

VERO BEACH 32963

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of Marine Bank. P7

Shores asks Vero for
lower electric rates. P10

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seen losing one third of staff. P8

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32963 Insider

Moore leaving law firm; moving back to beach

Attorney John E. Moore III is leaving the firm of Rossway Moore Swan and moving his law practice back across the lagoon where he will focus on estate planning.

"Rossway Moore Swan announces the amicable departure of John E. Moore, III from the firm. Mr. Moore has notified the firm that he intends to establish an independent private practice focused solely on estate planning services," firm administrator Gail Fredrickson said on Monday.

Accompanying Moore to the new location in the Grand Bank & Trust building at 3240 Cardinal Drive will be a number of his associates who also specialize in estate planning and probate law.

In addition to his professional accolades, Moore is well-known for his philanthropic activities with the Samaritan Center, the Education Foundation, Quail Valley Charities and the law firm's own charitable foundation.

He has received numerous awards for community service – a legacy he carries on from his father, John K. Moore, who founded the old Beach Bank which was later taken over by Northern Trust.

Rossway Moore Taylor & Swan was founded in 1999 by Moore with partners Bradley W. Rossway, J. Atwood Taylor, III; and Michael J. Swan. The firm left the beach in April 2010, moving from the Oak Point office building to the remodeled Modernage building so the firm would have space to expand. Jim Taylor subsequently left the firm and it became Rossway Moore Swan.



Scot Caviness and his Shark Bait Beach Gear concession.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HAGER

On the beach: Should an entrepreneur's past matter?

BY LISA ZAHNER
Staff Writer

Scot Caviness provides beach chair, umbrella and gear rentals in front of some of Vero's most exclusive

resorts. On the side, he's helped rescue nine people from the ocean, has cleaned the beach and has raised money for local charities. Given the way Caviness has led his life since arriving in

Vero, his past may come as a surprise.

Last week, **Vero Beach 32963** reported that the company owned by Caviness, Shark Bait Beach Gear

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Municipal power co-op's demands said 'ridiculous'

BY LISA ZAHNER
Staff Writer

The light at the end of the tunnel for a fast-track sale of Vero electric to Florida Power & Light – and prospects for lower electric utility rates – appeared to get a little dimmer last week as the Florida municipal power co-op was reported to have hardened its stance on letting Vero Beach out of the alliance.

Sources close to the negotiations told **Vero Beach 32963** that the terms being demanded by the Florida Municipal Power Agency are "ridiculous" and not only outside the bounds of what FPL is willing

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Ray McNulty joins 32963 as columnist

BY PIETER VANBENNEKOM
Staff Writer

Award-winning columnist Ray McNulty, who has worked for newspapers in New York and Los Angeles as well as most recently for the **Vero Beach Press Journal**, has joined the staff of **Vero Beach 32963** as a columnist and general news writer.

McNulty's new column, "My Vero," will start appearing in **Vero Beach 32963** as of the Feb. 6, 2014, edition. McNulty

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Ray McNulty to write 'My Vero' column

World War II bombs in ocean off The Moorings lead to evacuation

BY STEVEN M. THOMAS
Staff Writer

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians safely moved two bombs apparently dropped by aircraft during WWII away from oceanfront homes on the barrier island on Monday.

Seven homes were in the potential blast zone just north of The Moorings and the area was evacuated while the bombs were lifted and taken out to sea.



Navy explosive disposal boat

"There were people home at two of the houses and they cooperated and evacuated with no problems," said Assistant Indian River County Fire Rescue Chief Brian Burkeen.

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Art by the Sea
showcases local
artists. Page 12

REAL ESTATE

Sorensen a leader in sales and charitable giving

BY STEVEN M. THOMAS
Staff Writer

Dale Sorensen Real Estate is known mainly as a home and condominium sales powerhouse, with some 80 agents closing more than \$440 million in 2013 sales in Indian River County and North Hutchinson Island. But the family-owned agency is equally notable for the extent of its community involvement and charitable giving.

The company, its agents and members of the Sorensen family – company founder Dale Sr., his wife Matilde and their children Dale Jr. and Elizabeth – donate time and money to medical, educational and religious charities, artistic and cultural organizations, and many groups that help children in all sorts of ways, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Children's Home Society, Hibiscus Children's Center, Gifford Youth Activity Center, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Sailing Foundation, Riverside Children's Theater, St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the March of Dimes.

"They are very, very generous people," says Marta Schneider, a longtime Children's Home Society board member and past board chair. "They care about children and what happens to them."

The Children's Home Society of Florida provides critical services to kids coming out of foster care and other teens struggling to finish high school under difficult circumstances.

"Our Youth Transition Center houses and mentors 12 youth who have aged out of foster care and provides services to 40 more – things like job counseling, life skills training, mental and physical healthcare and academic support," Schneider says.



Above: Sorensen family members and agents with diners at last week's Soup Buffet event that raised money for the American Cancer Society.

Right: Dale and Matilde Sorensen donated the building where their first office was located to the Samaritan Center, where it is still in use today.



"Our other facility here, Baines Hall, houses homeless youth who are trying to get through high school.

"Elizabeth Sorensen has served on committees for us and the company supports all our events as a sponsor. They have been with us for at least 10 years and it has been a wonderful relationship."

"Having grown up here, you have a vested interest in the community," says Managing Partner Dale Sorensen Jr. "The organizations and charities we support make the community better and we have always felt it is just a part of our business to be involved."

When the Sorensens moved many years ago from their original office,

located at the intersection of A1A and Beachland where the U.S. Trust is today, they donated the building to The Samaritan Center, a Catholic charity that assists homeless families.

Matilde and others raised money to move the building to its current location on 41st St. north of airport, where it remains in use today.

"We use it every day," says Program Administrator Tracey Segal. "It houses two offices, a kitchen and a confer-

ence room."

Organizations that fight cancer and help cancer patients are another focus of the Sorensens' philanthropy.

"The Sorensens and their agents are very generous people," says Carole Plante, co-

chair of Answer to Cancer, a group of about 200 organized in the Grand Harbor community to assist cancer patients receiving radiation and chemotherapy in Indian River County.

"We raise about \$60,000 a year, mainly through our Dine and Nine event, a dinner and golf fundraiser. We work with the Hospital Foundation to decide how to use the money. Two years ago, we did over the lobby of the radiation center and made it

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REAL ESTATE

much nicer and more comfortable for patients. Last year we put \$105,000 into the infusion center with the same aim of improving patient comfort at a very difficult time.”

Sally Baskin, one of Sorensen’s agents, has supported us for seven years and the company helps us, too. I asked them if they could up their sponsorship a little bit this year to put more money toward the comfort of the patients and they immediately said yes. They are wonderful people.”

Last Friday, Sorensen Real Estate set up a tent and tables and chairs in front of its Cardinal Drive office to serve soup made and donated by its agents and local restaurants to support the American Cancer Society, a research, treatment and advocacy organization. It was a fun, festive event that drew a good lunchtime crowd and raised \$915 for ACS.

“We do mini fund-raisers for the American Cancer Society throughout the year,” says Sorensen Director of Marketing and Technology Jennifer Bailey. “The soup buffet is something we do when weather is cold. Our agents provide different types of soups and bread and we open it up to the public and invite friends, family and neighbors to come and have soup. The price is whatever donation people want to give and all the money we raise goes to ACS Relay for Life.”

The company sells candy at the front desks of its three Vero offices, holds periodic fundraisers and fields a team for the annual Relay for Life walk with the goal of raising \$10,000 for ACS during the year.

“It isn’t a massive fundraiser,” Dale Sorensen Jr. says of last week’s soup buffet event, “but it really shows the culture of giving back we have at our office. Owners, agents, and staff are all on board and it truly is a rewarding feeling knowing we are an office of caring agents that excel at more than just real estate.”

Members of the Sorensen family

devote considerable personal time and resources to charitable and community causes – besides helping the Children’s Home Society, Elizabeth Sorensen was co-chair of the 2013 Festival of Trees that raises funds for Riverside Children’s Theatre, and Dale Jr. heads out to sea each year to catch fish for fish tacos that are sold at the Relay for Life event – but he emphasizes the central role of his agents in the company’s charity juggernaut.

“The agents often bring charity initiatives to us and I remember one year when they voted not to have a Christmas party so the money that would have paid for the party could be used to help children at Fellsmere Elementary school.”

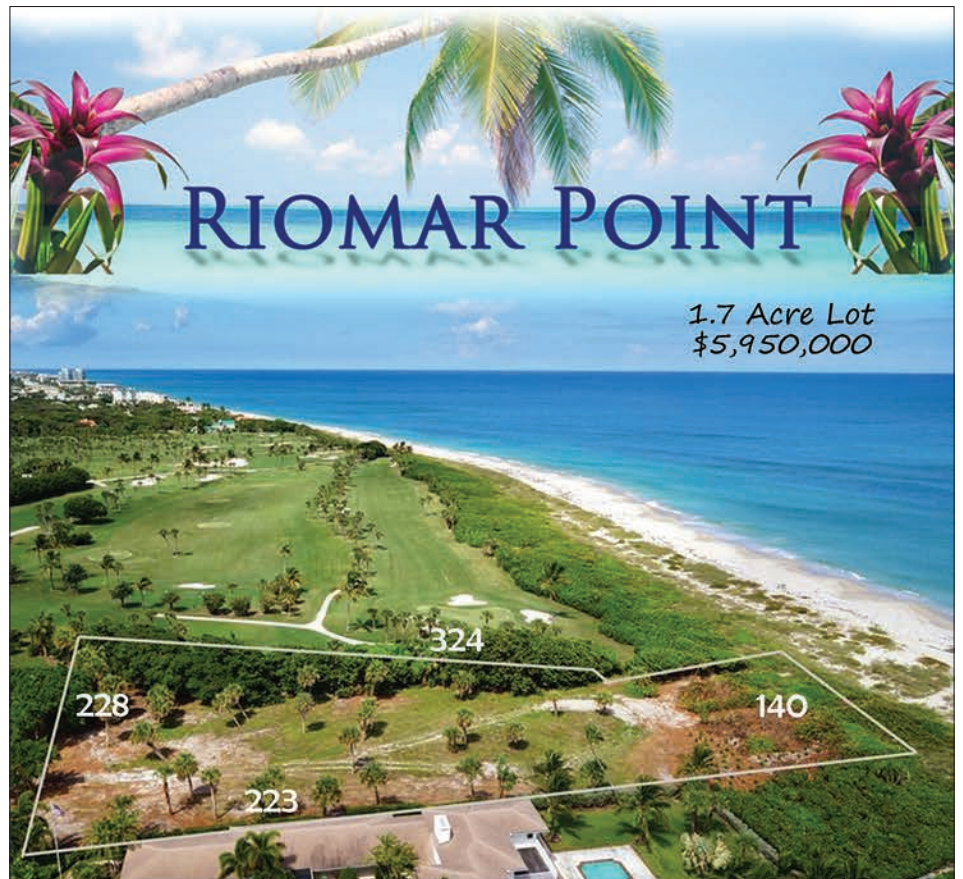
Sorensen agent Bill Baysura recalls how that came about:

“My wife Kelly was the assistant principal at Fellsmere from 2005 until 2010, when she was promoted to the principal position at Liberty Magnet School. Approaching Christmas of 2006, there were several children who came to school without warm clothing and mentioned that they were hungry. One of the students was asked by her teacher why her homework wasn’t complete. The little girl said that she didn’t have enough time to do her homework before she fell asleep because someone else was using the only candle that was giving the family enough light to see during the late evening.

“I shared this story with Dale Junior, Joan Cook and other agents in our office and asked if I could bring up the subject of assisting needy children in Fellsmere at our weekly meeting.

“By the end of the meeting, I believe I had three personal checks made out to the elementary school. Within two hours, I had 10 e-mails, if not more, with offers of cash, toys, household items, furniture, clothing, food and more. Cash donations were used to

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Sorensen

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help families turn on their electricity, come current with the rent payments and buy other food and household items that were so desperately needed at that time.”

As Christmas approached and agents became more aware of the degree of need, they voted to forgo their big annual holiday bash so the money could go to help children and families in Fellsmere.

“The Christmas party is a special event the agents really enjoy and for them to give it up for somebody else was really tremendous,” says Matilde Sorensen.

“Kelly Baysura isn’t at Fellsmere elementary anymore, but we haven’t let go of that connection,” says Dale Jr. “We did a food drive for the school this Christmas.”

“One thing that I’ve never mentioned to anyone outside of my own family, was that Mr. Sorensen told me to find out how many children were without a Christmas gift for that year [in 2006],” Bill Baysura says. “I was able to give him a final number and without any hesitation he wrote a

check to ensure that every child had a Christmas gift to open.

“I can honestly say that the actions by the Sorensen family and those who are affiliated with our company are a big reason I will never work for another broker in Indian River County. They lead by example, walk quietly and give more than any company or affiliation I have worked with in my professional career.”

“My dad realized at a young age that giving back to the community is necessary,” says Dale Jr. “That has trickled down to my sister and me. Dad was very involved with St. Ed’s and the hospital board when I was pretty young and I was impressed by that. He has led the way.”

“When I became Headmaster of St. Edward’s School in 1966, I quickly realized the significance of community support,” Dale Sorensen Sr. says. “As you look at our community today with its exceptional medical facilities, incredible Riverside Theater, outstanding Museum and countless other exceptional programs, it is apparent that stewardship has played an important role in the quality of life we enjoy. Giving back to the community is for us a family commitment.” ■

ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY DALE SORENSEN REAL ESTATE

- | | |
|--|---|
| America Serving Veterans Foundation | Mangrove Garden Foundation |
| American Cancer Society | March of Dimes |
| Answer to Cancer Golf Tournament | Mardy Fish Foundation |
| Beachland Elementary | Masters Academy |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters | Moorings Educational Foundation |
| Boys and Girls Club | Orchid Outreach |
| Brevard Children in Need | Project Smith |
| Brian Simpson Walk in Memory of Brian | Quail Valley Charities |
| Children’s Art Contest | Quail Valley Charity Cup |
| Children’s Home Society | Riverside Children’s Theatre |
| Christian F.M. | Rotary Club of Sebastian |
| Christian Surfers Association | Salvation Army |
| Community Church | Scholarship Foundation of Indian River County |
| Disabled American Veterans e-Angels | Special Olympics of Indian River County |
| Fellsmere Elementary | St. Edwards Lacrosse Program |
| Florida Hands & Voices | St. Edward’s School |
| Gifford Youth Activity Center | St. Edwards School Gala |
| Habitat for Humanity | St. Helens Catholic School |
| HALO | St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital |
| Harvest Festival | Sunrise Elementary |
| Harvest Food and Outreach Center | The Source |
| Hibiscus Children’s Center | United Way |
| Holy Cross Church | Vero Beach Ambulance |
| Humane Society | Vero Beach Fire Department |
| Indian River Community Foundation | Vero Beach Museum of Art |
| Indian River Hospital Foundation | Vero Beach Theatre Guild |
| Indian River Land Trust | Vero Beach Volunteer Fire Department |
| Indian River Medical Center Foundation | VNA & Hospice Foundation |
| Indian River County School - Art Contest | VNA of the Treasure Coast |
| Impact 100 | Young Professionals of IRC |
| John’s Island Foundation | Youth Sailing Foundation |

Source: List supplied by Dale Sorensen Real Estates

Treasure Coast | Sotheby’s INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Mary Frances Driscoll
REALTOR®
772.766.5942
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David W. Haynes
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