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WHATEVER DEVIN NEEDS



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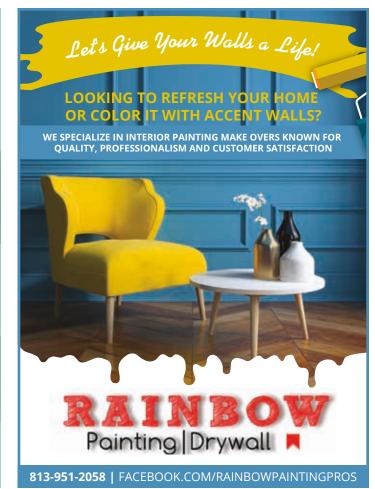


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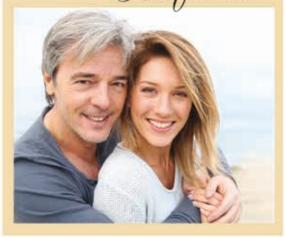
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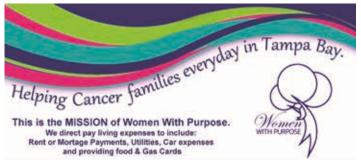
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This is a young woman that had brain cancer. She was a mother of two young girls and married. Women with Purpose helped her and her family. She has struggled to get and keep a job because the surgery was not able to get all of the tumor; so a residual part of the tumor has caused her to have seizures. However, she is an amazing young women..... that continues to be positive, look for jobs, enjoy her family and friends. She is indeed an inspiration.



Women With Purpose helps cancer families with non-medical financial assistance. WWP keeps families in their homes, pay utilities, car insurance, car repairs and car payments. We have so many families in Pinellas county that our help....it indeed takes a village.



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# HAPPY TO THE STATE OF THE STATE

# Yea...Summer's here!

Happy Fourth neighbors, can you believe that at this time last year our first magazine was hitting your mailboxes? Where has the time gone? Over the past year, we have been so fortunate to be able to introduce you to so many individuals, families, and business owners, and to tell you their stories. We never would have imagined that we would been having so much fun doing this, but it's true. We would like to thank everyone that opened their homes and shared their lives with all of us this past year and we look forward to meeting many more of you this year.

If you have been too busy to join us for our "**Neighbors' Night Out,**" please join us this year. Take a few hours off to meet new friends, meet the local sponsors of *HB Living*, have a cocktail and enjoy some complimentary hors d'oeuvres with us! It's fun! Keep an

eye out for our August party and the *HB Living* Anniversary Party in The Park!

It's not too late to sign up for The *HB Living* Girls Cruise to the Bahamas and Cove Cay on September 16–20. Whether you're looking for fun, adventure, or to simply relax, we will have it all on this Girls' Cruise! Contact Susan Brown Cruise Planners 727-303-9050 NOW!

When you are looking for the information of a business in this magazine and you need it quickly, we have moved the "Sponsor Index" to the last pages of the magazine for easy finding!

Please reach out to me or recommend your neighbor to be featured in YOUR Neighborhood Magazine! We are always looking for Precious Pets, Kids Korner, Athletes, Scholars, Cover Families, Travel Tales, Homes of the Month, Hobbies, Volunteer Stories or anything else you may think is fun and interesting. Please email me at Devin.pappas@N2pub.com or text me at 727-657-9615.





Please ad follow us on Instagram @HarborBluffsLiving.

I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday...until next month,

Devin



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ohn and Cindi bought their home in Harbor Bluffs in 1994 and after a couple of remodels, they absolutely love living here. Their favorite part is living on the water because they are an avid water family. Unlike some families that live on the water and never take their boats out, the Thomases frequently go out fishing, diving, paddle boarding or kayaking.

John moved to Florida at age 14 and attended Seminole High School and USF College. In 1976, John, along with his father and mother, opened a business together. It is an agricultural chemical manufacturing company which John has continued to operate for 43 years. John's true passion is racing cars! He has raced since high school, run in the Rolex 24 hours of Daytona and can be found tracking his Corvette on the Sebring Racetrack on certain weekends.

Cindi has been in Florida all her life and, in fact, grew up playing in this same neighborhood. She attended Largo High and graduated from USF, as well. She has spent 40 years in sales, appraising and development of real estate (and still manages their own); however, her true passion is health and fitness. Cindi has 35 years of experience in athletic training, post-rehab, nutrition, and wellness. She currently does private training and teaches Pilates at a studio above the Dimmitt Center called Belleair Fitness.

John and Cindi shared that their son and daughter, Collin and Savanah, are the center of their world. Collin, now 21, born in Florida, is also an avid boat lover. He's been running his own boat since

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he was 12 years old. In middle school and high school Collin swam competitively for Belleair Country Club and Clearwater Central Catholic High School, earning his way to swim in the Junior Olympics' in Gainesville, Florida. He has now returned to Gainesville to go to college at Santa Fe's Construction Management program.

Following in her brother's footsteps, Savanah, now 19 years of age, was also a medal-winning swimmer for BCC and CCCHS. She also ran track, played softball and has her Coastguard boater's license as well! She is currently attending the University Of Florida (Go Gators) seeking a degree in construction design.

The four Thomas members seem to be very close and do a lot of things together. One of their favorite things is going out cruising on their boat, often taking a few neighborhood friends to dinner. A favorite place might be docking the boat at the downtown Clearwater Marina and walking to ClearSky Cleveland Restaurant (the owner Dan also lives in our neighborhood). "We love living in this neighborhood because so many of our friends live here and you don't have to go far for a glass of wine or a beer!"

One of their all-time favorite places to vacation is in the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas where 20 years of playing in that beautiful blue turquoise water spoils you. The kids grew up toddling on the white sandy beaches, fishing, and snorkeling.

One of their pets, Abaco, a "Potcake" breed (Google Caribbean Potcake dogs), was rescued from the Abacos (thus the name) and flew home to luckily live here. Talk about rags to riches! She was rescued from a dump. Their other two pets are cats, Misty and Shadow, which are also rescues but only from Pinellas County.

If it's not on the water, the family could be caught on the slopes of Utah or Colorado. The parents are lifetime skiers and Collin and Savanah have had ski boots on since ages 3 and 5. Solitude, Utah, is the favorite ski resort because it is non-commercial,





can be a challenging mountain to ski but has the feel of a private resort.

When the family isn't out on the boat or skiing, they have very busy lives right here in Pinellas County. Besides their jobs, service to others is a high priority in this family. Cindi has been active for 14 years with a non-profit organization called Hands of Healing Medical Missions. The organization travels to Guatemala providing medical, dental and vision care for below-poverty people in rural communities and in

the high country. The whole family has traveled to Guatemala which is Savanah's birth country. The next mission trip is in October 2019. Please follow this story and how you can help with this organization in future publications.

John is a pilot for the Mercy Flights organization, which flies patients that either can't travel by commercial flight or must meet a critical timeline for their medical treatment. "Seeing the appreciation in the eyes of the patients and their families is so

rewarding," says John. He also helps out in winter months at the Peace Presbyterian Church to help shelter the homeless on cold nights. You might also notice the Thomas family is very patriotic. You can't miss their boat with red, white and blue engine covers (provided by their personal friends who own Outer Envy Custom Boat Covers; you can find them on Amazon or outerenvy.com) and the American flag proudly flies off the stern of their boat.

"We are blessed and proud to be Americans. Both of our fathers had professional careers in the Navy. When you look and travel around the world you KNOW how blessed we are as Americans. So this Fourth of July, truly celebrate the land of the free."



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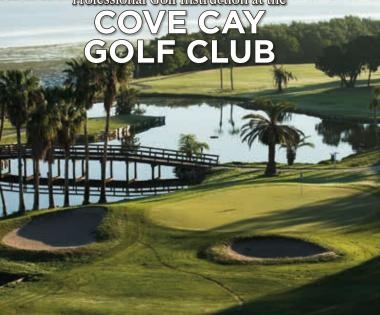
















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# Benefits The Haven of RCS/Pinellas

On April 27, Khris Turpin from First Financial Group of Florida, PC Tish Wold of Belleair Wealth Strategies, Abbey Heimensen of Marine Max, Christy Crist, Amie Crosby, Deb Mattson and Olivia Prince, known as "The Haven Angels," threw a fundraiser on the Clearwater Yacht Club tiki deck, benefiting The Haven of RCS/Pinellas, a local domestic violence shelter and outreach service.

They had a great band to get everyone dancing the night away for this Spring Fling party. The Haven Angels had several auction items, donated by the Clearwater Yacht Club members, who came out to offer a huge amount of support for the shelter.

The very generous members, HB residents and Sponsors donated \$2,000 in cash, over \$200 in gift cards and an estimated over \$8,000 worth of women and children's underwear, women's clothing and toiletries.

Two truckloads were delivered to The Haven of RCS/Pinellas on May 1 and greatly received by the Haven staff. The 50/50

total of \$1,040 was won by Tracy Kuhns, who donated his winning back to The Haven.

# Lola Blevins, Director of The Haven of RCS/Pinellas,

stated, "The Haven Angels went above and beyond, at the Spring Fling. Not only did they raise over \$2,000 for The Haven of RCS, the event also resulted in much-needed donations of gift cards, underwear and clothing for our 'Safe House' residents. No wonder we call them 'our angels."

Big thanks to **The Haven Angels**, Christy Crist, Amie Crosby, Deb Mattson, Olivia Prince, Khris Turpin from First Financial Group of Florida, PC Tish Wold of Belleair Wealth Strategies and Abbey Heimensen of Marine Max, for organizing the party.

If you would like to volunteer at The Haven of RCS, please contact Devin Pappas at Devin.pappas@N2pub.com or visit RCSpinellas.org to learn about all their programs.



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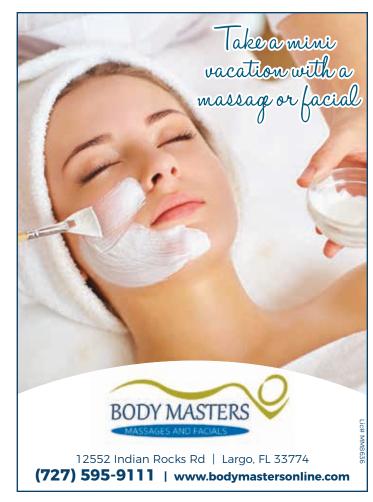


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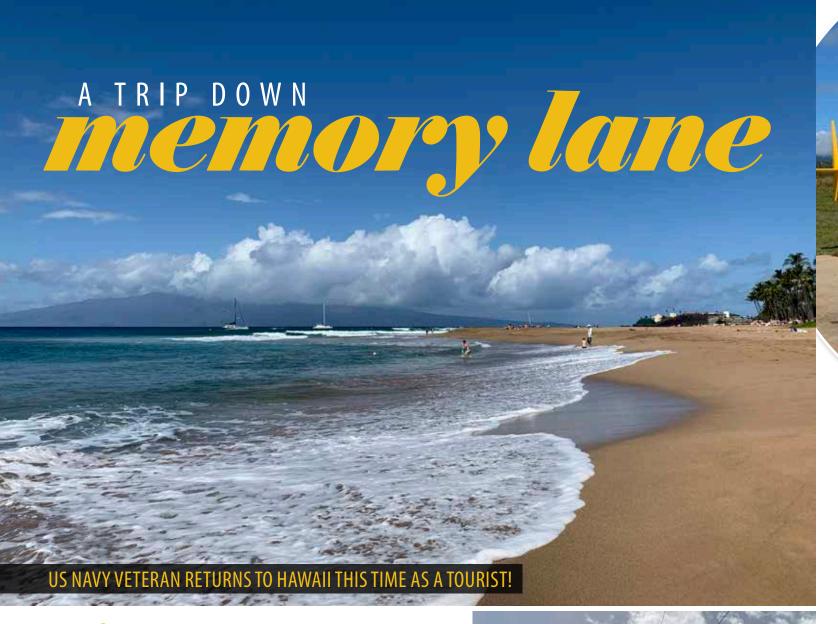
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travel By Susan Brown of Cruise Planners

**Tish Wold**, Certified Financial Planner with Belleair Wealth Strategies and Veteran, recently revisited Hawaii with her friend, Tracy. She was stationed there from 1990 to 1993 with the U.S. Navy.

SB: Tish, how did you feel going back to Hawaii as a tourist, almost 26 years after you were stationed there?

TW: It truly was an amazing trip and brought back many wonderful memories.

## SB: Which islands did you visit?

TW: We visited both, Oahu and Maui. We flew first into Honolulu, on the Island of Oahu and stayed for four nights at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

#### SB: What was your first impression?

TW: Back when I was living in Hawaii, there were a lot of mom-and-pop stores, run by locals, now they all have been pushed out and been replaced by big name stores. Those small local stores greatly contributed to the authentic and smalltown feel of the Hawaiian Islands. I was sad to see so many didn't survive.

#### SB: Did you get to taste the local foods?

TW: Of course! One of my favorites, Loco Moco, a breakfast dish — white



rice, topped with a hamburger patty, fried egg and brown gravy - still tasted delicious. And we loved all the fresh fish!

# SB: Sounds yummy! What else did you do?

TW: A helicopter tour of Kauai was definitely a highlight!

But as a Navy veteran, I had to see The Battleship, USS MIS-SOURI. During the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, in 1991, I did the protocol planning leading up the event and participated in the ceremony on board the active battleship MISSOURI. We visited Oahu's Punchbowl, the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Individuals memorialized here are the Missing in Action, lost, or buried at sea in the Pacific during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. It was so amazing to be able to share that with Tracy and a very sobering experience!

# SB: I can see you are still very touched by it!

TW: The next five days we spent at the Hyatt Regency Ka'anapali on Maui. We did everything tourists usually do, whale watching off the coast of Maui, a breathtaking experience, driving along the coastline and visiting the beautiful beaches of Ka'anapali. The first few days weren't as warm as we expected, we went in February, but the second week, the weather was just beautiful.

## SB: What was your best experience?

TW: There are so many beautiful experiences to be had on the islands, it is difficult to pick just one, but I loved the Battleship Missouri and the National Cemetery.

# SB: Any advice for fellow travelers?

TW: Don't just stay in one place, experience the difference islands, activities, and foods, especially the small, local restaurants. That's the only way to experience an authentic Hawaiian vacation.

# SB: Thank you for sharing your awesome vacation with us!

Tish Wold, CFP, can be found at Belleair Wealth Strategies 1215 S. Myrtle Ave, Clearwater 727-451-3450 Belleair Wealth.com.







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Proud Owners: Christine Vaughn and Robert Hilsky Pet's Name: Toby Type of Pet: Ragdoll cat, Mittened variety Male, 11 years old on Easter

When you ring the doorbell at the Vaughn-Hilsky home, you will be greeted by a large, very furry white cat named Toby. He enjoys visitors and rushes to the door each time it's opened. Toby is positive proof that the hype about the Ragdoll personality is true. He loves people and wants to be in the thick of any group. Toby has sat through all of Chris' book club meetings and after Bob's gourmet dinner parties, he can be found happily purring in a willing guest's lap. Unlike most pets, Toby enjoys the hubbub of Halloween. He is also a veteran of Hurricane Irma.

The couple had been very attached to their two Himalayan cats, who lived to be 15 and 16 years old, and were saddened when age took them. Chris had promised no more pets. But after two years, she began researching different cat breeds and decided on a Ragdoll, known for their loving and outgoing temperaments. She drove up to Spring Hill to purchase Toby when he was 12 weeks old. He mewed pitifully all the way back to Harbor Bluffs. That first night, even though he was on their bed, the mewing continued. Chris covered him with a baby blanket and he happily went to sleep. Now at bedtime, he settles between Chris and Bob and emits one sharp meow,







his signal to be covered. Toby obviously has trained his humans well.

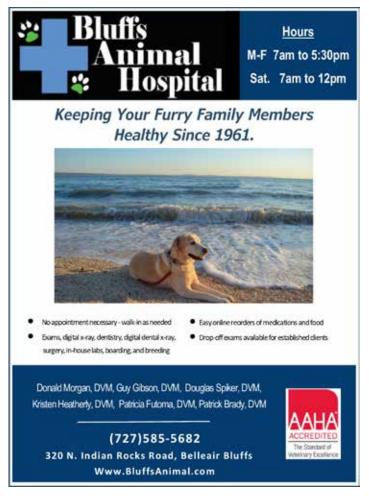
With his large blue eyes, natural pantaloons and a large fluffy plume of a tail, he is a handsome chap. At birth, Toby was completely white, but as the months went by, the tips of his ears became gray, as well as his tail and front legs. His front paws remained snowy

white, giving him the signature mittens. By his second year, he had a faint gray saddle on his back and his gray facial mask was in place.

Chris and Bob have long realized that their gorgeous cat is also quite a comedian. If he doesn't approve of his meal, he will drag a large plush shark over and cover the offending dish with it. He has jumped in the bathtub with Chris so many times that she now locks the door. And many a surprised guest has seen Toby jump up, slap the doorknob with his paws and intrude on whoever's in the powder room. He can dismantle a flower arrangement without knocking over the vase and has been known to rearrange the flowers in a circle on the floor. Reds are his favorite. Toby enjoys viewing pictures on the PC but does not like U-Tube music. If Chris is on her cell phone too long, he will gently grab her wrist in his

mouth to get her attention. When Toby wants to be groomed, he gets on the laundry room counter, and paws at the drawer holding his comb.

Toby's winning personality has even converted longtime cat-haters, who readily admit he has won them over to the feline side. If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and say hi to Toby. He likes small dogs just so long as they don't bark at him.





# MARINATED STEAKKEBABS

# **Ingredients**

- 2 pounds sirloin steak, cut into bite-size cubes
- · 1 red, orange, and green bell pepper cut into chunks
- · 1 large red onion, cut into cubes
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- · 1 tablespoon seasoning salt (I use Simply Organic Grind to a Salt)
- 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- · 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2-1/2 tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/4 cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/4 cup tamari
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- · Metal skewers or skewers that have been soaking in water for 30-45 minutes

# Instructions

- 1. In a large bowl, combine the garlic, seasoning, black pepper, Dijon mustard, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, tamari and whisk while pouring in the olive oil.
- 2. Place the peppers, onions and cubed sirloin into the marinade. Toss to coat and let sit for a few.
- 3. Skewer the steak and peppers alternating with the red onion until all the steak is skewered
- 4. On a hot, preheated grill, place the skewers down and immediately reduce the temperature to medium/medium-high. Cook, turning occasionally until there's a nice char on the outside.
- 5. Remove and let rest for 5 minutes or so before serving.

Serve with rice, a salad, and grilled bread.

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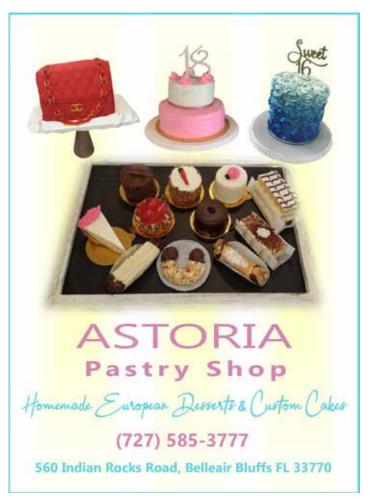
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# **Harbor Bluffs residents taking** care of the community

Jeannie and Dr. David Shapiro have lived on Hickory Lane in Harbor Bluffs for 12 years. These love birds have been married for 39 years and have three grown children: Corey, Seth and Adam. Jeannie also expressed their love for being grandparents of Dylan, age 12, and Morgan, age 9.

Dr. David Shapiro is a general surgeon in Clearwater, Florida, and is affiliated with **Tampa General Hospital**. He received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 45 years.

For the past 21 years, Jeannie has been the CEO of The Clearwater Free Clinic and her daughter, Corey, recently joined as one of the Nurse Practitioners.

Since 1977, the Clearwater Free Clinic has provided problem-oriented health care to low-income uninsured residents of upper Pinellas County by means of office visits, medications, lab work, x-rays, and specialty referrals. The Clinic, a volunteer-driven non-profit, non-government medical facility, provides primary health care at no cost to those who do not qualify for government assistance and who cannot afford private medical care.

Most of the patients at the Clinic are hardworking people with limited incomes or low-paying jobs. Their income excludes them from receiving government assistance yet prohibits them from affording private health care or insurance. Without the aid of the Clearwater Free Clinic, these uninsured residents would turn to emergency rooms for non-emergent care at a great cost to themselves and the hospitals. Many of the uninsured will often ignore significant health problems until a crisis occurs, not wanting to incur debt. This is where the Clearwater Free Clinic can help.

In 2018 The Clearwater Free Clinic moved and expanded from their Ft. Harrison location of 3,000 square feet to Court Street to 11,000 square feet.

We had the opportunity to tour this amazing/updated/professional establishment and view their state-of-the-art equipment in all 11 exam rooms, speak with some of their volunteer doctors, interns and pharmacist and learn about their services.

Last year, this non-profit organization helped the uninsured residents of Pinellas County by aiding 13,000 patients with problems ranging from a cold/flu to chronic problems like diabetes, depression or heart issues. The pharmacy department kept extremely busy by filling 34,000 prescriptions in 2018.





When asked, "How do your patients pay for their prescriptions?," the answer left me speechless. Jeannie pointed to a jar, on a ledge and explained that if they can donate, the patient puts money in the glass jar; if not, it is free.

Since the Clearwater Free Clinic is a 501c3, they exist through volunteerism. They currently have 150 community volunteers and 50 physicians which includes specialty physicians. One retired doctor quoted, "Here we can practice medicine in the finest form."

Mrs. Spapiro is the founder of the popular Martinis and Matisse event. This art driven fundraiser started in 2004 with 38 artists and 120 guests. Since then, it has grown to 150 artists and 900 guests becoming their main source of funding for the Clearwater Free Clinic. *HB Living* magazine will keep you posted on the details of this event.

When this busy and community-oriented couple is not working, David and Jeannie enjoy playing tennis, fishing and golfing. They love the water and going on family vacations.



Some of their favorite memories are vacationing in Amelia Island and Myrtle Beach where the family would enjoy the beach, surfing, horseback riding and golfing together.

If you would like more information on the Clearwater Free Clinic or would like to volunteer, please visit ClearwterFreeClinic.org.

Thank you, Jeannie and Dr. David, for sharing your story with us.









**28** Harbor Bluffs Living • July 2019 • Harbor Bluffs Living **29** 





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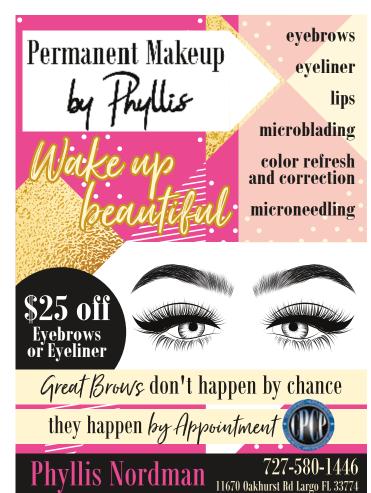
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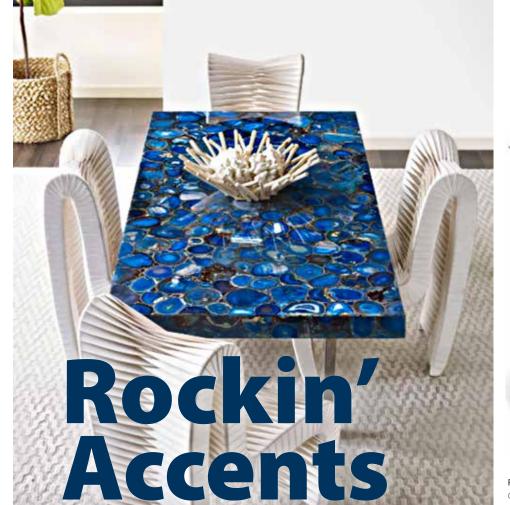
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CLIPPINGDALES GROOMING











For more information, refer to Rock and Gem: The Definitive Guide to Rocks, Minerals, Gemstones, and Fossils by Ronald Bonewitz

# design. decor. details

Although they're incredibly trendy now, the fascination around gems and stones isn't new. We have always been in awe knowing about the several hundred rock and gem varieties, and the science of how they're formed. Dating back to the Egyptian culture and beyond, gemstones were incorporated in jewelry, sculptures, and furniture.

Today, interior design inspires the placement of gems and geodes in our home accents and furniture. Placing an Amethyst geode in an entrance foyer, or creating a conversational piece with an Agate coffee table brings a magical effect to the room. We are also adding gems to our kitchen knobs and pulls, bottle openers, napkin rings, and tray handles. I refer to it as "the jewelry of the home."

Besides the shiny, sparkly appeal, the stones are known to carry soothing and relaxing properties. For instance, the Rose Quartz is known to bring relaxing and gentle inspiration. The brilliant purple Amethyst is quoted to assist in meditation and eases sleeping disorders. The Agate stone is known for its protective and grounding qualities.

The Babylonians and Egyptians were on to something in appreciating the science and nature of gemstones. And today, we can still "Rock It!" by adding gem accent pieces and furniture to our décor.



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# BREAKTHROUGH IN AESTHETICS

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Platelet therapy is quickly becoming an integral aspect of cosmetic treatments, especially at PureLife Medi-Spa. Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) has been used topically or as an injection to stimulate collagen production and enhance the efficacy of procedures such as hair loss, lasers and microneedling. Harvested PRP/ PRF has platelets, fibrin and white blood cells, which contribute to wound healing, collagen production and improved elasticity.

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I am completely in awe of how simple and effective my PRF treatment was! I love the fact that there is nothing but my own blood involved, so the risk for complication or rejection is virtually non-existent. The results are immediate and the treatment is quick and painless.



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# kids' korner







**HBL:** How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

LC: Five years

# **HBL:** Do you have any pets?

LC: Yes, my dog is named Chaya and my cat is Mr. Bean.

#### HBL: What school do you attend and what grade?

LC: I attend Country Day School and am finishing grade 1.

#### **HBL: What is your GPA?**

LC: Perfect

## HBL: What are your "best practices" for being such a good student?

LC: I listen to my teacher; I work hard on all my work activities.

# HBL: What is your favorite subject and why?

LC: Art and PE and Reading

# **HBL: What are your plans after high school?**

LC: Um, I don't know yet. Maybe the president one day.

# HBL: Tell us something you achieved or some highlights of your experience so far in your education?

LC: First Grade

# HBL: How do you keep a balance between school, work, and other activities in your life?

LC: I like school, but I also like my after-school activities. Like Girl Scouts and gymnastics.

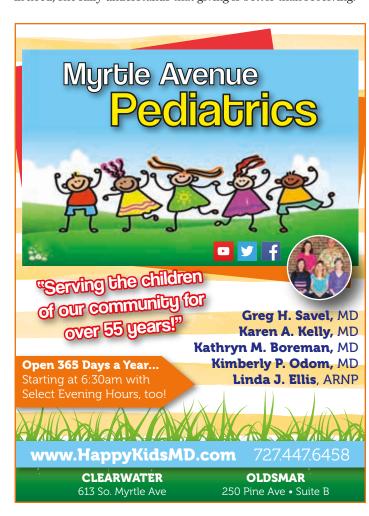
# HBL: Name someone you admire. What makes them special and how have they motivated you?

LC: My Mormor (Grandmother) who is an awesome artist inspires me, and my Muffie (Grandfather) inspires me to work hard and do my best

HBL: We would be remiss if we didn't tell you about Liv's entrepreneurial spirit. It seems that she is a very ambitious little salesperson, who in her first year in Girl Scouts as a Daisy, was the second highest seller out of 50 troop members in selling nuts and magazine subscriptions. Also, During the Harbor Bluffs Garage Sale, she insisted that she have a lemonade stand during

her mom's garage sale in which she successfully earned over \$15 selling cups of lemonade for 25 cents each. She asked every single passerby if they would like something a drink or a snack. She plans to spend 1/3 of her earnings, save a 1/3 and donate a 1/3.

One unique quality I have learned from spending some time with Liv is her desire to help others and volunteer. In addition to donating 1/3 of her lemonade profits, Liv has taken up a collection of toys from her peers and donated them to children in homeless and domestic violence shelters. Her mom tells us that she is very good about donating her own toys that she doesn't use anymore to kids in need, she fully understands that giving is better than receiving.





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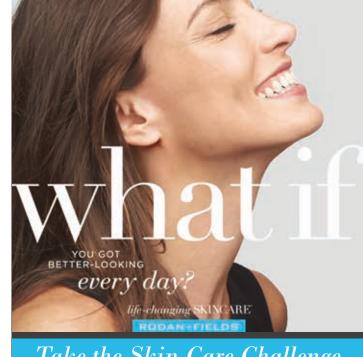












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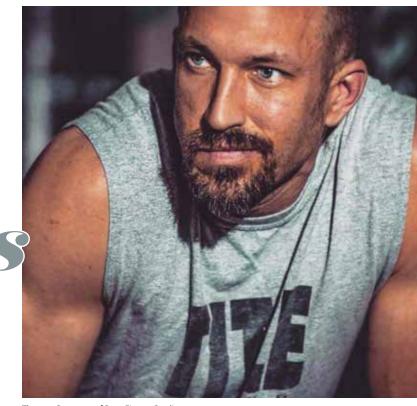
# healthy tips

By **Thomas Gurganus** of Burn Fitness Studio

# TO BURN FAT AND BOOST YOUR METABOLISM!

The metabolic process is the manner in which the body converts caloric intake into energy. Any number of factors are involved in this process, and each one is specific to the individual. That said, there are 10 factors that are universal to nearly every person in speeding up their metabolism...Increasing the ability to burn fat — removing the long-term damage that fatty deposits will cause around the vital organs.

- 1.) Eat smaller meals, but more frequently. This keeps the body in an increased state of digestion increasing the number of calories burned.
- **2.)** Increase daily exercise. And when doing so, perform higher intensity fitness activities.
- **3.)** Change up your nutritional intake and your fitness routine. These will keep your body from falling into a pattern, and keep it processing effectively.
- **4.)** Eat healthy fats or supplement with them. Healthy fats are involved in hormonal production and cell repair. These processes require energy.
- **5.)** Eat whole foods. Whole bread, whole grains. These contain fewer calories and need more energy to process.
- **6.)** Get your carbohydrates from a fibrous source. Eating fibrous foods takes more energy to digest and more time to extract. You will burn more energy digesting and feel full for longer.
- 7.) The liver is vital to the metabolic process and needs to be clean and healthy to work effectively. When the liver isn't clean,



Thomas Gurganus of Brun Fitness Studio

the ability to burn fat declines significantly. Double down on water and cut down on alcohol. Alcohol is effectively poison to the liver, so go light on it. The same goes for sugars, which build up in the liver, forming fatty deposits and storing fat.

- **8.)** Cut down your stress levels! Easier said than done, but the body is hardwired to respond to stress by releasing sugar (glucose) for energy and slowing down the digestive functions. This combination, over time, will not only store fat but will develop long term negative health consequences as well. Start small get more sleep, buy a stress ball, pick up a hobby...Anything to take any edge off the stress.
- 9.) Increase the percentage of calories you get from protein and decrease the amount from high GI foods (white starches, corn syrup, pastas, most cereals). Protein-rich foods need more energy to oxidize and be used for energy so you will be decreasing the amount of calories you eat.
- 10.) Add weights and resistance to your training. New muscle creation requires energy (calorie expenditures) to power so the more muscle you create, the more calories you burn. When you build more muscle, your body burns calories even just in performing simple daily activities that being the very definition of an effective metabolism.

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# Help Us Gather's COMMUNITY INCLUSION AWARD

# Jessica McKnight Photography

At first glance, it's clear: Jessica McKnight's photography is one-of-a-kind. However, there's much more than meets the eye with this talented photographer. McKnight also specializes in photographing individuals with special needs.

The team at nonprofit Help Us Gather noticed many people with special needs were not getting the opportunity to be featured in photos or advertising. That's why Help Us Gather, or HUG, hosted a Photoshoot Day at their office in Clearwater, Florida. McKnight donated hours of her time, shooting and editing photos of people with disabilities.





"I believe in treating all people with dignity, respect, love and kindness," said McKnight. "We all have the power within us to make someone happy, we just have to use it. When we see the good that is going out into the world, we find that we are the one really receiving the gift. The work being done at HUG makes my heart sing. I am so very honored to know such beautiful people."

In fact, McKnight is so committed to making sure her business is inclusive, she recently expanded her studio at 1433 S. Fort Harrison Ave in Clearwater. McKnight says clients in wheelchairs had issues accessing her studio in the past, which is why she added space on the first floor to accommodate individuals of all abilities.

By offering adaptive photography shoots in a comfortable setting, McKnight is giving people of all abilities the chance to step in front of the lens and feel confident. That's why HUG is happy to award Jessica McKnight Photography this month's Community Inclusion Award.

You can find out more information and book a photoshoot at www. JessicaMcKnight.com.



# Help Us Gather

Help Us Gather is a local nonprofit that advocates for inclusion and connects individuals with disabilities to social events and activities. Check out our community calendar and connect with HUG at www.HelpUsGather.org.

Wondering how your business can be more inclusive?

Know someone working to include people with disabilities?

Connect with Help Us Gather (727) 489-5885 - Events@helpusgather.org







# By **Ashely Richmond**

Starting your own business can be a daunting task. It takes planning, preparation and a lot of elbow grease. For Maxine Simeone, it also takes a lot of sparkles.

Maxine makes her own colorful, blinged-out headbands. She spends most nights with a glue gun in hand, carefully placing rhinestones, feathers, fabric flowers, and anything sparkly she can find on each piece of headwear.

Maxine is also an ambassador for a local nonprofit called Help Us Gather, or HUG. HUG advocates for inclusion and connects individuals with disabilities to social events and activities. Maxine has Down's syndrome, and she joined HUG to make new friends and connect with other people with special needs in the community.



Before Maxine became an ambassador last fall, making headbands was just a hobby. However, the HUG team saw Maxine's potential and asked her to make headbands to sell at the Help Us Gather Celebrity Event in November.

Maxine's headbands were a huge hit, so she decided to start "Sparkles by Maxine."

Her Facebook page began selling her headbands year-round. Maxine loves being an entrepreneur and she never shies away from the spotlight, whether she's posing for a camera or telling someone new about her quickly growing small business.

"I like HUG best for making friends. It has helped me grow, personally and with my business. It has opened my heart," she said.

**Ashley Richmond Help Us Gather** 1180 Ponce De Leon Blvd. #301 Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 489-5885





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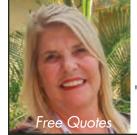
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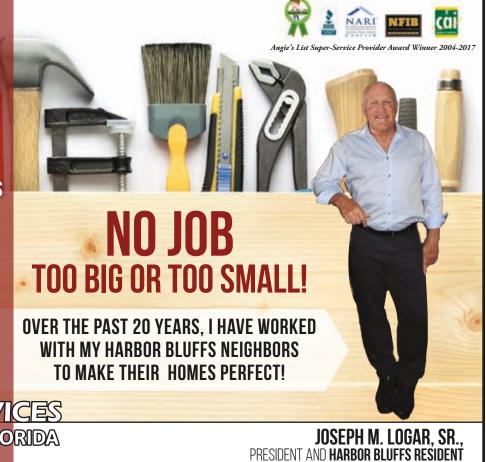
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# Real Estate RESOURCE

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Address	Neighborhood	Sale Price	Sold Date	DOM	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Sp/Sq I
101 Poinciana Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$875,000	04/29/19	15	2	2.5	2,194	\$398
121 Palmetto Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$660,000	04/17/19	219	5	4	3,552	\$185
106 HarborView Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$1,520,000	03/29/19	189	5	5	6,798	\$223
129 Live Oak Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$379,000	03/19/19	5	2	3	1,910	\$199
107 Live Oak Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$600,000	03/06/19	44	3	2	2,631	\$228
413 Buttonwood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$511,200	03/05/19	45	0	3	2,240	\$228
125 Oakwood Dr	Harbor Bluffs	\$425,000	03/04/19	176	4	3	2,470	\$174
133 Oakwood Dr	Harbor Bluffs	\$350,000	03/02/19	29	3	2	1,439	\$143
437 Buttonwood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$1,125,000	02/20/19	181	4	3.5	3,579	\$314
204 Poinciana Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$805,000	02/14/19	483	4	3	3,257	\$247
111 Poinciana Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$850,000	01/12/19	82	3	4	1,865	\$465
414 Buttonwood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$1,500,000	01/02/19	1064	4	4.5	5,025	\$330
207 Orangewood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$334,500	12/17/18	111	3	2	2,000	\$167
311 Crestwood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$300,000	12/16/18	42	3	2	2,033	\$147
317 Orangewood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$465,000	12/07/18	43	3	3	2,650	\$175
314 Crestwood Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$525,000	12/04/18	474	4	4	2,650	\$157
303 Harbor View Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$420,000	12/03/18	7	4	3	2,650	\$174
128 Indian Rocks Rd	Harbor Bluffs	\$277,000	11/26/18	20	3	2	2,650	\$178
304 Harbor View Ln	Harbor Bluffs	\$1,830,000	11/15/18	41	4	4	2,650	\$484
109 Oakwood Dr	Harbor Bluffs	\$650,000	11/08/18	6	4	4	2,650	\$216



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**52** Harbor Bluffs Living • July 2019





# Where Shoes Speak Louder than Words

HB Living magazine and Network had the opportunity to interview Courtenay Twinam, the owner of Shoes by Beverly located in Belleair Bluffs in the E and E Plaza.

Her industry is quality and name brand ladies' shoes, handbags and accessories. Courtenay agrees with Cinderella, who stated, "One Shoe Can Change Your Life!"

# **HBL:** What prompted you to start your own business?

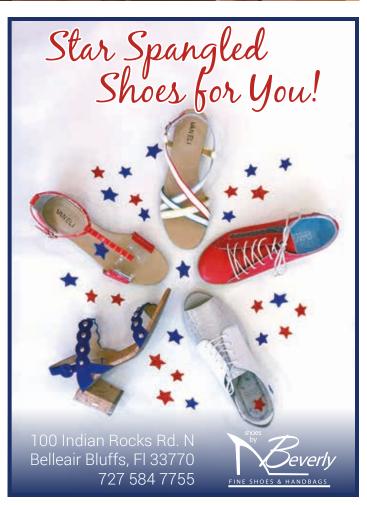
CT: This iconic shoe and accessory store was created by Beverly Halliwell, who built this wonderful local business over a decade ago. When Beverly retired, in the summer of 2017, I purchased the business from her and the legacy lives on. I had been working for Beverly for two and a half ] years, so the transition was smooth.

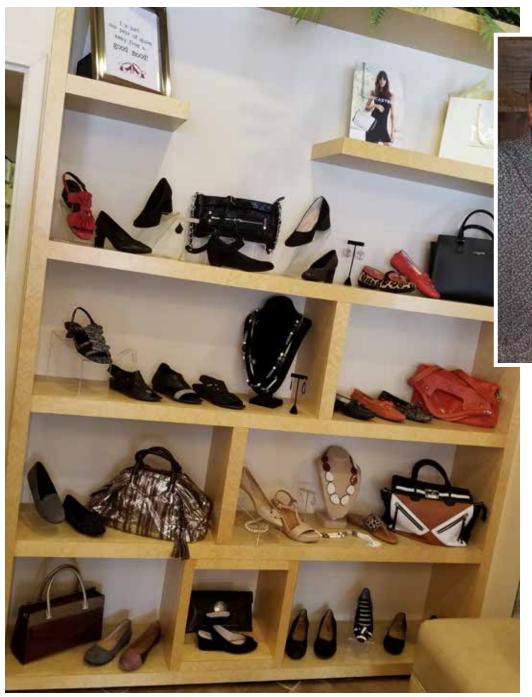
My background has always been in the retail and fashion industry. I had previously owned a ladies clothing and shoe boutique, called The Daisy Chain, in Franklin Tennessee, which I founded and ran for 18 years.

I received my training from Lord and Taylor in New York City and held a buyer's position as a young woman. Therefore, I had the experience needed to take the helm for this new adventure.

# **HBL:** Why did you choose that name?

CT: Although I never knew my grandmother, Daisy, she was the





only other merchant, in our family. I was always told we were a lot alike so I was inspired to name my store after her.

## **HBL:** What a beautiful story.

# **HBL:** Please describe what your company does:

CT: We make women happy! And, men love it too because we have gift certificates, for those tough buying decisions.

HBL: But of course, what woman doesn't love shoes and handbags or getting gift certificates for shoes and handbags?

#### **HBL:** Anything extraordinary/unique that your company does:

**CT:** We provide exemplary service to our customers and we offer a wide range of fashionable choices to meet everyone's taste.

We take the time to listen to our customers and select the best casual shoes, special occasion shoes, comfort shoes, cute heels,

flats and wedges that fit their

needs and desires.

Everyone at Shoes by Beverly is experienced at sizing and ensuring you get the proper fit, even if you have foot issues. We also carry those "hard to find" sizes and widths such as narrows, which no one seems to carry any longer.

HBL: This is great news. You are so correct, narrow shoes are so difficult to find. We are sure glad the Shoes by Beverly carries them!

# HBL: Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice can you offer to the residents of Harbor Bluffs?

CT: I am always seeking new, fun, comfortable and fashionable options that will also meet the lifestyle needs of our customers. If you haven't been by in a while, pop in and check out what we're offering these days. We truly have something for any shoe lover.

HBL: That's for sure, your assortment changes ALL THE TIME!

# **HBL**:

# Where did you grow up?

CT: I grew up overseas in the Middle
East. It was a fascinating childhood
traveling the world
with my parents
and brother.



As the child of a foreign service officer, I lived in Beirut, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain. These were very much third-world countries in the '60s and 7'0s, so I had exposure to all walks of life as well as different cultures, nationalities, and religions. We also traveled to Egypt, Ethiopia, Dubai, Israel, Syria, Greece, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Great Britain.

# HBL: Wow, that is fascinating, and we will have to capture that in another story!

## **HB:** What are your hobbies/interests?

CT: I love living in Florida where I can be outside much of the time. I enjoy yard work, swimming, riding my bike and reading. I've also been learning to swing dance and it's a blast! I would like to travel more in the future, but I sure love living in paradise!



Please pop over to Shoes by Beverly and meet Courtenay Twinam, owner, and her manager, Marcy Finn.

Check out the ads in HB Living magazine for new arrivals.

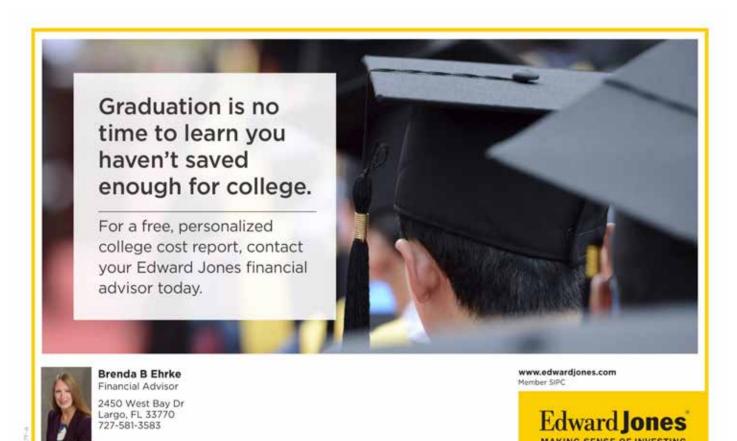
Keep this in mind, "Any day is a perfect day for shoe shopping." (Just ask my husband...)

I totally have too many shoes, said no woman ever!

Website: shoesbybeverly.com
Phone number: 727-584-7755
Business address: 100 Indian Rocks Rd. N. #2,
Belleair Bluffs, Fl 33770



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RESIDENT BUSINESS GUIDE

If you are a Harbor Bluffs Resident and own a business you would like to share with our neighbors, please contact us at Devin.Pappas@n2pub.com

**ATTORNEY** 

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McManusEstatePlanning

com

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belleaircoffeecompany.com

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Florida

Joe Logar

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AAAServicesFlorida.com

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Jessica@PartiesALaCarteFL

com

PartiesA'LaCarteFL.com

**GOLF COURSE** 

**Cove Kay Golf Course** 

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PatMcClananShriver@live.

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**Beach View Hotel** 

Crawford Ker (727) 461-7695

thebeachviewhotel.com

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LisaGMassage@gmail.com

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LindaBullerman.com

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MunyunPainting.com

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(727) 463-5661

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Jennifer Munro-Golliher

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www.c21beggins.

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Jennifer Munro-Golliher

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TeamBower.com

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Shaun.Carroll.Evusa.com

Sand Key Realty

Mark Frankum (727) 492-6433

Mfrankum@gmail.com

Sand Key Realty

Michelle Gerhart (949) 235-9691

Michelle@sandkey.com

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ckseatsndrinks.com

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Three-olives.net

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**Bluffs Animal Hospital** 

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BluffsAnimal.com

**WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT** 

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Yvonne Morris

(702) 528-6110

consultel.net



Not all companies make the cut! We screen every sponsor before recommending them to you. Remember, we live in the neighborhood too, and would never recommend a company to our friends and neighbors that we wouldn't use ourselves. Devin and Marc

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ArtLoversPlace.org

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KinnearKSmithPA.com

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Aquitter.com

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BelleairMarket.com

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**CUSTOM T-SHIRTS** 

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BudgetBlinds.com/Clearwater

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(727) 710-2511 PartiesA'LaCarteFl.com

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Trades of Hope

Marie Chouinard (727) 403-7931

mytradesofhope.com/mariechouinard

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(727) 540-0414

visionarycentreforwomen

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First Financial Group of Largo

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FFG-LLC.com

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TheBurnfit.com

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BloomTownFloristFl.com

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CoveCayGolf.com

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BeachViewHotel.com

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GoldAndDiamondSource.com

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www.womenwithpurpose.org

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HelpUsGather.org

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KoastalSurfaceCleaning.com

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