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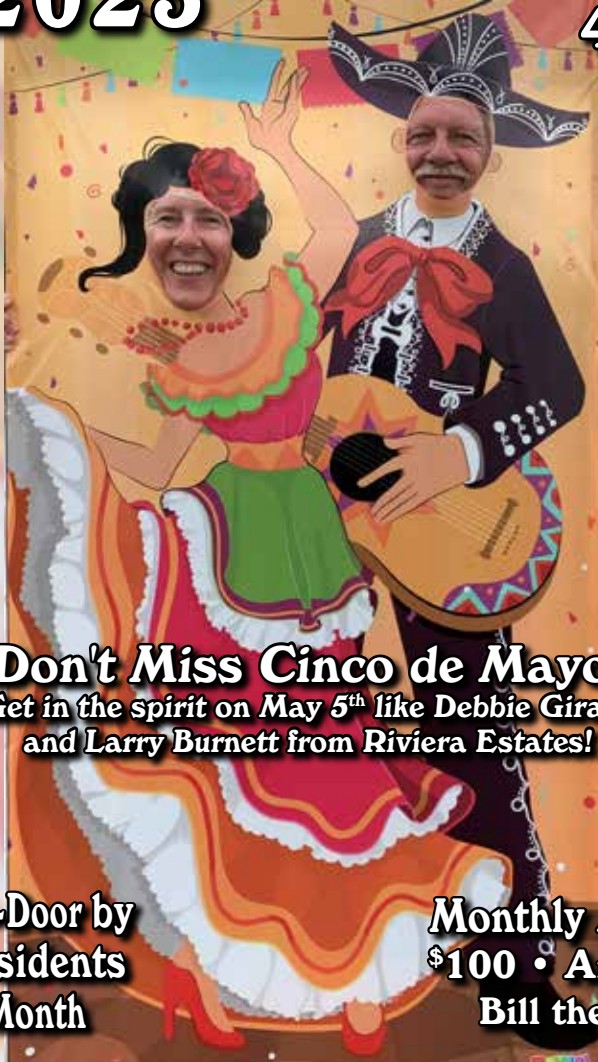
# SHANGRI LA

• S T A R •

S

## May • 2023

## Issue 3 47<sup>th</sup> Year



**Don't Miss Cinco de Mayo!**  
Get in the spirit on May 5<sup>th</sup> like Debbie Girard  
and Larry Burnett from Riviera Estates!

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## HOA Officers

President.....	Cheryl Doty .....	727-417-7718
Vice President .....	Bobbie Christian.....	727-458-0008
Treasurer.....	Aimee Stuyvesant.....	727-200-8917
Ass't Treasurer.....	Tammy Tynan.....	519-751-8408
Secretary.....	Trish Lasisompone.....	315-542-8928
Activities Director.....	Tim Sheimo.....	727-332-3294
Park Office.....		727-582-2850
After Hours Emergency.....		727-641-9556
Shangri La Star Newsletter.....	Norma Rowe.....	shangrilalargo@gmail.com

## MESSAGE FROM OUR HOA PRESIDENT

**G**reetings to all residents! Your HOA Board is hard at work to try and resolve numerous issues. Please feel free to put any complaints in our new “complaint box” located in the clubhouse. Our activities are coming back! Our Easter brunch was a success with your HOA Board serving our members. Thanks to all who attended and helped! A special shout out to Pat Signor thank you for doing so many, many dishes! Thanks to Aimee and Tim for all you do for our activities. We have a few events coming up in May, come out and enjoy! There will be an HOA meeting on May 4th at 6 p.m. Thanks to the members and especially the Board. You are all terrific!

## MEMORIAL DAY

**R**ed, white, blue and you! Join us for a Memorial Day celebration! We will be having hotdogs, burgers, and sides on Monday, May 29 at 4:30pm. This is a free HOA event but donations are always appreciated.

## PROM NIGHT

**J**oin us for a special 50s and 60s style prom night at the clubhouse on Friday May 12 from 6-9PM. There will be music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and punch. We look forward to seeing everyone dressed up in button down shirts and dresses. There will be a 50-50 raffle and donations are always appreciated.



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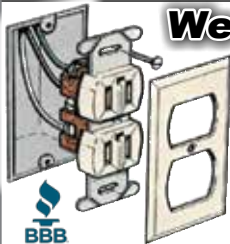
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## PETER BATCHELOR

**W**e lost one of our long-time residents in March. Peter Batchelor, Lot 49, passed away on March 14th. Peter Alan Batchelor, born in Chicago, July 9, 1948, big brother par excellence, taught some of us how to walk and talk. He expressed some regret for having done so on more than one occasion, but we always got past it and went on to swimming or skating or sledding and often finished up making popcorn for “the little kids” in the family. Peter also taught some of us multiplication and long division before we learned those mysterious operations at school. What seems most amazing about those lessons is that he wanted us to learn math because it was “so cool.” As was astronomy, space travel, history, the motorcycle, and, of course, rock and roll. Over and over, his enthusiasms reached out to involve you. Later in life those enthusiasms included roses, choir participation, and most recently, show tunes. At Shangri-La he painted a number of houses, but he started on that particular practice back in Milwaukee where he painted the three story family home with his kid brother before he headed off to Florida and his brother to Minnesota. He was a big brother to a big family, a father to Amy and Regan Ann, a good buddy to the “Roo” dog, a nephew, cousin, grandfather, uncle, and a “mom” to Woody. In every role, he was an original, and always enthusiastic. We will miss him.



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## FIRST FRIDAY

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We had a nice first Friday to kick off April. Tim Sheimo, John Holmes, Jim Braebender and Bob Doty cooked the ribs. They were amazing! Go team Shangri La. I think we should get these guys on America's Next Top Chef. We also had an Easter Brunch. Wow, what a spread! Tim and Aimee, as usual, knocked it out of the park. Get it . . . Park LOL. Thanks to everyone who makes these events possible. From cooking to cleaning, we have a great group of people here at Shangri La.



Also, butt's out on all other Fridays at 4:30. Great friends, great music, a heated pool and beautiful sunsets.

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## SEND OFF FOR THE JACKMANS

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On Friday, March 10th we had a goodbye party for Ben and Linda Jackman. They won't be making Shangri La their home-away-from-home for the winter anymore. What a goodbye party it was! We had a huge turnout. Three different types of turkey were served; smoked, fried and roasted. Plus all the traditional fixings and plenty of deserts. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and Ben and Linda were given scarves to keep them toasty back home in Canada.



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## THINGS TO DO

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### \$5 Thursdays at Imagine Museum

Join Imagine Museum on Thursdays for ONLY \$5 between the hours of 5 pm and 8 pm. Looking for a fun, inexpensive date night or family activity? Come to downtown St. Pete for an immersive journey through the world of contemporary glass art. 1901 Central Ave.,

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*...continued on page 11*  
SHANGRI LA STAR MAY, 2023 S



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### **Gulfport Fresh Market**

The Gulfport Fresh Market is every Tuesday 9AM - 3PM (October - April) - Summer hours (May through Sept.) are 9AM - 2PM - on Beach Blvd. below 29th Ave. S. in Gulfport's Waterfront District. Fresh produce, bread, cheese, nuts, honey, seafood, crafts, music and more!

### **Universal CityWalk**

Whether you're looking to check out the shops, get in some extra steps, or experience the nightlife or Mardi Gras festivities, Universal CityWalk can be a fun spot to visit – and doesn't have to cost any extra money aside from the gas to get there. Universal CityWalk is home to a variety of shops, restaurants, bars, and clubs, but it's also a great spot to take in the sights and atmosphere, walk around the lake, or people watch. You can also visit CityWalk's Rising Star karaoke bar or Coconut Club. One note, you have to be at least 18 to get into Rising Star and, of course, 21 to purchase alcohol. During the day, Universal charges a fee to park, which varies from \$30 to \$60 per vehicle. However, after 6 p.m. on most nights and outside of Halloween Horror Nights, you can park for free. Throughout the year, you may even be able to listen to music or catch some performances on the Universal CityWalk Lagoon Stage.

### **\$6 Sundays at the St. Petersburg Museum of History**

Make your weekend historic! Enjoy a special \$6 Admission to the St. Petersburg Museum of History every Sunday—Now through June! The Museum of History is open from Noon-5PM on Sundays. No reservations or pre-purchased tickets required. Just visit us on the St. Pete Pier. 335 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg

### **Madeira Beach Wednesday Market - Feb 1, 2023 – May 24, 2023**

Occurs weekly on Wednesday - Makers Market featuring artisan vendors, live music, lunch bites & beach vibes, just steps from the ocean. Visitor parking is free at City Hall (300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708) and at the Winn Dixie (15200 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708) located nearest the market. Paid parking is available in the Archibald Beach Park parking lot located off of Gulf Blvd. across from the market location. Market is located on Madeira Way.

### **For the Pups**

Dog Parks for small and large dogs at Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Rd., Largo

**Please remember to pick up after your dogs here in the park.**

## **BIRDS AND BLOOMS – ROSEATE SPOONBILL**

**H**owdy neighbors! The bees are buzzing and the birds are singing! This month is dedicated to my favorite Florida bird, the Roseate Spoonbill. The “pink” or roseate spoonbill is a social wading bird of the ibis and spoonbill family. It gets it’s pink color from the diet of crustaceans. Plume hunting in the 18th and 19th centuries almost caused this beautiful bird to become extinct but their numbers have grown back. They are common in



*continued on page 15*



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Florida, Texas, and southwest Louisiana and are originally from South America east of the Andes mountains. Their distinct shaped bill allows them to strain small food items such as fish, amphibians, and other aquatic invertebrates out of the water. I hope you have enjoyed reading about this bird! If you have a bird or a bloom you want me to discuss, please give me a shout at 727-200-8917 or wvbkwrwmn@gmail.com. By Aimee Stuyvesant

## JOKE

---

A man and his wife were driving their Recreational Vehicle across the country and were nearing a town spelled Kissimee. They noted the strange spelling and tried to figure how to pronounce it - KISS-a-me; kis-A-me; kis-a-ME. They grew more perplexed as they drove into the town. Since they were hungry, they pulled into a place to get something to eat. At the counter, the man said to the waitress: "My wife and I can't seem to be able to figure out how to pronounce this place. Will you tell me where we are and say it very slowly so that I can understand." The waitress looked at him and said: "Buuurrrgerrr Kiiiiinnng."

## CLEANING TIP:

---

A lot or you probably already know, I clean houses for a living. I thought I'd include some cleaning tips in the newsletters. Just some things I've figured out to make cleaning jobs a lot easier. As well as products (mostly from Dollar Tree) that I find work really well.

How to get blood out of clothing, carpeting and just about anything else. Dawn Dish Soap (blue). Wet a cloth with warm water. Dribble a small amount of Blue Dawn on the stain. Rub with wet cloth until stain is removed. Wipe again with a clean wet cloth

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR ~ CC and Bob Doty

---

Cheryl and Robert Doty Lot 59, moved to ShangriLa in 2015.

Cheryl (CC) was born in Alaska, where her father was stationed, on 5/30/58. They moved to New York when she was three.

The third child of five, CC has one sister living in Land O Lakes, another living in Connecticut, and two brothers living in Rhode Island. CC graduated from Westerly High School and attended University of Rhode Island. Her first job was "pouring cement" for her brother

Roy's Construction Company. At age 19, she married and has four children: Christian who lives here in the park, Jeremy who resides in Holiday, Brad in Largo, and Stephanie in New



*continued on page 16*



Jersey. Divorced, CC met Robert (Bob) in 1990. At the time, he was working for her brother's construction company. They married in 1993. For fifteen years, CC worked as a construction project manager for Skyfield Construction Co. in New York, Long Island, and New Jersey. She retired Aug. 11, 2001. Bob was born 11/23/1957 in Yonkers, New York. Second son of four children, Bob has a sister living in St. Petersburg and a younger brother in New York. His oldest brother is deceased. Bob attended Elementary PS 22 in Yonkers and graduated from Westerly High School in Rhode Island in 1975. He enlisted and served four years in the Coast Guard. At age 22, Bob began working for Roy Construction Co. Fifteen years later he decided to change careers. He took the exam for the Correctional Dept. in New York. In 1990 he graduated from Westchester Co. Dept of Corrections and became an officer there receiving promotions and retiring as Asst. Warden 2015. Previously married, Bob has three daughters: Jennifer and Melissa living in Rhode Island and Michelle in South Carolina. Together CC and Bob have thirteen grandchildren. Two cats, Toto and Bubba live with them. CC enjoys crocheting, sewing and, of course, "remodeling"! Bob is a registered FCC licensed ham operator. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, 3rd level. He has been an active member in the American Legion for the past 19 years. Both are active in our community. At present, CC is president of our HOA. In the past they both served on the board: Bob as president, and CC as activity chairperson. Bob enjoyed playing shuffleboard for two years. They both enjoy living here at ShangriLa. "The people are friendly and the pool is great"! I agree! AND how fortunate this community is to have such dedicated and industrious neighbors. Thank you for taking the time for our interview!

Your Roving Reporter

Polly Pifer

## **DAY TRIPPIN' ~ MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS**

---

**M**arie Selby Botanical Gardens provides 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history. Established by forward thinking women of their time, Selby Gardens is composed of the 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus and the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, Florida. The Downtown Campus on Sarasota Bay is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns, and other tropical plants. There is a significant focus on botany, horticulture, education, historical preservation, and the environment. The Historic Spanish Point (HSP) Campus is located less than 10 miles south along Little Sarasota Bay. The HSP Campus, one of the largest preserves showcasing native Florida plants that is interpreted for and open to the public, celebrates an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida history. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was founded in 1973 when Sarasota resident and passionate gardener Marie Selby bequeathed her former home and property "for the enjoyment of the general public." The

*continued on page 24*

*SHANGRI LA STAR MAY, 2023 S*



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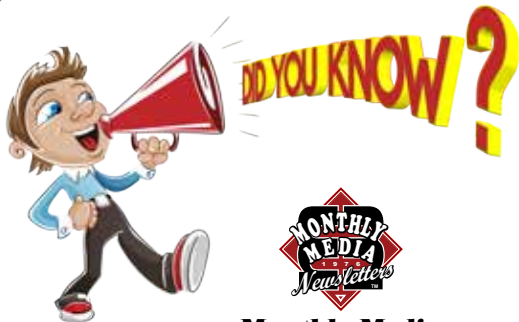
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Bats are the only mammal that can actually fly?

The earth's circumference is 24,900 miles?

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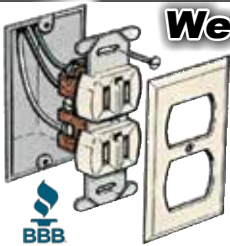
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>Cornhole 4:00pm</p> <p>1</p> <p>Bingo - 6:30, Sta</p>	
	<p>Cornhole 4:00pm</p> <p>8</p> <p>Bingo - 6:30, Sta</p>	
	<p>Cornhole 4:00pm</p> <p>15</p> <p>Bingo - 6:30, Sta</p>	
	<p>Mother's Day</p>	
	<p>Cornhole 4:00pm</p> <p>22</p> <p>Bingo - 6:30, Sta</p>	
	<p>Cornhole 4:00pm</p> <p>Memorial Day - 4:30pm</p> <p>29</p> <p>Bingo - 6:30, Sta</p> <p>CC Doty</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	

# Shangri La

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Doors open at clubs at 7:00pm	3 Marbles at the Club- house 1:30pm	4 Shuffleboard at 1pm HOA meeting 6pm	5 Food and Fun at the Clubhouse – 4:30  <i>Cinco De Mayo</i>	6
9 Doors open at clubs at 7:00pm	10 Marbles at the Club- house 1:30pm  Tammy and Dave Tynan – Lot 26 – Anniversary	11 Shuffleboard at 1pm  Penny Campbell– Lot 5 Yvette Chieves – Lot 16	12 Butt's out at the Club- house – 4:30 Prom Night – 6 – 9pm  Dale Jones – Lot 23	13
16 Doors open at clubs at 7:00pm	17 Marbles at the Club- house 1:30pm	18 Shuffleboard at 1pm	19 Butt's out at the Club- house – 4:30	20
23 Doors open at clubs at 7:00pm	24 Marbles at the Club- house 1:30pm	25 Shuffleboard at 1pm	26 Butt's out at the Club- house – 4:30  Tammy/Tynan – Lot 26	27
30 Doors open at clubs at 7:00pm  – Lot 59	31 Marbles at the Club- house 1:30pm  Pat Chieves – Lot 16			

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15-acre original Downtown Sarasota campus features botanical highlights such as a captivating banyan grove planted by Marie and her husband, William, nearly a century ago. In 2020, Selby Gardens adopted Historic Spanish Point as a second campus. This cultural landmark less than 10 miles from the Downtown Sarasota campus boasts an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida prehistory. A onetime pioneer homestead and the former winter estate of Chicago-born Bertha Palmer, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus provides visitors the opportunity to explore that heritage via an ancient shell midden and collection of historic structures and serves as one of the largest preserves showcasing native Florida plants that is interpreted for and open to the public. It was Palmer's family who both donated the property and helped it become the first site in Sarasota County to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Spanish Point campus is a model of long-term environmental sustainability. Native Americans lived here for thousands of years, apparently with minimal impact on the rich bays and fertile soils that supported them. The early pioneers also lived light on the land, building homes with features that we label as "green" today. Early architectural features included wide roof overhangs to provide shade and large double-hung windows to provide natural cooling. Fresh water was crucial for survival and so cisterns captured every drop of rainwater that fell on their roofs. Wind provided propulsion for the sailboats that provided transportation and commerce. Today, the Historic Spanish Point campus embraces sustainability through energy and water conservation strategies funded through the Partners for Green Places grant project. Reflective window tint, high efficiency air conditioning and LED lighting help conserve energy while saving vital financial resources. Low-flow plumbing fixtures save precious water just as the early pioneers did. Both the early pioneer designs and the latest conservation improvements allow the Historic Spanish Point campus to demonstrate responsible use of resources and long-term sustainability. Downtown Sarasota Campus – 1532 Mound St., Sarasota – 941-366-5731. Historic Spanish Point Campus – 401 Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 941-366-5731. Open Daily 10am – 5pm. Closed Christmas Day.

## FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE

---

I'd like to highlight a different fish/wildlife species native to Florida each month.

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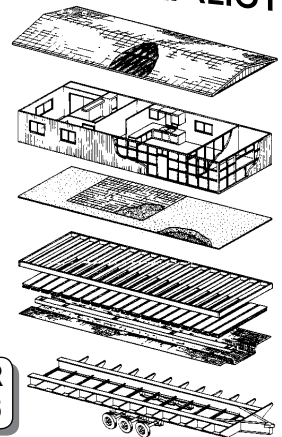
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## RECIPE: CHICKEN MARSALA

- 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 8 chicken cutlets or 4 chicken breasts, sliced in half (about 1.5 lbs)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp. canola oil
- 2 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 (8-ounce) package sliced mushrooms
- 1/3 c. chopped onion (about 1/2 small onion)
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/2 c. dry Marsala wine
- 3/4 c. chicken stock
- 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme, plus more for garnish

**Place flour in a shallow bowl. Use a meat tenderizer or the bottom of a sturdy cup to pound chicken to about 1/4 inch thick. Season with salt and pepper. Dredge chicken in flour, turning to coat all sides. Heat oil in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Cook chicken in batches, turning once, until golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to a plate and tent to keep warm. Reserve skillet. Step 2** Pour off oil from skillet. Melt butter in skillet over medium heat. Add mushroom and onions. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Add wine, stock, cream, and thyme. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened, 14 to 16 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Return chicken to pan and toss to coat. Serve immediately garnished with thyme.

If you've got a recipe you think we'll all like, I would LOVE to include it in the newsletter. Email: shangrilalargo@gmail.com or my cell: 352-807-3232

## INVENTING THE DISHWASHER – JOSEPHINE COCHRAN

Josephine Garis Cochran (sometimes spelled Cochrane) (1839-1913) is largely unknown now, but she should be declared the patron saint of the modern busy family. For in 1886, she patented the first commercial dishwasher. Cochran wanted a machine that would save time washing dishes, and would prevent broken crockery. She was convinced that there had to be a mechanical solution to the tedium of dishwashing. Josephine grew up in a family of engineers, but finding no one that could or would invent such a machine, she vowed, “If nobody else is going to invent a dishwashing machine, I’ll do it myself.” So she invented a contraption of gears, belts, and pulleys that could take a cage filled with over 200 dirty dishes, and would re-appear a few minutes later with the dishes as clean as if they had been hand-washed. Her machine, unlike others that had been attempted, was the first to use water pressure rather than scrubbers to clean the dishes. It also had fitted racks to hold the dishes and cutlery in place.

*continued on page 28*



Once her patent application, under the name of “J.G. Cochran” was approved, the next challenge was production. “I couldn’t get men to do the things I wanted in my way until they had tried and failed in their own,” Josephine later explained. “And that was costly for me. They knew I knew nothing, academically, about mechanics, and they insisted on having their own way with my invention until they convinced themselves my way was the better, no matter how I had arrived at it.” In 1886, with the aid of a young mechanic named George Butters, she set to work in a woodshed behind her home bringing the first prototype to life. Once she had the patent and a machine, she had to sell the dishwashers. Although she wanted to sell directly to women, as they would appreciate how much drudgery the machine eliminated, because very few households in the 19th century could afford to pay over \$100 for an appliance, her main customers were large hotels and restaurants. She was successful at sales, but it was very difficult to challenge the mores of the 19th century, to enter these establishments on her own. When discussing selling to a large hotel, she described it as “almost the hardest thing I ever did, I think, crossing the great lobby of the Sherman House alone. You cannot imagine what it was like in those days...for a woman to cross a hotel lobby alone. I had never been anywhere without my husband or father—the lobby seemed a mile wide. I thought I should faint at every step, but I didn’t—and I got an \$800 order as my reward.” In 1893, she exhibited her dishwashers at the Columbian Exhibition World’s Fair in Chicago, and the orders came pouring in from schools, colleges, hospitals and other large institutions. Her product, the Garis-Cochran Dishwasher was a success. With the assistance of her business partner, George Butters, they opened a factory in 1898, Cochran’s Crescent Washing Machine Company. At first the dishwashing machines were used primarily by large businesses and institutions, but decades later, Cochran’s invention eventually evolved into the appliance considered essential by millions of householders today. Cochran died of a stroke in 1913, a very successful businesswoman. Her company was bought out in 1926 by the Hobart Corporation which produced appliances under the KitchenAid brand. In 1986, KitchenAid was acquired by Whirlpool. Josephine Garis Cochran was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006. In 2013, on the 100 year anniversary of her death, the country of Romania (a country with which Cochran had no connection) issued a postage stamp in her honor, an indication of just how widespread her influence was.

## SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE

---

**B**efore the Sunshine Skyway bridge was built, there was a ferry service for cars between Bradenton and St. Petersburg that shortened the trip from more than 50 miles to 22 miles, and took between 40 and 60 minutes. The Bee Line Ferry began service in 1926 and ran from Piney Point in Northern Manatee County to 4th St. S. in St. Petersburg (Pinellas Point). While it shortened the trip, at times the ferry was so busy that waiting times were three hours or more. The four ferries of the Bee Line continued to make the crossing until the original Sunshine

*continued on page 32*



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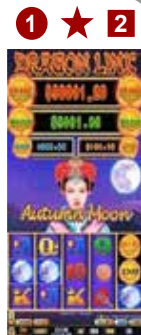
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Skyway bridge, which cost \$21 million to build, opened on September 6, 1954. This original two lane steel cantilever bridge, built by the Virginia Bridge Company, served the area on its own until the late 1960s when, due to changing standards for the interstate highway system, four lanes were required. In 1969 a second, parallel bridge was built to the just to the west, making a total of four lanes, two in each direction. Opening of the newer span was delayed until 1971 due to necessary repairs. The second bridge was used for all southbound traffic, while the original span was converted to carry northbound traffic. The first tragedy associated with the Sunshine Skyway bridge occurred on January 28, 1980, when the US Coast Guard Cutter Blackthorn, which had recently completed a major overhaul in Tampa, collided with a tanker named the Capricorn as it made way under the Sunshine Skyway bridge, headed for the Gulf of Mexico. Due to the extensive damage caused when the tanker's anchor ripped into the Blackthorn's hull, the ship capsized and 23 of the Blackthorn's 50-member crew perished. A commemorative plaque can still be found on the bridge's approach. Of course, the bridge's most famous disaster took place on May 9, 1980, when a freighter, the MV Summit Venture, collided with a support column pier during a severe storm. As a result, 1,200 feet of the southbound Sunshine Skyway bridge collapsed into the water, along with six vehicles and a Greyhound bus, killing 35 people. Of those who plunged into the Bay, only one man, Wesley MacIntire, survived. His falling truck hit the Summit Venture's deck before sliding into the water. He was able to get out of the truck and swim to the Summit Venture, where he was rescued. Construction of the current Sunshine Skyway began in 1982, and the completed bridge was dedicated on February 7, 1987. The new, six-lane bridge cost \$244 million to build, and was opened to traffic on April 20, 1987. At a length of 29,040 feet and a height of 190 feet above the water, it is the world's largest cable-stayed concrete bridge, and it has won dozens of engineering and design awards. Because protecting the new bridge from collisions was paramount, large concrete islands, called dolphins, were built around each of the bridge's six piers, and were designed to withstand the impact of an 87,000-ton ship. The bright yellow paint job on the cables is said to reflect the Skyway's home in the Sunshine State. The placement of the cables between the two roadways, rather than on the outside, offers drivers and passengers an unobstructed view of the water as they cross the bridge. The remains of the old bridge were demolished in 1993, and it was decided to leave the north and south over-water approaches intact. Today these are known as the Skyway Fishing Pier Park, and scores of fishermen can be seen daily with their lines in the water. In 2005, an act of the Florida Legislature officially named the current bridge the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge, after the former Governor of Florida and then U.S. Senator who presided over its design and most of its construction. The Sunshine Skyway, surely one of the most beautiful bridges in existence, has garnered more than its share of praise. The graceful span and shining yellow cables are well lit at night, and can be seen for miles day or night. It can best be viewed from the East Beach area of Fort Desoto Park. Due to its beauty the span has been the scene of several auto commercials. It is also worth noting that a special on the Travel Channel rated our Sunshine Skyway third best of their Top Ten Bridges. The next time you drive across the Sunshine Skyway, perhaps you will recall some of its interesting history. Or maybe you will just enjoy the gorgeous view.





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## HISTORY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE – TAMPA FL

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**M**acDill AFB, originally Southeast Air Base, was established, constructed, and dedicated from 1939 to early 1941, starting operational service as MacDill Field more than six months before the US entered World War II. Before the end of construction the base was named for Colonel Leslie MacDill, a World War I pilot and aerial gunnery school commander, killed in 1938 due to engine failure. MacDill Field was one of several Army Airfields in the Tampa Bay area in World War Two, all of which were organized under the Third Air Force, with commands split among the various fields. The main mission of MacDill was to establish US air security over the Gulf of Mexico, especially defense of US oil tankers from ports of Texas and Louisiana; the US was providing Lend-Lease equipment to the United Kingdom and Soviet Union at this time, and much of the material was being shipped from Gulf ports; there was concern that German U-boats could slip into or even through the Florida Straits and run rampant in the event of war. Furthermore, the US controlled the Panama Canal, and Florida was the last major staging base on the way to Panama. MacDill was constructed in haste, with flight operations beginning while personnel camped in tents in the buggy Florida wetlands. MacDill units included pursuit fighters for scramble response, and reconnaissance bomber squadrons, mainly B-26 Marauders, which had good loiter time and could carry sizeable ordnance loads for on-the-spot attacks, but suffered from landing difficulties. Early in the war, MacDill was a logistics hub for Project X, a supply program shipping combat aircraft to the Philippines via the South Atlantic, across Africa and through India (which was less dangerous than over the Pacific and through Japanese controlled airspace). As the war progressed, MacDill became an excellent location for wartime movies, standing in for Pacific tropical locations, and two Hollywood films were partly shot here, *A Guy Name Joe*, and *Air Force*. *Air Force* featured repainted B-26s standing in for Japanese bombers; these scenes were shot near MacDill. Memos were circulated, and Japan was certainly nowhere near Florida, but vigilant and well intentioned Coast Guard units fired on the Japanese marked planes, with no casualties. Ironically, these exterior filming shots were done at Tampa Bay because of fear that Japanese marked planes would cause panic on the West Coast. Later in the war, MacDill converted to a mainly training mission, focusing on the B-17 Flying Fortress, and later the B-29 Superfortress. The end of the war led to rapid demobilization, and many bases inactivated, but MacDill, with a regionally important location, remained open at lower strength. In 1946 MacDill was assigned to Strategic Air Command, and units from MacDill were sent to strategic bombing campaigns in the Korean War. The Cold War demanded a high level of alertness, and although Tampa Bay was nowhere near approaches to the Soviet Union, it was still a perfectly useful training facility and well back from the expected northern air theaters. In 1955 MacDill was again used for backdrops and exterior shots for a Hollywood film, *Strategic Air Command*, starring James Stewart and June Allyson. Stewart plays an Air Force Reservist called to active duty, who struggles with his wife's (Allyson) displeasure over his situation; Stewart was an actual Air Force Reservist and

*...continued on page 39*



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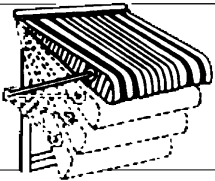
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pilot, at the time a Colonel. By 1960 budget concerns and the ever-changing global situation made MacDill look like a surplus base; the Cuban Missile Crisis shortly put an end to this idea, and MacDill's squadrons were flown in support of the Cuban Blockade. MacDill went from apparently surplus to central for Gulf-Caribbean security, and a new unit command concept, the US Strike Command was established at MacDill for global crisis response. Over the course of the 1960s MacDill transitioned to a fighter base, transferring to Tactical Air Command in 1962, a mission the base would follow to the end of the Cold War. When the Cold War did end, MacDill's mission was reevaluated, and a review concluded that air traffic in the Tampa Bay area was becoming too congested for safety; MacDill stayed open but its mission altered to airlift and flight operations reduced. The airlift mission has since supported the 1994-1995 Operation Support Democracy (overthrowing a revolutionary dictatorship in Haiti). The early 2000s saw another round of base realignment affecting MacDill, notably the reassignment of additional air refuelling wings and reassignment of the US Marine Forces Central Command headquarters to MacDill AFB.

## ARMADILLOS

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Okay, this article says that armadillos like to eat termites. I wonder if ELS would let us keep them as pets to ward off the yearly termite swarms. Just kidding. . . I love animals, but don't think I want an armadillo toolin' around the house. Of the 20 varieties of armadillo, all but one live in Latin America. The familiar nine-banded armadillo is the only species that includes the United States in its range. Armadillo is a Spanish word meaning "little armored one" and refers to the bony plates that cover the back, head, legs, and tail of most of these odd looking creatures. Armadillos are the only living mammals that wear such shells. Closely related to anteaters and sloths, armadillos generally have a pointy or shovel-shaped snout and small eyes. They vary widely in size and color, from the 6-inch-long, salmon-colored pink fairy armadillo to the 5-foot-long, dark-brown giant armadillo. Others have black, red, gray, or yellowish coloring. Contrary to popular belief, not all armadillos are able to encase themselves in their shells. In fact, only the three-banded armadillo can, curling its head and back feet and contorting its shell into a hard ball that confounds would-be predators. **Habitat and Diet** Armadillos live in temperate and warm habitats, including rain forests, grasslands, and semi-deserts. Because of their low metabolic rate and lack of fat stores, cold is their enemy, and spates of intemperate weather can wipe out whole populations. Most species dig burrows and sleep prolifically, up to 16 hours per day, foraging in the early morning and evening for beetles, ants, termites, and other insects. They have very poor eyesight, and utilize their keen sense of smell to hunt. Strong legs and huge front claws are used for digging, and long, sticky tongues for extracting ants and termites from their tunnels. In addition to bugs, armadillos eat small vertebrates, plants, and some fruit, as well as the occasional carrion meal.



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