

The Island Reporter

SERVING:

BACOPA BAY, BAYWAY ISLES, BROADWATER, DOLPHIN CAY, ISLA DEL SOL, MARINA BAY, MAXIMO MOORINGS, PASS-A-GRILLE, POINT BRITTANY, ST. PETE BEACH, TIERRA VERDE, TREASURE ISLAND AND VINA DEL MAR

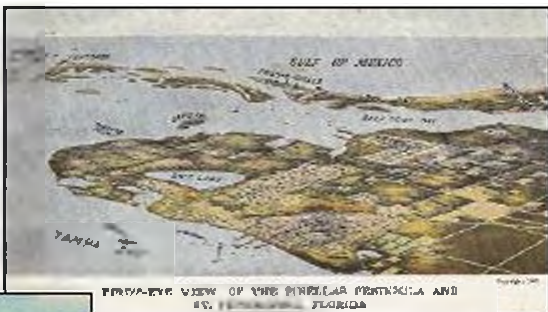
Happy Birthday

Pinellas County Enters its 100th Year

By Sally G. Yoder

In the 1800's, as northerners trickled south to avoid harsh weather, catch the sun's rays and get in on some development of the pristine land here, visitors to the peninsula were actually in part of Hillsborough County.

In 1901, William L. Straub, who came to Florida for his health years earlier, bought into a fledgling daily paper, now the St. Petersburg Times, and soon set about a "campaign by pen," pushing hard to help give the Pinellas peninsula its own identity including publishing



AERIAL VIEW OF THE PINELLAS PENINSULA AND IS. FLORIDA

the "Pinellas Declaration of Independence" in February 1907.

Hillsborough officials, reluctant to part with the tax base from Pinellas, staged a verbal and written trade leading to some hot and heavy sparring. On May 23, 1911, four years after Straub's declaration, the Times headlines read "The Most Remarkable Political and Legislative Victory in the History of Florida is now Consummated," noting that Straub and his compatriots' battle was won.

Voters ratified the legislative action in November and on Jan. 1, 1912, Pinellas County was off and running on its own!

The already incorporated towns of Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Dunedin, Largo, Gulfport, Pass-a-Grille, Pinellas Park and Safety Harbor merged with the large unincorporated section and brought the population to 13,193. Growth progressed at a fast pace as citrus orchards and farms in Largo and Seminole became a huge agriculture asset.

With the opening of the Gandy Bridge over Tampa Bay in 1924, tourists began to flow into Pinellas and its beaches. At the time of its opening, the



Residents and visitors line the bridge at John's Pass to try their luck fishing. (Photo courtesy of St. Pete Beach Museum)

[Above] This 1900 postcard provides a rare glimpse of the South Gulf Beaches well before dredging of the bay created Vero del Mar, Tierra Verde and Isla del Sol. Photo courtesy of the Clear Beaches Historical Museum.

(Photo courtesy of the Clear Beaches Historical Museum)

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Fun Stuff Fundraisers

PARC CELEBRITY PRO-AM
 ALL TERRITORY! ALL PROUDLY! ALL FUN!
 JAN 5-6 8-9 10-11 12-13
 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Tickets: \$100
 Sponsor: Parcs
 Location: Parcs

Passengers
 by Sam Dobson
 RUNNING JAN. 12-28
 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Tickets: \$100
 Sponsor: Parcs
 Location: Parcs

YOUNG ENSEMBLE THEATER
 You never know who you might meet during your travels: Carl Hester, Donnie (The Mail), Dave Robinson, and Donnie!
 Tickets: \$100
 Sponsor: Parcs
 Location: Parcs



Photo of the Month

Submitted by: Kerrie Campanile, St. Petersburg, FL

Kerrie writes: "This picture was taken last month in Cabbage Key on a windy day. Even birds can have a bad hair day!"

For more information about Photo of the Month visit www.theislandreporter.com and click on "Photo of the Month"

The Island Reporter Picture Page



Local Pup Makes it Big

Tazi, a two year old Pomeranian from St. Petersburg, will be "Miss April" in the 2013 Americas Top Dog Model Calendar after making it as a finalist in the 2011 Americas Top Dog Model Competition. She and mom, Lisa Fink who works at the Central Animal Hospital in Pinellas Point, recently walked the runway at the TradeWinds to raise money for pet hospice; Tazi won Miss Congeniality.



"Lifting Up Andy" Fundraiser

Residents flocked to Dukas to raise funds for a stand up wheelchair for 16-year-old Treasure Island resident, Andy Brottner, Doc. 4. "Lifting Up Andy" was cosponsored by the Treasure Island Chamber and featured live music all day with Horace Wild, Pete Dorian, Boston Bob and Mike O, along with 50/50 raffle, prizes and a silent auction.

(Photos courtesy of Jim Tizans)



To Market To Market

There is a common theme among the four area outdoor markets: fresh produce, food vendors, plants, herbs, and flowers, plus local artists and craft vendors, but there is diversity in their settings. The Corey Farm Market (Sundays) and the Tuesday Market in Historic Oldport are conveniently located among local shops and restaurants in their neighborhoods; the Sunday Market at Historic Oldport and the Treasure Island Community Center Park offer a shopping experience in a relaxed, park setting. Four markets, four unique settings. Take your pick or shop all four.

(Photos courtesy of Jim Tizans)



Christmas Events

Residents of Tierra Verde gathered on the downtown plaza Dec. 3 for the first annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The crowd was surrounded by kids as well as The Island Chapel choir. Santa was there along with local vendors and toys were collected for charity. At Horace Park crowds gathered, Dec. 9, to watch the St. Pete Beach Lighted Boat Parade and bid on decorated trees and wreaths. Proceeds from the sales went to Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

