



TWELVE OAKS ACORN

OFFICIAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Reporter/Editor: Sue Pritchard • Editor/Publisher: IKare Publishing 813-991-7843 / Published for 48 years

NOW ACCEPTING 2026 TWELVE OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES!

Please remember to pay your 2026 TOCA dues to help our community remain one of the best in Northwest Tampa! TOCA application on page 9.



Twelve Oaks will be continuing 3rd Friday Food Truck Nights through October this year.

Our next Event will be on Friday, August 21st from 5pm – 8pm.

Simply Greek by Wynnberry

<https://www.facebook.com/Simplygreekbywynnberry> & Kona Ice of Safety Harbor

<https://www.facebook.com/KonaIceofSafetyHarbor>

Please make sure to RSVP and check out the trucks we have scheduled for the rest of the season.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1258700859477871/1258700882811202>



TOCA will be having our 3rd General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Aug 25th at 7pm. Our meeting agenda is pending but we will be going over our plan for events for the year, discussing neighborhood concerns, and taking questions.

We would also like to Strongly request that anyone who would be interested in joining the Board or doing more volunteer work to attend this meeting. We have had some people decide to step down from the board in the last 2 years and we really need more community residents to step up and take a turn at keeping 12 Oaks one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Northwest Tampa. If you have any questions, please email TwelveOaksGeneral@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/events/1808175539837940>



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Twelve Oaks is a Deed Restricted community, and single-family residential homes ONLY are allowed. Renting out a subdivided portion of your home, a garage apartment, RV, or modified shed is illegal based on our Deed Restrictions. If it is reported, it will be sent to Code Enforcement for investigation. <https://hcfi.gov/residents/property-owners-and-renters/code-violations/report-a-code-violation>

Property Care Reminder: Care and maintenance of the area between the road and the sidewalk (easement) is the responsibility of the adjacent homeowner(s) even if there is a fence in place.

Teen Volunteer Opportunities



TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Teen volunteer hours available
Email TwelveOaksGeneral@gmail.com
for information.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES ONLY
ONE ACT OF KINDNESS AND
CARING TO CHANGE A
PERSON'S LIFE.



GRAND OPENING Celebration!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST • 10:30AM - 2:30PM

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-  **BALLOON TWISTER**
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-  **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**
-  **REFRESHMENTS**
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-  **TECHNOLOGY DEMOS**



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TOCA Officers and Directors

TOCA Officers

Susan Pritchard – President 813- 767-4965
 Mercita Ramos – Vice - President 813- 810-5284
 Martha Holmes – Secretary 813- 885-4879
 Chantale Pierre-Louis – Treasurer 813- 886-1933

TOCA Directors

Paulo Ponce 619- 392-8512
 Sarah Richards 813- 453-0007
 Todd Keil 813- 748-8947
 Amy Keil 813- 748-8962
 Sarah Wentworth 813- 817-6101
 Dayna Barkley 253- 882-7561
 Lee Salemi 813-693-0387

TwelveOaksGeneral@gmail.com
ynmramos@netzero.com
mholmes12oaks@yahoo.com
Chantale2163@yahoo.com

paulodavidpb@gmail.com
srich000@msn.com
freen3737@gmail.com
freen3737@gmail.com
swentworth.tosdtampa@gmail.com
dayna.barkley@yahoo.com
Lsalemi.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Twelve Oaks Watch Patrol

General Coordinator
 Twelve Oaks Watch Patrol Doreen Clauer
nwatch12oaks@gmail.com

Community Resource Deputy:

Deputy James Woodford
 Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
 District III, Community Resource Deputy
 (813) 247-0330

JWoodford@TeamHCSO.com

Sheriff Emergency Number:

911

Sheriff (Non-Emergency
 Dispatcher) **247-8200**



Twelve Oaks Special District Board of Trustees 2026 TOSD Officers

Sarah Richards .. President813- 453-0007
Srichards.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Sarah Wentworth .. Vice-President .813- 817-6101
swentworth.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Mercita Ramos, Secretary..... 813- 810-5284
ynmramos@netzero.com

Laura Daigle. Treasurer813-334-6108
ldaigle.tosdtampa@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

Paulo Ponce 619-392-851
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Dawn Fair813- 401-1934
Dfair.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Nancy Hendrix.....813-455-0655
nhendrix.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Brenda Lunden..... 360-219-5947
blunden.tosdtampa@gmail.com

Lee Salemi 813-693-0387
Lsalemi.tosdtampa@gmail.com

AD-HOC MEMBERS

Marsha Craig 813-625-9186

Twelve Oaks On Line

<https://www.twelveoaksonline.com/>
<https://facebook.com/twelveoakstampa>
<https://facebook.com/groups/TwelveOaksTampa>

Twelve Oaks Special District Meetings and Business

Hours

6:30pm – 8:30 pm
 Town 'N Country Library
 7606 Paula Drive 33615
 2nd floor Conference Room

Twelve Oaks
 Special District
 P.O. Box 260352
 Tampa, FL 33685-0352
TOSDtampa@gmail.com



The Twelve Oaks Ladies Social Group

The Twelve Oaks Ladies Social
 Group will meet for lunch at Food &
 Beer at 11705 W Hillsborough Ave
 on Monday, **August 31st, 11:30 am.**
 We would love you to join us.

YOU MUST CALL or EMAIL Marsha so that your name can be
 added to the number of reservations for the restaurant.
 Contact: Marsha at ph. 813-625-9186 or email
marshacraig2017@gmail.com Thank you!

Hillsborough County Yard Waste Collection

guidelines: ► You may set out up to 12 (twelve) 30-gallon
 containers of yard waste (which amounts to approximately 2-
 cubic yards) per collection. ► Use your own cans, boxes, bags, or
 other containers to store your yard waste (grass clippings, leaves,
 shrubbery, tree trimmings) and place these items curbside.
NOTE: Each container cannot exceed 50 pounds. ► Bundle tree
 branches securely with twine or rope. Do not use wire. Each
 bundle must be less than 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter.
 ► Yard waste must be placed within 10 feet of the curb. ► If you
 experience a missed pickup including Recycling, Garbage, or
 Yard Waste contact Republic Waste, our solid waste hauler.
 Republic Waste Services – 813-265-0292. Please put your cans
 out late the night before collection day and bring them back in
 promptly after pick-up.



**The Town N' Country Garden Circle will not have a
 meeting August. For more information contact Linda
 Mann, 813-886-8193.**

TOCA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Aug. 25th

7:00 pm

**1st Floor Meeting
Room A**

Town 'N Country Library
 7606 Paula Drive
 Tampa, FL 33615

TOSD MEETING

Wed. Aug. 12th

6:30 pm

**2nd Floor Conference
Room**

Town 'N Country Library
 7606 Paula Drive
 Tampa, FL 33615



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- ✓ PREVENT COSTLY REPAIRS
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Mobile: 813.924.0063

Email: ehs915@aol.com

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Odessa FL 33556

High School Senior College Application Timeline

Summer

- SAT/ACT Prep
- Tour colleges
- Research application requirements

September

- Start on Common App
- Note Early Action or Early Decision Deadlines
- Ask teachers for recommendations

October

- Attend local college fairs
- Take the SAT or ACT
- Keep your grades up!
- Complete ED/EA applications

November

- Take the SAT Subject Tests (if needed)
- Send SAT/ACT Score Reports to colleges
- Request official transcript from high school

Dec./Jan.

- Complete and submit college applications
- Complete FAFSA
- Apply for scholarships

Feb./March

- Review FAFSA report
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Compare financial aid packages

April/May

- Attend admitted student events
- Send in college deposit
- Take any AP exams

June

- Send in final transcript
- Complete student loan applications
- Thank everyone who helped you
- Graduate and enjoy summer!

Timing is everything.

And, the time is right to buy and sell real estate!

GET YOUR **FREE** HOME ANALYSIS

Find your DREAM home

Se Habla Español



Rebecca Lopez

Rebecca Lopez, MBA, REALTOR
Broker-Owner
Licensed real estate instructor
Fluent in English & Spanish

Equity Harbor Real Estate LLC
14105 Stonegate Drive
Tampa, FL 33624

Mobile: 813-415-8134

Email: rebecca@equityharborrealestate.com

Website: www.equityharborrealestate.com

ACS Construction Solutions

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Tom Anderson
Owner/Operations Officer

toma@acsconstructionsolutions.net
https://acsconstructionsolutions.net

Town & Country
630.248.7277

Twelve Oaks Special District

Fiscal 2026-2027 Budget

	\$	%
# of Homes	994	
Proposed Assessment per Home	\$150	
Gross Assessment	\$149,100	102.80%
less County Collection Expense	-4,000	-2.80%
Net Revenue from Assessment	\$145,100	100.00%
Maintenance		
Maintenance- Contract Services	\$53,280	36.70%
Supplies and repairs	42,000	27.60%
New Projects	28,000	18.60%
Maintenance- Storm Water Ponds	7,300	5.00%
Maintenance- Street Sweeping - 2x per year	2,500	5.00%
Maintenance- Utilities	12,220	8.30%
Total Maintenance	\$145,300	101.20%
Security		
Security Cameras	\$22,000	15.90%
Neighborhood Watch & Patrols	1,500	1.00%
Total Security	\$23,500	16.90%
Administration		
Officer Bonding	\$300	0.20%
Printing & Office Supplies	700	0.50%
Postage & PO Box	250	0.20%
Department of Community Affairs	175	0.10%
Storage Facility	900	0.60%
State Required Audit	6,000	4.10%
Internal Concerns	3,000	2.10%
Legal Services	1,400	1.00%
Community Donations	1,000	0.70%
Election Fees	325	0.20%
Special Projects Manager	17,400	11.60%
Total Administration	\$31,450	21.30%
Total Proposed Expenses	\$200,250	139.30%
Excess (Shortfall) of Revenues over Expenses	-57030.00	-39.30%
Excess pull from prior year accumulated funds	\$57,030	

Submitted by: Laura Daigle, Treasurer

Please note that there are enough funds in the TOSD Cash Accounts to handle repairs, maintenance, or replacement to the Twelve Oaks perimeter walls and entrance signs due to accidents etc. Due to the high cost of replacement insurance, we are "self insuring" these assets at this time.

*We Need
Your Support!*



TOCA MEMBERSHIP

Starting December 1st, Any dues paid will be for 2026 calendar year.

If you haven't already done so, please take the time now to join or renew your Twelve Oaks Civic Association membership. A \$10 annual donation (or more if you choose) supports year-round community events and services that maintain the quality of living in our beautiful neighborhood. **There are 994 homes in Twelve Oaks. We were only able to collect dues from 328 homes for 2025. In total, we have collected dues from 243 homes for 2026 so far.** We need more participation if we are to continue to have a Civic Association. We now offer PayPal as an easy way to pay your membership. Simply go to <http://www.twelveoaksonline.com/toca.html> and follow the prompts (a PayPal account is not required to pay in this manner). If you prefer, complete the application in this issue of the Acorn and mail your application with a check made out to TOCA, PO Box 261012, Tampa Fl 33685. Thank you for your support!

At this point, TOCA is not planning on doing any reminder mailings to collect 2026 dues because of the costs and time involved in doing so. Unfortunately, because of several years of low participation, we will have to look at cost-cutting measures until and unless membership levels increase.

2026 Memberships & donations received June 2026:

Armand Circle	Frances Mustapha
Greenshire Drive	Brandon & Milly Schmier
Malvern Circle	Samuel Gharouni
Meadow Drive	Martha & Gisele De Los Rios
Oakvista Circle	William Triana & Paola Hoyos
Willow Court	Shawn Quijano & Kim Sherwood
Willow Court	Marsha Craig



W



NEW LISTING

7312 NOVA CIR, TAMPA, FL 33634

SARAH & JEFF WENTWORTH

We would like to THANK all of our
Twelve Oaks residents who
continue to place their trust in us
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CONTACT US

📞 813-817-6101

✉️ Wentworthcollective@gmail.com

HOME WEVE SOLD IN TWELVE OAKS



exp
REALTY

AUGUST

HOLIDAYS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

2026 Dates

- 01 National Girlfriends Day
- 02 Friendship Day
- 02 Sister's Day
- 07 International Beer Day
- 08 International Cat Day
- 10 National S'mores Day
- 12 International Youth Day
- 15 National Relaxation Day
- 20 National Lemonade Day
- 26 National Dog Day
- 26 Women's Equality Day
- 28 National Red Wine Day



Congratulations and Welcome to Twelve Oaks!

The Twelve Oaks Civic Association would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the best community in the Town 'N Country area. You probably already know that this is a convenient neighborhood making it an ideal place to live. There are many opportunities for meeting neighbors and making friends in your new community. Begin by joining our civic association. Attend meetings, ask questions, become a volunteer. YOU can make a difference. Remember, Twelve Oaks is YOUR community. Take the time to read The Acorn, our monthly community newsletter, visit our community website – www.TwelveOaksOnline.com, and sign up to receive Neighborhood Watch email notices at nwatch12oaks@gmail.com. You can even join our private group and follow our public page on Facebook by searching TwelveOaksTampa. Members can use this group to exchange information, learn more about the community, and interact with neighbors and local businesses. These are the best ways to stay informed about what is happening in and around our neighborhood. Questions? Concerns? Please call any TOCA Board member.

Recent Homes Sales in Twelve Oaks:

Address:
7001 Summerbridge Drive
Beds: 4
Baths: 3
Square Footage: 1896
Price per/Sqft: \$256

Address:
7513 Summerbridge Drive
Beds: 5
Baths: 3
Square Footage: 2524
Price per/Sqft: \$165

Thank you to Abby Keil of THE ALDRICH AGENCY REAL ESTATE LLC for providing us with recent home sale information. Abby can be reached at 813-635-6275



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TWELVE OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION



Asociación Civica de Twelve Oaks

P.O.Box 261012

Tampa, FL 33685-1012

TOCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2026

Aplicación de la Membresia de TOCA 2026



ANNUAL DUES / *Cuota annual*: (January 1-December 31, 2026)

\$10 minimum plus any additional contribution you wish to make

Donación de \$10 o más si lo desea

NAME(S)/Nombre(s): _____

ADDRESS/Dirección: _____

PHONE#/Teléfono: _____

EMAIL/Dirección Electronica: _____

Mail check to address above or pay by PayPal at

twelveoaksonline.com/toca.html

ALERT TO OWNERS RENTING OUT HOMES IN TWELVE OAKS!

Twelve Oaks is **NOT** zoned for transient rentals. That means that you **MAY NOT** rent a home or any portion of a home for less than a 6 night stay. This **LAW** is intended to limit disruptive rentals such as those that are rented for a weekend party, etc. Twelve Oaks is a quiet, residential neighborhood and the vast majority of residents do not want to deal with loud and rude temporary renters that don't care who they are disturbing. Illegal rentals will be reported to code enforcement. You are also taking a chance that a fed up neighbor will take you to court over the repeated disturbances.

Also, if you claim a Homestead Deduction on your home, you may be reported to the taxing authority for **TAX FRAUD** as it is illegal to use a homesteaded house or portion of a house as a rental.



Family Owned & Operated



Is your electric bill ready for one of the hottest Florida summers yet?

The real problem may be poor attic insulation. Most homes built before 2010 in Florida do not meet today's insulation standards, and many homes are under-insulated. This causes your A/C system to run longer and work harder — driving up your electric bill.

Instead of setting up a payment plan with the electric company... ***Fix the problem permanently.***



- ✓ Lower energy bills
- ✓ A more comfortable home
- ✓ Less strain on your A/C system

FREE Attic Insulation & Duct Evaluation and convenient payment plans available through us to make upgrading your insulation easy.

Schedule your FREE evaluation today!

Call 813-252-1226

or visit www.fontanabrothersair.com



Hillsborough County Customer Service Center At Your Service

<https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311/>

At Your Service allows you to make Hillsborough County online service requests 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. Your request will be routed directly to the team responsible for providing that service. This is where any issues with Roads, Sidewalks, or Canals should be reported! **REMINDER: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY is SOLEY RESPONSIBLE for maintaining Roads, Sidewalks, and Canals in Twelve Oaks.**

- Requests are monitored during regular business hours.
- For best results, **Sign Up for a new customer service center account** so that you can track the progress of your requests.
- Any information included is not confidential and is subject to Public Record Laws of the State of Florida and will be provided upon request. Any information included cannot be deleted or retracted once submitted.

**Do not use this system to report emergencies.
Please call 9-1-1 to report emergencies.**



Hillsborough County Yard Waste Collection guidelines:

- You may set out up to 12 (twelve) 30-gallon containers of yard waste (which amounts to approximately 2-cubic yards) per collection.
- Use your own cans, boxes, bags, or other containers to store your yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, shrubbery, tree trimmings) and place these items curbside. NOTE: Each container cannot exceed 50 pounds.
- Bundle tree branches securely with twine or rope. Do not use wire. Each bundle must be less than 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter.
- Yard waste must be placed within 10 feet of the curb.
- If you experience a missed pickup including Recycling, Garbage, or Yard Waste contact Republic Waste, our solid waste hauler. **Republic Waste Services – 813-265-0292.**

Please put your cans out late the night before collection day and bring them back in promptly after pick-up.



A Message from Tampa Electric:

Utility lines can easily be damaged by planting trees, installing fences, etc. Avoid potential service interruptions for you and your neighbors. Call 811 two full business days before you begin your project to have utility lines marked for free. Digging on a Saturday? Call 811 by Thursday.

For additional information visit sunshine.811.com or www.tampaelectric.com/callbeforeyoudig.

If Your Dog Poops



You must scoop...

Even If No One Sees You!

Doggie Bag Dispensers and trash receptacles, provided by TOCA, are located at the canal areas on Kirkwood, Barry, Overbrook, Rustic (1 near Oakmoor and 1 near Vassar), by

the duck feeder, by the benches on the large lake, and on Twelve Oaks Blvd (near Oakview), and on Barry Rd & Mitchell. Dog walkers are encouraged to take and use one of the disposable bags that are provided to clean up after their pet(s). If you walk your dog in an area that does not have a dispenser, plan ahead and take a disposal bag with you. Please dispose of the bags properly. **Remember, not cleaning up after your pet can result in a fine starting at \$84.** Many neighbors now have cameras and can report you to animal control.

This should be common sense, but only take the bags that you need for your daily walks. Neighbors have reported seeing people removing entire stacks of bags from the dispensers and damaging the dispensers in the process. TOCA spends the money to refill these dispensers and to have them fixed when needed. They may have to be removed if the expenses get too out of hand.

How do I report a stray or off leash dog in Hillsborough County? Call Animal Control at (813) 744-5660 or report online at <https://hcfl.gov/residents/animals-and-pets/lost-and-found-pets/report-a-stray-animal>

I know many people have expressed concern for elderly neighbors that may need help or assistance in Twelve Oaks. The Department of Elder Affairs offers a very good online Quick Resource Guide that may be helpful in assisting our older neighbors in obtaining the help that they need: <https://elderaffairs.org/resource-directory/quick-resource-guide/>

If you suspect this may be a case of elder abuse, you can also report to AHCA:

<https://ahca.myflorida.com/contact-ahca/filing-a-complaint>

General Social Services information may be found here: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/social-services>

Mental Health Resources may be accessed here: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2022/05/06/mental-health-resources-available-all-around-the-county>

One person
caring about
another
represents life's
GREATEST
value.

— Jim Rohn

Twelve Oaks Real Estate News



6404 Heather Moor CT

Considering selling your Twelve Oaks home or just want to know what your home is worth in today's real estate market? Here's some reasons why we should talk today...

- I have been the **TOP SELLING Realtor** in Twelve Oaks for several consecutive years
- I have **sold dozens and dozens of homes** in Twelve Oaks throughout my career
- I know this community very well as I **raised my family here**, was a **TOCA Board Member**, active in **PTA at Morgan Woods Elementary** and **coached baseball at TnC Baseball**
- Coldwell Banker Realty is the **#1 Listing Brokerage for single family homes in 33634 for the past 5 years** - selling nearly double the volume of our closest competitor
- I have a **dedicated team of specialist** to help you get top dollar for your home

This map shows just some of my sales in Twelve Oaks - I've sold more than \$15 Million dollars worth of real estate in Twelve Oaks alone!



Time to sell? Time to buy? Want to know more? Call me. As your Realtor and a Twelve Oaks homeowner for 16 years, I can help you with all of your real estate needs.



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jeff@jeffberghomes.com
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Twelve Oaks Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



A Very Happy Birthday
to Aston Wentworth
on August 28th!

Submissions for future Celebrations/Memorials are due by the 1st day of the month PRIOR to when you would like it to be published. Email submissions to TwelveOaksGeneral@gmail.com



**If It's Hot
For Your
Feet....It's
Hot For
Your Pet's
Feet**

If the air is hot, the asphalt is hotter!

Press the back of your hand firmly against the asphalt for seven seconds to verify that it will be comfortable for your dog.

When the air is the temperature below, the asphalt has been measured at below:

Air temp:	Asphalt Temp:
77°	125°
86°	135°
89°	143°

An egg can fry in five minutes at 131° F!
Let's remember our pooches paws.

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful Tree Planting Program

At Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, we are committed to restoring and enhancing Tampa's urban tree canopy. Our Tree Planting Program focuses on revitalizing neighborhoods by planting native trees that improve air quality, provide shade, and support local wildlife. By partnering with community members, local organizations, and volunteers, we aim to replenish Tampa's tree coverage, ensuring a healthier and more vibrant city for future generations. Join us in our efforts to bring back the beauty of trees and restore Tampa's green spaces—one tree at a time!



**Keep
Tampa Bay
Beautiful**

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



Residential and Neighborhood Planting Program Overview

- **What Is It:**
A free program providing trees to residents of Hillsborough County
- **Who It's For:**
Homeowners, renters (with permission), and neighborhood associations
- **Why It Matters:**
Reduces, urban heat islands, enhances community spaces, and expands the urban canopy.
- **Available Tree Species:**

- Live Oak
- Southern Magnolia
- Slash Pine
- Bald Cypress
- Holly

Help Grow Tampa's Urban Forest

Apply Here:

Residential Form



Neighborhood Form



(813) 221-8733 Ext. 3 keeptampabaybeautiful.org/tree-program tree@keeptbb.org

Plant Your Heart Out is a community-driven initiative designed to empower neighborhoods and residents to create greener, more sustainable spaces through tree planting. This program is open to residents of the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County.

Health Care Designed for Your Convenience

When life is nonstop, health care appointments shouldn't slow you down. At AdventHealth Care Pavilion Westchase, we provide comprehensive services for your whole health — all in one place. Flexible and extended hours help you schedule an appointment that works for you, so you can focus on the moments that matter most.

THURSDAY AFTER WORK:

- ☐ IMAGING APPT.
- ☐ GROCERY STORE
- ☐ COOK ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Westchase

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Schedule your appointment today.



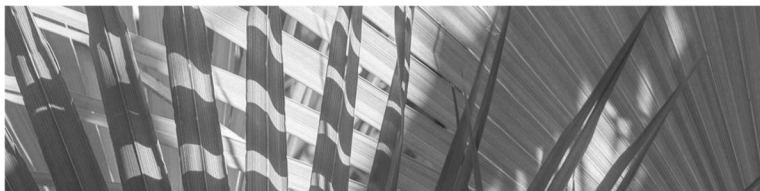
AdventHealthCarePavilion.com



833-779-4326


AdventHealth
Care Pavilion

Tree Care Tips • Fertilizing Palms



Are you concerned your palms don't look so great? Do leaflets look yellowish, translucent, or sunburn?

Most Florida palms require supplemental fertilization to address potassium (K) and other deficiencies. Fertilizers typically applied to turfgrass are not suitable for palms. In fact, according to IFAS, turf type fertilizers have been shown to kill palms by exacerbating their deficiency in potassium.

Recommendation: Look for a 8-2-12 + 4% kieserite magnesium, slow release fertilizer, with 1-2% Fe and Mn, plus trace amounts of Zn, Cu, and B. (100% of the N, K, Mg, and B sources should be slow release and the Mn, Fe, and other micronutrients should be present in sulfate or chelated form.)

Spread the fertilizer throughout the entire ornamental planting area (or at least the entire palm canopy area) at a rate of 1.5 lbs./100 sq. ft. four times a year. A fertilizer suitable for palms is also suitable for trees, shrubs, ornamentals, fruit trees, and even turfgrass growing in the same location. The opposite is not true, however; your regular fertilizer will not work for palms.

Encouraging Quotes to Lift Your Spirits



"I'm stronger than I thought I was. My favorite phrase has been 'This too shall pass.' I now understand it really well." — Robin Roberts

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Mother Teresa

"If you're feeling helpless, help someone." — Aung San Suu Kyi

"One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation and compassion." Simone De Beauvoir

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." — Mother Teresa

"No one has ever become poor by giving." — Anne Frank

"People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed." — Audrey Hepburn

> 2026 ATLANTIC HURRICANE FORECAST

>> SOURCE: NOAA

FIRST ALERT
WEATHER

	AVERAGE	FORECAST
NAMED STORMS	14	8-14
HURRICANES	7	3-6
MAJOR HURRICANES	3	1-3



Need To Update Your Disaster Supply Kit For Hurricane Season?

The Department of Homeland Security and the CDC have revised the recommended items to include in your disaster supply kit for this hurricane season. Please visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>

- **Water** (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- **Food** (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (**to shelter in place**)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (**to turn off utilities**)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- **Prescription medications**
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids, or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Keep up to date on Twelve Oaks events at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TwelveOaksTampa/events>

House Plants

Information obtained from University of Florida IFAS Extension

Many people grow plants indoors for the beauty and warmth they add to the home. But did you know that plants also have many health benefits?

Caring for plants can help lower your blood pressure. Plants have a calming effect, and they certainly brighten up a gray day! Besides giving off oxygen, indoor plants can help clean the air, reducing dust and absorbing the chemical fumes given off by plastics. Some, such as English ivy, are especially good at cleaning the air. Place your house plants where you spend the most time to reap the most benefits.

Caring for Houseplants

You don't need a large yard to grow plants—in fact, you don't need a yard at all. Houseplants add life and ambiance that cannot be equaled by any other home furnishing.

Houseplants will do fine if the temperature is between 65 and 75 degrees. Plants left in temperatures lower than 50 degrees for a long period of time may suffer permanent damage. Keep plants away from hot or cold spots, such as the television and heating or cooling vents.

Houseplant Containers

Just as there are countless houseplants, there are plenty of container types. The standard choices are plastic or clay pots, ceramic planters, or baskets with plastic liners. Plastic pots are often the most economical, while glazed ceramic pots and metal urns can give an upscale look. Some plants, like African violets, can be grown in special pots that provide constant moisture to the plant's roots.

Be sure your container provides adequate drainage. You can easily drill drainage holes or use a plastic liner pot inside of a decorative pot. Be sure to use plant saucers to protect furniture from any overflow when you water, but never let your plant sit in water. Finally, don't overlook creative containers like galvanized buckets, decorative tins, and even tea cups.

Decorating with Bold Houseplants

Most gardeners have a few houseplants to bring the outdoors indoors, whether it's a beloved ficus, philodendron, or a tried-and-true spider plant. But houseplants can do more than just fill up an empty corner. They can enhance your home's décor or even make a bold statement that's impossible not to notice.

For bold texture, try plants with large leaves, like peace lily, lady palm, or fiddleleaf fig. If you're looking for bold, bright color, try croton, variegated dracaena, or bromeliads.

To make an even stronger statement with these plants (or even that old ficus), group several plants together in matching containers, and use an uplight to show off your display.

Lighting

Indoor plants don't always get as much light as they'd like, and plant lights can be an easy way to help them out. Incandescent and fluorescent bulbs alone aren't a great source of light for plants. Plants need light in both red and blue wavelengths to grow properly, and there are different options to provide this combination. Using incandescent and fluorescent lights together is one choice. Or you can purchase special grow lights that provide the necessary wavelengths. To mimic the sun, light your plants

during the day, rather than at night. Keep them an appropriate distance from whatever kind of light of your choosing. And remember to keep your lights clean—a layer of dust can really reduce their effectiveness.

If you don't want to invest in extra lighting, there are several plants that require very little light, making them perfect for those gloomy corners of your home that could use a little greenery.

Medium-light plants like the African Violet and Boston fern do well indoors near a window. Low-light plants such as philodendrons thrive on very little natural light or even on artificial light. Other great low-light options include Chinese evergreen, cast-iron plant, golden pothos, and peace lily.

These plants are low maintenance and easy to grow. Of course, light is not the only need plants have, so don't just stick yours in a corner and forget about it. Water your indoor plants when the soil is dry to the touch—it'll be less often than you think.

Watering and Fertilizing

How you water and fertilize your houseplants depends on a lot of factors, including the container type and plant species. With most plants, it's best to let the upper inch of soil dry between watering.

When your plant does need water, make sure to water it thoroughly. Apply room-temperature water until it runs out of the bottom of the pot. Be sure not to let the pot stand in water.

Most indoor plants grow fairly slowly, so they won't require much fertilizer. Fertilize them every few months with a complete fertilizer. You can buy it in many forms—just follow the label instructions.

Caring for Houseplants While Away

When you travel for vacation or a business trip, it's nice to have someone check on your plants every few days.

But even if you can't find a plant-sitter, you can still be worry-free when you leave town. There are self-watering wicks, which go into a container of water on one end, and into the soil of the plant on the other, drawing up as much water as your plant needs. There are also fully automated watering systems, although these may be expensive.

You can create a greenhouse effect, by placing a plastic bag over the plant, helping it retain moisture. Just be sure the plastic doesn't touch the plant, and keep it out of direct light. If you're going to be gone for a while, you can put the plant, container and all, outside in the ground. Add mulch to help conserve water.

Houseplants for the Forgetful Gardener

Would you like some indoor greenery, but worried you'll forget to water a houseplant? There are several plants that are extremely easy to care for, for both low light and brightly lit areas of your home. Pothos, cast iron plants, and spider plants are excellent low-maintenance choices for low-light areas. Or try an aloe, ponytail palm, or Christmas cactus for sunnier spaces. None of these plants require much in the way of water or attention.

Houseplant List

African Violets, Air Plants, Aloe Vera, Cactus, Chinese Evergreen, Christmas Cactus, Dieffenbachia, Dracaena Marginata, Footed Ferns, Heart-Leaf Philodendron, Hoya, Hybrid Philodendrons, Limelight Dracaena, Peace Lily, Spider Plant, Swedish Ivy, Triostar Stromanthe & ZZ Plant