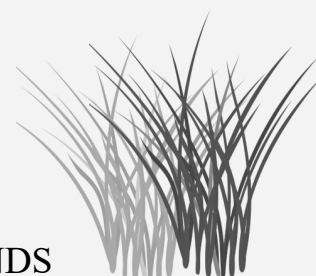


Heron



THE OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF EAST LAKE WOODLANDS

A message from our President Jermaine Jenkins

On behalf of the East Lake Woodlands Board, we hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and we wish you a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our community. As we begin the new year, our focus remains on safety, responsiveness, and meaningful improvements across East Lake Woodlands, and we will continue to share updates on upcoming plans and progress along the way.

Staying Connected

A big thank you to all residents who continue to share their email addresses with us. Your participation helps make community communication faster, more reliable, and greener. If you haven't yet opted in, we encourage you to join.

Benefits of enrolling:

- Faster delivery of time-sensitive updates
- Easy, searchable access to notices
- More responsive two-way communication
- Reduced paper use and mailing costs

How to enroll:

Send your name, property address, and preferred email to jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com, or visit the Management & Associates office.

Thank you again for helping strengthen communication across ELWCA.

Tampa Road Perimeter Wall

Thankfully, we are now in the final approval stage of the permitting process. Tree trimming and grubbing work is complete, and the area remains prepared for construction. Once final approvals are received, construction will begin immediately thereafter.

The project includes installing new concrete block wall sections where the wood panels once stood, completing all stucco refinishing, and painting the wall to match the newly refreshed monument signs.

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience and understanding. The current Board remains committed to completing this project as a high priority.

ELWCA Website Upgrade – NOW LIVE

Under the leadership of our Communications Director, **Janie Baker**, we are pleased to announce the upgraded ELWCA website is now LIVE. This modernization is a major step forward in creating a more resident-friendly digital experience.

Key improvements include stronger performance and reliability, a cleaner, more intuitive layout, and refreshed visual design across the site. We've also improved how community information is organized, making it easier to find items like meeting minutes, inspection and drainage documents, and recent Heron newsletters (with older content archived for easier access).

In addition, the site now includes enhanced community resources such as a new **Dining** page with an interactive map, along with refreshed local links, improved emergency preparation information, and a new homepage calendar to help residents quickly see upcoming meetings and updates.

Detailed release notes were shared with the community separately via email. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Management & Associates to request one digitally. Thank you for your continued support as we refine and enhance the website experience for our community.

Speeding & Traffic Safety – Community Reminder

The Board continues to work with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to help monitor and address speeding across the community. Residents will continue to see law enforcement presence as part of this ongoing effort.

We want to emphasize how important it is for everyone to obey posted speed limits. Excessive speed reduces reaction time, increases stopping distance, and significantly raises the risk of serious injury—especially in areas with pedestrians, cyclists, golfers, and children. Even a few extra miles per hour can be the difference between a near-miss and a preventable tragedy.

Please do your part: follow speed limits, obey all traffic-control devices, and use extra caution near crosswalks, intersections, and amenity areas. Together, we can protect our fellow residents and maintain a safe, walkable, and bike-friendly community for everyone.

Sunflower Corridor Clean-Up

Following resident feedback and a recent walkthrough, the Board moved forward with the Sunflower clean-up effort, including removal of debris, canopy uplifts, and addressing several dead trees that posed a safety concern along the roadway.

Now that the work is complete, the Board will continue working with our landscaping contractor to ensure expectations are clear and the area remains properly maintained, so progress is sustained.

We appreciate the Board members and residents who shared thoughtful input that helped drive this work forward. The Board remains committed to extending similar clean-up, overgrowth removal, and safety-focused landscaping efforts to other common ground areas throughout the community.

Continued on page 5

WATCH
YOUR
SPEED

Community Safety Reminder

Please be mindful of your speed when driving throughout our community. The safety of our residents, guests, and pets is vitally important. Remember, once you enter the community gates, you are essentially in your own driveway — and the same level of care and attentiveness should be applied when driving.

Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood safe for everyone!

Trusted in East Lake Woodlands for 25 Years!

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George Carollo, Vice President
Santo Carollo, Treasurer
Janie Baker, Secretary
Brandon Levy, Director
Jeffrey Sherman, Director

Email the Board at:
board@eastlakewoodlands.com

James Grant,
Community Association Manager
jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com
813-433-2024

Visit our Website at:
elw-fl.com or
eastlakewoodlands.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR EAST LAKE WATER:

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Emergency 727-223-1273

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Location:	Phone Number:
Rover (Resident Request Number)	727-600-7818
Country Club	727-784-8576
ELW Water General Info/Accounting	727-784-8576 ex 3864
ELW Water Emergency Maintenance Line	727-488-4961
Pinellas County Sheriff, Non-emergency	727-582-6200
Management and Associates	
Barcode Information, Rebekah Davis	813-433-2028
Management and Associates	
Manager, James Grant	813-433-2024
Management and Associates	
Accounting, Jessica Baker	813-433-2012

For additional questions please contact:
Rebekah Davis at 813-433-2028
rdavis@mgmt-assoc.com



ELWCA MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Management & Assocs. Ameri-Tech Prop. Mgmt.
813-433-2000

Cluster 1	24701 US Hwy 19 N. Ste
Cluster 3	102 Clearwater FL. 33763
Cluster 4	Creekside
Cluster 5	Woods Landing
Cross Pointe	Woodlands Estates
Deerpath	Citadel Mgmt.
ELWCA	727-938-7730
Enclave	905 E. Martin Luther King
Greenhaven 1	Jr Dr. Ste 310
Greenhaven 2	Tarpon Springs 34689
Greenhaven 3 & 4	Woodlake Run 1, 2, & 3
Pinewinds	Elite Property Mgmt.
Pinnacle	727-400-6850
Silverthorne	36181 East Lake Rd #407
Stonebriar	Palm Harbor FL 34685
St. Andrews	The Meadows
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	813-993-4000
	12906 Tampa Oaks Ste 130
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Ste 205 Clearwater FL
Hunter's Trail

Self-Managed

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Diamond Crest
Diamondcresthoa

@gmail.com
Hunters Crossing
Jan Stammer
727-772-3241

Isleworth
Michael Faehner
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Lake Shore Vista
Michelle Krickovic
615-870-8900

The Cove - Mark Brown

Warwick Hills
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tdcsteve@gmail.com

Sentry Mgmt.

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Kingsmill

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Hormone Replacement Therapy *for Women*

Join us in East Lake Woodlands for a Lunch-and-Learn

Menopause brings hormonal shifts that can affect several body systems. Estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone help keep the heart, metabolism, brain, immune health, and bones strong. When levels fall, more than *70 symptoms* may develop and are *often confused with aging*.



What we will cover:

- Why menopause is more than hot flashes
- How hormone loss shapes aging and chronic disease risk
- What the right therapy at the right time can do to support a longer, healthier life.



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Truist Bank Corridor Fence Replacement

The Board approved replacement of the dilapidated split-rail fence from Truist Bank to the backside of the shopping plaza, and the work has now been completed—addressing a long-standing eyesore while improving safety and overall curb appeal.

Irrigation Repairs at Main Entrances

It recently came to the attention of the current Board that the irrigation systems at our main entrances required significant repairs and had been neglected for an extended period of time. As these entrances serve as key focal points for East Lake Woodlands, the Board prioritized partnering with a new irrigation company to address the issues quickly and thoroughly, while ensuring the work was completed in the most cost-effective way for the community.

At this time, we are pleased to share that all essential repairs have been completed, with primary focus on the Tampa Road, Truist Bank, and East Lake Road entrances. While the main entrances are now fully operational, there is still additional irrigation work needed along several of our medians, and this work is now being prioritized next.

Fertilizer, Weed Control & Sod Pest Control

It recently came to the attention of the current Board that several of our main entrances needed renewed attention related to fertilization, weed control, and pest control impacting the sod. As these entrances serve as key focal points for East Lake Woodlands, the Board has also prioritized partnering with a new vendor to address these landscaping concerns quickly and thoroughly.

At this time, we are pleased to share that initial treatments and essential corrective services have been completed, with primary focus on the Tampa Road, Truist Bank, and East Lake Road entrances, as well as select common ground areas where there is still healthy St. Augustine grass. We are also pleased to share that this change in service provider resulted in cost savings to the community.

Combined with the recent irrigation repairs, we expect to see continued improvement in the overall health and appearance of the grounds at our main entrances. The Board will remain focused on our three main entrances, with the goal of improving and beautifying these areas in every way possible.

Moving forward, residents will continue to see irrigation and lawn treatment crews onsite as part of ongoing maintenance and consistent service.

Entrance Up Lighting Improvements

Residents may have noticed significant uplighting improvements at our main entrances. After reviewing the condition of the entrance lighting, the Board identified the need for substantial repairs and prioritized working with a professional lighting company to address the issues quickly.

The contractor has repaired broken fixtures, restored lighting in areas where it had been damaged or removed, and added lighting where coverage was previously missed. As a result, residents should now see a noticeable improvement in landscape lighting and evening visibility across all community entrances.

Cluster 4 – Drainage, Sidewalk, and Tree Removal

In Cluster 4, the Board is continuing to review several drainage issues affecting how water flows from the sidewalks and will be working with our contractor on a long-term solution.

In addition, we have repaired a broken section of sidewalk in the area and removed a large dead tree that presented a safety risk, as it was located over a pedestrian sidewalk nearby.

Roadway Improvements – ELW Parkway (Clubhouse to Truist)

We are pleased to share an important roadway improvement is now complete along East Lake Woodlands Parkway, specifically from the Clubhouse to the Truist entrance. This work combined two important efforts in the same corridor:

- Shoulder re-grading (drainage improvement) — completed on both the north and south sides of the parkway
- Road re-striping (pedestrian safety improvement) — completed to restore clearer lane markings and improve visibility in the bike lane area.

Benefits to the community include:

- Improved drainage and reduced standing water after rain events
- Enhanced pedestrian and cyclist safety, including improved usable shoulder/bike-lane space
- A cleaner, more aesthetically pleasing roadway corridor

In addition, material removed during the shoulder re-grading was repurposed to address an erosion issue along a sidewalk near Deerpath, helping stabilize the area and reduce further washout and pooling.

The Board will continue to prioritize projects that strengthen safety and long-term upkeep across the community.

Cross Creek & ELW Blvd. – Landscaping & Irrigation Improvements

Work is actively progressing in the Cross Creek area along East Lake Woodlands Boulevard. Crews have begun palmetto removal and related beautification efforts to improve the appearance and maintainability of key common areas.

As part of this work, irrigation repairs are underway. Once irrigation is restored and operating properly, the next step will be re-sodding impacted areas to re-establish healthy turf.

These improvements will enhance the look of the area and create cost savings for the community by reducing the need for ongoing palmetto maintenance.

Semi-Annual Drainage Inspection

The Board recently completed our semi-annual drainage inspection and identified several common-area maintenance items that will require attention. At this time, none of the findings are expected to directly impact homeowners, but addressing these items proactively helps prevent more serious drainage issues over time.

The Board is currently reviewing the findings to determine priorities and next steps, and will be soliciting bids as appropriate. Our goal is to complete the needed work in a cost-effective, efficient, and timely manner.

Stonebriar Pedestrian Crosswalk

To improve pedestrian connectivity and safety, the Board is advancing a project to add a new mid-block pedestrian crossing along East Lake Woodlands Boulevard near Stonebriar Drive. While sidewalks run parallel to the roadway on both sides, the sidewalk on the west side currently terminates just south of Stonebriar Drive, and there is no designated crossing point in this area today.

We are pleased to share that the engineering plans have been finalized, and the Board is now soliciting bids for the work. Once bids are received and reviewed, we anticipate moving forward so construction can commence soon.

This project will create a safer, clearly marked crossing location and further improve walkability for residents who use this corridor.

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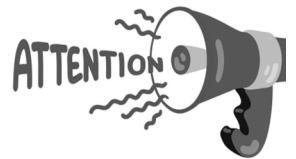
*Council of North
County Neighborhoods
Representing
communities in
North Pinellas County*

The Council of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN) works to bring together North Pinellas County neighborhoods to promote communication and cooperation and to foster a sense of community. CNCN acts as a neighborhood advocate for the benefit of member organizations and brings a common voice to county government.

Upcoming Events

Pinellas County Commission Forum
March 16th at 7:00 p.m.
East Lake Library

You are welcome to attend ELWCA meetings. Please join us to learn more about your ELWCA community. Meeting dates and times are posted on the message boards and in the calendar on our website elw-fl.com or eastlakewoodlands.com



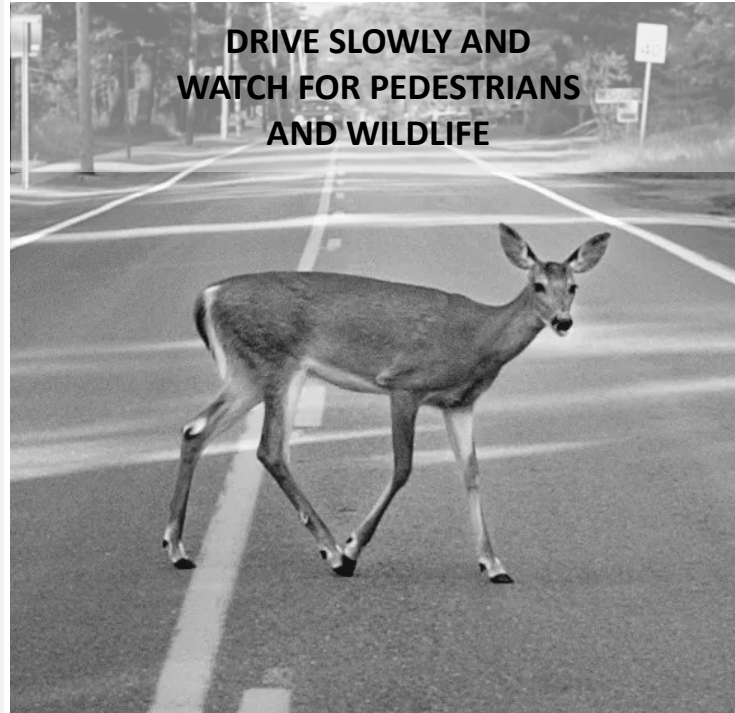
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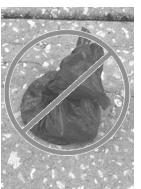
jbakerehwca@gmail.com



Attention dog parents

Please remember to properly remove and dispose of your dog's waste and waste bags. Let's all do our part to keep East Lake Woodlands clean and enjoyable for everyone!

Thank you!



Please, please, please do NOT use toxic poisonous rodenticide ("rat poison"). Rodenticides harm the environment by poisoning wildlife such as owls, hawks, and coyotes. Rodenticides also pose a risk to pets.



The Pinellas Wind Symphony • Gary Williams

**THE PINELLAS WIND SYMPHONY KICKS OFF 2026
WITH LORD OF THE RINGS MUSIC!**

North Pinellas' newly formed community band, The Pinellas Wind Symphony, will offer up music that should delight listeners of all ages. Their first concert of the year will feature Johan de Meij's Symphony No. 1 "The Lord of the Rings". It will be performed at the Dunedin Community Center at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 15th.

Under their very talented Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Dr. Martin Seggelke, the group's mission is to impact lives and inspire people through the beauty of music. This concert provides an excellent opportunity to introduce young people (as young as 5 or 6) to live music being performed right here in their community.

The group's second performance in 2026 is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 19th. To learn more about the organization's mission, its principal conductor, or procedures for becoming a member of the group, you can go to pinellaswindsymphony.org. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming performance!





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Happy New Year

It's been a busy and extremely productive year for your volunteer Board of Directors.

Community Management:

- Operating under budget month over month
- Maintaining open communication with vendors ensuring Pinewinds always receives the best service
- Keeping you informed with full transparency. You can find all Pinewinds business on the website portal
- Providing website updates and current information including: board minutes, proposals, president's managers and treasurer's monthly reports, News You Can Use, and more.

Major Improvements:

- New roof installation for all of Section C-1. It is hoped that residents will see an insurance premium reduction after submitting wind mitigation reports to their carrier.
- New large gutter and downspout replacement of developer installed gutters for all of Section C including wood repair.
- Installing new posts, street and stop signs providing an updated and more appealing look
- Begin Section B painting project. As we did last year with Section A painting, we begin with wood repair, power washing and painting. Along with painting comes replacement of developer installed gutters and downspouts. Upon completion of this project, all of Pinewinds will have larger gutters and downspouts installed. Our expectation is that we will see reduced costs for future fascia wood repairs.

Creating Community:

As a group of volunteers we take our roles serving on the Board of Directors very seriously, but we also like to have fun. This year we held two very successful events:

- Cinco De Mayo celebration
- Veterans Day honoring our veterans and yielding an incredible food donation for the Oldsmar Cares Food Bank. We look forward to holding more events and seeing you there.

We appreciate each of you and thank so many for reaching out with your positive comments about how well the Association is being managed. We will always put the interest of the community first and we will continue to work hard for you to keep Pinewinds looking its best. Be sure to let us know if you're interesting in joining our friendly working group. It takes a village to keep Pinewinds beautiful.

Your Pinewinds Board of Directors:

Patty, Jim,
Lisa, Carole,
Anne

Cluster III - Award Winning Landscaper *Catherine Dubinsky*

East Lake Woodland Cluster III is a small community of thirty-five units bordering the Ardea Golf Course pond, off South Woodlands Drive.

Landscaping, within our community, has been a project near and dear to one of our Board Members. Evan Earle Jr has donated many hours discussing and educating our Unit Owners, providing landscaping recommendations, with Florida Friendly Native plants, shrubs, and trees in mind.

As a Master Gardner, Evan has knowledge about Florida flora that can thrive, with less water, and provide natural ecosystems for various wildlife.

Evan, along with his husband Marion Yongue, have donated their time and labor to many residents in the community.

Evan and Marion's contributions to Cluster III landscaping have recently been recognized and honored, with the Tampa Bay Community Water Wise Conservation Commendation Award by the Florida Friendly Landscape Program, of with the University of Florida/IFAS, and the Pinellas County Extension, and Tampa Bay Water. As Evan would modestly say, "This just demonstrates that you can make a difference one yard at a time. Even in an HOA."

And, as Vice President, of our HOA Board, Evan has taken on the added responsibility of helping with tree management, with recommendations to ensure that our community stays beautiful, while ensuring a focus on the protection of homes during our annual Hurricane Seasons.

Evan and Marion also volunteer with organizations in our area, helping to support healthy and clean environments that promote the benefits of Florida Friendly plants and help educate people on those benefits. These include the Palm Harbor Museum's Florida Native landscaping, First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin's Faith Garden, Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy's school garden, Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Rotary Club of Safety Harbor, and Ardea's Social Committee's Earth Day celebration.

As President, of our HOA, I am especially proud to serve our community with Evan and Marion.





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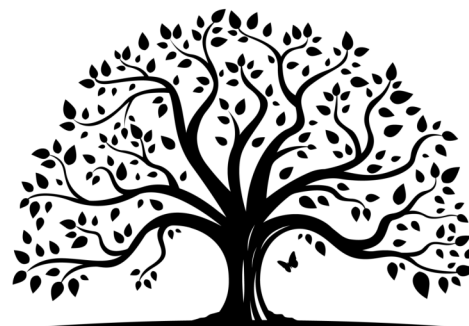
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WHY 3/4 OF HOME SELLERS DON'T GET THE PRICE THEY WANT FOR THEIR HOMES

East Lake Woodlands - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money. This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market. As this report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders

have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar". To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.ELWHomes.com/mistakes or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-866-945-9308 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.



Christmas Eve brought 2 barred owls to our door. The first one came from Zephyrhills. The family that brought him had to forgo their church services to get him to us. He was not terribly hurt, but cannot go back to the wild. He will be placed as an ambassador in Ocala. The second owl was rescued by Lani Walker in front of the East Lake YMCA. He suffered a terribly broken beak as he ran into a car. The Animal and Bird Medical Center of Palm Harbor took x-rays. We think the beak will regrow and he may possibly get a prosthetic. This bird will be in human care for a long time.

A male bald eagle was recovered in Oldsmar mid-January. Sadly he was hit by a car. The nest is being monitored by Louise Roy with Audubon EagleWatch. Updates to follow in our next report.

Reminder: please avoid all toxic substances and poisons. 8 dead squirrels were found in East Lake Woodlands. One has been sent in for testing. Nesting eagles will take prey that is already passed. If it was poisoned, they too ingest the poison. Not only that, they can and will feed it to their young. Once we hear back about the squirrel we will share that information with the community.

Visit us this year Tuesday-Sunday from 10-5. Our ambassadors are located at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater. There is a playground, trails and a turtle pond. If you would like to contribute to the East Lake YMCA barred owl please go through our website. www.moccasinlakeraptorsanctuary.org. Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue funds and cares for 35+ birds to include both male and female bald eagles, the three global raptors, and a wide variety of North American falcons. We can be reached at 727-798-2385.



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POSTAL
DELAYS

The December/January issue of The Heron was delivered later than normal due to delays at the Post Office which were out of the control of the board and the publishers.

Thank you for your understanding.



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- Parent's Night Out
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Mah Jongg

Tuesday, 2/3/26 | 1pm-4pm

Whether you are an experienced player or newbie, now is your chance to play Mah Jongg at the library!

Experienced players will be on hand to teach those new to the game. Sign-up required for each session. Please bring your own Mah Jongg sets, if you have them.

The club will meet on the first Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted on the library calendar.

Please be aware that this is a library-sponsored program open to all levels of play. If you are an experienced player who prefers to play only with those at his/her level, then this program is not for you. Our goal is to provide a welcome environment for all who wish to participate, learn, and improve their skills.

"Step Back in Time!" with Buz Olds

Wednesday, 2/25/26 | 6:30pm-7:30pm

Join Buz Olds, author of *It's No Bull: The Taming of Northeast Pinellas County*, for a riveting talk on Boot Ranch and its legendary owner, Al Boyd.

From wrangling wild Spanish cattle to facing Florida's fiercest predators—Al Boyd carved a 6,000-acre empire out of the wilderness. Discover the story behind the ranch's name and how a gunfight at the famous boot cemented its place in history.

Don't miss this thrilling tale of cow camps, frontier justice, and true Florida grit!

Be there for the adventure!

Once Upon A Valentine

Friday, 2/6/26 | 5:30pm-7:00pm

Conrad or Jeremiah? Edward or Jacob? Peeta or Gale? We all know the right answer, so come choose all the right answers at our Valentine's Day Trivia Party! (woop woop) The winners will take home a lovely Blind Book Date with stickers and hot chocolate packets. But that's not all! Come and create your very own gorgeous bookmarks and cards for your special loved ones. Enjoy some festive games and a good time with friends during the season of love and friendship. <3

Open to high school students only.

TAB's Valentine Bake Celebration

Friday, 2/13/26 | 12pm-3pm

Support your local library while celebrating the season of friendship and love. Visit the library to enjoy a variety of delicious baked goods prepared by the Teen Advisory Board. Treat yourself to as many sweets as you like or share them with your loved ones!

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be allocated to purchase new furniture for the Teen Room.

All Kinds of Music: Local Author Showcase

Saturday, 2/21/26 | 2pm-3pm

"Can you imagine a day in your life without music?" Join local author Bonnie Whitehurst for a special reading from her new book, *All Kinds of Music*. She will also showcase a variety of musical instruments and sign books upon purchase. A musical craft will be available for all ages as well.

Sweet Treat Storytime

Saturday, 2/7/26 | 1pm-2pm

Enjoy a special storytime and songs before decorating your own sweet treat! Learn about the history of candy, ice cream, and other goodies and leave with your own Valentine craft.

After-Hours Event with Portkey Books:

Tracey Enerson Wood Book Signing and Discussion

Saturday, 3/7/26 | 4pm-6pm

Join us for this exciting after-hours event at the library!

We will be joined by Tracey Enerson Wood: International and USA Today best selling author of *Katharine, the Wright Sister, The President's Wife, The War Nurse, and The*

Engineer's Wife.

She will be discussing *Katharine, the Wright Sister*, along with touching on her other titles.

We will also be partnering with local bookstore, Portkey Books, that will have her books available for sale and author signing.

Please note that registration is REQUIRED as space is limited to 70 in our meeting room. No exceptions will be made. This event is free and open to the public. Please cancel your registration if you are no longer able to attend.

We hope to see you there as we celebrate Women's History Month with Tracey Enerson Wood!

Chef Warren - Irish Cuisine

Wednesday, 3/18/26 | 6pm-7:30pm

Irish Cuisine – It's Not an Oxymoron! People rarely put the words 'Irish' and 'cuisine' in the same sentence. Move beyond corned beef and cabbage and learn how this creative and healthy cuisine can be a part of your diet beyond St. Patrick's Day.

Join Chef Warren as he shares dozens of kitchen tips, cooking hints and humorous anecdotes about the joys and challenges of cooking healthy Irish (and Scottish) meals for two. Chef Warren will answer such questions as: Is corned beef and cabbage the Irish National Dish? Why do the Irish eat so many potatoes? I know I can cook with wine, but how do I cook with beer? What exactly is haggis and why would anyone want to eat it? And more...

Celebrating Lois Eannel: A Retirement Open House

Fri, 3/27/26 | 12pm-2pm

Join Us in Celebrating Lois Eannel's Retirement!

The best chapters aren't written in books - they're lived. Come help Lois start her bestseller!

Join us as we celebrate Lois Eannel, ELCL Library Director, and turn the page to her next great adventure - retirement! Stop by anytime during the retirement party to share laughter, memories, and well wishes.

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Climate Change

One major challenge to studying climate change is that there are several processes that can cause climate change and all these processes are operating simultaneously. There are natural causes of climate change as well as human-caused causes of climate change. It can be challenging to quantify how much change is being caused by each process. It is also possible that there are climate change processes acting today of which we are not even aware.

As an analogy, think of a sink with several faucets adding water and several drains removing water. The faucets and the drains are analogous to the processes that cause climate change and the water level in the sink is analogous to climate. If the water level remains constant, all the change processes are combining in such a way as to have a zero net effect. If the water level is changing, all the change processes are combining in such a way as to make the water level go either up or down.

It can be easy to forecast water level changes if we measure the flow rates in each faucet and each drain. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to measure how much change is being caused by each climate change process. One reason for this difficulty is that we don't fully understand how the environment works. Another reason for this difficulty is that many of these measurements are only available as estimates from various climate models. Climate models are susceptible to

the same sorts of errors as the numerical weather prediction models currently used to make weather forecasts. Computer model outputs can be very insightful and useful, but they should be interpreted

cautiously.

- Natural causes of climate change include:
- Variations in the energy output of the Sun.
- Variations in the characteristics of the Earth's orbit, which cause the amount of solar radiation reaching Earth's surface to vary.
- The shifting of tectonic plates influences global atmospheric circulation, global ocean circulation, and the amount of solar energy absorbed at the surface.
- The building of mountain ranges alters the global atmospheric circulation and therefore global climate.
- Volcanic eruptions can throw a large amount of particles and gases into the atmosphere that reflect incoming sunlight. The result can be a measured decrease in overall global surface temperatures for several years until these particles and gases are washed out of the atmosphere.

Anthropogenic (human-caused) causes of climate change include:

- The emission of sulfate aerosols due to the burning of fossil fuels.
- The emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide due to the burning of fossil fuels.
- The production of greenhouse gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

- Changes in land use such as deforestation and the diverting of rivers for use in agriculture.
- Building up urban areas with asphalt and concrete at the expense of rural areas. These effects are known as the urban heat island. The temperature data taken from regions influenced by the urban heat island effect may skew some of the average temperature calculations being made, but not enough to hide the real trends.

At the present time, the net effect of these natural causes would be for the global climate to be cooling. The fact that the global climate is warming – and warming as rapidly as it is – is evidence that human activities are the major cause of the current warming trend. The scientific argument is clear and there is little room for scientific debate on this issue any longer.

There are still some people who refuse to believe that human activities can have any influence on the environment. For a vivid example of some of the things we are doing to our environment, look at this website that discusses the Aral Sea, which is in the former Soviet Union.

Although this is called a "sea" it is actually a lake and was once the fourth-largest lake in the world. The rivers supplying this inland body of water were diverted for human consumption and irrigation to such a degree that the lake has shrunk dramatically over the last 50 years and is now less than half of its original size. The economies that formerly depended on the lake have collapsed.

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/WorldOfChange/aral_sea.php



Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Summary of Citations and Warnings

Requested Patrols	9	Filled:	9	Not Filled:	0
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	17		Driving less than 15mph over the limit		
	1		DWLSR		



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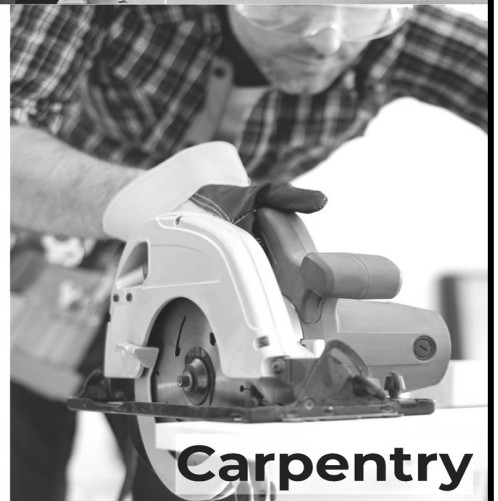
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Feb 20 - The Caregiver Reset: Real Talk & Real Tools
9am to 11am

Are you caring for an aging parent or patient? Stop in for some support and learn about support services and tools about how to care for yourself while caring for others.

March 21 - Pet Fair and Pawtraits
2pm to 5pm

Bring your pets for FREE portraits! Vendors with pet supplies and services. Prizes will be given away for cute photos, cute pet costumes, and more!! We hope to see you there.

***NO TIGERS ALLOWED**

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Why Your Pet Is A Great Valentine!



- Pets don't talk, I think we can all agree this is a good thing.
- If you worry your pet will destroy your lovely home four seconds after you step out the door, you can put them in a crate/cage.
- You don't have to share your dessert with a pet. This is great because dessert is the best part about Valentine's Day! So you get your tempting torte all to yourself. Perfect!

• For the not-so-romantic folks out there, a pet won't look hopefully, then desperately, and finally disdainfully into your eyes when the evening doesn't end in a helicopter ride to Paris and a romantic marriage proposal. Won't happen. Prolonged eye contact totally freaks pets out.

• When a pet follows you around it's cute. Am I right? Pretty much nothing is better than being adored by a pet. If a date follows you around ... we call that little phenomenon stalking.

• Pets don't care if you are "presentable" or not. You don't have to buy expensive shoes to hang out with your pet. You don't even have to shower. No makeup, no ironing, no Spanx required. Amen.

• You will never have to dream up a way to gently/firmly/sneakily "get rid" of a pet. You'd never want to get rid of a pet! Pets are fun, and funny, and goofy.

• Pet snuggles are **the best**. Okay, snuggles from a human can be pretty darn good too, but when your pet nuzzles into the nape of your neck and huffs a sigh, you'll stay in that exact same position for ages so you don't disrupt the little sweet thing.

• Did we mention pets don't talk?

So off you go, enjoy your torte.....all of it!

Inspired by Petfinder.com

3 Valentine's Day Dangers to Pets

A bouquet of flowers, a box of candy and a chocolate heart may be a delight for you, but they are a possible hidden health risk for your dog or cat.



1. Chocolate

Unfortunately, chocolate contains **theobromine**, an extreme stimulant to pets. It causes a racing heart and stimulates the central nervous system. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous for your pet.



2. Low-Sugar Candy

It may contain an artificial sweetener called **xylitol**. In pets, xylitol stimulates the pancreas to produce insulin, which suppresses blood sugar levels. Xylitol can also cause liver damage.



3. Flowers

Beware of bouquets containing **lilies** — specifically, the big showy ones in floral displays. If your cat chews on the leaves or petals, drinks the water, or rubs against the pollen and grooms herself, she is at risk of kidney failure.



Have Fun Celebrating President's Day With Your



A distinctly American holiday, Presidents' Day was originally established to recognize the contributions of George Washington, and later expanded to include Abraham Lincoln, who both have February birthdays. It is now considered a day to honor, and learn, about all U.S. presidents. Here are some ideas for teaching your kids about the legacy of each.

Put on a Presidents' Day play

Have your kids reenact a famous presidential speech, such as Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address or [John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address](#), which was named by *Time* as one of the top 10 greatest speeches of all time. You can even turn

Presidents' Day into a play date by inviting the neighborhood kids over to write, and star in, a play about a specific president. Hit the library first, and nab a few books the kids can read that provide rich descriptions and potential scenes that would work well in a play format. Some good ones to try include [*A Christmas Tree in the White House*](#), a lovely children's book about Theodore Roosevelt's family, and his commitment to wildlife conservation, or [*George Washington and the General's Dog*](#), a true-life story about George Washington and an adorable pooch who wanders onto a battlefield. The day can include making costumes, memorizing lines, and painting scenery. Be sure to record the final result! For an even better play, try acting out the [hidden talents of American presidents](#).

Communicate With the White House

Let your child know their voice can be heard by having them write to the current President, First Lady, or Vice President. They can communicate their hopes for the future, and their feelings about current events. "Your child can send a letter through the U.S. mail, or they can send an email. They can also post on the President's official Facebook page, or send him a tweet. Just be sure to follow the

official [White House guidelines](#) to ensure your message gets through.

Make President's Day Crafts

Kids and crafts go together, like presidents and legislation. It doesn't take a whole lot of supplies to get started, and there are tons of Presidents' Day crafts you can access on [Pinterest](#) for inspiration. An easy one to recreate: Lincoln's signature top hat recreated with black construction paper and glue. Another idea: An Air Force One paper airplane. Simply fold your own paper Air Force One plane. and pretend it is taking off from Washington, D.C. This activity benefits fine motor skills. You can also incorporate facts about geography, by discussing where in the world your plane may land.

Help Your Child "Run" For Office

Help your child come up with a campaign slogan, and a platform of issues. Ask if there are problems they can see, and what he or she would do to fix them. This is an excellent academic activity, because it helps children learn about government, and what a president does. Have your child craft campaign materials, such as posters, buttons, and flyers, to go along with their campaign. Then, you can stage an election, using your child's stuffed animals or dolls, as the voters.



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Corned Beef and Cabbage

Ingredients

- 3 to 4 pounds corned beef brisket uncooked, with spice packet
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves garlic sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 ½ to 3 cups water
- 2 pounds potatoes peeled* & quartered
- 2 large carrots chopped
- 1 small head green cabbage cut into wedges

Instructions

- Chop onion into large chunks and place in the bottom of a 6 qt slow cooker. Top with corned beef and seasoning packet.
- Pour water into slow cooker until it just about covers the corned beef. Add garlic and bay leaves.
- Cook on low 8-10 hours.
- After the initial 3 hours, add potatoes and carrots to the slow cooker.
- Two hours before serving, add cabbage wedges to the slow cooker.
- Remove corned beef from slow cooker and let rest 15 minutes before slicing. Serve with potatoes, carrots and cabbage

Notes

Up to 2 cups of water can be replaced with beer if desired.

If using russet or baking potatoes, they should be peeled. If using thin skinned potatoes (red, Yukon gold), peeling is optional.

Once cooked corned beef should be tender (usually cooks closer to the 10 hour time). Appliances can vary, if your corned beef is not tender, it likely needs to cook longer.

It is essential to cut your corned beef across the grain.



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