

Tuscawillia Today

AUGUST 2022



*In Honor of Mary and Gary Brook for their years of dedication
to the Tuscawillia Community and the City of Winter Springs*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are fortunate to live in a very unique country. Last night, my wife and I joined thousands of other folks at the Fourth of July celebration at Central Winds Park. It was a great reminder that, for almost two hundred and fifty years, our nation continues based on the principles of the founding fathers. It was an experiment in government to form a democratic republic in the midst of a world of monarchies. In some ways, dissent created America. The colonists were worn out by the rule of the British Empire, and they felt that there was a better way, so they voted for independence. I just finished reading a book by Nathaniel Philbrick entitled, "Valiant Ambition". It is a true account of George Washington and Benedict Arnold and the fate of the American Revolution. It took five difficult years and the help of the French to be able to win the war for independence. For most of those years, the outcome of the rebellion was very much in doubt. One decisive battle could have ended it and our founding fathers would have been hanged for treason against the King. As I wrote earlier, dissent helped create our country. We have the freedom of speech, and we can voice our feelings. But let us also be aware that dissent can also destroy our country.

Benedict Arnold was one of Washington's greatest generals. He understood the enemy, and he faithfully led his men into battles where they were successful. During the war, there were a lot of mistakes, poor decisions, and jealous bickering among the generals on both sides. As the war progressed, Arnold felt that he did not get the recognition that he was due. In many ways, he was a loose cannon. He maneuvered his way into becoming the commander of West Point. This fort on the Hudson River was the only thing that prevented the British from control of the Hudson River and thus cutting off all of New England from the other colonies. Arnold made a secret deal with the British to weaken the fort so much that the British could walk in and take it. The plan was just hours from taking effect until two militia men caught a British spy with the plan. If the plan was successful, the war would have been over for the Americans. For the American experiment to work, a way must be found to balance political freedom with the need for political stability.

We are now in the midst of the 2022 political season. This month we have primaries, and then it will be intense campaigning until the general election on November eighth. There will be many political ads, texts, phone calls, and yard signs from those who will be vying for your vote. Elections are a basic part of our political process. The Tusawilla Homeowner's Association will be hosting a

"Candidates Night" on Thursday evening, September fifteenth, at the Tusawilla Country Club. This has been a tradition for our association. This evening will only be for the three offices in the city that are up for election. There are two Commission seats and the office of Mayor. Winter Springs has five City Commissioners, and there is one Commissioner for each of our five city districts. However, the Commissioners are elected by all the residents of the city, and they represent the whole city in their votes. We feel that it is important for you, the residents of Tusawilla, to have the opportunity to meet each candidate running for office and give them the opportunity to share their reasons for seeking office. Their future ideas and votes will affect our community. Remember that your vote makes a difference.



It was so good to experience the spirit of patriotism at the Winter Springs Fourth of July celebration. Our country is only as strong as there are selfless and dedicated people working to keep it that way.

Dr. Kurt Miericke
THOA President
Publisher, *Tusawilla Today*

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CITY OF WINTER SPRING CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

There have been some new hires at the city since we published last month's Directory Issue. Please take note of the following:

The new Finance Director is Scott Borrer (407) 327-7590

The new Community Development Director is Travis Kendall (407) 327-7597

Pavilion and field rentals are handled by Parks and Recreation Coordinator Michael Krist (407) 327-6590

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The retiree state of Florida has more than 66,000 licensed automobile drivers over 90 years of age"

COMMENTS ABOUT GARY & MARY BROOK

James S Taylor

1630 Wood Duck Drive

Winter Springs, FL 32708

I first met Gary and Mary when I moved into my home in 1989 and have been here since then. We were neighbors for over 30 years. They did more for Tusawilla, and our Winter Springs community than anyone I know. I can't list all the committees they served on or led but there were many. They were always helpful to me and the neighborhood, and a positive influence on all around them. I had great respect for both of them for their service to all they touched.

One night when they were at my home for dinner, Gary told me about his service in the USAF. He retired as a Colonel and served in Viet Nam. He likely served in several interesting locations, but this one I remember as he was responsible for the US air bases in Cambodia and meet regularly during the conflict with Henry Kissinger who served as US Secretary of State under President Nixon. His life was in danger on several occasions in his military career. Most citizens take our safety for granted but without people like Gary and our military our lives would be vastly different.

I always went to Mary for advice on garden and lawn issues, especially when I first moved in as I recently divorced, budgeting closely and in the midst of my UCF professorial career. In those days I did all my own yard work and Mary always advised me on all faucets of lawn care and gardening. She was always giving as they both were. I really got into caring for my yard because of her mentoring. Once after following here advice, my home was selected for inclusion in Tusawilla today, and believe me that was all her.

I miss them greatly.

WINTER SPRINGS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN FLORIDA

AreaVibes.com ranks Winter Springs 9th in the best places to live in Florida 2022, with an overall livability score of 88. Winter Springs's crime rates are 57% lower than the Florida average. AreaVibes gives Winter Springs an "A" letter grade in the amenities, crime, schools and user rating categories making Winter Springs #1 in Seminole County.



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EDITOR'S NOTES

HONORING THE LEGACY OF TUSCAWILLA RESIDENTS AND THOA MEMBERS GARY AND MARY BROOK

This special issue of Tuscawilla Today is dedicated to the memory of Gary and Mary Brook. In most ways, it is a reflection upon a love story that began at an early age and sustained throughout the years. Both Gary and Mary had a deep seated love for each other, their children, the Tuscawilla Community, the City of Winter Springs, the Central Florida region, and a variety of charitable organizations to benefit children. In recognition of their many community contributions, they were honored by the Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association in April of 2016. Please enjoy their article on page 6 along with photographs on page 7. Mr. James Taylor knew Gary and Mary as neighbors and has submitted a heart-felt letter that can be seen on page 4.

WSHS STUDENTS HOST ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT SENIOR CENTER

This issue contains articles that are especially cheerful and the spotlight on our high school students is an upbeat example of the many positive events that occur in our City. Please treat yourself to photos and the article submitted by this amazing group of young people on page 9.

CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS "CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM" DRAWS 15,000 VISITORS

The weather cooperated to allow for thousands of local residents to come into Central Winds Park on the 4th of July. Multiple vendors were on hand along with political candidates, local businesses and information booths. Congratulations to the City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department, Winter Springs Police Department, Winter Springs Utilities Department, and all of the other city staff members who worked diligently to ensure that this event was a success. Please see page 11.

THOA MEMBER ART GALLO SHARES WET WORKSHEET

Tuscawilla resident and THOA member Art Gallo has been volunteering for the City of Winter Springs in the role of water conservation advisor. He has provided the "Water Efficiency Target" (WET) worksheet for this issue to allow for residents to calculate water consumption and reflect upon home strategies for reducing consumption. This is beneficial to the environment and helps reduce water bills. Please see pages 13 and 14 for your copy of the worksheet.

THOA HOSTS "CANDIDATES NIGHT" AT TUSCAWILLA COUNTRY CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 15TH

Once again, our citizens will need to make an important decision about the future of the City of Winter Springs and, by default, the Tuscawilla Community. Be an informed voter by attending the "Meet the Candidates" night scheduled for Thursday, September 15th at the Tuscawilla Country Club. The event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 P.M. As in the past, Mr. Arnie Nussbaum will be the Master of Ceremonies. See the advertisement on page 15.

LAKE JESUP HISTORICAL REVIEW SERIES CONTINUES

The content for this article picks up from the feature story found in the July issue. Due to Lake Jesup being a dominant feature in our city, the intent is to provide our members with the historical events that were impactful to the health of the lake along with the evolution of plans to improve the water quality. Enjoy the second installment to the story found on pages 16 and 17.



ADVERTISING IN TUSCAWILLA TODAY

As we enter this political season with the realization of numerous contentious topics facing our members, the THOA encourages freedom of speech while maintaining the expectation that political advertisements will focus on the important issues relevant to the voters. Ads should present information about the candidate and/or relevant issues that are factual, ethical, and respectful. The Tuscawilla Today has long maintained and published a statement addressing all advertisements found in our magazine. The following can be found under "Article & Announcements/Advertising" located on the last page of the publication: The Homeowners' Association reserves the right to deny any advertising or editorial copy that is deemed inappropriate to the interests of the community; however, neither the publisher nor the advertisers necessarily always support or agree with all viewpoints printed herein.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: AUGUST 10TH

August 10th is the first day back to school for SCPS students. This will translate to more children walking along our streets, congregating at bus stops, and riding bicycles. PLEASE be cognizant of the challenges that are posed by this time of year and drive safely! After all, they are children and will sometimes demonstrate behaviors that require our highly-focused attention. The 2022 – 2023 SCPS Calendar can be found on page 19.

BEWARE OF 3%

I just wanted to make our members aware of a practice that we have experienced while dining out at various restaurants here in Central Florida and out-of-state. Always review your bill for a 3% charge that they are automatically applying to your total for using a credit card. If paying in cash, be sure to have this charge removed since they typically will not bring it to your attention.

MONTH OF AUGUST

August gets its name from the Roman emperor of Augustus Caesar. Augustus comes from the Latin word "augustus", meaning venerable, noble, and majestic. These are the "dog days of summer" and, to the delight of many parents, the beginning of a new school year.

Elaine Johnson

Editor, *Tuscawilla Today*

EditorElaineJohnson@gmail.com

1st Day of School is Aug. 10th

A TRIBUTE TO GARY AND MARY BROOK

By Dr. Ted Johnson

As we move along life's path, our encounters with others reap rewarding interactions or discouraging outcomes that are readily dismissed. Knowing Gary and Mary Brook was both rewarding and beneficial, not only to me but to all others who were fortunate enough to know them. As longtime advocates for our Tuscahill Community, their love for our residents was never in doubt. Their devotion to civic matters was evident in their unwavering commitment toward sponsoring community activities, working to improve our parks and chairing advisory committees for the City of Winter Springs.

Gary and Mary Brook became sweethearts who married at the young age of 16 and walked hand-in-hand together through life. Due to their ages, they embarked upon a turbulent beginning with Gary's mother threatening to annul the marriage. This led to the couple fleeing their home state of Oregon during their first couple of years of matrimony. They eventually moved back home and, as they say, love conquers all. Their unwavering relationship eventually resulted in two daughters. Karen is a Floridian who lives in Land O' Lakes and Joy who lives in Colorado.

Gary graduated from the University of Oregon and joined the U.S. Air Force. He rose through the ranks to become an instructor pilot at Moody Air Force Base and went on to serve as a Flight Commander and a Squadron Commander. Lieutenant Colonel Gary Brook was a Vietnam War veteran who retired from the Air Force with full military honors. After serving in the military, Gary took a position at Martin Marietta/Lockheed Martin in Orlando.

Mary earned her Master Builder Degree at a time when few women entered into the home building profession. She was responsible for the construction of homes in our area and even a Butterfly Encounter building in Lake County. Mary went on to become a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. As a friend of well known horticulturist, Tom MacCubbin, Mary was featured in the Orlando Sentinel for the planting of French Garden Shrubs at their home to enhance energy efficiency. She even found time to run her own business known as Accent and Interiors.

Knowing the Brook's was a comforting experience in that they represented what we all strive for: positive relationships, civic duty and a diligent work ethic toward making the world a better place. Their interactions with other people were always polite, calm and respectful. They were always together when seen in public and typically holding hands as they left meetings. Gary and Mary were married for 61 years, a rare event in our current culture. These are the attributes that remain in our memories as we reflect upon the lives of this remarkable couple.

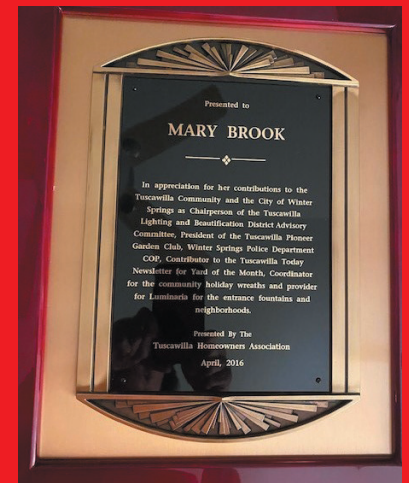
While serving as President of the Pioneer Garden Club, Mary, with Gary's support, was the driving force behind the "Luminaries" sale that enhanced each holiday season here in Tuscahill. For many years, the white bags, sand and candles were sold as kits to our residents to illuminate our sidewalks and the entrance fountains. The proceeds from the sales were accumulated over the years and were donated to the City of Winter Springs by Karen Brook. While this tradition has faded, those of us who have lived here for many years have fond memories of the beauty resulting from this inspiring effort to bring joy to this special time of year.

As close friends with former City Commissioner Pam Carroll, Gary and Mary took active roles in making improvements to our neighborhood parks. Much of that focus was on Sam Smith Park and resulted in new playground equipment, trees and plantings throughout the park setting. They were often consulted by City staff for their input to improvements that have been made to Trotwood Park. As part of their legacy, Mr. and Mrs. Brook made provisions for the dormant funds from the Pioneer Garden Club to be used for enhancements at Sam Smith Park. To that end, their daughters have donated \$20,000 toward the new fishing pier now in place on the lake. This new addition will be known as "Sam's Deck" in honor of Sam Smith whose name is attached to the park. In recognition of their community service and contributions, the City of Winter Springs will be installing a permanent plaque honoring both Gary and Mary Brook at a location near the new deck.

Mrs. Mary Brook was President of the Tuscahill Lighting and Beautification District Advisory Committee for many years. While presiding over this important committee, she and the other members were instrumental in ensuring that the common areas along Winter Springs Boulevard were well maintained. The Brooks also actively engaged as volunteers for the WSPD Citizens on Patrol program. Both Gary and Mary were the driving force behind the holiday decorations that adorned the entrance monuments located throughout the Tuscahill Community. Even toward the end of their lives, they made sure that the decorations were in good condition and that new replacements were on hand, if needed, to maintain the level of quality that has come to be expected to this day.

Mr. Gary Brook was instrumental in the establishment of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee that serves the City of Winter Springs. Recognizing a need to address the safety issues associated with biking and improvements for pedestrian crossings, he served as vice-chairman for the committee for many years. He stepped in to help the Tuscahill Homeowner's Association as Treasurer when this position became available. When the problem arose regarding the Unit 12/12A Wall, Gary took on the leadership role by chairing this committee. This was a contentious event that resulted in heated discussions and had the potential for resulting in deep divisions within our community. In the end, his leadership skills helped our community navigate through the tough decisions that eventually resolved the problem and resulted in the necessary repairs and maintenance for the wall.

To know Gary and Mary Brook was indeed a privilege. Visits to their home were a treat as they made you feel at ease while sharing their insights on current neighborhood or city events. Being cat lovers, you were typically greeted by a feline member of the family who clearly ruled over the household. As in life, their home was always in order and very comfortable. These two remarkable people were great members of our community and have left a lasting legacy. We should strive to emulate their love for one another, love for community and commitment toward leading a rewarding life.



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WSHS STUDENTS PROVIDE ICE CREAM AND GAMES FOR SENIORS

As part of their community volunteer requirements for Bright Futures Scholarships, a group of local high school students decided to provide support to our local senior citizens at the Winter Springs Senior Center. They developed a number of activities to interact with members at the center including an ice cream social. Being witness to this positive interaction between these diverse generations was especially heartwarming. These young adults demonstrated compassion, respect, and leadership skills to the delight of the elderly group of senior citizens on hand to enjoy the treats and impart the skills needed to win a game. Our own Mayor Kevin McCann was on hand to help with the serving of the ice cream. The following students were part of the group who sponsored the event: Christopher Baker, Ryan Heath, Vuran Alluri, Dayton Hawk, Madison Livingston, Isabella Livingston, Abigail Lessard, Adrian Thomas, Bella Trujillo, Austin Seemann, Drew Prowell, Chuyang Zhang, and Issac Pines. The article that follows was provided by student Adrian Thomas.

“REFLECTION OF THE SENIOR SOCIAL”

To begin the day, our volunteers arrived early to help set up the event. We broke up into groups: one group gathered games, a second group picked up ice cream from our sponsor, Parlour Ice Cream, and a third brought chips and salsa from our other sponsor, Chilangos. After organizing, our volunteers headed to work. Some of us left to pick up the food while the rest of us labeled games brought to us by the seniors. Once everyone got seated, one of our volunteers gave a short introduction to the event. After the event started, some volunteers served food to everyone while others played games with the seniors. The seniors and volunteers exchanged games. One of the games brought by the seniors was Texas Holdem, which was taught to and played by several volunteers (no money in play). In short, we enjoyed the food and bonded over games which helped connect our community.



CITY MILLAGE RATE REMAINS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR

At the City Commission meeting held on Monday, July 11, 2022, your mayor and city commissioners approved the 2022-2023 Property Tax Rate. The millage rate for the City of Winter Springs, Florida for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is set at 2.4100 mills. The tax rate remained the same as the previous fiscal year and will save you money so you can be #WinterSpringsProud.

The Kim Coburn team offers experience, creativity, and excellent customer service. Here is what our clients are saying:



Kim has been my familys realtor for many years. When it was time for David and I to purchase our first home together, Kim and her team did an amazing job finding us the perfect home. We are so happy and thankful.



Kim has been our Realtor for many years. She along with Colleen sold our home quickly and at an amazing price. They also helped us purchase a wonderful new home that we are remodeling and set us up with a great General Contractor!



Our two boys insisted on calling the Kim Coburn team because they have participated in their holiday coloring contest for several years. We are so glad we took their advice.



Kim and Colleen sold our old home for top dollar and found us the perfect new home and negotiated a great deal for us. They are great!

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CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS "CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM" ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

While other neighboring municipal "4th of July" events were challenged by weather conditions and unplanned moments of anxiety, the City of Winter Springs Celebration of Freedom was very successful. In anticipation of thousands of people, the planning begins months in advance. This is especially true for the Winter Springs Police Department which must guarantee the safety of those attending the celebration. There were over 15,000 people present and it was evident that everyone had a good time.

The weather was HOT but the summer storms were nowhere to be seen as event goers enjoyed live music, food vendors, business booths, and a chance to meet local candidates. The evening culminated in one of the best fireworks displays in the area. Congratulations to the Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department, Utilities Department and all of the other city staff members for exemplary planning and preparation. Their hard work ensured the success of this annual celebration.



BREWSTER'S ICE CREAM OWNER BENSON KHAN WITH STUDENT EMPLOYEES. COLIN MCWILLIAMS, JACKSON MCCLUNG, AND LINDSAY HEIMAN ALL MAINTAIN A 4.0 GPA.



THOA PRESIDENT DR. KURT MIERICKE, WIFE CYNDY AND SON ANDREW



ROTARY CLUB OF WINTER SPRINGS BEER TENT



KEVIN CANNON

Paid by Kevin Cannon, for Winter Springs City Commission, District 2

for

WINTER SPRINGS CITY COMMISSION, District 2

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- University of Florida-Pharmacist & Lawyer more than 35 years

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- Florida League of Cities-Utilities, Natural Resources, Public Works Committee
- Municipal Delegate FLA. Dept. of Health Research Review Advisory Committee
- Winter Springs Police Dept. - Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Club Emergency Communications
- Central Florida Disaster Medical Assistance Team

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Tusawilla Homeowners Association-Former Vice President-Governmental Liason
- Boy Scouts of America-Scout Leader-Eagle Scout
- St. Stephen's Catholic Church-Eucharistic Minister-Religion Teacher-Parrish Council
- Catholic Diocese of Orlando-Medical Missions Committee
- Pathways to Care (ALF) for Homeless Veterans
- Winter Springs Rotary

INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

- SCPS Business Advisory Council for Crooms Academy
- Guest Lecturer at UCF (Engineering), UF (Pharmacy and Law), Barry (Law)

Learn more about me at cannonforwintersprings.com

Reach out to me: Phone: 407-710-0790 • Email: contact@cannonforwintersprings.com



Scan here to visit
my website:

Finding your “Water Efficiency Target” (WET) – A Worksheet

Step 1 – Estimate your Potable water use per month

Note: The UF IFAS/CLUE’s potable water daily estimates are as follows:

69 gallons/person/day for a home with fixtures OVER 20 years old

59 gallons/person/day for a home with fixtures UNDER 20 years old

Formula: _____ gallons/person/day (*Enter 59 or 69 using guidance from above*)
 x _____ enter the number of people living in your home
 _____ = Total gallons/day estimate for this home (*multiply above 2 numbers*)
 x _____ # days in the month per water bill (*usually a number between 28 & 33*)
POTABLE WET = This is your potable Water Efficiency Target estimate for month
 (*multiply gallons per day estimate times the number of days in the month as stated on water bill*)

Step 2 – Estimate your Irrigation water use per month

A. Measure the **total square feet (SF) of landscape** that you are irrigating in your yard and enter that number below here in square feet:

_____ = **Total SF of Landscape that you are irrigating**

B. Using this below chart for the Orlando FL area, find the **gallons per month** that comes closest to your total SF in step 2A. (*Interpolate as needed*)

Turfgrass SF	Gals/Month MAX	Gals/Year MAX
100	130	1,557
500	649	7,787
1000	1298	15,575
2000	2596	31,150
3000	3894	46,725
4000	5192	62,300
5000	6490	77,875
6000	7788	93,450
7000	9085	109,025
8000	10,383	124,600
9000	11,681	140,175
10,000	12,979	155,750

For a ~10,000SF lot, the average irrigation SF will likely range between ~3,000 to ~5,000 SF

Continued on page 14

C. **IRRIGATION WET** = Enter the gallons/month number found from chart in step 2B here. (This is your total **IRRIGATION** gallons/month **MAX** use estimate for your irrigation.)

Step 3 - Determine your “Grand Total” water use estimate for the month

A. Enter the data from above steps 1 and 2C into this below formula:

Formula: _____ **POTABLE WET** (enter amount total from step 1)
 + **IRRIGATION WET** (enter amount total from step 2C, & add the numbers)
 = = **Grand Total WET estimate** (in gallons. this is your home’s total water use estimate for both potable and irrigation. This is your **MAX** water use estimate for month)

Step 4 – Compare your Grand Total WET estimate (above) to your actual monthly water bill

(Note: Those homes using reclaimed water to irrigate will have two separate water meters and will be able to see exactly how much water that they are using for both potable water use, as well as reclaimed water used for irrigation. This makes determining where water is being used very easy since the water bill tells you the exact amounts consumed for each type of water.)

A. Using your home’s water bill, enter the requested data into this below formula:

Formula: _____ = **Total Gallons used from water bill** (if your home has reclaimed water, add the total Potable and Reclaimed usage totals together, and enter that combined usage amount here. If you do not have reclaimed water, you will only have one usage total, so enter that number here)
 - = **Grand Total WET estimate** (enter the resultant number from Step 3A)
 = = **Estimated gallons of over or under using** (subtract the numbers. a positive number indicates overuse. a negative number indicates less use as compared to your WET)

-----**Discussion on the above**-----

(1) If the resultant number in step 4 above is a negative number, it either indicates that you are using less water than your WET estimates, or that your WET estimate(s) need refinement.

(2) Those homes with only one water meter (potable water – no reclaimed) will have to self-determine where they may be overusing water. Start by reducing your irrigation water used each month. Then work on reducing your potable water use.

(3) **Repeat this process every month.** Eventually your water bill should be less than what your calculated WET use is. If your landscape is still looking good, you may be able to reduce your irrigation even further. This means that you are using water more efficiently. **Ultimately, the goal is to conserve water every day, and to use as little water as you can.**

(4) You might go over or under the monthly amount shown in step 2B for irrigation. For example, you might irrigate slightly more on average in the months May thru Oct, and less on average during the months Nov thru Apr. The most important thing is that you **don’t exceed the “gallons per year”** irrigation figure in the chart above that you determined in step 2B.

(5) This is an at-home method of helping you to understand your “water needs” as compared to your actual “water use” documented in your water bill to help you to conserve water. Any questions on your actual water use should be addressed to your own specific water utility service or your water conservation representative (City, County, or State Water Management District). See: <https://www.sjrwmd.com>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cordially invites:

THOA Members and Winter Springs' Residents

TO:

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

September 15, 2022 @ 7:00PM

Tusawilla Country Club

1500 Winter Springs Blvd, Winter Springs, FL 32708

For More Details go to our website: TUSAWILLA.ORG

NOAA WEATHER RADIO INITIATIVE



Seminole County Division of Emergency Management promotes the use of weather alert radios in the community. Weather alert radios are a comprehensive, 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and other hazard

information. A NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter broadcasts on one of seven VHF frequencies. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a simple AM/FM radio receiver.

National Weather Service reception to a county depends on a reliable signal, which typically extends in about a 40 mile radius from the transmitter. Seminole County is serviced by two transmitters. These are Orlando (162.475mhz) and Daytona Beach (162.400mhz). If your radio does not receive a clear signal, change to the other transmitter for better reception.

All radios should be programmed for Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME). SAME allows your radio to eliminate all messages not meant for a specific County. Seminole County's SAME code is 012117.

To learn more about weather radios or for specific questions about programming, please contact the Seminole County Division of Emergency Management at 407-665-5102.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE

Every homeowner in Seminole County should take the proper steps to protect your home and property against disasters. Listed below are a few options to start in the journey of protecting your home.

- Regularly inspect all window and door seals and be sure they are in good condition.
- Be prepared with sandbags and know how to place them properly.
- Raise or flood-proof any HVAC equipment.
- Make sure all gutters and downspouts are operational and free of debris.
- If floodwaters are present, turn off all electricity.
- If you must evacuate, be sure all utilities are turned off.
- Talk to a plumber about installing a backflow valve to prevent sewage backup.
- Have trees on your property inspected/trimmed?
- Secure lawn or pool furniture, potted plants and other potential flying objects.
- Take pictures or videos of your home in the event it is damaged.

For further information on how to better protect your home against specific threats, please visit flash.org.



LAKE JESUP: HISTORICAL EVENTS LEADING TO ECOLOGICAL DECLINE

This is the second article in the Tusawilla Today Newsletter that reflects upon past events that have had significant impacts upon the water quality of the lake and, subsequently, the environmental threats to the local wildlife. Last month's accounting of the engineering modifications to the natural water flow into the lake concluded with the proposed closure to all water flowing into the lake from the St. John's River. Once again, we thank former "Friends of Lake Jesup" Chairman, Mr. Robert King, for his willingness to share his historical perspectives related to the health of the lake.

Local residents living near Lake Jesup during the early 1950's didn't need extensive studies and surveys to understand that the proposed closing of the water flow into the lake for the construction of State Route 46 would lead to the demise of the ecological balance needed to sustain the water quality. The Florida Road Department (predecessor to the Department of Transportation) was intent on backfilling the mouth of the lake in order to replace an old wooden bridge by constructing a short, low, inconsequential bridge joining a dirt foundation for the remaining portion of the road surface. The fate of the water quality and the survival of the eleven thriving fish camps located on the shores of the lake were clearly at stake. To that end, a group of men decided to take matters into their own hands and stop the construction of this portion of the road. A truck was loaded with dynamite and a pilgrimage to the construction site during the cover of night pursued.

During those days, the duties of a law enforcement officer were different than those encountered today. The local constable responsible for maintaining law and order got word of the unfolding events and moved to intercede. Upon confronting the men, he was able to dissuade them from using this violent, yet effective, intervention as a solution to the problem. Being assured that the constable would work with the Florida Road Department and state legislators to find a solution was convincing and the men backed away from their original plan and the dynamite was confiscated. Curiously, the constable died shortly after this encounter in an automobile accident and the backfilling of the mouth of the lake commenced without interruption.

Economic prosperity is commonly fed by population increases and related land development. This was most certainly the case throughout the 1950s and 1960s. As more people began to move into the Central Florida area, population hubs such as Sanford, Oviedo (formerly known as the Lake Jesup Community) and Winter Springs (formerly known as North Orlando) developed into desirable residential locations. Unfortunately, unbridled development comes at a price when viewed through the environmental impact lens. This was the case during this historical window of time and continues to be

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MAYOR MCCANN INSPECTING PROPOSED CHANNEL "C" FLOW RESTORATION SITE

problematic to this day. The closing of the water flow into Lake Jesup, combined with nitrogen and phosphorus loaded storm water runoff from fertilizers and other sources, united together into an ecological perfect storm that climaxed during the 1970s.

Vegetation in and around Lake Jesup began to change over the years. Water hyacinths became so prevalent during the 50(s) and 60(s) that the fishermen at the local fish camps would oftentimes struggle to escape the docks. At times, the hyacinths covered the entire surface area of the lake. The negative impact associated with water hyacinths is that it forms dense surface mats which clog waterways making water activities almost impossible. It also reduces biodiversity by crowding out native plants at the water's surface and below. In spite of this condition, Lake Jesup continued to be one of the most popular Bass fishing destinations in the nation until the end of the 1960s. With ever increasing nitrogen levels, local businesses catering to sport fishing began to decline along with the water quality found in the lake.

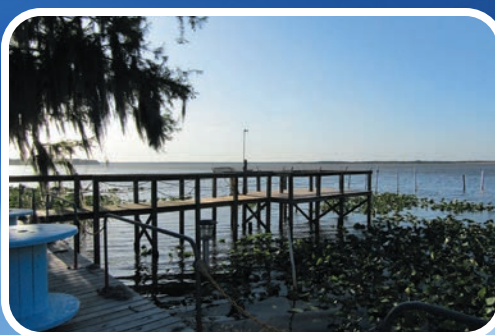
One immensely important outcome of this time period was the emergence of an organized effort to save the lake from further deterioration. Spearheaded by a prominent business man and local leader named George Means, the movement ushered in efforts to "fix" the problems that were slowly killing the lake. Mr. Means was Robert King's uncle and had financial resources along with a charismatic demeanor to carry the message about Lake Jesup to both local and state level authorities. His persistence was legendary and proved to be an inspiration to Mr. King's own determination to become an outspoken advocate for the health and preservation of Lake Jesup. In the end, George Means' badgering resulted in the 2015 construction of the "George Means Memorial Bridge" at the mouth of Lake

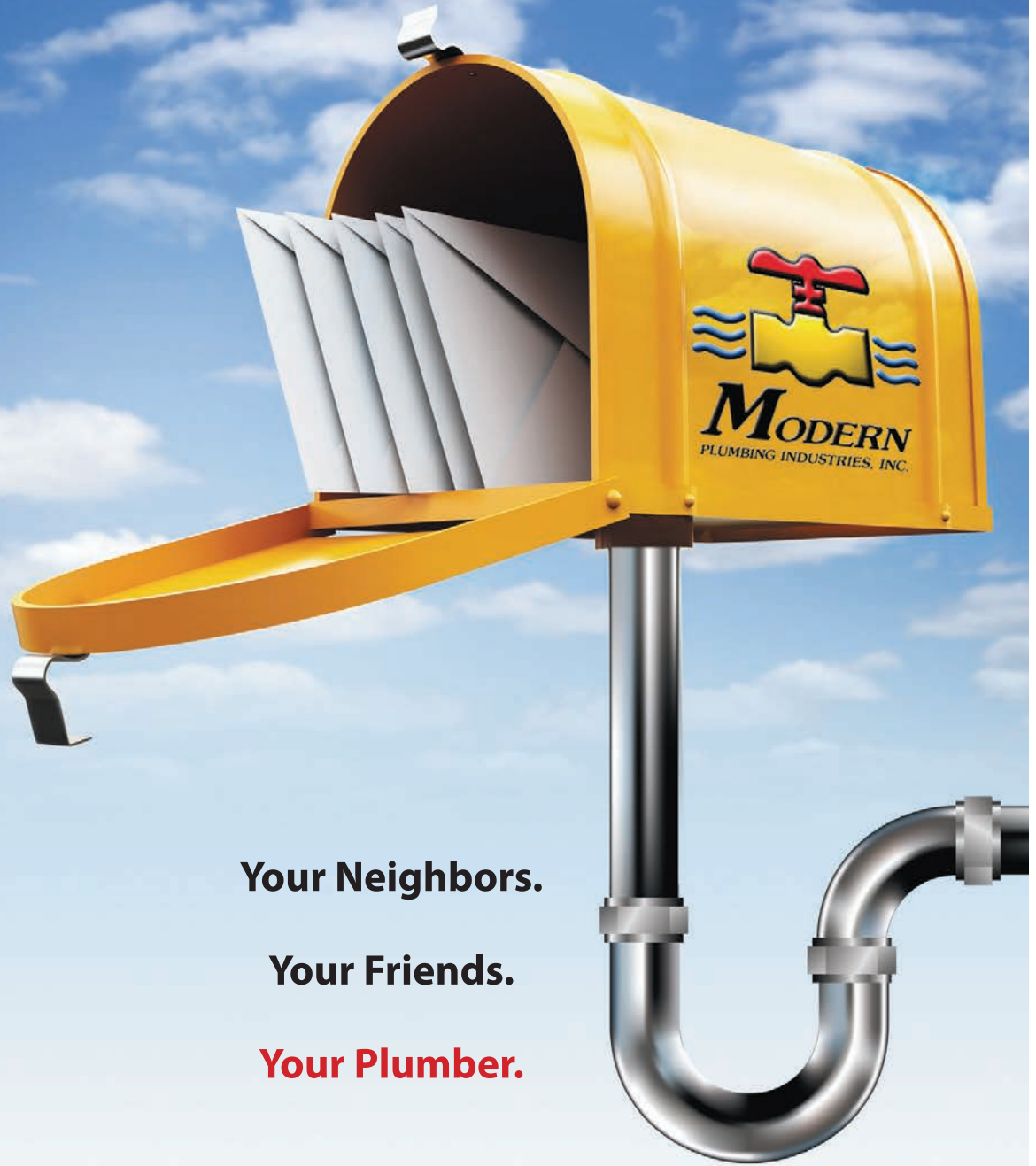
Jesup. The bridge was not the solution to all of the problems related to the lake, but it did open up a portion of the waterway by removing a large section of the earthen barrier that had been constructed for the roadway.

After Mr. Means' passing, Robert King became the most recognized spokesman for the health of the lake and the surrounding environmental concerns impacting our local communities. Sadly, Lake Jesup had begun its ever accelerating decline from a thriving fishing destination to one of the most polluted lakes in the State of Florida. Throughout the 1970(s) and 1980(s), Mr. King continuously reached out to various lawmakers at all levels of government as conditions continued to decline. Additionally, he worked with a variety of governmental agencies, including the St. John's River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

This was a time of renewed interest in the environment and the consequences of continued pollution on the land, air and water. Legislation at all levels of government began to have an impact upon efforts to identify problems and regulate contributing factors that were responsible for detrimental ecological outcomes. Throughout this time period, Mr. King was actively engaged in monitoring county and municipal meetings to ensure that the recent laws were being acknowledged. One such meeting here in Winter Springs resulted in Robert being hit by notebooks that were hurled at him by an exhausted city staff member who was charged with completing the first city zoning map and the first Comprehensive Growth Plan. She took umbrage with Robert's monitoring of the meetings leading up to the presentation of the Comp Plan. Curiously, the plan was approved by the City Commissioners and the local Regional Planning Council without meeting environmental compatibility requirements required by the state. The plan was subsequently approved at the state level without thorough review. These were pivotal events resulting in the composition of the zoning map used to this day. Additionally, these events opened the door for growth and development east of the city.

These events and an increased level of engagement eventually lead to Mr. King's involvement in an array of political events during the 1990s that, at best, were questionable and fueled by greed. The September Issue of Tusawilla Today will contain the third article in the series of the history of Lake Jesup. Once again, our thanks go out to Mr. Robert King and his willingness to share his experiences and recollections.





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SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENT CALENDAR

2022-2023

Date of Board Adoption: April 27, 2021

Definition of Descriptions:

- **Schools Closed** = Teachers and students not in attendance; Educational Support Center open for business
- **Schools Closed for Students** – Students not in attendance; Teachers are working & Educational Support Center is open for business
- **School System Closed** – Teachers, students, and employees at Educational Support Center not in attendance

August 4-9	Teacher Workdays (Pre-planning)
August 10	First Day of Student Attendance – Start of 1 st Quarter/ 1 st Semester
September 5	School System Closed
October 6	End of 1 st Quarter
October 7	Schools Closed for Students /Teacher Workday
October 10	Beginning of 2 nd Quarter
November 21-November 25	Schools Closed
November 24-25	School System Closed
December 14-December 16	Early Dismissal for Students
December 16	End of 2 nd Quarter/ 1 st Semester
December 19–December 30	Schools Closed (Winter Break)
January 2	Schools Closed for Students/Teacher Workday, Student Make-up Day #2, If Needed
January 3	Schools Closed for Students / Teacher- District Professional Development Day, Student Make-up Day #1, If Needed
January 4	Classes Resume, Start of 3 rd Quarter/ 2 nd Semester
January 16	School System Closed
February 20	School System Closed
March 10	End of 3 rd Quarter
March 13-March 17	Schools Closed (Spring Break)
March 20	Schools Closed for Students/Teacher Workday, Student Make-up Day #3, If Needed
March 21	Classes Resume- Start of 4 th Quarter
May 23-May 25	Early Dismissal for Students
May 25	Last Day of Student Attendance – End of 4 th Quarter/2 nd Semester
May 26	Teacher Workday (Post-planning, Student Make-up Day #4, If Needed
May 29	School System Closed
May 30	Teacher Workday (Post-planning)

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, Elaine Johnson. I can be contacted at: EditorElaineJohnson@gmail.com.

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News At A Glance

SENIOR CENTER TRIPS

NOTE: TRIP PARTICIPATION DOES NOT REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP AT THE SENIOR CENTER. Call: 407-786-8755

Ain't Misbehavin': September 24, 2022

The inimitable Thomas "Fats" Waller rose to international fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club and that jumpin' new beat, swing music. *Ain't Misbehavin'* evokes the delightful humor and infectious energy of this American original as a versatile cast struts, strums and sings the songs that he made famous in a career that ranged from uptown clubs to downtown Tin Pan Alley to Hollywood and concert stages in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Lunch beforehand at Shiloh's overlooking the beautiful Indian River Lagoon. **COST: \$113.00 per person. Reservations and payment due by September 1st.** Includes: R/T motor coach transportation, lunch, show, taxes, gratuity on meal, driver's gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Senior Center at 10:00 a.m. Masks are recommended on the motorcoach and in the theater, but not required.

Stetson Christmas Spectacular: November 19, 2022

We'll start with a visit to Angell & Phelps Chocolate Factory where they've been making old-fashioned, handmade chocolates since 1925. Tour the facility and learn the secrets of making these delicious confections. Next, get ready for some Down South River Cookin' at Aunt Catfish's. Enjoy the unique Old Florida atmosphere while dining overlooking the Halifax River. Kick start the holidays with a self-guided tour of the magnificent Stetson Mansion. Built in 1886 for famed hat maker, John B. Stetson, this winter retreat is part of Florida's First Luxury Estate and the grandest home ever built in Florida before the 20th century. Each year designer decorations from around the world adorn the mansion. Tour the first and second floors of the home as holiday music from the baby grand player piano wafts in the background. Treat yourself to a visit to the original School House which has since been converted into a Zen like guest cottage. **Please be advised that the tour involves steps and there is no elevator.**

COST: \$110.00 per person (Fuel surcharge may apply). Reservations and payment due by September 1st. Includes: R/T motor coach transportation, tours as specified, lunch, gratuity on meal, driver's gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Senior Center @ 9:00 a.m. Masks are recommended on the motor coach, but not required.

NEWCOMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

August 18th Summer Luncheon

Newcomers of Central Florida, Inc. will hold a luncheon and general meeting on Thursday, August 18th at The DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando East-UCF Area, 12125 High Tech Avenue in Orlando. As usual in the summer months, there will not be a formal program with a speaker--just time to meet and socialize with other Newcomers' club members and guests. The August luncheon will also include an opportunity to play games and win a variety of prizes.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon tickets are priced at \$25. Members, non-members and guests are welcome. Advance reservations are required. No walk-ins are allowed. The deadline

for non-members to RSVP and submit payment is 5 p.m. on August 11. For more information, contact Brenda Jones, VP-Membership, 407-435-3026, e-mail bjones47@cfl.rr.com or visit www.newcomerscfl.org

September 15th Luncheon

Newcomers of Central Florida's September 15th luncheon program will take a trip back in time as historical interpreters Bill and Cara Elder channel George and Martha Washington. The Elders, who will be dressed in colonial period attire, are retired educators who worked as teachers in Pennsylvania and Florida for 40 years before launching their second career as historical reenactors. Their entertaining and informative presentation at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Winter Springs will focus on the lives of the Washingtons in the 18th century, the importance of the U.S. Constitution, and the president and first lady's leadership roles in colonial America.

Luncheon tickets are priced at \$25. Advance reservations are required. No walk-ins are allowed. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact VP-Membership Brenda Jones at 407-435-3026, email: bjones47@cfl.rr.com, or visit newcomerscfl.org.

TUSCAWILLA WOMEN'S CLUB "WHERE YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS"

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 11th at 1p.m. in the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. It will be a social meeting to discuss a new format for the club. Hope to see you all there for this important meeting. Newcomers and guests are always welcome. For more information please call Anne Combs@407 761-5779. Refreshments will be served.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Aug. 4th U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
- Aug. 6th First sandwich made 1762
by the Earl of Sandwich
- Aug. 7th Purple Heart Day
- Aug. 8th City Commission Regular Meeting, 6:30
- Aug. 10th 1st Day of School for SCPS students
- Aug. 11th THOA Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Full Sturgeon Moon
(Final Super moon of 2022)
Perseid Meteor Showers, 8/11 – 8/13
- Aug. 13th Primary Election Early Voting:
Aug. 13 – 20, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Aug. 19th National Aviation Day
- Aug. 21st Senior Citizen Day
- Aug. 22nd City Commission Regular Meeting, 6:30
- Aug. 23rd Primary Election Day, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 26th Women's Equity Day
- Sept. 1st Planning and Zoning Meeting, 5:30
- Sept. 5th Labor Day Holiday

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Boards and committees are comprised of both Board Members and volunteers from the Community. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Kevin McCann at 407-409-5646.

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Laura Leigh Wood..... 407-310-4908

Tusawilla Women's Club:

Ronnie Balmat.... jebalmat@gmail.com

ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO PRIVATE HOAs, CLUBS, BABYSITTER, PET CARE AND YARD WORKER AREAS:

You are responsible for providing additions or updates to your listing by the 15th of the month for the following months issue. E-mail them to Lisa@cponline.com. Please mark in the subject "THOA NL". We cannot take changes over the phone.

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

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Do to space, we only list Pres, VP, Sec & Treas.

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You, or your parent, must be a **paid member of the THOA** to be listed. E-mail your name, age, phone number & address by the 15th of the month to: Lisa@cponline.com. Please mark in the subject line "THOA NL". **We cannot take info over the phone.**

ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS / ADVERTISING

ARTICLES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Should be e-mailed to Elaine Johnson, at editorelainejohnson@gmail.com and to the THOA President, Kurt Miericke, at THOAws20@gmail.com. All articles/announcements need to be approved by the

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PET CARE

Ella Bates..... 13..... 407-408-6278

Dylan Davis..... 16..... 407-913-6366

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