you wish to check on the license of an individual you can call the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100. Additionally, you can contact the Pinellas County Building Department at 464-3888.

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# turtle TALES



As a newcomer to Pinellas County, Florida, it's important to be aware of the beautiful wildlife that shares the area with humans. One of the most fascinating events that takes place on the county's beaches is sea turtle nesting. Sea turtle nesting season typically runs from May through October, with the peak of activity occurring in July and August.

During this time, female sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs in the sand, where they incubate for about two months before the hatchlings emerge and make their way to the sea. It's important to be mindful of sea turtle nesting areas and to take precautions to keep them safe.



HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN VISITING THE BEACHES DURING NESTING SEASON:

- 1. Respect the marked nesting areas** - Do not disturb any area that's marked as a nesting site. These areas are carefully monitored to ensure the safety of the eggs and hatchlings.
- 2. Avoid using lights on the beach at night** - Sea turtles are easily disoriented by artificial lights, which can cause them to lose their way and become prey to predators. It's best to avoid the use of flashlights and other lighting sources during nesting season.
- 3. Don't leave trash on the beach** - Trash and debris can be dangerous to sea turtles, who can become entangled and injured. Always dispose of trash and litter in proper receptacles.
- 4. Follow beach regulations** - Many beaches have specific regulations regarding behavior on the beach, such as no pets or no vehicles.

Make sure to follow these regulations to ensure the safety of the sea turtles. By following these tips, newcomers to Pinellas County can help protect the sea turtles that make their home on the beautiful beaches of this area. Remember, these stunning creatures are an important part of our ecosystem and deserve our respect and protection.



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# Pickle Ball

Clearwater, Florida, known for its pristine beaches and abundant recreational activities, has emerged as a hub for pickleball enthusiasts. This dynamic and fast-growing sport, a hybrid of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, has captured the attention of players of all ages and skill levels. Clearwater boasts a range of exceptional venues that cater to pickleball aficionados, providing them with top-notch facilities and a vibrant community. In this article, we will explore the popularity of pickleball in Clearwater and highlight some fantastic places where locals and visitors alike can enjoy this exciting sport.

## THE RISE OF PICKLEBALL

Pickleball has seen an unprecedented surge in popularity over the past decade, and Clearwater has been at the forefront of this trend. Combining elements of other racquet sports, pickleball offers a unique and accessible experience for players of all abilities. It's played on a smaller court with a solid paddle and a plastic ball with holes, allowing for intense yet enjoyable rallies.

Clearwater's Pickleball Community: Clearwater has cultivated a vibrant and welcoming pickleball community, where players can connect, compete, and improve their skills. Numerous clubs, leagues, and social groups cater to players of all levels, ensuring that enthusiasts can find like-minded individuals to play with. The community not only fosters healthy competition but also creates a sense of camaraderie among its members.



## WHERE TO PLAY PICKLEBALL IN CLEARWATER:

**Clearwater Tennis Center:** Situated at 2897 Belcher Road, the Clearwater Tennis Center offers excellent pickleball facilities. With six dedicated pickleball courts and top-notch amenities, including restrooms and shaded seating areas, this center is a haven for pickleball enthusiasts. The center also hosts regular tournaments and clinics for players looking to improve their skills.

**Clearwater Beach Recreation Center:** Located at 69 Bay Esplanade, the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center is a popular destination for pickleball enthusiasts. Offering both indoor and outdoor courts, players can enjoy the game in any weather. The center provides equipment rentals, making it convenient for visitors to try out the sport. With its prime beachfront location, players can relish pickleball while taking in stunning ocean views.

**Ross Norton Recreation Complex:** The Ross Norton Recreation Complex, located at 1426 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, features six well-maintained outdoor pickleball courts. Players appreciate the shaded seating areas, restrooms, and nearby parking. The complex offers open play times and organized leagues, ensuring opportunities for players of all skill levels to participate.

**Henry L. McMullen Tennis Complex:** The Henry L. McMullen Tennis Complex, situated at 1000 Edenville Avenue, has embraced the growing pickleball community by introducing dedicated courts for the sport. With its spacious layout and well-kept facilities, this

complex is a fantastic option for both tennis and pickleball players. The friendly staff organizes various events, including round-robin tournaments, to engage the community.

**Del Oro Park:** Del Oro Park, located at 401 McMullen Booth Road, offers four outdoor pickleball courts in a serene setting. This park is perfect for players who prefer a quieter and more laid-back atmosphere. The courts are open to the public, and players can enjoy a peaceful game surrounded by lush greenery.

## Highland Recreation Complex

## Bay Park on Sand Key

## Clearwater Beach Library and Recreation Center

## Clearwater Beach Tennis Courts

## Ed Wright Pickleball Courts

## Woodgate Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Conclusion: Pickleball has become a beloved sport in Clearwater, Florida, attracting players from all walks of life. The city offers a plethora of fantastic venues where individuals can engage in this fast-paced and enjoyable game. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner looking to try something new, Clearwater provides an array of options for pickleball enthusiasts. So grab a paddle, rally with friends or make new ones, and immerse yourself in the vibrant pickleball scene in Clearwater.



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

ENSURING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE



## HURRICANE AND STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Hurricane season in Florida officially runs from June 1st to November 30th. Most hurricane activity peaks in Florida from mid-August to mid-October.



### INSIDE YOUR HOME

- Invest in NOAA energy weather radio
- Pack an emergency readiness kit for each member of your family
- Ensure that you have a whole house or standby generator
- If you are not evacuating turn your refrigerator up to the highest setting in the case of possible outages
- Turn off the gas in your home to avoid a disaster from carbon monoxide poisoning
- If you have a basement unplug appliances, water heaters and remove or elevate anything to avoid water damage



### OUTDOOR PREPARATIONS

- Make sure your gutters are being cleaned regularly
- Have a roof inspection done
- Consult a tree care specialist to make sure nearby trees won't fall on your home
- Put outdoor furniture in your garage or basement
- Bring garbage cans into your garage or other protected area
- Download FEMA's guide to hurricane preparedness

## PACK A HURRICANE KIT

### KEY ESSENTIALS

- Flashlight / batteries
- Cell phone charger and backup battery
- Hand sanitizer
- Matches / Lighter
- Cooler
- Blankets
- Clean clothing
- Paper plates, plastic utensils, and cups
- Pillows
- Pet food
- Any medications
- Documents
- Birth certificates
- Record of bank account numbers
- Marriage certificates copies of insurance policies passports
- Social Security cards

## LISTEN TO WEATHER ADVISORIES IN HEED WARNINGS

Sign up for local alerts. Download emergency apps from NOAA and the Red Cross. Send the text message **HURRICANE** to **43362 (4FEMA)** to be notified of safety tips and other important information



## THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING

The combination of thunderstorms and lightning is another dangerous threat to homeowners. Take precautions to safeguard your house and family members before the storm.

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# TOP TIPS

## AND MUST-DO ACTIVITIES

### UNLOCKING THE CHARMS OF SAFETY HARBOR AND DUNEDIN, FL

NESTLED ALONG THE GULF COAST OF FLORIDA, SAFETY HARBOR AND DUNEDIN BECKON WITH THEIR UNIQUE BLEND OF NATURAL BEAUTY, CULTURAL RICHNESS, AND SMALL-TOWN CHARM. WHETHER YOU'RE A LOCAL LOOKING FOR NEW ADVENTURES OR A VISITOR EAGER TO EXPLORE, HERE ARE TOP TIPS AND MUST-DO ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME IN THESE ENCHANTING DESTINATIONS.

By Tiana Lake Real Estate Advisor

#### DUNEDIN

##### 1. DISCOVER NATURAL WONDERS at Honeymoon Island State Park

Nature enthusiasts will find bliss at Honeymoon Island State Park in Dunedin. With pristine beaches, nature trails, and diverse wildlife, this park is a haven for those seeking outdoor adventures. Spend time sunbathing, shelling, or exploring the island's untouched beauty.

##### 2. IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ART at Dunedin Fine Art Center

Dive into Dunedin's vibrant art scene at the Dunedin Fine Art Center. Explore ever-changing exhibitions, take art classes and witness the creative spirit that defines this town. The center is a testament to Dunedin's commitment to fostering artistic expression.

##### 3. CULINARY DELIGHTS on Main Street

Dunedin's Main Street is a culinary paradise. Indulge in the diverse flavors of local eateries, or visit the Dunedin Brewery, Florida's oldest craft microbrewery, to taste the town's brewing heritage. Main Street is a feast for the senses, with historic charm and gastronomic delights.

##### 4. CELEBRATE COMMUNITY at Events and Festivals

Stay connected with Dunedin's lively community spirit by attending events and festivals. Whether it's the Mardi Gras celebration, music events, or food festivals, these gatherings provide a glimpse into the town's vibrant culture. Engaging with locals during these festivities adds an extra layer of enjoyment.

#### SAFETY HARBOR

##### 1. EMBRACE NATURE at Philippe Park

Start your journey in Safety Harbor with a visit to Philippe Park. This expansive green oasis along Old Tampa Bay offers a perfect escape into nature. Whether you're picnicking under ancient oak trees, exploring historic Indian mounds, or enjoying panoramic views of the bay, Philippe Park is a serene haven for all.

##### 2. INDULGE IN SPA BLISS at Safety Harbor Spa & Resort

Treat yourself to a day of relaxation at the Safety Harbor Spa & Resort. Nestled amidst lush landscapes and featuring natural mineral springs, the spa offers rejuvenating treatments that soothe both body and soul. It's a tranquil escape within the heart of Safety Harbor.

##### 3. EXPLORE DOWNTOWN and find hidden gems

Wander through Safety Harbor's vibrant downtown, where quaint boutiques, art galleries, and charming cafes await. Discover unique finds at local shops and immerse yourself in the artistic vibe of this culturally rich community. Don't forget to explore the Safety Harbor Farmers Market for fresh produce and artisanal delights.

##### 4. SAVOR WATERFRONT SERENITY with a stroll along the bay

The waterfront in Safety Harbor is a gem waiting to be discovered. Enjoy water activities like kayaking or paddleboarding or a Stroll along the bay. The gentle waves and scenic views make this area a peaceful retreat for residents and visitors alike.

#### TOP TIPS FOR BOTH TOWNS

##### 1. Explore on Foot or Bike

Both Safety Harbor and Dunedin are pedestrian-friendly, offering an opportunity to explore the streets on foot or by renting a bike. It's the perfect way to soak in the local atmosphere and discover hidden gems.



##### 2. Engage with the Locals

Strike up conversations with locals. Whether it's artisans in downtown shops or fellow enthusiasts at events, the warmth of the community enhances your overall experience and may lead you to hidden treasures.



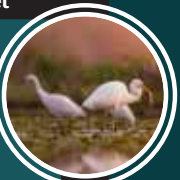
##### 3. Check Event Calendars

Keep an eye on event calendars for both towns. From festivals to markets, Safety Harbor and Dunedin offers a diverse range of events throughout the year. Planning your visit around these occasions adds a festive touch to your stay.



##### 4. Capture the Gulf Coast Sunset

Don't miss the opportunity to witness the breathtaking Gulf Coast sunsets. Whether along the waterfront in Safety Harbor or on Dunedin's Main Street, the sunsets are a daily spectacle not to be missed. In essence, Safety Harbor and Dunedin invite you to embark on a journey of discovery and relaxation. From the tranquility of parks and spas to the vibrancy of downtown scenes and community events, these coastal towns offer a rich tapestry of experiences for all who venture into their embrace.





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