



Newsletter

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2025

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You can find numerous community resources including code violations by using the following link: <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/property-owners-and-renters/code-violations> Code Enforcement enforces land and property codes in an effort to eliminate conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of residents. The department investigates complaints about possible violations.



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YOUR BAY CREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Bay Crest Civic Association has elected new officers to the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Volunteers elected to these positions by the residents of Bay Crest normally serve for at least a two year term.

Board Of Directors

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Vice President: Luis Silva

Secretary - Rina Tabak 727-365-7329

Treasurer: Michael-Scott Lester 813-992-5265

The Board also includes the following Board Members:

Casey Curtis 813-957-5995

John Housand 813-220-9109

Mary-Grace Calix

Mary Volipitta 813-417-0944

Tommy Frank 201-805-3600

Our mailing address is:

Bay Crest Park Civic Association

PO Box 261116 Tampa, FL 33685-1116

Bay Crest Park Special Dependent Taxing District

Daniel Cope, President754-234-6373
dc.baycrest@gmail.com

Winston Starr, Vice President352-262-4560
ws.baycrestpark@gmail.com

Michelle Burnside, Treasurer.813-892-0474
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Jann.baycrest@gmail.com

Joe Bonafine, Trustee781-248-5993
bonafinebaycrest@gmail.com

Molly Finn Johnson, Trustee813-495-8505
mollybctd@gmail.com

<https://mydistrictwebsite.com/bay-crest-park-special-dependent-tax-district>

Contact the listed Trustees of the Bay Crest Special Dependent District (the "Taxing District") with concerns or suggestions.

For boat ramp permits and gate keys, contact the Taxing District at boatramp@baycrestpark.net.

Neighborhood Services

As a service to Bay Crest residents, Bay Crest residents 18 or younger or full-time students to age 26 who have made their annual contribution can promote their Bay Crest services at no charge in the Bay Crest newsletter. Examples would be babysitting, pet care, tutoring and lawn services.

To get listed in the newsletter, please email sninedesign@outlook.com with your name, the service you provide and your phone number.

Companies that provide services outside of Bay Crest can also pay to advertise in the newsletter by contacting IKare Publishing (813) 991-7843.

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Thoughts on Helene and the Future of the Neighborhood

Submitted by Luis Silva

Neighbors, I know I don't have to tell you that these past couple of months have been some of the hardest our community has ever had to contend with. You, I'm sure, could tell me a personal story of the horror you experienced as you either saw the water come in, or saw the devastating effect it had on your home, and our neighborhood as a whole.

While it seems like it was forever ago, I can still remember the musky smell the water left behind. I can still picture the scenes of chaos that were present on our streets, the bands of trucks that circulated the neighborhood taking our formerly prized possessions, and the general feeling of emptiness and disbelief that I experienced every time I reentered my house. Just hours before all was fine – and now, we had ruin that would take months to recover from.

I also remember feeling like an animal at a zoo for a while – being an unwilling spectacle to the people would come and tour our neighborhood, I could see them gawking at the devastation, bearing witness to our misfortune – it was not a good feeling. Doubtless we all felt this, in some way or another. I'm sure that I was not the only one that would break down when people would casually ask how I was doing – weeks later, when for them, the hurricane was over.

But we made it out. Our neighbors got together and distributed food and other basic necessities of life. I remember being overwhelmed by the generosity of not only our neighbors, but of random strangers that would come by offering us food, and comfort items. Slowly, our neighborhood started to come back together. Power was back within days, order came from disorder, and the claw trucks took the ruined bits of soggy personal property away. We mitigated, contacted our insurance companies, bore the brunt of another storm, and continued the clean-up.

These many months later, permits have been issued, some of us are done with the rebuilding, many others are in the midst of it. I know that many of our neighbors have left, and I cannot blame them. But, I believe that those of us that remain have developed a deeper appreciation for our homes, our neighborhood and our community. Bay Crest made it through.

Of course, the question that lingers is – What happens now? Well, that is up to us, we need to welcome the newcomers, have July 4th parades/hot-dog happy hours/community meetings, and generally get back to the business of being a community. We need to celebrate our neighbors and ourselves for surviving a truly catastrophic event. I am truly happy to be part of this community, and it brings me joy to see people back in their homes, walking their dogs, and going about life. I hope that the recovery continues, and that we keep getting back to normal.



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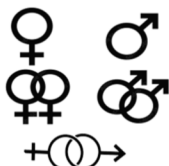
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Staying Cool While Moving Forward: Fun Ways to Stay Active This Summer

Submitted by Lauren Rylwalder

Let's be honest—after everything our community has weathered (quite literally), the idea of “staying active” might sound more like a chore than a cheer. But movement isn't just good for our bodies—it's good for the soul, especially when we're rebuilding and healing together. And with summer turning up the heat, staying active doesn't have to mean sweating through a workout. It can be simple, joyful, and even a little silly.

Here are some easy, breezy ways to stay active (and smiling) through the summer sun:

1. Morning Strolls and Evening Rambles

Beat the heat by taking advantage of cooler hours. Whether it's a gentle walk around the block, a quick stroll to the boat ramp, or just chasing the shade, a short walk can lift your mood and help reconnect with neighbors doing the same.

2. Water = Wellness

If you have access to a pool, great! If not, even a kiddie pool, a sprinkler, or a good ol' hose can turn a backyard into a splash zone. Play with the kids, float with a friend, or just soak your feet and stretch—it all counts.

3. Housework Hustle

Cleaning up and organizing might not sound “fun,” but pair it with music, take it slow, and it becomes a pretty solid workout. Bonus: your living space gets a little brighter with each step.

4. Chair Yoga or Stretch Breaks

If you're staying indoors (hello, A/C!), there are tons of simple stretches and seated exercises you can do from the comfort of a chair or mat. Look online or ask at a local community center for beginner-friendly routines.

5. Volunteer Vibes

Helping others can be a powerful way to help ourselves. Light volunteer tasks—sorting supplies, making calls, or delivering meals—keep the body and heart moving. Every little effort helps someone in need, including you.

6. Dance Like No One's Watching (Because They're Probably Not)

Turn on your favorite tunes and move however the beat tells you. No rules, no steps to follow—just joy in motion. You might even start a neighborhood trend.

Hydration Station Reminder:

No matter how you choose to move, make sure you're drinking plenty of water and listening to your body. Rest is just as important as activity.

We've been through a lot. And while the road to recovery isn't a sprint (more like a slow and steady stroll with lots of water breaks), staying active—physically and socially—can make that road feel a little lighter. Let's keep moving forward, together.

Special Section: For Our Seniors

Staying active doesn't have to mean going far or pushing hard. Sometimes, the most important movement is simply staying connected, staying mobile, and doing what brings you peace. Here are a few ideas just for our treasured seniors:

- **Porch Time Stretches:** Start or end your day with light stretches while sitting on the porch or near a window. Gentle movements of the arms, legs, and neck can improve circulation and boost energy.
- **Indoor Walking Paths:** If it's too hot outside, create your own mini walking path indoors—around your living room or hallway. Even 5 minutes at a time adds up!
- **Call-and-Walk:** Make your daily phone calls a little more active by walking slowly around the house or doing simple leg lifts while you chat.
- **Garden Therapy:** Whether it's tending a few potted plants or just watering the flowers, light gardening can be both relaxing and beneficial for the body.
- **Join a Senior Activity Group:** Keep an eye out for local programs offering low-impact movement classes, like tai chi, chair yoga, or walking groups. Even virtual ones can offer encouragement and connection.

Remember: movement doesn't have to be fast or flashy—it just has to feel good. And if all you feel up to is sitting in the shade with a friend and a cool drink? That counts too. You're part of the heartbeat of this community, and we're all stronger when we move forward together—however gently.



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Explaining Life and Estate Planning Documents By Luis Silva

What basic documents do I need and who has access to them?

Hello Neighbors! I have adapted a version of an article I wrote explaining “Life Planning” documents for inclusion in our newsletter – this is a second article, the first was on estate planning documents. I know the topic can be confusing, so I felt it might do some good to provide some general information on the topic.

Life planning documents that generally outline who you have chosen to make certain decisions for you in case you are incapacitated. Generally, life planning documents include Living Wills, Durable Powers of Attorney, and Health Care Surrogates. You can generally nominate any individual to serve as a fiduciary in your life planning documents. There are additional documents that your attorney can help you draft for additional situations.

Who will make decisions for me if I am incapacitated; Will I need a guardian?

Life comes with risks, and there is a possibility that you will be incapacitated during your life. It is during these times that life planning documents become key, especially for those who are unmarried, those whose spouse has predeceased them, or individuals with blended families. Nominating a person to make decisions for you in a binding legal document can save members of the family from fighting with each other and can end up saving you time and money. If a person does not have life planning documents, it may become necessary to have a guardian appointed for that person. The guardian will then have the power to act on behalf of the individual. The guardianship process is one that requires court action, it is not immediate and can be costly.

Life planning documents to the rescue.

To avoid the guardianship process, you can execute life planning documents. As mentioned in the introduction these generally consist of a Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Surrogate and a Living Will.

A Durable Power of Attorney will allow whomever you nominate to make financial decisions for you, it will allow them to access bank funds, apply for federal benefits, pay your bills, etc. It is important to note that Florida does not allow springing powers of attorney, so the document is effective immediately. Also note that the power of attorney dies with you, it is not effective post death.

A Health Care Surrogate will allow whomever you name to make health care decisions for you. Finally, a Living Will is a document in which you inform your doctors that you do not wish to have extraordinary means taken to keep you alive, should you have no possibility of recovery and certain conditions are met.

Should I name just one person or two, can one person do it all?

There are different skill sets needed to perform the duties that come with each of the documents named above. For example, if you have two children, one who is an accountant and one who is a doctor or nurse, you may consider naming the accountant as your Power of Attorney, and the doctor as your Health Care Surrogate. Then again, you can name the same person to serve as both your power of attorney and health care surrogate. You should consider naming at least two backups to your primary choice, just in case something happens to that individual, or they do not wish to serve.

Do I have to share these documents with the people I nominate? Do I have to file the documents with the Court?

You do not have to share your life planning documents with anyone prior to the time they need to be utilized or let anyone know that they are named in them. Additionally, the documents mentioned in this piece generally do not have to be filed with the court or made public. That said, it may be a good idea to let the person you are nominating as your fiduciary know

Continued on page 10

Joe Hughes

Certified Public Accountant

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Explaining Life and Estate Planning Documents Continued...

that you have named them in your documents. As previously mentioned, the person you choose does not have to take on the role you nominated them for, they can always resign, in which case the next person on the list takes over. Having a conversation with the person you intend to nominate in your documents can put them on notice and can lead to a conversation, which may lead you to change your mind or to be put at ease about your choice.

Let your loved ones know that you have life planning documents.

Additionally, you should let someone you are close with know you have life planning documents, as they are no good if no one knows they exist. We give our clients the option of letting us keep their documents at no charge, we also provide you with a letter that you can share with your loved ones, letting them know that if anything happens to you, they should contact us for copies of your life planning documents.

Share your Health Care Surrogate and Living Will with your doctor.

We recommend that you take your Health Care Surrogate and Living Will to your next doctor's appointment with you. Many new health filing programs now include a space for legal documents, and many doctors are affiliated with certain health groups. Having your doctor have your documents on file is convenient and should help clear up any potential confusion in case of an emergency.

Luis Silva is a lawyer that lives in Bay Crest. Say hi at the next community event.

The Love Bug Is Here For May!

Biology and Behavior

Love bug larvae grow up in grassy areas and feed on dead vegetation. The adult love bug does not eat, but subsists solely on the food taken in during its larval stage. Upon reaching maturity the love bug spends the entirety of its life copulating with its mate, hence its numerous romantic nick names. The male and female attach themselves at the rear of the abdomen and remain that way at all times, even in flight. In fact, after mating, the male dies and is dragged around by the female until she lays her eggs. Females lay up to 350 eggs in debris, and about 20 days later the eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae may live for months before passing into adulthood.

Love bug swarms can number in the hundreds of thousand and blanket an entire small town in a dense cloud of insects. The thick swarming of these slow flying, almost drifting, insects almost is reminiscent of snow fall. The swarms occur twice each year, first in late spring, then again in late summer. The spring swarm occurs during May. The summer swarm occurs during late August and September. Swarms extend over periods of 4 to 5 weeks. Mating takes place almost immediately after emergence of the females. Adult females live only 2-3 days.

Its character as a public nuisance is due not to its bite or sting (as it is not capable of either), but to its apparently highly acidic body chemistry. Because airborne love bugs exist in enormous numbers near highways, they die en masse on automobile windshields, hoods, and radiator grills when the vehicles travel faster than fifty miles an hour. If left for more than an hour or two, the remains become dried and extremely difficult to remove, and their acidity pits and etches automotive paint and chrome.

Trivia

There is a theory that love bugs give a clue as to whether there is going to be an active hurricane season. There are loads of love bugs and it is predicted that the Atlantic is to have a very active storm season from June to November.

Popular tongue-in-cheek lore holds that love bugs are synthetic, the result of a University of Florida genetics experiment gone wrong. Unscientific speculation about the love bug abounds: As the creature seemed to have no natural enemies its population was perceived to be reaching enormous levels. This is incorrect; love bugs are not a favored food of most insectivores, but they are harmless and merely do not taste good, and thus, do not get eaten. While many predators, including red fire ants, don't eat them, love bugs' larvae -- and some adults -- are food for birds such as quail and robins, and also, spiders. Some think that the apparent population explosion may for the largest part be explained by the fact that with increasing automobile use and rising population, the nuisance that love bugs may be has come to more widespread notice since the density of the road network and the extent of personal transport ownership in the species' area of occurrence was much lower than it is today. Lovebugs are beneficial because their larvae helps recycle organic material and improve the soil. The larvae also eat earwigs, beetle larvae, and other pests.





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DOH-Hillsborough Issues Rabies Alert

Contact:

Claire Maher

Claire.Maher@flhealth.gov

813-559-4065

Hillsborough County, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County (DOH- Hillsborough) is issuing a rabies alert in Hillsborough County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a stray cat that was killed in the Town and Country area off Twelve Oaks Blvd in Hillsborough County on April 12, 2025. DOH-Hillsborough is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies is currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Hillsborough County:

- **Northern boundary: W. Linebaugh Ave.**
- **Southern boundary: W Waters Ave.**
- **Eastern boundary: Anderson Road**
- **Western boundary: Wilsky Blvd.**

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at 813-744-5660.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Hillsborough by calling 813-307-8059.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at 813-744-5660.
- Prevent wildlife, including bats, from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

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Nonnative Species: Muscovy Ducks

General information Wild Muscovy ducks (*Cairina moschata*) are native to Central America and South America and have expanded their natural range to parts of Texas. In Florida, feral Muscovy ducks can be found on urban and suburban lakes and on farms throughout the state. These birds have escaped captivity or were released illegally for ornamental purposes. Males can be identified by the fleshy red caruncles, or warty bumps, on the face over the eyes and at the base of the bill. Females generally have smaller caruncles or may lack them entirely. They feed on aquatic plants, grasses, seeds, insects and human handouts.

Muscovy ducks are prolific breeders and local populations can increase dramatically in a short time. As a result, controversies frequently arise between residents who enjoy the birds and those who consider them a nuisance due to their droppings, property damage, or aggressive behavior. Muscovy ducks can also compete with native waterfowl and spread disease in overcrowded conditions.

What can be done to prevent problems with Muscovy ducks?

Never feed Muscovy ducks, either by direct handout or by putting feed out in locations accessible to them. Natural food for Muscovy ducks is plentiful and feeding the ducks can lead to overcrowding, messy conditions, and the potential to spread disease.

Haze Muscovy ducks on your property with a water hose or have a dog chase them away (but not catch them). Let the ducks know that your property is an unwelcome place.

Legal Status

Muscovy ducks are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a Control Order (USFWS 50 CFR 21.54) allowing control of Muscovy ducks and their nests and eggs in areas outside their natural range, including here in Florida. Federal regulations allow control of Muscovy ducks by landowners, wildlife management agencies, and tenants, agents, or employees without federal or state permits. Florida Statute 379.231 and federal regulations 50 CFR 21.25(b)(8)(i) prohibit the release of Muscovy ducks.

Legal options to take Muscovy ducks

Removal of nonnative species can benefit native species and reduce conflicts with people. Birds caught under the Control Order must be humanely euthanized or donated to scientific or educational institutions where they must be maintained under conditions that will prevent escape into the wild.

Muscovy ducks can be removed using humane methods of live-capture, typically by using nets or cage traps. All traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Captured non-target species are required to be released on site.

If you have further questions or need more help, call your regional Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office:

Southwest Region

3900 Drane Field Road

Lakeland, FL 33811-1299

863-648-3200



KNOW THE SIGNS

BE FAST

SAVE A LIFE

Expert Stroke Care When Every Second Counts

A stroke can happen fast and without warning. By recognizing the signs and symptoms, you can take quick action to help save a life — maybe even your own. In a stroke emergency, feel confident knowing you have an experienced team at AdventHealth ready to provide immediate, comprehensive care.

Remember the signs of a stroke and act quickly with BE FAST:



Balance Difficulty



Eyesight Changes



Face Drooping



Arm Weakness



Speech Difficulty



Time to Call 911



The Joint
Commission



American Heart
Association
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Association

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2025 Bay Crest Park Real Estate News



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Call Debbie Trujillo for
your real estate needs.

- Selling Tampa Bay homes since 1988.
- Selling Bay Crest homes since 1996, listing and/or selling more homes in Bay Crest in 2023 than any other agent.
- Master's degree in mass communication.
- 20-year breast cancer survivor! Do your self-exams, ladies.

Bay Crest Park's real estate market has begun to recover from the storms' fury. Just as many of you have restored your homes, buyers are becoming interested in Bay Crest again so our market is being revived. We are still holding at about a 15% decrease in value, whether or not your home flooded. Even though our ENTIRE market area has lost value, I am here to give you guidance on restoring your home for a maximum sales price. The key to selling your house in this market is setting a price which matches its condition and making sure your marketing is professional and aggressive, sure to attract buyers across our nation. Call, text or email me to discuss your options and learn more about my global marketing campaign. God bless you and keep the faith.

Below are the Bay Crest Park sales which have occurred since the storms:

Address	BE	FB	HB	HTD	Pool	Current Price	Close Date ↓
4618 BAY CREST DR	4	2	0	2,197	Private	\$660,000	11/05/2024
8720 HICKORYWOOD LN	3	2	0	1,695	Private	\$655,000	11/26/2024
4911 SHETLAND AVE	3	2	0	1,814	None	\$390,000	12/06/2024
8719 PALISADES DR	3	2	0	2,430	Private	\$950,000	01/10/2025
8703 DRIFTWOOD DR	4	2	0	1,425	None	\$300,000	01/17/2025
4620 BAY CREST DR	4	2	0	1,712	Private	\$675,000	01/22/2025
8311 MILLWOOD DR	4	3	0	1,946	None	\$260,000	01/24/2025
8713 BAY POINTE DR	3	2	1	2,137	None	\$560,000	02/04/2025
8404 QUARTZ PL	4	3	1	2,337	Private	\$400,000	02/17/2025
6304 MEMORIAL HWY	3	2	0	1,331	None	\$210,000	02/18/2025
8718 HICKORYWOOD LN	3	2	1	1,497	Private	\$675,000	02/21/2025
8701 THORNWOOD LN	4	2	0	1,690	None	\$210,000	02/25/2025
8719 ELMWOOD LN	3	2	0	1,610	Private	\$577,500	02/25/2025
8404 STILLBROOK AVE	3	2	0	1,266	None	\$300,000	02/26/2025
8708 PALISADES DR	3	2	0	1,766	Private	\$644,000	02/27/2025
8307 BOXWOOD DR	3	2	1	1,706	None	\$330,000	03/04/2025
8708 THORNWOOD LN	3	2	0	2,073	Private	\$585,000	03/11/2025
4807 WYNWOOD DR	3	2	0	1,492	None	\$377,000	03/11/2025
4928 STOLLS AVE	3	2	0	1,634	None	\$220,000	03/12/2025
8719 HICKORYWOOD LN	3	2	0	1,300	None	\$450,000	03/19/2025
5001 SHETLAND AVE	5	3	0	2,292	Private	\$537,500	03/27/2025
4706 ONYX PL	3	2	0	2,048	None	\$463,000	03/28/2025
8413 STILLBROOK AVE	3	2	0	1,479	None	\$310,000	03/28/2025



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