



Newsletter



February
2008

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 28



A Night at the Aquarium

A Special Family Program from The Florida Aquarium

Bring your children, neighbors, and friends on Thursday evening, February 28, for a uniquely different Bay Crest Civic Association program presented by The Florida Aquarium. The aquarium, located on Channelside Drive in Tampa, is a 250,000 square foot world-class aquatic facility. Opened in March 1995, the aquarium tells Florida's unique water story as it follows a drop of water from its underground source to the open sea. It is home to more than 20,000 aquatic plants and animals both native to Florida and from all over the globe. Since opening, the Aquarium has provided cultural enrichment experiences to more than seven million visitors, including 100,000 school students and teachers annually.

For our special Bay Crest program, an animal expert will offer an entertaining and informative presentation featuring a number of live animals. **Ms. Wendy Meers**, Education Outreach and Animal Coordinator for the aquarium, will speak about aquarium operations, programs and exhibits. She will also introduce several small traveling companions ... small critters that we'll be able to see "up close and personal."

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM, at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 6100 Memorial Highway. Come at 7:00 PM for the social hour and our usual fine selection of refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

As you look through this newsletter issue, you'll find a pre-addressed reply envelope for mailing payment of your annual Bay Crest Park Civic Association dues. Also enclosed is a comments sheet you can use to enter your suggestions and remarks about the Association or neighborhood, or to sign up to volunteer for various events.

All projects and activities in Bay Crest Park are successful because of **YOU**. Please mail your check, volunteer your time, and continue to be proud of Bay Crest. (Also see article on back page)

SCHOOL REZONING PROPOSED

Bay Crest parents should be aware of a proposal to re-zone Bay Crest Elementary children to a different middle school. The proposal, which may be passed this month, **changes your middle school assignment from Farnell to Webb**. Webb is a lesser-rated ("C") school that is not an appropriate choice for Bay Crest children.

Get more information or make your opinions known by e-mailing Steve Ayers, Director, Community and Parent Relations, at steven.ayers@sdhc.k12.fl.us. You may also contact your School Board at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us, or telephone 813-272-4000. Susan L. Valdes represents our district.

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ADVERTISING RATES (CAMERA-READY)



1/8 Page (Business Card)...\$40.00
1/4 Page...\$70.00 1/2 Page...\$100.00
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Info for New Advertisers

Nominal sizes for Bay Crest Park Newsletter ads are:

- Business Card - 3.5" wide x 2" deep
- Quarter Page - 3.5" wide x 5" deep
- Half Page - 7.5" wide x 5" deep
- Full Page - 7.5" wide x 9.5" deep

Finished copy may vary slightly in size, based on page content, borders, fonts, and other graphics variables. Additional charges for off-size or non-camera ready copy. We cannot insert other materials such as flyers or envelopes.

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Gil Leimbach, Treasurer.....885-4203

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Norm Coffman.....885-5090
Tom Devney.....249-2021
Chet Krupski.....886-3722
Jay Lovelace.....885-5985
Lisa Lovelace.....885-5985
David May.....496-9337
Gene Milas.....884-5511
Tom Suttle.....886-5184

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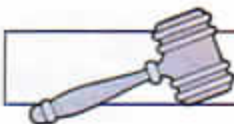
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Juli Milas

Volunteerism is a wonderful thing!

Our world, our nation, our states, counties, cities, schools, churches, hospitals, museums (the list could go on and on) could not survive without volunteers. With impending cutbacks in public services, the importance of volunteers will become even more critical to our basic survival, not to mention our quality of life.

A little closer to home, all of us that work for the Bay Crest Park Civic Association and Taxing District are **VOLUNTEERS!** We live, work and play here and we want to take care of our own community in a way no outside group can. Because we have a critical stake in the welfare of Bay Crest, we need to be forever vigilant. We know what it takes to keep our homes and yards attractive, our families safe, and our community the very best place to live. Your Civic Association and Taxing District volunteers keep in contact with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, Neighborhood Relations (to name a few) on behalf of our neighbors. We attend County, Town N Country Alliance, Town N Country Community Plan and other meetings as well.

We want all of our neighbors to participate in the community and we welcome your offer of service as a volunteer. Would you canvas your block or street for our annual Membership Drive? Could you help with the fall Picnic, Boat Parade or Fishing Tournament? Do you have a business that could offer in-kind services or donate a door prize for our meetings? Are you looking for mothers with young children to form a "stroller brigade"? Would you like to organize a block party, a book or garden club, a walking or biking group? Jump right in and be a Bay Crest Park Volunteer – it will feel good and you would be providing a valuable service to yourself and your neighbors!

Juli



TREASURER'S REPORT

Gil Leimbach

As of January 30, the Association has a treasury balance of \$12,101.88. We currently have 596 paid members, or about 64 percent of the homes in Bay Crest Park.

Our annual dues are only \$10 (or more if you choose). This assures continuation of the many benefits each resident gains from our Association. Remember, we are a Civic Association, not a Homeowners' Association with mandatory dues. We are supported entirely with membership donations and by the continuing dedication of many volunteers. Support your neighborhood and mail your check today to Bay Crest Park Civic Association, PO Box 261116, Tampa FL 33685. *Please be sure to include your Bay Crest address on your check to ensure that your membership has been recorded properly.*

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Theresa Shell

President **Juli Milas** called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. **Gil Leimbach** recited the Pledge of Allegiance. He also announced that protocol allows retired military to salute the flag rather than placing a hand over the heart.

Juli thanked **Norm Coffman** for coordinating the Wesley Memorial facilities for our meetings. Norm acknowledged and wished everyone happy holidays. Juli thanked Gil and **Gwen Leimbach** for hosting refreshments for the meeting, and also **Lynette Peel** for providing decorations for the meeting room.

Board members were asked to stand and be recognized. Juli noted that **Theresa Shell** had been affirmed as a new Board Member. Theresa will also be acting as Secretary in an interim period, filling in for **Lisa Lovelace**.

Juli reported on meeting with **Reverend Clark Edwards**, the new pastor of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, our hosts for each meeting. She expressed the Association's appreciation for use of church facilities. Reverend Edwards, in turn, offered his continued support to the Association.

Gil Leimbach announced that we received an unidentified membership dues check with the name **Bridget and David Terry** to members to see if anyone knew these individuals. No one was familiar with the names. He reported also that as of October 31, our bank balance was \$111,017.72, with 587 paid members, or 63% of the residents in the community.

Juli asked that all new residents or first time attendees to come forward for recognition. **Heather Quinones** at 5001 Shetland was welcomed and given a new resident welcome package.

Juli also thanked the Code Enforcement officers for attending and presenting the program. She also announced that **Commissioner Rose Ferlita** was invited to the meeting but unable to attend because of a conflict. The Commissioner plans to attend a future meeting.

Gene Milas introduced the main program on Code Enforcement and the guest speakers, **Gene Minkel**, **Paul Morales** and **Brandon Sheridan**, Code Enforcement Investigators for Hillsborough County. They presented an entertaining and informative slideshow on Code rules, regulations and the enforcement process. After the presentation, the team answered questions from the audience.

David May, standing in for Chairman **Tom Devney**, reported on the Fishing Tournament held September 22. He advised that approximately 30 boats competed and everyone had a great time. The next tournament will be held in the spring.

Chairman **Theresa Shell** reported on the "Octoberfest" Fall Picnic held October 13. We received a \$1500 grant towards picnic expenses from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations. Approximately 250 people attended.

Chairman **Norm Coffman** reported on the Bay Crest Yard Sale on November 17. There were 68 homes that participated. He's looking for ideas to improve participation next year. The date may change to October next year to ensure better participation.

Chairman **David May** is coordinating the Dumpster Day December 1. It will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. He's looking for volunteers to be available at the two dumpster locations. Three dumpsters will be in Middle Bay Crest and two will be located in New Bay Crest.

Chairman **John Housand** reported on the 8th Annual Holiday Boat Parade which will be on December 15 starting at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in participating can contact him for more information. He reported there will be many prizes for participants. Those not on the water can watch from the "mini park" at the end of Bay Crest Drive.

As liaison to the Taxing District, **David May** reported on the entrance walls makeover project being planned by the Bay Crest Park Taxing District and advised that work will start in early 2008.

Gil Leimbach reported that it is unlikely that a flag pole will be installed at Lopez and Bay Pointe due to new county ordinance that does not allow signs or poles in road right of ways.

A resident reported that the Hillsborough County School Board is considering changing Bay Crest school children's assignments from Farnell and Alonso to Webb and Leto. She advised parents to contact your representatives to voice your opinion and concerns. This will affect approximately 70 children in Bay Crest.

Juli Milas announced that the **Save Our Canals group (SocS)** received the Gulf Guardian Award presented by the EPA. Thirty-nine tons of waste were picked out of baskets in nine months in Bay Crest. Following, Juli reminded everyone that Hillsborough County Water Resources has asked residents to limit water use until Sunday December 2 because of the shutdown of an 84" supply pipe while working on expansion. She also reminded the group that free informative publications are available at the rear of the meeting room.

Juli announced that the next general membership meeting will be held February 29, 2008.

The following were winners of door prize drawings:

Gil Leimbach - \$25 Home Depot Gift Card; **Sarah Fonk** - \$25 Cody's Roadhouse Gift Card; **David May** - \$45 Carrabba's Italian Grill Gift Card; **Marie Reynaud** - \$10 Garden Grill Gift Card and a Hydro Hoops Pool Set from **Leslie's Pool Supply**; **Joe Clayton** - A Large Pizza from **The Longbar Pub and Grill** and a Hydro Hoops Pool Set from **Leslie's Pool Supply**

All business was concluded and Juli adjourned the meeting.



On Saturday evening, December 15, fourteen brightly decorated boats took to the waters of Bay Crest Park in the eighth annual Holiday Boat Parade. As in past years, hundreds of residents and guests (and many partygoers) observed the colorful event from the comfort of backyards, homes, the Bay Crest Drive "mini park," and shorelines all over Bay Crest. *The Winners were...*

Best Overall – Terry Sam and Cheri Rutledge...*Fishing Santas*

- 1st Place – Steve and Nancy Bair...*Snowmen*
- 2nd Place – Buck and Nina Schrotel...*Dancing Penguin*
- 3rd Place – Joe Overton...*Jimmy Buffet Tiki Party*
- Honorable Mention – John and Barbara Housand

A Continuing Tradition – The Holiday Boat Parade

Special Thanks to Volunteers

John Housand, *Chairman*, David Bild, Charlie Chadbourne, Tom and Donna Corona, Barbara Housand, Bruce and Michelle Odiorne, Buck and Nina Schrotel

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Photos courtesy of Charlie Chadbourne



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"Dumpster Day" Saturday, December 1



Volunteers man the dumpsters in New Bay Crest (left) and Middle Bay Crest (right). In the left picture are Norm Coffman, Charlie Chadbourne, Gene Milas, and Chairman David May. At the right are Jack Peel, Chet Krupski, Lynette Peel, Gil Leimbach, and Dot and Tom Suttle.

The second of our semi-annual community cleanup days, affectionately called "Dumpster Day," occurred Saturday morning, December 1. A group of hardy volunteers gathered at two community locations to assist residents in dumping trash and unwanted items into five 30 cubic yard roll-off dumpsters. At the end of about three hours, the dumpsters were virtually full.

Chairman and Association Board Member **David May** coordinated publicity, volunteer staffing, and arrangements with the county. Costs of delivering, retrieving, and emptying the dumpsters were borne by Hillsborough County, through the Office of Neighborhood Relations. Many thanks from David to the volunteers as well as residents who helped in making the event a success. About 85 to 90 homes participated, some making more than one trip to the dumpsters.

Items not allowed in these cleanups include electronics and hazardous materials, which can be taken to the county's Sheldon Road disposal site, open the first Saturday of each month (see page 23). Excluded materials also included common yard trash and garbage handled with regular weekly pickups.

Bay Crest has had semi-annual cleanups over several years. Based on the turnout and amounts of trash gathered, the twice-yearly activity is one of our most effective and popular events, and will be continued with County cooperation.

Other volunteers not pictured above included **Mike Cardoso, Gwyn Leimbach, and Chris Roberts.**

Thanks to everyone for a job well done!



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Tour of Gardens

The **Town 'N Country Garden Circle** will hold its 5th Annual Tour of Gardens on Sunday, April 20, 2008. Featured gardens will be in the Dana Shores subdivision.

Registration will begin at 1:00 PM at the Town 'N Country Recreation Center, 6039 Hanley Road (next to Webb Middle School). The tour will conclude at 3:30 PM. Registrants will return to the Recreation Center for door prizes and a buffet.

In April 2006, gardens in Bay Crest were featured on this tour. Thanks to the Bay Crest Civic Association for their continued support of this activity.

Tour of Garden tickets may be purchased at the door for \$10.

Plant Sale

On the same day as the tour, the **Garden Circle Plant Sale** will be also be held at the Recreation Center from 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Most plants are grown by circle members and most sell for 50 cents to \$5. A few are priced higher.

Proceeds will be used for enhancements to the landscaping at the new Town 'N Country Commons.

For more information contact **Fran Gamester**, circle president at 884-3462.

Monthly Meetings

March 12, 2008 - Wednesday - Noon

Program: Exterior Decorating/Gardening with Style - Kim Friedland, Master Gardener

April 2, 2008 - Wednesday - Noon

Program: Secrets of Master Gardeners - Pat O'Shea, Master Gardener

All meetings are held at the Town 'N Country Recreation Center. Prospective members are always welcome. For more information contact **Cloe** or **Mike Woodworth** at 886-3729

A Shaggy Dog Story

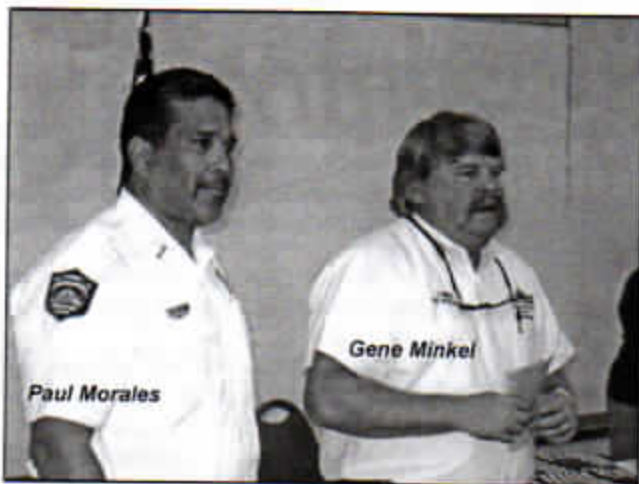
A man sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the back yard. The man goes into the back yard and sees a mutt sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the mutt replies. "So, what's your story?" says the man.

The mutt looks up and says "Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, 'cause no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running. The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. The owner says "Ten dollars." The man says he'll buy him but asks the owner, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him?"

The owner replies, "He tells such incredible lies!"





Paul Morales

Gene Minkel



Brandon Sheridan

Code Enforcement Team at November General Membership Meeting

The November 29 General Membership Meeting of the Bay Crest Park Civic Association hosted three of Hillsborough County's finest... Code Enforcement Investigators, that is.

We were honored to have the team of **Gene Minkel**, **Paul Morales**, and **Brandon Sheridan** presenting a program which explained the mission, functions, and logistics of code enforcement in our neighborhood and county-wide. The group entertained, amused, and most of all informed our residents of the intricacies of code law and the steps involved in resolving complaints. They also discussed many aspects of the county's Land Development Statute and discussed the problem of illegal signage ("snipe signs").

Paul Morales is the investigator that is assigned to our area. Paul has been extremely active in supporting our Association and is very responsive to Bay Crest concerns. Over his tenure, he has reviewed numerous situations and written many citations to resolve violations, many resulting in property owners being taken to the Code Board and served with fines or having liens placed on their property.

To report a suspected code violation, call Paul at 813-274-6617, or email to moralespj@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Further information about the Housing and Community Code Enforcement Department may be found at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce.



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Forms can be printed online and filled out in advance. Go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices. The animals are described on the site, and many of their pictures are shown, too.

People who have lost a pet can also search the online directory that shows found animals. For more info, call (813) 744-5660.

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Annual Fishing Tournament Snags a Great Turnout

The 2007 Bay Crest fishing tournament, the Bay Crest Summertime Slam, took place on Saturday, September 22, on Tampa Bay. This was the third annual Association-sponsored event, with outstanding participation. The event was dedicated as a memoriam to the memory of Bay Crest resident Jerry Riski.

Chairman **Tom Devney** reports there were 29 Bay Crest captains in the tournament, with over 100 anglers total. The total count of boats has averaged about 29 for three years running!

In addition to raffles, prizes and trophies for several classes of competition, each angler received a number of "goodies" provided by our generous sponsors. These included:

A Long Sleeve Bay Crest Summertime Slam T-Shirt
A Chumslinger ChumBat
Koozies
A Barbeque Feast from Jimbo's
Beer donated by Red Stripe

2007 Sponsors were **Native Lawn and Landscape** (Bay Crest ownership), **Design Temp of Florida Air Conditioning/Heating/Refrigeration** (Bay Crest ownership), **Brewer, Perotti, Martinez-Monfort Attorneys and Counselors at Law** (Bay Crest ownership), **Chumslinger ChumBats** - "Chum to Papa," **Diageo-Guinness USA** - Red Stripe Beer.

- Winners By Category -



KEY TO PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: Largest In-Shore Slam – Stephen Lewis, Dustin Alderman, Robert Lewis, Lupe McKnight; Largest Snook (30") – Albert Gimmer; Largest Red (29") – Jack Conely; Snook Total Inches (186") – Team Torres (Mike Torres, Albert Gimmer, Michael Torres Sr., Pete Alvarez); Trash Fish Total Inches (346") – Team Testa (John Testa, Dean Stansil); Redfish Total Inches (119") – Team Toon (Jack Conely, Bill Morgan, Mike Williams)

**SAVE THE DATE
NOW!**

**THE 2008
TOURNAMENT WILL
BE SATURDAY,
APRIL 26**



BAY CREST ON YOUR SIDE

New addition to Bay Crest Drive "mini park" deck. Association Board Member **Tom Suttle** of Stillbrook Avenue recently completed a welcome addition to the community deck at the end of Bay Crest Drive. Tom, assisted by wife **Dot**, built a railing for improved and safer access to the deck. Both are shown in the photo at right making finishing touches. Thanks for your good work on this and other Bay Crest projects!



Good news for military families. Active duty and retired military will receive a 10% military discount on purchases at **The Home Depot**. This offer also applies to families and dependents. A military ID card must be shown at checkout. Thanks to **Jack Peel** for uncovering this good information.

Don't bother calling. The National Do Not Call Registry is open for business, putting consumers in charge of the telemarketing calls they get at home. The Federal government created the national registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop getting telemarketing calls you don't want. You can register online at WWW.DONOTCALL.GOV or call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.

The Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the states are enforcing the National Do Not Call Registry. Placing your number on the registry will stop most, but not all, telemarketing calls.

This site has information for you – whether you're a consumer interested in signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry, or a telemarketer or seller interested in learning more about your responsibilities related to the Telemarketing Sales Rule.



Tie a yellow ribbon. For some time now, Bay Crest Park has honored our servicemen and women by exhibiting bright yellow ribbons at main entrances to the subdivision. The bows are replaced every three to four months due to sun fading and weather damage. We have been very fortunate and thankful for the multiple donations of ribbon for this worthwhile display, and we would like to express our thanks to the donor, **Ms. Noris Sharp** of **Miami Cellophane Inc., Miami, FL**.

We appreciate this wonderful and continuing gesture of appreciation for our military. Thanks, Ms. Sharp!

Signs of gangs. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department advises all citizens to watch for organized gang activity. One of the primary signs of this undesirable trend is graffiti, or "tagging."

While graffiti may be the result of random mischief, it is often associated with gangs marking their territory, or a challenge message to rival gangs.

Any incidence of graffiti should be immediately reported to the Sheriff, where experienced law enforcement officers can readily determine if a gang is involved, its name, and whether the neighborhood can expect more problems. The Sheriff can also offer assistance in covering or removing the material, to discourage more incidents at the same location.



Community Yard Sale chairs Norm and Edna Coffman report a record number of homes participated in the second sale of 2007 on Saturday, November 17. In all, 68 residents displayed their trash and treasures throughout Bay Crest, a great turnout in spite of an unusually cold morning. The shopping started slowly, but picked up later in the morning.

The Association advertised the sale on Craig's List, the Tampa Tribune website, the Flyer, and the NW edition of the Tribune. In addition, signs were placed at subdivision entrance streets and on Memorial Highway.

Many suggestions for improvement were received from residents, including a date change away from the Thanksgiving holiday, more signage on Memorial and also on no-outlet streets, a large portable digital sign to move throughout the neighborhood, flyers circulated to businesses, and more. All ideas will be considered by the Association Board before the next sale, normally in May.

Photos below show some of the activity. A big thank you to all who participated and helped organize the 2007 sales!
(Photos by Norm Coffman)

All Bay Crest Yard Sale November 17



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You're Invited to the 2008 Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference



The fifth annual Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference will be held Saturday, March 29, on the HCC Dale Mabry Campus. This is a well-attended, informative and fun event which gives participants a chance to gather information from county experts on a variety of topics. In addition, there are displays and free giveaways from many county agencies and private companies. The day starts with a nice continental breakfast and ends with an awards presentation luncheon. The event begins with registration at 8:00 AM and concludes at 2:30 PM following lunch.

Each year, most of our Association Board Members attend this event, **but we need more people!** If you would like to attend, your registration cost will be paid by the Association – all you need to contribute is time! The Association will underwrite the \$12 registration fee for the first 15 dues paying members to sign up. For registration, call Gil Leimbach at 885-4203 or get forms at the February General Membership Meeting.

This is a great chance to see how your Hillsborough County agencies work and gather good tips and materials for improving your home, your neighborhood, and your quality of life. Professional speakers will address topics such as crime prevention and law enforcement, animal control, code enforcement, tax assessment and collection, gardening, tree and lawn care, and numerous other services. Please join in to attend this valuable conference.

The event is sponsored though the Office of County Commissioners and facilitated by the Office of Neighborhood Relations. If you have a business or product and need some wider exposure, you could become a sponsor. to learn more, call 272-5860, or go online to: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr.

As reported in the November Newsletter, Save Our Canals (SOcS) was the proud recipient of a **Gulf Guardian Award** from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Among other initiatives, the group was instrumental in the installation of filter baskets in Bay Crest street drains; these baskets collected almost two tons of garbage in nine months.

Shown at left on the awards podium are SOcS principals **Brian Garry, Norm Wetzel, and Marianne Cufone.**



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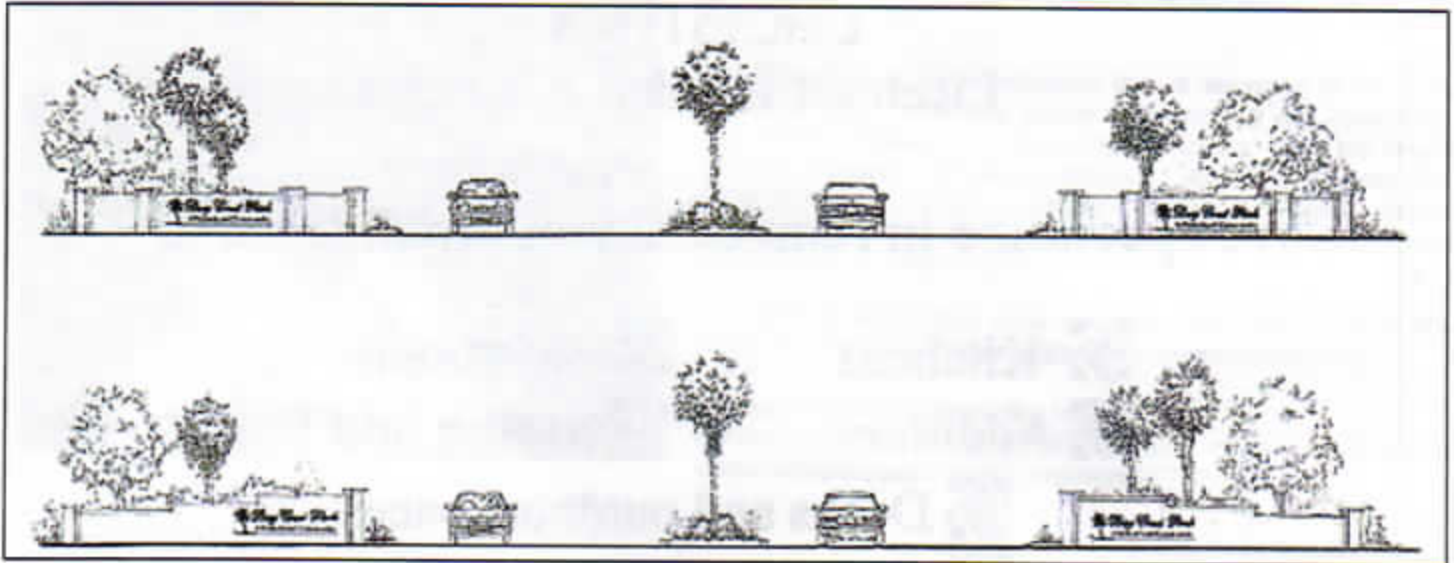
TERRY & DANA KIMBALL, OWNERS

Coming Soon: A New Look for Bay Crest Park Entrances

In 2008, Bay Crest Park subdivision entrances will gain an attractive new look, as entrance walls and facades are significantly upgraded. Mike Perotti, President of the Taxing District, reports that contracts have been let, permits secured, and work is beginning on the existing structures, which are about 40 years old. The appearance of the structures has been deteriorating for some time, with significant stucco damage evident.

Groundwork and planning for upgrading the structures was started by the Civic Association about two years ago. In the past year, the Taxing District has stepped in and shepherded the project to completion, using District funds.

Mike reports that the design goal was to make the walls more uniform without substantial structural change. New and improved custom signage will provide an elegant and updated look while also being larger and more visible than the current dark etched granite squares. Elevation renderings of the refinished main entrance walls and upgraded Bay Crest indicia are shown below.



BAY CREST PARK TAXING DISTRICT

Mike Perotti, President.....	767-6065
Mike Cardoso, Vice-President.....	376-1671
Jan Lentowicz, Secretary.....	290-9535
Steve Eggert, Treasurer.....	885-3406
Harry Paddock.....	884-7322
Chris Roberts.....	323-3761
Patrick Shell.....	885-1510

To advertise in the Newsletter, call 884-5511

In other Taxing District actions, the group will monitor the several-times-annually street sweepings promised by the county. If budget cuts affect the schedule, the Taxing District may independently hire sweepings by private contractors.

The group has also developed a new all-inclusive contract for maintenance, trimming, and plantings in common areas, including the Memorial Highway strip and road medians. Both the Taxing District and the Civic Association have done seasonal flower plantings on the entrance road medians over the past few years.

Mike and the other Taxing District members look forward to a productive year, filled with actions and projects which will enhance our Bay Crest property values and maintain the desirability of our community.

The Taxing District holds regular meetings at the Town and Country Hospital at 7:00 PM the second Monday of each month. The meetings are open to Bay Crest residents.

Thanks to each of the members that serve on this essential and civic-minded volunteer committee.









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Crisis Center of Tampa Bay Donations Needed

Help raise funds to provide additional services to the children and families who are victims of violence or abuse. Donate your old cell phones, pagers, PDA's, cameras, toner and inkjet cartridges. Some of the recycled cell phones collected are given to victims of domestic violence, seniors or others at risk, to enable them to call 911 Emergency Services. Non-working cell phones, cameras or other electronic devices, and inkjet/toner cartridges, are recycled in an environmentally safe way, raising funds to purchase items such as backpacks, school supplies or books, journals and workbooks for use in mentoring. Every donation makes it possible to provide more school materials to children whose families are coping with difficult financial, legal and other serious challenges, which often have a negative affect on child development.

Leave your donations anytime - day or night - in the Crisis Center drop box, located just outside the office door at One Crisis Center Plaza - just west of Florida on Bearss Avenue. Receipts are available upon request. Collection boxes, posters and flyers are available if you would like to assist in advertising this project or start a collection project in your office, church, or other group setting. For more information, call 813-969-4986 or email rhess@crisiscenter.com.



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"Have you tried talking things out?"



Michelle (left), Bruce (right) with the recipient of guide dog "Norma"

You may know these neighbors from their yearly flyers hanging on your front door knob asking for donations. They are Bruce and Michelle Odiorne and they donate their time and money to raising some very special puppies from nine weeks to adulthood. Bruce and Michelle work with Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. SEGD provides fully trained \$40,000 guide dogs, *free of charge*, to visually impaired individuals who depend on them for mobility with dignity.

Puppy Love

You've heard that "it takes a village to properly raise a child". Well, it truly applies to these dogs as well. Raiser families like the Odiornes may host two to five other puppies in training during any given year as they rotate the dogs between local raiser families for total socialization training. If the host family happens to have other dogs and cats as do the Odiornes, so much the better! (And yes, they are always looking for new puppy raisers if you have the itch!) At twenty months the pups usually return to the school where they were born to complete their formal "Guide Dog" training phases.

One special initiative of the organization is the "Paws for Patriots"™ program, a special group of pups being raised and trained specifically for blinded veterans returning from the war. **General Tommy Franks** (U.S. Army, Ret.) is the spokesperson for this worthwhile project.

Privacy issues preclude disclosure of the new master's name when the dogs receive their final assignment. It is known, however, that a radio DJ in Memphis, an author and church deacon in Orlando, a South Carolina family, a Tampa family, and many others have all benefited from the Odiornes' efforts in this vital national program right here in Bay Crest Park! Their current guide dog student "Jingles," shown in photo, is currently attending classes at the schoolhouse as the Odiornes await a new puppy assignment. You may have seen Jingles walking through the neighborhood.



SEGD puppy raisers and their charges at the 2007 Walk-A-Thon fund raiser

If you would like to help out with Southeastern's Annual Fund Raising, you may make a donation through Bruce and Michelle. They will accept and hold your check until the school's annual Walk-A-Thon in March. Make checks payable to SEGD, Inc., dated for March 1, 2008 (write it in your register!) and send to their home address:

Bruce & Michelle Odiorne / SEGD
8701 Bay Pointe Dr.
Tampa, FL 33615

SEGD Inc. is a 501(c.) 3 non-profit,
Florida Registration SC-04075,
Additional information is available online at
www.guidedogs.org

Friends of
**JOSHUA
HOUSE**
Foundation, Inc.

Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, offers a therapeutic residential group care program that provides a protected, nurturing, family-like environment for children twelve and younger. These children have been removed from their homes due to crisis and many have been through multiple foster homes. Many have also been significantly abused, abandoned and neglected.

Joshua House needs your help to make a difference. "Wish List" items include children's clothes, shoes, bedding, and school and household supplies such as cookware and utensils. For more information, go to www.friendsofjoshuahouse.com

**MR. FIXIT****Buck Sands**

Fun Facts About Mold. Now more than ever, mold is the new boogeyman in your attic and is causing quite a panic throughout the State. The truth is, we live in Florida, where if you haven't noticed, it is very humid and conducive to mold growth. The last thing that most people remember about mold is that High School Biology experiment or that loaf of bread that should have been thrown away weeks ago. Now, there are a few people that are highly susceptible to mold, but the truth is, every house has mold and there are only a few molds that are dangerous. This article contains tips and information from several articles from the EPA and links to additional websites.

According to the EPA, "Molds produce tiny spores to reproduce. Mold spores waft through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When mold spores land on a damp spot indoors, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or un-addressed. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture."

Basic Mold Cleanup

"The key to mold control is moisture control. It is important to dry water damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. If mold is a problem in your home, clean up the mold and get rid of the excess water or moisture. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water, and dry completely. Absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles & carpet) that become moldy may have to be replaced."

For additional information on the cleaning, detecting, and disposing of mold, please check out these websites:

www.epa.gov/mold/append_b.html

<http://www.inspect-ny.com/sickhouse/CleanUpMold.htm>

<http://www.prolabinc.com/products.asp?kit=mold>

In future Newsletter editions, this space will be dedicated to answering your home improvement/ maintenance questions. E-mail questions to: baycrest@sandscontractinginc.com.



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Gardening Tips

-from the Hillsborough County Extension Service

WHAT TO PLANT IN FEBRUARY

FLOWERS: Annuals: Ageratum, Alyssum, Arctotis, Asters, Baby's Breath, Balsam, Begonia, Bracteantha, Browallia, Calendula, California Poppy, Carnation, Diascia, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Foxglove, Gaillardia, Geranium, Lobelia, Marguerite Daisy, Nemesis, Ornamental Cabbage/Kale, Osteospermum, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, Strawflower, Sunflower, Sweet Pea, Vinca, Viola

VEGETABLES: Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Carrots, Celery, Collards, Corn, Cucumber, Eggplant, Endive, Green Onions, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, English Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Radish, Squash, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watermelon

HERBS and SPICES: Anise, Basil, Bay Laurel, Borage, Caraway, Cardamon, Chervil, Chives, Cilantro/Coriander, Dill, Fennel, Ginger, Horehound, Lemon Balm, Lovage, Marjoram, Mexican Tarragon, Mint, Nasturtium, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Thyme, Watercress.

BULBS: Achimenes, African Lily, Alstroemeria, Amaryllis, Amazon Lily, Aztec Lily, Blackberry Lily, Caladium, Calla, Canna, Crinum, Crocosmia, Dahlia, Gaillardia, Gladiolus, Gloriosa Lily, Hurricane Lily, Kaffir Lily, Lilies, Louisiana Iris, Morea, Rain Lilies, Society Garlic, Tiger Lily, Tritonia, Tuberose, Voodoo Lily, Walking Iris, Watsonia,

WHAT TO DO IN FEBRUARY

For more details, call your local Extension office or visit the University of Florida's publication website: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Plant or transplant cold hardy trees and shrubs.

Fertilize citrus trees if not done in January.

Fertilize annuals and vegetables.

Check Out Seed and Garden Catalogs. Most gardening catalogs arrive during the winter months. Check out new varieties offered.

Prepare vegetable and flower gardens for spring planting. Till soil and add organic matter such as manure, compost or peat. Test pH of soil (Contact your county Cooperative Extension Service) and add lime or sulfur if necessary.

Prune, mulch and fertilize roses. Roses that are older than 1 year require a major pruning each year. Remove one-third to one-half of the top growth and any unproductive growth. Strip leaves from remaining to rid plant of latent diseases and insects. Fertilize and mulch.

Prune grapes. Grapes should be pruned before leaves begin to sprout. Bunch grapes and Muscadine grapes each have different pruning requirements.

Control scab disease on citrus. Scab fungus causes light brown, corky areas on fruits and leaves of susceptible citrus varieties. Spray Murcott, Page, and Temple varieties with a copper fungicide when new growth emerges and again when 2/3 of petals has fallen from the flower blossoms.

Fertilize lawn and trees. Shop for a fertilizer that contains slow- or timed-release nitrogen. To determine the correct amount of fertilizer to use, simply divide the first number on the fertilizer bag (which represents nitrogen) into 100. Apply this amount per 1,000 square feet of lawn and landscape area. Broadcast the fertilizer over the soil or mulch and water. The nutrient and water absorbing roots of trees and shrubs are concentrated in the upper 6 -12 inches of soil so there is no need to punch holes in the soil—simply water the fertilizer in.

Apply mulch to all plant beds. A 2-3 inch layer of mulch will discourage weeds and retain moisture in the soil.

Apply pre-emergent weed killer to lawn. Pre-emergent herbicides kill weed seeds as they germinate. Some fertilizers contain pre-emergent herbicide. Do not apply near trees and shrubs or in areas where any seed will be planted. Carefully follow label directions.

Fertilize shrubs. A good lawn fertilizer such as 12-4-8, or 15-5-15 or the like is usually adequate. Shop for a product with 30% to 50% of the nitrogen in a water-insoluble or slow-release form. Acid-loving plants (Azaleas, Hollies, Gardenias, Camellias, etc.) will benefit from an acid-forming balanced fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8. Broadcast the fertilizer on the soil surface and water in.

Start vegetable and flowers from seed. Sow seeds in flats or pots in a light, sterile mix. Plant seed no deeper than twice the seed's thickness. Place in a sunny spot; keep warm and moist.

Watch new growth for aphid infestation. Aphids feed on the undersides of new, tender leaves causing curled, distorted growth. Most broad-spectrum insecticides easily control aphids, but soap solutions are effective as well. Mix 2½ tablespoons of liquid, dishwashing soap (do not use those containing a degreaser – use 1/3 less for concentrated soaps) in one gallon of water. Forceful sprays of water can dislodge aphids.



Understanding Your Credit Score

The subject of credit scoring has become an increasingly hot topic, and for good reason. For many years, the general public only associated the concept of credit scoring with the need to purchase high-ticket items such as a new car or a home. Today, credit scoring goes much further. Your credit score can affect your ability to get a good rate on commodities such as car insurance, cell phones, or even determine whether or not you get the job that you want. Indeed, the financial snapshot provided by the credit score has also become a gauge for many employers, especially those seeking to place employees in a position of financial responsibility.

Why Your Credit Score is So Important

The credit scoring model seeks to quantify the likelihood of a consumer to pay off debt without being more than 90 days late at any time in the future. Credit scores can range between a low score of 350 and a high score of 850. The higher the score, the better it is for the consumer, because a high credit score translates into a low interest rate. This can save literally thousands of dollars in financing fees over the life of the loan.

Only one out of 1,300 people in the United States have a credit score above 800. These are people with a stellar credit rating that get the best interest rates. On the other hand, one out of every eight prospective home buyers is faced with the possibility that they may not qualify for the home loan they want because they have a score falling between 500 and 600.

The Five Factors of Credit Scoring

Credit scores are comprised of five factors. Points are awarded for each component, and a high score is most favorable. The factors are listed below in order of importance.

PAYMENT HISTORY – 35% IMPACT

Paying debt on time and in full has the greatest positive impact on your credit score. Late payments, judgments and charge-offs all have a negative impact. Missing a high payment will have a more severe impact than missing a low payment, and delinquencies that have occurred in the last two years carry more weight than older items.

OUTSTANDING CREDIT BALANCES – 30% IMPACT

This factor marks the ratio between the outstanding balance and available credit. Ideally, the consumer should make an effort to keep balances as close to zero as possible, and definitely below 30% of the available credit limit when trying to purchase a home.

CREDIT HISTORY – 15% IMPACT

This portion of the credit score indicates the length of time since a particular credit line was established. A seasoned borrower will always be stronger in this area.

TYPE OF CREDIT – 10% IMPACT

A mix of auto loans, credit cards and mortgages is more positive than a concentration of debt from credit cards only.

INQUIRIES – 10% IMPACT

This percentage of the credit score quantifies the number of inquiries made on a consumer's credit within a six-month period. Each hard inquiry can cost from two to 25 points on a credit score, but the maximum number of inquiries that will reduce the score is ten. In other words, 11 or more inquiries within a six-month period will have no further impact on the borrower's credit score. Note that if you run a credit report on yourself, it will have no affect on your score.

Remember that the credit score is a computerized calculation. Personal factors are not taken into consideration when a credit report is generated. It is merely a snapshot of today's credit profile for any given borrower, and it can fluctuate dramatically within the course of a week.

How Does a Low Credit Score Affect My Interest Rate?

Lenders estimate your ability to pay back money based on your credit score. The risk factor they take on is built-in to your interest rate as a financing fee. Therefore, a low credit score results in a higher interest rate, higher monthly fees, and a higher amount of interest being paid over the total life of the loan.

Ultimately, experts say that it is best to have two to five credit cards, and no more than that. You should keep your balances as low as possible. If you have a credit account with a zero balance, do not close the account. Instead, make a small purchase so the card shows up as an active account on your credit report, and you will be awarded points for your long-term credit history.

- contributed by Charlie Chadbourne



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVICES

Adoptive/foster parents wanted. The Children's Home at 10909 Memorial Highway is always looking for families who want to adopt a child or offer long-term foster care. For more info, call Ellen Fisher at 855-4435, Ext. 2037.

Adult Care Providers. If you have some spare time, you could provide a valuable service to some of your neighbors by allowing us to list your name and phone number in the newsletter as an Adult Care Provider. Call 884-5511.

Elder Net Services. This service, offered by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, provides daily reassurance calls, helps reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, and provides peace of mind. It's also a source for information and referral, case management, and chore service. To learn more, call 964-1577.

Have an Old Cell Phone? Put it to good use by donating it (and the battery charger) to The Spring of Tampa Bay. The Spring will recondition it for use as an emergency phone for one of their domestic abuse clients. Call 813-210-0434 for more info or go to www.thespring.org.

Miss Myrle's Pet Reunification Service. If you have lost your pet or have found one, call Myrle. She's our Bay Crest neighborhood clearinghouse for such information and performs a very valuable service. To report a pet either lost or found, call her at 885-2205. Also see Pet Adoption story on page 9.



Bay Crest Service Providers. The residents listed below offer the services listed to their Bay Crest neighbors. If you or your family are would like to get your name on this list, call 884-5511. You must be an association member in good standing to receive this service. **Note that the Association does not endorse any person listed, but only provides names as a service to the community. If you are currently listed and have revisions or wish to be removed, please call 884-5511.**



Service Offered	Name	Adult	Phone
Adult Care	Sidrah Audifferen	Yes	887-5704
Babysitting	Mikhaila Fabian	Yes	884-5267
	Wendy Hall	Yes	881-0704
	Maureen McAuliffe **	No	884-8452
Estate Sales, Garage Clean-outs, Hauling	Chet Krupski	Yes	886-3722
General Home Repairs	Lance Hall	Yes	300-8216
House Cleaning	Rose DeLucia	Yes	884-5621
Ironing Service	Donna Fiore	Yes	884-7769
Jewelry, Watch Repair, Related	Don Keen	Yes	884-8840
Pet Care	William Carey	No	885-7944
	Lorraine Mathes *	Yes	885-5384
	Efraim Rivera	No	857-7331
	Gabriel Rivera	No	857-7331
Plumbing, Electrical, General Home Repair	Andy Tom	Yes	924-4508
Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, General Home Repair	Charlie Griffin	Yes	300-6112
Pressure Washing, Landscaping, Misc.	Michael Harrell	Yes	679-7657



* Certified Veterinary Technician ** Taken Certified Baby Sitting Program from St. Joseph's Hospital

Bay Crest Park on the Internet – www.neighborhoodlink.com/hillsboroughco/bcpca/main.html

2008 BAY CREST PARK COMMUNITY EVENT SCHEDULE

Board of Directors Meeting – Wesley Memorial - 7:00 PM.....Last Tuesday of each month (except Dec)
 Community Yard SaleSaturday, May 17
 General Membership Meetings – Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Family Life Center.....
 February 28, May 29, August 28, November 20
 Hazardous Household Waste Accepted at Sheldon Road – 8:00 AM -2:00 PM First Saturday of each month
 Taxing District Board Meetings – Town and Country Hospital – 7:00 PM.....Second Monday of each month (except July)



GOOD TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO KEEP

Abandoned Shopping Carts.....	274-6600	Medicaid (State of Florida)	871-5050
Animal Services	744-5660	Mosquito Control	635-5400
Auto Problems (Lemon Law).....	800-321-5366	Parks & Recreation	975-2160
Bay Area Car Pooling Service	800-998-RIDE	Pets, Lost & Found in Bay Crest	885-2205
Building Permits.....	272-5600	Poison Control Center.....	800-222-1222
> Code Compliance.....	635-7313	Port Authority (Dock Permits)	905-7678
Canals - Permits/Questions	905-7678	Post Office (Paula Drive)	888-6839
Chamber of Commerce.....	854-5344	Price Gouging Hotline.....	800-435-7352
Child Abuse (Emergency).....	224-9911	Public Service Commission	800-342-7940
Child Care Licensing.....	272-6487	Rental Property Inspections	274-6651
Child Neglect.....	800-962-2873	Roadway Maintenance (WSU)	554-5006, x 707
Citizen Action Center	272-5900	Roadway Maintenance (State)	664-8381
Code & Housing Enforcement.....	274-6800	R-O-W Mgt. Office (Permits)	274-6500
> Illegal Sign Removal.....	274-6633	School System	272-4000
Consumer Protection Agency.....	903-3430	Sewer Department (County)	272-6680
Contractor Problems.....	272-5600	> (Emergency)	744-5600
County Commissioners:		Sexual Predators.....	888-357-7332
Rose Ferlita (District 1).....	272-5470	Sheriff (Main Office Dispatcher)	247-8200
Brian Blair (At Large)	272-5730	>Bay Crest Deputy	801-6707
Jim Norman (At Large).....	272-5725	>Environmental Abuse	247-8641
Mark Sharpe (At Large).....	272-5735	>Marine Patrol Unit	276-2608
Crisis Center	211	Small Claims Court	776-8100
Dead Animal Removal.....	744-5660	Solid Waste (County).....	272-5680
Elder Help Line	273-3779	State Rep. Faye Culp	272-2920
Elder Net Services.....	964-1577	State Senator Charlie Justice	727-217-7970
Electronics Equipment Recycling.....	621-2319	Tampa Electric Co	223-0800 or 228-1111
Environmental Protection (County)	627-2600	>Emergency Reporting	877-588-1010
Environmental Deputy	690-8564	>Malfunctioning Street Lights.....	223-0800
Florida Fish & Wildlife/Marine Patrol	272-2516	Traffic Signs (County)	744-5670
Free/Low Cost Medicines	941-753-2262	Trash Pickup (Republic Waste Service)	265-0292
HARTline.....	623-5835	Truancy Reporting	975-2018/9
Hospitals:		Veterans Affairs	975-2181
St. Joseph's.....	870-4000	Water Department (City - Emergency)	274-7400
Shriner's Children's.....	800-237-5055	West Service Unit.....	635-5400
Tampa General	844-7000	Zoning Department	272-5920
Town & Country.....	888-7060		
VA Hospital.....	972-2000		



Get involved as a volunteer at H.L. Moffitt Cancer Center. Opportunities exist to serve cancer patients at the area's premier research and treatment center, recognized nationally as a Comprehensive Cancer Center and one of the top cancer hospitals in America. Positions are available for those of any background, including high school and college students. Volunteers provide a variety of services to patients, families and staff members in more than 70 service areas. For more information, visit www.moffitt.org and click the Volunteer link.



Renew your Bay Crest Park Civic Association membership now!

For only \$10, you get:

- * An Award-winning Newsletter
- * Informative and Fun Meetings with Food
- * Annual "Oktoberfest" Picnic
- * Two Community Yard Sales
- * Holiday Boat Parade
- * Community Fishing Tournament
- * Flag and Entrance Maintenance and Lighting
- * Holiday Decor
- * Two "Dumpster Day" cleanups
- * Median Plantings
- * Common Area Maintenance
- * Special Taxing District Liaison
- * Neighborhood Special Events

...and more



EASY THREE-STEP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR YOUR ALL-VOLUNTEER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

1

Write a \$10 check (or more if you like) payable to the BCP Civic Association



2

Write your name above the "Resident" address below, then clip on the dotted line

3

Place both pieces in the envelope provided, apply a 41¢ stamp, and place in the mail. Thank You!



(CUT HERE)

Bay Crest Park Civic Association

**P.O. Box 261116
Tampa FL 33685**

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