

TUSCANY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“Connecting Neighbors”

April 2021

TUSCANY HOMEOWNERS (HOA) BOARD

President – Kevin Hawley
Vice President – Norma Reno
Secretary – Earl Manhold
Treasurer – **VACANT****
Director – AnnMarie Scott

** Please contact Kevin Hawley if you are interested in serving on the Board in the Treasurer position.

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin Hawley, President
Tuscany at Tampa Palms Owners Association

Kevin has lived in Tuscany since 2012. He moved here with his wife, Jackie, from Tremont in Tampa Palms to downsize when his children went away to college. He is a faculty member in the Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Communications at USF and a member of the USF faculty senate. He is also involved in recruiting participants for the Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training research study with the USF Health Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. He has taught study abroad courses in Florence, Italy (in the original Tuscany) and would have taught in Barcelona for the last two summers if not for the pandemic. He also collaborates with a faculty partner at Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia. In his rare free time he enjoys walking his dog Bailey, riding his bicycle on the off-road trails in Flatwoods Park, kayaking on the Hillsborough River, and riding his motorcycle all around central Florida.





APRIL is EARTH MONTH . . . do something GREEN for our planet!!

With the return of Spring a few weeks ago comes several holidays and observances in April that focus on health awareness, the arts and reading, and community service . . . all in the name of April and Spring. Some special days are month-long observances with regional events throughout the country; others are week-long celebrations centered around a theme. A few suggestions of ways to celebrate throughout the month of April include:

- + Refresh your garden beds for April National Garden Month
- + Organize a poetry reading for April Poetry Month
- + World Autism Awareness Day - April 2
- + Complete a paint-by-number project on World Art Day – April 15
- + Try your hand at writing haiku on National Haiku Poetry Day – April 17
- + Pick up trash in the neighborhood on Earth Day - April 22
- + Read a book or participate in a book club for World Book Day – April 23
- + Volunteer for a good cause for Volunteer Week – April 19-23
- + Plant a tree for Arbor Day - April 30

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



Almost 30 years ago, Alex and Djennet Matveevskii came to this country from Russia. During those years, they lived in several cities up north and in the western part of the U.S., but mostly they have spent their time in Florida. For this reason if people ask about their accent, their response is “it is southern Floridian.”

Alex has recently retired and, finally, after many years of hard work, he can play tennis, read books, travel, and simply walk with his wife in the evenings at any time. Djennet likes to sing, does some writing, reading, and practices yoga. And they also have a third member of their household . . . a gorgeous cat named Athos.



Alex and Djennet moved to Tuscany in 2019. They feel that Tuscany is a great community united by people who are friendly, love their families, and are willing to respect the privacy of their neighbors. They wish, though, that the rules would be more strict with respect to residents who rent homes in Tuscany. It is also important for everybody's sake to keep yards, houses, and driveways clean and presentable so the value of all Tuscany properties will continue increasing.



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Pavankumar & Veena Jajoo on Tuscany Woods Drive (March)

HOA COMMITTEES

There are several existing, active committees in Tuscany, including Architectural Review, Landscape, Welcome, Social, Finance, Communications, Compliance, and Neighborhood Watch. This month the **Landscaping Committee** is being featured.

Landscaping committee members are Narmada Balaji (chairperson), Patricia Gaggi, Bala Shankar, Anand Gudar, and Cheryl Burrell.

The role of the Landscaping Committee is to promote and preserve the established look and feel of the overall community landscaping plan and standards of the community as it pertains to both homeowner and common properties.

Duties: review the landscaping contract to understand current responsibilities and costs; review Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for new maintenance contracts; make suggestions on ways to help our community grow more beautiful while keeping costs within the budget and maintaining the consistent look of the community.

A MESSAGE from the committee to homeowners/tenant residents:

The landscape committee is an advisory committee with any final decisions resting solely with the HOA Board. The committee helps the Board by being in touch with the pulse of the community regarding landscaping needs and sends their recommendations to the Board based on input from homeowners. We work with the Board to create and publish the "Landscape Responsibilities" document on the HOA website, participate in meetings with Nature Coast to discuss contract details, and manage complaints as well as desired improvements. These are a few ways we have contributed to our community in the past.

The Landscape Committee is a work in progress, and it would greatly help if homeowners would vigorously maintain their yards with regular upkeep like weeding, removing dead plants/shrubs, trimming existing plants as needed, etc. A weekly walk around the yard to check for any large dried-up patches of sod will help catch irrigation problems at their earliest and can be conveyed to the management company to get any problems fixed.

But, most importantly, we need homeowners to be aware of the fact that landscaping changes including removal of trees, adding rocks to landscaped beds, expanding original landscaped beds, etc., are akin to structural and architectural changes and need prior approval from McNeil Management and the HOA Board.

Remember: Read the Tuscany deed restrictions first and . . . "When in doubt, stop email management@mcneilmsi.com."



LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

Several committees need interested residents to get involved by volunteering a small amount of personal time each month to help keep Tuscany a viable, friendly, and more beautiful community within Tampa Palms. Please consider participating by letting either one of the HOA Board members or Jennifer Conti at McNeil Management (management@mcneilmsi.com) know of your interest in serving on a specific committee. At the present time, the Finance, Welcome, and Social committees could use active volunteers.

TUSCANY YARD OF THE MONTH

At the Bella Woods Drive home of Cheryl Burrell, Frank Perkins, and Cooper, the cutest little dog ever, you will find a colorful array of plants with purple, yellow, and orange blooms. The landscape design & installation was done by Greg's Landscape LLC (941-776-2922) last year. Plants used in the garden beds include lantana, lavender, bird of paradise, reed orchids, crotons, and bromeliads. Thanks to Frank and Cheryl for beautifying their home and our neighborhood.



WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

As we have had rain only once or twice in over a month, some lawns are beginning to show distress and need to be watered. Please turn your irrigation system ON until the rainy season begins, but remember to observe the following City of Tampa watering guidelines.

The following City of Tampa water use restrictions have been in effect since August 1, 2017. Please read carefully, check/set sprinkler systems appropriately.

Year-Round Watering Days

- At addresses ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3 - Mondays and Thursdays
- At addresses ending in 4, 5, or 6 - Tuesdays and Fridays
- At addresses ending in 7, 8 or 9 - Wednesdays and Saturdays

- Irrigation is permitted **between midnight and 8 a.m. OR between 6 p.m. and midnight on the allowed days.**
- Restrictions remain in place for irrigation of new and established landscapes, chemical treatments and irrigation system maintenance. Low-volume micro-irrigation, hand watering, car washing, fountain operation and power washing are unrestricted.
- The watering day allowances apply to all permanent, in-ground, automatic and manual irrigation systems and when using a garden hose with a portable hose-end sprinkler. **Irrigation is not permitted between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the allowed day.**
- These restrictions apply to all water sources except [reclaimed](#) water.

The Tampa Water Department publishes updates and changes to local water restrictions in these ways: media releases, [Alert Tampa](#) notification, NextDoor, and utility customer billing inserts. Water use restrictions are in place year-round and affect all water sources, including wells. **Violating water use restrictions in Tampa may result in penalties ranging from \$100 to \$450 and a mandatory court appearance.** Restrictions are subject to change in response to local and regional water supply conditions. Additional information for citation recipients is available at TampaGov.net/water in the FAQ section.

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