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## News

# New Year's Must-Do's: Our Growing List Features 23 Things To Do

Deadlines, dates, auditions, shows, classes, contests and more are noted in this ongoing list of community events. New to the list: Rolling Pin, Music Showcase, Gasparilla boat checks and poster contest, "So You Think You Can Paint," chair yoga and more.

By [Linda Chion Kenney](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 1, 2012

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The new year is upon us and it's time to look ahead to what's happening and worthy of note in the Greater Brandon community.

This is the second edition of a list we started in December, with the latest entries designated with the word "new" in the subject heading.

Since this is the Internet, and space is unlimited, we added to the bottom of the list all entries previously posted. As always, we invite you to grow the list by submitting your own "must-do's" in the comment box below.

### **NEW: Music Showcase Players Present "Aida"**

- The Showcase Players return to the stage at the [Music Showcase](#) Theatre in Brandon with "Aida." Show dates are Jan. 6, at 7 p.m.; J 8, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.; and Jan. 14 and 15, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available online, at the [Mus Showcase Web site](#). The theater is at Music Showcase, at 402 Oakfield Drive in Brandon. Call: 813-685-5998.

### **NEW: Celebrity Chef at Rolling Pin Emporium**

- The [Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium](#), at 2080 Badlands Drive in Brandon, announces a series of celebrity chef classes in January and The Jan. 7 class features [Chef Tre Wilcox](#), who "brings his spectacular Top Chef All-Star, Top Chef Healthy Choice and Iron Chef Skills"

emporium on Jan. 8 and 9, "for a very special demonstration class of his signature dishes." Wilcox is the executive chef of his new restaurant Marquee Grill, in Dallas, Texas. Coming in February: [Richie Farina](#), [Virginia Willis](#) and [Helen Chen](#). For information, call Rolling Pin at 2418.

#### **NEW: No-Cost Vessel Checks for Gasparilla Day**

- Recreational boat owners planning to participate in the 2012 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion on Jan. 28 are invited to take advantage of "non-punitive, 15-minute checks" to avoid "potential sizeable fines for outdated or missing safety equipment aboard their boats." This word from [Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 79](#), which plans to offer Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Checks beginning Jan. 7 and continuing Saturdays leading up to the invasion, as well as Friday, Jan. 27. The checks are from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 7, 14 and 21 and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 22. On Jan. 27, the hours are from 9 a.m.-noon. Go to the Gandy Boat Ramp, at 5108 West Gandy Blvd., in South Tampa. For more on the checks, visit this [online site covering what's required to be on board](#).

#### **New: Art Exhibit for Greater Brandon Artists - No Entry Fee!**

- Artists are invited to enter up to three paintings for, "**So You Think You Can Paint? The Greater Brandon Edition 2012.**" The event scheduled for Jan. 25 at The Regent, is modeled after successful efforts at the Centre Gallery in Tampa and the Spoke Gallery in Chicago. Artists are invited to submit their work, of any subject, size or format, Jan. 20-22 at The Regent, 6437 Waston Road in Riverview (in the southwest of the Winthrop community). Judging will be based on concept and a panel will critique the submitted paintings based on skill and the artist's choice of the medium. A video of the judging will be presented during the reception and awards presentation, Jan. 25, from 5-9 p.m. Five grand prize special-category prizes will be awarded. A raffle drawing will be held to win a painting kit from [AOE Supply](#), a sponsor of the event, with VIP. For more information, call the The Regent at 813-571-2494, or email: [info@experiencetheregent.com](mailto:info@experiencetheregent.com).

#### **NEW: Mission Lunch and Auction**

- Silent auction, lunch and a live auction are scheduled for **ALMA, the John Nugent Mission Event**, held every other year at the [First Presbyterian Church of Brandon](#) to benefit a local mission. This year the event will benefit the [Brandon Outreach Clinic](#), a not-for-profit corporation that provides basic medical care to people who earn a living, but not enough to buy medical insurance or pay their medical bills. Items have been donated by church members and friends and include vacation opportunities, rounds of golf, gift certificates for fine dining restaurants and family entertainment and unique gift items. The silent auction begins at 11 a.m., with lunch served at noon, followed by the live auction. Open to the public. Tickets available at the door on the [church's Web site](#). The church is at 121 Carver Ave.

#### **NEW: Veterans Assistance Seminar**

- The **Bridges Retirement Community** is partnering with the **American Association for Wartime Veterans (AAWV)** to help educate veterans about an "aid and attendance" benefit under the Veterans Administration pension program. The benefit can help offset the cost of a retirement community for a wartime veteran or his or her surviving spouse. According to Janet Noah, community relations liaison for The Bridges, "any member of any branch of the armed services who served 90 consecutive days on active duty, including one day during a war, is eligible for \$1,644 or more reimbursement for assisted or independent living expenses." The seminar to discuss this benefit is scheduled for Jan. 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at The Bridges, 11350 Bloomingdale Ave. Call to reserve a spot: 813-413-8900.

#### **NEW: Chair Yoga Classes**

- Chair yoga classes are being offered Saturday mornings in the clubhouse at The Bridges Retirement Community. Open to the public, the classes are free of charge and taught by Gary Lenza, a certified yoga instructor, who noted in a news release that the classes are "great because they can experience the benefits of yoga without getting on the floor." With regular practice, he added, "yoga improves balance, flexibility, and energy." The Mayo Clinic notes that yoga's potential benefits include stress reduction, increased fitness, management of chronic health conditions and weight loss. For information, call Janet Noah at 813-413-8900.

#### **NEW: Caregivers Symposium**

- The Bridges Retirement Community is partnering with the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to present an educational seminar for caregivers on Jan. 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., with registration and refreshments at 9 a.m. The seminar will address practical strategies for caregivers and professionals and new treatments for the disease and related disorders. Scheduled to speak are Dr. William J. Gattuso, a nationally recognized scientist and professor at the University of South Florida, and Dr. Susan Steen, a board-certified psychiatrist and neurologist. Family members, professionals and caregivers are invited to attend. The seminar is free but reservations are required. Call Janet Noah at 813-413-8916.

#### **NEW: Gasparilla Music Festival Event Poster Contest**

- The inaugural Gasparilla Music Festival is scheduled for March 10-11, featuring live bands in the Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park in downtown Tampa. A diverse array of musical styles will be featured, including indie rock, world music, jazz, Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk, gospel and more. Artists are invited to submit by Jan. 27 their work for an event poster advertising the music festival. The selected designer will receive credit and the chosen design will appear on posters and might be incorporated into other marketing items, such as an event Web site and flyers. The selected design also might be sold in a live or silent auction to benefit the Gasparilla Music Festival, a non-profit organization.