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NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 2025, BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING AT 6:30 P.M. AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE THE NEW CITY MANAGER FOR WINTER SPRINGS, KEVIN SWEET. The meeting will take place at the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. Members may find further information at: Tuscawilla.org.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a proverb that says, "Without a vision, the people perish." A vision is a plan, and a plan is like a roadmap. A plan will show you the final destination and usually the best way to get there. When I was leaving Publix the other day, the cashier asked me what were my plans for the rest of the day? I looked at her and said that I didn't have any. As I looked back on the day, I didn't really accomplish anything. In order to accomplish something, you need a plan to be successful. It might not be an elaborate one like going to Home Depot and buying some dirt or it could be more elaborate like spending the day getting your tax records together so you can file and maybe get a refund. Without a good plan, the result can be disastrous or at least embarrassing. Take for example the tallest building in Seminole Country, the Majesty Skyscraper. In 1998 the developer announced the building of the eighteen-story multipurpose complex that was to be completed in 2006. As that date passed, it was announced that it would be completed in 2016, then 2018. Construction continues at this date with no date for its completion. It has been nicknamed, The Eyesore on I-4. My guess is that there was not an adequate plan for its completion at the very beginning. Planning ahead is essential for getting effective results.

Recently, I spent the morning at City Hall with a group called Inspire Engagement that has been hired to assist the City of Winter Springs with developing a vision for our city. The question they are asking is, what is your vision for Winter Springs in the year 2050. I know we are only a quarter of the way through this century, but what will our city look like and become by the year 2050? The State of Florida requires each city to develop such a plan every twenty-five years. Even though many of us won't be here, we can help plan now for those who will. The comprehensive plan is a longrange document that helps guide the future actions of a city through goals, objectives, and policies. The plan covers a wide range of topics, including land use, transportation, housing, infrastructure, conservation, parks, and recreation, and much more. Inspire is seeking public input to help create a shared community vision for the future of Winter Springs. I would encourage you to go online and take the survey. The more people who respond, the better for helping develop the plan. You can use the QR code listed on this page or go directly to https://www.inspire-engagement.com/winter-sprimgs-compplan. You need to do this by March, so don't put it off.

As we begin our new year, I want you to know that the Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association is in very good hands. We have a wonderful Board of Directors who give their time and talent to help keep Tuscawilla a wonderful place to live. They are Kurt Miericke, President, Kim Coburn, First

Vice President, Chris Waguespack, Secretary, Roger Monroe, Treasurer, Cindy Guiles, Tony Bolyard, Carlos Luengo, Susan Beveridge, and Stephen Francis. I also want to especially thank Elaine Johnson for being the Editor of Tuscawilla Today for the past several years. She, along with her husband,



Ted, produced a quality magazine every month. Elaine has now retired as our Editor and is turning things over to our new Editor, Kathy McCann.

This month each of you will be receiving our annual Tuscawilla Homeowners dues renewal letter. Your Association operates on the \$40 a year annual dues. Each membership is very important to help us keep Tuscawilla a wonderful residential oasis in the midst of the surrounding urban sprawl. There is a page in this issue that tells you about the Association and what we do. Oh! By the way, Happy New Year!

#### Dr. Kurt Miericke

THOA President Publisher, *Tuscawilla Today* 

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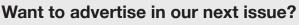


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## Tuscawilla Today

is **THE** Tuscawilla Homeowners' Association's monthly newsletter for the community.

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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

#### MEET KEVIN SWEET

After 17 long months with an Interim City Manager with repeated 3-2 votes (4 needed to hire a city manager) by the city commissioners, a new manager has been hired. Mr. Sweet is highly qualified and experienced for this position and will officially begin work on December 16th. Be sure to mark your calendar for the January 9th THOA Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to meet Kevin Sweet. The location is scheduled for the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. Thank you Matthew Reeser for providing the cover page photo. See pages 6 – 7 for more information about the new city manager.

## TUSCAWILLA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2025

January is the month to renew your membership or join the THOA. Your renewal notice will arrive in the mail during the month of January so please respond promptly to ensure your membership remains active and that the delivery of the monthly *Tuscawilla Today* magazine will continue throughout the year. While the cost of everything is going up, take comfort in knowing that the annual THOA membership dues of \$40.00 will remain the same for 2025. PLEASE SEE PAGE 9 FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR PAYING YOUR DUES.

## THOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 9TH AT 7:00

The Tuscawilla Homeowners' Association always conducts a Membership Meeting during the month of January. Please come out to the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. This year is especially important in that the guest speaker will be Kevin Sweet.

## SUNSHINE GARDEN CLUB "YARD OF THE MONTH"

The Sunshine Garden Club has submitted the month of January "Yard of the Month" recipient. Please see page 10.

#### **FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE FEBRUARY 7TH**

If you are interested in attending this popular event, please note that registration will open on January 13th. See the advertisement on page 10.

# TUSCAWILLA RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM "SECRET SANTA" PROGRAM

Thank you to all our Tuscawilla community members who donated a truck full of toys and gift cards to provide to the children in the Guardian ad Litem system. Your support will ensure that a child in need has a present to open during the holidays. See page 11.

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

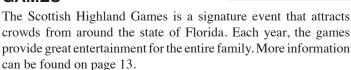
"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude."

- Dr. Martin Luther King

## WINTER SPRINGS WINTER WONDERLAND DRAWS CROWDS

A beautiful afternoon greeted the residents along the parade route as the 42nd Annual Winter Wonderland attracted a large crowd. Please see page 11 for an article and photos.

## SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES



#### IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Dr. King was one of the most influential leaders in our nation's history. Please see page 15 for more historical background information that reflects Dr. King's impact on civil rights.

## PRIVATE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS OFFICERS UPDATE REQUEST

There are 28 private HOAs within our Tuscawilla Community. Each year, we reach out to ask that the list of officers be updated for future issues of Tuscawilla Today. Please review page 18 and email <a href="mailto:kathymccann@gmail.com">kathymccann@gmail.com</a> if your HOA officers need to be revised.

## NEW EDITOR FOR TUSCAWILLA TODAY BEGINNING IN 2025

I want to thank the THOA Board of Directors for having me serve as the Editor for the *Tuscawilla Today* newsletter for the past three years. The role of "editor" has allowed me to meet many wonderful and interesting people here in our community. I am grateful to the many individuals who willingly shared their stories each month as a feature article. Special thanks to Mr. Russ Bredholt who submitted insightful articles that were applicable to both organizations and individuals when dealing with life's challenges. It has been a privilege to serve the community, and I am pleased that the THOA continues to work toward preserving Tuscawilla as a wonderful place to live. Please welcome Kathy McCann as the new editor for this publication. She is knowledgeable of the impactful events that need to be shared with our residents and will do a wonderful job for the *Tuscawilla Today*! Please see page 10 for more information about Kathy.

#### **MONTH OF JANUARY**

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the month of January was named for the Roman god Janus. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future. Janis is a fitting symbol for the first day of the year.

Thank you to all of our wonderful residents, fairwell!

#### **Elaine Johnson**

Editor, *Tuscawilla Today*EditorElaineJohnson@gmail.com



## **MEET KEVIN SWEET**

## NEW CITY MANAGER FOR WINTER SPRINGS

After extensive delays, the City of Winter Springs commissioners finally had enough votes (super majority of at least 4) to move forward in hiring a candidate for the position of City Manager. We wish to welcome Mr. Kevin A. Sweet to this most prominent position. Under the City of Winter Springs Charter, the City Manager is charged with the day-to-day operations of the city. This is a typical form of government for small to medium size cities. Larger metropolitan centers such as Orlando usually have a "strong mayor" form of government.

Due to the importance of this position, our feature article provides insight into the professional background of Mr. Sweet and the skills he brings to this challenging job. After months of delays, Mr. Kevin Sweet was unanimously selected among three highly qualified contenders. He officially began working for the city on December 16th.

Mr. Sweet served as the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer for the town of Wrentham, Massachusetts for the past seven years. While smaller in population when compared to Winter Springs, Mr. Sweet managed more department and division heads. The city budget in Wrentham is comparable to that of our city. In addition to his role as Chief Executive Officer, Kevin was also the Director of Emergency Management and Executive Director of the Metacomet Public Health Alliance. Prior to his professional career in Wrentham, Mr. Sweet served in a variety of leadership roles including: Chief Administrative Officer, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer/Executive Director of Municipal Services, Acting Finance Director and Director of Emergency Management for the town of Maynard, Massachusetts; Executive Director for the Office of Operations, Safety & Emergency Management at Cambridge College, overseeing eight campuses throughout the country including Puerto Rico; and Assistant Executive Director of Public Health for the City of Taunton, Massachusetts (population 60,000).

Kevin Sweet has an impressive educational background that will serve to meet the needs of our city. His undergraduate studies focused on Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Kevin achieved a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Financial Management and a Master of Science Degree in the field of Emergency Management. Additionally, he has

received Graduate Certificates in Local Government Leadership and Management as well as Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Management.

The aforementioned work background and educational achievements are accompanied by professional credentials and affiliations. Kevin Sweet is an ICMA-Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM), national and State of Florida Registered Sanitarian (RS) and is Certified in Public Health (CPH). He was formerly a Commissioner/Treasurer-Executive Board Member of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. served on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, Massachusetts Government Advisory Commission, Norfolk County Advisory Board Member, and Massachusetts Building Official Certification Committee. Mr. Sweet is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association, International Association of Emergency Managers, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the National Environmental Health Association. Mr. Sweet is also a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha -International Honor Society and is currently a doctoral candidate working on his Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration.

Kevin Sweet has the skill set to address the pressing needs of the city. He is fully aware of the progress underway to replace the two wastewater treatment plants and will certainly support this capital improvement project. He is aware of the current planning efforts for enhancing stormwater disbursement and infrastructure replacement. His ability to recognize and recruit highly qualified people for key department positions will be a priority. The most important leadership skills will be those of working with the city commission while establishing and adhering to a vision for future growth. A related growth and development problem will involve the city's potable water consumptive use permitting that is currently exceeding the limits set by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

On behalf of the Tuscawilla Homeowners' Association, we welcome Mr. Kevin Sweet to our city and wish him success.





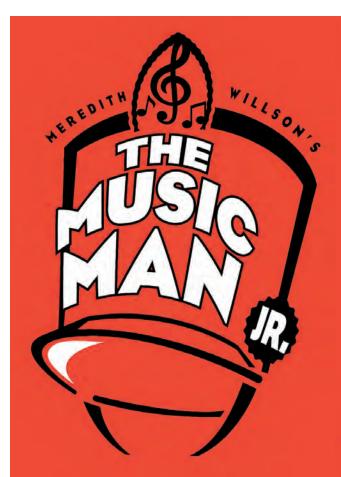












#### INDIAN TRAILS MIDDLE SCHOOL

**BROADWAY BLAZERS** 

**Friday** 

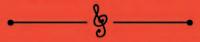
March 7 at 7pm

Saturday

March 8 at 2pm & 7pm

Sunday

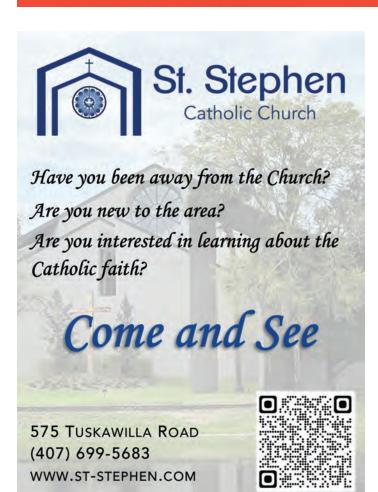
March 9 at 2pm



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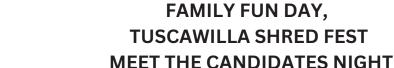


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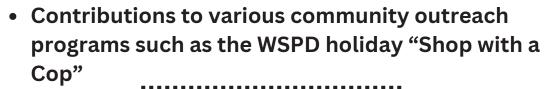






• Informative Community meetings with various guest speakers







Our United THOA offers strong representation at the city and county levels to protect our property values and keep our neighborhood beautiful! We endeavor to prevent unwanted growth and cut-through traffic, while also safeguarding against the impacts of the potential widening of 417.



## To Join or renew, just pay your \$40.00 annual dues

Mail a check and your contact info to the THOA
PO Box 195666 Winter Springs, 32719-5666
or find re-enrollment form and paypal directions at http://www.tuscawilla.org.

#### **Questions? Please email:**

President Dr. Kurt Miericke: thoaws20@gmail.com Membership Chair: thoacindyguiles@gmail.com







## **DEAR TUSCAWILLA COMMUNITY,**

My name is Katherine McCann, and I am honored to serve as the new editor of *Tuscawilla Today*. I have been a proud resident of the Tuscawilla area for over 20 years, and my husband Kevin and I are proud parents to two wonderful children. Our daughter, Jordan, now lives in Lake Mary, and our son, Ben, is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

As a longtime member of this vibrant community, I truly enjoy attending the many local events Winter Springs has to offer, and you'll often find me at city commission meetings. It's always a pleasure to stay connected with what's happening in our city and to support our shared growth and success.

I look forward to bringing you the latest updates and stories from our community through *Tuscawilla Today*, and I hope to meet many of you in the months ahead.

Warm regards,

**Katherine McCann**Editor, *Tuscawilla Today* 



## SUNSHINE GARDEN CLUB "YARD OF THE MONTH" FOR JANUARY

Congratulations to Kathy Owen at 1024 Nancy Circle for being selected as having the "Yard of the Month." Pictured Left to Right: Kurt Mierke, President of the THOA; Kathy Owen, winner; Laura Leigh Wood, VP Community Relations for the Tuscawilla Sunshine Garden Club. Kathy planted 66 poinsettias; please drive by and enjoy the beautiful yard of the month.

# 26TH ANNUAL CONTRACTOR DANCE DANCE

## Friday, February 7th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the City of Winter Springs Senior Center

This event promises an enjoyable evening filled with dancing and music that your daughter will cherish. Attendees can experience delightful music, receive a complimentary professional photograph, enjoy refreshments at no cost, and compete for exciting prizes. Due to the event's popularity, Winter Springs Parks and Recreation has expanded our offerings to include an additional night. We welcome you to join us on February 7th or 8th at the Winter Springs Senior Center for this highly anticipated community gathering.

#### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Residents:** Registration will open on

January 13, 2025, at 8 AM.

Non-residents: Registration will open on

January 27, 2025, at 8 AM.

Registration will close on January 31, 2025, at 3 PM or until capacity is reached.

#### TICKET INFORMATION

**Residents:** Free of Cost

**Non-residents:** \$10 per couple and \$5 per additional child (not to exceed \$25 per family)

Visit the city website for tickets: www.winterspringsfl.org

# YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET THE NEW CITY MANAGER FOR WINTER SPRINGS DURING THE THOA "MEMBERSHIP" MEETING ON JANUARY 9TH.



Mark your calendar for January 9th at 7:00 p.m. to attend the THOA meeting at the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. THOA President Kurt Miericke will be introducing Mr. Kevin Sweet to the residents of the Tuscawilla Community. Mr. Sweet is an experienced city manager coming to us from Wrentham, Massachusetts. He will be sharing his professional background along with his plans for acclimating into his new role here in Winter Springs. The City Manager position is arguably the most important and impactful job in any municipality. Be sure to come out and join us on the evening of January 9th.



## MAYOR KEVIN MCCANN AND HIS WIFE DELIVER TOYS FOR GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILDREN

Mayor Kevin McCann, alongside his wife, recently delivered a generous collection of toys donated by Tuscawilla residents in memory of Arnie Nussbaum. The toys, collected through the community's heartfelt contributions, will benefit children in the Guardian Ad Litem program, bringing joy to those in need during the holiday season. This thoughtful gesture highlights the spirit of giving and the lasting impact of Arnie Nussbaum's legacy on the Tuscawilla community.

## **WINTER SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING**









The holiday parade and Christmas tree lighting in Winter Springs was a magical celebration, drawing a wonderful turnout of community members. The event featured a festive procession with the high school marching band and decorated floats filling the streets with holiday cheer. Local organizations, businesses, and families all came together to make the evening special. The Mayor and the city commissioners, along with their families, were present to mark the occasion and share in the spirit of the season. The highlight of the evening was the beautiful lighting of the Christmas tree, with Santa himself on hand to pose for pictures with eager children and families. It was a joyful, heartwarming celebration that brought the community together in true holiday spirit.

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# 47<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL FLORIDA SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

Sat, Jan 18, 2025, 8am - Sun, Jan 19 2025, 5pm

The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, the largest community event in Seminole County, organized each year by the Scottish-American Society of Central Florida, was created to promote and preserve Scottish heritage. Each January, the two-day gathering welcomes thousands of visitors to Central Winds Park in Winter Springs. The festival begins on Saturday with competitions in Scottish heavy athletics, Highland dance, bagpiping, and baking. The weekend hosts cultural activities, including Border Collie demonstrations, Scottish clans, musical performances, a medieval camp, ax throwing, and more. There is also the popular Boulder Boogie event, where contestants vie for bragging rights of carrying the heaviest stone the farthest distance without dropping it. Our festival is a family-friendly event featuring a non-competitive "Kids Games" version of Scottish athletics and other activities. We feature the best Celtic artisans presenting jewelry, clothing, artistry, weaponry, and more. There is plenty of food and drink: beer, wine, whisky, fish-n-chips, scotch-egg, and even haggis tacos. The whiskey tasting welcomes attendees to sample expertly curated rare and unique whiskies. The Ceilidh, (Scottish gathering) features multiple Celtic-rock bands, all included with admission. There is something for everyone at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games. Please visit: Flascot.com/tickets for details.

# WSPD CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 6:30pm

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) started in 1998 with about 5 citizens and has continued strong with over 50 members. The committee is comprised of homeowners association board members and Winter Springs residents. The CAC meets with the Police Chief and the command staff to discuss monthly departmental statistics and each Commander tells what is happening within their respective bureaus. There is a roundtable discussion and each attendee of the meeting is given the opportunity to discuss what is happening in their community and/or ask any questions.

The CAC meets the second Wednesday during the months of September through May at 6:30 p.m. at the Winter Springs Police Department.

If you have any questions or would like to join us, please feel free to contact us at 407-327-1000.



## SUNSHINE GARDEN CLUB OF TUSCAWILLA

Deadline is the last day of the month!



TUSCAWILLA YARD OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS

Email Nominations to:

TuscawillaGardenClub@gmail.com

Homeowner Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address; \_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ contact info:\_\_\_\_\_

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.



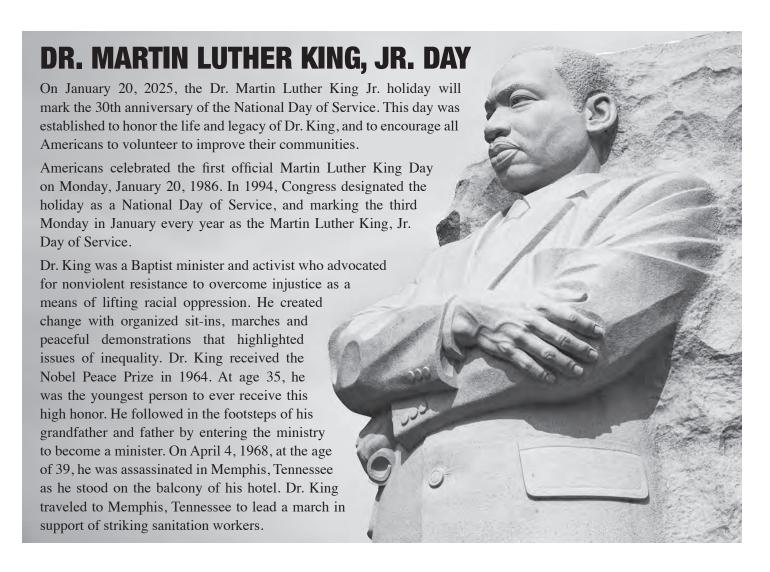


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### **HUMANS INVENTED ALCOHOL BEFORE WE INVENTED THE WHEEL**

According to "History Facts"

Few inventions have shaped the course of history more than the wheel, which dates back to roughly 3500 BCE. That may seem ancient (and it is, by definition), but it's positively fresh-faced compared to what was apparently a higher priority for our ancestors: alcohol, which is at least 9,000 years old. That knowledge comes to us from Qiaotou, China, where pottery containing alcohol residue was discovered in 2021. Also found at the site were two skeletons, suggesting it was a burial pit and that consumption of beer — in this case made from rice, tubers, and pearl barley — has long been a part of funerals.

Though alcohol comes in many forms, there's only one kind that humans can consume safely: ethanol, which is present in every boozy beverage we drink. The other types include methanol and isopropyl, which are poisonous to humans even in small doses because they're metabolized as toxins. Both

have their uses, however: Isopropyl, the primary ingredient in rubbing alcohol, is widely used in cleaning products and disinfectants, while methanol is used in everything from fuel and antifreeze to plastic and construction materials.

Women are responsible for countless inventions and firsts, some of them older than others. And while the fact that they were the first beer brewers might not seem as important as pioneering chemotherapy or the computer algorithm, fermented beverages have played a vital role in human culture for nearly as long as humans have had culture. Unlike some other innovations that have murky beginnings, this one is beyond dispute: "Women absolutely have, in all societies, throughout world history, been primarily responsible for brewing beer," said Theresa McCulla, who curates the Smithsonian's American Brewing History Initiative, in an interview with Wine Enthusiast. This tradition dates back to at least 1750 BCE, when the Code of Hammurabi, a set of laws from ancient Babylon, gave women sole jurisdiction over not only beer brewing but also tavern ownership.

CONCLUSION: For all those gentlemen who chose to overindulge during the New Year's celebration, you now have a viable excuse. Blame your excessive consumption of alcohol on women. You now have over 3,500 years of facts to back up your story.

## **EVERY ORGANIZATION IS SINKABLE**

Portions of an article submitted by Russ Bredholt

"Contrary to popular mythology, Titanic was never described as 'unsinkable' without qualification until <u>after</u> she sank." —Richard Howells

Did an iceberg in the North Atlantic cause the RMS Titanic, the world's largest vessel, to begin sinking around 11:40 p.m. on April 14, 1912, off Newfoundland? Less than three hours later, the ship plunged 12,500 feet or 2.5 miles at a speed of 35 to 40 knots (40 to 46 mph), leaving an impact on the sea floor that is still visible today. Of the 2,224 passengers and crew, nearly 1,500 died in that preventable tragedy.

#### Damaged from the inside out

Or maybe it was something else, such as a broken organizational culture at Harland & Wolf, the Titanic's Belfast builder, or the White Star Line headquartered in Liverpool, England, which owned and operated the luxurious ocean liner. "The Titanic was doomed from the start due to a flawed corporate culture," concluded Darry Wright, a senior global executive with EY Canada who studied the accident. "It was not the iceberg that led to the downfall of the ship; rather, it was a culture of overconfidence, narrow-mindedness—and a lack of balance between innovation and risk. Leaders who did not acknowledge the intrinsic flaws (rivet failure and open portholes) in the ship's design," Wright added.

How dangerous is it to overestimate our abilities or knowledge when needing more expertise in a particular area? Very. (Dunning-Kruger effect) The Titanic's crew and modern management have this in common—the practice of ignoring legitimate warnings. On April 14, 1912, a British merchant ship, the SS Mesaba, sent a radio warning about an ice field with large icebergs and heavy icepacks. That message never reached the bridge. At 10:55 p.m., the SS California radioed the Titanic, saying it was stopped and "fully surrounded by ice." The Californian's crew later misinterpreted Titanic's calls for help.

Before leaving Southampton, Captain Edward Smith knew the drift ice field was larger and further south than in previous years. At the time of the accident, the Titanic was sailing at 22 knots (25 mph), two knots below its maximum speed. The Titanic Syndrome lecture links an overreliance on past success to the night's complications. The captain and crew were experienced at sea under normal sailing conditions. But how can a spotter see afar with the binoculars missing in the Crow's Nest? Or what does a captain do after hitting an iceberg with insufficient life rafts onboard?

#### **Organizational icebergs**

According to the Polar Times, the largest iceberg on record was sighted by the USS Glacier on November 12, 1956, west of Scott Island in the South Pacific Ocean. At 335 by 97 kilometers (208 by 60 miles), it was larger than Belgium. A

study by The Ohio State University suggests that about onetenth of the volume of an iceberg is above water and follows Archimedes' Principle of Buoyancy.

Two of the biggest icebergs threatening businesses and nonprofits are the absence of mutual trust among colleagues and an inability to recognize emerging internal and external realities. Both contribute to strenuous transitions when changes are needed with people, products, or services. Broken cultures sink strategies. MIT research shows that it takes more than a narrative to repair cultures, as there is often a gap between what is said and what is done. That study says 88% of employees report a lack of organizational preparedness in facing new challenges. Repairing the damage includes finding the glue to hold everyone together, clearing out the noise overtaking vital communication, and clarifying what is unique and special about the enterprise.

#### Small holes—sizeable destruction

A 1996 exploration of scientists and engineers underwritten by the Discovery Channel found six thin openings across the Titanic's starboard hull, which were likely the cause of its physical demise. The total area of damage is 12-13 square feet or less than the area of two sidewalk squares. "It was not the size but the placement of the openings across six watertight holds," says William H. Garzke Jr, a naval architect. "Everything that could go wrong did. Those half-dozen slits let in 39,000 tons of water, sinking the Titanic," the investigators wrote. Would there have been less damage at slower speeds? The experts say yes. Under the right conditions, any ship can sink.

#### **Paying respects**

On June 18, 2023, a month before our Transatlantic Crossing on Cunard's Queen Mary 2 from Brooklyn, New York, to Southampton, England, the Titan submersible imploded while on an exploration of the Titanic site. All five on board were killed. Stockton Chase, CEO of OceanGate, Titan's owner, was among those who lost their lives that day. Warnings about the Titan's safety were widely shared but not addressed. As the QM2 approaches the coast of Newfoundland heading eastbound, the Titanic site is displayed on a screen in the cabin. Captain Andrew Hall announced on this trip that the QM2 would sail north of the Titanic site. The horns will blast to pay respects to those whose lives were lost on that fateful voyage 111 years ago. At the Sunday worship service sponsored by the QM2, the congregation sings the British hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." Written in 1860 by William Whiting, the anthem was inspired by the dangers of the sea described in Psalms 107.

The BBC reported that one of the Titan submersible crew's final messages was, "All good here." The surviving second officer on the Titanic, Charles Lightoller, was quoted in the film *A Night to Remember* as saying, "We were so sure." This is a tale of two unique vessels, one very large and the other very small, whose fates were determined not from the outside but from the inside out. As you go about your work, keep that life-saving lesson in mind.

## News At A Glance

#### **NEWCOMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.**

#### **January 16th Luncheon**

Newcomers of Central Florida's January 16, 2025 luncheon will feature a trivia competition hosted by Quiz Master Simon from Simon Time Trivia. Simon, who appears regularly on Florida radio and TV programs, has emceed trivia competitions at restaurants, social gatherings, and corporate team building events for over 15 years. Club members will have an opportunity to "put their useless knowledge to use" in several trivia games--with prizes given to the top scorers. The catered barbecue luncheon will be held at a new venue for Newcomers of Central Florida--The Wedding Barn at 346 E. Franklin Street in Oviedo. Tickets are priced at \$30. Non-members are welcome but must submit prepayment by January 9th. Advance reservations are required. No walk-ins are allowed. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact VP-Membership Diana Engling at 407-256-3592, email: englingd@yahoo.com, or visit newcomerscfl.org

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Jan. 1st	New Year's Day	
Jan. 2nd	Planning and Zoning Meeting, 5:30	
Jan. 6th	Community Workshop – The Human Bean Coffee Shop	
Jan. 8th	WSPD Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30	
Jan. 9th	Oth THOA Board of Directors Meeting and Membership Meeting, 6:30 and 7:00  Meet the new City of Winter Springs City Manager – Kevin Sweet	
	Veteran and Veteran Family Advisory Committee Meeting, 5:30	
Jan. 13th	Regular City Commission Meeting, 6:30	
	Full "Wolf" moon	
Jan. 16th	Community Workshop – 2050 City Comp Plan, 5:30	
Jan. 17th	Ditch New Years Resolutions Day	
Jan. 18 – 19	47th Annual Central Florida Scottish Highland Games	
Jan. 20th	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Jan. 25th	National Florida Day	
Jan. 27th	Regular City Commission Meeting, 6:30	
	Holocaust Remembrance Day	
Jan. 28th	Code Enforcement, 5:30	
	Fun At Work Day	
Jan. 29th	National Puzzle Day	
Jan. 31st	National Hot Chocolate Day	

#### L'ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS, INC. SENIOR TRIPS

Call Karen at 407-786-8755 to make reservations

#### British Isles "Regal Princess": May 21 - June 2, 2025

Northern Europe is home to some of the most beloved cities and experiences – the lore of London, the café lifestyle of Paris, and the pubs of Dublin. But it's also home to some of the most breathtaking landscapes the world has to offer. Beyond the rugged shores of the British Isles, you'll find quaint hamlets, fabled cities and idyllic countryside bathed in emerald green.

#### Mediterranean Cruise

10 Night Greece, Italy & Croatia "Celebrity Ascent" October 10-20, 2025. The places you've always wanted to visit and the sights you've always wanted to see. You'll find everything you've dreamed of and more in the intoxicating Mediterranean—ruins that defy imagination, ancient villages set on cobalt seas, incomparable cities, picturesque vineyards and sun-kissed beaches. 1 Fly-Orlando/Rome, sail, 2 At sea, 3 Olympia, Greece, 4 Corfu, Greece, 5 Dubrovnik, Croatia, 6 Split, Croatia, 7 Bar, Montenegro, 8 At sea, 9 Catania, Sicily, 10 Naples, Italy, 11 Rome-return flight to Orlando. DEPOSIT: \$450/pp at time of booking FINAL PAYMENT DUE: 7/5/25 L'attitude Adjustments Inc., 2839 Spyglass Cove Longwood, FL 32779, 407-786-8755. Registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. Includes 10 night cruise, Port Charges, Gov't taxes & fees. Roundtrip airfare from Orlando approximately \$1,200.00 \*\* Book a pre or post stay in Rome Cat. C2 (Concierge Class) - \$3,593.18 Cat. A2 (Aqua Class) - \$4,237.18. Rates are per person, based on double occupancy. Call for special promotional rates!!

#### **TUSCAWILLA WOMEN'S CLUB**

"Where you are among friends"

Our December meeting was our "Holiday Party" and the last meeting for the year.

Thanks to all that participated and there were fun games and dancing with everyone. Food and beverages were provided in a very festive décor.

Our Book Club and Lunch Bunch is still going strong with more opportunities for social connections. Everyone attending shared their holiday appreciations and wishes. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1 pm inside the Wedgewood Tennis Villas Clubhouse. Happy New Year to all.

Please contact Anne Combs for questions and interest, 407-761-5779.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! **2025** 

#### THOA BOARD MEMBERS

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#### **TUSCAWILLA TODAY**

Kathy McCann........... 407-409-5640

#### COMMITTEES

#### **Membership Chairman/Committee**

Cindy Guiles ...... 407-462-6061

#### **LIAISONS**

Kurt Miericke with SR 417 issues.

Boards and committees are comprised of both Board Members and volunteers from the Community. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Kurt Miericke at 407-359-4077.

## **CLUB PRESIDENTS**Sunshine Garden Club:

Tace Crouse...... 407-222-4336

#### Tuscawilla Women's Club:

Linda Coleman ......lcoleman444@gmail.com

## ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO PRIVATE HOAS AND CLUBS

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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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.

For rates and availability contact Lisa Kimbrough-Rodriguez at 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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## "HAPPILY AGING AFTER"



Hear from several experts who specialize in Senior Citizens' issues and concerns. Get the latest information to help you with your plans and goals for your Golden Years.

## You will not want to miss this!

A Zoom Option is also available

January 18th from 10-noon at the Wedgewood
Tennis Villas 1401 Forest Hills Dr. Winter Springs

Topics to be presented:
Planning to downsize- Kim Coburn
Meals on Wheels Program
Winter Springs Senior Center Programs
Tax issues for Elderly Persons- Dan Wilder
Medicaid and VA Benefits- Sarah Rodrigues
Comfort Keepers In Home Care
Reverse Mortgages - Laura Meyers
Organizing to downsize- Julie
Senior Housing Placement- Summer Barnard
Wills / Trusts and Lady Bird Deeds

Presented by:
Accredited Senior Real Estate Specialist
Kim Coburn and Colleen Kahl



Must RSVP by Jan 15, 2025 by phone or text

by phone or text 407-341-1324 kimcoburn@gmail.com

OWN & COUNTRY REALTY

## Happy New Year! From our Family to Yours!

Chuck & LL



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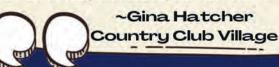
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