

WOW

SERVING WESTCHASE AND NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

WORLD OF WESTCHASE

WESTCHASE'S OFFICIAL
NEWSMAGAZINESM

westchasesow.com

Volume 30 · Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2026



Adventure **AWAITS**

PLAN A SUMMER OF FUN AT WOW'S CAMP EXPO ON FEB. 25.

OVERNIGHT
FEVER

DAD'S
INTUITION

CONVENIENT
SCHEDULING



Get InQuick**ER** to feel better faster.

Injuries and illnesses are never planned, but your emergency room visit can be. At AdventHealth, we make it easy to reserve a treatment time online — so you can wait in the comfort of home and arrive at a time convenient for you.

 Select your preferred treatment time at [GetInQuickER.com](https://www.getinquick.com).



In case of a life-threatening medical emergency, call 911.


AdventHealth
Carrollwood

Thinking about your next move in 2026? So am I.



 **Wendy Ross**
Realtor®
813-493-9241
WendyRoss@TampaMarketHomes.com
TampaMarketHomes.com



WOW

World of Westchase Magazine

ADVERTISING

Visit westchasewow.com and select the advertising link at the bottom of the page. Advertising deadlines are the fifth of each month. Contact Tonya Chaplow, Advertising Manager, for more information.

WOW, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTE: The individuals listed below are responsible solely for WOW magazine. All issues regarding Westchase's homeowners association should be directed to the WCA board, listed in the reference section at the back of the magazine. WOW operates entirely with advertising revenue; homeowners do not pay for any portion of WOW production.

Mary Griffin, President
(813) 294-5046
richardmarygriffin@gmail.com

Steve Splaine, Vice President
splaine@ieeee.org

Joanne Maurer, Secretary
gregaj061@msn.com

Anna Mairink, Treasurer
ania0701@gmail.com

Brie Gorecki
brie.gorecki@gmail.com

THE WOW TEAM

westchasewow.com
12191 W. Linebaugh Ave., PMB #579, Tampa, FL 33626

PUBLISHER/MANAGING EDITOR
Karen Ring
(813) 920-9809 | Editor@WestchaseWOW.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tonya Chaplow
(813) 926-0596 Ext. 1 | Advertising@WestchaseWOW.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Leslie Blaze
(813) 926-0596 Ext. 2 | Billing@WestchaseWOW.com

EDITORIAL & AD DESIGN
Nicole Barolo | Design@WestchaseWOW.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Melissa Bernstein, Heather Bossowski, Phil Dean
Lynn Gonzalez, Danielle Hauser, Jessica Plett,
Shannon Thigpen

NOTICE

World of Westchase (WOW) is published monthly by World of Westchase, Inc. (WOW, Inc.). WOW is a Florida not-for-profit corporation and a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editorial policy and guidelines are set by the WOW, Inc. Board of Directors. All views and opinions expressed in the WOW are those of the authors. Lists are for reference only and do not imply official sanction or recommendation of WOW, Inc. Paid advertising is not an endorsement by WOW, Inc. All rights reserved; content may not be reproduced without written consent from WOW, Inc. This newsmagazine has been recognized by adopted resolutions at the May 1997 Westchase Community Association Board of Directors meeting as the "Official Publication" of the Westchase community. Profits from the newsmagazine and other WOW, Inc. efforts are distributed to deserving beneficiaries and projects in Westchase and in the broader Tampa Bay community.

DISTRIBUTION

WOW is delivered for free to Westchase residents and is available for free at several distribution points, including the Westchase Swim & Tennis Center and the Maureen B. Gauzza Public Library.

Contents



20

Tampa Bay Downs Turns 100

Learn the storied history of the Thoroughbred racing facility on the outskirts of Westchase.

Pg. 16

Adventure Awaits!

Plan a summer of fun with WOW's Summer Camp Guide.

Pg. 26



42

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 04 Publisher's Note
- 06 Westchase Government Briefs
- 14 Events Rundown
- 78 Business Index
- 80 Fake Ad Contest

AROUND TOWN

- 08 The February Buzz
- 11 New Business
- 18 Q&A
- 20 Caroling for a Cause
- 22 Little Leaders
- 24 West Hampton Holidays

KIDS & EDUCATION

- 32 Fun & Wacky Calendar
- 34-38 School Updates

HEALTH & HOME

- 42 Pet of the Month
- 44 Crime
- 45 Real Estate
- 46 The Neighborhood Table
- 49 Fitness

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- 50 Newcomers
- 51 Westchase Rotary
- 52 Westchase Moms
- 53 Freebooters Krewe
- 55 Westchase Seniors
- 56 Westchase GALS

JUST FOR FUN

- 58 Diversions
- 60 Excursions
- 62 Dining Review
- 63 Library Corner
- 64 WOW in the World
- 66 The Home Front
- 68 Rec Center

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 70 Westchase CDD Meeting
- 71 Westchase Community Association Meeting
- 72 Westchase Voting Member Meeting
- 73-75 Westchase Reference
- 76-77 Northwest Reference



PHOTO COURTESY EMPOWER ADVENTURES TAMPA BAY

ON THE COVER

Visit Empower Adventures Tampa Bay and more local camps at WOW's Summer Camp Expo on Feb. 25.

Learn more on page 12.



60

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PRODUCER. EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS.

Your *Local* Westchase and 33626 Realtor

Westchase & Eagles Resident for over 20 years! Licensed since 2010.



Over 52
5-Star Reviews!

Proud Westchase
& Eagles
Community
Sponsor!

Kimberly & her
team are dedicated
to Excellence in
Honesty, Integrity &
Customer Service.

LUXURY REAL ESTATE

Re-Imagined!

A Reputation for Results.

LUXURY HOME STAGING INCLUDED WITH YOUR LISTING!



Kimberly Janowiak, P.A. | Realtor | Broker Associate

727 - 686 - 5186

Kimberly@LuxuryLifestyleRealEstate.com

Stay Connected

1

Sign up for WOW's bi-monthly digital newsletter

westchasewow.com/monthly-updates



2

Visit WOW's website

westchasewow.com



3

Search WOW's Online Business Directory

westchasewow.com/business-directory



Email editor@westchasewow.com

Content due by the 10th of the month

For the Love of Print

You might notice a few changes this month.

I have loved magazines since I was a little girl. I spent countless hours at the Southern Illinois library where my dad was head librarian, flipping through glossy pages and dreaming big dreams. In high school, I plastered my closet doors with covers of "The New Yorker" and imagined a life in the Big Apple writing poignant, yet witty pieces for my favorite publications. Life changed, and so did my dreams, but 16 years ago, I finally found my way to a career in magazine publishing.

It's a tricky business in this digital age. Our WOW team has worked to expand our digital footprint to keep pace with the times, but I still firmly believe in the power of print. Thanks to the support of our advertisers, we continue to be able to deliver our publication to residents in Westchase and our surrounding neighborhoods, free of charge. We are proud of that.

Since I took over the role of WOW Publisher 3.5 years ago, rising production costs have proved challenging, and we have adapted our processes to continue to serve our community. For those who aren't aware, for the past 9 years, we have published two versions of the WOW - one for Westchase Residents and one for our Northwest neighbors - by swapping out the first 16 pages and a few pages in the back. Now, it is time to adapt. This issue represents the first combined issue that will serve all 5600 homes we serve.

And our team is excited for the change.

Westchase residents will continue to see all the content they have become accustomed to, including government coverage that is clearly labeled. We will also continue to work in stories from our Northwest neighborhoods. Our hope is that our communities will benefit from this shared content.

We also have some exciting new additions, including an expanded TOC to help you find what you are looking for quickly; a new recipe column by Highland Park resident Melissa Bernstein complete with advice for making healthy changes to your diet; a new column by Westchase resident Jessica Plett offering down-to-Earth observations on parenting; and our new Fun + Wacky calendar for the kids (and grown-ups) that makes every day a celebration.

Turn to page 7 to learn a bit more about how we are handling our government coverage. And then be sure to flip through the pages to explore our new look and to search for that Fake Ad.

Our February issue is also our annual Summer Camp feature! Our comprehensive guide on pages 26-31 is a great place for parents to start comparing local camp options. Then, be sure to join us on Wed., Feb. 25, from 5-7 p.m. at the Westchase Rec for our **3rd Annual Summer Camp Expo!** We'll have 30 camps, two food trucks and lots of information to help you plan a summer of fun in just one night. We hope to see you there!



Karen Ring, **Publisher**



Karen lives in Westchase with husband Shawn, dog Stanley and cats Hall & Oates. She is also the proud mom of two UCF Knights, Jackson and Nathan.



DIORIO
FAMILY LAW GROUP
Attorneys and Mediators

Trusted support for divorce and estate planning, every step of the way.

(813) 322 2082
3030 N. Rocky Point Drive Ste.150
Tampa, Florida 33607



Beth Cupari

EDUCATED & DECORATED

- 23+ Years Real Estate Experience
- 20 Years Corporate Management Experience
- 23+ Years Westchase Resident
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist
- Marketing MBA
- Certified Residential Specialist
- Accredited Staging Professional
- Master Certified Negotiation Specialist

Home Improvement and home decorating expert featured on HGTV, Discovery, and Lifetime.

Beth Cupari
813.363.7802
Beth@BethCupariHomes.com
www.BethCupariHomes.com

COASTAL PROPERTIES GROUP INTERNATIONAL
Forbes GLOBAL PROPERTIES

For you and your family...

We Create Beautiful Smiles.



Dr. Alina de la Torre is offering **New Patients** a Comprehensive Exam & Full Set of X-rays for **\$79.**

(D0150) and Full Set of X-Rays (D0210) +. *New patients only. Cannot be combined with other offers.

📍 10830 Sheldon Road
🌐 www.delatorredentistry.com
☎ 813-792-9400

- General, Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
- Whitening
- Tooth-colored Fillings
- Porcelain Veneers
- Partial and Full Dentures
- Implant Restorations
- Botox
- Snore Appliances
- Night Guards & Bite Splints

The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment, or be reimbursed for any other service, examination, or treatment that is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted free, or reduced fee service, examination, or treatment.

WESTCHASE GOVERNMENT UPDATES

The following updates are for residents who live within the Westchase Community Association (WCA) Neighborhoods. Meeting coverage can now be found at the back of this issue, beginning on page 69.

We also house recent coverage of WCA and Westchase CDD meetings on our website (westchasewow.com) under the News tab. This is a great way to stay on top of issues that affect our community.

Here are a few key topics from recent meetings.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

CDD MEETING

Feb 3 | 4 p.m.
Maureen Gauzza Public Library
11211 Countryway Blvd.

VOTING MEMBERS MEETING

Feb 10 | 6:30 p.m.
Westchase Swim & Tennis Center
10405 Countryway Blvd.

WCA BOARD

Feb 12 | 6 p.m.
WCA Offices
10049 Parley Dr.

MODIFICATION COMMITTEE

Feb 3 and 17 | 5 p.m.
WCA Offices
10049 Parley Dr.

CDD WORKSHOP*

Feb 17 | 6:30 p.m.
Maureen Gauzza Public Library
11211 Countryway Blvd.
*Workshops are occasionally cancelled. Visit westchasecdd.com to confirm.

Westchase CDD Discusses Greenspace Use

During the Jan. 2 Westchase CDD meeting a resident used the audience forum to ask the board about the recently installed signs at two greenspaces (West Park Village and Village Green) prohibiting use by organized sports teams. The Field Manager explained that the signs were installed in response to repeated complaints by residents about turf damage that were shared through the Voting Members. The CDD maintains common areas throughout Westchase, including the greenspaces in question, and signage is up to their discretion; however, the resident noted that the WCA Board had added the matter to their agenda for their Jan. 8 meeting. The CDD board agreed to table the matter. At the Jan. 8 meeting, WCA board members reiterated that they do not have authority over greenspace signage and, after a thorough discussion, they voted unanimously that the board would not take a stance on the matter. A summary of the discussions can be found in our CDD and WCA meeting coverage on pages 70 and 71, respectively. In recent meetings, the CDD board has discussed looking at potential options for adding an additional sports field. That item is tentatively on the agenda for the Feb. 17 workshop.

The CDD also continued discussions on ponds 120 and 125 and voted on resolutions to complete the transition in property management from Inframark to KAI, effective Jan. 23, 2026

The January 20 CDD workshop fell after our print deadline, and several important items were on the agenda, including a presentation on proposed landscaping upgrades and initial discussions on the potential to purchase the Westchase Golf Course. We'll offer an update at westchasewow.com/cdd.

WCA Approves 90-Day Trial of Open-Play Pickleball

During the Jan. 8 WCA Board meeting, the board approved a 90-day trial period for Open-Play Pickleball, beginning on Feb. 19. The program was proposed by the Swim & Tennis Committee. Interested residents can register to play from 5-7 p.m. or 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

VM Updates

Updates to VM information for several neighborhoods were in the process when this issue went to press. Please visit westchasewca.com > residential info and click on your neighborhood for the most recent information.

Correction: In our article, "Fostering a Love of Yoga," which appeared on page 22 of the January 2026 issue, we inadvertently misrepresented the relationship between Christy Klipp and two of the children featured in the photo that accompanied the article. It should have stated that Luke and Chloe Klipp are Christy's stepchildren. We apologize for the error.



About This Issue

This issue of the WOW might look a bit different to our regular readers.

BY KAREN RING

Rest assured, WOW will continue to offer coverage of government meetings within Westchase. Beginning with this issue, **we have created a new Local Government Section at the back of the issue**, presented without ads, beginning on page 70. We will continue to include our Government Briefs page at the front of the issue (now on page 6), that will include dates for upcoming meetings for residents living within the Westchase Community Association neighborhoods, as well as a brief synopsis of key topics for those residents. Full coverage of monthly meetings can be found at the back of the magazine.

Why the change?

This issue represents a combined issue that serves residents of Westchase and our surrounding Northwest neighbors.

When we refer to neighborhoods that lie within the Westchase Community Association (WCA), those neighborhoods include: the 33 villages within Bennington, Berkeley Square, The Bridges, The Enclave, The Fords, Glencliff, Glenfield, The Greens, Harbor Links/The Estates, Keswick Forest, Radcliffe, Saville Rowe, The Shires, The Vineyards, West Park Village, Woodbay and Wycliff.

On pages 73-75, we include a Westchase Government Primer, and a list of important contacts for residents within the WCA.

The neighborhoods outside of Westchase that we serve, include Highland Park, Mandolin Reserve and Estates, Windsor Place, South Hampton, West Hampton and Westwood Lakes. On pages 76-77, we include a map of those neighborhoods and a Northwest Government Primer that outlines the various government entities within those neighborhoods.

We are also working to resume our coverage of the Park Place CDD meetings, which serve residents of Highland Park, Mandolin and Windsor Place. We'll add that coverage back in soon.

If you have questions about these changes, please email editor@westchasewow.com.

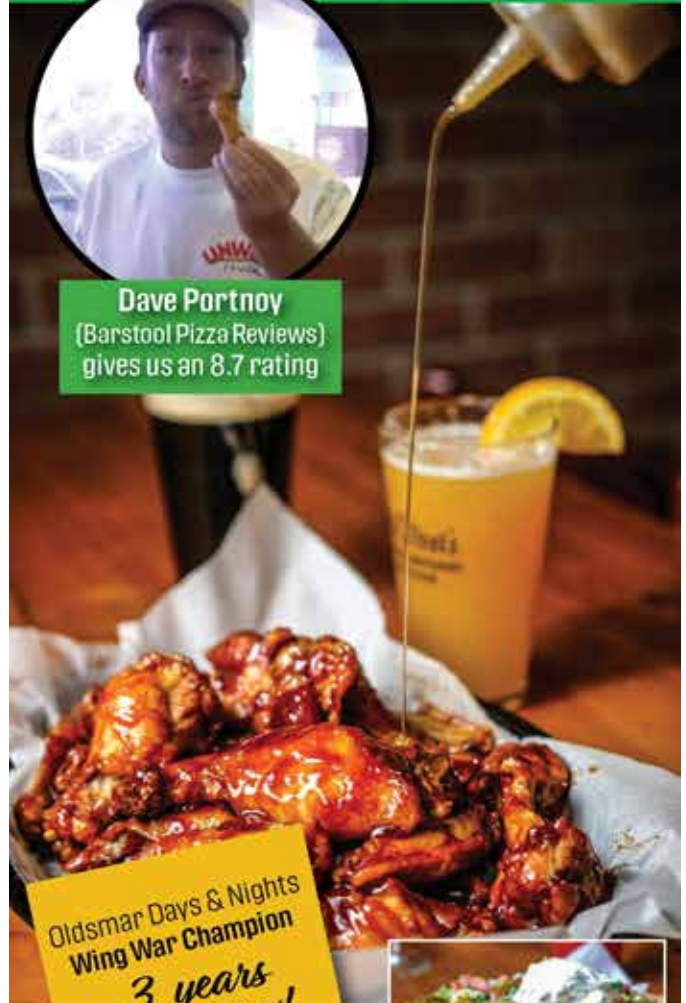
We appreciate your support.

McDivot's

SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT
• Est. 1998 •



Dave Portnoy
(Barstool Pizza Reviews)
gives us an 8.7 rating



Oldsmar Days & Nights
Wing War Champion
*3 years
in a row!*

- Let us cater your next party!
- Showing all the NFL, MLB, & NHL packages

McDivotsTampa.com

813-814-9394

FOLLOW US 



10706 Countryway Blvd, Tampa 33626

The February **BUZZ**

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year is the celebration of the new year that begins on the first new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20. In 2026, the new moon falls on February 17, and the celebration runs until the next full moon on March 21.



8
BILLION

That's the number of candy conversation hearts that are produced every year.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The story of Black History Month began in 1915 with the efforts of Carter G. Woodson. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month, which serves as an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 26 million kids attend camp each summer. Find your perfect camp at **WOW's Summer Camp Expo** on February 25!



The Wood Team | Smith & Associates Real Estate

Trusted Real Estate Advisors Since 2005



DOUG & NANCY WOOD REALTORS® (813) 957-3941

LOVE Where YOU Live!

Toes in the Sand or Poolside with a Cold Beverage in Hand - Let Us Help Find YOUR "Happily Ever After"!



Madeira Beach ❤️

MADEIRA SANDS CONDO - MADEIRA BEACH
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,480 SF | \$995,000



Sand Key Beach ❤️

MERIDIAN ON SAND KEY CONDO
2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,756 SF | \$995,000



Culbreath Isles - S. Tampa ❤️

4913 ANDROS DR, TAMPA 33629
5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 4,500 SF | \$15,000 Month



Asturia - Odessa ❤️

14948 RENAISSANCE AVE, ODESSA 33556
3 Bed + Loft | 2.5 Bath | 2,442 SF | \$730,000



Westmont Oaks - Tampa ❤️

8562 ACORN RIDGE CT, TAMPA 33625
3 Bed + Office | 2 Bath | 1,779 SF | \$485,000



Coming Soon!

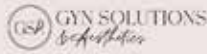
❤️ 3 Bed/2 Bath/1,438 sf, 2-Story Home in Tampa
❤️ 4 Bed/4 Bath/3,176 sf, Waterfront Pool Home in Shore Acres

SCAN TO CONNECT WITH THE WOOD TEAM Be the first to know about new listings, price changes, open houses & MORE!



We care about your comfort & confidence

COSMETIC GYNECOLOGICAL PROCEDURES AVAILABLE AT



- Labiaplasty
- Vaginoplasty
- Perineoplasty
- Vampire Wing Lift
- ThermiVa
(non-invasive vaginal rejuvenation)



Book a consultation with Dr. Bender to get started

All Procedures In-Office

13638 W. Hillsborough Ave. Tampa FL 33635

813-214-8133

Protect Your Investment.

Wind Mitigation Included with Every New Roof

813-590-4509

- Roof Inspection and Wind Mitigation
- References for every Roof Installation
- Specializing in Tile, Slate, Shingle and Coatings
- Guarantee on Materials and Workmanship
- Licensed, Insured and Bonded Contractor
- Financing Available for Roofing Installation



suncoastroofingsolutions.com

CCC1329924



ALL FAMILY LAW GROUP P.A. ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Your Tampa Bay Law Firm *Since 1997. Working Hard for You!*



FREE CONSULTATION
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

SUPPORTIVE HELP AT AN EMOTIONALLY DIFFICULT TIME

We have extensive experience practicing in divorce and family law, including stepparent/relative adoption, name change and criminal defense, having helped thousands of individuals and families resolve these issues since 1997. Our firm includes attorneys and legal staff committed to providing excellent, responsive, effective and aggressive representation. Working hard for your benefit!



DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW • STEPPARENT & RELATIVE ADOPTION • NAME CHANGE • CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAW

CALL NOW 813-518-7880
FAMILYMARITALLAW.COM

ATTORNEYS AT OUR FIRM:
Monica Da Silva, Esq.
Danielle M. Lord, Esq.
Wendy McGinnis, Esq. of Counsel
Vanessa Nye, Esq. of Counsel

LYNETTE SILON-LAGUNA, ESQ.
FOUNDER/OWNER

Q Southern BBQ Expands to Oldsmar

The original location opened in Dunedin in 2020 and recently added a second restaurant near the intersection of Forest Lakes and Tampa Road.

BY DANIELLE HAUSER

Award winning Chef Cameron Capri has brought his family-owned and operated smokehouse closer to Westchase. His mouthwatering smoked meats and homemade sides have been featured on Fox13 Tampa Bay, ABC Action News of Tampa Bay and America's Best Restaurants Roadshow. Chef Capri and

Q Southern BBQ have earned accolades such as 2025 Battle Smokehouse Champion at the Tampa Bay Food & Wine Festival, and the restaurant was named "Best BBQ in the Bay" by "Tampa Bay Magazine" in 2021 and 2022.

Q Southern BBQ's menu includes a variety of smoked meats, sauces, sandwiches and sides. When diners order at the counter, they'll see that the menu board is divided into three steps for easy ordering. Step 1 includes items that will be freshly prepared in the kitchen. These include Smokey Wings, BBQ Chicharron, Pickle Fries and custom sandwiches like Adult Grilled Cheese, Pickled Pig and Rags-2-Riches. The Q Country Feast for two or four people is also available and consists of Texas Brisket, St. Louis Ribs, Smoked Sausage, Chicken Wings, Potatoes, Corn and is sauced with a choice of two Q sauces.

For Step 2, they'll get your tray started with a choice of sides that are available by the half-pint, pint or quart. Sides include Loaded Potato Salad, Tomato & Cuke Salad, Slaw, Mac & Cheese, Grilled Corn, Bourbon Baked Beans, Collard Greens, Brunswick Stew, and

Peach and Apple Cobbler. There is also a Sack Lunch with a choice of Chicken, Sausage or Pulled Pork Sandwich with chips and a fountain drink available only between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Step 3 includes the protein and sandwich choices. Meat available by the pound includes Burnt Ends (Thurs. & Fri. only) Angus Beef Rib (Sat. only) St. Louis Ribs, Beef Brisket, Pulled Pork, Grilled BBQ Chicken, Smoked Bologna and Sausage. Most of the meats are also available as a sandwich, along with the Beef & Cheese and the Cackalacky sandwiches.

Q Southern BBQ is at 3780 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, FL 34677. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., closed on Mon. For more information or to order online, visit qsouthernbbq.com.



ACTIVE LISTINGS

Cypress Cove \$1,039,000
963 CYPRESS COVE WAY
TARPON SPRINGS

PENDING
Eden Isle \$550,000
1563 EDEN ISLE BLVD NE,
ST PETERSBURG

Sea Pines \$389,900
15606 DONZI DR
HUDSON

Lea HAVERSTOCK
BROKER | OWNER
L E REAL ESTATE GROUP
727.243.2000 | learealty@gmail.com
LEREALTYGROUPINC.COM

3-D CARPET CLEANING AND RESTORATION

A local, family owned business you can trust!

WE'RE EXPERTS IN CLEANING:
Carpet · Tile & Grout · Sofas & sectionals · Rugs

Also available:

- Natural fiber dry cleaning process
- Deep scrub/dual process
- Marble & Terrazzo polishing
- Grout color sealing
- Mattress steam cleaning

CALL 813-833-4126
3dcarpetcleaners.com

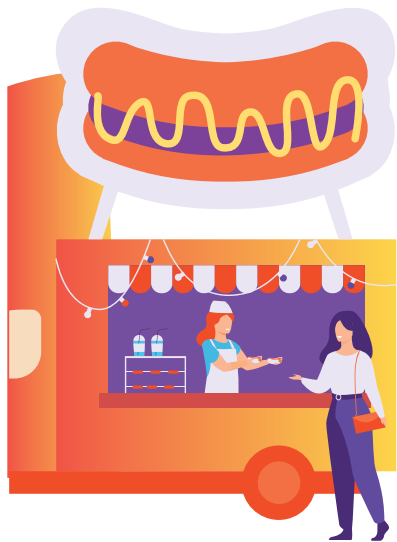
CHECK OUT OUR REVIEWS:
GOOGLE, YELP & FACEBOOK
★★★★★

Upcoming WOW Events

February marks the beginning of WOW's 2026 event season.

BY KAREN RING

Every year, WOW hosts several community-wide events that offer a fun way for neighbors to gather, while also raising funds for local organizations in need.



Food Truck Rally Feb. 6

WOW has four food truck rallies scheduled for 2026 and the first one is coming up on Fri., Feb. 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the greenspace on Montague Street in West Park Village. Visit westchasewow.com/wows-food-truck-rallies for an up-to-date list of trucks. As always, a DJ from Rockatar Music Academy and Studios will be on hand spinning the tunes.



Summer Camp Expo Feb. 25

Now is the time to start planning ways to keep the kids entertained over the summer months. Get a jump start at WOW's Summer Camp Expo on Wed., Feb. 25 from 5-7 p.m. at the Westchase Recreation Center located at 9791 Westchase Dr. This is the perfect opportunity to meet with camp staff to ask questions and plan your summer schedule. See our Summer Camp Guide on pages 26-30 for more information and visit westchasewow.com/wow-camp-expo-2 for the most up-to-date list of camps that will attend.

If you operate a summer camp that would like to attend, there is still time. Email Tonya Chaplow at advertising@westchasewow.com to learn more.

WESTCHASE EGG HUNT



Spring Egg Hunt March 29

The Westchase Spring Egg Hunt returns to the Westchase Recreation Center on Sunday, March 29 from 1-4 p.m.

This family-friendly event is much more than a simple egg hunt. The afternoon also offers lots of fun activities for the whole family including games, arts and crafts, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Music will be provided by Rockatar Music Academy and Studios.

The event will feature three egg hunts throughout the afternoon, each of which will be sectioned off by age group. Choose from the 1:15, 2:15 or 3:15 p.m. time slots. Participants should bring their own basket. Each child ticket is \$15 and includes the egg hunt, all of the activities and a meal (hotdog, chips and drink). Adults can purchase a meal for \$7.

The Egg Hunt also features great sponsors from our community who will have fun activities at their booths for the kids - often with the chance to earn prizes! This year's Title Sponsor is Taylor Financial. Additional sponsors were still being added as this issue went to press, and we'll have a complete list in our April issue.

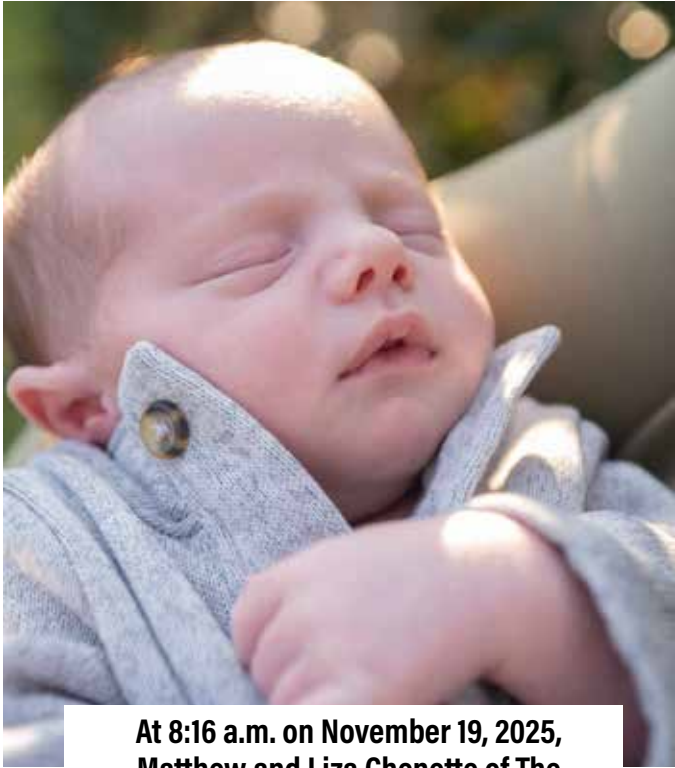
Volunteers are also needed to make this event a success. This is a great way to earn Bright Futures hours. Sign up at bit.ly/4aIEivz.



Avoid the lines on the day of and purchase tickets in advance at westchaseegghunt.wixsite.com/westchaseegghunt or by scanning the QR code.



The Spring Egg Hunt is one of WOW's signature charitable events that allows us to raise money for local schools and organizations in need.



At 8:16 a.m. on November 19, 2025, Matthew and Liza Chenette of The Bridges welcomed their son, Wyatt Joseph Chenette. Wyatt weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. He was welcomed home by big brother Bennett (2).

Share Your New Arrival with the WOW

If you have recently welcomed a new arrival in your home and would like to share your bundle of joy in the WOW, visit westchasewow.com/new-arrival, fill out the form and upload a photo. You can also email details to editor@westchasewow.com.

Westchase Stork Club

If you live within the Westchase Community Association Neighborhoods, you can request a stork sign for your new arrival. Please contact the Stork Club Committee Member assigned to your neighborhood as soon as your baby arrives. If the call goes to voicemail, please leave a message with the address and sex of the baby. Find Stork Club contacts for each neighborhood at westchasewow.com/new-arrival.



MAKE YOUR LANDSCAPING LOOK NEW AGAIN!

(813)244-9234
(727)409-3315 myallpro.com

- ✦ Landscape design & installation
- ✦ All tree trimming & removal
- ✦ Yard clean-ups
- ✦ Stump grinding
- ✦ Sod install & removal
- ✦ Tractor work



FREE STUMP GRINDING & tree permit

WITH ANY TREE REMOVAL OF \$600 OR MORE

Tree trimming, removal & landscaping

  [allpro_treeandlandscaping](https://www.instagram.com/allpro_treeandlandscaping)



Licensed & Insured with Workers Comp



PETE SPIRIDIS
Certification #FL-6266A

EVENTS RUNDOWN

February

There is a little something for everyone this month.



Westchase Locale Market

Family Day at the Downs

Dates: Feb. 1, 15 and 22

Location: Tampa Bay Downs

Learn more:

tampabaydowns.com

Spend a day with the family watching Thoroughbred racing! There will be pony rides, bounce houses and a variety of games and special activities. Plus, you will also have the chance to meet track mascot Mouse the Miniature Horse!

Florida State Fair

Dates: Feb. 5-16

Location: Florida State Fairgrounds

Learn more:

floridastatefair.com

Enjoy Midway rides, a jam-packed entertainment lineup, agricultural exhibits and tons of mouthwatering food during the Florida State Fair. Visit the website for hours, ticket costs and event schedule.

WOW Food Truck Rally

Date: Fri, Feb. 6, 5:30-8 p.m.

Location: West Park Village Greenspace

Learn more: westchasewow.com/wows-food-truck-rallies

Head to the greenspace on Montague Street in West Park Village to enjoy dinner from a food truck! Visit the website for a complete list of trucks.

Westchase Locale Market

Date: Sat, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: Westchase Town Center

Learn more: facebook.com/westchaselocalemarket

This local market right in our own backyard is the perfect place to pick up a last-minute gift for your Valentine. Shop for everything from local honey and handmade jewelry to baked goods and skin care.

Wizard Fest

Dates: Feb. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28

Location: Raprager Farms

Learn more:

thewizardfarm.com

Enjoy activities all surrounding the Witching and Wizarding World. Standard activities, like Fort Merlin, the Hay Chute Slide, Bounce Pillow and Corn Pit are included with admission. Wizarding classes require registration and an additional fee. For hours and more information, visit thewizardfarm.com.

Westchase Petapalooza

Date: Sat, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: Westchase Town Center

Learn more:

southernartsandevents.com

Meet top Florida veterinarians and experts, talk to rescue groups and shop tons of cool pet products, from treats, food and apparel. Register to win prizes for your furry friend and enter the cutest pet contest.

WOW Summer Camp

Expo

Date: Wed, Feb. 25, 5-7 p.m.

Location: Westchase Rec Center

Learn more: westchasewow.com/wow-camp-expo-2

Plan a summer of camp fun in just one night at WOW's 3rd Annual Summer Camp Expo. From art camps to coding camps to sports camps, there will be something for everyone! Best of all, it is FREE to attend!

Florida Strawberry Festival

Date: Feb. 26-March 8

Location: 2209 W. Oak Ave. in Plant City

Learn more:

flstrawberryfestival.com

This 11-day celebration features an exciting concert line-up, rides, fair food, agricultural exhibits and, of course, the best strawberry shortcake around!

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

Date: Feb. 28- March 1

Location: Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park

Learn more: gasparillaarts.com

The 2026 Festival will showcase artists and their work to include ceramic, digital, drawing, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, watercolor and wood. This event will also feature the works of local young artists and a weekend full of live entertainment.



Photo by Will Staples, for Gasparilla Festival of the Arts. 2024.

REIMAGINE YOUR HOME



Contact us to schedule your free in-home design consultation!



DESIGNCRAFT
KITCHEN & BATH

(813) 820-6001
4903 W. Waters Ave., Tampa 33634
www.DesignCraftKitchens.com
info@designcraftkitchens.com

Licensed, Bonded & Insured | #CBC1262924

Tampa Bay Downs Turns 100

On Feb. 18, 1926, a racing tradition was born at Tampa Bay Downs.

BY KAREN RING

Long before developers broke ground on Westchase, a seed was planted in our corner of Northwest Hillsborough County. In the early 1880's, Henry Plant brought the railroad to Tampa, invigorating the city's economy and spurring development. But it was automotive pioneer Ransom Eli Olds who saw promise in the land at the top of the Bay that straddles Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

In 1916, Olds purchased 37,541 acres of that land, with roughly two-thirds of the acquisition in Pinellas and one-third in Hillsborough. On the Pinellas side, he envisioned a bustling city for the working class, and he designed a community that was platted like the spokes of a wheel, with tree-lined boulevards leading to the central hub located on the shores of Tampa Bay. Thus, Oldsmar was born.

On the Hillsborough side, Olds began carving out space for a racetrack. Old's vision for Oldsmar didn't evolve as quickly as he'd hoped. Though the city bounced back from a major hurricane in 1921, the construction of the Gandy Bridge (which opened in 1924) offered the first shortcut for cars travelling between Tampa and St. Pete, thus bypassing Oldsmar. It was around this time that Olds lost interest in his namesake city and began selling off his land and assets, including the land for his future racetrack. When Olds left Oldsmar, there were a mere 200 residents.

But Olds was not the only one who saw promise in the area. In 1926, Kentucky Colonel Matt J. Winn, legendary promoter of the Kentucky Derby, and Ohio investor Harvey Myers saw potential in the land Olds had carved out for a racetrack and they teamed up to bring horse racing to the "Top of the Bay." The track opened on Feb. 18, 1926, under the name Tampa Downs. The inaugural race day featured appearances by legends like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey and John Ringling. The track experienced a turbulent start as the country entered the Great Depression. Then came

World War II. In 1943, the U.S. Army took over the grounds for use as a training facility. The end of the war brought renewed interest in Thoroughbred racing. In 1946, the track was renamed Sunshine Park and entered the modern era with the installation of an electric starting gate, photo finish and electric tote board.

In the 1950s, the racetrack became a hotspot for sportswriters who came to Tampa Bay to cover baseball spring training. Legendary names like Grantland Rice, Red Smith and Arthur Daley were regular visitors and referred to the track as the "Santa Anita of the South." In 1954, the opening of a new clubhouse marked yet another milestone for the track that was quickly gaining popularity.

A group of Tampa sportsmen headed by Chester Ferguson acquired the track in 1965, which led to another name change to Florida Downs and Turf Club. The Ferguson family has had a stake in the track ever since.

Perhaps the most pivotal change came in September of 1968, when a fire destroyed the Grandstand, sparing only the Clubhouse. The new 6,000-capacity Grandstand debuted with the season opener on Jan. 17, 1969.

In 1980, the track was renamed Tampa Bay Downs. Present owners, Stella F. Thayer and her brother Howell Ferguson, purchased the track in its entirety in 1986, and introduced a new wave of innovation.

Tampa Bay Downs held its first turf race on May 2, 1998 (Kentucky Derby Day) and has become one of the most popular turf courses in North America. In 1999, the new millennium brought even more amenities to Tampa Bay Downs, including the Downs Golf Practice Facility (2003) and The Silks Poker Room (2004).

The original Grandstand
courtesy of Tampa Bay Downs



Today, Tampa Bay Downs is recognized as one of America's oldest and most well-maintained racetracks and is the only Thoroughbred racetrack on Florida's West Coast. Thayer, a member of The Jockey Club, former president of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, and Hall of Fame inductee, was the first female racetrack owner in Florida. She grew up attending races in the Sunshine Park days and made it a mission to create a family-friendly venue. Tampa Bay Downs continues to host Kids & Family Days on select Sundays, birthday parties and a host of other events in addition to their regular racing schedule. Visit tampabaydowns.com to learn more about upcoming promotions, centennial celebrations and events.

To learn more about the history of Oldsmar and the surrounding area, visit the brand-new home of the Oldsmar Historical Collection inside the Oldsmar Public Library at 400 St. Petersburg Dr. E.

To learn more about the history of the track and Thoroughbred racing in Florida, visit the "Sport of Kings and Queens" exhibit at the Tampa Bay History Center, open through May 17.

SOURCES: tampabaydowns.com/visitor-info/history; tampamagazines.com/the-road-to-oldsmar; ftboa.com/trailblazing-women-in-the-florida-thoroughbred-industry-daily-thayer



Office: (813) 490 - 5211

12027 Whitmarsh Ln

Tampa, FL 33626

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN WESTCHASE

“Life is a journey
and sometimes you need an attorney.”

C. TODD MARKS, ESQ.

C. TODD MARKS, ESQ.
(FL & DC)



BUSINESS LAW
CONTRACTS
DEFAMATION

DIVORCE
WILLS & TRUSTS
FAMILY LAW

PROBATE
RESIDENTIAL &
COMMERCIAL CLOSINGS

LITIGATION
PRE & POSTNUPTIAL
AGREEMENTS

www.WestchaseLaw.com

KELLY M. ALBANESE, ESQ., B.C.S.
BOARD CERTIFIED IN MARITAL & FAMILY LAW

PAUL M. PHILLIPS, ESQ.
MARISSA PILKINGTON, ESQ.

BIANCA TREVISAN, ESQ.
(LICENSED ONLY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

Q&A: How do you spread kindness?

A small act of kindness can mean all the difference in the world to someone in need, including yourself.

BY PHIL DEAN

February 17 is "National Random Act of Kindness Day." It was created in 1995 to encourage people to spread positivity through small, unexpected acts of kindness. We asked people for stories about kindness, given and received, and the response it brought. Remember, the best time to be kind is every time.



Roger Hofmeister
WESTWOOD LAKES

Early last year, my fiancé and I were having lunch at a restaurant and our waitress seemed particularly sad for some reason. When we got ready leave, I happened to have a 100-dollar bill in my wallet, and I decided to leave it for her. I put a note on the receipt that said "I hope this makes the rest of your day go better." Then we left. I don't know how it affected her. The point of performing a random act of kindness is you just do it without expecting anything in return.



Gary Phillipp
WEST HAMPTON

My wife and I participate in a charity called "Celebrate Birthdays." We give birthday parties to underprivileged children in foster homes and at Metropolitan Ministries. We get wonderful responses. Unfortunately, many of the children who are in care of the state have never celebrated their birthday before. It's so gratifying to see how they react. They are excited and happy and very appreciative. On a smaller scale, it's nice to do simple little things like bring neighbors garbage cans up from the street when they're away.



Yana Vyssotskaia
WOODBAY

The random act of kindness I like to practice is "paying it forward." When I go through a drive through for coffee, I like to pay for the person in the car behind me. I hope they will experience the same joy and happiness I received when someone did it for me. I recently did something like that in the check-out line at Publix. The gentleman ahead of me was struggling with his phone and cards and seemed confused. You could see the frustration and kind of sorrow he was experiencing. I said, "Please let me pay for your groceries." When we got outside, he said he wanted to pay me back, but I told him that wasn't necessary. You shouldn't expect to get something in return. That's the point. You are sharing your joy with someone in hopes they will pay it forward to someone else. It makes the world a better place full of love and joy. It's nice to be able to share that.



Kyle and Kylie Wise, with Scarlett and Olivia
THE GREENS

Kyle: My wife and I had the opportunity to be at the Rose Bowl to watch my alma mater, Indiana University, play on New Year's Day. We were in line to buy drinks and the people ahead of us paid for ours. They told us to pass it on to someone else. That little act of kindness added so much to the joy and spirit of the day. We bought the drinks for the people behind us. It felt like it was creating good karma and maybe had something to do with Indiana beating Alabama. We try to pass it on to our kids. Our daughter was given five dollars and decided to put it into the Salvation Army kettle at Publix. She felt so good knowing it was going to help people have a happy holiday.

Kylie: I have a friend who is going through a tough time. Her father passed away this morning. Last week I took them bagels. It took her mind off what they were going through for a moment and let her know she was loved and that others were thinking about her and her family.

TAMPA BAY TIMES - PEOPLE'S CHOICE



FINALIST CREATIVE LOAFING - BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE and BEST IN TAMPA BAY - HVAC



EASY BREEZY A/C
LIFE'S HARD. COMFORT'S NOT.

EasyBreezyAC.com
727.856.HVAC
CAC1818988

NEW UNIT SALES, SERVICE AND REPAIR, ALL MAKES AND MODELS, TEN YEAR LABOR WARRANTIES, DUCT WORK & INDOOR AIR QUALITY PRODUCTS.

PAINTING



CARLSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES:

- Painting: Condo/HOA, Commercial, Residential. Interior & Exterior
- Pressure washing: Large water tanks to reach anywhere
- Wood rot repairs: Siding, fascia, building trim, etc.
- Stucco repairs
- Drywall repairs
- Gutter cleaning: Condo & HOA



727.744.8397

License #PA2864

BODYBAR WESTCHASE

Fall in Love...

With the Reformer



BODYBAR
PILATES



Caroling for a Cause

In December, a group of young South Hampton residents put their voices to good use!

BY WOW STAFF



A group of close friends in South Hampton collected 3 suitcases, 3 duffel bags and 46 backpacks that were donated to Duffels of Dignity. The kids handed out Christmas cookies and caroled to their neighbors on December 19 and 22 in exchange for a donation...and they had a blast. Duffels of Dignity gives donated bags to children in foster care, so they have a safe space to store their belongings.



Jaime
Air Conditioning and Heating Specialist
License # RA 13067377 | Bonded & Insured

Serving **WESTCHASE** for over 15 years

FREE SERVICE
w/ repair or **\$39 w/o.**
Only in Westchase
Non-Commissioned real service tech. who is bonded and insured

SAVE UP TO \$139
FREE Electronic Leak Check
Analyze from leaks.

FREE UV - C LIGHT
\$600 with any new system install
Must mention coupon upon service.

BEAT GUARANTEE
We will **BEAT** any quote on an equal or same brand installation

We Service ALL Makes & Models

Manufacture & TECO Rebates
Financing Available with Approved Credit



100% Guaranteed Installation
Non-Commission Service Techs work on your A/C, not your pocket!

Call Now:
813.601.0764

JaimeAir.com

813.601.3147
Hablamos Tu Idioma



EMERGENCY SERVICE 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM - 9PM
NO OVERTIME CHARGE

You Deserve Your Dream Smile!



◆ **PREMIER INVISALIGN PROVIDER IN WESTCHASE** ◆

Adult Cosmetic Orthodontics | Sedation | Dental Implants | Teeth Whitening | Flexible Hours



Amy Creech-Gionis, DMD, and Associates



Spreading smiles across Tampa Bay since 1995 - Two convenient locations

813.855.CARE(2273) | TampaDentalWellness.net
11321 Countryway Blvd., Tampa, FL 33626
11123 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33618 - 813.265.CARE



THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT.

Complete dental care for your entire family in a peaceful, warm, state-of-the-art office. We offer I.V. and oral sedation options to make your dental visit easy and pain free! Our payment options including our new Platinum Wellness Savings Plan, flexible hours and excellent service will make your dental visits stress free.

Little Leaders, Big Hearts

Westchase moms launch new Girl Scout Troop.

BY EDDY ALMAGUER



Two Westchase residents are inspiring our next generation of leaders by helping them complete one Girl Scout badge at a time. Mercy Almaguer and Monica Keib, both Westchase moms, recently launched Girl Scout Troop 31823, a brand-new troop for Kindergarten and First Grade girls from the Westchase and Town N' Country areas.

Their troop brings together young girls who attend Mary Bryant Elementary, Westchase Elementary, Deer Park Elementary, Berkeley Preparatory School, Community Montessori School and Carrollwood Day School, creating a blend of new friendships across the community. Meeting twice a month, the troop provides girls with the opportunity to explore, develop and learn the values of Girl Scouts: building courage, confidence and character while making the world a better place.

During the last few months, Troop 31823 has been busy learning and having fun together. During Hispanic Heritage Month, they colored the flags of Hispanic countries and even learned to dance salsa, a fun way to honor culture and community. In November, the girls wrote dozens of heartfelt cards for seniors living in nursing homes as part of an outreach project with Letters against Isolation, a non-profit organization. They also completed and mailed creative birthday cards to seniors turning 95, 97 and 100 years old.

In December, the girls collected and donated toys to children in need as part of their Toys for Tots campaign.

For Mercy and Monica, the experience has already been deeply fulfilling. "We wanted to build something special for our daughters and their friends, a place where they could learn about kindness, leadership and community," Mercy shared. "Watching them do that while making new friendships has been incredible," said Monica.

With Troop 31823 off to such a strong start, it's clear that these little leaders are already leaving big footprints in Westchase. The girls have learned that when neighbors and friends come together with purpose, the entire community shines brighter.



HOME RENOVATIONS

KITCHEN • BATHROOMS • ROOFING • FLOOR INSTALLATION • PATIO ENCLOSURES • NEW CONSTRUCTION

CUSTOM DESIGNED & BUILT FOR YOU

We are a Full-Service Home Contractor
Exceptional Design and Installation



www.ToroBuilder.com

Licensed and Insured

General Contractor License # CGC 1530353

Roofing License # CCC 1334060

Contact Us

(813) 505-9545

Follow Us On Facebook



Call today for a free in-home consultation!

**ANNE
HART**♥

REALTOR®

813.215.0734
Anne@HartofTampa.com

*Buy with Confidence
Sell with Success*

- 23 Years Selling Westchase and 33626
- Super Star Award
- FER Westchase Team of the Year Award 2022, 2023
- Excellence in Marketing Award
- Westchase Agent of The Year 2017, 2025
- Top Producer 2022-2025



*Feature Listing
West Park Village*

9510 Georgian Park Lane
Tampa, FL 33626
3BDR/2 Bath/1279 Sq.Ft.



Closed!

10418 Applecross Lane
Tampa, FL 33626
3BDR/2 Bath/2078 Sq.Ft.
\$750,000

FLORIDA EXECUTIVE REALTY

ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES



Mataj
Consulting
Group CPA LLC

office (813)475-5911
cell (313)320-0300
gmataj@msflcpa.com

Consulting and advisory for
business and individuals

Full-service accounting and
fractional CFO services,
Tax planning, preparation, and
IRS representations

OFFICE 11932 RACE TRACK RD., 33626
LEARN MORE msflcpa.com

Look, Feel & Move Your Best

A complete system, personalized for your goals

- ✓ Build strength, balance & mobility
- ✓ Relieve stiff muscles & joints
- ✓ Improve body composition with strength, concentrated cardio & nutrition
- ✓ Private studio workouts: clean, efficient & no pressure
- ✓ Stay motivated with coach guidance
- ✓ Exclusive technology that adapts to your abilities



NO CROWDS. NO GUESSWORK. | Personal coaching. Smart technology. Proven results.

CALL OR TEXT TODAY FOR

2 FREE SESSIONS

Westchase | 12950 Race Track Rd | Suite 105 | Tampa | 813.961.0001

Carrollwood | 3802 Ehrlich Rd | Suite 101 | Tampa | 813.600.1666

The **Exercise** Coach.



West Hampton Holidays



In December, residents of West Hampton took part in two beloved community traditions: the Lighting of the Luminaries and the Holiday Hayride, using new vendor Classic Reflections Carriages out of Brooksville.





New in **TAMPA!**

Through every milestone and “a-ha” moment, your child will thrive in an environment of nurturing care at Lightbridge Academy. Our proprietary Seedlings® Early Childhood Education Curriculum encourages a love of learning, nurtures a child’s development and prepares them for future academic success.



NOW ENROLLING INFANT, TODDLER, AND PRE-K!

- Infant, Toddler & Pre-K Programs
- Seedlings® Early Childhood Education Curriculum
- STREAM, Spanish, Sign Language, Yoga & Mindfulness and Music Included
- Extended Day Schedule
- ParentView® Internet Monitoring
- Parent eCommunication App
- Interactive Whiteboards and iPad Technology
- State-of-the-Art Security System
- Large Indoor and Outdoor Play Areas
- Enhanced Health & Safety Protocols



Learn more!

Your Guide to Area
**Summer
Camps**

Amazing Explorers Academy, Westchase & Carrollwood

(813) 592-4196 | amazingexplorers.com

Our vacation and summer programs are designed to provide 5-12 year olds with engaging, enriching, fun and meaningful experiences during summer months and vacation days.



Ages: 5-12



Berkeley Summer Programs

(813) 885-1673, ext 2239 | berkeleyprep.org/summer

Berkeley Preparatory School offers over 100 camps on a beautiful, 86-acre campus! There's an enormous catalog of sports, enrichment, academic, and fine arts summer camps. There's something for everyone! (Pg 27)



Grades: PK-12



Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO® Summer Camps

(813) 545-4282 | bricks4kidz.us/florida-tampa/

Bricks 4 Kidz is back with AWESOME LEGO® Summer Camps in Westchase, Carrollwood, South Tampa, Pinellas & Pasco Counties! Join us for the fun!



Ages: 4.5-12



CCHS Warrior Summer Sports Camps

(727) 449-2247 | cchs.us/athletics/sports-camps.cfm

Calvary Christian High School offers a variety of summer sports camps with state of the art athletic facilities for grades 3-12. (Pg 30)



Grades: 3-12



Cambridge Christian School Summer Sports Camps

ccslancers.com/camps

Camps for various skill levels, led by award winning varsity coaches. Offerings include basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, volleyball, cheerleading and football! Register at CCSLancers.com/camp. Sign up Today! (Pg 35)



Grades: 2-8



CAMP IDS at Corbett Prep

(813) 961-3087 | corbettprep.com/campids

More than 100 half- and full-day camps in fine arts, robotics, languages, cooking, sports. June 8-July 17. Bus service. Before- and after-care. (Pg 39)



Grades: PK3-8





FREE EVENT

Feb. 25, 5-7 p.m.

Westchase Rec Center



SUMMER CAMP Expo 2026

PLAN A SUMMER OF FUN IN ONE DAY!

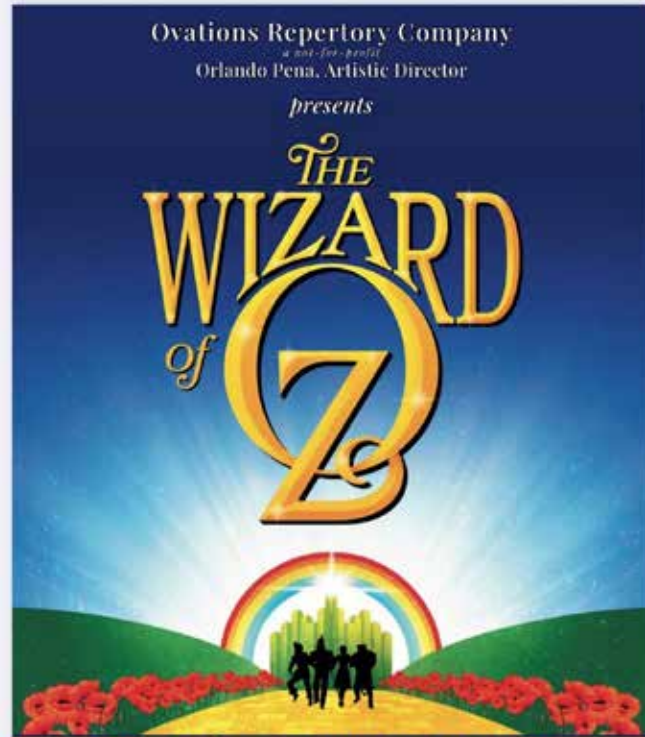


Speak directly with camp representatives to find the right fit for your child. We'll have camps for all interests and ages - preschool to teens.

See more info and the list of camps here:



Food trucks there will make dinner a breeze!



Sat. Feb. 28, 1 pm & 6 pm

Siekles High School
7950 Gunn Hwy.

Tickets start at \$20:
ovationsdanceoflampa.com

A summer to remember



Explore more than 100 Berkeley Summer Programs offerings.



berkeleyprep.org/summer

Your Guide to Area Summer Camps

Carrollwood Day School

(813) 920-2288 | cdspatriots.my.canva.site/summer-at-cds

Summer at CDS offers engaging, fun, and enriching summer experiences with camps in arts, sports, specialty activities, and academics for children, welcoming both CDS and new families. (Pg 36)



Ages:
Toddler-
Grade 12



Childlife Preschool Countryway/Westchase

(813) 435-9075 | facebook.com/Childlife.waters

Fun, safe environment for summer! Sensory play & STEM activities; Arts & crafts. Movement, yoga & outdoor play. Storytime & themed activities. Social skill building with friends. (Pg 31)



Ages: 5-12



Full STEAM Ahead Camps

(856) 220-1931 | fullsteamaheadfl.com/

A true STEAM Camp that includes everything from Science to Minecraft to Animation and Digital Design, Coding, Robotics, and more in EVERY Camp!



Ages: 5-12



iCode Westchase

(813) 825-2212 | icodeschool.com/westchase-fl/camps/

iCode Westchase summer camps offer hands-on coding, robotics, and game design experiences where kids build real skills, make friends, and have fun all summer. (Pg 31)



Ages: 6-16



Kiddie Academy CampVentures

(813) 816-0816 | westchase.marketing@kiddieacademy.net

CampVentures. Where learning meets adventure all summer long! Our campers will enjoy a fun filled mix of educational activities, creative play, and splash pad fun



Ages: 5-10



Lightbridge Academy of Westchase

(813) 656-5848 | lightbridgeacademy.com/tampa-westchase-fl/

Kids make friends, build skills, explore through play, enjoy adventures, and grow academically and socially with engaging, age appropriate summer camp experiences. (Pg 25)



Ages: 5-12



Ovations Dance Academy of Tampa

(813) 749-7001 | ovationsdanceoftampa.com

Become captivated this summer with Ovations performing arts camps. We have something for all-ages 3 years to young adults. (Pg 27)



Ages: 3-
young adult

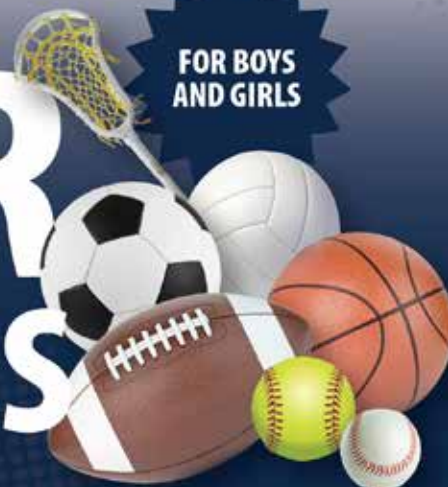




CALVARY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

2026 CCHS WARRIOR SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS



LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE cchs.us/athletics/sports-camps.cfm



A New Adventure Every Day!

Tampa's only weekly day camp that takes kids on a different field trip every single day!

SIGN UP TODAY!



From aquariums to skating rinks to laser tag and more!

Each day brings a new adventure.

Catered lunch and camp shirts are included.

tampa-summer-camp.com



FULLY BACKGROUND-CHECKED STAFF with YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Designed for rising 3rd - 8th graders.

Your Guide to Area Summer Camps

Pure Art Tampa

(813) 563-9577 | purearttampa.squarespace.com

Popular creative art camp with Jessica Campbell, local educator with 20+ years experience! For grades 1-6. Morning, afternoon, or all-day. Make art; Make friends; Have fun!



Grades: 1-6



Recreation Express Summer Camp Field Trips

(813) 503-3792 | tampa-summer-camp.com

This is a one-of-a-kind summer camp where campers will go on a different field trip every day of the week. Designed for incoming 3rd graders to incoming 8th graders. (pg. 30)



Grades: rising 3-8



Scribbles

(352) 216-9144 | scribbleskids.com

Scribbles Studios offers summer art camps for elementary age students. We encourage imagination and creativity!



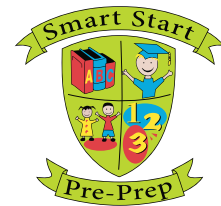
Ages: 5-12



Smart Start Awesome Summer Camp

(813) 855-7333 | smartstartpreprep.com

Mythical-themed camp where campers will enjoy imaginative adventures, creative activities, and 2-3 exciting field trips each week making it a magical, unforgettable summer! (Pg 37)



Ages: 5-12



Tampa Bay Rowdies

(727) 604-8527 | rowdiessoccer.com/youthprograms

Tampa Bay Rowdies Soccer Camps are tailor-made for young soccer players! 8 different weeks, 9-12 and 9-3 M-F options available. More info at rowdiessoccer.com/youthprograms. (Pg 37)



Ages: 6-14



The Children's Courtyard Wondercamp

(656) 245-1933 | childrenscourtyard.com

Wondercamp is about embracing the everyday joy of curiosity, imagination, and discovery. We have weekly themes for active, well-rounded kids all summer long!



Ages: 2-12



Westchase Basketball Camp

(813) 563-9577 | westchasebasketballcamp.com

Building skills, character and confidence since 2006! Play 3v3 and 5v5 games daily, plus learn shooting, passing and ball handling skills. For beginner to advanced players.



Ages: 6-14



Questions to Ask When Researching Summer Camps

WOW's Summer Camp Expo on Feb. 25 is the perfect place to meet with camp staff to have your questions answered in person.

General Camp Information:

- What is the typical camper-to-counselor ratio?
- What age groups does your camp cater to?
- How many campers attend each session?
- What does a typical day at camp look like?

Activities and Programming:

- What makes your camp unique?
- How much time is spent indoors versus outdoors?
- Can campers choose which activities they participate in?
- How are activities structured to cater to different skill levels?

Staff and Supervision:

- What are the qualifications of your counselors (training, experience, minimum age)?
- How are counselors selected and trained?
- What is the process for addressing camper concerns or conflicts?

Safety and Health:

- What safety procedures are in place for water and outdoor activities?
- What are the transportation procedures if your child will be leaving the property for field trips?
- How do you handle emergencies or medical situations? Is there a medical professional on call?
- How do you handle things like dispensing medication, food allergies and homesickness?

DISCLAIMER: The listings in the summer camp guide represent paid advertisements in conjunction with the Summer Camp Special. Paid advertising is not an endorsement by WOW, Inc. Interested residents should contact the camp directors and ask all relevant questions before engaging their services.

SUMMER CAMPS
NOW ENROLLING | JOIN TODAY!

LEARN
YOUTUBE
MINECRAFT CODING
ROBOTS
3D PRINTING
ROBLOX CODING

DISCOVER THE
DIFFERENCE
BROWSE CAMPS
NOW

iCode
EMPOWERING FUTURE INNOVATORS

CALL OR TEXT 813-825-2212
EMAIL westchase@icodeschool.com
VISIT www.icodewestchase.com

childlife
PRESCHOOL

**2026
SUMMER
CAMP**

Registration Fee
\$65

AGES: 5-12 YEARS OLD

Activities Include:

- Nature Walks & Exploration
- Arts & Crafts Workshops
- Science & Discovery Projects
- Movement, Yoga & Outdoor Play
- Storytime & themed activities
- Social skill building with Friends

Special Features:

- Spanish Immersion Programming
- Certified and Experienced Staff
- Healthy Breakfast, Snacks, and Lunch Provided
- Hours from 7am-6pm





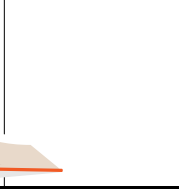










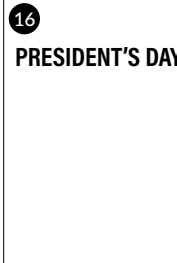










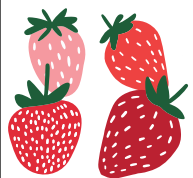

May 26- August 7, 2026
11201 W Waters Ave Tampa, FL 33635

www.childlifepreschools.com/waters
www.facebook.com/childlife.waters

**Call Us to Register:
813-435-9075**

FUN + WACKY

february 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 BLACK HISTORY MONTH 	2 GROUNDHOG DAY 	3 ELMO'S BIRTHDAY 	4 READ ALOUD DAY 	5 OPTIMIST DAY 	6 CHOPSTICKS DAY 	7 PLAY OUTSIDE DAY 
8 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY 	9 PIZZA DAY 	10 UMBRELLA DAY 	11 INVENTOR'S DAY 	12 ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 	13 GALENTINE'S DAY 	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 
15 SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY 	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY 	17 LUNAR NEW YEAR 	18 THUMB APPRECIATION DAY 	19 TUG OF WAR DAY 	20 LOVE YOUR PET DAY 	21 RED SOCK DAY 
22 BE HUMBLE DAY 	23 BANANA BREAD DAY 	24 TORTILLA CHIP DAY 	25 QUIET DAY 	26 TELL A FAIRYTALE DAY 	27 STRAWBERRY DAY 	28 PANCAKE DAY 

EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION



Wed., Feb. 25 5-7 p.m.
 Westchase Recreation Center Gym,
 9791 Westchase Dr.
FREE





Goodnight ORTHODONTICS



Mark T. Goodnight, DMD, P.A. | Spencer Mathews, DMD

12315 W. Linebaugh Ave. | www.GoodnightOrtho.com

VPK Provider • Infants to Pre-K
After-School Care • Summer Camp

Immediate openings for all age groups!

A+ TEACHER
AWARD from
Bay News 9

APPLE

Primavera Preschool
Early Learning

813.855.6718
www.primaverapreschool.com
12881 BAYOU BRANCH AVE., TAMPA 33635 License # C13H10284

More Opportunities Start Here

Give your child a strong start with Hillsborough County Public Schools' Early Childhood Programs. Prepare them for kindergarten and beyond in safe, nurturing environments that promote exploration, growth, and lifelong skills. Using evidence-based practices, these programs develop literacy, math, problem-solving, communication, and social skills.

Program highlights include certified teachers, research-based curricula in literacy, math, science, and more, free VPK for all 4-year-olds, and Pre-K Exceptional Education.

Help your child get ready for kindergarten this summer!

HCPS offers a FREE 30-day educational VPK program for incoming kindergarteners. Classes start in June.

More opportunities begin with a strong start. Learn more about our Early Childhood Programs at HCPSReady.com.



Westchase Elementary Shines into February

The new year is off to a fun-filled start at Westchase Elementary!

BY AMANDA FILZEN

We wrapped up January with a sparkling Daughter Date Night on January 29, featuring a Disco Cowgirl theme. Daughters grabbed their dad or another favorite grown-up for a night of dancing, desserts, sparkle, and smiles. The month closed with Spirit Night at Marco's Pizza on January 30. Thank you to all who supported!

Our Educator of the Month is Mrs. Cristin Saa, our amazing 2nd grade teacher. She brings joy and positivity to her classroom, creating engaging lessons while supporting each student's individual needs. Always ready to help, Mrs. Saa truly shines both in and out of the classroom.

This month's Volunteer Spotlight honors two incredible helpers. Alicia Luxmore led our Giving Tree, ensuring every gift request was fulfilled for our Westchase Elementary families in need thanks to her dedication and our generous community. Jenn Potter, a kindergarten parent, jumped right in to help bring the Holiday Shop to life. It raised \$3,983! Proceeds help fund Teacher Appreciation Week at a local Title I school without a PTA, treating their teachers and staff to a full week of meals, school swag, and well-deserved recognition.

Coming Up in February

- Feb. 12: General PTA Meeting, 5:00 p.m. (Media Center)
- Feb. 18: Spirit Night at Chipotle
- Feb. 27: Wizard Fest – games, prizes, food, dodgeball, silent auctions, and teacher experiences. Best of all, 100% of proceeds support our teachers. Interested in sponsoring or vending? Email wizardfest@westchasepta.org.

Stay connected at westchasepta.com and on social media @westchasewizards.

Community Reminder

Registration is open for Kids Run This 'Hood Family 5K and Fun Run. This run is open to the public and will support four local schools: Westchase Elementary, Deer Park Elementary, Mary Bryant Elementary and Lowry Elementary. Sign up at kidsrunthishood.com before prices increase.



RACE INFO
When: March 28, 2026
Where: 9517 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, FL 33626
5k Race Start: 7:30 a.m.
Fun Run (0.5 miles) Start: 8:30 a.m.
Learn more: kidsrunthishood.com

Westchase is different. Your Realtor should be too.

I'm not just active in real estate here. I'm active in the community. That perspective matters when it comes to protecting and maximizing your home's value.



kw KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY THE **BRYAN COWARD** TEAM

Thinking about your home's value or future plans?
 Start here  
WestchaseRealtor.com



WOOF!
 HERE IT IS
 Grooming & Pet Supplies

NO-KENNEL GROOMING
 by appointment

Grooming, Food, Treats, Special orders & Much More!

10106 Montague St. Tampa, FL 33626 ☎ 813-920-9663

PREPARE FOR COLLEGE.

PREPARE FOR LIFE.



TEACH CHILDREN
HOW THEY
SHOULD LIVE,
AND THEY WILL
REMEMBER IT ALL
THEIR LIFE.

—
PROVERBS 22:6



Cambridge
Christian School

SERVING CHRIST THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, AND FINE ARTS

CCSLANCERS.COM

SCAN ME



A Strong Start

Davidsen students returned from the holiday break ready to jump right into the second semester.

BY LEIGH AKIN

A busy spring schedule brings lots to look forward to in the coming months.

Congratulations to our Math League students whose skills earned them a spot on the team to compete at USF on February 4, 2026:

- **Algebra:** Zander Nesmith, Jinane Salime, Steele Archer-Klebe, Melanie Pedron Gonzalez, and alternate Armani Amaran
- **Pre-algebra:** Dorian Schwanke, Alanah Hernandez, Paula Agular, Dylan Wang
- **6th Grade team:** Wade Kocol, Carson Walter, Benjamin Ortiz, Arianis Pabon



Davidsen Algebra Team

Davidsen parents, mark your calendars for Conference Night on Feb. 5 from 5 -7:30 p.m. Take the opportunity to meet with teachers and administrators. Watch for more information to come to schedule an appointment.

Davidsen's annual Dragon Blast fundraiser will be held on Feb. 20. We are collecting gently used or new stuffed animals to use as prizes during this event. Please drop off any donations to the large box outside of the front office of the Davidsen Middle School by Feb. 12. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with making Dragon Blast a success. Community members are welcome to volunteer, and it only takes a few minutes to complete a YES Form to be able to do so. Visit davidsenptsa.org/volunteer to sign up and learn more.

Davidsen yearbooks are currently available to purchase. Reserve your DMS 2025-26 yearbook at www.yearbookordercenter.com using code 21848. Eighth grade families can also purchase a special dedication for your student at the site.

We encourage all of Davidsen students, families and neighbors to join the PTSA to stay informed and help support our school, students and teachers. Sign up today by visiting davidsenptsa.org.

SUMMER AT CDS

cdspatriots.org/summer-at-cds

Are you ready for the **BEST SUMMER EVER?**

Youth Soccer Camps



RowdiesYouth@rowdiesoccer.com



Ages: 6-14 years
Dates: Offered throughout the year, including annual summer camps
Skill Level: All levels welcome!

Our youth soccer camps provide an exciting experience for young players!

- Rowdies player/staff guest appearances
- Skill-building for all abilities
- High-energy scrimmages



ABOUT US

We prioritize compassionate care for your child's dental health. **Dr. Bob** and our team create a fun, welcoming environment where kids feel at ease!

We focus on positive experiences that encourage healthy habits, making dental visits easy and enjoyable.

Visit us and meet our **board-certified pediatric dentist**—your child's smile is in great hands!

Accepting most major insurances.
 8451 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa
 Open: Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays
 (813) 845-8722 www.Reef Kids Dental.com

Call 813-855-7333 to learn about enrollment!

LICENSE# C13H10069

Smart Start Pre-Prep provides quality educational nurturing programs for 8 weeks to 12 years of age!



Stop by or give us a call at 813-855-7333!



NOW ENROLLING

FIRST TIME ENROLLEE SPECIAL
 Mention this ad and get FREE registration for the first year.

Smart Start Pre-Prep
 Celebrating Quality
 Childhood Education
 Since 1993

Now Enrolling All Ages,
 Including Our
 VPK Program



13801 McCormick Dr., Tampa, FL 33646 · www.smartstartprep.com · smartstartone@aol.com

HCPS Achieves Record-Breaking Graduation Rate

The 2024-2025 graduation rate is the highest in district history.

BY WOW STAFF

A press release from Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) announced that the district's high school graduation rate for the 2024-2025 academic year is an impressive 90.9% – an increase of 2.9 percentage points over the prior year and the highest graduation rate in district history.

District leaders also congratulated the staff and students at several high schools for obtaining the highest graduation rates in the district, including Alonso (98%) and Sickles (97.5%).

"We were able to see 910 more students than the previous school year walk the stage to earn their diploma," said Superintendent Van Ayres. "This historic achievement reflects years of focused work—aligning resources, expanding academic programs and strengthening

support systems—to ensure students have every opportunity to succeed."

According to the press release, the district has deployed several strategies to improve the graduation rates including:

- Free testing opportunities and preparations for state assessments like SAT, ACT, CLT, PSAT, and FAST
- Junior and Senior Academic Checks
- Credit Recovery Programs
- Quarterly Graduation Meetings with site-based teams to review student progress
- GAP (Graduation Advancement Program) to help get students back on track to graduate
- Summer Learning Programs

The district continued its Graduation Task Force, a cross-divisional internal group of leaders who meet monthly focused on individual student performance, support for students experiencing housing instability or homelessness, and an increase in parent communication to ensure families know and understand the graduation requirements.



— SAVE THE DATE —

WESTCHASE EGG HUNT

PRESENTED BY **WOW** | Hillsborough County Parks & Rec
World of Westchase Magazine

MAR 29
 1 to 4 p.m.
 Westchase Rec Center
 food, games &
 Westchase's best egg hunt

AGES 4-6
 \$8 Reg. / \$12 Child

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

TITLE SPONSOR **TAYLOR FINANCIAL** | **DJ SERVICE** **Rockatar Music Academy & Studios**

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

HALO BARRIER SYSTEMS is a cost-effective way to protect your home! Installation is just \$2,225, and then the \$95 monthly fee fully protects your home from rain, UV damage, deer, bad juju, solicitors, high winds and hurricanes using Halo's most advanced forcefield technology.

Coming in 2026: Protect your auto from carjackings and collision damage with Mobile Halo!

HaloBarrierSystems.com

CAMPIDS

AT CORBETT PREP

STUDENTS ENTERING PREK3 THROUGH 8TH GRADE



SUMMER 2026

6 WEEKS OF OPTIONS
JUNE 8 - JULY 17

100+ FULL- AND HALF-DAY CAMPS
BEFORE- AND AFTER-CARE

813.961.3087 • www.corbettprep.com • campids@corbettprep.com
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS • 12015 Orange Grove Dr. Tampa, FL 33618

Westlake CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Teaching students
to **soar** beyond the
classroom.

Please call to join us for a tour on Thursdays
at 9:30 a.m. or by appointment.

Discover the Westlake difference!

westlakechristianschool.org
727.781.3808

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND FAITH FORMATION

TREAT YOURSELF TO *stronger hair*

DISCOVER *5X STRONGER*
HAIR WITH OUR
**COMPLIMENTARY BOTANICAL
THERAPY TREATMENT**

when you book any color service*

*Mention this offer when booking.
Ask for details

touch.
an aveda lifestyle salon & spa

12950 Race Track Road
Tampa, FL 33626
813.814.1390

touchavedasalonspa.com |  

AVEDA
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PURE
FLOWER AND PLANT ESSENCES



LYNCH PLUMBING INC.

For all your plumbing needs!
(813) 855-2565 (727) 785-5500

ST. LIC. CFCO35713

Radiant Church
Westchase

8302 Montague St.
 Tampa, FL 33635

Sundays 9:30am & 11:00am
weareradiant.com/westchase

TRANSFORM YOUR SPACE
 CONTACT US TODAY TO START YOUR PROJECT

AFTER

22 years experience

Trusted by the Westchase community

GARED DRYWALL & PAINTING LLC
 813-267-2705

Professional Drywall and Painting Service

BEFORE

GaredDrywallandPaintingLLC.com
(813) 267-2705

35-2575489

Dedicated to Your Child's Oral Health and Well-being

Dr. Sandra Makram
 Certified, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

Pediatric Dentistry Of Westchase, P.C.

Did you know that a child's first dental visit should be scheduled by their first birthday?

DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

- Welcoming new patients.
- Experienced, gentle, and caring staff specially trained to work with young children
- State of the art digital x-ray system
- Nitrous oxide available
- No Insurance? Contact us for our new patient special

In Westchase Commons Office Park
 13027 W. Linebaugh Ave., Suite 102

813-854-5800 | www.westchasepedo.com

Ameriprise Financial | Advice worth talking about.

Personalized financial advice that changes with your needs.

Everyone has different financial goals and priorities, and they change and grow as you do. That's why it's important for me to get to know you and understand what you're working toward. Together, we can create a personalized financial plan that fits your needs today and helps you build the tomorrow you deserve.

★★★★★ Client Satisfaction Rating

Andrew S. Whitmore, CFP®, MBA, APMA™
 Private Wealth Advisor
813.947.7520
 7432 Monika Manor Dr, Tampa, FL 33625
awhitmore@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/andrew.s.whitmore

[Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value]
 5 out of 5 Client Satisfaction Rating based on 31 reviews as of 7/23/2024. Each client has the opportunity to rate a practice based on the client's overall satisfaction with the practice, on a scale of 1 to 5. The practice's Client Satisfaction Rating is an average of all client responses for that practice within a rolling 24-month period, and is updated daily. There is no minimum number of responses required for a practice to receive a rating.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser. Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2024 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Pet of the Month: Brutus



Age: 1

Breed: Bullmastiff

Nickname: bru bru or bubba

Family: The Sharps

Neighborhood: West Park Village

Favorite treat: Strawberries

Favorite toy: stuffed Hanukkah bone

How he gets attention: jumping up to face level – haha

What we love about him: He is so cute and a giant teddy bear.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Are you prepared for hurricane season?

Let Storm Pro Window and Door help you.
Up to **\$1,000 OFF** your purchase.

STORM PRO
WINDOW AND DOOR

40351 US-Hwy 19N, Suite 312
Tarpon Springs
813-749-6051
www.stormprowindow-door.com

CRC1334277

M&M 
TREE SERVICE, INC.

FOR THE HEALTH, STRUCTURE & APPEARANCE OF TREES

- Tree trimming
- Tree removal
- Certified arborist consultation
- Stump grinding
- Root pruning
- Emergency tree removal
- Storm and disaster response

FREE ESTIMATES



MIKE MACHADO
813.885.5103
www.mandmtreeservicetampa.com
contact@mandmtreeservicetampa.com

Accounting and Tax Services

- Full service accounting and tax preparation for individuals and businesses.
- Consulting for your personal and business finances, including tax and retirement planning.
- All Federal, State, and City tax returns.

TAX *Solutions Plus*

Kenneth L. Nelsen, EA

12002 Race Track Road
 T: (813) 855-2457 | F: (866) 658-4680
 info@taxsolutionsplus.com
 taxsolutionsplus.com

Important Election News for 2026

Here's a look at election dates, early voting periods and registration deadlines that all county voters should know.

BY KEITH HEINEMANN, PRECINCT 508 ELECTION CLERK

The first election we should all be aware of is the special State Senate District 14 race. As you may recall, Jay Collins won this seat in 2024. He was later selected to become Lieutenant Governor by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2025, after Jeannette Nunez left to become President of Florida International University. The two candidates running for the vacant seat are **Josie Tomkow (R)** and **Brian Nathan (D)**.

ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

Once you've registered to vote in Florida, you don't have to register again (but you do need to keep your information up to date). If you aren't already registered, you must register at least 29 days before an election to vote in that election.

2026 State Senate District 14 Special General Election

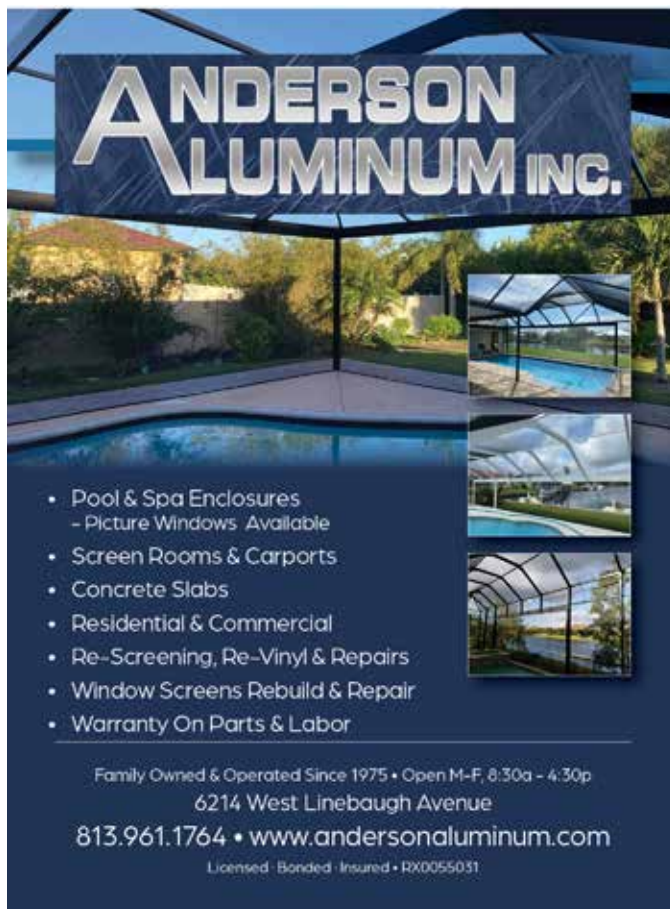
- **Deadline to Register:** February 23, 2026
- **Deadline to Request Vote by Mail:** March 12, 2026
- **Early Voting:** March 14 through 21, 2026
- **Election Day:** March 24, 2026

2026 Primary Election

- **Deadline to Register or Change Parties:** July 20, 2026
- **Deadline to Request Vote by Mail:** August 6, 2026
- **Early Voting:** August 3 through August 16, 2026
- **Election Day:** August 18, 2026

2026 General Election


- **Deadline to Register:** October 5, 2026
- **Deadline to Request Vote by Mail:** October 22, 2026
- **Early Voting:** October 19 through November 1, 2026
- **Election Day:** November 3, 2026



ANDERSON ALUMINUM INC.

- Pool & Spa Enclosures
 - Picture Windows Available
- Screen Rooms & Carports
- Concrete Slabs
- Residential & Commercial
- Re-Screening, Re-Vinyl & Repairs
- Window Screens Rebuild & Repair
- Warranty On Parts & Labor

Family Owned & Operated Since 1975 • Open M-F, 8:30a - 4:30p
 6214 West Linebaugh Avenue
 813.961.1764 • www.andersonaluminum.com
 Licensed • Bonded • Insured • RX0055031



A

Superior Plumbing Solution

Michael Shannon — Owner & Westchase Resident

- Residential & Commercial
- Repairs/Remodel
- Water Heaters
- Water Softeners

Lic./Bonded/Insured #CFC057903

Business: 813-852-1118 • Fax: 813-852-1119

painting. passion. professionalism.®

CertaPro Painters®

★★★★★

Residential. Commercial. Interior. Exterior.

813.936.9242

Schedule your FREE estimate by calling or online at <https://certapro.com/carrollwood-tampa>

\$350 Off Friends and Family Discount
Offer for Westchase homeowners only on any painting project over \$3,000. For a Limited Time Only.



Daniel Lord
Owner
813-763-1882

- Full Lawn Service
- Pressure Washing
- Landscape

Daniel's Veteran Lawn Service L.L.C.
veteranlawnservice1776@gmail.com
U.S. Army Veteran Owned & Operated

Crime in 33626*: DECEMBER

CRIME/ACCIDENT	DATE	LOCATION
Battery-Simple	12/05/2025	12000 Block Tuscany Bay Dr
Battery-Simple	12/07/2025	11000 Block Blaine Top Pl
Battery-Simple	12/07/2025	8800 Block Citrus Village Dr
Battery-Simple	12/12/2025	10900 Block Sheldon Rd
Battery-Simple	12/26/2025	12300 Block Lexington Park Dr
Theft From a Vehicle	12/15/2025	10300 Block Lightner Bridge Dr
Theft From a Vehicle	12/17/2025	10800 Block Preservation View Dr
Fraud-Swindle	12/14/2025	9500 Block Exposition Dr
Fraud-Swindle	12/30/2025	12300 Block Seabrook Dr
Harassing/Obscene	12/09/2025	12900 Block Sheldon Rd
Harassing/Obscene	12/20/2025	9600 Block Magnolia Blossom Dr
Criminal Mischief Misdemeanor	12/07/2025	9700 Block Lake Jasmine Dr
Criminal Mischief Misdemeanor	12/07/2025	13500 Block Fawn Ridge Blvd
Grand Theft - All Other	12/08/2025	11000 Block Blaine Top Pl
Theft of a Vehicle & Other Mob	12/09/2025	12100 Block Sugarloaf Key St
Petit Theft - All Other	12/13/2025	13100 Block Race Track Rd
Petit Theft - All Other	12/15/2025	10100 Block Montague St
Theft of a Vehicle & Other Mob	12/15/2025	10400 Block Lightner Bridge Dr

*THIS REPRESENTS CRIME WITHIN WOW'S READERSHIP AREA. FOR A COMPLETE REPORT ON CRIME IN 33626, VISIT [HTTP://GIS.HCSO.TAMPA.FL.US/PUBLICGIS/CRIMEMAPPING](http://gis.hcso.tampa.fl.us/publicgis/crimemapping).

Real Estate Round Up: December

Information Provided by Wendy Ross of Florida Executive Realty

Address	Sold Price	Days on Market.	Sq.Ft. Heated	Price Per Sq.Ft.	Beds	Baths	Pool Y/N	Property Type
WESTCHASE								
9731 Meadow Field Cir	335,000	142	1,961	171	3	3	N	T
10408 Edgefield Pl	745,000	119	2,202	338	3	2	Y	SF
10429 Springrose Dr	570,000	14	1,816	314	4	2.5	N	SF
10203 Radcliffe Dr	1,368,000	13	3,387	404	4	3.5	Y	SF
10607 Kidbrooke Ct	450,000	6	1,771	254	4	2.5	N	SF
11904 Wandsworth Dr	851,000	6	2,596	328	4	3	Y	SF
11811 Easthampton Dr	537,500	3	1,744	308	4	2	N	SF
10414 Edgefield Pl	667,900	75	2,210	302	4	2.5	Y	SF
10309 Marchmont Ct	825,000	176	3,095	267	5	3	Y	SF
10232 MILLPORT DR	820,000	14	2,650	309	4	3	Y	SF
HIGHLAND PARK								
14617 Galt Lake Dr	1,650,000	138	3,919	421	5	3.5	Y	SF

Address	Sold Price	Days on Market.	Sq.Ft. Heated	Price Per Sq.Ft.	Beds	Baths	Pool Y/N	Property Type
WESTCHESTER								
12206 Coldstream Ln	490,000	43	1,758	278	3	2	N	SF
12241 Bishopford Dr	695,000	5	2,377	292	4	2.5	Y	SF
WESTWOOD LAKES								
12510 Sparkleberry Rd	500,000	84	1,785	280	4	2	N	SF



ROUND UP LEGEND:

Property Type - Condominium: C - Single Family Residence: SF -
 Townhome: T - Villa: V;
 Pool - Yes: Y - No: N;

Price per sq ft rounded to nearest dollar.

Alisha Stockton

TOP PRODUCER 33626 FOR OVER 20 YEARS!

DECEMBER WESTCHASE AREA REAL ESTATE REVIEW

DATA PROVIDED BY THE STOCKTON GROUP, CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY, INC.

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES: 13 SOLD!

\$315 AVG. SOLD PRICE PER SQ. - 75 AVG. DAYS ON MARKET

TOWNHOMES/VILLAS/CONDOS: 2 SOLD!

\$191 AVG. SOLD PRICE PER SQ. - 83 AVG. DAYS ON MARKET

WHAT IS MY HOME WORTH?

813.732.5851

LISHASTOCKTON@HOTMAIL.COM
 WWW.ALISHASTOCKTON.COM
 FOLLOW ME ON FB + IG



Advanced Cooling Systems, Inc.
Residential & Commercial Air Conditioning & Heating Systems
Sales/Service/Repair Free Estimates on New Units • All major credit cards accepted

\$69
TUNE UP
Normally \$99. Call for details.

FREE
SERVICE CALL
With a repair. Not valid w/ other offers.



FREE WI-FI THERMOSTAT WITH SYSTEM PURCHASE

Call us today to learn about the \$2,000 tax credit!

(813) 855-6006 • (727) 738-6006

www.KeepMyFamilyCool.com

TECO/PEOPLES GAS REBATE \$500 ON NEW GAS FURNACE

A Rating
Angie's list





LIC #CAC0588664

A Fresh Approach to Healthy Eating

Hello, neighbors! Welcome to my very first edition of The Neighborhood Table!

BY MELISSA BERNSTEIN

I am so excited to be a part of this community and to share a bit of what happens in my kitchen. We call it the Power of 5 Test Kitchen - my laboratory!

Each month I will share a slice of my Kitchen along with a dash of wellness. My name is Melissa Bernstein, Chef, Healthy Lifestyle Advocate and Author of "The Power of 5 Test Kitchen: Your Guide to Healthy Cooking and Eating." My mission has always been simple: to provide information and guidance that "you are what you eat" and eating for your health can be just as joyful as it is nourishing.

When many of us think about "healthy eating" in the new year, we immediately think of restriction—a long list of foods we have to give up or "bad" habits we need to break. But I've always believed that health isn't about what you take away; it's about what you add, one step at a time.

My goal for this column is to show you how to fuel your body so you can fully embrace our gorgeous Florida weather —keeping your energy high for every outdoor activity we can enjoy and crowd out the heavy, processed food options. The vibrant color of fresh produce in our markets, healing spices and nutrient-dense ingredients that actually taste amazing. We aren't just eating to live; we are eating to thrive.

Whether you are a seasoned home cook or someone just trying to get a balanced dinner on the table after a long day, I'll be here with tips from my blog and recipes from my test kitchen to make your journey a little easier.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Melissa Bernstein is a Chef, Healthy Lifestyle Advocate and Author of "The Power of 5 Test Kitchen: Your Guide to Healthy Cooking and Eating." Learn more about The Power of 5 Life at powerof5life.com.





Ready for a fresh coat?

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- Interior Painting
- Exterior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Drywall & Wood Repair
- Wood Staining
- Wallpaper Installation
- Garage Floor Epoxy Coatings

CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE
(813) 886-7100 | CCPAINTING.COM

Since 1994 • Westchase Resident
Licensed, Bonded & Insured • License #PA4569




Matters of the Heart

February is Healthy Heart Month!

BY MELISSA BERNSTEIN



When we hear "heart-healthy," our minds usually go straight to what we can't have. But here's the secret I share in my cookbook: Eating for your heart is actually an invitation to some of the most delicious flavors on the planet. We're talking silky avocados, crunchy walnuts and—my personal favorite—dark chocolate.

The "Love Your Heart" Strategy

This month, let's skip the stress of "dieting" and focus on functional fats and antioxidants. Your heart loves fiber because it acts like a little broom, sweeping out the stuff your body doesn't need. It also loves those "good" fats that keep your arteries happy.

Let's get cooking!

My February Favorites:

- **Berries:** They're like little antioxidant "pills" that protect your cells.
- **Avocados:** These are packed with monounsaturated fats (the "good" kind!).
- **Walnuts & Flax:** Great for a quick hit of Omega-3s.

FEATURED RECIPE:

The "I Love Me" Dark Chocolate Mousse

Forget the heavy cream and refined sugar. This recipe uses a "secret" ingredient that makes it incredibly creamy while being packed with heart-healthy fats. (Don't tell the kids—they'll never guess there's a vegetable in their dessert!)

Ingredients:

- 2 ripe avocados (pitted and peeled)
- 1/2 cup high-quality unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup maple syrup or honey (adjust to your sweetness preference)
- 1/3 cup almond milk (or any milk you have on hand)
- A pinch of sea salt and a splash of vanilla extract

Instructions:

- 1 **Blend it up:** Toss everything into a food processor or high-speed blender.
- 2 **Make it smooth:** Blend until it's silky and thick. If it's too stiff, add a splash more milk.
- 3 **Chill out:** Pop it in the fridge for about 30 minutes to set.
- 4 **The Finisher:** Top with fresh raspberries or a sprinkle of hemp seeds for an extra heart-health boost.

A Little Love Note: This Valentine's Day, remember that nourishing yourself is the ultimate act of self-love. You don't have to be perfect; you just have to be mindful. Even swapping your afternoon chips for a handful of walnuts is a win your heart will thank you for.

Drop by my blog at PowerOf5Life.com to let me know if you tried the mousse—I'd love to hear what you think!

To Healthy Cooking and Eating!

Turning 65? New to Medicare?
Call now to schedule
a no cost-benefit review.
Your local agent.
Medicare Advantage Plans
Medicare Supplement Plans
Part D Prescription Drug Plans



Betsey Szymanski
Licensed Insurance Agent

(813) 486-0963
medicarebetsey@gmail.com

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options. Betsey Szymanski is a licensed and certified representative of Medicare Advantage organizations and stand-alone prescription drug plans. Each of the organizations they represent has a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any plan depends on contract renewal. Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency.



WE MAKE T-SHIRT QUILTS!

quiltlovelongarm.com
813-491-4133

At 59, I'm STRONGER and FEEL BETTER than I have in years!

By Shelly Woods

All my life, I was always an active person and never struggled with my weight. Then I turned 50. Menopause hit, and suddenly everything changed. My metabolism changed. My hormones changed. Even my body shape changed. I was gaining weight and losing energy.

Meanwhile, my husband and I had started a new business, leaving little time for spending hours in the gym. Something else was going to have to change if I were to get back in shape.

I needed a workout routine I would stick with. The only problem was, going to the gym felt like a chore. It took more time than my busy schedule allowed.

Then in 2017, I discovered 20 Minutes to Fitness, where you can build strength and fitness with just ONE 20-minute session a week.

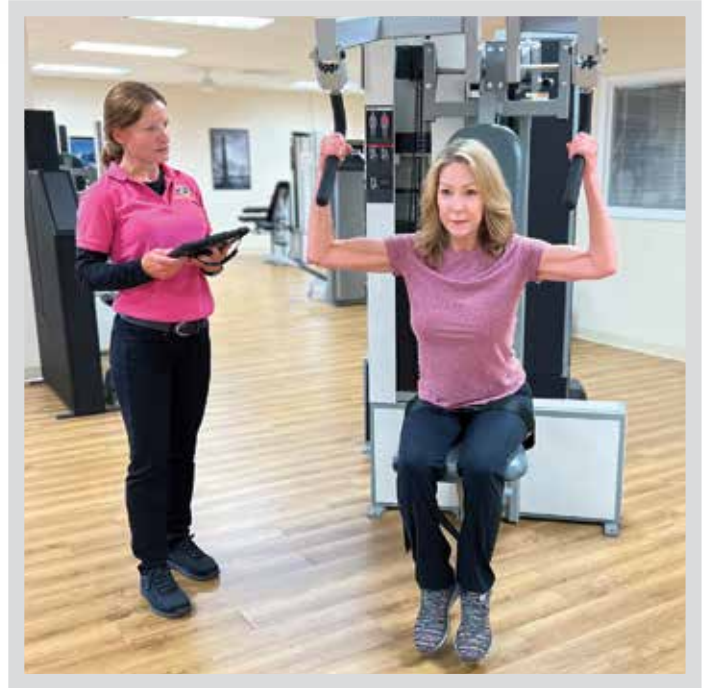
Does it work? Well, I've been training here ever since. In that time, I have improved my bone density, tone and strength. I literally can feel the difference!

Training at 20 Minutes to Fitness has also motivated me to eat healthier and become more active in other ways. At age 59, I have lost weight and feel better than I have in years!

So, I'm proof that, YES, 20 Minutes to Fitness works! How can a once-a-week, 20-minute workout do all that, you ask? It begins with training each week on high-end specialized equipment usually used for physical therapy. My personal fitness coach, stays with me the entire time, making it enjoyable while ensuring proper form and safely pushing me to my limits on each machine.

Within 20 minutes, the slow cadence method used at 20 Minutes to Fitness has exhausted every major muscle group, giving me the same results I would achieve after three one-hour sessions in a traditional gym. After only a month of working out at 20 Minutes to Fitness, I started noticing a difference in my body. I don't just feel stronger, my body looks stronger. My husband comments on that all the time now. I look forward to my weekly workout sessions.

In addition to being good for my health, 20 Minutes to Fitness has been an especially good place to train during the pandemic. Because workouts are by appointment only and take just 20 minutes, it is easy to maintain social distancing and minimize the time spent indoors.



Now more than ever, wellness depends on fueling the mind and body. I highly recommend 20 Minutes to Fitness as part of a healthy lifestyle. I recommend it because it just makes me feel better.

Plus, your first session is FREE. There are no contracts to sign or membership fees to pay. So, give it a try. Feeling good is worth it.



MINUTES TO FITNESS®

www.20minutestofitness.com

TAMPA - CARROLLWOOD

813.664.8888

11610 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33618

20 Minutes Once a Week!

Love Your Heart: Everyday Habits That Matter

February is often associated with hearts – Valentine's cards, red ribbons and conversations about heart health.

BY SHANNON THIGPEN

While nutrition plays an important role, caring for the heart goes beyond what we eat. The heart does more than keep us alive; it responds to how we live. Stress, loneliness, exhaustion and constant busyness can all weigh heavily on the heart, even when we're eating well. This month is a reminder that how we move, how we rest and how connected we feel all shape heart health in meaningful ways.

One of the most powerful ways to support the heart is through regular movement. Consistent physical activity helps improve circulation, regulate blood pressure and support overall cardiovascular function. Walking, swimming, cycling, dancing and strength training all offer heart benefits when practiced regularly. The goal doesn't have to be intensity – it's consistency. Short, moderate bouts of movement done several times a week are often more beneficial and sustainable than occasional intense workouts. Movement should feel supportive, not punishing.

Another essential – and often overlooked – part of heart health is stress management and rest. Chronic stress keeps the body in a heightened state, placing strain on the heart over time. Elevated stress hormones can affect heart rate and blood pressure, making rest just as important as activity. Quality sleep, intentional pauses during the day and moments of stillness help calm the nervous system and allow the heart to recover. Practices such as slow breathing, prayer, meditation or stepping outside for fresh air can gently shift the body out of stress mode and into balance.

The heart is also deeply influenced by connection and emotional well-being. Research continues to show that social connection supports both

physical and emotional health, while isolation and loneliness can increase health risks. Sharing time with others – whether through conversation, laughter, movement or quiet companionship – nourishes the heart in ways that are difficult to measure but deeply felt, especially during busy or stressful seasons. Feeling seen and supported matters.

Taking care of the heart means looking beyond a single habit and paying attention to daily rhythms. How we move, how we manage stress, how well we sleep and how connected we feel all work together to support heart health. Small, consistent choices practiced over time create resilience.

This February, consider widening the lens on heart care. Nutrition matters – and so do the daily habits that support how the body uses that nourishment. Movement, rest, stress management, connection and food all work together to support a healthy heart. Rather than choosing one area to focus on, aim for balance. When nourishment and lifestyle align, the heart is supported in a way that's both sustainable and life-giving.

Heart health isn't built in a single meal or a single workout. It's shaped over time by the choices we return to, day after day. Paying attention to how we live – alongside how we eat – allows heart care to feel less overwhelming and more attainable. Small, consistent steps, practiced with intention, can create lasting support for the heart and for the life it sustains.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Shannon Thigpen is a Wellness Coach & Yoga Teacher. Learn more at shannonthigpen.com



THE SCREEN GUY

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

- Rescreening
(1 Panel to Full Rescreens)
- Pet Door/Screen
Installation
- Window Rescreening
- Pool Cage and Lanai
Repairs

Call Justin Ward at
(813) 240-2109

- No Service Charge
- FREE Estimates

On Time Electric, Inc.

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • ER 13012702 • Westchase Area Resident
www.mytampabayelectrician.com

813.545.9333

ALL CALLS RETURNED IN 10 MINUTES

Explore Something New in 2026

Newcomers offers a great way to make friends and enjoy new activities.

BY ARLENE SMITH

Ladies, would you like to meet new people in the area and get involved with some wonderful local activities? Then our Newcomer's club is for you. The goal of our club is to provide opportunities for meeting new friends!

Volunteer Spotlight: Jean Bardes

Jean Bardes is one of our very important volunteers who puts together the Newcomers of NW Hillsborough Monthly Newsletter, which goes out to all members. Jean features all the upcoming activities: the when, where and how to attend the activity along with specific RSVP information. The newsletter includes the names and contact information for all new members who have joined since the last annual directory was printed. Happy Birthdays for the month are also shown in the newsletter. The newsletter is vital to all members for Newcomer information.



Jean does a fantastic job of keeping us informed. We are very thankful to her for all her hard work and efforts.

Activity Spotlight: Gad-Abouts

Gad Abouts recently enjoyed painting their own art piece at Painting with a Twist. Gad Abouts visits interesting, fun places in Tampa Bay area planned almost every month.

Other Activities of Newcomers of NW Hillsborough

Bridge: Last Month's Bridge was held at Carrollwood Country Club. Members play on the first Thursday of the month. Last month's winners were: 1st Place, Jane Rubin (highest score ever 7090!!); 2nd Place, Jane James 6670; and 3rd Place, Doris Elliston 5050.

Book Club: The book club meets once a month on Friday Morning. The book of the month is "My Antonia" by Willa Cather.

Bunco: Fun for all. Group meets once a month on Wednesday mornings at Eagles Golf Club.

Canasta/Game Day: Group meets on Mondays to play various fun games like Canasta or Mexican Train.

Casual Luncheon: Newcomers enjoyed lunch at Piccolo Buco, a new Italian restaurant.

Craft Club: A place to be social and do all things crafty! This month's craft project featured Valentines. Group meets on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Ladies Golf: They meet on Thursdays in the morning.

Ladies Night Out: Members got together at BJ'S restaurant in Citrus Park for dining and friendship. Group meets monthly.

Mahjong: Members meet every Tuesday at various local libraries and Westchase Golf Club to play this challenging game and enjoy friends.

Nature Walk: Ladies Walk 2-3 miles and socialize after with a snack. They meet 1 or 2 times a month.

Wine Time: The theme for the recent Wine Time was "Us and the Rest of the World." Wines were selected from USA and other places around the world. Members meet once a month and bring an appetizer to share. The Second Annual Ladies Only Gasparilla Wine Tasting Pirate Party is also coming soon.

INTERESTED IN JOINING NEWCOMERS OF NW HILLSBOROUGH?

We would like to invite ladies wanting to meet new friends, get to know the area better and enjoy our many activities to become a new member. Contact Lori Rubin - Phone or text: 813-758-7238 or email: membership2.newcomers@yahoo.com.

Gad Abouts Group displaying their art work



Suzanne & Rosemary with their art

Make a Difference with the Rotary

Westchase Rotary is where neighbors become friends and ideas turn into action.

BY KIM BROIDA, WESTCHASE ROTARY CLUB PUBLIC IMAGE CHAIR

We laugh, we volunteer, we make a difference. Join us!

We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. (except the second Wednesday of the month) at Westtown Church, 13521 Race Track Road.

Upcoming Highlights:

2/6: Wine & Whiskey Night - Waterchase Club House (14401 Waterchase Blvd) at 6 p.m.

Sip, savor and support an awesome cause. Join us as we support Madi's Movement. Madi's Movement provides young adults aging out of foster care with the tools, support and opportunities they need for a successful future. We hope you'll join us to enjoy fun, food and fellowship!

Tickets:

- \$25 in advance (for non-alcoholic beverages only)
- 40 in advance for wine & whiskey (\$50 at the door)
- Purchase tickets at: westchaserotary.org

2/10: Hey High Schoolers - Join the Westchase Rotary's "Unite for Good" Speech Contest!

If you're a 9th-12th grader with a story about how you've brought people together, made a difference or inspired positive change, this is your chance to take the mic. All participants earn 3 volunteer hours, and you could win up to \$1000!

- February 10: Unite for Good, Maureen Gauzza Library
- Enter by February 5. Scan code or visit westchaserotary.org/speechcontest
- Cash prizes: \$200 for 1st, \$100 for 2nd, \$70 for 3rd
- A shot at \$1,000 at the district on April 13



The contest is open to all high school students - public, private or homeschooled. Original speeches must be between 5-7 minutes. See our website for additional rules and information!

SAVE THE DATE: April 18 is this year's Westchase Rotary Pub Crawl!

Contact us for sponsorship opportunities at westchaserotary.org

Sponsor levels include free tickets, logo presence, social media posts and more. Fun and philanthropy go hand in hand. Hope to see you there!

DURRETT
ORTHODONTICS
DR. SHARON DURRETT-ZIMMERER
Orthodontics for all ages
11908 SHELDON RD. TAMPA, FL 33626
813-920-1935
WWW.DURRETTORTHODONTICS.COM

Lic# CFC1425923 | BONDED & INSURED

Because plumbing problems can happen **ANYTIME!**

Hillsborough / Pasco 813-792-2264 & Pinellas 727-822-1742
PlumbingAnytime.com | plumbingdayornight@gmail.com

ANYTIME PLUMBING
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

FREE ESTIMATES
No Overtime
Flat-Rate Pricing

Don't let foot and ankle pain keep you from your fitness resolutions. We can help!

FOOT ANKLE SPECIALISTS
"Foot Care for all Walks of Life"
A Division of USFAS

Dr. Ted Couluris DPM
Dr. Andre McCoy DPM

- EPAT - a painless, non-invasive treatment for plantar fasciitis/heel pain
- Revolutionary new warts
- and X-rays and

DAY FOR TREATMENT!

SCAN FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE SPEECH CONTEST

Westchase
www.MyFootDr.com | (813) 855-3606

The Month of Love

Celebrating Love Beyond Romance

BY JENN ROJAS

Love: (n) an intense feeling of deep affection; (v) like or enjoy very much.

“It takes a village” is a common phrase in the realm of motherhood. Westchase Moms Group (WMG) is proud to provide connections and communal bonds. Motherhood can often feel isolating, especially to those women that don’t have familial support or are new to the Westchase area. The importance of mom-friends in varying stages of motherhood provides emotional support and shared wisdom. As busy as we are all, try to ensure you squeeze in some girl time this month. WMG is hosting a Galentine’s Day celebration open to all WMG members. Please check your email for the invitation.

Celebrating Valentine’s Day with your child(ren) or family is a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate love. It can be a simple celebration or expression of love such as enjoying heart-shaped treats together, creating a “reasons I love you” card, a themed movie night (or morning!), or an elaborate celebration of your choosing. Even a small celebration can deepen your family bond and create cherished memories.

Mamas, you deserve to be loved and taken care of, too! Self-care can become difficult in the throws of motherhood.

Here are some simple self-care ideas:

- Pamper yourself with an at-home spa. Take a long bath while enjoying your favorite drink or music.
- Treat yourself to a special meal. Whether it’s ordering in, cooking at home or splurging at your favorite restaurant.
- Engage in mindfulness activities. Enjoy a walk in the cooler weather, join a fitness class or search the Internet for a guided meditation.
- Set and practice boundaries. It can be easier said than done, but your mental health matters.
- Enjoy a hobby, new or old. Set aside guilt-free time to enjoy something, simply because it makes you happy.

WANT TO JOIN THE WMG?

Sign up at westchasmomsgroup.com.

Rodent meteorologist, Punxsutawney Phil, will be checking for his shadow on February 2. If you’ve struggled with the first month of New Year’s Resolutions, this day could be a reminder to reflect on what does or doesn’t work for you. You have permission to adjust, reset or start new. Remember to give yourself grace in overcoming the challenges life can bring. Punxsutawney Phil is loved and cherished with a 40% success rate of his singular duty. Show up for yourself and let go of perfection.

Super Bowl LX will be held on Sunday, February 8, at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Fourteen of our members competed in the first-ever WMG Fantasy League. The league provided an additional way for our members to connect in a friendly, competitive way throughout the season. We hope to continue and expand the league next season. Thank you to all of those who participated and congratulations to our winner Kirsty Couillard!



WMG celebrates Noon Year’s Eve

Not sure yet? Feel free to attend an event before joining! Reach out to us at westchasmomsgroup@gmail.com to learn more.

A Dazzling Start to Parade Season

The Westchase Krewe of Freebooters kicked off the 2026 Gasparilla parade season in spectacular Freebooter fashion.

BY MICHAEL FLANNERY, KREWE CAPTAIN

PHOTO BY HEATHER BOSSOWSKI

The Children's Parade on Jan. 24 proved to be a wonderful success, with our mermaids shining bright and Krewe members joyfully tossing beads, filling the route with smiles, cheers and unforgettable moments. A lively kickoff gathering at Ford's Garage set the perfect tone for a full day of celebration, camaraderie, and classic Freebooter fun.

The excitement surged to new heights at the Gasparilla Parade of Pirates on Jan. 31, delivering an experience that was nothing short of spectacular. After a raucous kickoff at McDivot's, the Krewe descended on Bayshore in our signature high-energy, celebratory style. The Montague gleamed brilliantly along the parade route, adorned with stunning mermaids and packed with Krewe members and friends alike, all bringing excitement, enthusiasm, and nonstop fun to the massive crowds. With spectators lining the streets and spirits running high, it was truly a day to remember—an all-around success and a powerful testament to the heart and tradition of the Freebooters.

And the celebrations are far from over.

February keeps the momentum rolling as the Freebooters continue to light up parade routes across the region:

- February 14 - Sant' Yago Knight Parade, Ybor City
- February 17 - Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Parade, downtown Dunedin

Looking ahead to March 14, the Krewe will don their finest green, shamrocks proudly displayed, and bring the festive spirit to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Tampa.

Interested in joining the excitement? If you've been curious about membership, consider participating as a mid-season member in one of our February or March parades—an ideal way to experience Freebooter life firsthand.

Connect with us through our website at freebooterskrewe.com, and be sure to follow the Westchase Freebooters on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok for the latest highlights, photos, and parade-day moments.





treMEDSPA

Want to lose weight? Weight Loss Injections

Starting at \$275/month

Once Weekly Injection

Decreases Appetite & Cravings

Stimulates Insulin Secretion

Promotes Weight Loss

*We carry both Semaglutide & Tirzepatide

Book ONLINE at www.tremedspa.com

NEW CLIENT OFFER

BOTOX: 20 units for \$199

- BOTOX • FILLERS
- PDO THREAD LIFT • KYBELLA
- SCULPTRA • DERMAPLANING
- HYDRAFACIAL • CHEMICAL PEELS
- FACIALS • WEIGHT LOSS INJECTIONS



11013 Countryway Blvd.
WESTCHASE
(Next to Maureen B. Gauzza Public Library)
(813) 749-0918
www.tremedspa.com




Dr. B. Ngoc Pham, MD
Medical Director



Leilani Phelan, PA-C
B. Ngoc Pham, MD
Christian Neller, PA-C

Our practice has been serving the Westchase community for over 15 years. We are committed to providing excellent medical care for your families.

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Call Us Today! (813) 749-0844
11041 Countryway Blvd. | WESTCHASE
www.ProactivePrimaryCareFL.com



TAMPA'S COSMETIC DENTIST

The Dental Boutique Westchase

Website

Directions

Save

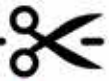
Call

813-536-7766



5.0 ★★★★★ 1,385 Google reviews

LOVE YOUR SMILE SALE



\$2,025

Off

Invisalign

Expires February 28th 2025



25%

Off

Veneers

Expires February 28th 2025



\$2,025

Off

Dental Implants

Expires February 28th 2025

6 Months of Invisalign



Dr. Andrew M Vallo

Porcelain Veneers



Dr. Andrew M Vallo

Dental Implant



Dr. C. Alsakati

10% off Botox Treatment!

Exciting Events Ahead for the Seniors

The Westchase Seniors held its first monthly event of 2026 at the Wild Rover Brewing Company.

BY JUDY DANIHER



Conversations amongst the group were rich with vignettes about family, travel, hobbies, cars, prior work life and views on many life topics. The food was delicious, well-presented and the service outstanding. The weather proved to be a typically wonderful Florida day in January.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you plan to attend any event, sign up on Tuesday mornings at McDonald's or email thewestchaseseniors@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY: A tour of J.C. Newman Cigar Company at 2701 North 16th Street, Tampa, is planned for Wednesday, February 4, 2026. We will meet at 1p.m. at the factory for a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute walking tour. The factory has elevators for those of us who are not fond of climbing stairs. The cost of the tour is \$12 per senior. The J. C. Newman Cigar Company factory is America's oldest family-owned, premium cigar maker. Reservations for the tour are required.

MARCH: Monday, March 9, is a putting and lunch event. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Westchase Golf Club restaurant for a special springtime lunch. We will also have a little putting contest on a specially designed putting green. You don't have to be a golfer to enjoy the contest. There will be prizes. Putters and golf balls will be available. The cost of lunch is \$20, inclusive.

APRIL: In the planning stage. Details to follow.

PUT LIFE IN YOUR YEARS: If you are a Westchase resident over 55 years old and looking to meet fellow seniors and perhaps add more fun in your life, join us. Some of us get together weekly at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays for coffee at McDonald's in addition to gathering for a planned monthly activity of some kind. To receive emails about our events, send your name and e-mail address to thewestchaseseniors@gmail.com. It won't cost you anything to join and it may help you stay young at heart.

GALS Plan a GALentine's Day Outing

After a goal-setting workshop in January, the Westchase GALS are ready for some February fun.

BY LESLIE WALL

The Westchase GALS started off the new year with a goal-setting workshop led by life coach Nancy Skubis. Our first task was to remove the clutter from our minds with a thought download. We then identified what we want to stop, continue and start this year. We learned about dream journaling and examined how to attain a large goal using smaller steps over a 90-day period. We concluded by creating bingo cards to help us accomplish our goals while incorporating small rewards along the way. If you want some amazing examples, look up "vision bingo cards" online. It was such an enlightening evening! If you would like to learn more or could use a coach to keep you on track, contact Nancy at nancyskubiscoaching.com.

In February, we celebrate our friendship with GALentine's Day! On February 10, we will meet in Hyde Park for apps and drinks and then head over to The Candle Pour to make our own scented candles. There are over 100 fragrance oils to choose from, so each GAL will personalize their candle to their own preference. Registration is required, so sign up today. What scent will you choose?

The GALS Book Club selection for February is "Good Dirt" by Charmaine Wilkerson. This emotional, multi-generational, multi-genre novel will be the focus of our online discussion.

New members are welcome! See the Westchase GALS Facebook page for more info.

GALS also has started the new year with our decluttering challenge. If you're ready to clean out your home and get organized for 2026, join us!

Do you know someone in need of some sunshine? Our Sunshine Committee is ready to help! Message us via the Westchase GALS Facebook page with your info.

Happy February! May your month be full of love and friendship.



We are the Original Westchase Dental

Same location, Same service, Same friendly faces.



Carol Kirkwood, DMD

THE FIRST DENTAL PRACTICE IN WESTCHASE

- Featured in Tampa Bay Magazine in "Best Dentist" category, chosen by her peers!
- State-of-the-art facility
- Award-winning doctor
- Caring, long term, professional staff
- Nitrous oxide (Laughing Gas)
- Family and cosmetic dentistry
- Featured on Channel 10
- Lavender warming mittens for your hands
- Watch a movie or stream with our video glasses or listen to personalized music during your dental appointment

Serving the area since 1998



Come see what we have to offer!

11369 Countryway Blvd., Tampa, FL 33626 (Next to Tuscany Bay Apartments) | 813.818.0600 | Hours: M-Th 8:00-5:00

SHOP WESTCHASE'S
HIDDEN GEM BOUTIQUE

WILD POPPY
TAMPA



Visit us for
unique
Valentine's
Day gifts!

Follow us



**SENSATIONAL GIFTS
CHIC WOMEN'S CLOTHING
JEWELRY · HOME ACCESSORIES
EXCLUSIVE SEASONAL ITEMS**

12635 Race Track Road, Tampa
33626 (behind Westchase Physical Therapy)
(813)475-5346



Physical Medicine Clinic

- COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY CARE
- PERSONALIZED HEALTH CARE
- SPECIALIZES IN SPINE, JOINT, MUSCLE & NERVE HEALTH

ACCEPTS ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

We speak English, Spanish & Chinese




A part of Westchase community for 14years
New Addition: Dr. Liyu Liu, D.O.

- Board certified in family medicine, certified in functional & regenerative medicine.
- 10 years' experience in primary care
- Christ-following physician, wife and mom

DR. LIU D.O.

813-7924804 8441 W. LINEBAUGH AVE,
TAMPA 33625

(Across from Westchase Costco)

Law for **all** of life's important moments.

Family Law | Corporate & Tax | Personal Injury | Business Litigation Corporate & Tax
Appeals | Mediation | Estate & Probate | Property Insurance | Real Estate & Land Use



Martin Deptula
Collaborative Divorce | Family Law

OLDER & LUNDY & KOCH MARTINO
OlderLundyLaw.com

Tampa • St. Petersburg • Clearwater • Trinity • Wesley Chapel • Ft. Myers

A Peaceful Respite in Bustling St. Petersburg

Despite its urban setting, Sunken Gardens is a tranquil escape.

BY LYNN GONZALEZ

The Sunken Gardens website describes the historic Florida roadside attraction as a “tranquil oasis nestled in the heart of St. Pete.” I was skeptical of that description, especially after mapping the location. I was even more dubious after parking in the visitors’ parking lot, which is shared both with Great Explorations (a children’s museum) and a Carrabba’s Italian Grill. I must admit to being pleasantly surprised and acknowledge that the lofty description rang true.

I explored Sunken Gardens on a warm January afternoon. The website notes that visitors cannot purchase tickets or memberships online, so I headed there hoping it wouldn’t be overly crowded. The drive took about 30 minutes. There was plenty of free parking, and there was no one in line as I entered the welcome center.

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors (62+), and \$8 for children (2-12). The woman at the counter gave me a map and placed a pink sticker on my receipt that allowed reentry on the same day.

I entered the gardens and was immediately struck by how quiet it was. Sunken Gardens is located on 4th Street North, which is a relatively busy street with a decent amount of traffic. I didn’t hear the cars racing by as I had expected. Instead, I was met by the sounds of a babbling waterfall and resident birds.

The first thing I saw was the Frank Nesmith & Sunken Gardens Railroad, which, according to the sign, was established in 2022. Unfortunately, the miniature trains weren’t running when I visited. Next, I came upon three metal aviaries, which housed macaws and parrots.

I continued along the initial path and saw the famous Sunken Gardens flamingoes. There was a flock relaxing in the shade alongside one of the gardens’ many water features.

In the History Center, I learned that George Turner, Sr., purchased the land upon which Sunken Gardens was built in 1911 for \$600. Turner was an avid gardener, and in the 1930s started charging admission for tours of what he created after draining a sinkhole that was known as Curlew Pond. The gardens grew from there, and the first flamingoes were added in 1955. The City of St. Petersburg now owns Sunken Gardens, which was designated as a Local Historic Landmark in 1998.

After leaving the History Center, I saw more birds, including a keel-billed toucan and a laughing kookaburra. During my wandering, I also met Mitch, a pink cockatoo, who posed for a photo during an outing with a member of the Sunken Gardens animal care team. There was a tortoise and turtle enclosure as well, but I wasn’t able to see any of its residents.

Sunken Gardens is home to a rustic amphitheater and a tented wedding lawn that can be rented for special occasions. The North Lawn overlooks the pollinator and succulent gardens. Visitors were relaxing on nearby benches and on the lawn itself.

Throughout the gardens, a variety of seating areas were nestled into corners. I took a seat on a bright blue Adirondack chair and simply enjoyed the sounds of nature and the

waterfall. The paths through Sunken Gardens are circular, and it was easy to lose myself in the greenery.

The stars of the show were clearly the huge assortment of native and exotic plants. There were a number of orchids, located both in the orchid arbor and throughout the gardens. The vibrant bougainvillea in shades of red and bright pink edged the gardens in a sort of waterfall. I saw palm trees in all shapes and sizes, and banana and papaya trees in abundance. Many of the plants were labeled with small signs to enable visitors to learn about the plethora of species showcased at Sunken Gardens.

I used the map provided to ensure that I saw all the attractions listed. I found my way to the koi pond and walked softly through the vacant meditation patio. After about an hour of wandering, I had seen and experienced everything that I wanted to. The Sunken Gardens’ exit takes you through a gift shop teeming with souvenirs.

While I very much enjoyed my visit to Sunken Gardens, I wish I had come prepared with a book to read or other activity to complete (like my Woobles crochet kit that I have yet to open). It was lovely to look at the many attractions, but I feel like it was an ideal place simply to be. If you opt to visit, take the time to stop and smell the orchids. You won’t regret it.



Know Before You Go!

- Discounts are available for AAA members, military ID holders and visitors celebrating a birthday (with proof, of course).
- Sunken Gardens hosts a number of events, including yoga classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and periodic history talks.
- Individual memberships are available for \$50 and family memberships are \$100

GREEN THUMB...

for all your lawn and garden needs...



FEBRUARY | Love is in bloom! Brighten February with fresh cut flowers. Perfect for Valentine's Day or any occasion. Come visit us for vibrant bouquets that say it all!

When you need to know, call the lawn and garden professionals at

GREEN THUMB NURSERY

SERVING TAMPA FOR OVER 70 YEARS

813-884-3797 | 6913 Sheldon Road (between Waters & Hillsborough)

THE EMERALD GROUP: MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY MARKET



SOLD | 2808 WINGLEWOOD CIRCLE - STONEBRIER
SOLD FOR \$760,000



SOLD | 14542 MIRABELLE VISTA CIRCLE - WATERCHASE
SOLD FOR \$430,000



Smith &
Associates Real Estate

**CHRISTINE SULLO, LISA ESSEK,
AND MARCO MUSEMECI**

THE EMERALD GROUP
303.710.1029

SERVING THE GREATER TAMPA BAY



WE'RE BRINGING YOUR DREAMS TO LIFE



Stimulus
Sales Incentive
**NO PAYMENTS
NO INTEREST**

FOR 12 MONTHS
*Call today to inquire
about offer.

AUTHENTIC CONCEPTS

Kitchen & Bath Design

www.AuthenticConceptsDesign.com

727-785-3097

**FREE In-Home
Design Consultation
and Estimate**

Showroom:
**3265 Tampa Road
Palm Harbor 34684**
Lic# C-11019



With 15+ years of experience, we'll keep your project on time and on budget. Call today to get started.



Soar to New Heights

Empower yourself as you soar through the treetops near Old Tampa Bay.

BY HEATHER BOSSOWSKI

A cool January day just after the new year was the perfect evening for our annual adventure to “Zip on Tampa Bay” at Empower Adventures in Oldsmar. We always opt for their “Sunset Zip,” when the sun sits lower in the sky, lending to a fabulous array of colors to set the tone, and the air has a certain crispness about it that everyone here waits for all year. It was just before that golden hour glow that we arrived to meet our guides, ready to trade the routine of the day for something a little more elevated.

Set among towering trees directly inside of Mobbly Bayou Preserve, Empower Adventures is conveniently close to Westchase. It was a mere 10-minute ride from home. As the afternoon faded toward evening, we looked up at the steel cables stretched overhead with their attached wooden platforms, hearing the occasional squeal of simultaneous terror and delight break the tranquility of the moment. My boys immediately started sizing up the course with confidence; however, I had my normal apprehension, as my fear of heights was front and center in my mind. I was here to again try to overcome it, and with each annual visit I knew it would improve.

Before we ever left the ground, our two guides set the tone for the experience. Calm, upbeat and clearly in their element, they walked us through the



safety process with ease, answering questions and explaining how the safety components worked. Their confidence was almost contagious. Harnesses were checked, helmets adjusted and, just like that, we were climbing the first set of spiral stairs to reach the platform where our adventure began. From the first platform, the perspective changes from what you see on the ground, both literally and mentally. Our first obstacle was a 500-foot zip, and alongside it, we could see suspended bridges swaying, narrow beams and double ropes that demanded focus, and each element requiring a decision to trust the system, the equipment, our guides, and to keep moving forward. The guides watched closely with the occasional tip and perfectly timed reassurance. The others in our group (up to six total per time slot for general bookings) also cheered everyone on and offered words of encouragement at any hesitation.

My sons moved ahead with the effortless balance that seems to come

naturally to teenagers, calling back commentary and encouragement, as we like to call it, “from the peanut gallery,” as I followed. When I pushed through, they cheered. The experience wasn’t just an individual challenge; it was a shared one, one that has become an annual tradition in our family.

After a few shorter zips and rope obstacles came the longer 600-foot-plus zip lines, strung over the Bay and glowing in the fading light. Pelicans and gators could be seen in the brackish water below, with small turtles popping up, and cormorants sitting among the mangroves. Stepping off the platform at dusk adds an extra thrill, and as the ground drops away, the air rushes past and, for a few seconds, everything else disappears with the unmistakable surge of adrenaline, leaving you breathless in the best kind of way...the way that only comes from doing something just outside your comfort zone. With phones put away and hands busy on ropes and cables, conversation flowed easily. It was the kind of time together that was distraction-free, truly in the moment, that’s hard to duplicate and the reason we choose these types of challenges. Before our last zip, our guides gave us the lay of the land, pointing out both Tampa and St. Pete skylines on the horizon, as well as Safety Harbor and, on the opposite side, Westchase. By the time our guides unclipped our harnesses, evening had fully settled

in. We compared favorite challenges, replayed funny moments and thanked our guides, who balanced professionalism and enthusiasm perfectly, for making the experience feel both adventurous and secure. The reviews online don’t lie; they are among the best at what they do at Empower Adventures.

Empower Adventures in Oldsmar delivered a memorable way to experience Florida outdoors after hours, one that combined challenge, trust and just the right amount of thrill shared together. If you are looking for a great way to get out of your comfort zone and create some team building or family memories, this is the bucket list check for you in 2026.



100% Satisfaction Guarantee



KENCO
Electrical Services

- Residential & Commercial Service
- Lightning & Surge Protection
- Home Safety Inspections
- Light Fixtures
- Up-Front Pricing
- Same Day Service
- Licensed, Bonded & Insured
- Labor & Materials Warranty
- Service Available Mon.-Fri.
- Electric for Remodels



Technicians You Can Trust

- ★ Professionally Trained
- ★ Drug-Free Workplace
- ★ Background Checks

813.855.6969 | 727.787.0913

www.kencolectrical.com | www.mytampaelectrician.com

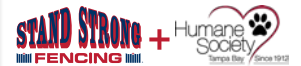
License ER0014554

WOOD • VINYL • CHAIN LINK • COMPOSITE • ALUMINUM • STEEL



FREE GATE

with a fence install of 100ft or more.



As a proud partner of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Stand Strong Fencing of Tampa is committed to donating **\$50.00** for every completed fence installation.

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE (813) 576-3708

WESTCHASE
GOLF CLUB

Book Your Tee Time Today:
westchasegc.com

Melting Pot Offers a Taste of Nostalgia

For more than 50 years, the fondue restaurant has brought people together for an interactive dining experience.

BY DANIELLE HAUSER

As each new year approaches, my husband and I recall the memorable celebrations we've had with friends at Melting Pot. For several years, we lived very close to the original location in St. Petersburg and would ring in the new year over fondue. Finally, our teenagers got tired of us retelling this story of our early married days and asked why we hadn't taken them to Melting Pot. Since they already had New Year's Eve plans, we decided to dine there in early January before our son went back to UCF.

I made reservations online for a Saturday evening at the Tampa Melting Pot. When we arrived, the hostess asked us if we were celebrating a special occasion which was thoughtful.

We were seated in a booth and given menus as they turned on the heat of our shiny fondue pot. The menu offers a four-course dinner for two that costs \$124 and \$62 for each additional person. This allows diners to pick a cheese fondue, salad, entree and cooking style, and chocolate fondue for dessert. While there is also an a la carte option, I think the four-course dinner is the best way to taste everything Melting Pot has to offer. Choosing from all of the appetizing options is the hard part.

The Cheese Fondue varieties included Wisconsin Cheddar, Spinach Artichoke, Bacon & Brie, Classic Alpine, Fiesta and Wisconsin Trio. We opted for the latter, which was a creamy combination of Butterkäse, Fontina, Gorgonzola, white wine, sherry, shallots and scallions. After our server mixed everything into the heated fondue pot, we used our fondue forks to dip bread, fresh fruit and vegetables into the cheese. We also ordered a side of Summer Sausage Dippers (\$4) to try, and they were also delicious with the cheese. Next, our Caesar Salads arrived which were topped with parmesan-dusted pine nuts. I wasn't sure how the pine nuts were going to taste, but they were delightfully unique and added a nice texture. My husband and I still miss the Original Mushroom Salad which is sadly no longer on the menu.

The entree course required two decisions because we had to pick our proteins and what they are cooked in. The cooking styles included Coq Au Vin, Mojo, Court Bouillon, Traditional Oil and Grill. We chose the Mojo which was zesty and citrusy with Caribbean flavors, hints of garlic and cilantro. Our server said that's her favorite cooking style and is one of the most popular. Entree protein options included steak, chicken, shrimp, duck breast, pork, salmon, tuna and more. You can create your own entree or choose from The Classic, Pacific Rim, Steak Lovers and Land & Sea. We opted for Steak Lovers, which came with Garlic Pepper Steak, Teriyaki Steak, Petite Filet, plus mushrooms, potatoes and broccoli. After cooking the meat and sides in the pot, it was fun dipping each item in the variety of sauces and debating which one was the best. My favorite was the creamy and herbaceous Green Goddess, my son and daughter liked the Teriyaki Glaze and Ginger Plum sauces, and my husband thought the Gorgonzola Port was the winner.

Though we were getting full, we saved room for the chocolate fondue. With choices like Yin & Yang, The Original, Peanut Butter Pie, Flaming Turtle, S'mores and Pure Chocolate, this was the hardest course to pick. Ultimately, we agreed on Flaming Turtle, which had milk chocolate melted with caramel, flambéed and topped with candied pecans. We all enjoyed dipping fruit, brownies and other baked goods in the warm and decadent chocolate.

Melting Pot is the perfect place to celebrate any special occasion or just gather with friends and family. There's something about the communal fondue experience that encourages conversation and laughter and leaves you with fond memories.



Melting Pot Tampa



meltingpot.com

13164 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 5-9:30 p.m., Fri. 5-10 p.m.,

Sat. 4-10:30 p.m.,

Sun. 4-9:30 p.m.

Winter Thrills and Chills

It's the perfect time of year for a dark thriller.

BY LAUREN JAMRO, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

There's something appealing about reading spooky stories in winter (such as it is in Florida). Perhaps it's the darkness of shortened days or the green of the natural world giving over to brown. Either way, the origin of sharing creepy stories through the frosty months is difficult to pinpoint. Suffice it to say that humans have been drawn to the practice since long before the Victorian era. In keeping with tradition, here are newly published horror titles to help you enjoy a few extra chills this February.



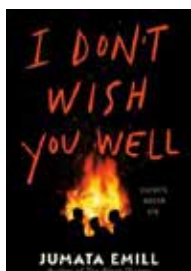
For supernatural thrills, turn to "A Box Full of Darkness" by Simone St. James. A game of hide-and-seek goes horribly awry for siblings Violet, Bail, and Dodie when their younger brother, Ben, suddenly vanishes. Terrifying visions and incidents cause the remaining siblings to flee their hometown of Fell, New York. When they receive a request to return home from the ghost of Ben himself, will they be able to

uncover the answers they need before the dark spirits of Fell get to them?



Published at the end of 2025, "Snake-Eater" by seasoned horror and fantasy writer, T. Kingfisher, mixes fun with a bit of fright. Selena desperately escapes her abusive fiancé with only her dog in tow. Penniless, she travels to her deceased Aunt Amelia's house in the small desert town of Quartz Creek. Things are different around Amelia's house; desert gods and spirits can be seen keeping watch at night. Selena begins to sense that one god, simply called the Snake-

Eater, has developed a sinister interest in her.



A Young Adult offering, "I DON'T WISH YOU WELL" is written by crime journalist, Jumata Emill. It tells the tale of 18-year-old Pryce Cummings and his investigation into the slaughter of four football players by Deuce Beales five years prior. Pryce hopes to leverage his findings into a true-crime podcast that will delay his reunion with his religious parents and help him keep his sexuality a secret. As his investigation

deepens, however, he begins to question if the real killer is still out there.

Find these and more thrills at your Hillsborough County Public Library.



Thuy D. Murray, CLU® ChFC®
813-448-1233
 TampaSFAgent.com

10 years in the Westchase area

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS:
 Auto, Home/Renters, Business, Life,
 Commercial Auto, and Disability



CONTACT ME TODAY
 for a free quote
 Quote@TampaSFAgent.com

11588 Fountainhead Dr.
 Tampa 33626



Plumbing Service, Inc.

Let 3 J's Plumbing handle ALL your plumbing needs. Whether it's a simple faucet installation or sewer line replacement, let 3 J's do it for you.

REPAIR & INSTALLATION SERVICES PROVIDED

Plumbing Services

- Faucet
- Water Heater Repair/Replacement
- Toilet

Sewer Repair & Drain

- Drain Cleaning
- Main Line Repair/Replacement
- Hydro Jetting

...AND MUCH MORE!

10% Discount for New Customers

(813)-818-8885

3jsplumbingserviceinc.com

CFC 1430235

WOW Tours the Pacific Northwest

In the summer of 2025, Jon and Martha Stein of Harbor Links/The Estates explored the majestic beauty of the Pacific Northwest, and they took WOW along for the ride.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

- 1- Redwood National Park
- 2 & 3- Crater Lake
- 4- Northern California
- 5- Lassen Volcanic Park
- 6- Crater Lake
- 7- Redwood National Park

"We did a National Park loop in California and Oregon, visiting Lassen Volcanic National Park in Northern California, Crater Lake National Park in Southern Oregon, then traveling down the California coast through the Redwood National and State Parks, to San Francisco," Jon said. "The parks were gorgeous and well worth the visit."

Based on the photos, we would have to agree!

American Cancer Society **RELAY FOR LIFE**

Cancer won't win.

Fighting cancer takes many things like research, free rides to chemo and lodging near hospitals, and our 24/7 helpline. But we can't do any of that without you. Join Relay For Life, the largest, most inspiring, and supportive cancer fundraising event on the planet.

Relay For Life of Tampa Bay
Presented by Ultimate Medical Academy
March 7 - 8, 2026
4:00 PM - 5:00 AM
Raymond James Stadium

RelayForLife.org/TampaBayFL
tammy.schoonover@cancer.org

Open:
Mo-Sa: 10-6
Closed on
Sundays

tate & tilly
BOUTIQUE

Follow us on

Come see us for that special Valentine's Day gift!

"Love you to the Moon and Back"

We offer a rich assortment of unique décor, gift ideas, jewelry, stylish clothing, baby and tween gifts, game day apparel, and much more.

Located in the heart of Carrollwood near Kobe Steak House in the Grand Plaza on N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

14369 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618
(located in the Grand Plaza)
(813) 962-7878

Westchase's Premier Screening Company

Everybody wants a beautiful pool

WE MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH BEAUTIFUL SCREENS

Screens 'R' Us
THE SCREEN REPAIR EXPERTS

From single panels to full rescreens, **SCREENS 'R US** will help rejuvenate your outdoor space to take full advantage of your screened patio. Ask us about other options like no-see-um, pet, super-screen, and panoramic panel options.

SINGLE/FULL RESCREEN | LANAI HARDWARE | DOOR REPAIR | PET DOORS | WINDOW SCREENS

Free, no obligation estimates | info@screensrus.com | 813.295.1217 | www.screensrus.com

The Childhood Memories We're Accidentally Competing Over

BY JESSICA PLETT

Ah, February. The holidays are behind us, routines are back in full force and suddenly we're being asked to summon enthusiasm for another celebration. Valentine's Day isn't even a big holiday, but somehow it manages to involve snacks, crafts, on-theme outfits and a decision about how much effort is the "right" amount.

Unlike the major milestones we plan for, February feels like it sneaks in sideways. Life is moving. School emails keep coming. And tucked into the middle of the month is a holiday that is sweet in theory and surprisingly complicated in practice. Not because it's hard, exactly, but because it sits right at the intersection of childhood memories, comparison and the very human desire to show up well for our kids.

I'm not here to yuck anyone's yums. If you love Valentine's Day, go full boar. Weeks ago, I picked up a Valentine's Day shirt for my preschooler's class party and spent an embarrassingly long time standing in front of the Target boys T-shirt table deciding between dino hearts, a quirky but slightly lame candy-heart graphic tee or a red-stripe staple shirt. I went the "can re-wear" stripe route. I still need to snag valentines, party favors and treats, not to mention the other non-school festivities I signed us up for. Luckily, we live in the age of Amazon and grocery delivery.

But none of this should feel like a chore or a punishment. And let's be honest, it adds up. It feels a little silly to spend nearly as much on a school Valentine's celebration as I would on a dinner date with my husband.

It's a lot of pressure for a Tuesday in February.

What's tricky is that memory-making has quietly turned competitive, even when no one says it out loud. We see glimpses of other families' moments and start measuring our own. Whose Valentine's cards were cuter. Whose

tradition feels more heartfelt. Whose kids look like they're having more fun.

It's subtle, but it adds up. You start to feel like childhood is a highlight reel you're supposed to curate in real time, while also doing everything else that being a parent actually entails.

Somewhere along the way, the expectation shifted from letting memories happen to actively engineering them. Making sure the holidays are magical, the traditions are meaningful, the photos are taken, the moments are memorable and, often, visible. There's no rule book, but there's always a sense that there is some invisible standard we're measuring ourselves against.

The irony is that the moments we stress about the most are rarely the ones kids carry with them.

Most of us can't recall the specifics of every holiday or celebration from our own childhoods. We remember how things felt. Who made us feel safe. Who showed up consistently. Who laughed easily. Who wasn't always rushing to the next thing.

There's freedom in realizing you don't need to turn every event into a defining moment. Kids don't need constant magic. They need steadiness. They need room to be bored. They need parents who aren't so busy creating memories that they miss being present for them.

This doesn't mean skipping celebrations or opting out of traditions. It means letting them be human-sized. They won't remember whether the cards were store-bought or homemade, or if their shirt had hearts or stripes. What they remember, if anything, is the feeling. That school felt safe. That home felt steady. That they were excited, seen and included.

February has a way of reminding us how much family life happens in these small, ordinary moments. It's not the big holidays or milestone events. It's the classroom parties. The themed days. The routine celebrations that come and go without much fanfare. And those

moments can quietly start to feel heavier than they need to be if we let them.

What February offers, if we let it, is a chance to loosen the grip a little. To decide, consciously, what matters to us and what doesn't. To remember that showing up doesn't require overperforming. That consistency often matters more than creativity. That your kid feeling loved doesn't hinge on whether you nailed the theme.

For some families, Valentine's Day will always be a big deal. For others, it will be a checkbox on the calendar. Most of us live somewhere in between, doing our best and making small choices that feel right in the moment. None of those choices are wrong.

So, consider this your invitation to soften your expectations. Not lower the bar but redefine it. Less about what it looks like, more about how it feels. Less about keeping up, more about staying present.

Sometimes, the best memories we help our kids make come from letting the small moments stay just that. Small and sweet, like that tacky Valentine's Day T-shirt I regret not getting my son instead.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE STOKER PHOTOGRAPHY



About the Author

Jessica Plett is a former corporate marketing leader and Chicago native who calls Westchase home. Now a stay-at-home mom, she writes about modern family life with humor, honesty and a deep appreciation for the everyday moments

that tend to go unnoticed. When she's not writing, she can be found chasing a three-year-old, reheating her coffee, or talking herself out of adding one more thing to the calendar.

EMERGENCY
EXPERTS

OPEN 24/7

CLOSE
TO HOME



Short**ER** Wait Times

When an emergency happens, you want local health care expertise you can trust. Our new state of the art ER in Northdale will include 12 private treatment rooms, a full-service lab, onsite diagnostic imaging (CT, ultrasound, and X-ray), board-certified emergency physicians, and specially trained staff to help you get back to your life and back to feeling whole.

 [Learn More](#)
[NorthdaleER.com](#)

In case of a medical emergency, call 911.

AdventHealth Northdale ER is a department of AdventHealth Tampa. It is not an urgent care center. Its services and care are billed at hospital emergency department rates.


AdventHealth
Northdale ER

Westchase Recreation Center Programs

WELLNESS ACCESS PASS

Items marked with an * are included with The Parks & Recreation Wellness Access Pass.

Learn more at hillsboroughcounty.org under Parks & Recreation.

Room & shelter rentals available for weekdays and weekends. Call (813) 352-9973

ADULT

PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY*

When: Mon, Wed, Fri. 10 a.m.-noon;
Sun, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Free Pickleball Lessons, register online
Contact: Email ReidW@HCFL.gov

BADMINTON*

When: Wed, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Sat, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

TONE AND STRETCH

When: Mon, Wed and Fri, 9-10 a.m.
Cost: Free

BOLLYWOOD DANCING CLASSES

When: Wed, 6:15 p.m.
Contact: 813-591-0410

ADULT MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

35+ Co-ed league.
Starts in Jan; register as a team at Hcfl.gov/parks

YOUTH

YOUTH BADMINTON (6-17)

When: Sat: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Sun: 1:30-3 p.m.
Registration open
Cost: Free

HOMESCHOOL P.E

When: Thurs, Jan. 8, 2026-March 5, 2026
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Registration open

LEGACY VOLLEYBALL

When: Mon and Tues
Call: 813-964-2948

TAEKWONDO (5-17)

When: Mon and Tues at 6:15 p.m.
Call: 813-964-2948

PURE ART

When: First Sat. of month
Call: 813-964-2948

OUT OF SCHOOL CAMP DAYS

When: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Spring Break, Teacher Planning Days
Cost: \$30/Week
Registration open at Hcfl.gov/parks

NEW: YOUTH SOCCER

Unlock the thrill of the game with Hillsborough County Youth Soccer! Our dynamic program is the perfect pitch for young athletes to hone their skills, build lasting friendships, and experience the joy of soccer. With a commitment to player development, we create an inclusive and positive environment for kids of all skill levels. Join us on the field as we kick off a season filled with teamwork, sportsmanship, and the excitement.

When: Saturday Games, 10-week season
Cost: \$25
Registration February Hcfl.gov/parks

TODDLER PROGRAMS

TODDLER PE (2-5)

When: Tues, Jan. 6 to Mar. 3; 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. or 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.;
Registration open
Cost: \$25
Registration open at Hcflgov.net/parks

SENIOR PROGRAMS

SENIOR OUTDOOR ACTIVE RECREATION (S.O.A.R)

Nature Trips and Historical Landmarks and Lunch.
Visit the various Parks and Rec trails, Ages 50+
Free (bring money for lunch)

When: First Thursday of the month
9 AM (Meet at Westchase Recreation Center, 9791 Westchase Drive)
Hcfl.gov/parks

All activities take place at: Westchase Recreation Center
9791 Westchase Dr., Tampa 33626 • (813) 964-2948



INTUITIVE THERAPIES
and pelvic health

**Whole-Body Care
for Pelvic Health &
Chronic Conditions**

Specializing in:

- Pelvic floor dysfunction & persistent pain
- Pregnancy & postpartum support
- Hypermobility/EDS, POTS, & complex conditions
- Manual therapy, movement, and nervous system regulation



**Contact us to start
your healing journey.**

**Dr. Nicole Woodruff, OTD, OTR/L
Dr. Abby Mandelblatt, PT, DPT**

10213 Wilsky Blvd. Suites 104 & 106 Tampa, 33625
813-434-0060 | IntuitiveTherapiesPelvicHealth.com

YOUR Local Government



70

Westchase CDD Meeting



71

Westchase Community Association Meeting



72

Westchase Voting Member Meeting



73-75

Westchase Reference



76-77

Northwest Reference



turn the page for meeting coverage and reference content



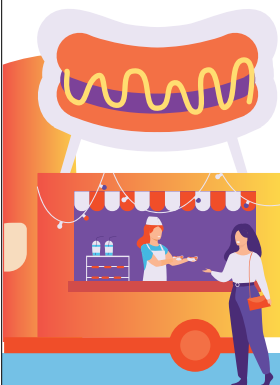
COMMUNITY EVENTS
Presented by

WOW
World of Westchase Magazine

Food Truck Rally

UPCOMING DATES:

**Feb. 6, 2026
April 10, 2026**



MUSIC PROVIDED BY:
Rockatar.
Music Academy & Studios

West Park Village Green 5:30-8 p.m.

Westchase CDD Discusses Greenspace Signage Prohibiting Organized Sports

The Jan. 6 Westchase CDD Meeting kicked off with audience comments.

BY KAREN RING

Shires VM Barry Anderson asked for clarification on discussions from the December meeting regarding the potential to carve out new playing field space in Westchase. He asked for a copy of a map previously presented by District Engineer Robert Dvorak, which was referenced at the December meeting. CDD Chair Matt Lewis said that Dvorak was absent due to illness, and he would work on finding the original drawing.

Tom Karpowich asked about the status of the cameras on the bridge leading to the Village Green, adding that there had been a lot of e-bike traffic. Field Manager David Sylvanowicz said he was still waiting for proposals from Spectrum. Lewis clarified that the cameras are not there to surveil activity of residents; they are there to protect CDD property. District Counsel Erin McCormick added that the CDD doesn't have the authority to enforce e-bike activity. Karpowich responded that the cameras could help with evidence in the case there is an accident.

Jeff Siddle of The Greens asked the board about their position on signs that were added to greenspaces in West Park Village and the Village Green stating, "no cleats; no organized sports." Sylvanowicz explained that the signs were installed in response to ongoing discussions with the two Greens Voting Members. He added that the VMs were getting a lot of complaints from residents that live near the fields.

Siddle countered that all residents did not get a say. He said that for the last 8 months, two flag football teams of 2nd-4th grade girls from The Greens have been using the Village Green space to practice. He added that the girls aren't destroying the field and expressed frustration that all Greens residents are paying to maintain the field, but only a few voices had a say.

Lewis noted that, at the December meeting, they decided not to re-mount the sign in WPV that had been knocked down to see how things progressed. Sylvanowicz reiterated that he is taking his cues from the Voting Members and trying to find balance between the CDD Board, the VMs and residents.

Supervisor Reggie Gillis said the issue is there isn't enough field space and there isn't a plan to fix that. He added that the board needs to look at long-term plans for field maintenance.

Siddle asked what recourse residents have. Supervisor Chris Barrett asked if he had spoken to his Voting Member about polling residents. Siddle said that has been happening on the Greens' FB page. A mom in the audience said it is a beautiful community thing when these teams come together to practice, and the signs have been a bummer. Siddle noted that the item was on the agenda for the Jan. 8 WCA Board meeting.

Lewis said they should table the matter until the WCA Board discussed if they wanted to take a stance on the matter.

Turning to Pond 125, Sylvanowicz said that Dvorak had asked him to explore electrical options for pumping water away from the berm. He found that there is currently power available on the SE corner of pond and it would be \$23,000 to trench and direct wire to that area. Lewis clarified that, after the last meeting, he talked to Dvorak and he has looked again at creating an easement and drainage pipes between homes that are two property lines up from the original homes in the plan. He said Dvorak is working to fine tune the cost estimate for that plan and would have more information for the Jan. 20 workshop. Sturbridge resident Chris High said he had an additional idea to drain the water directly into the wetlands, which wouldn't require an easement. Lewis said he would ask Dvorak to investigate that option.

Sylvanowicz asked about the status of Pond 120 (owner encroachment). Lewis said he met with McCormick, WCA President Michiel Oostenbrink and WCA legal counsel. McCormick said she had drafted a joint letter from the WCA and CDD that would include the report from Dvorak and she would plan a meeting with the homeowners before the Feb. CDD meeting.

Sylvanowicz reported two more instances of vandalism over winter break, with kids on e-bikes lighting trash cans on fire in Glencliff. Office Manager Sherida Cook reported the incident but was told it needed to be reported to the non-emergency line. She would take care of that.

Sylvanowicz reminded the board that the CDD is no longer taking bounce house reservations at the parks to comply with the district's liability policy. He said some people were setting them up anyway and teens were using outlets to charge their e-bikes. He wanted the board's thoughts on turning the outlets off permanently. Lewis asked to table the matter for discussion at an upcoming workshop.

Outgoing District Manager, Mark Vega, informed the board that District Engineering firm BDI had requested a 3% increase on rates for 2026. He added that they had not had an increase since coming on board in 2023. The board unanimously approved the increase.

The board approved a series of resolutions that would transfer operations from Inframark to KAI. McCormick noted that the management fee is \$125,000 per year, paid monthly. They are contracted to attend 13 meetings at 2.5 hours each, and they bill an hourly rate of \$275 beyond 2.5 hours. The board unanimously approved the management services agreement with KAI which would take effect Jan. 23.

In supervisor requests, Gillis said he had spoken with Greg Christovich, the consultant hired to do an initial assessment of golf course assets. Gillis said Christovich would be calling in for Jan. 20 workshop.

WCA Board Approves 90-Day Trial of Open-Play Pickleball

The board also devised a plan for distribution of the lifeguard survey at the Jan. 8 meeting.

BY LYNN GONZALEZ

Dale Sells opened audience comments by raising several concerns. In summary, he said: the December meeting date was changed without explanation; the VMs have not received a monthly violation log in six to seven months; the GAC chair was unresponsive; and the Welcome Committee was blindsided by a policy change.

WCA President Michiel Oostenbrink replied to the comment about the December meeting, explaining that it was rescheduled due to internet issues in the office.

Treasurer Eric Holt shared that he planned to reconcile the year-end financials before the February board meeting, and he would submit a proposal for the cash assets. He stated that changing the management of reserve funds from the component to the pooled method requires homeowner approval and he planned to create an FAQ for residents. Oostenbrink clarified that the VMs can vote on the change without the matter going to every resident.

In her report, Association Manager Jennifer Jordan reported that 311 violation notices were given in December, the majority being initial notifications.

Oostenbrink said the Modifications Committee mistakenly approved the installation of a fence in Harbor Links that doesn't comply with INSGs. The board unanimously agreed to send a Chattel Shipping letter, which would acknowledge that the fence was approved in error but the INSGs would be properly enforced moving forward.

Oostenbrink turned to a conflict surrounding use of common greenspaces in The Greens. He explained that residents had raised concerns with their VMs about sports teams practicing on the field and damaging the turf. Those concerns were passed on to the CDD, which maintains the greenspaces throughout Westchase. In response, the CDD field office installed signs at two greenspace that say, "no cleats; no organized sports."

Director Jessica Siddle acknowledged that her child was among those using the common area to play flag football and said that the CDD was still deciding how they would handle the signs following backlash. Greens VM Steve Splaine explained that this issue isn't new. He said that there are two VMs for the neighborhood (Greens and Village Green). Three years ago, they both fielded numerous complaints about the state of the sod in the Village Green. The CDD agreed to resod (funded by Greens residents) and when it began to deteriorate

6 months later, the former field manager said a boys soccer team was contributing to the problem. The board discussed putting up signs, but they were never installed. Concerns about the sod and use of the space by sports teams resurfaced recently and the current CDD field manager installed the signs.

Both Holt and GAC Chair Ashley Wait-Woodcock agreed that the WCA does not have a say in the matter. Holt moved to have the GAC communicate to the CDD that the WCA does not hold an official position regarding signage on CDD property and that only board members can represent the WCA. It passed unanimously.

Oostenbrink left for a family emergency and Holt, being the next in command attending in person, led the remainder of the meeting.

He moved to have the Modifications Committee meet on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, as opposed to every other Tuesday, to avoid having their meetings conflict with the VMs meetings. The motion passed, 5-0.

Wait-Woodcock formally responded to Dale Sells' earlier comments about her, referring to them as "unhelpful and unnecessary." She reiterated her call for new members of the GAC and encouraged interested residents to contact her. Holt moved to remove all current GAC members with the exception of the Chair. He noted that it would be simple to reappoint them if they wished to continue. All board members present voted in favor. Holt said the Doc Review Committee needs one additional volunteer to focus on INSG changes.

Pam Wilcox of the S&T Committee said they hoped to begin open pickleball play on February 19. She said interested residents could register to play from 5-7 p.m. or 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday evenings. The board unanimously passed a motion to approve a 90-day trial period.

Technology Advisory Committee Chair Brad Swindell presented the committee's recommendations and suggested a January Workshop to determine locations for surveillance cameras and doors with access controls. The board then voted to replace the power supply for the Countryway pool entrance at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

Welcome Committee Chair Charles Stephens asked the board whether there was still a need for his volunteers. Jason Jozefiak and Jordan explained that the board wanted new residents to pick up their welcome bags at the WCA office to help them enroll in Vantaca. Stephens asked what his volunteers would do if they were no longer distributing the bags. Holt admitted he wasn't sure. Wait-Woodcock, who was not at the December meeting, admonished her fellow board members for having made the decision without consulting Stephens. Holt apologized on behalf of the board and said this was an opportunity to reinvent the Welcome Committee. Stephens agreed to reach out to his volunteers, and Holt said he'd add the item to the February agenda.

Swindell said the lifeguard survey was ready and Holt charged Jordan with distributing the survey to residents by January 16.

Holt said that, after discussions with Wilcox, he was making a motion to change facility hours so they would be open four additional hours each week. The motion passed unanimously.

Questions Regarding Budget and Communication Top VM Discussions

Several VMs and residents questioned current processes during the Jan. 13 meeting.

BY LYNN GONZALEZ

WCA President Michiel Oostenbrink announced that County Administrator Bonnie Wise was unable to attend due to illness, and he would try to reschedule.

Woodbridge VM Rick Goldstein, Harbor Links VM Nancy Sells, Dale Sells, Terry Boyd and Charles Stephens had requested that an agenda item be added to the January meeting and had submitted several questions to the WCA board regarding the budget and communication.

Goldstein addressed the budgetary questions and asked about the location of \$1.5 million that had been deposited into CDs and its resultant interest. Oostenbrink stated that the board had put together answers to Goldstein's questions and he displayed those on the projector for the VMs to see.

Oostenbrink said that the money and interest remain in the association's reserve and operating accounts. He went into further detail about interest rates and the maturity dates of several CDARs. The fourth question asked about the WCA's decision to pool reserve funds against the advice of legal counsel. Oostenbrink assured the VMs that there had been no such change to the reserve methodology. He shared a lengthy response from attorney Kathleen Reres about the matter as well.

The group also asked what steps were being taken to mitigate the tax liability from accrued interest. Oostenbrink explained that interest is taxable in the year it is earned, even if the CD or CDAR is rolled over at maturity. He added that they worked with a CPA to ask for best recommendations.

Finally, Goldstein said he wanted to know why the increased revenues from the CDs were not applied to lower the 2026 annual assessment and Oostenbrink said they were.

Nancy Sells then asked how quickly Inframark should respond to residents' inquiries. Per contract, the management company should respond within 72 hours, Oostenbrink replied. He acknowledged that not all requests were being responded to within that window and the association was working with Inframark to improve response time.

Sells countered that volunteers and Harbor Links residents have said it has taken up to two weeks, if they received a response at all. She then asked whether anyone present at the meeting wanted to share any relevant incidents.

Welcome Committee Chair Stephens said he had been "blindsided" by a change that the board made at the December meeting about the distribution of welcome bags. He said he was unable to attend the meeting due to illness and had to read about the change in the WOW.

Board Member Eric Holt clarified that he had apologized to Stephens on behalf of the board at the January board meeting. Oostenbrink agreed that the board could do a better job with takeaways and action items and that they've had conversations with Inframark about improvements in communication.

Sells said the motion the association made to have new residents visit the WCA office to pick up their welcome bags sends a message to the Welcome Committee that they are not valuable. Holt reiterated that no one suggested abolishing the committee. Board Member Theresa Lanza said she believed the committee needs to be reevaluated.

Ken Cellupica, alternate VM for Classic Townhomes, addressed Goldstein and Nancy Sells, asserting that he felt like there was an ulterior motive behind their questions. "We keep doing the exact same thing," Cellupica said. "I wish we could put all of our cards on the table and just get to the point. In general, I want to get us out of the same loop."

Lanza stated that she feels as if her integrity as a board member is constantly being questioned.

Oostenbrink added, "We need to be inclusive and understand that everyone is genuinely trying to do the right thing. It doesn't have to be contentious."

Christine Hennes, VM for The Enclave, shared a positive example of Inframark having responded to a concern within 24 hours.

Pam Senk, VM for the Vineyards, then expressed her frustration both with Inframark and Oostenbrink for the way in which they handled an incorrect violation in her neighborhood.

Oostenbrink indicated that he thought Senk's concerns had been addressed and reiterated that there would inevitably be bumps in the road during any transition. He assured Senk that he would work with her to resolve the issues.

In board updates, Oostenbrink said the referendum ballots had been mailed out and would be due Feb. 9. If less than half of a neighborhood chooses to return the proxy, their VM's vote will count for everyone in that neighborhood.

He commended recent work by the Technology Advisory Committee and said that Coach Patrick from Pipeline will be overseeing both the pools and the lifeguards for at least the next 90 days. The lifeguard survey would be sent out later in the week, Oostenbrink added.

He said the board planned to have a special closed session on Jan. 15 to discuss staff performance and those meetings will be held quarterly.

Oostenbrink explained that none of the meetings for neighborhoods that were electing new VMs in December met quorum. In that case, all existing VMs who wished to remain in their roles would do so, he added. Those VMs who did not want to run for reelection technically retain their roles temporarily as well, he stated. Oostenbrink ran through all of the changes and Holt moved to approve them. His motion passed unanimously.

Holt, who serves as the Document Review Committee chair, said he is seeking one new member. He stressed that the committee plans to prioritize changes to the INSGs, and proposed changes must be submitted to the office by April 1.

Westchase Government Primer: CDDs and HOAs

Westchase Community Association (WCA)

westchaseWCA.com

WCA Board of Directors

Michiel Oostenbrink, President
 Theresa Lanzar, Vice President
 Eric Holt, Treasurer
 Jack Maurer, Secretary
 Ashley Wait-Woodcock, GAC Chair
 Jason Jozefiak
 Jessica Siddle

CONTACT INFO FOR WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT
WESTCHASEWCA.COM/GOVERNMENT/WCA-HOA

Enforces Westchase's deed restrictions on residential properties - Has no rule enforcement powers over commercial properties - Owns and maintains Westchase's two swim and tennis facilities - Hosts occasional social activities like Movies in the Park - Offers swim and tennis programs - Office located on Parley Drive

Association Manager: Jennifer Jordan, inframarkmanager@westchasewca.com

Westchase Community Development District (CDD)

westchaseCDD.com

CDD Board of Supervisors

Matt Lewis, Chair
 Greg Chesney, Vice Chair
 Chris Barrett
 Reggie Gillis
 Jim Wimsatt

CONTACT INFO FOR CDD SUPERVISORS AT
WESTCHASECDD.COM/SUPERVISOR

Maintains common areas outside of the swim and tennis facilities - Owns and maintains Westchase parks and green spaces - Owns and maintains ponds and conservation areas - Maintains gates, roads and rights of way of most gated neighborhoods, separately assessing their neighborhoods for them - Oversees the off-duty deputy patrol - Owns and maintains special features like West Park's alleys, lights and signs and Radcliffe's signs - Has no rule enforcement powers over commercial properties, golf course and apartments - Governed by board of five elected district residents (serving 4-year terms) - Office located behind Westchase Elementary

District Manager: Heather Dille of KAI
heather@hikai.com

Field Manager: David Sylvanowicz
Office Manager: Sherida Cook
 813-920-4268 | CDD@Westchasecdd.com

Westchase Voting Members VMs

- Represent individual neighborhoods or subassociations; serve 2-year terms - Empowered to change Westchase's Bylaws, Deed Restrictions and Residential Guidelines - Appoints Variance Committee

Westchase Board of Directors

- Elected by Westchase VMs to 2-year terms - Oversees deed restriction enforcement - Oversees association manager and sets policy for Westchase staff (Facilities Manager/lifeguards) - Sets fines for unresolved deed restrictions and hears homeowner appeals - Oversees association budget - Appoints standing committees, as well as subcommittees as needed.

Westchase Subassociations

Some Westchase maintenance-free subdivisions/ home types have condo or subhomeowners associations that oversee their properties. Homeowners must pay their assessments and follow their restrictions in addition to those of the WCA.

INCLUDING: Arlington Park Condominiums - Berkeley Square - The Enclave - Reserve at West Park Village - Saville Rowe - Stonebridge - The Villas of West Park Village - The Vineyards - West Park Townhomes - West Park Classic Townhomes - West Park's Traditional Townhomes - Woodbridge - Worthington Condominiums

Variance Committee

Overhears appeals to Modification Committee denials under certain circumstances.

(GAC) Government Affairs Committee

Serves as liaison between WCA and other entities such as the county and Westchase CDD.

Modifications Committee

Reviews all proposed changes to Westchase home exteriors and yards for compliance with rules.

Covenants Committee

Reviews unresolved deed restriction violations and recommends fines to WCA Board.

Swim + Tennis Committee

Reviews Facility operations and brings recommendations to the WCA Board of Directors.

Document Review Committee

Reviews Associations Guidelines, CCR's and Bylaws and recommends changes to the VMs.

Renovations Committee

Reviews vendor and contractors bidding process and creates scope of work when needed.

Technology Advisory Committee

Offers recommendations to assist the WCA Board in developing and analyzing its technology.

Westchase Voting Members and Neighborhood Committee Members

BENNINGTON			
Voting Member	Russ Crooks	rwc728@msn.com	(813) 382-0441
Alternate			
BERKELEY SQUARE			
Voting Member	Isis Quaglia	IsisQuaglia@gmail.com	
THE BRIDGES			
Voting Member	Dawn Gingrich	dg.bridgesvm@gmail.com	(813) 767-8493
Alternate	Pam Wilcox	pamwilcox@verizon.net	
Alternate	Pat Ryan	pat.ryan21@gmail.com	(813)541-9030
STOCKBRIDGE			
Voting Member	Pending Update		
STONEBRIDGE			
Voting Member	Christine Lindsay	sbvotingmember@gmail.com	(813) 892-4184
Alternate	Mark Crooks	crooksm6019@gmail.com	
WOODBRIDGE			
Voting Member	Eric (Rick) Goldstein	rick.westchase@gmail.com	(813) 920-6470
Alternate	Larry Collins	larrybob@tampabay.rr.com	(813) 472-9334
THE ENCLAVE			
Voting Member	Christine Hennes	clraub@msn.com	
Alternate	Brandi Morris	millermorrihome@gmail.com	
THE FORDS			
ABBOTSFORD			
Voting Member	Ralph Caputo	thecaputos@yahoo.com	(813) 920-6088
Alternate	Alan Shabott	alan.shabott@us.abb.com	(813) 920-5682
BRENTFORD			
Voting Member	Michiel Oostenbrink	moostenbrink@gmail.com	(407) 461-5702
Alternate	Marty Hamilton	ltcmartyhamilton@hotmail.com	(813) 749-0004
CASTLEFORD			
Voting Member	Mary Banks	nealbanks@aol.com	(716) 741-4578
Alternate	Jennifer Anderson	jennifer@andersongrouptampa.com	(813) 450-7016
CHELMSFORD			
Voting Member	Joanne Maurer	gregaj061@msn.com	(813) 843 2192
Alternate	Charles Stephens	chelmsfordvm01@gmail.com	(813) 786-8738
KINGSFORD			
Voting Member	Pending Update		
STAMFORD			
Voting Member	Jamie Kolev	stamfordVM@gmail.com	(727) 424-2717
Alternate	David Augello	davidaugello@gmail.com	
GLENCLIFF			
Voting Member	Shirley Boyd	sboyd80@yahoo.com	(614) 270-3303
GLENFIELD			
Voting Member	Pending Update		
Alternate	Aaron Garman	agarman100@gmail.com	
THE GREENS			
Voting Member	Steven Splaine	splaine@ieee.org	(813) 326-5738
HARBOR LINKS / THE ESTATES			
Voting Member	Nancy Sells	ncsells49@aol.com	(813) 855-9084
Alternate	Michael Thomas	mstomas40@gmail.com	(310) 600-9931
Alternate	Bill Fries		

KESWICK FOREST			
Voting Member	Jason Jozefiak	jason.jozefiak@gmail.com	(813) 957-8555
RADCLIFFE			
Voting Member	Eric Holt	radcliffevm@gmail.com	(813) 563-1186
Alternate	Keith Heinemann	keith@tampabay.rr.com	(813) 814-2604
Alternate	James Wimsatt	jimwimsatt@gmail.com	(202) 550-9244
SAVILLE ROWE			
Voting Member	Bill Carey	wcarey2@gmail.com	(813) 447-0845
Alternate			
THE SHIRES			
Voting Member	Barry Anderson	anderbc1@gmail.com	(434) 466-6608
Alternate	Daniel Perez	danjperes@gmail.com	(813) 863-1415
THE VINEYARDS			
Voting Member	Pam Senk	psenk@aol.com	(813) 340-9544
Alternate	Nicole Robertson	vineyardsvp@gmail.com	(813) 380-6757
WEST PARK VILLAGE			
ARLINGTON PARK			
Voting Member	Voting Member Needed		
Alternate			
CLASSIC TOWNHOMES			
Voting Member	Jim Brinker	jim.brinker@vishay.com	(727) 642-3498
Alternate	Ken Cellupica	kcellup@gmail.com	(724) 263-1172
Alternate	Mark Messersmith	mmessersmith@verizon.net	(813) 610-1298
RESERVE AT WEST PARK VILLAGE			
Voting Member	Voting Member Needed		
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES			
Voting Member	Mary Griffin	richardmarygriffin@gmail.com	(813) 294-5046
Alternate	Dyan Pithers	dyan@tamparealestateconsultants.com	(813) 601-2926
TOWNHOMES			
Voting Member	Jeff Clemente	wpvtownhomes@gmail.com	(813) 792-7702
Alternate	Debbie Dawson	debbiedawson53@yahoo.com	(813) 391-4479
TRADITIONAL TOWNHOMES			
Voting Member	Scott Stephens	sltm@verizon.net	(813) 484-4476
Alternate	Nicole Gitney	mngitney@gmail.com	(813) 792-6524
VILLAGE GREEN			
Voting Member	Pending Update		
Alternate			
VILLAS			
Voting Member	Deb Guerino	dagtpa46@gmail.com	(813) 417-1431
Alternate	Steve Enzor	enzorsp@gmail.com	(813) 789-8961
WORTHINGTON			
Voting Member	Chris Elias	celas75@hotmail.com	
WOODBAY			
Voting Member	Heidi Schmidt	mtwusa2009@gmail.com	
Alternate	W. Cal Hargreaves	wcalh1@gmail.com	(813) 966-8206
WYCLIFF			
Voting Member	Theresa Lanzar	tlanzar@hotmail.com	(813) 765-7852
Alternate	Michele Kraus	Michelemk2kraus@yahoo.com	(813) 215-1702

Voting Member Responsibilities

Each of the 33 neighborhoods is represented by a Voting Member (VM). VMs are elected and serve two-year terms. Also elected are one to two alternates for these seats.. VMs elect the WCA Board of Directors and play a significant role in changing guidelines and amending the Bylaws and CCRs. They also serve as a point of contact for residents of their neighborhoods.

Important Contacts for Westchase Residents

These contacts are for residents of the neighborhoods listed on Voting Member grid on page 74.

Westchase Community Development District (CDD)

Manages playgrounds, retention ponds, common areas, landscaping and irrigation, and pavilion rentals. They also manage gates, sidewalks and roads within gated communities. Contact the Field Office for questions/concerns.

CDD COMMUNITY FIELD OFFICE

9515 W Linebaugh Ave. W.
Field Manager: David Sylvanowicz
Office Manager: Sherida Cook
(813) 920-4268 | CDD@Westchasecdd.com

CDD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Matt Lewis | Chair
Seat3@Westchasecdd.Com
Greg Chesney | Vice Chair
Seat1@Westchasecdd.Com | 495-7733
Chris Barrett
Seat2@Westchasecdd.Com
Reggie Gillis
Seat4@Westchasecdd.Com | 246-5393
Jim Wimsatt
Seat5@Westchasecdd.Com | 642-6997

CDD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY: KAI

hikai.com
District Manager: Heather Dilley
Heather@hikai.com

Westchase Community Association (WCA)

Manages the community's two swim and tennis facilities and enforces the community's deed restrictions.

WCA OFFICE

10049 Parley Drive
Phone: (813) 926-6404
Website: westchasewca.com
Association Manager: Jennifer Jordan
manager@westchasewca.com
Assistant Association Manger: Karen Marrero
officemanager@westchasewca.com
Administrative Assistant: Alice Rivera
admin@westchasewca.com
Sub-Associations: Contact information for neighborhoods with sub-associations can be found on at westchasewca.com > Residential Info.

WCA POOLS/COURTS

For info on pool hours, summer camps, tennis/pickleball courts, visit: westchasewca.com/s-t-facilities
Countryway Pool: (813) 855-0662.
WPV Pool: (813) 920-5540

WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michiel Oostenbrink | President
moostenbrink@westchasewca.com | (407) 461-5702
Theresa Lanza | Vice President
tlanzar@westchasewca.com | (813) 765-7852
Eric Holt | Treasurer
eholt@westchasewca.com | (813) 563-1186
Jack Maurer | Secretary
jmaurer@westchasewca.com | (813) 417-4880
Ashley Wait-Woodcock | GAC Chair
await@westchasewca.com | (813) 532-7446
Jessica Siddle | WOW Liason
jsiddle@westchasewca.com | (813) 245-5167
Jason Jozefiak | Director
jjozefiak@westchasewca.com

WCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee information only. All other calls should be directed to the WCA Office.

Covenants: Charles Stephens
Cmotorcity1@gmail.com | (813) 786-8738
Document Review: Eric Holt
Docreview@westchasewca.com
Government Affairs: Ashley Wait-Woodcock
Await@Westchasewca.com | (813) 532-7446
Modifications: Cal Hargreaves
Wcalh1@gmail.com | (813) 966-8206
Renovations: Jack Maurer
Jmaurer@Westchasewca.com
Stork Club: Nancy Gerovac
(813) 814-2266
Swim & Tennis: Dan Haig
Dan3.1415@Yahoo.com
Technology Advisory: Brad Swindel
Westchasetac@gmail.com
Welcome/Village Volunteers: Charles Stephens
Cmotorcity1@gmail.com | (813) 786-8738

WCA Property Management Company: Inframark
inframark.com/community-management

Important Contacts for all Neighborhoods

FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION:

Alligators (non-emergency) (866) 392-4286
Other Animals (non-emergency) Turtles, snakes, birds, etc. (888) 404-3922

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AT YOUR SERVICE: hcflgov.service-now.com/cs

Report sidewalk damage, stormwater drainage and roadway concerns in non-gated communities, as well as traffic light issues.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

hcfl.gov/residents/public-safety/emergency-management
Find evacuation zones and orders, the annual disaster planning guide and sign up for emergency alerts.

RECLAIMED WATER: (813) 272-5977, ext. 13611
Call to learn about or report an outage

SHERIFF'S NON-EMERGENCY LINE: (813) 247-8200

Call to report suspicious behavior, security concerns, vandalism, reckless driving/motorbike use and other concerns that do not require urgent attention.

TECO STREET LIGHT OUTAGES: (813) 223-0800 or tampaelectric.com

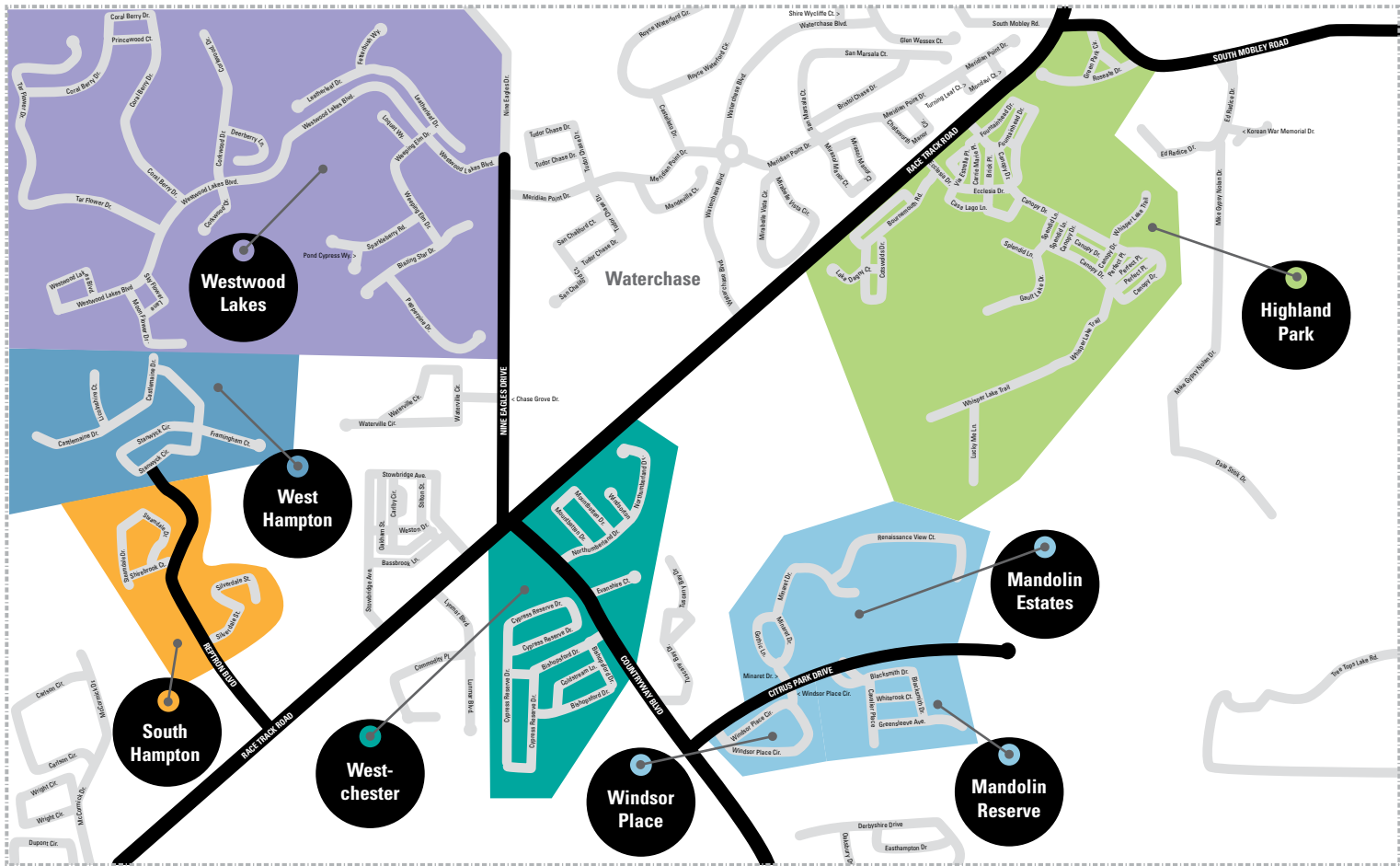
Get the 2 sets of 5 numbers at eye level from the light pole before submitting a report.

TECO POWER OUTAGES: tampaelectric.com/poweroutages

Report a power outage, view power outage maps and sign up for alerts about power outage status.

Northwest Neighborhoods

Local government on the homeowners' association and Community Development District (CDD) levels can be confusing. The information below highlights our Northwest neighborhoods and their respective contact details.



Park Place CDD (Highland Park, Mandolin, and Windsor Place)

parkplacecdd.org

- **Highland Park**
highlandparktampabay.com
- **Mandolin (Reserve and Estates)**
greenacreproperties.com
- **Windsor Place**
greenacreproperties.com

Westchester (Sheffield, Coventry, and Newcastle)

- **Westchester HOA**
westchesterhoa.us
- **Westchester Special Taxing District**
mydistrictwebsite.com/westchester-special-dependent-district

Neighborhoods Lying Outside Special Taxing Districts

- **West Hampton**
westhamptonhoa.com
- **Westwood Lakes**
westwoodlakes.org
- **South Hampton**
shtha.org

NORTHWEST GOVERNMENT PRIMER: CDD and HOAs

Northwest Hillsborough's neighborhoods lie in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

Outside of gated neighborhoods and the Park Place CDD neighborhoods, responsibilities for roads and rights of way (sidewalks) lie with the county.

Park Place Community Development District (CDD)

• A special tax district covering Highland Park, Mandolin and Windsor Place • Responsible for ponds, rights of way, roads, entrances, parks, gates and rights of way within subdivisions
Park Place CDD includes **Mandolin Reserve & Estates, Windsor Place and Highland Park.** Parkplacecdd.org

CDD Chair: Cathy Powell
seat2@parkplacecdd.org

District Manager: Angel Montagna
Angel.Montagna@inframark.com | 813-873-7300

Management: Inframark



• Enforces deed restrictions • Maintains association-owned common areas, including lakes • Other subassociations exist within Mandolin.

President: Rich Shannon
Rich@mandolinhoa.com

Assoc Manager: Laura Coleman
LColeman@greenacre.com

Management: Greenacre Properties, Inc.
greenacreproperties.com

• Enforces Highland Park's deed restrictions • Oversees Lake House and Pool • Maintains association-owned common areas • Other subassociations exist within Highland Park

President: William Berra

Assoc Manager: Laura Coleman
LColeman@greenacre.com

Management: Greenacre Properties, Inc.
greenacreproperties.com

• Enforces Windsor Place's deed restrictions • Maintains common areas • Maintains community pool

President: Danny Hudson

Assoc Manager: Dawn Archambault
darchambault@greenacre.com

Management: Greenacre Properties, Inc.
greenacreproperties.com

Neighborhoods Outside Special Taxing Districts



• Enforces deed restrictions • Maintains association-owned common areas, including lakes • Other subassociations exist within Westwood Lakes
• Note: The park near the community's entrance is owned and maintained by Hillsborough County.
westwoodlakes.org

President: Richard Butler

Assoc Manager: Liza Tholen
LTholen@resourcepropertymgmt.com

Management: Resource Property Management



• Enforces deed restrictions • Maintains association-owned common areas, including lakes • Maintains entrance gates and neighborhood roads
westhamptonhoa.com

President: Kevin McDonald

Management: Management & Associates



• Enforces deed restrictions • Maintains common areas • Maintains community pool
shtha.org

President: Angela Wright
President@shtha.org

Assoc Manager: James Grant
jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com

Management: Management & Associates

Westchester Special Taxing District



• A special tax district covering Westchester (Sheffield, Coventry and Newcastle) • Responsible for maintaining the Countryway Boulevard median outside the subdivision entrances.

• Enforces deed restrictions • Maintains/repairs gates, roads and common areas

Business Index

ACCOUNTANT

Mataj Consulting Group C.P.A. LLC
(pg. 23).....813-475-5911

AIR CONDITIONING

Advanced Cooling Systems
(pg. 46).....813-855-6006
Air Masters of Tampa Bay, Inc.
(Web Ad).....813-336-2641
Easy Breezy A/C (pg. 19).....813-918-6924
Easy Breezy A/C n/a.....813-918-6924
Jaime Central AC (pg. 21).....813-601-0764

ALUMINUM, SCREEN, GLASS & VINYL ROOM

Anderson Aluminum
(pg. 43).....813-961-1764

ATTORNEY

All Family Law Group, PA
(pg. 10).....813-672-1900
Diorio Family Law Group
(pg. 5).....813-322-2082
Older, Lundy, Kuch, & Martino
(pg. 57).....813-582-7947
Westchase Law, P.A. (pg. 17).....813-490-5211

BOUTIQUE

Tate and Tilly (pg. 65).....813-962-7878
Wild Poppy Tampa (pg. 57).....813-475-5346

CARPET CLEANING

3D Carpet Cleaning & Restoration
(pg. 11).....813-798-6662

CHURCHES

Radiant Church (pg. 41).....813-992-7765

DENTIST

Delatorre Dentistry,
Alina de la Torre, DMD, PA
(pg. 5).....813-792-9400
Tampa Dental Wellness of Westchase,
Amy Gionis, DMD
(pg. 21).....813-855-2273
The Dental Boutique Westchase,
Dr. Andrew Vallo DDS
(pg. 54).....813-536-7766
Westchase Dental Associates
(pg. 56).....813-818-0600

DENTIST, PEDIATRIC

Pediatric Dentistry of Westchase
(pg. 41).....813-854-5800
Reef Kid's Dental (pg. 37).....813-845-8722

DUCT REPAIR/REPLACEMENT/CLEANING

Air Masters of Tampa Bay, Inc.
(Web Ad).....813-336-2641

ELECTRICIAN

Kenco Electrical Services
(pg. 61).....813-855-6969
On-Time Electric, Inc.
(pg. 49).....813-545-9333

EMERGENCY ROOM

AdventHealth Northdale
(pg. 67).....813-543-4800

FENCING

Stand Strong Fencing of Tampa
(pg. 61).....813-295-7963

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ameriprise, Andrew Whitmore
(pg. 41).....813-947-7520
Taylor Financial
(pg. 80).....813-461-4001

FITNESS

20 Minutes to Fitness
(pg. 48).....813-664-8888
BodyBar Pilates
(pg. 19).....813-594-9640
The Exercise Coach - Westchase
(pg. 23).....813-961-0001

GAS, NATURAL/PROPANE SERVICE & REPAIR

Lynch Plumbing, Inc.
(pg. 41).....813-855-2565

GOLF

Westchase Golf Club
(pg. 61).....813-854-2331

HAIR SALON

Touch Aveda Salon & Spa
(pg. 40 & Web Ad).....813-814-1390

HEATING

Advanced Cooling Systems
(pg. 46).....813-855-6006
Air Masters of Tampa Bay, Inc.
(Web Ad).....813-336-2641
Jaime Central AC (pg. 21).....813-601-0764

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Toro Builders (pg. 22).....314-540-4776

HOSPITAL

AdventHealth Carrollwood
(Inside Front Cover).....813-932-2222

INSURANCE

Cornerstone Insurance
(Web Ad).....813-920-8181
State Farm-Thuy Murray
(pg. 63).....813-920-8933
Szymanski Insurance Solutions, LLC
(pg. 47).....813-486-0963

KITCHEN & BATH REMODELING

Authentic Concepts Kitchen & Bath
(pg. 59).....727-785-3097
DesignCraft Kitchen & Bath Co.
(pg. 15 & Web Ad).....813-820-6001

LANDSCAPING, DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Green Thumb Nursery
(pg. 59).....813-884-3797

LAWN CARE, MAINTENANCE

Daniel's Veteran Lawn Service L.L.C.
(pg. 44).....813-763-1882

MAILBOX REPAIR

Carlson Construction, Inc.
(pg. 19).....727-744-8397

NAIL SALON

Tre Nail Lounge (pg. 53).....813-616-1200

NON-PROFIT

American Cancer Society
(pg. 65).....RelayForLife.org/TampaBayFL

NURSERY, GARDEN CENTER

Green Thumb Nursery
(pg. 59).....813-884-3797

ORTHODONTIST

Durrett Orthodontics
(pg. 51).....813-920-1935
Goodnight Orthodontics
(pg. 33).....813-968-3737

PAINTING

C & C Painting Contractors, Inc.
(pg. 46).....813-886-7100
Carlson Construction, Inc.
(pg. 19).....727-744-8397
Certa Pro Painters
(pg. 44).....800-462-3782
Gared Drywall & Painting LLC
(pg. 41).....813-267-2705

PET GROOMER

Woof! Here It Is
(pg. 34).....813-920-WOOF (9663)

PHYSICIANS

Foot & Ankle Specialists
(pg. 51).....813-855-3606
GYN Solutions & Aesthetics
(pg. 10).....813-214-8133
Physical Medicine Clinic
(pg. 57).....813-792-4804
Proactive Primary Care,
B. Ngoc Pham, MD
(pg. 53).....813-749-0844
Proactive Primary Care,
Christian Neller, PA-C
(pg. 53).....813-749-0844
Proactive Primary Care,
Leilani Phelan, PA-C
(pg. 53).....813-749-0844

PHYSICIANS, MED SPA

Tre Medspa, B. Ngoc Pham, MD
(pg. 53).....813-749-0918

PHYSICIANS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Intuitive Therapies & Pelvic Health
(pg. 69).....813-434-0060

PLUMBING

3 Js Plumbing Service
(pg. 63).....813-818-8885
A Superior Plumbing Solution, Inc.
(pg. 44).....813-852-1118
Anytime Plumbing
(pg. 51 & Web Ad).....813-792-2264
Lynch Plumbing, Inc.
(pg. 41).....813-855-2565

PRESSURE WASHING

Carlson Construction, Inc.
(pg. 19).....727-744-8397

QUILTING

Quilt, Love, Longarm
(pg. 47).....813-491-4133

REAL ESTATE

Charles Rutenberg Realty,
Alisha Stockton (pg. 45).....813-732-5851
Coastal Properties Group Intl,
Beth Cupari (pg. 5).....813-363-7802
Florida Executive Realty, Anne Hart
(pg. 23).....813-215-0734
Florida Executive Realty,
Wendy Ross (pg. 1).....813-493-9241
Future Home Realty,
Kimberly Janowiak, P.A.
(pg. 2).....727-686-5186
Keller Williams, Bryan Coward
(pg. 34).....727-542-8614
LE Real Estate Group, Lea Haverstock
(pg. 11).....727-243-2000
Siftar Group - Smith and Associate Real Estate Inc,
Amanda Siftar
(Inside Back Cover).....813-857-9093
Smith & Associates Real Estate,
Christine Sullo (pg. 59).....813-710-1029

Smith & Associates Real Estate,
The Wood Team (pg. 9).....813-957-3941
Taylormade Properties, Inc.,
Janet Lopez (pg. 79).....813-361-2557

RESTAURANT

Maloney's Local Irish Pub
(Web Ad).....813-749-0859
McDivot's Sports Bar & Grill
(pg. 7).....813-814-9394

ROOFING CONTRACTORS

SCM Roofing
(Back Cover).....855-SCM-ROOF (855-726-7663)
Suncoast Roofing (pg. 10).....813-283-2544

SCHOOLS, CHOICE & MAGNET

Hillsborough County Schools
(pg. 33).....Hillsboroughschools.org/Magnet

SCHOOLS, PRESCHOOL

Corbett Preparatory School of IDS
(pg. 39).....813-961-3087

SCHOOLS, PRIVATE

Westlake Christian School
(pg. 39).....727-781-3808

SCREENS & SCREEN ENCLOSURES

Anderson Aluminum
(pg. 43).....813-961-1764
Screens R Us
(pg. 65).....813-295-1217
The Screen Guy
(pg. 49).....813-240-2109

SUMMER CAMP

Berkeley Preparatory School
(pg. 27).....813-885-1673
Calvary Christian High School
(pg. 29).....727-449-2247
Cambridge Christian School
(pg. 35).....813-872-6744
Carrollwood Day School
(pg. 36).....813-920-2288
Childlife Preschool, Countryway/Westchase
(pg. 31).....813-435-9075
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS
(pg. 39).....813-961-3087
iCode Westchase (pg. 31).....813-825-2212
Lightbridge Academy
(pg. 25 & Web Ad).....813-656-5848
Ovations Dance Tampa
(pg. 27).....813-749-7001
Primavera Preschool
(pg. 33).....813-855-6718
Recreation Express/Field Trip Fun Camps
(pg. 29).....813-556-7004
Smart Start Pre-Prep
(pg. 37).....813-855-7333
Tampa Bay Rowdies
(pg. 37).....727-604-8527

TAX PREPARATION

Tax Solutions Plus
(pg. 43).....813-855-2457

TREE & LANDSCAPE

AllPro Tree & Landscaping
(pg. 13).....727-409-3315

TREE SERVICE

M&M Tree Service
(pg. 42).....813-885-5103

WINDOW & DOOR INSTALLATION

Storm Pro Window and Door
(pg. 42).....813-749-6051

WINDOW CLEANING

Krystal Klean/The Window Cleaning Experts
(Web Ad).....727-393-7108



Janet Lopez
Broker / Owner
813-361-2557
Janet@TaylormadeProperties.net



Our Reputation, Record of Success, & Expertise Gets You Results!



12110 Glenciff Circle, GLENCLIFF
Janet Lopez

Immaculately maintained home in desirable GLENCLIFF in Westchase. With just under 1,900 sq feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a sun room and a 2 car garage. Screened lanai, beautiful backyard, monthly maintenance fee of \$110 covers lawn care and exterior paint. **\$529,000**



12507 Silverdale Street, SOUTH HAMPTON.
Janet Lopez

Gorgeous former model home! End unit, 2,166 sq feet, 3 bedrooms + den, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, screened patio and upstairs balcony. GATED community with POOL! Brand new stainless steel appliances. **\$484,900**



11923 Derbyshire Drive, THE SHIRES.
Paula Garcia

Terrific Westchase home situated on a quiet street with conservation in back. Stone fireplace, hurricane windows, updated bathrooms. Freshly painted inside and out. **\$530,000**



Over 26 years in Westchase! Located at 13009 W. Linebaugh Ave in the Westchase Commons.

MAXIMIZE your sales price with our HOME STAGING and pre-list improvement recommendations.

Selling 33626
for 30 years!

SELLING? Let us show you how to transform your home BEFORE you list.

8 1 3 . 8 5 5 . 5 8 5 8

www.TaylormadeProperties.net

MEMO Italian Fake Ad Contest Continues

“This is terrifying!” wrote Lindsay Wakino of The Fords.

BY CHRIS BARRETT



Here at the WOW Fake Ad Department, we love terrifying people, particularly those we love.

Lindsay was responding to the fake ad for Rogue Roaches on page 65 of January's WOW. According to the ad, Rogue Roaches were highly trained killers who promised to track down and ruthlessly eliminate any termites currently munching on your home.

You just have to share your home with them.

The only possible drawback? Messy eaters were warned they should carefully bathe after every meal.

Lindsay added, “We have enough bugs and critters in Florida. We don't need to actively bring them into our homes!”

While not typically given to superstition, I would like to note an odd coincidence. Immediately after submitting the Rogue Roaches fake ad for publication, my daughter's fiancé, visiting for the holidays, spotted a palmetto bug in our bathroom.

It was definitely not hunting termites.

My daughter accused us of suffering from “a roach infestation.”

I then may have inadvertently and quite accidentally added to the hysteria by printing and cutting out some fake roaches and taping them all over the bathroom wall.

My daughter's screams definitely killed whatever termites lurked behind the walls.

As a concept, Rogue Roaches, however, did not seem popular.

“Watching Rogue Roaches crawling throughout my house would certainly bug me!” observed Zena Rudo of the Shires.

“Ick and no thanks!” wrote Theresa Tschopp of Sheffield.

“Eew! Some bugs are worse than others. I think I'd keep the termites!” concluded Susan Wilson of The Greens.

January's Fake Ad winner, however, had a completely different take. “Loving the Rogue Roaches!” wrote Ann Hiles of Woodbay, whose fake ad guess was randomly selected by a group of marauding insects. As the result, Ann will be skittering over to dinner at MEMO Modern Italian restaurant -- courtesy of its proprietor, Patrick Cottrell. Thanks, Patrick!

FAKE AD RULES: Tucked somewhere in this month's WOW is a fake ad. Email your guess along with your name and address by the 10th of the month to editor@westchasewow.com.

Your *local* expert.

MANY SOLD BEFORE THEY HIT THE MARKET



FOR SALE | WEST LAKE TOWNHOMES
11506 CROWNED SPARROW LANE | \$400,000



FOR SALE | WATERCHASE
14539 MIRABELLE VISTA CIRCLE | \$585,000



PENDING | HIGHLAND PARK
11505 SPLENDID LANE | \$870,000



PENDING | RIVER WATCH
1079 SAWGRASS DRIVE | \$469,000



SOLD | WATERCHASE
14441 MIRABELLE VISTA CIRCLE | \$460,000



SOLD | DUNEDIN
1213 ROYAL OAK DRIVE | \$610,000



SOLD | WESTCHASE
9912 STOCKBRIDGE DRIVE | \$588,000



SOLD | WESTCHESTER
11308 CYPRESS RESERVE DRIVE | \$535,000

Interested in more information?
[siftargroup.com](https://www.siftargroup.com)

813.570.7777 | SMITHANDASSOCIATES.COM
TAMPA | ST. PETERSBURG | CLEARWATER | BEACHES | LONDON




SIFTAR GROUP
RESIDENTIAL



AMANDA SIFTAR
PRINCIPAL AGENT

813.857.9093
amanda@siftargroup.com

#1 REALTOR® in
33626

Per Stellar MLS stats 2024

#28 Solo Agent
in Tampa

Stellar MLS sold volume 2024

Smith &
Associates Real Estate

SCM Roofing, LLC

Call Us Today For Your Free Roof Estimate

855-726-7663

Military, First Responder and Teacher Discounts

25-Year Workmanship Warranty

12 Months No Interest, With Payments

Mention This Ad for \$500 Off Your Roof Replacement



Protecting Your Most Valuable Investment, One Nail at a Time



CCC1331132 | CGC1521516