



TUSCANY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
"Connecting Neighbors"  
March 2021

**HAPPY  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY!**

**YOUR COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (HOA) BOARD**

President – Kevin Hawley  
Vice President – Norma Reno  
Secretary – Earl Manhold  
Treasurer – Erl Piscitelli  
Director – AnnMarie Scott



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The next HOA Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 25, 6 pm**, via ZOOM. Sign-on instructions will be sent to homeowners by email from McNeil Management Services, and a reminder will also be posted in the message boxes at each Tuscany gate.

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 14, 2 am**. Spring Forward!

## **MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Hello everyone. We are Ann and Kirk Reynolds. We have lived in Tuscany on Bella Woods Drive for 10 years and love living here for many reasons. You can see Ann walking in the neighborhood almost every evening and sometimes biking to the YMCA. Walking in the evening and meeting neighbors is such a pleasure.



We hope this Tuscany newsletter will help all of you to connect and get to know more of our community. We encourage you to submit a photo of your family and/or pets and share why you like living in Tuscany, how long you have lived here, or any other information you are willing to share with your Tuscany neighbors by sending an email to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com), and your submission will be included in a future newsletter.

To receive the newsletter directly via email each month, please send an email to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com) requesting to be added to the subscription list (see additional information at the end of this newsletter).

## **HOA COMMITTEES**

There are several existing, active committees in Tuscany. You can review the committees and their duties on the Tuscany HOA website: [tuscanytampapalmshoa.com](http://tuscanytampapalmshoa.com).

This month the **Finance Committee** is being featured. The primary role of the Finance Committee is to provide financial oversight for the organization. The HOA Board Treasurer will chair the committee.

The committee will review the finances of the HOA and make recommendations to the Board. Typical tasks include budgeting and financial planning, financial reporting, and the creation and monitoring of internal controls and accountability policies. The committee assists the Treasurer by developing an annual operating budget; approving/monitoring that there is adherence to the established budget; setting long-range financial goals along with funding strategies to achieve them, which includes reserves; developing multi-year operating budgets that integrate strategic plan objectives and initiatives; presenting all financial goals and proposals to the Board for approval.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** After serving the past seven (7) years as the HOA Board Treasurer, Erl Piscitelli has announced that she will be retiring from the Board this year. If you have a finance or accounting degree and/or solid work experience background in finance-related positions, please consider serving on the Finance Committee.

## **COMMUNITY FOCUS**

**Gate Message Boards** – Announcements of HOA Board and Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meeting dates/times will be posted in the message boards at each Tuscan gate. Please watch for those postings and join the ZOOM meetings when/if you can in order to remain informed of community business.

**Street Light Outage** – If a street light near your home is out or is malfunctioning, please call 813-223-0800 or report it to TECO using the online form at <https://www.tampaelectric.com/forms/residential/streetlightout/>.

**Pedestrian Gates** - The Bella Woods Drive entrance pedestrian gates are back in place as of Tuesday, March 9.

**Blocked Sidewalks** - Obviously, from a safety perspective, a blocked sidewalk is problematic for all pedestrians, bicyclists, strollers, and people who rely on motorized wheelchairs or scooters to get around. Too often they find themselves forced from the relative safety of the sidewalk into the street because sidewalk access is blocked due to a vehicle parked over the sidewalk. The bottom line is that parking a vehicle on a sidewalk constitutes a noncriminal traffic infraction in Florida, which is punishable as a nonmoving violation. Please be a considerate neighbor and don't do it.

**Trash Carts** - Trash carts should be stored inside the garage of each home except on trash pickup days (Mondays & Thursdays). Please do not leave carts sitting curbside, in driveways, or in front of garage doors after pickup is completed. Yard waste is picked up on Thursdays if left curbside at the end of the driveway where it can clearly be seen by the truck drivers.



**Recycling Reminder** - The city of Tampa Recycling Division is responsible for ensuring that recyclable materials collected are recoverable and do not include contamination (prohibited items that cannot be placed in recycling). Contaminated items include unrinsed cans or bottles and food packaging such as greasy pizza boxes, milk cartons, salad dressing bottles, etc.

**City of Tampa** **ACCEPTED ITEMS**

**Dry and Clean Fiber Items**

**PAPER**  
No shredded paper, no photo paper

**CARDBOARD**  
Flattened boxes, no styrofoam or packaging

**PAPERBOARD**  
Unlined items only

**Empty and Rinsed Plastic Items**

**BOTTLES AND JUGS ONLY**  
No caps

**Empty and Rinsed Metal Items**

**CANS AND BOTTLES ONLY**  
Food and beverage containers only, no reusable containers

**Empty and Rinsed Glass Items**

**BOTTLES AND JARS ONLY**  
No caps or lids

**Only the items pictured above are accepted in your curbside recycling cart.**  
Below are a few unaccepted items that commonly get placed in the recycling cart

**PLASTIC BAGS** **CLOTHING** **STYROFOAM** **CARTONS** **YARD WASTE** **PLASTICWARE**

A part of the outreach effort by the city is to provide real-time, curbside education. This is done by placing tags on carts with visible contamination. The tags provide all the needed information to be successful in the recycling program and to avoid a tag in the future. If tagged, the cart is unable to be serviced because it is not compliant with the program. All contaminants will need to be removed before the next scheduled collection day to receive service. This is done to enhance the quality of recycling in Tampa.

Many residents follow the program rules and only recycle what is listed as accepted. Those that need more information or reminders will likely receive it through a tag on their recycling cart.





Now that our “Florida winter” is over, it’s time to take a look at yards, driveways, porches, etc., and focus on doing a **SPRING CLEANUP**. Following are some landscape maintenance tips to improve the appearance of all our properties.

Got weeds?? Sorry, Nature Coast crews do not pull weeds out of the landscaped beds. Get on bended knee (or hire a teenager who needs some spending \$\$) and remove the weeds on a regular basis so they don’t completely overtake landscaped beds.

Winter’s done and so are some plants and shrubs—remove them!! Trim or cut back any plants which are still alive that might have sustained some cold damage on the few frosty nights we had this winter. This will get rid of the damaged foliage and allow for fresh new growth to appear.

Driveways in Tuscany that were constructed with pavers routinely need to be cleaned and sealed every 2-3 years. Call professionals to do the job right. Take a look at the cleaning and three-coat sealing job completed this week by Paver Sealing Florida at 16020 Bella Woods Drive. In the meantime, spray the pesky little weeds that pop up between the pavers in your driveways and walkways. Nothing says lovin’ like a clean, neat home and yard . . . especially if you’re trying to sell your home.

In addition, a mismatched collection of various potted plants doesn’t constitute a landscaped garden bed or a neat property appearance. Save the potted plants for front or back porches. Use attractive ceramic or clay garden pots with colorful annuals as “landscaping accents” only. Send the plastic pots that plants are sold in at garden shops to the recycle bin—they are not meant for decorating landscaped beds. Place plants in the ground with good potting soil and fertilizer for the roots.

Many homeowners hire external pest control companies to spray their yards for pests and weeds on a monthly basis. The companies leave behind pesticide application signs after the grass is sprayed as a warning to keep pets off the sprayed lawns. These signs should be removed and recycled after 24 hours rather than left in yards, thereby creating an unsightly appearance.



**Tuscany's Yard of the Month** – Nelmarie Nazario & Luis Pieretti at 7713 Tuscany Woods Drive always have an attractively maintained landscaped area. Obviously, it helps to have a “green thumb” (or two) and enjoy gardening with a variety of plants. Notice there are NO WEEDS in the plant beds. Recent additions to their landscaping design are firecracker plants that provide a pop of color amidst the greenery. Firecracker plants are native to Mexico and Guatemala and will typically bloom year-round in Florida. Besides being colorful, they attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Thanks to Nelmarie & Luis for the pride they demonstrate in maintaining their property in beautiful condition. Here are some photos from their front yard of the colorful firecracker plants.



**Bike Laws & Safety Rules** – A bicycle is classified as a vehicle, and a person in control of a vehicle on a city street is a driver. As a driver, a cyclist (adult or child) must follow common traffic rules.

# HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU KNOW?

## Florida's rules on bike regulations

- 

1 A bike may not be used to carry more people at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.
- 

2 Bicycles are considered vehicles and should follow traffic rules common to all drivers.
- 

3 A biker riding on a sidewalk or across a crosswalk should yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- 

4 Any rider or passenger under 16 must wear a bike helmet that is properly fitted and securely fastened by a strap.

**LEARN MORE BIKE SAFETY TIPS AT**  
[florinroebig.com/blog](http://florinroebig.com/blog)

Source: The Star & just south of the border from Florida

Prevent injuries to cyclists in Tuscany. DRIVERS please obey the **speed limit of 15 mph** in Tuscany if you are driving a motorized vehicle. CYCLISTS please be watchful for cars/trucks/vans and follow all traffic rules. Do not congregate in a group in the middle of the street or ride into the path of a motorized vehicle. Be careful, avoid injuries or casualties by following the laws and safety guidelines.

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## word search printable

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

c i r e l a n d s i p  
j s w e u m a r c h t  
p f p a c u h s d a r  
f a o i k a c p s r a  
a o t u y h e a h t i  
l e p r r e e c h a u n  
u m a a i t r r m w b  
i e r r o c e s r x o  
r r a s d l k p o t w  
i a d g g o l d c h n  
s l e a r v l l k t d  
h d s c h e s a i n t  
k w e e r r e f r i e  
h c g o h o l n t f k

Irish  
Emerald  
Clover  
Lucky  
Ireland

Parade  
Leprechaun  
Patrick  
Gold  
Rainbow

Pot  
Shamrock  
Green  
Saint  
March

### **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).