St. Petersburg Times

Don't forget the crackers for that New's Year's Eve party dip. The Dish, 3E

Clearwater Times

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Wednesday, December 26, 2007 | CLW

'Coast Guard City' pursued

Clearwater seeks the designation and stronger ties with the service.

BY JONATHAN ABEL
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — In a rare local appearance, the U.S. Coast Guard Band plans to wrap up a free concert next month with *The Battle Hymn of the Republic.*

But supporters of the service hope their efforts to get Clearwater designated as a "Coast Guard City" will go marching on.

The Jan. 31 concert at Ruth Eckerd Hall is being sponsored by the local Navy League Council as part of its effort to strengthen the ties between Clearwater and the Coast Guard.

"The idea of the Coast Guard City is really to show that the community supports the Coast Guard," said Dr. Jim King, president of the Clearwater Council of the Navy League.

"It's patriotic," said Mayor Frank Hibbard, "just thanking the people who oftentimes are taken for granted, which I think the Coast Guard is."

Anyone who has watched the skies or waters around Clearwater knows the Coast Guard has a big presence here.

Clearwater boasts two bases — Station Sand Key, with roughly 70 members, and Air Station Clearwater, with 550 service men and women assigned to it.

The air station claims to be the busiest Coast Guard air station in the coun-

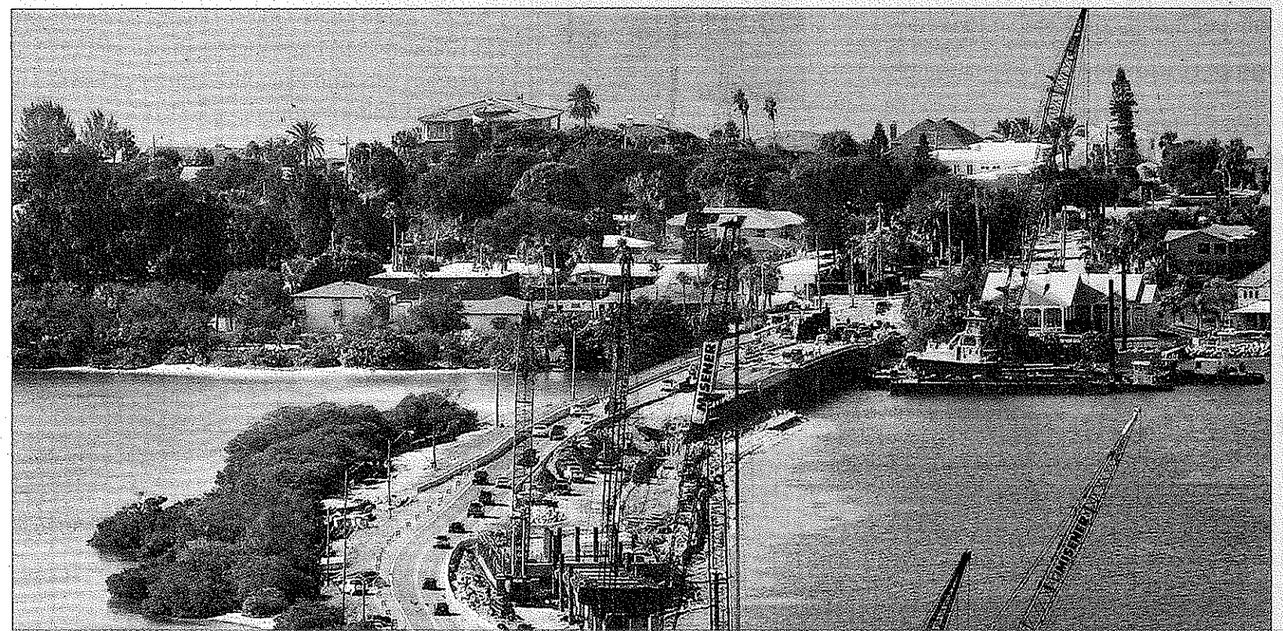
» See COAST GUARD, 3

» IF YOU GO

U.S. Coast Guard Band

A performance is scheduled at Ruth Eckerd Hall at 7 p.m. Jan. 31. It is free, but tickets are required. For a maximum of four tickets, visit Sam Ash Music at 923 N McMullen-Booth Road or call (727) 725-8062. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to USCG Band Tickets, 2381 Ashmore Drive, Clearwater, FL 33763 by Jan. 2.

Windsurfers protest the Belleair Beach Causeway's shrinking of a favorite spot.



In the know

CLEARWATER

TRYOUTS SET JAN. 13-14 FOR 'SWEET CHARITY'

Here's what you do: Get the lyrics to *Big Spender* and sing it as loud as you can a few times. Then on Jan. 13 and 14, go to Francis Wilson Playhouse and audition for a part in the musical *Sweet Charity*. Tryouts start each night at 7 p.m. at the theater at 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Bring sheet music in the correct key. An accompanist will play for you. You might also be asked to dance a few steps, so don't wear flip-flops or sandals. The musical has parts for three women ages 25 to 50 with mezzo to soprano voices; a woman age 18 to 25 for a dancing role; four men ages 24 to 40 with baritone to tenor voices; and a singing ensemble of men and women. Production dates are March 13-23. Call (727) 446-1360.

SAFETY HARBOR

Math Club founder Volunteer of Year

Vinay Agarwala is Safety Harbor Library's Volunteer of the Year for helping children tackle the oft-dreaded subject of math. He founded the Safety Harbor Math Club and every Saturday for the past 13 years has tutored anyone willing to learn. An M.I.T. graduate with a degree in nuclear engineering, Agarwala makes it his mission to teach children the fundamentals of math. He started the club when his daughter began struggling with math. For information on the club, call the library at (727) 724-1555, ext. 222.

PALM HARBOR

Help is offered to start a business