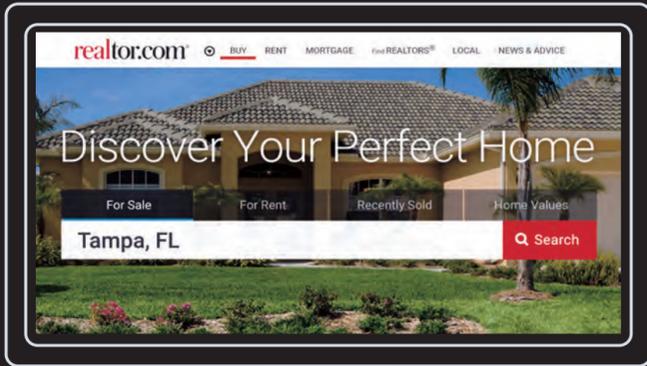


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New condos



Photo by JILL KALBER

From left, Mark Stroud, Pat Walsh, Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni, Jerry Frulio, Michael Cannova, Ed Medley and Deb Marcum break ground March 24 on Sunset Pointe at Collany Key, a luxury waterfront condominium project at 650 Collany Road, Tierra Verde. The first of four buildings will be five stories, offering 30 units over parking, ranging in size from 2,721 to 2,939 square feet. Each unit will include three bedrooms, three and a half baths, on the Gulf of Mexico with beach access. The units range in price from the \$900,000s to \$1.35 million.

Biz notes

Quick Pick becomes U-Haul dealer

ST. PETERSBURG –Quick Pick of St. Petersburg recently signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the St. Petersburg community.

Quick Pick, at 800 58th St. N., will offer U-Haul trucks, towing equipment, support rental items and in-store pickup for boxes. Hours of operation for U-Haul rentals are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

U-Haul and Quick Pick of St. Petersburg are striving to benefit the environment through sustainability initiatives. Truck sharing is a core U-Haul sustainability business practice that allows individuals to access a fleet of trucks that is larger than what they could access on an individual basis.

For information about this dealer location, call 727-525-4153.

Bank joins fight against hunger

Fifth Third Bank recently kicked off its annual Feeding our Communities food drive with a goal of collecting enough nonperishable items to provide 53,000 meals throughout Florida, part of the bank's 1 million meal pledge across the footprint.

The food drive will run through April 29, just in time to turn the food over to local food banks on

May 3 – "Fifth Third Day."

In Tampa Bay, for the seventh consecutive year, Fifth Third Bank is partnering with Metropolitan Ministries in their efforts to fight hunger in the bay area.

"We believe that an ongoing investment in our community can make a meaningful impact," said Brian Lamb in a press release. Lamb is regional president of Fifth Third Bank (North Florida). "We're proud to once again be working with a great organization like Metropolitan Ministries to help families and children in need throughout Tampa Bay."

Metropolitan Ministries is one of the leading nonprofits in the area that provides support to hungry children and families in the four-county Tampa Bay area. The collected items will be distributed to people in need in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

"The need for food in our community continues to grow, and the donated items will directly help people right here in our own backyards," said Tim Marks, president and CEO of Metropolitan Ministries. "We are humbled that Fifth Third Bank has once again focused on contributing to our mission to fight hunger and provide hope."

Food collection bins are set up at all 159 Fifth Third banking centers throughout Florida. Bank employees and customers – as well as local businesses and community residents – are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items, such as canned fruits and meats, rice, boxed cereal and beans.

To find a local Fifth Third banking center, visit 53.com.

Grand opening set at transmission shop

PINELLAS PARK – Integrity Transmission will celebrate its grand opening Wednesday, May 11, 11 a.m., at 4501 131st Ave.

The event will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, set for 11:30 a.m.

Integrity Transmission and Auto Repair provides transmission and automotive services.

Paul Hall, the owner, has been involved in the automotive industry since 1986. He is an ATRA certified master transmission technician and is experienced in all areas of automotive repair. Integrity Transmission services all makes and addresses all concerns.

Parking is available in front of the building.

For information, call 727-369-5619.

GMA announces grant recipients

GULFPORT – The Gulfport Merchants Association recently announced its selection of recipients for 2016 Community Support Grants.

Two organizations were chosen to receive grants that will be funded by a portion of proceeds from the GMA's slate of Gecko events in late summer. The Gecko events include the Gecko Artists Show on Friday, Aug. 5; the Gecko Pub Crawl on Saturday, Aug. 13; the Gecko Ball on Saturday, Aug. 27; and Gecko-oFest on Saturday, Sept. 3. Grants will be awarded and amounts will be determined after the conclusion of all events.

The recipients chosen by the GMA board of directors are among nonprofit organizations, which are either based in Gulfport, or include Gulfport in their service area. One of the 2016 grant recipients is Gulfport Historical Society, which will use grant funding to create a "Gulf-

port Register of Historic Places," including locating and designating historic properties, erecting signage and developing self-guided walking tours. The other grant recipient, First Florida Frontiers, will use funding to develop a series of public interpretive programs by living history performers and artists during local events depicting significant periods in the history of Gulfport.

Grant recipients were chosen from among groups who submitted an application earlier in the year. Several other worthy organizations applied for grants and the decision-making process was difficult. Grants or donations are offered to local non-profit groups each year following the conclusion of "Gecko Season." Public art installations in Gulfport's Waterfront District have also been funded with Gecko Event proceeds in past years.

Chamber to host Tourism Lunch

ST. PETE BEACH – Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Tourism Lunch, presented by Bright House Networks, on Thursday, May 5, at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, 5500 Gulf Blvd.

Check-in will begin at 11 a.m. followed by the program at noon. Cost is \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. For information or to register, email Julianne Wilhelm at Julianne@tampabaybeaches.com or visit TampaBayBeaches.com.

The 2016 cutting-edge theme, "Next Generation Marketing: Understanding the Millennial Mindset," will be presented by Lucas Cobb of MMGY Global. Cobb is a tourism industry-marketing strategist. He will use Florida's latest trends to prove that, "the Millennial way isn't just for Millennials," suggesting that more and more travelers across all generations are adopting the same mindset.

The 2016 Tourism Person of the Year will be awarded during event.

Select sponsorship opportunities are available for this event.

Adopt a Senior program starts

CLEARWATER – Home Instead Senior Care wants the community to help celebrate with local seniors who may be alone on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The Home Instead offices serving Pinellas County are sponsoring Adopt a Senior Mom for Mother's Day and Adopt a Senior Dad for Father's Day programs. These programs provide gifts and companionship for seniors who may be alone or isolated from family.

Home Instead Senior Care has partnered with local nursing facilities to help identify residents who will be spending the day alone or do not have family in their lives.

The Adopt-A-Senior Mother and Adopt-A-Senior Father programs are going on through June 10. Members of the community can participate by visiting displays at any participating Bealls Outlet and BonWorth stores throughout Pinellas County. The displays feature gift tags with seniors' first names and gift requests. Shoppers can adopt a senior by selecting a tag, buying the items listed and returning the items unwrapped, along with the matching gift tag, to the store.

For more information or to donate online, visit www.adoptase-niormom.com or email adoptase-niormomdad@homeinsteadpinellas.com; or call 727-799-1400.



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