



OFFICE: 100 Hampton Road • Clearwater • FL 33759 • (727) 796-0500

# ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

E

**July • 2025**

**Issue 5 - 49<sup>th</sup> Year**



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turned 100, and a  
month later celebrated  
79 years of marriage  
with Arlene!

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# Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

This publication, Island in the Sun Sentinel, also referred to as the Monthly Media, contains names, contact information, community articles and information, an activities calendar as well as general interest articles. IITS residents can contribute ideas, articles, and photos to the publication. Contact Linda Olone at 727-214-7334, email [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com), or Lot 73

**Manager Editor:** Linda Olone  
**Media Delivery Team:** Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D’Andrea; Sue Morley; Steve Marshall, Mike & Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

**August 2025 Media Deadline July 4, 2025**  
**Please e-mail articles and photos submissions to:** [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com)  
 You can also drop off articles not sent via e-mail at Lot 73

**Representative to the Federation of Manufacturers Home Owners (FMO):**  
 Need Volunteer  
 Please submit corrections to [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) or report to an HOA Board member.

## Island in the Sun HOA Board

President.....	Tammy Blaisse.....	Lot 297 .....	580-301-4828.....	<a href="mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com">tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com</a>
Vice - President.....	Pattie McDonough .....	Lot 266 .....	727-475-0360.....	<a href="mailto:mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com">mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer .....	Cathy Ralston.....	Lot 184 .....	203-257-3376	
Secretary .....	Ken Gonska.....	Lot 313 .....	303-704-5555	
1 yr .....	Steve Malara .....	Lot 202 .....	732-977-4867.....	<a href="mailto:smbombers@aol.com">smbombers@aol.com</a>
2 yr .....	Lisa Hoffman.....	Lot 125		
3yr .....	Kimberly Riesenbach.....	Lot 185 .....	609-471-8608.....	<a href="mailto:kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com">kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com</a>

## Non-Board Positions

Robo Call .....	Chrissie Riley .....	Lot 290 .....	404-353-1801.....	<a href="mailto:chrissiegriley@gmail.com">chrissiegriley@gmail.com</a>
Neighbor Helping Neighbor .....	OPEN			

## 2025 Committees

Committee.....	Name/Chair .....	Lot# .....	Phone#.....	Email
Activities Committee .....	Pattie McDonough .....	266 .....	727-475-0360	
	Chrissie Riley .....	290 .....	404-353-1801	
Bingo.....	Linda Olone.....	73 .....	727-214-7334	
Bingo Callers .....	Linda Olone.....	73 .....	727-214-7334	
	Ron Caster			
Dominoes .....	Teresa Amato			
Ladies Lunch.....	Cindy Sadusky.....	14 .....	717-587-2498	
Library.....	Cindy Sadusky.....	14 .....	717-587-2498	
	co chair .. Nancy Bilcheck .....	184 .....	203-913-9450	
Media Delivery .....	Nancy Bilcheck .....	184 .....	203-913-9450	
Membership .....	Tammy Blaisse .....	297 .....	580-301-4828.....	<a href="mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com">tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com</a>
	Rusty Leslie .....	310 .....	865-232-9072.....	<a href="mailto:kohanadancer@gmail.com">kohanadancer@gmail.com</a>
Phone Book.....	Tammy Blaisse .....	297 .....	580-301-4828	
Pickleball.....	Paul Ranck.....	134		
Remembrance Corner .....	OPEN			
Shuffleboard .....	Elaine Ranck.....	134		
Rummikub.....	Rose Leduc .....	160 .....	727-797-8026	
Sign Board .....	Chrissie Riley .....	290 .....	404-353-1801	
Texas Hold’Em .....	Rick Morabito.....	174 .....	303-704-9772	
	co chair... Rose Leduc .....	160 .....	727-797-8026	
Welcoming .....	Rusty Leslie .....	310 .....	865-232-9072.....	<a href="mailto:kohanadancer@gmail.com">kohanadancer@gmail.com</a>
Yoga .....	Kathy Bowen			

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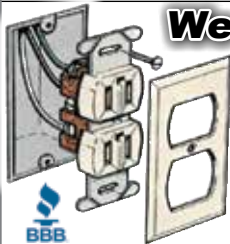


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## FROM THE EDITOR

Linda Olone



**H**ello IITS!!

Happy 4th of July!! I hope you are finding ways to beat the summer heat! With so many activities going on around here it's hard to sit still!

Please send any articles, suggestions, or photos to me at [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) or stop by Lot 73. If you would like to be highlighted or have a resident event highlighted in an upcoming edition for any of our sections, please let me know.

Thank you - Linda Olone – [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) – 727-214-7334

## From the HOA president:



We are on summer hiatus! See you in September!

Tammy Blaisse - [tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com](mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com)

## FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:



**4** ways to find out all about our events:

1. Make sure you sign up for the robocalls as well, as event information is being sent via robocall, too. Contact Chrissie Riley at [chrissiegriley@gmail.com](mailto:chrissiegriley@gmail.com) or Tammy Blaisse at [tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com](mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com) with your lot #, telephone number and name to join the list. These numbers are shared with no one.
2. Check out the Marquee at the park entrance by the clubhouse for upcoming events. HOA Events and announcements are located on the front and Resident Sponsored Activities are located on the back, if you would like your activity listed on the back please let Tammy Blaisse know.
3. The calendar is kept current in the glass case at the Clubhouse.
4. Please join any or all of these IITS Facebook Groups, we post activities on these pages only.
  - a. Island in the Sun Social Group
  - b. IITS uncensored, sort of
  - c. The Official Island in the Sun HOA (HOA Members only) This page is only for HOA business.

Please contact the activities committee for activities you would like to start at [mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com), [chrissiegriley@gmail.com](mailto:chrissiegriley@gmail.com) We will provide you with help to get started.



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# OPEN POSITIONS:

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We have a few open positions if you are interested in volunteering for anything.  
**NON-Board Positions**

- 1. Remembrance Corner - OPEN - Need this person to report obits to Rusty Leslie for adding to Media Guide and so we are able to send a card from the community.
- 2. Neighbor Helping Neighbor – OPEN - need Volunteers.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

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We would love to add your birthday and anniversary to our list! E-mail your name and date to [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) so your friends and neighbors can help you celebrate your special days!

# RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

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These activities are not HOA or Cal-Am sponsored activities. They are resident led.

- **The Men’s Breakfast** - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse. The participation is typically 6-12 men. All guys are welcome including people visiting the community. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors!
- **The Ladies who Lunch** - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.
- **8 or 9 Ball Pool** - Like to shoot pool? Every Saturday at 10 am there is a group who play 8 or 9 ball at the clubhouse. They are always looking for new players.
- **Texas hold ‘em Poker** is played in the clubhouse on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30 pm. Come prepared to have fun.
- **Bingo** – Every Other Monday, played in the clubhouse.
- **LRC (Left, Right, Center)** – 3rd Tuesday of every month – bring your dollars!
- **Pickle Ball** – Played Monday and Tuesday night at 6:30

Anyone wanting a resident activity to be spotlighted in the Media Guide please contact Linda Olone.

# Calendar

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See the calendar in the Media Guide or on the clubhouse board for upcoming daily activities, HOA activities and Cal-Am activities.

**Please note:** the 2 calendars don’t always sync up, so if in doubt, please call Pattie McDonough for HOA activities, and the Cal-Am front office for Cal-Am activities.



## Ladies Lunch

Cindy Sadusky



**L**adies Lunch The ladies of Island In The Sun get together on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at noon, to enjoy lunch together at various restaurants around the Clearwater area. I love choosing one of many locally owned restaurants, hopefully allowing us to experience restaurants that we may not have chosen ourselves. There are many that we have visited that have become favorites! I also welcome suggestions from the group. It should be a restaurant that can accommodate a group between 8-14 women, accept reservations and will do separate checks.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS

Activities Committee



**H**i everyone.  
The Resident Activities committee has the following activities planned for each month this coming year. Please contact Pattie McDonough if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Volunteers are always needed to host, set up and tidy up – please let Pattie know if you would like to help out at any of these events.

Thank you to all those who volunteer their time to make these events great for our community.

**June 14th, 11 am– Pool party with Games Host Pattie McDonough and Karen Sopak**

Free event, 50/50 raffle, Basket of Cheer, games. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs

**July 20th, 2 pm – Back to School Pizza Party – Host Pattie McDonough**

Free pizza party for donations for school supplies

**August 9th, 10:30 am - Breakfast at the Clubhouse - More to come.**

**September 13th, 11 am Labor Day Cookout - More to come.**

**October 31st 6:30 PM Halloween Golf Cart parade and Party immediately afterwards.**

There will be cart and house judging this year, we will also be having a chili cook off at the party.

**November 4th, 9 - 2 – Arts & Craft Fair**

**November – Collecting items for our Veterans,**

**November 27th Thanksgiving Dinner at the clubhouse. Host Melissa Lynch**

**December 31st New Years Eve Party - More to come.**

All activities are held by the residents, the HOA's only involvement is to provide the funds needed to set up the activity, provide guidance if the host wishes, we will help the host if needed, provide the 50/50, Raffle Basket and tickets if needed. The HOA does not determine

*continued on page 11*





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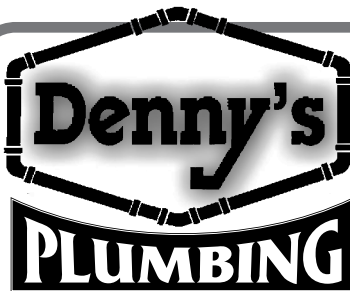


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**7 ★ 27**



what activities are held, you as residents do that.

Thanks to all those who volunteer their time to make these events a great one for our community.

Your activities committee is working hard to provide the residents with fun activities.

## Communications

---

**N**otice: Cal-Am will be communicating information to the residents via texts. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please). If you need help setting this up please contact Katy at the office or Tammy Blaisse, we will be happy to help you.

HOA will continue to use Robo call.



## WELCOME WAGON CORNER

---

*by Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie*

**W**elcome to my little corner of the world and to July and summer.

If you are new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Our activities are listed in the center of this media guide.

I hope you take advantage of all the activities we offer and that you love living here as much as I do.

Have a wonderful month of July.

Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

I am in Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward.

Just come to my screened porch and ring the bell.

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Email me at [kohanadancer@gmail.com](mailto:kohanadancer@gmail.com)

welcome!

## Bingo News!!!!!!

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**B**ingo will close for summer months, July and August. Our attendance has been low and will probably get worse as the summer rolls on. We will resume in September. Dates to be announced soon.

See you all soon! Thank you ~ Linda Olone



**A Complete Listing of Resident Services  
can be found on the page before your calendar**



## SIGN UP FOR IITS ROBOCALL TO STAY INFORMED

**C**al-Am has a new way of communicating information to the residents. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please)

HOA will continue to use Robo call.

**The phone messaging service is used to:**

- Remind residents of HOA meetings
- Announce/Remind/Poll activities and events
- Communicate information to specific groups (Bocce, Shuffleboard, etc.)
- Announce safety concerns in the community and surrounding area
- Other uses approved by the IITS HOA Board of Directors.

**Please provide your information to Tammy Blaisse at 580-301-4828 or at [tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com](mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com). Your information will be used strictly for this messaging service and will not be shared with anyone else.**

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## Local Business Recommendation

**W**e need your help!!!! Which local businesses do you recommend?  
What services do you offer to our residents? Are you a handyman, a painter, electrician, house cleaner? Let us know!!

We once had a list of those in the community who offer services to others.

Send me your info – contact info below. Please help get these lists going!!!

Send any information to Rusty - 865.232.9072. email [kohanadancer@gmail.com](mailto:kohanadancer@gmail.com)

stop by 310 - message me on messenger - Let's help each other. Thank you.

Rusty

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## Recipe Row

### SMASH BURGER TACOS

SMASH BURGER TACOS are the latest craze! Make your own at home!  
Perfect for summer!

#### Ingredients:

- BURGER SAUCE - 1/4 cup mayonnaise 2 Tbsp. ketchup 1 Tbsp. sweet pickle relish 1 Tbsp. yellow mustard 1 tsp. hot sauce
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 6 (5") flour tortillas
- 2 tsp. store-bought or homemade burger seasoning Kosher salt.
- 6 Tbsp. neutral oil,
- divided 6 slices American cheese,
- divided 18 thin bread-and-butter pickle slices.
- 1 cup shredded iceberg lettuce
- 3 Tbsp. chopped yellow onion.



1 In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, ketchup, relish, mustard, and hot sauce until combined.  
Step 2 Make Ahead: Sauce can be made 3 days ahead. Cover bowl and refrigerate.

Divide beef into 6 portions about 2 1/2 ounces each. Top each tortilla with a portion of beef. Using a fork, flatten beef on top of tortilla into an even layer, leaving a 1/2" border. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon burger seasoning; season with a pinch of salt.

#### Step 2

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 2 tablespoons oil and swirl pan to coat. Arrange 2 tacos beef side down and press into skillet to flatten with a sturdy spatula or burger press. Cook, undisturbed, until beef is browned and cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes. Flip tacos, top each with a slice of cheese, and cook until cheese is slightly melty, about 1 minute more. Transfer to a baking sheet. Repeat with remaining 4 burger tacos.

#### Step 3

Top each taco with burger sauce, pickles, lettuce, onion, and sesame seeds.







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17



17



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---

1. Amazon Prime - Amazon offers up to 50% off a monthly Prime membership for seniors who receive government assistance, including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
2. Kohl's 15% every Wednesday. Senior Day
3. Bealls – 10% Tuesdays. Senior Day.
4. TJMaxx – 10% Mondays Senior Day
5. Ross – 10% Tuesday Senior Day
6. Walgreens - The first Tuesday of every month is Senior Day at Walgreens. Customers 55 and up who are enrolled in the MyWalgreens rewards program can get up to 20% off their purchase, which includes everything from toiletries to snacks. The discount is also available for online shoppers, and it usually lasts for the first week of every month.
7. Joann Fabrics – 20% one day per month. Call the local store 727-787-2088.
8. JC Penney - Join the rewards program! get a 30% off JCPenney coupon for your first order, plus you earn rewards for great deals on every purchase.
9. Michaels - Get your craft on at Michaels, where anyone over 55 can receive 10% off their purchase every day. Bonus: The discount includes sale items. Make sure to register to get your discount, which can be used in store and online.
10. Pep Boys - Car trouble can be a huge pain. Luckily, AARP reported that Pep Boys customers 55 and older can get 10% off their in-store purchase, which can help alleviate the cost of getting your vehicle in tip-top shape.
11. Sam's Club wants to give back to seniors 50 years or older by offering seniors a special membership offer. Qualified seniors who join Sam's Club online as a new member will receive a 60% discount on Club membership or \$50 off Sam's Club *Plus* membership. Join as a *Plus* member and get free Curbside Pickup, free Delivery from Club on eligible orders of \$50 or more, free shipping on eligible orders of \$50 or more and early shopping at select locations.

## Be Active

---

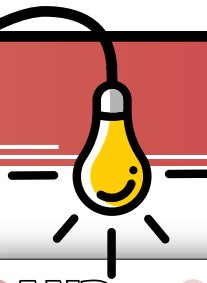
Being physically active can help you stay strong and independent. For older adults, regular physical activity supports a number of health benefits, including brain function, balance, and bone strength.

- Try to get at least 150 minutes (or two and a half hours) of moderate activity per week. Moderate means any activity that gets your heart beating faster.
- Do activities that make your muscles work harder than usual at least two days of the week.



# Did You Know?

The vote for independence was actually on July 2nd, the 4th is the day the Declaration was officially published?



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- ★ Star:** A Gold Star means this advertiser has a clean slate with us - No unresolved complaints.
- 49 Square with a Number:** This counts the years the advertiser has been sharing their story in Monthly Media. A sign of their commitment to your community!

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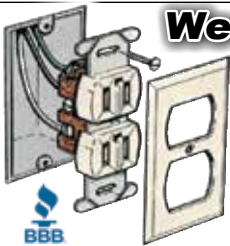
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# JULY • 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
*Calendar is subject to change		1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm
6 6:30 pm Poker	7 1 pm Dominoes 10 am Water Aerobics 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm
13 6:30 pm Poker	14 1 pm Dominoes 10 am Water Aerobics 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm 7 pm I
20 2pm Back to School Pizza Party 6:30 pm Poker	21 1 pm Dominoes 10 am Water Aerobics 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm
27 6:30 pm Poker	28 1 pm Dominoes 10 am Water Aerobics 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm R 10 am Y 6:30 pm

# ISLAND IN THE SUN

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>Ummikub</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>n Pickleball</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10 am Yoga</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10 am Water Aerobics</div> <div>7 pm Unify in the Word</div>	<div>4</div> <div>1 pm Shuffleboard</div> <div>5 pm Chit Chat</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div> <div>Independence Day</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Ummikub</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>n Pickleball</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10 am Yoga</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10 am Water Aerobics</div> <div>7 pm Unify in the Word</div>	<div>11</div> <div>1 pm Shuffleboard</div> <div>5 pm Chit Chat</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Ummikub</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>n Pickleball</div> <div>,R,C</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10 am Yoga</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10 am Water Aerobics</div> <div>7 pm Unify in the Word</div>	<div>18</div> <div>1 pm Shuffleboard</div> <div>5 pm Chit Chat</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>22</div> <div>Ummikub</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>n Pickleball</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10 am Yoga</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10 am Water Aerobics</div> <div>7 pm Unify in the Word</div>	<div>25</div> <div>1 pm Shuffleboard</div> <div>5 pm Chit Chat</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>29</div> <div>Ummikub</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>n Pickleball</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10 am Yoga</div> <div>6:30 pm Poker</div>	<div>31</div> <div>10 am Water Aerobics</div> <div>7 pm Unify in the Word</div>		

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## Free At-Home Hearing Test

**A**ARP Members can take a free hearing test once a year from the safety and comfort of your home. This test can be taken via phone, computer, or mobile device. While the test itself isn't new, the convenience of taking it on your preferred device is.



The National Hearing Test is an independent and scientifically validated hearing screen test developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This confidential test can be the first step towards your hearing health.

Visit The National Hearing Test website and use your AARP login.  
[www.nationalhearingtest.org](http://www.nationalhearingtest.org)

## Free Smoke Detectors!

**T**he American Red Cross offers free smoke alarm installation through its Home Fire Campaign. You can request a free smoke alarm installation in Clearwater, FL, by completing a form available on the American Red Cross website. The Home Fire Campaign also provides home fire safety education.

Here's how to request a free smoke alarm installation:

1. Visit the American Red Cross website: Go to the Smoke Alarm Request page for South Florida.
2. Complete the form: Fill out the online form with your information.
3. A Red Cross team will follow up: A member of the Home Fire Campaign team will contact you to schedule a free smoke alarm installation appointment.
4. Learn about home fire safety: The Red Cross also provides valuable information and resources on home fire safety.

Also - Many Fire Departments offer free smoke detectors. Call them to inquire.





## Hurricane season

It's that time of year again! Living in Florida means that we all need to understand and get ready for hurricanes. *"Florida history is defined by hurricanes. They are to this state what tornadoes were to Dorothy's Kansas"*. You cannot stop a hurricane, but you can take steps to protect yourself, your family and your home from the dangers of these powerful storms. It's a good time to start preparing for those summer storms. Last year was a hard time for a lot of this county. Get your plans in place now. Make evacuation plans, where will you go, what should you bring with you, make a checklist of things you need to take. Keep your important papers all in one place so you can grab and go.

**People with special needs** should determine if they may need assistance. The following are key considerations:

- Do you use equipment that requires electricity? Make sure you have a backup power source, or plan to go to a location that does.
- Do you have family or friends who can help you make your plan, shelter in place or evacuate? Work with them now to make a plan and assemble the items in your kit. Be sure to include any medical devices, equipment or medications you will need.
- If you need assistance, register for the Special Needs Program. Pinellas County can help with your pet; transportation needs and sheltering.

### Build an Emergency Kit

When getting your emergency kit together, think about each member of your family and what they would need for two weeks. Pinellas County Emergency Management offers a full list of recommended items. Basic items include:

- Important documents.
- Medication.
- Sanitation (wipes, antibacterial hand gel, soap, cloth).
- Water (at least one gallon of water per person per day).
- One-week supply of nonperishable food.
- Can opener.
- Batteries.



### Check your insurance.

Homeowners and flood insurance can help you with emergency needs after a disaster. Most of the time, you will not be eligible to receive disaster assistance until the President of the United States declares an emergency—and even then, the assistance is usually in the form of loans that you must pay back. Having homeowners insurance and flood insurance means that coverage and assistance will be available regardless of disaster declarations. Discuss all of your insurance needs with your agent to confirm you are adequately protected.

Planning in advance is critical.

**View this Newsletter in full color at [www.monthly-media.com](http://www.monthly-media.com)  
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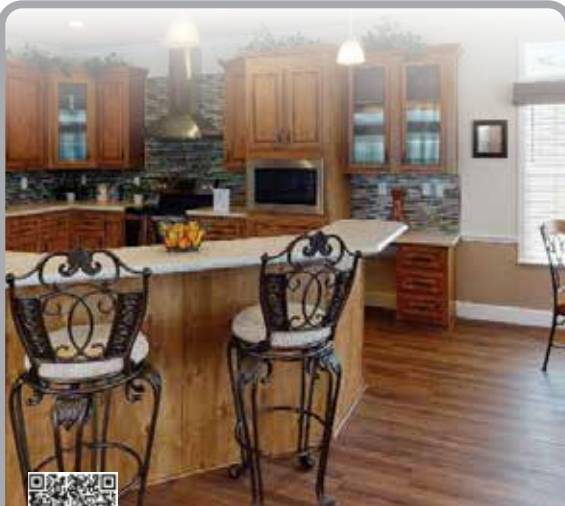
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## FEAST OF THE BAY

---

**C**learwater, get ready to eat GOOD because the Feast of the Bay Food Truck Explosion is pulling up to SPC Clearwater (2465 Drew St, Clearwater, FL 33765) on **Saturday, July 26th, 2025, from 4PM-10PM** — and trust us, you don't want to miss this one!

Food Trucks on deck

Music, dancing, and nonstop vibes

Local vendors

Pet Friendly

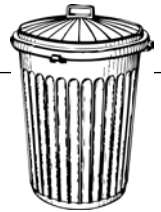
Free Parking

**FREE ENTRY!**

Mark your calendars, bring your appetite, your lawn chairs, your crew, and let's turn Clearwater all the way up for a night of flavor and fun!

## Trash collection in Clearwater - 2025

---



May 26 - Memorial Day: Business as usual

June 19 - Juneteenth: Business as usual

July 4 - Independence Day: Business as usual

Sept. 1 - Labor Day: Business as usual

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day: Business as usual

Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Day: **CLOSED**. Thursday's collections will be made Wednesday,

Nov. 26. Friday's collections will remain the same.

Nov. 28 - Day After Thanksgiving: Business as usual

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day: **CLOSED**. Thursday's collections will be made Wednesday,

Dec. 24. Friday's collections will remain the same.

Jan. 1, 2026 - New Year's Day:







## Why pet owners need to give their dogs and cats flea prevention year round.

*Submitted by Melissa Lynch*



Using flea and tick prevention year-round for dogs is crucial because these parasites can be active throughout the year, even in colder climates, and can transmit diseases. Preventing flea and tick infestations, particularly during colder months when they may be less active, helps protect your dog from these diseases.

Here's why year-round prevention is important:

Year-round activity:

While flea and tick activity may be slower in the winter, they can still survive and become active during warm spells or in enclosed environments like homes. It takes 3 months to completely kill the life cycle of fleas that means treating your pets, home and yard which can cost you more money then what it would of cost you to treat your pet year round. 🐾

Disease transmission:

Fleas and ticks can transmit various diseases, including Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasmosis. 🐾

Protection from reinfestation:

Even if you stop flea and tick prevention in the off-season, reinfestation is possible, especially if your dog spends time outdoors. And remember your pet doesn't need to go outside to get fleas, when you open a window even with screens in them fleas are tiny and will make your home there home. They love shoes, socks and pant legs to hitch a ride inside your home. 🐾

Indoor infestations:

Fleas can thrive in indoor environments, making year-round prevention essential, even for indoor-only dogs. To treat your house and yard can become costly. 🐾

Preventing discomfort and skin issues:

Flea and tick bites can cause itching, discomfort, and skin irritation in dogs. It can also cause flea allergies. Which will cost you more at the vet's office to treat your furry family member. 🐾

By using flea and tick prevention year-round, you can provide consistent protection for your dog and help prevent the spread of diseases and infestations and remember we already have feral cats and other wildlife that carry fleas so give your furry companion a happy and safe life and just buy flea prevention year round!!! 🐾





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## Capybaras and more

Rusty Leslie



My life is full of fun adventures it seems. Some come together all at once and some come months apart but an adventure is an adventure.

May was a fun month for me. I spent time with capybaras and I went to a mineral hot springs both something new for me.

The capybara adventures started when the Capybara Café in St Augustine appeared in my Facebook feed and I realized that, for \$50 I could spend time with capybaras, a longtime favorite animal of mine. They are the largest of the rodent family and I describe them as the mammal version of a manatee. They have that same calm energy. When I mentioned the capybaras to my girlfriend she immediately began looking for a condo to rent, much to my surprise and found one. I reserved two encounters for us. Our friends said I was wasting the one for my friend because she did not even like to pet dogs LOL It was true but the capybaras won her over. There were 8 of us in the room with 3 capybaras and one keeper. The keeper first talked about safety for us and the animals and then went around the circle giving us pieces of Kale for then to eat. The first person to feed them was my friend who did not like dogs. It was a magic moment for both of us. I loved feeding the capybaras and petting them with their quiet energies and wiry fur. It was a great time.

On the way home we stopped at the Tilted Cup Tea Room in Brooksville for afternoon tea English style. It was a wonderful experience. The finger sandwiches, scone and mini desserts were wonderful as was the ambiance. We plan on returning there to do it again. Road trip anyone?? Just let me know.

Then came the trip to North Port for the mineral hot springs there. It was about 90 minutes away and worth the drive, at least for me. None of us had been to a mineral spring before so it was a new adventure for all three of us. It is \$20 each to get in. Some of the buildings had yet to be fully restored after last year's hurricanes but the bathrooms were open, a very important fact. We headed down the path with our stuff and found that the mineral hot springs is a small spring fed lake with plants at the edge and some happy ducks swimming around. Lots of people already there and all the shady spots were gone. I was the only one that went into the water. One friend could not get past the pieces of plants floating in the water and the other decided to sit it out too. So I bravely entered the hot spring. Well first, the water is not hot, it was cool. The bottom was sandy and had some rocks in it. There are ramps to go down to the water which accommodated the wheelchair bound person that friends pushed down the ramp into the water far enough to get the lady out of the wheelchair. The springs have a current to them pushing me around in the water. I was so glad that I went in and experienced it all. The water was more buoyant than I expected and I wanted to try it for its healing properties. Do I know if I got any healing? No, not really but I did allow the energies to enter my body and I accepted any healing properties contained therein. There are no changing rooms, you use the bathrooms and as we were leaving we did see a hose people were using to rinse off. I changed into my regular clothes in the bathrooms and then we stopped for lunch and headed home. One of the things we saw on the way home was people riding horses in the water – or were the horses swimming as I had seen on Facebook? I have no idea. What a fun day it was. Would I recommend it? Maybe it depends upon why you might choose to go. It was something I am glad that I experienced. Would I do it again? Yes I probably would.

I wonder what new adventures await me?



## July fun facts

july

July was named after the famous Roman general **Julius Caesar** by the Roman senate; as it was the month he was born in. Julius Caesar was a formidable military general and statesman who was largely responsible for changing the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. The month was previously called Quintilis (Latin for fifth) as it was the fifth month of the 10-month-long ancient Roman calendar.

In early July, a period of time called the “**dog days of summer**” begins. Historically they were observed within Ancient Roman and Greek astrology and were connected with bad luck, mad dog attacks, unexpected thunderstorms, heat, and drought. They gained their name as “dog days” as they were connected with the star Sirius, which is part of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system. Nowadays, “the dog days” refers to when the hottest days of summer begin.

Coincidentally, it was in July that **the rabies vaccine** was first successfully given to a patient. The French microbiologist Louis Pasteur administered the vaccine to a nine-year-old called Joseph Meister on July 6, 1885. The child had been bitten by a rabid dog, and Louis Pasteur, unsure whether the vaccine would be successful, decided it was worth testing. Fortunately for the boy, it worked!

On July 5, 1946, the world’s **first bikini** was unveiled in the famous Piscine Molitor swimming pool in Paris. Just in time for the heat of summer, the bikini was modeled by showgirl Micheline Bernardini. While two-piece forms of swimwear previously existed, none used as little fabric as the bikini.

Julius Caesar wasn’t the only military genius born in July. **Alexander the Great** was another important historical figure who changed the shape of the world and was born somewhere around July 20, 356 BC. Other famous people born in July include Frida Kahlo, Franz Kafka, Marcel Proust, and Nelson Mandela.

The Anglo-Saxons had **multiple names for the month of July**, including Maed-monath and Hey-monath. Respectively, these translated into “the flowering of meadows” and “hay month.”

On **July 4, 1776**, the 13 American colonies declared their independence from the British monarchy. The 4th of July, formally known as Independence Day, has been a federal holiday since 1870 in the United States of America.

July isn’t just the month for Independence Day, though. There are plenty of other great holidays observed around the world! **July 2nd** is World UFO Day, while **July 3rd** is Stay out of the Sun Day. In the US, **July 6th** is a pretty delicious day, as it’s National Fried Chicken Day! At the end of the month, we also have International Tiger Day on **July 29th**.

July has some pretty **delicious month-long observances**, too! In the US, at least there are three, in particular, that stand out – It’s National Watermelon Month, National Hot Dog Month, and National Ice Cream Month. Yum!

On **July 25, 1909**, Louis Bleriot became the first man to fly an aircraft from one country to another successfully. He took off from the coast of France and landed across the channel near Dover, England.

There are **two star signs** which fall in the month of July. If you’re born before July 22nd, then your star sign is Cancer. If you’re born after this day, from July 23rd onward, then you’re a Leo. Those born under the sign of Cancer are said to be loyal friends with great emotional

...continued on page 39



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depth, and those born under the sign of Leo are said to be very proud people who display great leadership.

**July 12, 1943**, was an explosive day. On this day, Russian and German forces fought the largest tank battle in history, with 900 tanks on either side obliterating each other at close range. After a cease-fire was ordered and the smoke cleared, there were only 300 German tanks left standing.

If you're doing everything right, then crops of corn are meant to be "knee-high by the fourth of July." It's also in July that **crop circles** start to appear in fields of corn. For the most part, Crop circles have only started appearing since the 1970s, although there have been a number of cases sporadically reported throughout history.

Despite it being the first month in the second half of the year, July 1st is not actually the **middle of the year**. In a regular non-leap year, the midpoint is actually on July 2nd at 1 pm.

July has **two birth flowers** – the water lily and the larkspur. The water lily is a symbol of a pure heart, while the larkspur (especially its white form) represents the lightness of the heart.

The **birthstone** of July is the ruby, considered by many to be the king of gems. At one point in time, it was considered to protect warriors on the field of battle if it was embedded in their armor. Nowadays, as a birthstone, it's said to protect against evil.

July was an important time for the **space race of the '60s**. The first crewed mission to the Moon, the Apollo 11 Mission, launched on July 16, 1969. Four days later, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong made history by taking the first step on the Moon while declaring, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!"

**July 16, 1945**, was another big day for the world and a step down a very dark period of history. It was on this day in Alamogordo, New Mexico, that the first atomic bomb was detonated. The bomb was called "Fat Boy," and its explosion sure was fat – the mushroom cloud was 41,000 feet (12.5 kilometers) high!

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## July Sudoku

2							6	
	7		4			9		
8				1				
4		1						8
		5		4				
3					1			
		6				3		
			5	8	3			2
			6			1		5



9	3	8	6	7	2	1	4	5
1	4	7	5	8	3	6	9	2
5	2	6	1	9	4	3	8	7
3	6	2	8	5	1	4	7	9
7	8	5	3	4	9	2	1	6
4	9	1	2	6	7	5	3	8
8	5	4	9	1	6	7	2	3
6	7	3	4	2	8	9	5	1
2	1	9	7	3	5	8	6	4



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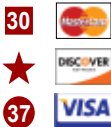
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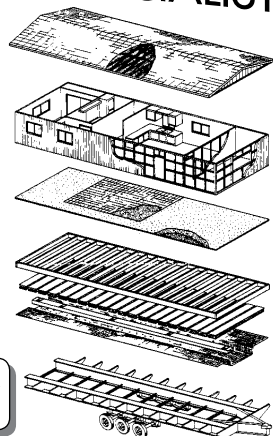
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(Mon.-Fri. 8AM - 4:30PM)

**727-546-4343**



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**10 yrs.  
PARTS**