



# The Orchid Cove Connection



## ORCHID COVE BOARD MEETINGS

- **Next Board Meeting:**  
**May 18 – 4:00pm**  
**Preserve Community**  
**Center & ZOOM**



At the **April 20 Board meeting**, a number of items were discussed.

### ❖ Special Assessment

At its **March 16** meeting, the Board had voted to adopt a **Special Assessment of \$300/unit** to cover a budget shortfall for the Association's 2023-24 insurance. **A separate invoice was mailed to owners**, with instructions on where/how to mail in payment. Because the invoice mailing was delayed, this one-time payment is **now due by June 1 (to avoid a "late fee")**. On your check, include the note, "Special Assessment," and your unit number. View a generic version of the invoice with mailing instructions on our [website](#).

### ❖ Insurance Update

Insurance agent **Erica Davis** has reported to the Board that, so far, she's been unable to obtain quotes from other insurance companies – they don't like issuing a policy for less than a full year term. If we can't get a new policy quote prior to May 19, the Board voted to:

- 1) Retain our current policy with [Clear Blue Specialty Insurance Company](#), and
- 2) Pay off their premium for the 12-month term, to **avoid** interest payments totaling more than \$2,500.

### ❖ Roof Repairs

**President Phil Auciello** is working with our **Property Manager, Judie Littell**, to obtain bids from roofing companies to repair broken and replace missing tiles. It would be advantageous to have this work done prior to our "rainy" season. Phil & Judie will also obtain bids for power-washing the:

- Roofs, gutters, soffits & fascia and building fronts, as well as the
- Driveways, walks, and curb stops.

### ❖ ICS Account

At the recommendation of **Treasurer Larry Hiither**, the Board voted to open an **ICS (Insured Cash Sweep) account with Cadence Bank**. ICS services allow Orchid Cove to receive FDIC insurance protection for millions of dollars while still being able to work with just one bank that offers this service. In essence, this account will enable Cadence to place Orchid Cove deposits into interest-bearing accounts (including CDs) in the ICS Network of other banks. In that way, the amount deposited at each bank can be maintained below the \$250,000 limit insured by the FDIC at that bank. The interest rate for our cash accounts will be 1%. Go [here](#) for more information on ICS accounts.



## LINKS TO INSIDE CONTENTS

[Hurricane Preparedness](#)  
[Rules & Regulations](#)  
[Maintenance Matters](#)  
[Treasurer's Report](#)  
[Landscape Committee](#)  
[Tara Master Association](#)  
[Volunteer for a Committee?](#)  
[Tara CDD](#)  
[Book Club Meetings](#)  
[Recommended Vendors](#)  
[Communications Committee](#)  
[Photo Corner](#)  
[Board/Property Manager Contacts](#)  
[Trivia Night at the Community Center](#)  
[Seasonal Leave Checklist](#)

## TGCC EVENTS OPEN TO PRESERVE RESIDENTS

**Beginning May 1**, the **TGCC** will open several of their monthly events to Tara Preserve residents. Click on the links below for details on each event. Please observe the [TGCC's dress codes](#).





# The Orchid Cove Connection



## Open to Preserve Residents:

- **May 3** – 4:00pm to 7:00pm: [Outdoor Happy Hour Social](#), with live music
- **May 6** – 5:30pm to 8:00pm: [Kentucky Derby](#), with live music, food trucks
- **May 12** – 5:00pm to 9:00pm: [70's Dance Party](#) – and Fajita Friday
- **May 24** – 5:00pm to 8:00pm: [Prime Rib Night](#). Reserve your prime rib cut in advance.
- **May 29** – 11:30am to 2:00pm: [Memorial Day lunch](#)
- **June 6** – 6:30pm to 9:30pm: [Calling All Party Animals!](#)

For further information, please contact Melissa Hickey at [taracs@outlook.com](mailto:taracs@outlook.com). Go to our website's [Announcements](#) page for links to each event's detailed description.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



**Hurricane season** runs from June through November annually. **First-floor Owners:** **Make arrangements NOW** to have help, if necessary, in erecting and removing **your** hurricane shutters in case of a

hurricane. **All Residents:** be sure to **remove everything from your lanai** if your unit is vacant at any time during hurricane season.

This year, the [Climate Adaptation Center](#) in Sarasota is forecasting **14 named storms** – seven to reach hurricane status with 2-3 to become Major Hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). **If you're thinking of either:**

- 1) Changing to the **AstroGuard** or **AstroFlex** fabric hurricane shutters, or
- 2) Replacing your first-floor windows with hurricane-rated aluminum windows (which don't need hurricane shutters), **then** **Take special note to first submit an ARC form for Board approval.** Information on the aluminum

hurricane windows was presented in the **2020 February Connection** (available on our [website](#)).

The Board would really like to form a **Hurricane Preparedness Committee** and is looking for volunteers. If you're interested, please contact a Board member. If you have any questions, contact our PCM Property Manager, **Judie Littell**.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Individual sections of the [Rules and Regulations \(R&R\)](#) are regularly reviewed in the **Connection**. This month, the subject concerns **Hurricane Protection**. Here's what the R&R say:



### "Hurricane Protection

Hurricane protection on the first-floor units may be installed seven (7) days in advance of a warned hurricane and must be removed no later than seven (7) days after the "all clear" notification. The approved coverings are as follows:

- 1) Aluminum panels/shutters
- 2) Astro Guard Hurricane fabric panels, or similar brand hurricane fabric panels.

Unit owners are responsible for:

- The maintenance of the hurricane coverings
- The installation and removal of the hurricane coverings, regardless of whether they are on site or not."

If you have any questions, contact our PCM Property Manager, **Judie Littell**. If you have a suggestion for a new rule or revision to an existing rule, contact the [Documents Committee](#), Judie, or a Board member.

## MAINTENANCE MATTERS

### ❖ Backflow Preventers Recertification



**Our backflow assemblies** were inspected **April 11** to ensure they are working properly. [Manatee County Utilities](#) requires this annual testing. All were recertified (with tags).



# The Orchid Cove Connection



**2023**

**Vol. 10 No. 4**

## ❖ Fire Sprinkler Inspection

An annual requirement of the [East Manatee Fire Rescue District](#), inspection of the sprinkler heads inside each unit (by [Piper Fire Protection](#)) was completed on April 11.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

On the [Orchid Cove website](#), see the complete financial statement for [March 2023](#) for more details.

Assets		March 31, 2023	
Checking Account		\$101,352	
Money Market Account		89,945	
Certificates of Deposit (6)		640,976	
Other Assets & Receivables		9,456	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$841,729</b>	
Income and Expenses		Jan-Mar 2023	
		Budget	Actual
Income		\$32,495	\$32,690
Expenses		32,495	25,968
<b>Jan-Mar 2023 Net Income</b>		<b>\$6,722</b>	

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Tree-trimming is due at Orchid Cove. The **Landscape Committee** – Chair **Kim Luskota** and **Greg Blanchard** –



is planning for our landscaping contractor – **Green Thumb** – to trim trees once in June and again in December. Our

current contract covers only palm trees. Our oak trees also now need trimming (usually every 3-4 years).

*"On this Memorial Day, it is right for us to remember the living and the dead for whom the call of their country has meant pain and sacrifice. A grateful nation is in their debt." -- Lyndon B. Johnson*

## TARA MASTER ASSOCIATION



**Next Board Meeting:**

**May 30 – 9:30am**

**TGCC Bonnie Room  
& ZOOM**

The Board last met on **April 27** at the TGCC Bonnie Room. Several items were discussed.

## ❖ ECT Committee Update

Proposals from four companies have been received for cable TV & Internet services for the next five-year TMA contract to begin in October this year:

- 1) **Xfinity**
- 2) **Frontier**
- 3) **Hotwire**
- 4) **Spectrum**

Negotiations are underway. The main focus is on Xfinity, based on the TMA's past experience with – and pricing of – their services. The Committee, co-chaired by **Sally Shuford**, is looking for the best deal, obviously, as well as faster Internet speeds. The Committee is also looking to establish cell phone and land line optional service plans/pricing for TMA members. Individual owners can then independently choose to sign up and pay for these **optional services** at the TMA-negotiated prices.

## ❖ Communications Committee Update

This Committee will be merged with the **Welcome Committee**, with



**Melissa Hickey** as Chair and **Dave Luskota** as Co-chair.

Melissa will head the committee's efforts in TMA resident interface (social events, welcoming new owners, more collaborative events between Preserve and TGCC residents, etc.). Dave's part of the committee will address the technical aspects of TMA's communications with its members –

*(Continued next page)*





# The Orchid Cove Connection



website updating, email blasts, maybe a newsletter, TV channels 195 & 196, and coordination with the **Documents Digitization Committee**.

## ❖ Landscape Committee Update

The monument lights (lanterns) atop the brick walls at the TMA's front entrance will all soon be replaced. Two more foxtail palms will also be planted at the front entrance, and the brick roadbed paving at the Tara Blvd. entrance will be repaired. On **May 16**, the median light pole that was downed in the recent deadly auto accident will also be replaced.

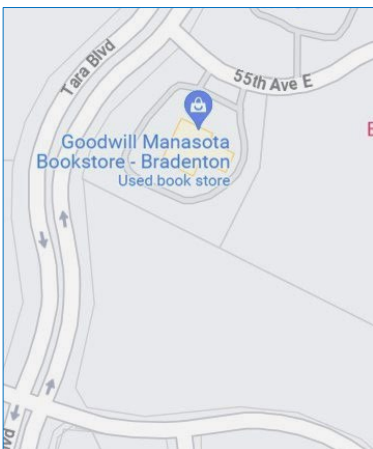
## ❖ Community Affairs Council

The Board authorized establishment of this standing committee, comprised of representatives of the:

- **TMA – Kim Loskota**, its President
- **TGCC – Jay Levy**, its President
- **Tara CDD – Joe DiBartolomeo**, its Vice Chair

Planning to meet quarterly, the Council's purpose is to address issues common to all three organizations, especially those involving Manatee County. It will also re-form the TMA's **Community Action Committee** with members from all three organizations.

## ❖ Proposed New Development Update



At the **northeast corner of Tara Boulevard and Stone River Road**, three adjoining parcels of land – two vacant, and one which reportedly includes the Goodwill store – totaling 10 acres have been sold to a husband & wife from Palmetto.

Their developer wants to re-zone the property to permit a 156-unit apartment building. Proposed at four stories, it would exceed the current zoning limit of three stories/35 feet high and also require re-zoning from

commercial to residential. The TMA will have to consult with an attorney to find out if a new apartment (or any residential building) at that location is within the TMA's jurisdiction. If so, the owner(s) would be TMA members and thus subject to the TMA's Documents and By-Laws.

For more information, **contact the TMA at 941-348-2912 (Cori Hansen, Association Manager with Resource Property Management)**.

## VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE?

Right now, Orchid Cove has **four inactive committees** due to **NO membership**:

- **Pool Committee**
- **Welcome Committee**
- **Hurricane Preparedness Committee**
- **Rules Enforcement Committee**

Fortunately, **Mandy Milstead** has indicated her desire to serve on a **Pool Committee**.

Will anyone in the community volunteer to join her? Let the Board (or Mandy) know! **Eric Schneider** has also volunteered, to serve on the **Maintenance Committee** with **Kim Strub**.

**Thanks, Mandy & Eric!** Your efforts will be much appreciated.



*"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."*  
-- Phyllis Diller



# The Orchid Cove Connection



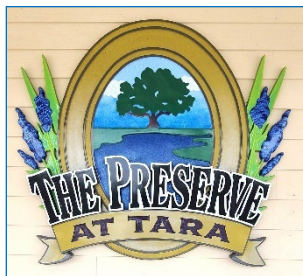
2023

Vol. 10 No. 4

## TARA CDD

Preserve Community Center – 9:30am

- May 23
- June 27
- July 25
- August 22
- September 26



The CDD's District Manager, Jennifer Goldyn, recently left Rizzetta & Company and now works for [Inframark IMS](#) in Wesley Chapel FL.



The CDD now employs Inframark as its District Manager, represented by Jennifer. She can be reached at:

- [jennifer.goldyn@inframark.com](mailto:jennifer.goldyn@inframark.com)
- (813) 652-2454

The new on-site Field Manager is Paul Kelley, who can be reached at 941-756-2416. His CDD office hours at the Preserve Community Center are:

- 9:00am – 2:00pm, Monday – Thursday
- 9:00am – 6:00pm, Friday

## BOOK CLUB MEETINGS



Tara Preserve Book Club  
meets at the  
Preserve Community Center  
Third Tuesday of the month  
4:30pm

The dates and books for upcoming meetings are:

- May 16 – [The Cuban Affair](#), by Nelson DeMille  
★★★★☆ (rated 4.2 out of 5)
- June 20 – [Lessons in Chemistry](#), by Bonnie Garmus  
★★★★☆ (rated 4.6 out of 5)
- July 18 – [Remarkably Bright Creatures](#), by Shelby Van Pelt  
★★★★☆ (rated 4.6 out of 5)

- August 15 – [Tiffany Girl: A Novel](#), by Deeanne Gist  
★★★★☆ (rated 4.5 out of 5)

For more information, contact Barbara Pfaff at 908-230-1159 or [babsswim@comcast.net](mailto:babsswim@comcast.net).

## RECOMMENDED VENDORS

Following Greg Blanchard's 2022 recommendation,



Dave & Kim Loskota called [D&D Garage Doors](#) for replacement of their 1) broken door spring,

2) old aluminum rollers with ball-bearing nylon rollers, and 3) rubber sealer at the door's base. Once connected with the scheduler, D&D dispatched an experienced technician the very next day. He came on time and expertly finished the job in less than an hour. He had to return a day later with a different rubber sealer, but at no additional cost. **Rating? Five Stars!** Contact them at:

- 941-371-7242 (or 888-371-7242)
- [www.danddgaragedoors.com](http://www.danddgaragedoors.com)

If anyone's recently used a vendor which they'd like to recommend, please forward pertinent information to Dave Loskota – [DLoskota@comcast.net](mailto:DLoskota@comcast.net):

- The vendor's name and phone no. (and contact person if available)
- Briefly describe what the vendor did for you and when, how you rate their services and cost (0 – 5 stars), and whether you'd use them again.



Your recommendation will be included in the next

**Connection** and added to [Orchid Cove's Recommended Vendors List](#) on our website.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Hey, neighbors!  
What's shakin'?

Got any info on a community event coming up? We'd love to post it on the [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) page of our website.







# The Orchid Cove Connection



2023

Vol. 10 No. 4

How about a cool wildlife photo? Anything else of interest to Orchid Cove? We'd love to include it all in the next **Connection**! Email your contribution to one of us on the **Communications Committee**:

- Dave Loskota, Chair [DLoskota@comcast.net](mailto:DLoskota@comcast.net)
- Kim Loskota [KLoskota@comcast.net](mailto:KLoskota@comcast.net)

The next **Connection** will likely be published in **August** or later. But please check out the [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) page – we try to post items of interest to our community in a timely fashion.

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY**

May 14, 2023

*"Ah, babies! They're more than just adorable little creatures on whom you can blame your farts."*

-- Tina Fey



May 29, 2023

*"May we never forget our fallen comrades. Freedom isn't free." -- Sgt. Major Bill Paxton*

*"It's not easy being a mom. If it were easy, fathers would do it." -- Betty White*

*"Insanity is hereditary; you get it from your children." -- Sam Levenson*

## PHOTO CORNER

### Neighbors Get-Together!



L-R: Craig & Jola Gates, Suzanne & Larry Hiither, Carl & Carol Ritter, Jane & Eric Schneider, Susan Petras, Janet & Rob Maguire. Photographer: Jane's daughter, Erica McBride, from [Erica McBride Photography](#)

### Orchid Cove Board Members 2023 – 2024

President – Phil Auciello

[orchidcovepresident@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcovepresident@gmail.com)

941-232-5373

VP & Treasurer – Larry Hiither

[orchidcovetreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcovetreasurer@gmail.com)

513-252-3892

Secretary – Jane Schneider

[orchidcovesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcovesecretary@gmail.com)

717-330-4985

Website: [www.OrchidCoveCondos.com](http://www.OrchidCoveCondos.com)

(Owner page password: orca)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Progressive Community Management

3701 South Osprey Ave

Sarasota FL 34239-6848

Website: [www.PCMFLA.com](http://www.PCMFLA.com)

Judie Littell, Orchid Cove Property Manager

[JLittell@PCMFLA.com](mailto:JLittell@PCMFLA.com)

941-921-5393 Ext. 1135

Fax: 941-923-7000



Literature



Geography



Art

**Tara Preserve Community Center, Tara Preserve Lane**

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 7 PM**

**Bring a team or join one**

**You may bring a beverage of your choice and snacks**



Movies

***All invited! Hope to see you!***

***For more information, call Barbara Pfaff at  
908-230-1159 or email: [babsswim@comcast.net](mailto:babsswim@comcast.net)***

# Orchid Cove Condominium Association, Inc.

## Seasonal Leave Checklist

Several unit owners use Orchid Cove as a second home, leaving their condominiums vacant for extended periods of time. Below are some preventative measures that owners can choose to take prior to leaving for the season. Please feel welcome to use this checklist as a tool to help protect your Orchid Cove home while you're away.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shut off main water valve to unit and/or:<br>shut off valves to: <input type="checkbox"/> <i>water heater</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>toilets</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>sinks</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>washing machine</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Place toilet seats down and seal or place<br>heavy object on the toilet seats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close sink drains  | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off refrigerator ice maker and empty ice<br>bin                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verify that a neighbor or nearby relative has<br>a key to your unit, in case of emergency  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unplug lamps, toaster, coffee maker   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn on and leave A/C on; set your<br>thermostat per <a href="#">FPL recommendations</a>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off circuit breakers to washer, dryer,<br>water heater                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Replace A/C filter and check overflow  | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off water heater   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check windows and doors to be sure that all<br>are secure  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring in everything from your lanai (in case of<br>a hurricane)               |

It's always a great idea to have a neighbor, relative, friend or the like periodically check your unit. **If you have someone checking your unit, it's good to have them review the items below.** Additionally, you may want to check with your private insurance carrier to see if there are any conditions on having a unit inspected when vacant for a period of time. Some individual policies have exclusions if the unit is not checked every couple of weeks. Your insurance agent will be able to review your policy and provide you with any details needed for your protection.

- ☐ Check pipes for water above and below cabinets and/or any other water intrusion in unit
- ☐ Verify that A/C is working and filter is clean
- ☐ Check dishwasher for any leaks or standing water
- ☐ To help avoid any odor from the pipes, run water through the pipes including sinks and toilets.
- ☐ If above is completed, be sure to shut off valve(s) again
- ☐ Check refrigerator for operation
- ☐ Check water heater for leaks and verify that it is turned off

If you are leaving for the season, have a great trip and we will see you upon your return. We appreciate your help in protecting your home at Orchid Cove in the best manner possible.