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NOVEMBER 2026





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NEXT MEETING: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. THE TUSCAWILLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL RESUME MEETING THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE WEDGEWOOD TENNIS VILLAS CLUBHOUSE AT 7:00 PM.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tuscawilla Homeowners Association traces its beginnings to 1971. For 55 years, the THOA has worked to protect, promote and preserve the Tuscawilla Country Club community. That history reflects a sustained commitment to the character of our neighborhood and to the people who have made it their home. As the association marks this milestone, it is an opportunity to recognize the residents whose involvement has helped shape Tuscawilla and carry the THOA's work forward.

A homeowners association's success is measured not only by the issues it addresses, but also by the connections it helps create among neighbors. The THOA provides a way for residents to stay informed about matters affecting the community, share their perspectives and take part in community life. It helps bring neighbors together around common interests and gives residents opportunities to engage with one another. In a community with a long history and many generations of residents, that connection remains important. Knowing our neighbors and working together strengthens the community we share.

The work of protecting, promoting and preserving Tuscawilla is ongoing. It calls for residents to pay attention, communicate concerns and participate when questions arise that may affect the neighborhood. The association helps keep those conversations active and gives residents a way to contribute. Not every effort is visible, and much of the work takes place behind the scenes. But the steady involvement of residents over time has helped the THOA remain a meaningful part of community life.

None of the association's accomplishments over the past 55 years would have been possible without the many volunteers who have stepped forward to give their time, knowledge and energy. Volunteers have helped organize activities, share information, respond to residents and support the association's work in countless other ways. Their service often takes place in the evenings, on weekends or between other responsibilities. Each person who has offered time and effort has helped sustain the organization and serve the community. The Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to all who have volunteered for the THOA throughout its history.

Membership is essential to the association's continued strength. A broad and active membership helps ensure that the THOA reflects the interests and perspectives of the residents it serves. It also supports the association's ability to keep neighbors informed, encourage participation and continue its work on behalf of the community. Membership is a practical way for residents to show their support and to stay connected to the organization. We encourage residents to join or renew their membership, share their views and take part in THOA activities.

As we recognize 55 years of service, the Board of Directors is grateful to the members, volunteers and neighbors who have contributed to the THOA. The association's history belongs to the residents who have given their time and support across the years. We look forward to carrying that work forward together, keeping Tuscawilla connected and continuing to protect, promote and preserve the community we share.

Do you or someone you know in Tuscawilla have a special hobby, unique profession or insightful travel experience that would be interesting for our readers? Has your community completed notable improvements or planned an important event? Let me know and we will be glad to include these news items in a future issue of Tuscawilla Today. Thank you, Kathy McCann. I can be contacted at: EditorKathyMccann@gmail.com.

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AN ELECTION AND A COMMUNITY MOVING FORWARD

By the time this issue reaches your mailbox, Election Day will have passed. Across the country, voters have made choices that will help shape the direction of our nation. Here in Winter Springs, residents also considered races for mayor and two City Commission seats.

Elections bring different views and priorities into focus. They also remind us that the future of our community is something we build together, through the choices we make and the care we show for one another. Whoever serves in elected office, the work of keeping Winter Springs a welcoming, safe and vibrant place belongs to all of us.

Thank you to every resident who took time to learn about the candidates and issues, cast a ballot, or help a neighbor participate. We also appreciate the poll workers and volunteers who helped make the election possible.

After the signs come down and the ballots are counted, we remain neighbors. We share parks, schools, streets and community traditions, and we all have a part in what comes next. Let's carry the same interest and community spirit we bring to Election Day into the months ahead, and keep working together for Winter Springs.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

WELCOME TO NOVEMBER

November always seems to invite us to pause, look around and appreciate the people who make our community feel like home. As I helped put this issue together, I kept coming back to the many ways we connect—with neighbors, through local organizations, and by taking part in conversations that shape our shared future.

A SEASON FOR GRATITUDE

This time of year naturally turns our thoughts toward gratitude and remembrance. I find myself especially thankful for the people who give their time and care to others, often without expecting recognition. Their kindness shows up in big ways and small: a volunteer who steps forward, a neighbor who checks in, or someone who takes the time to make another person feel welcome.

Veterans Day also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who have worn our nation's uniform. The freedoms we enjoy are connected to people who answered a call to serve, and I hope we each take a moment to express our appreciation to veterans and their families.

TAKING PART IN OUR COMMUNITY

November is also a time when many of us take part in the civic life of our community. Elections invite us to learn about the choices before us and make our voices heard. Residents may hold different views, and that is part of living in a healthy community. I hope we can approach one another with respect, stay curious about the issues and remember the shared hopes we have for the place we call home.

LISTENING AND STAYING INFORMED

This issue includes an important conversation about public safety and the future of local services. I recognize that residents may have questions and a range of perspectives. My hope is that the information here helps each person think through the subject and reach their own conclusions. Whatever our views, listening carefully and discussing difficult questions respectfully can help us understand one another better.

NEIGHBORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Some of my favorite community moments are the ones that bring neighbors together simply to enjoy one another's company. This issue offers a glimpse of that spirit, from a Halloween tradition filled with local enthusiasm to the work of organizations that create opportunities for people to connect. These gatherings give us a chance to share a smile, meet someone new and strengthen the friendships that make a neighborhood feel personal.

I'm grateful to all the people who help make these moments happen. It takes planning, imagination and willing hands to bring a community event to life. Even those who attend and cheer others on help create the warm, welcoming feeling we remember long after the decorations are put away.

THE SEASON AHEAD

The holidays are approaching, and Winter Springs has plenty of ways for neighbors and families to enjoy the season together. Whether you are drawn to a hometown tradition, a festive evening out or a simple gathering with friends, I hope you find time to make a happy memory close to home. These occasions remind us that a community is more than the place where we live; it is the people with whom we share it.

SUPPORTING LOCAL

As holiday shopping begins, I hope we remember the small businesses and local organizations that add so much to our community. Shopping close to home, enjoying a meal at a local restaurant or recommending a neighborhood business are simple ways to show support. Each visit helps keep our local business community lively and gives us another chance to connect with the people who serve our neighbors.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF TUSCAWILLA

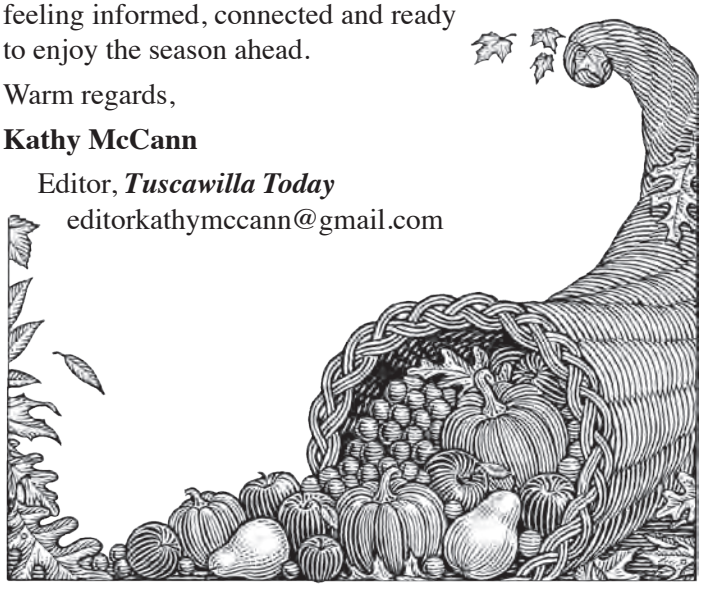
Thank you for reading Tuscawilla Today and for being part of this community. I'm grateful to everyone who shares a story, helps a neighbor, volunteers, participates and brings a little kindness into daily life. I hope this issue leaves you feeling informed, connected and ready to enjoy the season ahead.

Warm regards,

Kathy McCann

Editor, ***Tuscawilla Today***

editorkathymccann@gmail.com



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good" ***— John Steinbeck***

East Of Eden

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



THANKSGIVING A TRADITION OF GRATITUDE

Each November, families and friends gather around tables to share a meal and give thanks. The holiday has become a familiar part of American life, but its history is longer and more complicated than the story many of us first learned in school.

In the autumn of 1621, English settlers at Plymouth, in what is now Massachusetts, held a harvest celebration after a difficult first year. Members of the Wampanoag people joined them. The Wampanoag had lived in the region for generations, and their knowledge of local crops and conditions helped the settlers survive. It was not called "Thanksgiving" at the time, and it was not the start of a yearly national holiday. For Native people, the wider history of European settlement also includes land loss, disease, and conflict—part of the story that deserves to be remembered alongside the harvest gathering.

Thanksgiving observances took place in different colonies and states over the years. In 1789, President George Washington proclaimed a national day of thanks. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called for a national Thanksgiving in 1863. In 1941, Congress fixed Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November.

The meaning of Thanksgiving has continued to grow. For some, it is a religious day of gratitude. For others, it is a chance to reconnect with family, share food, volunteer, or pause in a busy season. Traditions vary from home to home, and that is part of what makes the day personal.

Here in Tuscawilla, we see the value of connection in everyday ways: neighbors checking in, lending a hand, welcoming new residents, and gathering at community events. Thanksgiving can be a good time to notice those small acts and say thank you.

As we celebrate, we can make room for the holiday's full history and for the many ways people experience it. A shared meal may look different in every household, but the spirit of gratitude is something we can all carry into our community—this November and throughout the year.

BLACK FRIDAY: A LITTLE SHOPPING, A LOT OF COMMUNITY

Black Friday has become a holiday tradition of its own. Some people set alarms and head out early, ready to hunt for a great deal. Others prefer to browse from the comfort of the couch, coffee in hand and pajamas firmly in place. However you shop, there's no wrong way to enjoy the day.

This year, consider adding a few local stops to your shopping list. Winter Springs and nearby communities are home to small businesses, shops and restaurants ready to welcome holiday shoppers. A purchase close to home can help support local owners and employees while keeping our community's business districts lively. You might even discover a thoughtful gift you wouldn't have found in a crowded online cart.

A little planning can make the day more fun: make a list, set a budget and check store hours before heading out. Leave room for a snack or coffee break, too. If the parking lot is full or the line is long, take a breath—there's no prize for turning holiday shopping into an Olympic event!

Most of all, enjoy the start of the season. Whether you're shopping for gifts, sharing a meal or simply soaking up the festive atmosphere, Black Friday is a chance to connect with the people and places that make our community special. Happy shopping, and may your best bargain come with a friendly smile!



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VETERANS DAY IN WINTER SPRINGS

Each year on Veterans Day, neighbors from across Winter Springs gather in the evening at the Veterans Memorial in Town Center. It is a beautiful place to remember the men and women who served our country and to thank them. The strong turnout year after year says a lot about Winter Springs: people here care about those who wore the uniform and the families who stood beside them.

At the City's annual remembrance, we recognize a Hometown Hero from our community. This year, the City Commission chose to honor two veterans—one living and one whose life was lost in service. State Representative and retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel David Smith, a resident of the Tuscawilla community, is this year's living honoree. The other is U.S. Army Lt. Col. Charles H. Buehring, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2003.



Colonel Smith spent 30 years in the Marine Corps as a naval aviator and helicopter pilot. Over the course of his career, he deployed overseas six times and flew 52 combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After retiring, he continued to serve through public office, representing our area in the Florida House. He has also championed issues affecting veterans, service members and their families, including suicide prevention, post-traumatic stress treatment, employment, and access to earned benefits. His service is close to home for Tuscawilla residents: Smith lives in our community and is involved with VFW Post 5405 and local events.



Lt. Col. Buehring's story reminds us of the sacrifices made by service members and the families who love them. He served in Special Forces and psychological operations, with assignments in Bosnia and Somalia. He was a special adviser in Iraq when he was killed on October 26, 2003. His honors included the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. He was a husband and father of two sons, both of whom later served as officers in the U.S. Army. The U.S. military named Camp Buehring in his honor.

First Sergeant Paul Dillman, the 2024 Hometown Hero recipient and Commander of Winter Springs VFW Post 5405, is this year's emcee. His role reflects the community spirit of the evening: veterans honoring veterans, while neighbors come together to say thank you.

Veterans Day honors everyone who has served, in wartime and in peace. As we gather at the memorial, we can thank this year's honorees and remember every veteran whose service has helped protect the freedoms we share. If a veteran is part of your family or your neighborhood, take a moment to tell them what their service means to you.

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THE THOA IN ACTION

Board of Directors member Harold Dodds represented the Tuscawilla Homeowners Association at its booth during the popular Farmers Market at Trotwood Park. Throughout the event, Harold welcomed marketgoers, answered questions about THOA membership and shared information about the association. The booth gave residents and visitors a chance to learn more about the organization and its role in the Tuscawilla community. Events like the Farmers Market bring neighbors together, and THOA's presence helps make those connections even stronger. We appreciate Harold's time and dedication in representing the association and helping residents stay informed and involved.

SUNSHINE GARDEN CLUB OF TUSCAWILLA

Members of the Sunshine Garden Club of Tuscawilla work in the wildflower garden at Sam Smith Park. Butterflies have already begun appearing among the flowers, bringing early color and life to the garden.





"SECRET SANTA PROGRAM" IN HONOR OF ARNIE NUSSBAUM CONTINUES FOR 2026

Mayor Kevin McCann will, once again, be conducting the "Secret Santa Program" charity drive this year in memory of Tuscawilla resident, Arnie Nussbaum. Mr. Nussbaum was a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer for many years and supported this organization by collecting holiday gifts for the children in the system. This child advocacy group works with the court system to assign volunteers to speak on behalf of children who have experienced abandonment and neglect. In honor of Arnold Nussbaum's devotion to the GAL program, Mayor McCann, with the support of the THOA, will be seeking donations of NEW unwrapped toys again this year.

Examples of new unwrapped toys needed are high-quality stuffed animals, educational gifts, cars, dolls, musical toys, the season's hottest toys, Gift Cards for tweens and teens and, of course, larger gifts are also welcome. Toys are needed for children ranging from infants to teens. Remember, these toys are for children who have been abused/neglected and are impoverished.

The deadline for donating toys is Monday, December 9th. Toys can be dropped off at 1109 Pheasant Circle (just place the donations on the front porch bench or in the donation box located at the front door from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call or text Mayor Kevin McCann at 407-534-0675. Thanks, from a kid in need and have a happy holiday while continuing this Tuscawilla and Winter Springs tradition of caring.





44TH ANNUAL WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter Springs' holiday tradition returns Saturday, December 5, with the 44th Annual Winter Wonderland at Central Winds Park. Enjoy the Holiday Parade, Christmas tree lighting, local entertainment, a festive walkthrough and a visit from Santa. The free celebration runs from 4 to 8 p.m. at 1000 Central Winds Drive. The drive-through display will be open December 6–11, from 7 to 9 p.m.



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A CONVERSATION ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY IN WINTER SPRINGS

A recent City Commission discussion has raised questions about the future of local law enforcement in Winter Springs. One commissioner asked the city to compare the cost of maintaining the Winter Springs Police Department with contracting for law enforcement services through the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

On October 26, the Commission voted 4–1 to table that discussion. No decision was made to dissolve the Police Department, and the request for a cost comparison was not approved. The issue could return, so residents may want to follow future meetings and learn more about what is being considered.

Winter Springs residents see the work of their Police Department in daily life: officers responding to calls, building relationships in neighborhoods, connecting with local businesses, and taking part in community events. That familiarity is part of community policing. It helps officers understand the people and places they serve and gives residents opportunities to get to know the people who respond when help is needed.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is also an important public-safety partner. The two agencies work together, and the Sheriff's Office offers specialized resources, including aviation support and school resource officers. Winter Springs combines those regional resources with police services provided by its own department.

The financial backdrop includes Amendment 3. By the time this issue reaches residents' mailboxes, voters will know whether it passed. Before the election, the city estimated that approval could reduce its property-tax revenue by about $2.38 million in fiscal year 2027–28 and $4.14 million in 2028–29. Winter Springs' comparatively low city property-tax rate helps support police and other local services, including parks, street maintenance, and recreation. The amendment's result may shape future budget conversations, but it does not determine any particular decision about policing.

The Police Department's annual budget is approximately $11 million, or about 40% of the city's General Fund. Any comparison of policing options would need to consider both the cost and the services residents receive.

Residents may have different views about the best way to provide public safety. The October 26 vote paused a requested comparison; it did not settle the broader question. As the conversation continues, residents can review meeting materials, ask questions, and decide for themselves what matters most for Winter Springs.



MOSQUITO ALERT: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DENGUE

The Florida Department of Health in Seminole County issued a mosquito-borne illness alert on October 26 after confirming an additional locally acquired case of dengue. The alert followed an advisory issued October 21 after the first confirmed case. Seminole County Mosquito Control and the Health Department are coordinating surveillance and prevention efforts, including increased ground fogging, larvicide treatments and monitoring of mosquito activity.

Dengue is a virus spread by the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti mosquito. It does not spread directly from person to person. Symptoms may appear within 15 days of a bite and can include fever, severe muscle and joint pain, and sometimes a rash. The illness may feel like the flu, but respiratory symptoms are usually absent. Anyone who develops possible symptoms after mosquito exposure should contact a health care provider or call the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County at 407-665-3243.

Residents can help lower the risk of mosquito bites and breeding around their homes. Health officials recommend wearing loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors and using an insect repellent registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, following the label instructions. Repair holes in screens on windows, doors, porches and patios to help keep mosquitoes outside.

It is also important to remove standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs. After rain, empty or drain water from buckets, flowerpots, toys, tires, coolers, pool covers and other containers. Refresh or clean items that hold water regularly, and store them where they will not collect rain. Even a small amount of standing water can support mosquito breeding.

Seminole County residents can report increased mosquito activity or request service at SeminoleCountyFL.gov/Mosquito. Staying alert and taking a few simple steps at home can help protect neighbors as well as family members.

A NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HELPED SHAPE CENTRAL FLORIDA

On November 15, 1965, reporters gathered in the Egyptian Room at the Cherry Plaza Hotel in downtown Orlando. Walt Disney, his brother Roy and Florida Governor Haydon Burns spoke about what Disney called the Florida Project. The press conference confirmed a major development planned for land in Orange and Osceola counties, after months of speculation about who was buying property in the area. A month earlier, the Orlando Sentinel had reported that the mystery buyer was Disney, moving the story from rumor into public discussion.

Central Florida's tourism story did not begin with Disney. Orlando and nearby communities had welcomed winter visitors for decades, supported by railroads, hotels and citrus groves. The Orange County Regional History Center notes that Orlando had been welcoming winter travelers for more than 80 years before Disney's 1965 announcement. What the Disney project promised was a new scale of development and attention for a region already known to seasonal visitors.

At that time, our city was still called North Orlando. Incorporated in 1959 with a population of about 600, it would adopt the name Winter Springs in 1972. When Disney made the announcement in neighboring Orlando, our city was only six years old, and communities throughout the area were still taking shape. The project did not open with the announcement. Years of planning and construction followed, gradually turning the Florida Project from a headline into a destination drawing visitors from around the world.

Walt Disney World officially opened on October 1, 1971, with the Magic Kingdom as its first park. The opening gave families a place to experience the project they had heard about years earlier. The resort's scale also set it apart from a single attraction. Disney describes Walt Disney World as spanning about 28,000 acres, with entertainment and lodging options alongside the Magic Kingdom. Families could make the resort itself their destination, with more to see and do than a single day's visit.

Disney's arrival became one of the most visible milestones in Central Florida's growth and helped establish the region as a major vacation destination. It also became part of a broader tourism story that continued to develop. On December 15, 1973, SeaWorld opened its Orlando park, adding another major attraction. The November announcement and December opening mark two important dates in the span of a little more than eight years. Together, they show how quickly Central Florida began to emerge as a destination known well beyond Florida's borders.

A photograph from the 1965 press conference captures a detail that gives the moment a little personality: alongside the officials and reporters was a large ice sculpture of Donald Duck. It was a serious announcement about land and development, but the familiar character offered a reminder that the project grew out of the entertainment world.

More than 60 years later, it is easy to take Central Florida's tourism identity for granted. The November 15 announcement reminds us that this part of the region's story began in downtown Orlando, while our own city was still known as North Orlando. What followed changed Central Florida over generations and helped shape the place many of us now call home.

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I started out giving thanks for small things, and the more thankful I became, the more my bounty increased.

— Oprah Winfrey

News At A Glance

WASTE PRO SCHEDULE FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving week brings one change to Waste Pro's regular pickup schedule in Winter Springs. There will be no garbage, recycling or yard-waste service on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26. The City says service resumes on the next regularly scheduled pickup day, so the timing may differ from one household to another.

Regular garbage collection is twice a week, either Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday. Recycling and yard-waste pickup days depend on your address. Please place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. If your usual pickup falls on Thanksgiving, check the City's address lookup to find your next scheduled service day. Questions? Contact Winter Springs Customer Service at 407-327-5996.

TUSCAWILLA WOMEN'S CLUB

"Where you are among friends"

As November arrives and the year begins to wind down, the Tuscawilla Women's Club invites you to gather in a spirit of gratitude and remembrance.

Join us Thursday, November 12, at 1 p.m. at the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. Winter Springs Police Chief Matthew Tracht will speak about the Winter Springs Police Department.

Everyone is welcome—bring a friend! Light snacks and beverages will be served.

For information, contact Anne Combs at (407) 761-5779.

A HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE MORSE

Winter Park's Morse Museum offers a festive way to enjoy both art and music this holiday season. The Museum is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, including art glass and leaded-glass windows. Its Thanksgiving Weekend Celebration begins Friday, November 27, with free admission from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Beautiful Music Jazz Quartet performs from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is also free Saturday, November 28, and Sunday, November 29, during regular hours.

On Thursday, December 3, the Museum and the City of Winter Park present Christmas in the Park at Central Park. Tiffany windows will be lit before a holiday concert by the Bach Festival Choir and Brass Ensemble, from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Free Friday Nights continue December 4, with flute music, and December 11, with harpist Victoria Lynn Schultz. The Museum is open 4 to 8 p.m., with music from 5 to 8 p.m.

A LOOK AHEAD AT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With the holiday season coming into view, Seminole County families can start marking a few important school dates on the calendar. Thanksgiving break runs Monday, November 23, through Friday, November 27. Students return to class on Monday, November 30.

The winter holiday stretch begins after school on Friday, December 18. It's an early-release day, with students dismissed at 12:30 p.m. Christmas break follows from Monday, December 21, through Friday, January 1. Students will also be off on Monday, January 4, while teachers take part in a professional-learning day. The second semester begins Tuesday, January 5.

That gives families a little extra time to plan travel, childcare and holiday activities. Before making plans, families may want to check with their child's school for any school-specific updates or program schedules.



ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL: INTO THE WILD

Select nights, Nov. 13, 2026–Jan. 17, 2027 | Timed entry at 6, 7, or 8 p.m. | Festival closes at 10 p.m.; last entry is 9:15 p.m. More information: centralfloridazoo.org/events/asian-lantern-festival | 407-323-4450

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nov 15	Farmer's Market - Trotwood Park - 9:00am-2:00pm
Nov 16	City Commission Meeting - City Hall - 6:30pm
Nov 18	Tuskawilla Lighting and Beautification Commission Meeting - City Hall - 5:30pm
Nov 24	Code Enforcement Board Meeting - City Hall - 5:30pm
Nov 26	THANKSGIVING
Dec 3	Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting City Hall - 5:30pm
Dec 5	HANUKKAH 44th Annual Winter Wonderland - Central Winds Park
Dec 6	Farmer's Market - Trotwood Park - 9:am-2:00pm

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You are responsible for providing updates/additions to your listing by the 15th of the month for the following months issue. E-mail them to **Lisa@cpponline.com**. Please mark in the subject "THOA NL".

We cannot take changes over the phone.

"Tuscawilla Today" is the official publication of the Tuscawilla Homeowners' Association, P.O. Box 195666 Winter Springs, FL 32719-5666.

Publisher is the Association President.

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ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Should be e-mailed to Kathy McCann, at **editorkathymccann@gmail.com** and to the THOA President, Kurt Miericke, at **THOAws20@gmail.com**. All articles/ announcements need to be approved by the THOA President before publishing. **Deadline** is the **12th** of the month for the following months issue.

ADVERTISING:
For rates and availability contact Lisa Kimbrough-Rodriguez a Creative Printing & Publishing, **407-302-9147** or **Lisa@cpponline.com**.

Deadline for **ads and payment** is the **15th of the month** for the following months issue. Ad rates are subject to change without notice.

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