



## TUSCANY COMMUNITY NEWS

“Connecting Neighbors”

May 2022



### MAY HOLIDAYS

May 1 - **May Day** - spring celebrations vary from country to country and regions within the United States; festivities may involve a maypole, gift baskets, parades, pageants, and the crowning of a May queen.

May 3 - **National Teacher Appreciation Day** – say thanks to a teacher.

May 5 - **Cinco de Mayo** - an annual celebration of Mexico's victory over the French forces of Napoleon III in 1862; in the United States parties typically include Mexican foods and margaritas.

May 8 - **Mother's Day** - a day set aside to honor mothers and their contributions to families and communities.

May 30 - **Memorial Day** - a federal holiday in the United States to mourn military personnel who have died while serving in the U.S. armed forces.

## **TUSCANY HOA BOARD NEWS**

Keith Quintin, Board Treasurer for the past year, has recently moved from Tuscany. His time serving on the HOA Board and keeping watch over our HOA finances is very much appreciated.

Jim Mueller has been appointed to complete Keith's term on the HOA Board. Jim and his wife Vicki moved to Tuscany in June 2021 from Illinois. He is a retired engineer who worked for Honeywell. Welcome to the Tuscany HOA Board, Jim!!

Current Board members are Kevin Hawley, Pardha Vishnumolokala, Earl Manhold, Jim Mueller, and AnnMarie Scott.



## **SPEEDING/PARKING IN STREET**

This is a reminder to Tuscany residents and guests . . . the speed limit on our streets is **15 mph**. Please be observant and careful to avoid causing an accident that might involve a child or another vehicle by always watching your speedometer as you drive through Tuscany.

A recent incident was reported where a car parked in the street was sideswiped by another vehicle. With larger delivery and work trucks, moving vans, etc., frequently driving through Tuscany, it is a risk you take when you park in the street. Please use driveways as much as possible for parking additional vehicles.

Because there is limited space in our neighborhood parking in the street can cause an obstruction of sightlines for other drivers in addition to possibly resulting in damage to a parked vehicle. And also remember that **it is illegal to block a sidewalk or a mailbox!** Just be aware . . . and be considerate.

Parents: While drivers need to be extra vigilant to watch for children darting into the streets, parents need to continually remind their children that streets (including cul-de-sacs) are for motor vehicles and should not be used as a playground. Please caution your children to be mindful of traffic when they are riding bikes or playing in or near the streets. It only takes a second to be the victim of an accident. No one wants to see that happen.

With the onset of summertime weather and children out of school during the daytime, they will be playing outdoors more. All residents should be aware that children are allowed to play in the vacant, grassy areas within Tuscany (HOA property), on sidewalks, and in their own yards. However, children should also be respectful of their neighbors' properties and avoid trespassing in the yards and driveways of other people unless specifically invited.



## **DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES SOLICITATIONS**

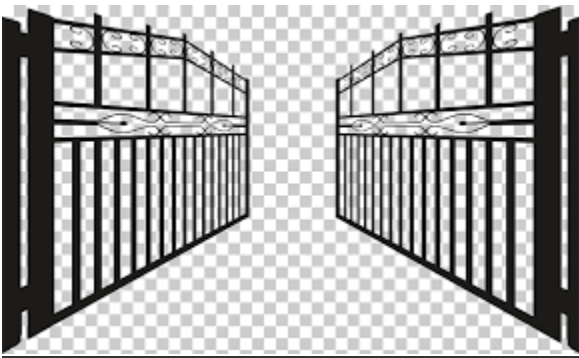
Have you recently had a salesperson come to your door claiming to "be working at one of your neighbors?" They then quickly transition into their sales pitch for solar panels, pressure washing, etc.

Residents of a community with posted **NO SOLICITATION** signs have the right to ask door-to-door solicitors to observe that notice and leave the neighborhood. If they don't leave, law enforcement can be called; however, these types of calls will not be considered a priority by police.

Respectfully tell door-to-door salespeople that they're not to walk through the neighborhood knocking on doors or ringing doorbells. But most companies will disregard that request, so it's difficult to control. One problem is when the company representative claims they are contacting their own customers. We can tell them they can go to those designated doors but nobody else's, and 9 out of 10 times they'll comply.

According to Jennifer Conti, property manager at McNeil Management Services, “homeowners need to take a stance and not open the doors to solicitors. It is a number game to them and as long as homeowners are opening their doors, listening to their pitch, or purchasing their products, they will continue. Any homeowner can call the company themselves and report solicitors on their property. If someone feels unsafe, threatened, or harassed, it would be the responsibility of the homeowner to contact law enforcement and make a report.”

If you do open the door and a sales pitch is initiated, simply advise the person that Tuscany has **NO SOLICITATION** signs posted beside the gates at each of the three entrances. You can advise them that the police could be called, and it will cause problems for their company and them as individuals who are trespassing where not invited.



## **GATE PASSAGE ISSUES**

Tailgating — in the context of a gated property — refers to an unauthorized vehicle that follows a resident or another authorized individual so closely that they can pass through the gate while it remains open.

Also called “piggybacking,” tailgating is a serious security breach — though not all tailgating has malicious intent. People often tailgate during busy times of the day to reduce their wait time as cars await entry at the gate. In other cases, it’s just an authorized resident who tailgates because they forgot their gate fob or do not wish to stop and take the time to enter the gate code. It might even be a resident’s guest following the resident to their home in a separate vehicle.

Besides possibly causing a safety problem for residents, it is best to try and prevent it altogether. It can create a negative reputation for the community caused by a perception that it’s unsafe to live in Tuscany because “anyone can just tailgate and gain access” to the neighborhood. In addition, physical damage to the gate can result, thereby resulting in costly repairs.

If any residents have realistic, practical solutions concerning this issue, please share them with an HOA Board member or Jennifer Conti, property manager with McNeil Management Services, at (813) 571-7100.



## **FLORIDA NUISANCE ALLIGATOR HOTLINE**

It is mating season for alligators, and they are occasionally moving from pond to pond in Tampa Palms. Just give them space and do not approach them. Depending on their size and whether they pose a threat, there is a contact office with the Florida Wildlife Commission for nuisance alligators.

### **What is a nuisance alligator?**

Generally, an alligator may be considered a nuisance if it's at least 4 feet in length and believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property. If you're concerned about an alligator, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR ([866-392-4286](tel:866-392-4286)), and they will dispatch a contracted nuisance alligator trapper to resolve the situation.

## **LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS**



These amazing animals are important to Florida's natural areas and found throughout the state.

### **A few simple rules to co-exist with alligators:**

**NEVER** feed an alligator



Keep pets away from water's edge



Swim during the day and only in designated areas

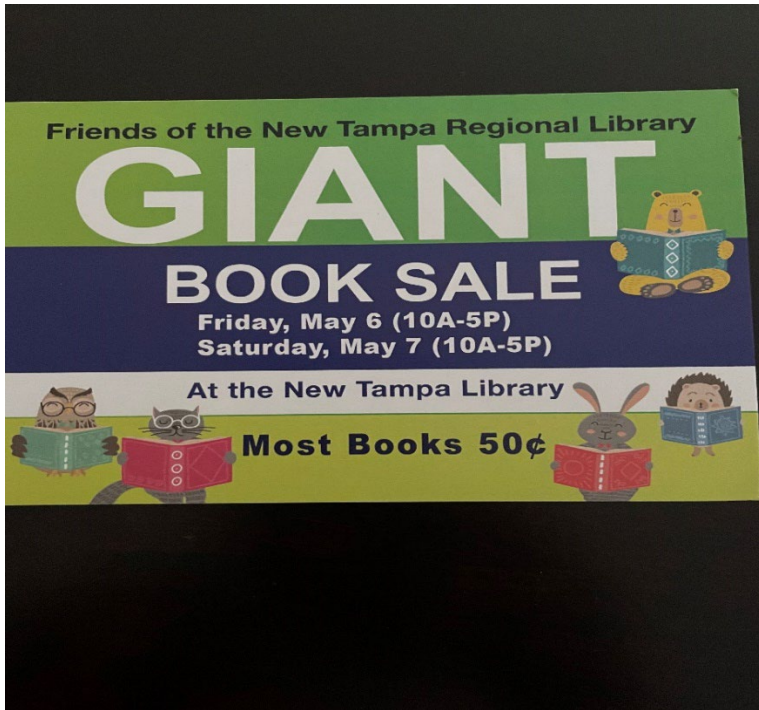


if you see an alligator

Call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at **866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)** if you're concerned about an alligator.



## NEW TAMPA REGIONAL LIBRARY BOOK SALE



Funds from the book sale are used to support the variety of programs offered throughout the year at the library. Check the library website for upcoming summer programs:

<https://hcplc.org/locations/new-tampa>.



May 27 is the last day of public school in Hillsborough County. If parents are considering summertime activities for their children to participate in, check out a few of the area summer camps that provide a variety of activities and learning experiences for kids.



## **SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS**

There are lots of summer camps for kids available in the Tampa Bay area for the upcoming summer. Check out arts, sports, academic, and specialty camps available at [www.summercamps.com](http://www.summercamps.com). Following are a couple of nearby camp options:

### **New Tampa YMCA**

<https://www.tampaymca.org/locations/new-tampa-family-ymca>

2022 Summer Camp programs run 9am-4pm, Mondays-Fridays, May 31st-August 5th. Early and late supervision is available starting at 7am and ending at 6pm at no extra charge!

### **SWIM CAMP**

Does your child love the water? Campers must be able to pass the YMCA Swim Test to participate, which requires them to swim the length of the pool and tread water for 1 minute. Campers should bring sunscreen, swim suit and towel each day of camp. Our swim camp is perfect for water enthusiasts interested in experiencing a camp filled with water sports and pool games. Each day campers will be introduced to new water sports and/or water games in the pool while also participating in traditional camp activities such as team building, character development, and arts and crafts. AGES: 6-10 WEEKS: 1-10 COST/WEEK: Members \$184, Non-Members \$234

### **SUMMER DAY CAMP**

Experience EVERYTHING the fun of camp has to offer everyday with Activity Central! Campers will explore a wide variety of activities each day in a safe, fun environment that provides the opportunity to build lifelong friendships and make memories to last long after summer ends. Examples of activities campers may experience include: swimming, STEM, arts/crafts, outdoor education, games, team building and more. Parent note: To ensure kids have a fantastic, age-relevant experience, camp groups will be based on camper(s) age. AGES: 6-12 WEEKS: 1-10 COST/WEEK: Members \$169, Non-Members \$214

## Carrollwood Cultural Center

<https://carrollwoodcenter.org/camp-activities/>

Ages 11-13: Enter Twilight Zone, Much to Choose about Shakespeare, Matilda the Musical. Campers will perform an original production every other Friday.

Ages 6-10 + Ages 4-5: Wild Kingdom, Great Art Escape; Mythical Creature Feature; Superheroes; Wet, Wild, and Wacky; Ancient History; Spy Week; Adventurers Week; Magical Mysteries

There are four ways to register:

- 1.) **Mail/Email:** Download a [2022 CAMP REGISTRATION PACKET](#) and send the completed forms via mail to 4537 Lowell Road; Tampa, FL 33618, or email them to [katie@carrollwoodcenter.org](mailto:katie@carrollwoodcenter.org).
- 2.) **Online:** Non-refundable online processing fees apply. Additional paperwork is required after registering.
- 3.) **Phone:** Call (813) 922-8167 to register over the phone with a credit card.
- 4.) **In-Person:** Visit the Center Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; or Saturday, 10 a.m. – noon.

## **SUBSCRIBE TO THE TUSCANY NEWSLETTER**

To subscribe to the Tuscany newsletter, please submit your name and a preferred email address to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com), and the newsletter will be sent via email to you each month. This email address will not permit individuals' personal email addresses to be visible to others. Newsletters can also be found in Quick Links on the Tuscany HOA website: [www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com](http://www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com).