



# The Orchid Cove Connection



2023

Vol. 10 No. 6

## ORCHID COVE BOARD MEETINGS

- **Next Board Meeting:**  
**December 20, 2023**  
**5:00pm**  
**Preserve Community**  
**Center & ZOOM**



On **November 16**, two meetings were held:

1. **Special Members Meeting**, at which owners voted to approve three measures:
  - a. **Cross utilization** of reserve funds, if needed.
  - b. **Carry-over** of any 2023 income to the 2024 budget, enabling the Association to avoid paying income taxes.
  - c. **Financial reporting waiver**, to reduce costs.Of Orchid Cove's 48 members, only 25 sent in signed proxies for these votes, indicating a **disturbing disinterest in Association business**.
2. **Regular Board meeting**, at which the 2024 budget was discussed and approved.

## ANOTHER ONE OF OUR OWN PASSES

This past July 7, **Charles Boucher** passed away. With his **wife Lorraine**, they've owned Unit 7632 for 20 yrs. A



**Marine Corps veteran**, Charlie died at the age of 78 at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center south of Clearwater. He had fallen here and was taken to Bay Pines where he spent 4-1/2 months till his death there. Charlie was also suffering from kidney cancer, likely contracted while he was at the Camp LeJeune Marine Corps

base. On top of that, he'd also been hit by a car in the Publix parking lot in December 2021, while returning a shopping cart.

Following his military service, Charlie had a career in quality control for a number of large companies. Born in Rhode Island, he was one of nine children; all but one (his sister, Diane) have passed away. Married on March 12, 1973, Charlie & Lorraine moved here from New

Hampshire. They had two children, and Charlie is survived by one of them (a son) and Lorraine. She continues to live at Unit 7632 (and would really enjoy a holiday season visit!).

The entire Orchid Cove community offers our sincere condolences to Lorraine. Charlie was a good man and will be sorely missed.



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- [Serving Orchid Cove's Best Interests](#)
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- [Quip Corner](#)
- [Board/Property Manager Contacts](#)

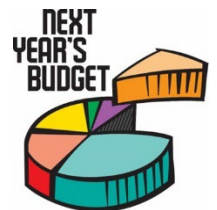
## OTHER ORCHID COVE BOARD MATTERS

### ❖ 2024 Budget

The budget adopted for 2024 has been uploaded to our [website](#).

Quarterly dues will be \$1,165/unit, a **24% increase over 2023**. The major reason? Insurance costs have been budgeted to double over last year.

Insurance companies won't give quotes until just before the 2023 policy is due to expire, so the budgeted amount is the Board's best guess, based on advice from our agent.



*"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...but if the white runs out, I'll drink the red. -- Anonymous*



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## ❖ Roof Replacement Update

Per its decision at the October meeting, the Board hired **Crain Consulting, Inc.** to manage re-roofing our buildings. Owner **Rob Crain** will bring samples of the roofing tile to Orchid Cove so that our members have a chance to view them. The Board will let everyone know when and where. Rob is expecting that actual construction will likely begin in the Fall of 2024.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Individual sections of the [Rules and Regulations \(R&R\)](#) are regularly reviewed in the **Connection**.

This month, here's what the R&R say about two of 'em:

- 1) **Seasonal Holiday Decorations**
- 2) **Unit Leases**

### "Unit Leases"

No unit may be leased more than twelve (12) times in a calendar year. There shall be no maximum length of a lease, but all leases for more than a year shall be deemed to include a provision reserving the right of the Association to approve or disapprove the continuance of the lease at annual intervals. No subleasing or assignment of lease rights by the lessee is permitted.



No lease may be for a period of less than thirty (30) days. Occupancy is only by lessee and family. An owner intending to lease his unit shall give the Association written notice at least 20

days prior to the proposed transaction with the name and address of the proposed lessee, a copy of the proposed lease and any other information which the Board of Directors may require.

1. [Lease applications](#) are to be submitted to the Association Manager and require a \$150.00 processing fee for each adult or married couple to be used for a background check and may be waived for repeat lessees.
2. Application forms are available at the Association Management website (and at the Orchid Cove Condo Association [website](#)).
3. All leases must be in writing and only entire units may be leased.
4. All applications are to be approved by the Board of Directors.

KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
FOLLOW  
THE RULES

5. All lessees must follow all Rules and Regulations and must be supplied a copy."

### "Seasonal Holiday Decorations"

Seasonal holiday decorations (i.e., Thanksgiving, Easter, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Halloween, Labor Day, etc.) are permitted no more than 20 days prior and no more than 10 days after the holiday. **Christmas decorations are allowed between Thanksgiving and January 10.**



Seasonal decorations are not to be mounted on any building except for front entrance door and stair rails. Decorating is permitted in the trees and bushes, but state, county and city electricity codes must be followed. There shall be no alteration of common elements, especially the placing of items on the grassy areas, which may interfere with the landscaping company's right of way. Front door wreath and welcome door hangings are permitted year around."

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.

## NEW OWNERS



Since the May edition of the **Connection**, two units in Orchid Cove were sold. Warmly welcomed to our community, the new owners are:

- **Unit 7640 – James Ross**  
**James**, a 20-yr resident of Sarasota, is the new owner of Unit 7640. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, James was an elementary school teacher at Pine View and retired in September 2023. Single with no children, he enjoys playing golf and going to the beach. James' parents, in their 90's, live in Sarasota. His mother, a world-famous opera singer and pianist, just had a stroke so James is spending lots of time with her and his dad. But, he's looking forward to meeting everyone in Orchid Cove!
- **Unit 7604 – Charles Damiamo**  
**Charles**, originally from rural Putnam County, NY, moved into Unit 7604 in September. He's been a FL resident for more than a year, prior to being a

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snowbird for 4-5 yrs. A widower, Charlie has two children – a son in Parrish, and a daughter who lives on the west side of Bradenton. He spent 30 yrs. at a phone company bought out by Verizon, working on technical aspects – computers, fiber optics, etc. – for large customers. Retired in 2013, Charlie enjoys golf, going to the gym, and biking. He also owns a beautiful 1980 Pontiac Trans Am, restored to its original condition!

**Coincidentally**, James and Charlie met each other for the first time this fall on the golf course: both play for the **Suncoast Duffers** golf group. Charlie also plays for the **Sarasota Singles Golf Association**. Welcome to the neighborhood, guys! Hope to see you both at the next **Orchid Cove Pool Social**.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Assets		October 31, 2023
Checking Account		\$160,553
Money Market Account		67,388
Certificates of Deposit (5)		641,253
Receivables & Other Assets		18,265
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$887,459</b>
Income and Expenses		Jan-Oct 2023
	Budget	Actual
Income	\$108,317	\$118,693
Expenses	108,317	112,607
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 Net Income</b>		<b>\$6,086</b>

Happy HOLIDAYS!

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

The Landscape Committee is looking at several trees in the neighborhood that need attention:



- The Queen palm in front of units 7508-7510 has **Fizzle Top disease**. It is being treated, hopefully to recover in several months.
- A large Oak tree on the south side of the main entrance, along Wingspan Way, is mostly dead and needs removal.
- A Scrub Pine behind units 7530-7532 needs to be removed.

The committee will work with a contractor to check out the two trees needing removal, as well as discuss trimming Oak and Orchid trees throughout the community. This work will need to be approved by the Board before it can be completed.

## CAN YOU VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE?



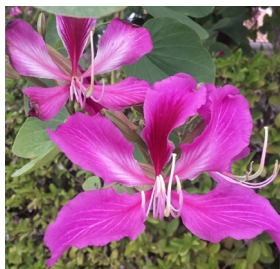
We're **still** looking for volunteers to form these important committees:

- **Welcome Committee** (currently assigned to the Communications Committee)
- **Hurricane Preparedness Committee**
- **Rules Enforcement Committee**

As an owner in our community, **PLEASE** consider **volunteering to join a committee**. Committees work with the Board and our Property Manager to keep Orchid Cove a great place to live!

*"Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip."*  
— Gary Allan





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## MAINTENANCE MATTERS

### ❖ Power Washing

**Reminder: on December 11**, our building exteriors, driveways and walks are scheduled to be power-washed by **All Seasons**. The roofs will be skipped, since they're being replaced.



## TARA MASTER ASSOCIATION



### Next Board Meeting:

**January 18 – 10:00am**

**Preserve Community Center & ZOOM**

### ❖ Recent Problems with Channels 195/96

During November, Comcast was busy replacing its TMA mainline coaxial cables with fiber. You probably noticed that your cable services were on and off for a few days. Well, the work also caused a problem for the TMA's two local TV channels – 195 (TGCC) and 196 (the Preserve). Both were down for most of November, waiting for Comcast to recognize, understand and fix the problem.



### ❖ Digitized Documents (DD)

The Board also had a workshop on November 9 to discuss access to its digitized documents (DD). 30+ years of the TMA's paper documents are being scanned into searchable PDF files, sorted and uploaded to a Google drive for electronic access by TMA members only. It will be an ongoing TMA effort to keep uploading new files to the Google drive, able to be accessed through the TMA website at [www.taramasterassociation.com](http://www.taramasterassociation.com). The DD webpage is not yet ready for roll-out, though. There's still a lot of work to be done.



### ❖ Landscaping

**Karen Cardozo** is the TMA's new **Landscape Committee Chair** – three of the committee's five members are new. Some of the landscaping issues they currently face:

- **Irrigation problems** on Tara Blvd.
- Spots of dead **viburnum hedge** along Tara Blvd.
- **Dead sod** issues near the front entry monuments.
- **Dead viburnum hedge** near the bank at the Tara Blvd. entry



### ❖ 2024 Budget

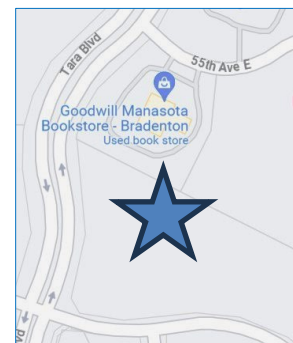
At the TMA Board's November 16 meeting, the TMA budget for 2024 was approved. The **annual fee** is billed in **January**. For Preserve owners, the annual fee actually decreased, from \$988.34 in 2023 to **\$986.61 for 2024**. Of that amount, over 85% is for ECT costs – cable TV & internet services.

	2023		2024	
	TGCC	Preserve	TGCC	Preserve
ECT Fees	\$846.51	\$846.51	\$840.80	\$840.80
TGCC Only Fees	36.05		36.63	
Common Fees	141.83	141.83	145.81	145.81
<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>\$1,024.39</b>	<b>\$988.34</b>	<b>\$1,023.25</b>	<b>\$986.61</b>

## PROPOSED APARTMENT PROJECT UPDATE

### *(November update from the TMA)*

"The developer of the proposed apartments on the vacant lots and Goodwill property has decided to postpone their request for rezoning by the county commissioners. **Their application is no longer scheduled to be heard on December 7, 2023** and, as of



now, is not scheduled for a future date. This doesn't mean a win, but it does mean we may have created doubt about their ability to convince the commissioners to rule in their favor.

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We'll continue to monitor the situation in case they reschedule. They may be modifying their application or deciding the market is softening. Either way, we've created enough uncertainty of success for them to back off.

Enjoy the holidays, and thank you for your efforts!"

-- The TMA CAC Team

[Editor's notes: Led by its **Community Affairs Council (CAC)**, the TMA is fighting against this project, as it would:

- **Be incompatible** with any density or residential use within Tara,
- **Violate our land development codes** on height,
- **Dangerously increase traffic** at the SR 70/Tara Blvd. intersection, and
- **Overwhelm our stormwater system**, which is already outdated/undersized.

If you have not already done so, please add your signature by clicking [Petition Tara Community Opposition of New Apartment Buildings.](#)

## BE A BOARD MEMBER? SOMEBODY WILL...

Everybody,  
Somebody,  
Anybody, And  
Nobody

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that

**Somebody** would do it.

**Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

**Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

**Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** would not do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

➤ **Who are you? Everybody? Somebody? Anybody? Or Nobody?**

➤ **Be thinking about it**, as we will need candidates for the Board elections in March 2024!

## ORCHID COVE PICKLEBALL

From Larry Hiither

A group of Orchid Cove residents enjoy playing pickleball at the Preserve Community Center. They have a link on the app, "Team Reach." To join them, download the free "Team Reach" app and enter the group code "OCP1" to reach the "Orchid Cove" group. Anyone interested in getting in on our community's pickleball fun can join!



## 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:

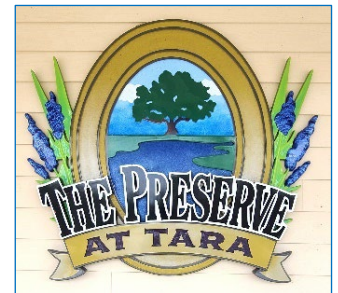
- **December 19** – [Someone Else's Bucket List](#), by Amy T. Matthews ★★★★★ (rated 4.5 out of 5)
- **January 16** – [This Tender Land](#), by William Kent Krueger ★★★★★ (rated 4.6 out of 5)

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

## TARA CDD UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Preserve Community  
Center – 9:30am

- December 5
- January 23
- February 27
- March 26
- April 23
- May 28



"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries Not Included."  
— Unk.



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## ORCHID COVE POOL SOCIAL



**Orchid Cove  
Pool Social**  
Saturday,  
December 16  
4:00 pm - ??  
Pool Area

**Meet & greet your neighbors!**

**Bring an appetizer or dessert to share,  
along with your favorite beverage.**

(Please, no glass items allowed in the pool area)

## RECOMMENDED VENDORS

This month, we have two recommended vendors! The first is **David Moore**, a 40-yr. carpenter/remodeler with a full complement of tools. During recent years, Dave's focus has been mainly bath & kitchen work.



However, **Jane & Eric Schneider** used Dave for the past two years to put up and take down their **hurricane shutters**. He did the work promptly, and the shutters were neatly stowed away. Jane & Eric were very happy with his services and highly recommend him – **5 stars!**

### Dave's contact information:

David Moore  
2925 Woodcrest Dr  
Sarasota, Florida 35239  
941-725-3033  
[davemoore782@gmail.com](mailto:davemoore782@gmail.com)

The second vendor is [White Shaker Direct](#), which residents have used for replacing countertops, sheetrock, and flooring.

**Maria Keenan** worked with **Laura Rojas** to replace her **kitchen cabinets** last year and her son's in September. Laura was efficient, easy to



work with, very neat and clean, with a great turnaround time. Maria gives her **5 stars!**

### Contact info:

**Laura Rojas**  
2001 14<sup>th</sup> Ave E Ste 104  
Palmetto FL 34221  
941-779-4493  
[Laura@whiteshakerdirect.com](mailto:Laura@whiteshakerdirect.com)

If anyone else has 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.

## SERVING ORCHID COVE'S BEST INTERESTS

Orchid Cove is governed by a Board of Directors composed of neighbors and owners who volunteer their time to run the Association. We are all extremely grateful that, for the 20 years of Orchid Cove's history, we've always been fortunate to have members volunteer for Board service.

However, friendship must take a back seat when you or your neighbor serves on the Board.

**Board members must do what the Condo Documents and the law tells them to do.** They receive advice from professionals such as attorneys, insurance agents, and our property manager. And in all their actions, they must do what is in the best interest of the Association.

The Board may not always do what you want it to, but you should give it the same latitude that the courts give it – the leeway of not being second guessed for making reasonable business decisions. When it's your turn to serve on the Board, you will want the same leeway.

*"There are 16 more shopping days until Christmas. So, guys, that means 15 more days till we start shopping, right?" — Conan O'Brien*





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## QUIP CORNER



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



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

Is there anything else you'd like to see in this newsletter? Maybe a story or some poetry? A riddle

or quiz? Restaurant recommendations? Send it to us and we'll include it in the next **Connection**!

- Dave Loskota, Chair [DLoskota@comcast.net](mailto:DLoskota@comcast.net)
- Kim Loskota [KLoskota@comcast.net](mailto:KLoskota@comcast.net)
- Check out our website's [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) page for other items of interest to our community, **posted as soon as info is available**. And check out the [News & Events page](#) on the TMA website, too!

*"Three Wise WOMEN would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and there would be peace on earth!" – Anonymous*

## Orchid Cove Board Members 2023 – 2024

President – Larry Hiither

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

513-252-3892

Treasurer – Cathleen Paciello

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

607-765-8838

VP & 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)

Connection Editor – Dave Loskota

[Dloskota@comcast.net](mailto:Dloskota@comcast.net) 612-327-9743

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## Progressive Community Management

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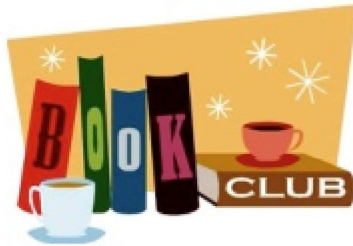
Website: [www.PCMFLA.com](http://www.PCMFLA.com)

Judie Littell, Orchid Cove Property Manager

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

941-921-5393 Ext. 1135

Fax: 941-923-7000



# Calling All Readers

Tara Preserve Book Club

Tara Preserve Community Center, Tara Preserve Lane

We are reading

For November 21, 2023, 4:30 PM

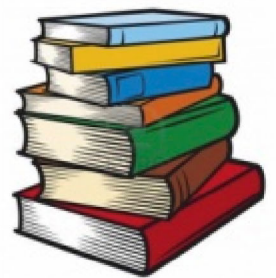
*Violin Conspiracy*, by Brendan Slocumb

*All invited! Hope to see you!*

Coming up

Dec 19, *Someone Else's Bucket List*, by Amy T. Matthews

Jan 16, 2024, *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger



*For more information call Barbara Pfaff at  
908-230-1159 or email: babsswim@comcast*