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NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 14TH, 2021. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT 7:00 PM

The THOA Board of Directors continues to monitor the corona virus situation while taking into account the social distancing recommendations from state and local government entities. Consequently, the January Board of Directors meeting will be conducted using the ZOOM video conferencing forum. Members may find a link to the meeting and further information at: Tuscawilla.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we enter this new year, I certainly hope that everyone had a safe, happy and enjoyable holiday season. I believe I speak for many when I say that I am ready to "hit the reset button" with the start of a new year. The new year brings hope in an effective COVID vaccine and of returning to a stronger economy along with our children back in school and an overall sense of normalcy. I believe we all understand that the COVID crises may still grow worse before the vaccine is delivered to Americans at a rate that will have a significant impact but I feel optimistic that we may be seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel". I am not confident that your Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association will be able to organize and host our signature "Family Fun Day" event in March but with a bit of luck along with the determination of the many American heroes on the front line of the COVID epidemic, we may be able to return to community social events and a sense of normalcy in the fall of this year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

With the new year; all Tuscawilla residents will be receiving an annual notice to renew your membership in our home owners association. You can return the notice by mail with a check or pay online by visiting www.tuscawilla.org. The Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association is a voluntary organization. It is important to note that aside from the great social events, monthly copies of *Tuscawilla Today* and contributions to worthy causes in our community; your membership provides clout.

As one of the largest planned communities in central Florida, our strong membership provides a voice within Winter Springs, Seminole County and the region as a whole. Our strength is in our unified numbers. The affordable annual dues of \$30 will confirm your membership and support the Board Members in their efforts of liaising with local and state government entities. Our numbers can be a persuasive influence in protecting our schools, property values and quality of life. Did you know that Tuscawilla has one of the highest voting rates in the region? An organized community that has a proven track record of voting will be consulted before negative changes may be forced upon us. Our dedicated Board of Directors and residents hold positions at every level of local and state government. They are motivated to protect and improve our quality of life through voluntary, professional and elected positions. Please consider joining or renewing your membership to the THOA to protect our schools, assure low crime rates and maintain our standard of living.

COMMUNITY

Maintaining the Tuscawilla Country Club Community and Winter Springs as a whole requires solid planning, investment and hard work by many resident volunteers working with the city professional staff. In the coming



weeks, months and years ahead; several projects of importance will be moving forward. In the near term; the City will be trimming trees along Winter Springs Boulevard and Northern Way to maintain minimal height clearance as required by the State Department of Transportation (Think delivery trucks and resident owned boats & RV's). Low branches may do significant damage when not maintained. AT&T has a project planned for the first quarter of 2021 to upgrade their existing facilities within Tuscawilla, particularly in the area of Bentley Green and Chelsea Parc. Although the AT&T project will not result in a disruption of service; it will require the possibility of substantial digging and boring to provide improved internet speeds and other services. AT&T appears committed to the repair of any lawns or public areas affected by their work.

Our water treatment plants in Winter Springs will undergo substantial reinvestment over the next several years and as of December 2020; I have heard discussions of budgets approaching 85 million dollars over the long term. As our city

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Con't

continues to grow, more communities will be connected to reclaimed water for lawn maintenance in an effort to relieve the demand on drinking water often used for lawn irrigation. It is my understanding that the cost of processing reclaimed water for lawn maintenance is not significantly less expensive for individual home owners but creates a lower burden on the fresh water resources within the region and is worth the investment. Very similar to owning a home or automobile; a community requires continued upkeep and maintenance. We are fortunate to have so many professional leaders working

diligently to ensure the long term health of our community. The work being done today will ensure Tuscawilla maintains the outstanding quality of life we have grown accustomed to while maintaining one of the lowest property taxes in the region.

On behalf of the Tuscawilla Home Owner's Board of Directors, I wish all the members of our community a happy and healthy 2021.

Kevin McCann

THOA President:
Publisher, *Tuscawilla Today*Email: kev.mccann1@yahoo.com

THOA MEMBERS ALERT:

Tips on Preventing Fraud

In today's world, technology plays a role in everything we do, from banking and shopping to working and communicating with family and friends. Unfortunately, that same technology that makes life so much easier can also put you at a greater risk for issues like fraud and identity theft if you aren't careful. The elderly are especially vulnerable to these evil individuals. That's why it's important to learn how to avoid becoming a victim, and you can start by following these tips:

1. Don't Give Out Personal Information

First and foremost, guard your personal information with your life. Never give out your Social Security number unless you're applying for credit. Never give out your financial information unless you contacted the company first and have a legitimate reason for doing so. Banks, retailers and other institutions will not call you and ask for personal details, like bank account information, credit card numbers and passwords. Your bank already has this information, and if you've shopped with a company, it should have your information on file. If you're not sure if a call, email or text is from your bank or a store you trust, hang up or exit out and call them directly to verify they contacted you.

2. If It Sounds Too Good to Be True, It Probably Is

Everyone likes the idea of saving money, earning free items or even getting rich, but much of the time, offers like this turn out to be scams. If someone makes you an offer that sounds too good to be true, it's best to assume that it is. You can also take down the name of the company and search for it online along with words like "scam" or "complaints." Another way to spot scams is to see if they ask you to pay up front. You may receive a call claiming you've won a dream vacation but you have to pay a certain amount in taxes or an amount that will eventually be refunded. No legitimate company will do this.

3. Sign Up for Alerts

From the US government to your bank, there are several ways to stay on top of the latest scams and fraudulent activity. Visit

Consumer.ftc.gov to sign up for scam alerts via email. Here, you can also read up on the latest scams happening in the world, including the latest scam and fraud news. You can also look for scams by category if you think you've been a victim of one. If your bank offers email or text message alerts about your account or credit card activity, sign up for them so you can stay on top of what's going on with your financial information. The quicker you learn of any type of fraud happening to you, the easier it is to control. Be sure to monitor your credit report regularly as well.

4. Be Smart With Passwords

One of the best things you can do to safeguard your accounts is to come up with good passwords that are hard for hackers to crack. Don't use words or phrases, and don't use the same password for every site you visit. A good password should be at least eight characters long, and it should have a combination of capital letters, lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. Again, never give your password to anyone. Legitimate banks and stores will not ask for that information. If you receive an email or text message with a link in it that asks you to put in your username or password, even if it claims to be from a business you trust, don't do it. Again, call the company to find out if they sent it to you — you will likely find out they didn't.

5. If You Don't Know Them, Don't Deal With Them

If someone asks you for money or your personal or financial information, don't give it to them. For example, you may have someone call your home pretending to be a charity. If it sounds like something you're interested in, take down their information and do some homework before you decide to donate. A great way to verify information is to check with the Better Business Bureau. If you receive any type of robocall — that's a call that answers with a recorded message rather than a live human being — hang up. If you receive a text or email from someone you never contacted or have no business with, ignore it, and definitely don't click any links in it.

EDITOR'S NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I believe Marc Shaw's Cartoon on this page sums up everyone's outlook for 2021. Let's hope that the New Year will eventually bring about a return to normalcy. With the historic vaccine programs now in place, our frontline workers have the protection they need to serve the community. The goal to eliminate the spread of the virus in the general population appears to be in sight. Visit www.CoronavirusVaccineFacts. com for more information.

MEET MARY KATHRYN VANKLEUNEN

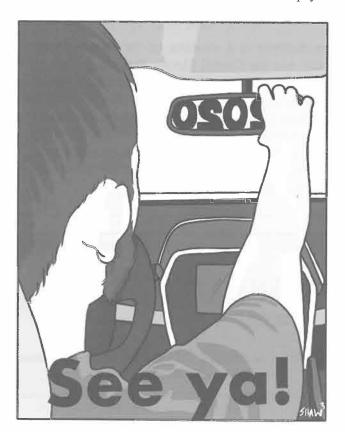
Mary Kathryn and her husband Jim have lived in the Tuscawilla Community for many years. I reached out to her after seeing several of her paintings posted on Facebook. She has agreed to share her story along with several of her paintings. Please enjoy the article and pictures on pages 6 and 7.

WINTER WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS A BIG SUCCESS

The Wonderland of Lights was held at Central Winds Park and turned out to be one of the most popular holiday events in the city and the region. The estimated number of people who attended the Winter Wonderland of Lights was 40,000. Planning for next year is already taking place. See page 9 for pictures.

\$30

Please be sure to support your Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association by paying your annual dues. You will receive a Renewal Notice in the mail this month that allows for payment



by check or online. Visit www.tuscawilla. org for more information about the THOA and consider paying your dues online this year. See page 11.

WATER PLANT PROJECTS

There will be several major improvement projects taking place at Water Plant # 1



and the Waste Water Treatment Plant near Sam Smith Park. The installation of new lines and equipment at Plant # 1 may cause some delays along Northern Way at the plant entrance to allow heavy equipment access to the site. The waste water project will begin in the near future and will require the draining of the holding tanks. Please see page 13 for important information regarding this process.

CONGRATULATIONS WSHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Winter Springs High School Girls Cross Country Team was recognized along with Coach Carter for winning the Class 3A State Championship again this year. This represents back-to-back team titles for the Girls Team. Congratulations to Coach Ocky Clark for being named Seminole Athletic Conference Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year. See page 14.

WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

The Winter Springs Police Department has been accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) since 2003. On December 9th, the Winter Springs Police Department was notified of the recommendation for Excelsior Recognition for 2021.

This accreditation increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves. It enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. See page 15.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES CANCELLED

This event has been cancelled for January, 2021 but will return to Winter Springs next year.

THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January derives its name from Janu, the god of beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology. This is fitting since January is the first month of the year and is considered the doorway to the New Year. Unfortunately, January is the month with the highest number of divorce filings in the U.S. I hope this new year includes good health and happiness for all of our members and residents.

Looking forward to a better future!

Ted Johnson

Editor, *Tuscawilla Today*I can be reached at tedjohnson1@live.com

MEET MARY KATHRYN VANKLEUNEN

Mary Kathryn and her husband Jim have been THOA members for many years. They are highly engaged with local, state, and federal politics. Jim currently serves on the City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Mary Kathryn is a very talented artist and has graciously agreed to share her background with us.

Mary Kathryn is originally from Jacksonville, and she is a fifthgeneration Floridian. She and her husband Jim have been residents of Tuscawilla since 1994. They raised two sons and numerous pets at their Cheetah Trail home. "We were attracted to Tuscawilla and Winter Springs by the abundance of trees and the small town atmosphere, and the friendly neighbors. We love that our yard has both tropical foliage and what I call 'northern' foliage, like Jim's award-winning camellias, and azaleas. I love taking long walks in the neighborhood, and photographing for future paintings the beautiful blooming trees and

plants that we are so lucky to have in abundance. And of course there's the ever-changing beauty of Bear Creek."

When asked about her interest in painting, she said that she began drawing at a young age, emulating her talented father. Taking up watercolor later in life, Mary Kathryn says her lifelong love of the Impressionists' and Post-Impressionists' paintings influenced her loose, colorful style. She has taken many classes and workshops from nationally recognized watercolorists, in addition to art classes taken while in



college at Florida State University. She is an avid traveler and finds joy in painting the light and color of exotic places.

She notes that her art reflects her love of Florida: the sea, the tropical foliage, the special sunlight. "I love the transparency and the brilliant colors achievable with watercolor. Watercolor is a great medium for showcasing the light, and it is my goal to capture that light and shadow in painting, with a big dose of color thrown in." She adds, "I would love viewers of my art to appreciate the parts of Florida that one doesn't see from the interstate. I donate a portion of the proceeds of my sales to wildlife, water, and land conservation organizations."

Reflecting on the current challenges in the world, she said "I believe light and color are even more important in these pandemic days — we all need beauty and peace in our lives, now more than ever. It is my hope that my art can bring comfort to others in some small way, as it does to me."

Mary Kathryn is a member of the Florida Watercolor Society and the Central Florida Watercolor Society. Her paintings have been accepted for exhibitions at Casselberry Art House, SoBo Gallery in Winter Garden, CityArts in Orlando, and ArtCenter Manatee in Bradenton. Her original watercolors and prints are available for purchase. You can follow her on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/artbymaryk/ or on Fine Art America at https://marykathryn-vankleunen.pixels.com/.

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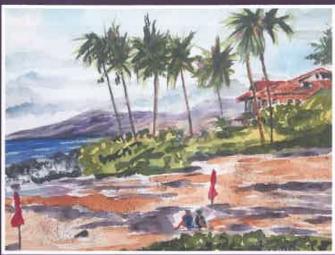
Tuscawilla Today

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

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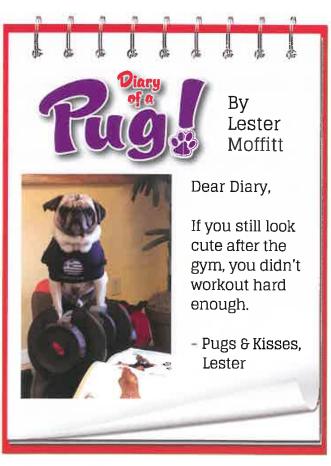




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CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS WINTER WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS

The creative staff at the city brainstormed and designed an alternative to the traditional holiday parade for our citizens. Apparently, our local residents and people throughout the region were anxious to have some form of safe seasonal celebration and this was the perfect solution. While the administrators and support staff made preparations for approximately 200 people the first night, the actual number swelled to above 10,000. This trend continued throughout the two weekends and the total estimate for those who attended was 40,000. Planning has already begun for next year's holiday celebration. Expect additional days and better traffic flow.

ROTARY CLUB OF WINTER SPRINGS DONATES TO SHOP-WITH-A-COP

Our local Rotary Club made a donation to the WSPD Shop-With-A-Cop program during the November 20th meeting at Dominick's Restaurant. Chief Chris Deisler was on hand to receive the contribution from Club President Laura Leigh Wood and to update members on the status of law enforcement here in Winter Springs. In addition to making financial contributions to worthy causes in the community, the Rotary Club supports local charities and sponsors events such as the Veterans Day Tribute that was held on November 11th. For more information about the Rotary Club of Winter Springs, visit www.winterspringsrotary.com.







WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SHOP-WITH-A-COP

Shop with a Cop is an annual event hosted by the WSPD, with the help of our local schools and support from various community organizations. The program mission is to spread some holiday cheer to children and families who otherwise may be unable to purchase presents for the holidays. During past years, the children were assigned to police officers and City Commissioners who would take them to a department store and assist them in purchasing gifts for their family members and themselves. This year, due to the coronavirus, the gifts were purchased and delivered to the homes of the children and their families. The THOA contributes to this worthwhile cause and would like to thank Officer Tracy Fugate for coordinating this excellent program each year.



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The Tuscawilla Homeowner's Association Wants You!

Our Strength Comes From Your Membership ..

January is the annual renewal date for the Tuscawilla HOA and the annual dues are still just \$30.00 PER YEAR! As one of the largest planned communities in central Florida, our strong membership provides a voice within Winter Springs, Seminole County and the region as a whole. Our strength is in our unified numbers. The Tuscawilla HOA performs a long list of important services, including:

- Fundraisers for local charities
- Historically sponsoring many social events such as "Family Fun Day" & "Movie-In-The-Park" etc.
- The biennial publication of the Tuscawilla Directory
- Community License Plates with frames
- Guest Speakers for Membership Meetings
- Support for our local schools and civic organizations
- Contributions toward improvements to our Common Areas and Parks
- Representation at government meetings.

Thank you for your continued support! Please pay online at our newly revised website: www.tuscawilla. org or pay by check using the information card and courtesy envelope that you will be receiving in the mail shortly. Be sure to have your payment submitted to us by the end of the month. Your \$30 annual dues will help assure that the Tuscawilla Community continues to be a desirable place to live and that our residents are able to enjoy the numerous amenities in our neighborhoods. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following THOA Board of Directors members:

President: Mr. Kevin McCann (kev.mccann1@yahoo.com),



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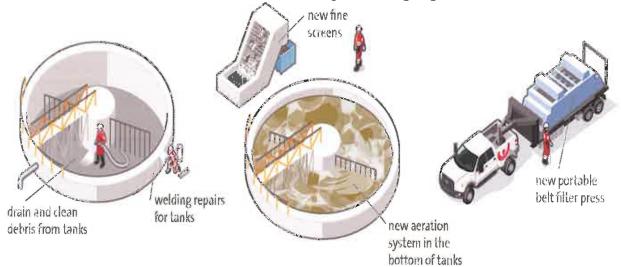
CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS, FLORIDA

1126 EAST STATE ROAD 434 WINTER SPRINGS, FLORIDA 32708 T: (407) 327-1800 | F: (407) 324-4753 www.winterspringsfl.org

Dear Resident:

The City of Winter Springs will be making repairs at the wastewater plant near your home in the near future and into the next year.

Some of our wastewater plants are more than 40 years old. It's time for some upgrades and improvements. The repairs include adding new screens to keep debris out of the plants, removing old debris that has built up in the plants, making metal repairs to the tanks and adding new aeration equipment. We are also adding a new piece of equipment that helps to remove waste from the plant. The graphic below will provide a better understanding of what is going to occur.



You will occasionally hear us working. There will be periodic loud noises, occasional bad odor and increased truck traffic on some roads. We plan to try to minimize inconvenience to you by coordinating appropriate dates and times that will provide the least interruption to your daily life, when possible. If a specific episode of noise, odor or traffic lasts, please call us at 407-327-1800 or send an email to communications@winterspringsfl.org. We will want to know the time, nature of the problem and duration so that we can manage it.

The end result of all this work will be a plant that smells less, is quieter and produces cleaner product. Please monitor the City web site at www.winterspringsfl.org/waterworks. Periodic updates will be provided.

Sincerely,

City of Winter Springs

CONGRATULATIONS WSHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



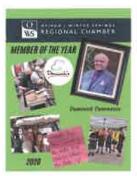




The Girls Cross Country Team has earned the Bears' second consecutive Class 3A State Championship. The girls won the championship on November 14th in Tallahassee. Team member Caroline Wells won the individual state title while running a course record. During the City of Winter Springs Commissioners Meeting on December 14th, Coach Ocky Clark and the team were honored for their accomplishments during the season. Congratulations to Coach Octavius Clark for winning the Seminole Athletic Conference Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year Award.



DOMINICK COMMESSO AWARDED "MEMBER OF THE YEAR" AWARD



Congratulations to Tuscawilla Dom Restaurant owner Commesso for being named Member of the Year bν Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce. We are fortunate to have a local resident and business man who has repeatedly advocated for our community over the years. Dom can be counted on to support

worthwhile charity missions along with being an active participant in our local professional business network. We can count on his creativity and work ethic to address the needs of our citizens. His focus on helping children have hot meals available to them during these most difficult times represents just one of many charitable commitments that support people during a time of need. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved award! The picture is courtesy of the Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce.



CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS AWARDED CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to City of Winter Springs for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of

Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED FOR EXCELSIOR REACCREDITATION

As part of the City of Winter Springs' continuing goal to provide excellent service to our community, the City of Winter Springs Police Department undergoes an annual assessment of policies, procedures, and daily operations by the Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The process of reaccreditation is a formal process in which every area of the department is scrutinized and reviewed for compliance with policy and training directives, including interviews with members of the police department to evaluate the understanding of these policies.

This year's assessment resulted in the recommendation for the City of Winter Springs Police Department to be fully reaccredited with Excelsior status. This is awarded to agencies that have shown a commitment to accreditation by successfully completing five reaccreditation cycles and have not had any conditions assessed on them by the CFA. Members of the Winter Springs Police Department will appear in front of the CFA Commission in February 2021 to formally receive the new award.

TIME TO CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARM

If you have a battery operated or hard-wired smoke alarm now is the time to test these important safety devices. A properly installed smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A fully operational smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

If the smoke alarm is powered by battery, it runs on either a disposable 9-volt battery or a non-replaceable 10-year lithium long-life battery. A backup battery is usually present on hardwired alarms and may need to be replaced.

These batteries must be tested on a regular basis and, in most cases, should be replaced at least once each year (with the exception of lithium). One that has a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all. This task is easily overlooked and now is the time to check your smoke detector for 2021!

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News At A Glance

SCPS NAMED ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST 100 WORKPLACES IN AMERICA

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 9, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Healthiest Employers®, the most-trusted U.S. awards program for people-centric companies powered by Springbuk's Healthiest Employers Index on employee health and wellbeing, announced today the prestigious 2020 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America, highlighting organizations that invested in the health of their people even in the face of a global pandemic.

Winners are selected based on their Healthiest Employers Index, which is based on six factors: vision, cultures/engagement, learning, expertise, metrics, and technology. Springbuk evaluates each applicant using its health analytics intelligence platform — a powerful, AI-driven technology that applies proprietary algorithms to disparate health and related data, generating insights and actionable opportunities to save money and prevent disease.

SCPS was listed as one of the large organizations that can be proud of their investment in health and wellbeing and the impact it has on the lives of its employees and our communities. The Seminole County School Board met these requirements and was, therefore, included on the 2020 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America.

NEWCOMERS CLUB PLANS MINI-GOLF OUTING

Newcomers of Central Florida closed out 2020 with a December 10 "Welcome Back" luncheon featuring Elvis tribute artist Peter Alden at Timacuan Country Club in Lake Mary. The festive holiday luncheon followed social distance guidelines and was attended by 26 members and guests.

For the new year, the club is planning more outdoor activities beginning with miniature golf at Congo River Golf at 12193 East Colonial Drive in Orlando on January 13, 2021. Luncheon meeting dates at local area hotels and country clubs are tentatively planned for the third Thursday of every month beginning in January 2021. Other activities, such as Cooking Club and Book Club, will continue to run virtually for the next few months.

For more information or last-minute updates, contact VP-Membership Brenda Jones at 407-366-7751, email bjones47@cfl.rr.com, or visit newcomerscfl.org

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE....

IN TUSCAWILLA WHO HAS A SPECIAL HOBBY OR INSIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE? LET US KNOW AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO RECOGNIZE THEM IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF TUSCAWILLA TODAY.

We are blessed to have so many wonderful community members who represent a variety of talents and experiences to share with us. As editor of the Tuscawilla Today Newsletter, I have endeavored to highlight those individuals who have interesting hobbies and/or experiences that are enlightening. If you are aware of someone in our community that would be willing to share their "story" with us, please let me know and I will reach out to them.

Thank you, Ted.

I can be contacted at: tedjohnson1@live.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 1st

New Year's Day

January 7th

WS Planning and Zoning Board Meeting, 5:30

January 9th

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

January 11th

WS Regular Commissioner's Meeting, 6:30

January 14th

THOA Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00

January 18th

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20th

Tuscawilla Lighting and Beautification Meeting, 5:15

Inauguration Day

January 25th

WS Regular Commissioner's Meeting, 6:30

January 26th

Code Enforcement Meeting, 5:30

February 2nd

Groundhog Day

THOA BOARD MEMBE	RS
President	
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Should be e-mailed to Ted Johnson, at tedjohnson1@live.com and to the THOA President, Kevin McCann, at kev.mccann1@ yahoo.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.

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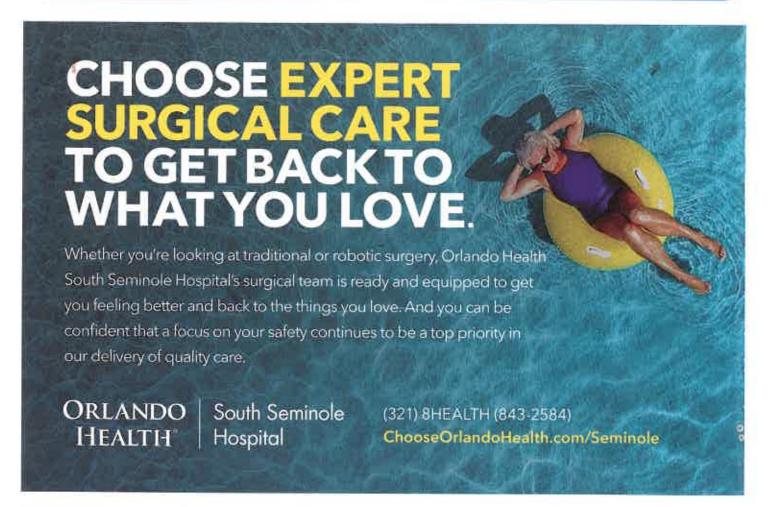


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