



## **TUSCANY COMMUNITY NEWS**

**“Connecting Neighbors”**

**July 2021**

### **TUSCANY HOMEOWNERS (HOA) BOARD**

President – Kevin Hawley  
Vice President – Norma Reno  
Secretary – Earl Manhold  
Treasurer – Keith Quintin  
Director – AnnMarie Scott

### **HOA BOARD MEMBERS**

Keith Quintin was appointed earlier this year by President Kevin Hawley as acting Treasurer to complete the term of Erl Piscitelli, who submitted her resignation after serving in this role on the Tuscany HOA Board for several years.

Keith and his family have lived on Tuscany Woods Drive for 8 years. He and his wife have been married for 16 years and have two wonderful children and one playful puppy. He has a business degree in management.

A personal message from Keith: “As the newly appointed Treasurer for the Tuscany HOA Board, I look forward to working with my fellow neighbors to improve our neighborhood.”

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



September 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 PM – HOA Board Budget Meeting



JULY 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day aka “America's Birthday” – the day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence signed by all 13 colonies in Philadelphia, PA, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. It is a federal holiday celebrated with the tradition of parades, patriotic concerts, picnics and barbecues, homes decorated with red, white, and blue décor and American flags, and, of course, fireworks.

Legally, it is unlawful in Florida for any person or firm to sell, use, or explode any fireworks without first obtaining a permit from the Board of County Commissioners. Violations are charged as a first-degree misdemeanor under Florida Statute 791.02. The police annually receive thousands of phone calls regarding the noise generated by fireworks, but they tend to actually investigate only a few of the more serious situations that may be endangering lives or that may be violating the city's noise ordinance, which usually means fireworks are being exploded after 11 pm.

To celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> safely with fireworks, follow these precautions:

- Use sparklers and other legal novelties on a flat, hard surface. Do not light them on grass.
- Use sparklers in an open area. Keep children and pets at least 30 feet away from all ignited sparklers.
- Light only one item at a time and never attempt to re-light a “dud.”
- Don't use any unwrapped items or items that may have been tampered with.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or water hose on-hand for emergencies. It's a good idea to drop used sparklers in a bucket of water.
- Only purchase fireworks from licensed vendors.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

- Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse.
- Never carry sparklers in your pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- Be mindful that fireworks can cause great stress for pets. Indoor-only pets can become so frightened during fireworks displays that they may take desperate measures to escape the noise, including breaking through windows or door screens. Protect them by placing them in a safe space within your home.

**HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY!!**



## **TUSCANY HOA COMMITTEES**

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

(This Committee is established in our Bylaws and is regulated by Florida Statutes.)

When a homeowner is assessed a fine by the Board for a continuing violation, the homeowner has the right to dispute the fine and request a hearing. If a hearing is requested, it will be held before the Hearing Committee appointed by the Board of Directors, and the alleged violator shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the fine should be levied. The Committee meets only when a hearing has been requested by a homeowner deemed to be in violation. The Committee must not include Board members.

Refer to the Tuscany HOA website ([www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com](http://www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com)) for a complete list of the 2021 committees and members.



## **New Tuscany Homeowners**

Gopi & Suneetha Sadineni (April)

James & Victoria Mueller (June)

Manuel Borda (June)

Balaji Bitra & Deepthi Padavala (June)

## **MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Alana and Nick Elkins and their children have been a part of our Tuscany community for a little more than 4 years. Alana works in higher education, and Nick works in corporate training & education.

Alana recently defended her dissertation and will be graduating from USF with her Doctorate in Education this August.

They enjoy spending time with their family. You can often find them on walks through the neighborhood with their Australian Labradoodle, Rudy.

Congratulations Dr. Elkins on your achievement!!



## YARDS OF THE MONTH

As the tv commercial says . . . “your yard is a reflection of YOU.”

We are featuring two “green thumbs” this month with photos of the colorful landscaped beds they have created in front of their Tuscany homes.

First is Narmada Balaji, who lives on Bella Woods Drive and is chairperson of the Tuscany Landscaping Committee. Using ilex shrubs and a bird of paradise plant as a backdrop, Narmada has added color in her garden bed with crotons in matching pots, fuschia-colored pentas, ixora, canna lily, purple Mexican salvia, Cora vinca (also known as periwinkle), red roses, yellow thyrrallis and purslane, and a fuschia shrub crape myrtle. In the background ti plants (also known as the “good luck plant”) line the walkway to her front porch. Ti plants come in a variety of colors, but most have a variegated leaf with green, red, purple tones.



The second featured gardener for July is Claudia Pettit, who also lives on Bella Woods Drive.

She uses a variety of colors in her garden beds with angelonia (purple), petunias (white & pink stripe), lantana (yellow), roses (pink & red), hibiscus (red), clematis (lavender), and a potted Gerber daisy interspersed with green ilex shrubs. In addition, Claudia also has a few accent pieces like an antique pot and seasonal garden flags in her front yard garden bed.



Everyone may not have a “green thumb” like Narmada and Claudia, but everyone should know how to pull weeds (and especially torpedo grass that grows in ilex shrubs) and dead

plants from garden beds to keep them looking neat. (By the way, Nature Coast does not perform these tasks; it is up to individual homeowners and tenants to maintain their own garden beds.) Please take the time to walk or bike around our neighborhood to get landscaping ideas from other folks who do have a “gardener’s eye” for creating neat, well-maintained, and colorful garden beds. Or . . . hire a professional landscaper as a last resort!

If anyone is interested in forming a Tuscan Garden Club to meet regularly and share landscaping/gardening ideas, please share your interest and contact information by sending an email to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** Nature Coast will be trimming palm trees in July. The exact trimming date will be based on weather conditions.

Also, be aware that the trees which are planted between the sidewalk and the street are situated on HOA property. They are not to be pruned by homeowners. If a tree needs maintenance, please submit a Landscape Request (form is available on the HOA website) to McNeil Management Services so that Nature Coast can handle the request.

## **PUH-LEEZE!**

Residents (whether owners or tenants) of Tuscan . . . **PLEASE** read and comply with the Tuscan Deed Restrictions. The following topics have been addressed and stressed several times, yet there are continued issues being observed and reported in our neighborhood.

**Speeding** – The speed limit is **15 mph** on the streets of Tuscan. For the safety of everyone in our neighborhood . . . **Just Do It!!** Remind your guests/visitors to also observe the speed limit within Tuscan (and on Tampa Palms Boulevard).

**Trash Cans** – Keep them in your garage; place bins curbside the night before pickup on Mondays (trash + recycle) and Thursdays (trash + yard waste), then return them to the garage promptly. **Do Not** leave full trash bins outdoors where raccoons and other scavengers can create a mess in your driveway or in the street. Large boxes must be broken down and placed in the recycle bin; drivers will not exit their vehicle to place piled up boxes in the trucks. Place yard waste in bags or bins curbside on Thursday mornings for pickup.

**Dog Poop** – Your dog, your poop!! Kindly pick it up and dispose of poop bags properly. The bags are not to be left on sidewalks, in bushes, or on neighbors’ yards.

**Parking** – Cars continue to be parked illegally across sidewalks on occasion. Be aware that the city of Tampa can issue fines for vehicles that are blocking sidewalk access to pedestrians. In addition, vehicles should not block access by the USPS carriers to our mailboxes.

**Trespassing** – Please respect the property of your neighbors. ‘Enuf said!!!

**Children at Play** - Parents, **please** caution your children to avoid playing in the street as much as possible. Ask them to constantly watch for moving vehicles. Children have been observed riding their bicycles into the path of cars without ever looking to see if the street is clear of moving vehicles. It will hurt if they are accidentally hit by a car or truck!

**Driveway Pavers** - To maintain a neat appearance plus preserve pavers, keep the weeds from growing in the space between pavers (spray with weed killer or pressure wash them) and consider having them cleaned and sealed professionally every 2-3 years.

**Mailboxes** – If your mailbox needs repair, **please** take care of it. If the mailbox is damaged and needs to be replaced, **please** do it. If the mailbox isn't securely anchored in the ground, fix it.

**Yard Maintenance** – Nature Coast mows, edges, and trims hedges + palms trees on a scheduled basis. They do not pull weeds from landscaped beds nor do they remove dead plants or plant new ones. That is each homeowner's or tenant's responsibility. Backyards should not be a repository for junk, flowerpots, or other items that interfere with the Nature Coast crew's ability to mow.

**Violation Notices** – The HOA Board and Tuscany's property management company, McNeil Management Services, will issue violation notices to owners and tenants who do not abide by the published Deed Restrictions and Declaration of Covenants, etc. Legal action will be pursued when needed. Prevent this situation from happening to you. You purchased a home in Tuscany willingly; therefore, you tacitly agreed to know and comply with Deed Restrictions when you decided to purchase a home in Tuscany.

Please go to the Tuscany HOA website at [www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com](http://www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com) to review the Summary of Deed Restrictions + Declaration of Covenants, etc.



## **RECOMMENDED SERVICES**

APPLIANCE REPAIR -

ELECTRICIAN -

HANDYMAN -

HOUSECLEANER -

HVAC - Red Cap Services - 813-963-3056

MOVERS - Two Men and a Truck - 813-445-8454

PAINTER - Rios ProPainting - 813-352-5817

PAVER SEALING - Paver Sealing Florida - 813-389-3683 or 813-842-5496

PLUMBER - Red Cap Services - 813-963-3056

PEST CONTROL (home and lawn) - Nvirotect - 813-968-7031

PRESSURE WASHING -

SCREEN REPAIR -

If anyone has other recommended service individuals or companies, please send names and phone numbers to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com) and the information will be shared in the monthly newsletter.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Tuscany HOA Board would like to remind owners and tenants that there are **NO** official social media sites for Tuscany at Tampa Palms. All relevant information for residents is posted on the Tuscany HOA website.

## **SUBSCRIBE TO THE TUSCANY NEWSLETTER**

To subscribe to the Tuscany newsletter, please submit 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, and it will be a "No Reply" email publication. Newsletters can also be found in Quick Links on the Tuscany HOA website: [www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com](http://www.TuscanyTampaPalmsHOA.com).

**REMEMBER TO BE KIND - BE RESPECTFUL - BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR**