



## TUSCANY COMMUNITY NEWS

“Connecting Neighbors”

May 2021

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

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

Keith was appointed on April 20, 2021, to complete the term of former Treasurer Erl Piscitelli, who has resigned from the Board.

### **MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS**



Norma Camero Reno is the current Vice President of the Tuscany HOA Board. She has resided in Tampa for almost 40 years and moved to Tuscany 6 years ago. Norma began serving on the Tuscany HOA Board in 2019. Norma lives on Tuscany Woods Drive and is the mother of three daughters. She holds a master’s degree in international and business law from the Stetson University of Law and has been often recognized as a community activist and source of support for the citizens of her home country, Venezuela, as well as

Hispanic residents of Tampa and Hillsborough County. A few examples of Norma's community involvement activities include serving as a former vice president of the Tampa/Hillsborough Human Rights Council, founder and ex-president of Casa Venezuela, and a director of Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. Then Mayor Bob Buckhorn proclaimed Norma as Hispanic Woman of the Year in 2015 in recognition of her volunteerism efforts.



Lovebug Alert!! It's May and the "loving couples" are back in town. The body fluids of **lovebugs** are acidic and will immediately dissolve automobile **paint**. When numerous **lovebugs** are smashed on the front of a **vehicle**, the contents of their bodies, especially eggs, coat the painted surface. Wash your vehicles right away when you return home, using ladies' nylon hose to clean the bugs' remains off easily.

May 2 - Orthodox Easter Sunday – the Lenten fast is broken and celebrated with a traditional meal and colorful Easter eggs

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo – a celebration of Mexican independence with food, parades, and music . . . and in the United States, a lot of margaritas

May 9 - Mother's Day - show your mother how special she is with a thoughtful, loving gesture of appreciation

May 12 - Eid al-Fitr - Festival of Breaking the Fast at the end of Ramadan, celebrated with meals and sweet treats

May 31 - Memorial Day - formally known as Decoration Day, a federal holiday observed yearly on the last Monday of May and is a day that commemorates all men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States of America

### SPEED LIMIT ON THE STREETS OF TUSCANY



PLEASE observe the posted speed limit within Tuscany's gates in order to prevent an unnecessary accident involving children, pets, or property. Take your foot off the gas pedal a bit, watch your speedometer, and ask that your visitors do the same.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Pictured below is Niharika “Niha” Baviriseaty. She has been living in Tuscany since 2013 with her family (Parents: Nagadhar & Kusuma, Sister: Sruthika). She has been a USF Bull for all of her higher education as she completed her undergraduate studies there and will be graduating from USF’s Medical School in May 2021. She will continue her medical residency in Internal Medicine at USF as well. So, Niha is definitely upholding the saying “**USF = You Stay Forever.**” She loves to garden in her free time. Congratulations, Niha, on your accomplishments!



## YARD GARDENS OF THE MONTH

Featured this month is the yard garden of Pat and Sil Gaggi on Tuscany Woods Drive. Some of the plants included in their colorful and neatly maintained pots and garden beds are rosemary, ilex, petunias, purslane, lirioppe, purple salvia, hydrangea, sweet alyssum, and bougainvillea. Thanks to Pat, the “real gardener,” for beautifying her area of the neighborhood.





Several homeowners took advantage of the cooler spring weather in March and April to spruce up their landscaped beds. The geraniums, vinca periwinkles, roses, and gladioli in Nirmal Shrestha's front garden are an example of adding color to accent the greenery in a garden bed.



However, there are still many more garden beds that sorely need attention in Tuscany. If your landscaped beds are in that category, please help beautify Tuscany and your own property by removing weeds and dead (or dying) plants, choosing several colorful plants or shrubs to place in the beds, and trim/fertilize/water your handiwork as needed. Once again, a collection of mismatched plastic garden center plastic pots is not appropriate landscaping. Please take pride in your property and enhance its appearance with beautiful landscaping. Your neighbors will thank you.

### **STREET LIGHT ISSUES**

If a streetlight near your home either burns continuously or is completely out, please take a moment and let TECO know so it can be repaired. Simply go to <https://www.tampaelectric.com/forms/residential/streetlightout/> and complete the form, then click on SEND. The identification number is located on each streetlight pole.

### **BEWARE OF ALLIGATORS**

Don't feed the alligators, and don't try to take up-close selfies with them — and for goodness' sake, watch your pets around the ponds in our neighborhood.

The following information is issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as simple strategies for living alongside the state's 1.3 million alligators, which are found in all 67 Florida counties.

With warmer months approaching, alligator sightings are expected to go up as they become more active. Early April is when alligator courtship begins with mating season in May and June. Eggs are hatched from mid-August to early September. Alligators are also basking in the sun to help regulate their body temperature, thereby increasing the number seen on pond and river banks, the Florida Wildlife Commission says.

Those sightings lead to an average of 16,000 alligator complaints each year. Most involve gators found in canals, streams, and ponds. But sometimes a gator wanders into someone's garage, meanders through a golf course, or knocks at front doors.

That increased presence has FWC officials reminding people not to feed the gators. It's not only dangerous but illegal too, they say. "When fed, alligators can overcome their natural wariness and learn to associate people with food," Sapp said. Along with not tossing scraps to the gators, the FWC wants to have pet owners keep their pets on a leash so they don't become a quick meal.

For complaints about gators that are at least 4-feet long and pose a danger to people, pets, or property, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline 866-392-4286. Fish and Wildlife violators can be reported at 888-404-3922.

## **MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR FLORIDA HOMES**

April showers bring May flowers . . . and probably **weeds**, too, so get ready to inspect your garden beds and banish the weeds before they grow taller than your children.

If your driveway, walkway, and front porch are surfaced with **pavers**, please (before you receive a violation notice) have them pressure washed, filled with sand to avoid uneven settlement or potential cracking, and possibly sealed for additional protection from mold, mildew, and weeds that the summer rains invariably bring. If you have weeds growing between the pavers, please spray them with a weed killer product to keep your driveway looking neat.

Inspect the **stucco** surfaces of your home to check for cracks. A porous material, stucco collects dirt, absorbs stains, and can crack. Ignoring the condition of your home's stucco siding can lead not only to further degradation of the stucco, but also to a host of nasty issues— mold growth, for example, or pest infestations. Don't give a minor crack the chance to become a major headache. Take swift action. Get cracks filled and sealed.

Do a clean-out of **gutters** if your home has them so rainfall will flow unimpeded to the ground.

Oil **garage door** rollers and springs to prevent the experience of having the garage door fail to open or close properly.

Clear **vegetation** away from the house foundation to prevent water intrusion and to keep unwanted bugs from finding their way indoors.

Check for **plumbing** leaks under sinks, around toilets, and at exterior faucets.

Have the **HVAC system** serviced so it doesn't fail you during the coming months of 90-degree daily temperatures.

Flush the **water heater** so sediment doesn't build up inside it.

Replace **smoke detector** batteries.

Inspect **ceilings** in the house and garage for water leaks.

If **roof shingles** are discolored due to mold and mildew accumulation, call a professional to get your roof cleaned (before a violation notice is issued).



## **TUSCANY GAS CONNECTION SURVEY**

If you are interested in having a gas connection option available for your property, please click on the link shown below in order to express your interest to Peoples Gas:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwlBcp77xk\\_plVvGtyt\\_Jbxz4T4xU8UcM8UWhN6ZAtDw6low/view/form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwlBcp77xk_plVvGtyt_Jbxz4T4xU8UcM8UWhN6ZAtDw6low/view/form)

Bringing a gas line to your home does not require that you change your home's appliances right away. It just provides an optional utility when/if you decide to convert your stove or water heater, for example, from electric to natural gas.

You can print and complete the form and drop it off to Azfar Mujtaba at 7807 Tuscany Woods Drive so that all forms can be presented to Peoples Gas at the same time.

**NOTE:** This is not a commitment to install and pay for a gas line to your home. It is simply a survey to gauge the amount of interest residents have in presenting Peoples Gas with a sufficient justification to install gas lines from Tampa Palms Boulevard into individual homes in Tuscany.

## **PETS SHOWCASE**



Share your pet/s photos with a brief description—age, type, name, favorite toy/s, etc.—and they can become a part of our newsletter each month. They might even receive some fan mail as a result. Email photos and information to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com).

## **RECIPE SHARING**

If you have some favorite family recipes you would like to share with your neighbors, feel free to email the complete recipe and instructions to [TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com](mailto:TuscanyTampaPalms@gmail.com).

## **SUBSCRIBE TO THE TUSCANY NEWSLETTER**

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