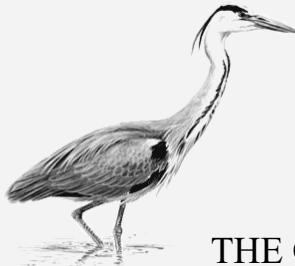
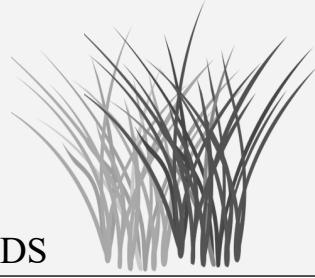


# EAST LAKE WOODLANDS

DECEMBER 2025 • JANUARY 2026



# Seron



THE OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF EAST LAKE WOODLANDS

## A Message from Our President *Jermaine Jenkins*

### Holiday Decorations Are Now in Place

The holiday season has officially arrived in East Lake Woodlands. Over the past several weeks, the Board partnered with Decorating Elves to create a bright, welcoming, and festive atmosphere at our entrances. All décor is now installed — including illuminated displays, trimmed trees, and refreshed seasonal landscaping. We hope the updated décor brings added joy to the neighborhood this season.

### Staying Connected

A big **thank you** to all residents who have recently shared their email addresses with us. We've seen a noticeable increase over the past month, which is helping us make community communication faster, more reliable, and greener. If you haven't yet opted in, we encourage you to join us.

### 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](mailto:jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com), or visit the Management & Associates office.

Thank you for helping strengthen communication across ELWCA.

### Tampa Road Perimeter Wall – Project Update

Work continues on the Tampa Road perimeter wall. Tree trimming and grubbing are completed, and the area is now fully prepared for construction. The Board is finalizing permitting and anticipates

construction to begin soon.

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.

### Controlled Access & Security – Community Update

Security guards have fully returned to both the North and South Guard Houses, and resident feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many residents have shared how reassuring it is to be greeted by professional staff who support guests, assist residents, and focus on maintaining safety at our entrances at all times.

The Board continues to work closely with our new security provider to support their onboarding and ensure guards are fully trained on community expectations. We also appreciate the valuable insights shared by other ELWCA community Presidents.

The Board has approved a new controlled-access platform, and implementation is underway. We will share more details as we move closer to rollout. For now, the old "green button" system has been disabled, and all guest access is handled by gate guards.

Residents are encouraged to obtain barcode decals for all registered vehicles — barcodes continue to be issued at no cost.

Additionally, in partnership with Board Presidents along Sunflower Drive, the Sunflower entrance has been restored to a resident-only gate. This change has already reduced cut-through traffic.

### Gatehouse Guard Responsibilities

Our gatehouse guards play a vital role in keeping our community safe. When welcoming guests, guards are expected to:

- Professionally greet residents and visitors and assist with basic questions.
- Scan guest driver's licenses and confirm the resident or location being visited.
- Manually grant guest access now that the green button system is disabled.
- If a guest declines to show ID, request their name and destination, then allow access.
- Maintain a professional, alert, and helpful presence at all times.
- Follow uniform standards: black button-down short sleeve shirt, black BDU cargo-style pants, metal security badge, duty belt, and body camera.

### 2026 Budget Approved

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2026 Master Association budget has been approved. After reviewing projected expenses, reserves, and community needs, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to responsible fiscal management.

We are pleased to share that **there will be no increase in Master Association dues for 2026**. At a time when many communities face rising costs, this reflects our continued focus on competitive vendor management, careful expense control, and strong reserve planning — all without adding financial pressure to our homeowners.

### ELWCA Website Upgrade

Under the leadership of our Communications Director, the Board is moving forward with a full modernization of the ELWCA website. The new site will feature a more contemporary design and improved navigation, making it easier to find documents, access updates, and locate community resources. More information will be shared as we move toward launch.

Continued on page 5

### 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!



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Email the Board at:  
[board@eastlakewoodlands.com](mailto:board@eastlakewoodlands.com)  
James Grant,  
Community Association Manager  
[jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com](mailto:jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com)  
813-433-2024

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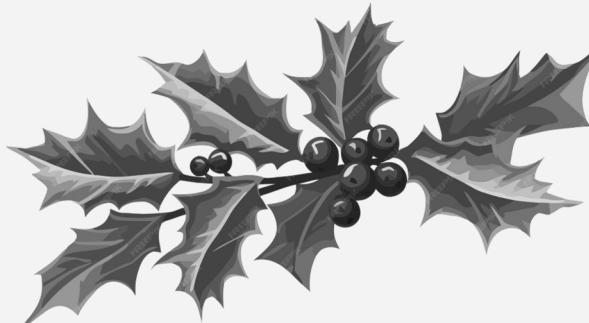
IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR EAST LAKE WATER:

Non-Emergency 727-784-8576 ext. 3864  
Emergency 727-223-1273

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Location:	Phone Number:
Rover (Resident Request Number)	813-382-9997
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
<b>Management and Associates</b>	
Barcode Information, Rebekah Davis	813-433-2028
<b>Management and Associates</b>	
Manager, James Grant	813-433-2024
<b>Management and Associates</b>	
Accounting, Jessica Baker	813-433-2012

For additional questions please contact:  
Mary Hunt at 813-433-2014



ELWCA MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

<b>Management &amp; Assocs.</b>	<b>Ameri-Tech Prop. Mgmt.</b>
<b>813-433-2000</b>	727-726-8000
Cluster 1	24701 US Hwy 19 N. Ste
Cluster 3	102 Clearwater FL. 33763
Cluster 4	Creekside, Cross Pointe
Cluster 5	Woods Landing
Cross Creek	Woodlands Estates
Deerpath	<b>Citadel Mgmt.</b>
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Enclave	905 E. Martin Luther King
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Greenhaven 2	Tarpon Springs 34689
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St. Andrews	The Meadows
Woodridge Green	<b>Folio Property Mgmt.</b>
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	Temple Terrace FL 33637
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**Resource Mgmt.**

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28100 US Hwy 19 N  
Ste 205 Clearwater FL

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727-644-68721

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Diamondcresthoa  
@gmail.com

Hunters Crossing  
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Michael Faehner  
727-306-0201

Lake Shore Vista  
Michelle Krickovic  
615-870-8900

The Cove - Mark Brown  
Warwick Hills  
Stephen Sabarese  
[tdcsteve@gmail.com](mailto:tdcsteve@gmail.com)

**Sentry Mgmt.**

727-799-8982  
2605 Enterprise Rd E  
Ste 200

Clearwater FL 33759

Kingsmill

**Wise Property Mgmt.**  
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Lutz FL 33558

Turtle Creek 3 & 4

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Roof shown is actual Summer Breeze job. Testimonial customer home not shown to protect privacy.



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### **Speeding & Traffic Safety – Community Reminder**

With recent improvements to traffic-control devices, the Board is now working with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to increase monitoring of speeding across the community. Residents may notice added law enforcement presence as part of this effort.

Please remember to observe posted speed limits, obey all traffic-control devices, and use extra caution near crosswalks. Together, we can maintain a safe, walkable, and bike-friendly community for everyone.

### **East Lake Road Woodlands Monument Sign**

The Board worked closely with the contractor to ensure the East Lake Road monument sign was completed before Thanksgiving — and we are pleased to share that it was. New sod, refreshed landscaping, updated lighting, and holiday décor are also now in place, creating a beautiful and welcoming entrance for the season.

### **East Lake Road Corridor Improvements**

Approximately 1,500 feet of hedges have been trimmed, along with essential tree work near the East Lake Road entrance. The old monu-

ment sign—which was in poor condition and heavily obstructed—has been replaced with a new sign that matches the standard design across ELW. The Board is also working to implement a routine maintenance schedule to ensure this area is consistently maintained.



### **Thought Waves • *Dave Feller***

#### **Climate Proxy Data**

Determining what the climates have been in the past can be challenging. Actual records of temperature measurements go back a little more than 100 years. Beyond that, we must look to various aspects of the natural environment that will vary based on temperatures, precipitation levels, and other climate factors. These other aspects of the natural environment that vary with changes in climate are referred to as proxy data.

Proxy data comes in various forms, with various timescales, and with varying amounts of reliability. Some of the most common sources of proxy data include:

- Drilling ice cores in glaciers at high latitudes. Think of this as analogous to poking a straw through a milkshake. Conditions at different levels in the core provide clues to conditions at different times.

Oxygen-18 (eight protons and ten neutrons in the nucleus) atoms are slightly heavier than oxygen-16 atoms (eight protons and eight neutrons in the nucleus) because they have two additional neutrons. For this reason, it takes more energy to evaporate a water molecule containing an oxygen-18 atom.

The varying percentages of oxygen-16 and oxygen-18 atoms in the water molecules provide indications of past climates. Warmer temperatures will result in more water molecules containing oxygen-18 evaporating from the ocean, and therefore a higher percentage of oxygen-18 atoms in ice cores from glacier ice after the moisture falls as rain and freezes. There will also be lower concentrations of oxygen-18 in ocean sediment

layers.

Similarly, the hydrogen isotopes H-1 (one proton in the nucleus) and H-2 (one proton and one neutron in the nucleus, also known as deuterium) can also be used as proxy data.

- Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings. The tree rings will be thicker when climate conditions favor tree growth, which typically mean warmer and wetter conditions.
- Borehole temperatures. A borehole is a hole that is dug deep into the ground to allow measuring the temperature of the soil at various depths. The way that the temperature varies with depth can provide clues to past climates.
- Coral skeletal rings can be studied in the same way as tree rings. Coral skeletons are made primarily from calcium carbonate. One calcium carbonate molecule contains one atom of calcium, one atom of carbon, and three oxygen atoms. Since warmer temperatures encourage the evaporation of water molecules containing oxygen-18 atoms, warmer temperatures result in a larger percentage of oxygen-16 atoms in the coral structures. Warmer temperatures will also encourage faster growth rates, making the growth rings wider in warmer climates.
- Pollen grains from terrestrial plants can be found in sediment at the bottom of the ocean. Studying the pollen grains can identify the plants from which they came. The abundance and types of pollen in the ocean sediment provide indications about which types of plant life were thriving at various times, which can give us clues about what the climate was like.
- Ocean and lake sediments. The varying

percentages of oxygen isotopes in different sediment layers provides clues to past climates.

- Physical properties of the ice trapped in glaciers and polar ice packs provide clues to past climates. Varying conditions of temperature, precipitation and humidity will result in various amounts of liquid water and other contaminants trapped within the ice. The presence of these contaminants will affect physical properties such as mechanical strength and electrical conductivity.
- Some human records of events such as forest fires, precipitation amounts, and the dates during which northern harbors or covered with ice provide clues to past climates.
- The types and distributions of the insect population can provide clues to past climates.
- Dissolved carbon dioxide gas in sea-water reacts with the water molecules to create carbonate ions and bicarbonate ions. These ions chemically react with dissolved calcium ions in the ocean to form calcium carbonate. Otoliths are small stones of calcium carbonate that form within the inner ears of fish. They act like the inner ears in mammals. They help fish detect sounds in the water, and help with orientation and balance. Studying the relative concentrations of different oxygen isotopes in the otoliths from fish carcasses and fossils can provide clues to past climates.

This NOAA website contains links to some of the data sets of the most common types of proxy data that is available.

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/paleoclimatology>

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# CNCN

Pinellas County, FL

Neighborhood Advocates

Pinellascncn.com

*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

Watch for signs to announce the CNCN 2025-2026 informational and political forms.

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](http://elw-fl.com) or [eastlakewoodlands.com](http://eastlakewoodlands.com)



**ELWCA meetings  
are conducted using  
TEAMS.  
Please contact  
M & A for a meeting  
link or you are  
welcome to attend  
in-person at M & A.**

**The Annual Meeting  
will remain  
an in-person  
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someone or  
something  
in our ELW  
community?*

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## Turtle Creek 1 & 2 Neighborhood Update

### Happy Holidays, Turtle Creek!

As we wrap up 2025, we want to thank each of you for contributing to the warm, welcoming community we're proud to call home. December is a time for celebration, reflection, and connection — and January brings a fresh start to the new year.

We hope the season brings joy, rest, and time spent with friends and family.

### Community Updates

 Drainage System Plan: Following our inspection earlier this year, we are continuing to develop a plan to address the deficiencies that were identified. Once timelines and next steps are finalized, we will share updates with the neighborhood.

Stay Connected with Harbeck: As we enter a new year, please ensure Harbeck Management has your current mailing and email address on file so that statements and important notices reach you without delay.

### December Highlights

- Holiday Lights & Décor: Thank you to everyone who brightens the neighborhood with festive displays!
- Neighborhood Courtesy: Please remember not to block sidewalks when guests visit for holiday gatherings. Pedestrian safety is especially important during the busy season.
- Travel Safety: If you'll be away, consider setting timers for exterior lights and asking a neighbor to keep an eye on your property.



### Welcoming January 2026

As January arrives, it's a great time to refresh, reorganize, and prepare for the year ahead.

#### New Year Home Checklist:

- Replace smoke detector batteries
- Clean dryer vents
- Check outdoor lighting
- Trim shrubs and trees before new growth begins
- Inspect irrigation systems prior to spring



#### Neighborhood Courtesy Reminders:

- Avoid parking over sidewalks
- Bring trash and recycling bins in promptly
- Pick up after pets and help keep common areas clean



#### Community Spirit

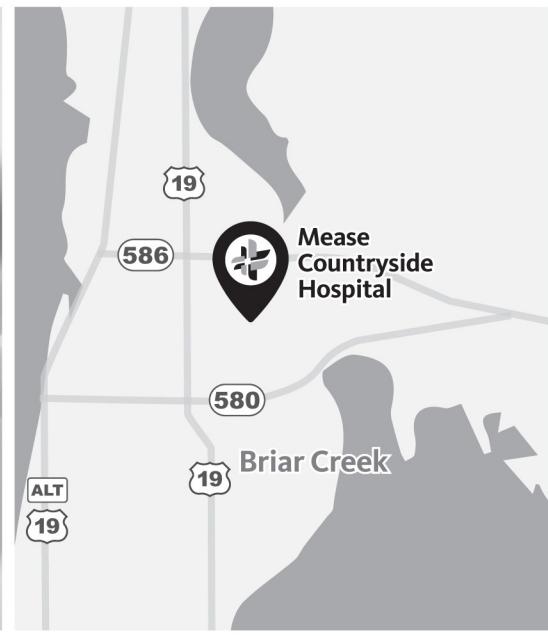
- Let's continue welcoming new residents joining Turtle Creek this season
- A small gesture — a wave, a kind word, or checking in on a neighbor — helps maintain our strong community atmosphere
- Stay tuned for early 2026 updates about possible community gatherings and spring events

#### Warm Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year

Thank you for helping make 2025 such a wonderful year for Turtle Creek. Wishing every resident a peaceful holiday season and a bright start to 2026!

Warm regards,  
The Turtle Creek Neighborhood Committee

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**BayCare**

**Mease Countryside Hospital**

## EAST LAKE WOODLANDS YARD OF THE MONTH

We kicked off our ELW Yard of the Month program in July 2023 and we are excited to watch this program gain momentum.

The goal of this program is to recognize our homeowners who strive to beautifully maintain their property and add to the overall appeal of the ELW Community.

Qualifications for this award include the following:

- The yard is well-groomed as viewed from the street.
- The yard is attractive through the use of natural items (trees, shrubs, plants, rocks, etc.). Other decorative items may be used to further the landscaping.
- Buildings, fences, porches, patios visible on the property are in good condition.

**December  
Congratulations!  
⇒ The Jenkins Family**



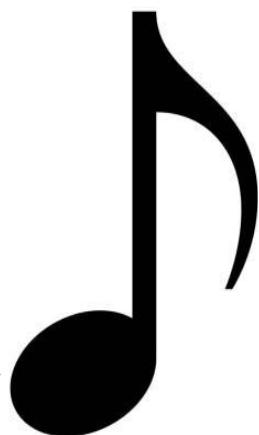
### A New Musical Group Performance Just Minutes From Your Home • *Gary Williams*

In April 2025 an advanced-level community band, The Pinellas Wind Symphony was formed right here in Northern Pinellas County. The Pinellas Wind Symphony, which rehearses and performs at The Dunedin Community Center, will be providing free concerts which should be of interest to East Lake Woodlands residents.

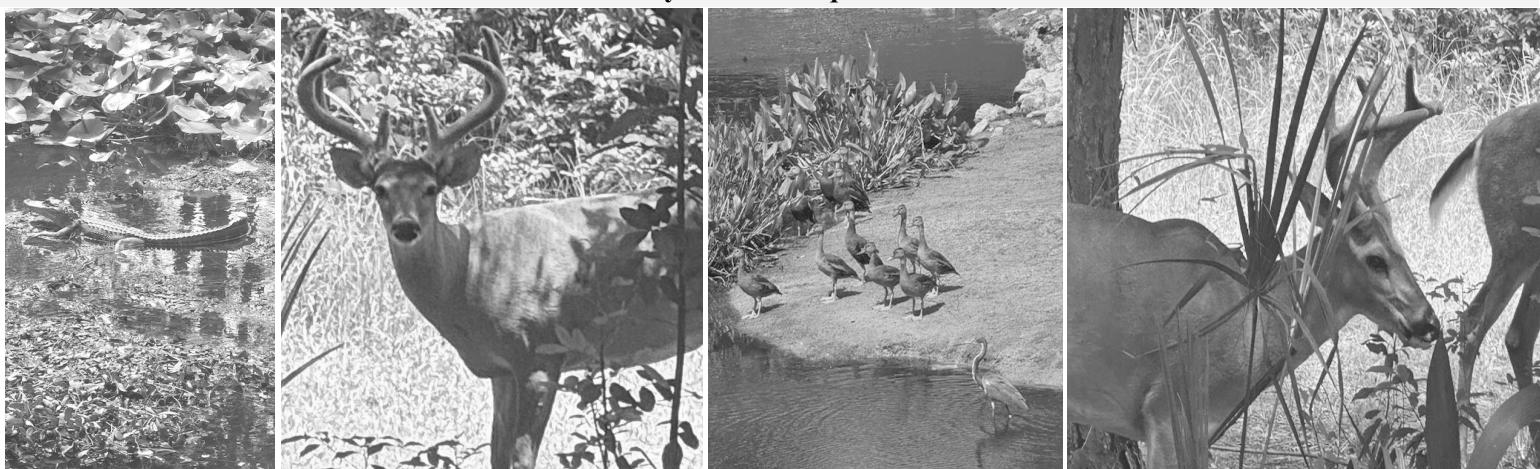
Under their very talented Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Dr. Martin Seggelke, the group's mission is to impact lives and inspire people through the beauty of music. The performances provide an excellent opportunity to expose young people (as young as 5 or 6) to live music being performed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

The next PWS performance will be a **Holiday Extravaganza** taking place at **The Dunedin Community Center at 3 pm on Sunday, December 14th**. Several other groups will perform, and the PWS will be joined in a dance-along Nutcracker featuring dancers from Ovation Repertory Company of Tampa. The Band's **Spring Concert** will be at **The Dunedin Community Center at 3pm on Sunday, February 15th**.

To learn more about the organization's mission, its principal conductor, or the procedures for becoming a member of the group, you can go to [pinellaswindsymphony.org](http://pinellaswindsymphony.org). We hope to see you at an upcoming performance!



### Community Photos • *Stephen Sabarese*



#### 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!



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## How To Host A Cookie Exchange

The cookie exchange or cookie swap tradition has been around for many years. The Christmas holiday season is a favorite time to have these parties. These parties are a lot of fun, and as a bonus you'll have lots of different cookies on hand for the holidays. Just think - bake one batch of your favorite cookie and you'll go home with many different kinds. Invite your friends, family, neighbors, church members, or community group.

- Decide how many guests you want to invite to the cookie exchange. Lots of people will ensure your guests have a variety of cookies to choose from, but too many people means too much baking. Ideally, you should plan the cookie swap for 10 to 12 people.
- Confirm how many of your invited guests will be able to attend. Let everyone (each guest) know how many cookies they need to make. Each guest will need to bring **one (1) dozen cookies** to share and sample at the cookie exchange party and **another one (1) dozen cookies** for each person (guest) attending. For example, if eight (8) people will be attending, each person will need to bring 9 dozen cookies from the same recipe.
- Avoid duplication of cookies by asking guests to RSVP and tell you about the cookies they will bring. Make sure each guest brings copies of their recipe to pass around. Since many people have food allergies, it's important they know the ingredients in the cookies at your party. And if there are family stories and especially ethnic traditions for a cookie, ask the guest to write that information on the recipe.
- Remind guests to bring a large container to take their cookie assortment home. Have extra containers and packing materials like foil, plastic wrap, and tape on hand for guests who may forget.
- Cookies to be exchanged should be wrapped well. They should be placed either on plastic plates with plastic wrap or in disposable containers that are airtight.
- During the cookie exchange, serve warm beverages such as coffee, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, or herbal tea. Don't forget to eat and sample all the delicious cookies!

## Stay Connected • *Jermaine Jenkins*

A big thank you to all the residents who have already shared their email addresses with us—you're helping make our community communication faster, more reliable, and a little greener by cutting down on paper. We're excited to keep this effort going and invite those who haven't signed up yet to join in.

### Why opt in to digital updates?

- **Faster, reliable delivery:** Receive time-sensitive notices (meetings, repairs, policy updates) right in your inbox without waiting on the mail.
- **Convenient & centralized:** Keep all community updates searchable and easy to find instead of buried in stacks of paper.
- **Two-way engagement:** Reply quickly or ask questions, making communication with the Board and management more responsive and transparent.
- **Environmentally friendly:** Less paper means less waste—and the savings on printing and postage can be redirected to other community needs.

**How to enroll / update your info:** Just send your **name, property address, and preferred email address** to **James Grant** at **jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com**. You're also welcome to stop by the Management & Associates office to update your information in person.

Thank you again for helping us stay connected and making communication easier for both residents and the Board!



## Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Summary of Citations and Warnings

SEPTEMBER 2025			
Requested Patrols	9	Filled: 9	Not Filled: 0
CITATIONS	WARNINGS	VIOLATION	
	3	Stop sign	
	1	Speeding Over the Speed Limit 1-15 MPH	
	1	Speeding Over the Speed Limit 15 MPH +	
	1	Equipment	

OCTOBER 2025			
Requested Patrols	9	Filled: 9	Not Filled: 0
CITATIONS	WARNINGS	VIOLATION	
	1	Expired Tag	
	1	Speeding Over the Speed Limit 1-15 MPH	

## Drainage Updates • *George Carollo*

We have been reminded of the drainage issues along Woodlands Drive regarding the sidewalks continually holding water. This will be discussed in our upcoming drainage inspections along with solutions to remedy.

For example, on the south side of Woodlands Parkway, between Woodlands Drive and the office complex at ELW Parkway, grass and some dirt will be removed to lower the shoulder height along the road to alleviate the puddling of water and redirect it into the swales as originally designed. Over time sediment, grass clippings, etc. have built up along the road's edge, adding to the height of the grass along the shoulder. In areas where this has happened it has impeded proper drainage and caused water to sit and puddle in areas beyond the normal time frame for dispersion. This causes a hazard not only to drivers and pedestrians navigating through large puddles, but also to the roadway itself.

Repeated puddling that sits for extended periods of time causes structural harm to the road surface. Standing water causes pitting of the surface, cracking of the asphalt, and potholes. Additionally, the water can seep into the asphalt which can not only break down the binder that holds the asphalt together but can also cause the underlying base to start eroding, which in turn causes sinking and potholes. Updates will be forthcoming.

In Cluster 4, the Board is reviewing several drainage issues affecting how water flows from the sidewalks and will be working with our contractor on a long-term solution. We are also on track to complete the semi-annual drainage inspection in early December and remains committed to ensuring all drainage systems are properly maintained and functioning as intended.

## Happy Owlidays • *Barbara Walker*

### Year-in-Review at Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue: 2025

2025 was challenging! Until fall migration started, we largely dealt with issues that related to Hurricane Milton. This included a lot of displaced eastern screech owls. Most of the owls were raised and released, but a few came in with permanent injuries. We found sanctuaries willing to take all of them but we had to wait for the government shutdown to be over in order to begin submitting federal transfer requests. The owls came from Palm Harbor, Safety Harbor and Clearwater primarily. One Safety Harbor owl was rescued at a playground near the rock-climbing wall. When we released him, he flew to the top of the slide and went zoop! Straight down he went. He was fine. We released him again, a little farther away from the fun stuff at the playground. One screech owl was rescued from Mike Alstott's house! A ring camera recorded a young man bringing the owl to the door in the middle of the night as he had been hit by a car. The owl remains in residence. Donations for screech owls can be made via paypal on-line at [www.moccasinlakeraptorsanctuary.org](http://www.moccasinlakeraptorsanctuary.org). Even \$5 a month helps.

### Owl Activity in East Lake Woodlands

We received one barred owl from near Aberdeen. Although it took a long time for him to heal, we were able to get that bird back to East Lake Woodlands. We released a baby barred owl from Zephyrhills along with him as he had lost his family. Just last night I heard the barred owls outside our window "interacting", so nesting season is in gear. Great horned owls also live in East Lake Woodlands. They do some silly things too. Including getting tangled in ballfield nets and even Christmas lights as we saw last year. Please keep an eye on things on your property and call 727-798-2385 if you have an owl or bird of prey issue. We can help!

### Aid Given to Ospreys on Egmont Key Following Hurricane Milton

We also received a lot of red shouldered hawks, ospreys, and bald eagles. Milton did a number on Egmont Key. The Coast Guard went out to get the lighthouse light turned back on, which is very important to the ships that need to come into the port, but ospreys built a nest on it. It had to be removed along

with the babies to make the light house functional again. We went to the island with a wonderful Coast Guard crew on a boat called a metal shark. The dock at Egmont was destroyed so we had to jump off the metal shark. Or in my case, be assisted by the Coast Guard to the beach. All babies were safely retrieved and were taken to our YMCA for renesting/fostering. When arrived we found those platforms questionable due to damage from Milton. We replaced all the platforms gave the original babies and the extra babies back to the osprey parents and left them a lot of fish. It was a success.

### Care Given to Permanent Residents

Back at our sanctuary for permanent residents we had our challenges too. Thunder, our 30-year-old bald eagle has been in human care her entire life due to being non-visual in one eye. Unfortunately, a cataract developed on her good eye. The only option to keep her well was cataract surgery. Surgery was successful at Fetch Vet in Brandon! Thunder has had a couple of other health issues throughout the year and has been receiving excellent care at the Animal and Bird Medical Center of Palm Harbor. Penelope, our 10-year-old, is now glove trained so we exhibit a female and a male bald eagle together! One night an adult eagle crash landed into a lanai in Lansbrook. She was successfully rescued and released. A first-year eagle was hit by a car, breaking her wings but not her spirit. Her breaks were meticulously pinned at the Animal and Bird Medical Center. Her bones are healed but she lacks full wing extension so she will placed as an ambassador after being offered to Native American tribes by USFWS, which is the normal protocol. Traveling with eagles, even back and forth to the vet is difficult, but we managed it and are grateful to all the veterinarians for their care and expertise.

### Internship Opportunities

Dr. Kushnir, #thenomadvet, conducted our on-site annual exams. We had Alejandra Corio from SPC assisting. A fantastic article about her internship was published in the SPC magazine. We have spots for Bright Future students and college interns so they can get experience with birds of prey and wildlife issues. If you know of a student that would like to take part, please have them call

us at 727-798-2385.

### Ambassador Updates

This year we lost a few of our ambassadors, but we also gained a few. Spirit, a peregrine falcon, had cancer. Tango, a crested caracara died suddenly, most likely due to a heart attack. Two of our kestrels passed of old age. We have filled their spots at the sanctuary and fill our hearts with beautiful memories of moments with them. We welcome Aster a male peregrine falcon and a crested caracara to the team. The crested caracara is the smartest bird of prey. We continue to exhibit 5 of the 7 North American falcons! We also continue to exhibit the 3 global raptors, peregrine falcon, osprey, and barn owl. Our migratory bird lineup includes swallow-tailed kites, Mississippi kites, turkey vulture, falcons, broad winged hawk, short-tailed hawk, ospreys, and bald eagles. Visit us Tuesdays - Sundays from 10-5 at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Free admission. Trails, playground, turtle pond, bird blind, butterfly garden, reptile exhibit, and a quaint porch with rocking chairs also grace this special place. If anyone is interested in programs or having birds at an event, please call us at 727-798-2385.

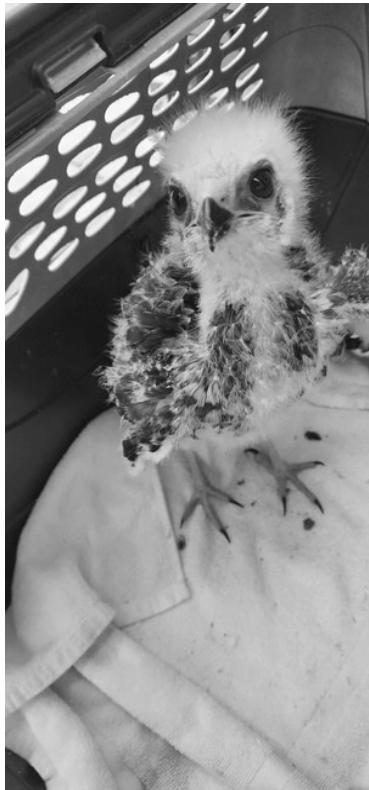
### How to Support the Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue Team

We celebrated our 10th Anniversary as a 501c3 and completed our 11th year in 2025. We operate on public donations and grants. Due to Milton and the shutdown, it has been a costly year. We appreciate all giving, no matter the amount. We are seeking to increase annual sponsorships of \$250 and greater for the sake of sustainability. If you are interested in supporting raptor rescue and education on a regular basis, please contact us at 727-798-2385 or email [walkerba@outlook.com](mailto:walkerba@outlook.com). We thank our major sponsors, Duke Energy, Lou Petersen, and Fran Haasch. If you have a financial background, we are seeking a Treasurer. We also need someone who likes photography and social media to create our content. We always need keepers, handlers, and transporters. Please call us if you are interested in being part of the team. In the meantime, Happy Owlidays from the Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue Team!

## Happy Owlidays • Barbara Walker



Dr. Schlesinger checks Thunder's eyes weekly post surgery.



Baby hawk which was rescued, raised, and released.



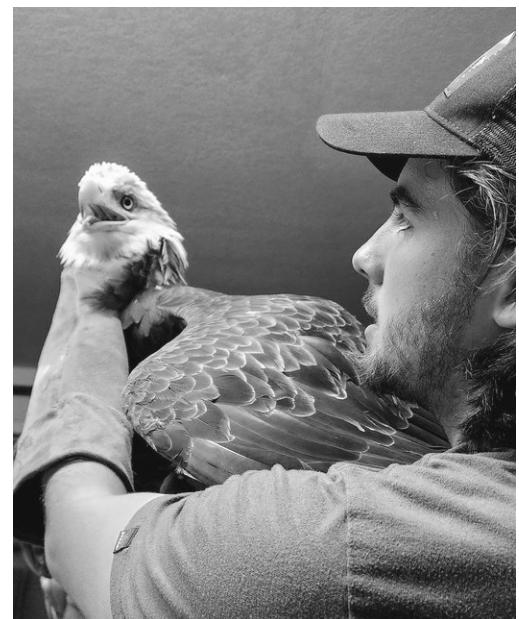
An young osprey getting ready for a bucket truck ride up to a foster nest.



Dr. Kushnir conducting physical exams



Swallow-tailed kite rescued in Palm Harbor. The bird had an elbow wound. Red light therapy helped his recovery. He was successfully released.



An adult bald eagle rescued in Lansbrook



Osprey chicks getting ready for transport to mainland on metal shark.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH

- Wine Tastings & Dinners
- Dinks n' Drinks
- Pickleball Open Play
- Prime Rib Night
- Themed Sunday Brunches
- Birdies Theme Nights
- Trivia Night
- Game Night in Heron's
- Glow Golf
- The Longest Table
- Valentines & Galentines Activities
- Gaspy Take Over at Ardea
- Parent's Night Out
- Movies on the Green
- Friday Night Live Music in Heron's Bar & Grille
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- Birdies Easter Basket Decorating
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Easter Brunch
- Divot Parties



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## East Lake Woodlands Real Estate Market Update



Homes for sale  
**70**



Median asking price  
**\$304,450**

### What happened in the last 30 days?



New homes listed  
**12**



Homes sold  
**9**



Number of days to sell, median  
**156**



Sales price vs Asking price, median  
**4.73% under**

Data as of 11/20/2025

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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN UPPER TAMPA BAY?

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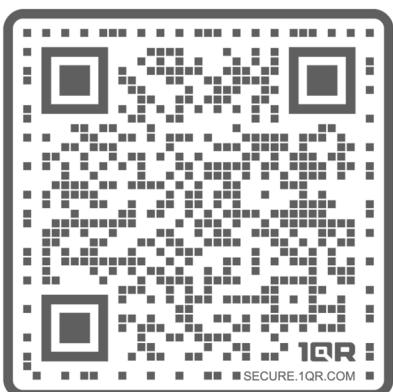


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## Letters From Santa

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Cyndi Olmstead

REALTOR®, BROKER/OWNER



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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](http://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.



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# Stay Safe THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- Do not charge overnight or unattended.
- Stop using swollen, smoking, or damaged batteries immediately.
- Keep batteries away from heat sources.
- Store larger batteries in well-ventilated areas.

## Fireworks Safety

- Leave fireworks to the professionals.
- Consumer fireworks are a major cause of holiday injuries and fires.
- Sparklers burn extremely hot and can cause serious burns. Always follow safety barriers and instructions at public displays.

## Preventing Holiday Falls

- Use sturdy ladders, not chairs or furniture.
- Have someone hold the ladder when hanging lights or decorations.
- Keep walkways clear of cords and decorations.
- Wear footwear with good traction.
- Take your time—don't rush.

## General Holiday Safety Tips

- Use flameless candles when possible.
- Stay attentive in the kitchen. Holiday cooking fires are common and preventable.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- Test your smoke alarms.
- **If You Drink, Don't Drive** Plan ahead with a designated driver, rideshare, or taxi.

## Join Us for the East Lake Fire Rescue Benevolent 5K!

Mark your calendars! Our annual East Lake Fire Rescue Benevolent 5K returns this February. This event supports the East Lake Fire Rescue Benevolent Fund, which provides assistance to firefighters and their families in times of need.

Runners, walkers, families, and community supporters are all welcome.

For event details and registration, please visit:  
<https://www.elfr.org/east-lake-firefighters-benevolent-association-5k-run-walk>

From all of us at East Lake Fire Rescue, we wish you a safe, warm, and joyful holiday season. Stay safe, East Lake!



## Holiday Season Safety

As the holiday season approaches, East Lake Fire Rescue would like to remind our community that while this time of year is filled with celebration, it can also bring an increase in household fire risks. A few simple precautions can keep your home festive and safe.

## Holiday Tree Safety

Whether you're bringing home a fresh-cut tree or setting up an artificial one, following these guidelines will help prevent holiday-related fires:

For live trees:

- Choose a fresh tree. Look for green needles that don't easily fall off.
- Water daily. A dry tree can become a major fire hazard.
- Keep it away from heat sources. Place trees at least three feet from fireplaces, space heaters, candles, or heat vents.
- Inspect lights. Check for frayed wires or damaged bulbs. LED lights are safer and stay cooler.
- Unplug when unattended. Turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

## Discard Your Tree Promptly:

Once your holiday celebrations are over—or if your live tree becomes dry—dispose of it promptly. Dry trees ignite easily and should never be stored in a garage or placed outside against your home. Check with your waste service for curbside pickup or designated recycling locations.

## Space Heater Safety

- Follow the 3-foot rule. Keep heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.
- Use only heaters that are listed (UL, ETL, etc.) and equipped with modern safety features, including automatic shutoff if the heater overheats or is tipped over.
- Plug directly into a wall outlet. Avoid extension cords.
- Never leave heaters running unattended. Turn them off when sleeping or leaving the room.

Inspect units before use. Look for damaged cords or cracks.

## Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power many holiday gifts and household items—from e-bikes to smartphones—but they can pose a fire risk if damaged, overcharged, or used improperly.

- Use only manufacturer-approved chargers and batteries.
- Charge batteries on a hard, nonflammable surface.

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## Astro Club

12/1/25 & 12/22/25 | 6pm-7pm

Join us at the library for a fun, hands-on STEM program that takes science learning beyond the classroom. Presented by the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, this series invites students to explore the universe through authentic inquiry by requesting images from remotely operated telescopes, using image-processing software, and making real astronomical measurements.

Open to students in grades 5-9.

## Wrapping Around The Christmas Tree

12/6/25 | 11am-3pm

Bring your gifts to the Teen Room, and Santa's elves will wrap them for you with care and festive flair!

Pricing:

5 for 1-5 gifts

\$10 for 6-10 gifts

All proceeds support the renovations for the Teen Room.

## The Lure of Florida Fishing with The Tampa Bay History Center

12/13/25 | 11am-12pm

This program is in conjunction with/promotion of Tampa Bay History Center's exhibit: The Lure of Florida Fishing. Click here to learn more about the exhibit. Join us to learn about the exhibit at your local library!

From handcrafted lures and vintage photographs to secret fishing maps and legendary catches, The Lure of Florida Fishing explores the stories, people and

traditions that made the Sunshine State a world-class angling destination. Discover how tarpon fever, charter boats and celebrity anglers helped shape Florida's identity and tourism industry in this immersive new exhibit at the Tampa Bay History Center.

## Teen Painting Inspiration: Van Gogh Meets The Nightmare Before Christmas

12/12/25 | 6pm-7:30pm

Brought to you by Heather's Traveling Canvas, teens are invited to an unforgettable painting event where classic art meets spooky fun! We'll create a black-light painting masterpiece inspired by Van Gogh's swirling skies and The Nightmare Before Christmas — all under black light! Each participant will receive a black-light pen-light to take home and keep the inspiration glowing. No experience needed — just come ready to paint and have fun! Wear fluorescent clothes to add to the evening's fun.

## Game On: Tabletop & Video Game Club

12/18/25 | 5:30pm-7pm

Join us for the Tabletop & Video Game Club—a mix of cards, controllers, and good times! Battle it out in Super Smash Bros, try a new board game, or trade cards with fellow fans. Whether you're into co-op chaos or calm strategy, this club's got your kind of game.

Grades 6–12 welcome. Snacks included. No experience necessary—just bring your game face!

## Author Visit and Build-Your-Own Polar Pal Storytime

12/20/25 | 2pm-3pm

Join us for an exclusive Winter Storytime with local author Liwen Tao. She will be sharing a presentation showcasing stunning photography from her travels to the Arctic, where she observed a Mama Polar Bear and her babies that became the story for her new children's picture book, Yukio's First Day Out.

After the presentation, registered children can create their own Polar Bear stuffed

animal while the author is available for Q&A, book purchases, and book signings.

Ages 4-12 are invited to view exquisite Arctic wildlife photography, learn about our Polar animal friends, and leave with your own stuffed reading buddy!

## Manga & Anime Drawing for Teens

1/9/26 | 6pm-7pm

Join Sari Fujimaru, a teaching artist from Japan, to draw cute to cool manga and anime characters! You will also decorate a bookmark with your drawing. No experience or skills needed to participate in this fun class.

Open to students in grades 6th-12th.

## The Tampa Bay History Center Presents: "The History of Gasparilla"

1/23/26 | 11am-12pm

The story of Jose Gaspar, and the legend of Gasparilla (celebrated in Tampa for more than 100 years), intertwined with facts, fallacies, and fantasy. Tales of buried treasure and pirate ships continue to capture our imagination. Arrrgggh...

## 7 Ways to Kickstart Your College Admissions Process

1/22/26 | 5pm-6pm

Getting a head start on college admissions can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be!

Join us to learn seven practical strategies to jumpstart your admissions journey, stay organized, and make your application stand out so you can move forward with confidence.

## Domestic Violence 101 & CASA Services

1/28/26 | 2pm-3pm

This presentation provides an introductory overview of domestic violence, including its forms, warning signs, and impact on individuals and communities. We will also highlight the comprehensive support services offered by CASA to survivors and those affected. The session aims to educate, empower, and connect attendees with vital resources.

## IMPORTANT UPDATE EAST LAKE LIBRARY PASSPORT SERVICES

Due to a recent federal review of the types of facilities that can offer passport services, ELCL must **suspend passport applications**, effective **December 1st**. This change affects our library uniquely because it is the only one in unincorporated Pinellas County with non-profit status. Other libraries in the region are part of a municipal, county, or city government and are not affected. The suspension of this service is a significant loss for our library in terms of revenue and customer service. East Lake residents must now travel outside of the East Lake area for passport appointments. **Community members are encouraged to contact their congressional representatives** to express support for reinstating this vital East Lake service: Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna (Pinellas County): <https://luna.house.gov>

The library will continue to offer passport photos for the \$12 fee per person. No appointment necessary but please call ahead (727) 773-2665.

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- Entity Election - out of default rules

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## Decorating with Christmas Trees Throughout the Home



Turn a collection of silver, brass, or glass candleholders and vases into an eye-catching centerpiece with this idea. Simply top each object with a beautiful ornament.

a corner. Decorate the tree with ornaments that reflect the child's interests and use ribbons to carry out the color scheme. You can also purchase ornaments with your child's name printed on them. That gives the tree a very special personal touch.

Very small trees placed on kitchen counter tops, the refrigerator, or cabinets dress up the kitchen, especially when placed in groups of three using different sizes. They can be dressed up with berries or small fruit picks or just sprayed with a little snow.

The dining room is the perfect place to add an additional tree; especially if Christmas is the only time it is used. This room should look especially beautiful and festive. A slender tree in the corner, a small tabletop tree placed on top of a hutch, sideboard or small table you have added for this purpose will add decorative excitement to your celebration. Make your dining room special. The entire room should sparkle with joy and excitement. A Christmas tree placed in the appropriate spot will add enchantment that is unique to this time of the year.

The entrance hall is the perfect place for a Christmas tree. It will immediately shout "Merry Christmas" to everyone who enters the front door, whether it's you and your family or guests with whom you want to share the holidays. It should of course look very special since this is the first room your visitors see as they enter your home.

If you feel the need to decorating on a budget, the use of ribbons and bows will go a long way in adding elegance and charm without breaking the bank. Buy the ribbon when it's on sale and make your own bows. It's simple to do and simply elegant.



Collect small boxes throughout the year and wrap the empty boxes up at the holidays with beautiful papers and ribbons. Save them from year to year, then set on a tray of evergreen branches for an easy centerpiece or place them under a miniature Christmas tree for added color.

Think outside the box and discover the joy of decorating each room with it's own unique Christmas tree.

We're use to having our Christmas tree in our largest room of the house, which is usually the family room. Adding Christmas trees to other rooms as well will continue the celebration and joy throughout the home.

Consider *decorating a tree* for each of your child's room. Most bedrooms are small so a small tree could be placed on the chest or dresser or a larger one in

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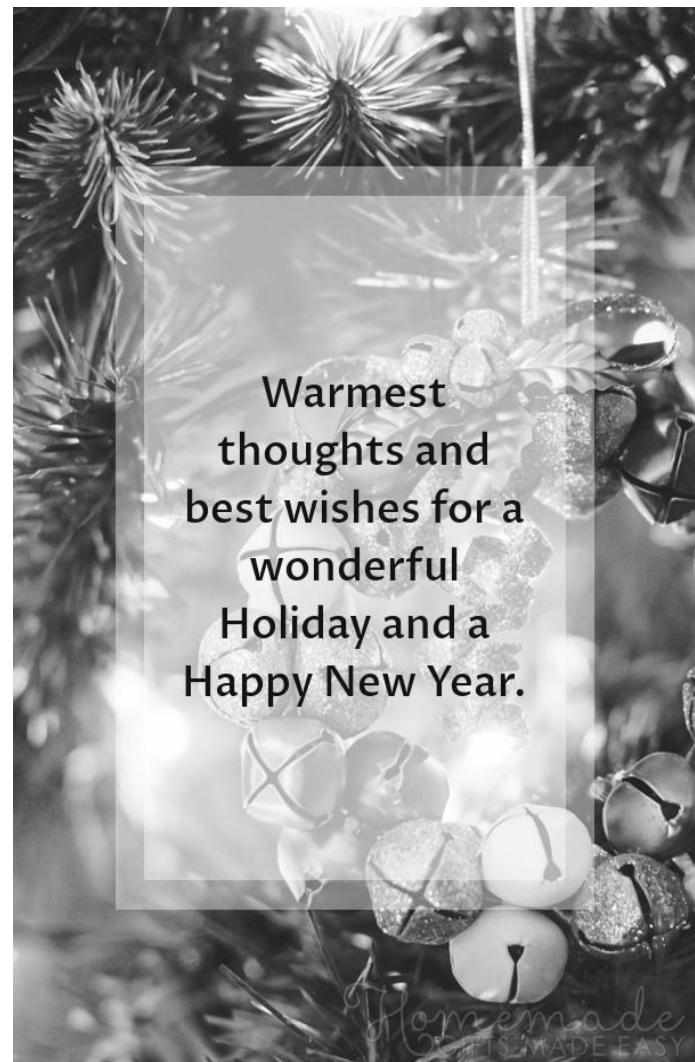


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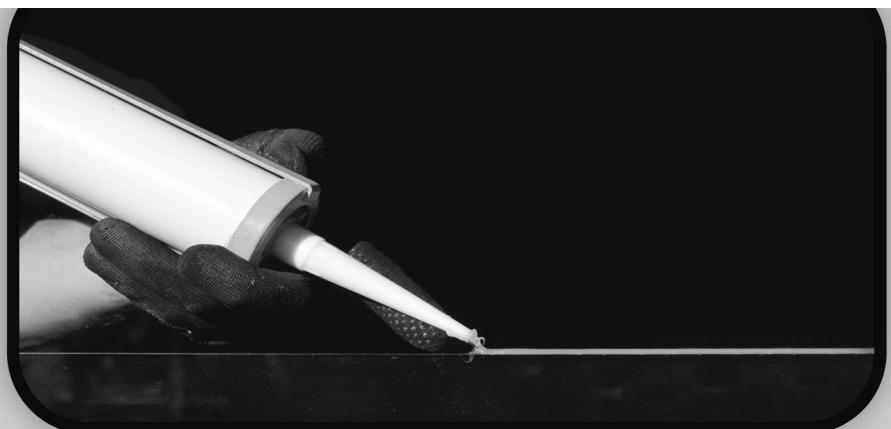
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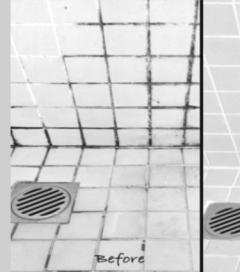


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