



TAMPA PALMS ® NEWSLETTER

April-May 2023



New Tampa Performing Arts Center Debut Performance



New Tampa Players Christen The Center



It was a long time coming but certainly worth the wait!

The inaugural performance by the New Tampa Players at the brand new NTPAC was to what was described by the General Manager, Keith Arsenault, as a “packed house”.



From shovels to this magnificent center: Nora Paine is shown with Commissioner Hagan “kicking things off” for the NTPAC below.



The premier performance, ***“Prelude & Recognition Performance”***,

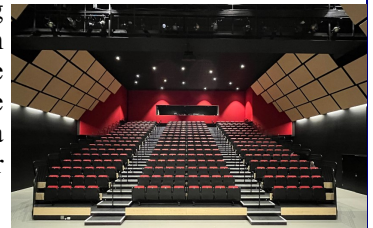
was a unique presentation that interspersed more than twenty musical numbers performed by the New Tampa Players with information about how the company’s shows are chosen, and the audition process.

See Page 12 for Councilman Viera & Penguin Project.

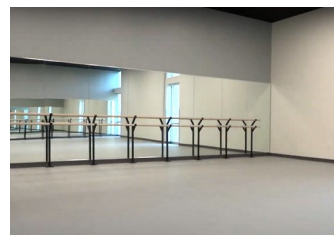
A Multipurpose Center

The NTPAC it is a multi-faceted facility serving arts-centered activities. Built as part of the public-private partnership on Hillsborough County property across from Hunters Green, the 20,000 sf building is uniquely designed to facilitate the addition of a second floor in the future.

It was a long time in coming as our Commissioner Hagan will attest and even after the approval of \$7.3 M for the construction, there was a struggle to get funding for the on-going operations.



Included is a 354-seat multipurpose theatre with elaborate sound and lighting, a state-of-the art projection system and large screen and seating allows for the seating to “push back” into the walls for events such as weddings.



Additional amenities include four multipurpose studios with high ceilings and suspended dance floors suitable for ballet and modern dance, along with kitchen and other catering facilities.





News From the TPOA



With Both Happiness For Her & Sadness For Us, Tampa Palms Bids Farewell To Bonnie French

Joining the Tampa Palms family in 2006 as the Property Manager, Bonnie French came well prepared, she succeeded extraordinarily and now she has retired after a job extremely well done!

Brian Koerber, now Tampa Palms Community Director, has known Bonnie since he was in college when he worked as a park attendant. He says one thing she taught him by example was grace under pressure.

Bonnie pictured below with her daughters and her grand daughters is off to travel and enjoy!



School Will Be Out May 26th Warm Weather Is Here Early

The warm weather and school vacations make the Compton Park pool THE destination for many Tampa Palms neighbors. Here are a few reminders to help make the pool experience a fun and safe one for all.

The Compton pool is reserved for residents of Tampa Palms Areas. 1 and 2. Residents may bring 2 guests per household.

Note: the pool is not available to reserve for parties!

Pool Rules - For The Safety of All

- Children under 13 years must be accompanied by an adult in the pool area.
- **Adults must be IN THE POOL with any child under 8 years old.**
- No more than 65 persons are permitted in the pool area at one time.
- There must be at least two people in the pool.
- Pool must be closed anytime there is a threat of contamination such as "diaper failures".
- No running, pushing or horseplay will be tolerated. Violators will be asked to leave the premises.
- No food, beverages or glass containers are permitted on the pool deck.
- Food & beverages are permitted in the pavilion.
- No alcohol or smoking permitted within the fenced pool area.
- No animals, except service animals, are permitted within the fenced pool area.
- No rafts, air mattresses, air rings, balls, buoys, facemasks, snorkels or fins are permitted in the pool. Arm floats, "noodles" and goggles are permitted
- Personal radios and music device should be kept at a low level so as not to disturb others.
- Shower before entering the pool.

The Tampa Palms



Professional Staff



Tampa Palms Women's Club

Making 2023 A Great Year!



April Meeting & Luncheon

The April General Meeting featured speaker was Jackie Corley from Selah Freedom. Selah Freedom is a nonprofit anti-human trafficking organization, based in Florida, with offices in the Midwest. Its mission is to put an end to human sex trafficking and bring freedom to those exploited through five outreach programs: Awareness, Prevention, Outreach, Residential and Organizational Consulting.



Ms. Corley, whose career has included being an educator and counselor on both community and college levels, provided information on how prevalent sex trafficking really is, even in upscale communities and information as to the resources for help and intervention.



The meeting was followed by luncheon at New Tampa's own Via Italia located across from Hunters Green and on the same property as the brand new Performing Arts Center. (See page 1)



May Plans

On May 4th at the general meeting the Womens Club will welcome Tia Silvasy.

Tia left her family's farm in Pa. to attend the UCF for BS and then the U of Hawaii for her Master's Degree in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences.



Today she is the Residential Horticulture Extension Agent for IFAS' Hillsborough County Extension.



**HOW TO
ATTRACT
POLLINATORS**

Ms. Silvasy will speak on usefulness of creating a pollinator friendly garden by the planting of a variety of flowering insectary plants that provide nectar and pollen.

These are plants will attract some very beneficial insects which in turn, prey on pests in the landscape.

A March Trip Into History

It was a trip into history as members visited the USS American Victory Museum. The American Victory, now a museum, was built in 1945 and sailed the whole world delivering crucial military cargo during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

USS AMERICAN VICTORY



Coming Attraction For Tampa Palms



**Community-Wide Yard Sale
& Craft Market**

**Saturday, October 14th
Compton Parking Lot
9 am - 1 PM**



**Tuck away your former treasures
to sell in complete safety and
shop, shop, shop for new ones.**





Be Especially Wary Of Alligators

This Is Mating Season

Because of its unique location, Tampa Palms is home to literally thousands of alligators. They inhabit the 80 storm water ponds, the wet-lands and, of course, the Hillsborough River.

Nesting season for alligators occurs right now, from late April through late May. Nesting females are particularly aggressive - but never approach any alligator.



Alligators primarily hunt at dusk or during the night. They lay motionless in wait for prey. Their prey selection seems to be determined primarily by size.

Can Alligators Be Removed?

FWC will have any nuisance (aggressive or too friendly) alligator over 4ft removed by a trapper. Nuisance alligators are not relocated, they are euthanized.

There are so many alligators in and around the Tampa Palms community that removal only means a brand new alligator will move in, usually immediately.

Staying Safe With Alligators Around

- Never bend down near a pond bank. Alligators are full ambush animals and leap out of the edge of water after prey.
- Children and pets should never play on or near pond banks.
- No one should approach any pond at night, night is when alligators are the most active.
- Never feed any alligator as they lose their fear of humans.



Trash & Garbage Collections

Collections Can Be Confusing

Even though Tampa Palms (and most of New Tampa) are located in the City of Tampa, garbage, yard waste and recycle collections are provided by Hillsborough County using private contract haulers.

It is for this reason that the bill inserts that are frequently found in City water bills and describe City utility services do not apply to Tampa Palms.

Further, as Tampa Palms owners are not billed monthly for solid waste collection and disposal (as City residents are billed) there is little guidance provided to Tampa Palms owners as to how to safely and securely place their trash and garbage containers.



Hills County Waste Management says that they need a space of at least 3 ft between all containers and any near-by obstruction, such as a car or a mailbox.

The County also recommends a 3 ft separation between bins. This allows the automatic arms on the collection trucks to raise and lower the containers without spillage.

Extremely Important

Containers should never be placed on the roadway or in the middle of the sidewalk; they should be placed at the edge of the driveway; for many Tampa Palms owners the best places are the slight "wings" on either side of the driveway.





Stay Mosquito Safe

Prevent The Spread Of Mosquitos To Fight The Bite

The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County (DOH-Hillsborough) urges all residents and visitors to protect against mosquito bites as weather gets hotter and wetter.



You can Fight the Bite by taking simple steps to mitigate the spread of disease by mosquitoes. Preventative measures such as *Drain and Cover* can make a significant impact on your home environment and prevent mosquitoes from laying and hatching eggs. Reducing the population of mosquitos helps decrease your likelihood of being bitten.

DRAIN water from outside areas to reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay their eggs and breed.

Also drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where irrigation and/or rainwater has collected.



Empty and clean birdbaths at least twice a week.

KEEP doors and windows closed to prevent mosquitoes from getting indoors and make certain all screens are secured.

WEAR shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves while outside when and where mosquitoes are most prevalent to discourage mosquitoes from biting.

USE a repellent on bare skin; DEET at 20% to 30% concentration works well for most people when used according to label directions; Do not apply to infants.

Keep Pool-Side Fun & Safe



A Word About Child Safety

There are a lot of swimming pools in Tampa Palms

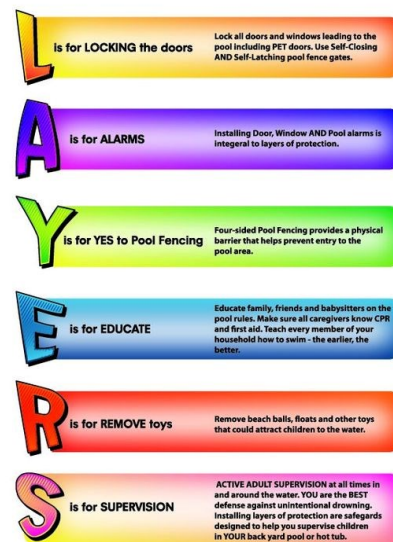
- More than 80% of the homes have a pool or a spa.
- Add to that Compton Park, the Country Club pool and the YMCA pool; there is no question, Tampa Palms children have access to pools.

Stunning statistics in Florida reveal that:

- ◇ 65% of child drowning occurs at home pool
- ◇ 69% of the child drowning occurs while one or both the parents are responsible for supervision.
- ◇ 77% of the children who drowned were seen less than five minutes before they were discovered in the pool.

Adult Supervision is the Key

Pool safety professionals agree, while fences, guards and alarms are useful back-up systems, adult supervision in the form of constant visual contact is the primary way to prevent pool accidents.



Pool safety experts also recommend that *layers of protection* be in place.

There are many ways to secure the pool, alarms, pool fences of many sizes and types and special covers that keep someone (or a pet) who falls into the pool from hitting the water.

Even if there are no children in the family, don't forget to take steps to secure your pool if you expect visitors with children. Child visitors are particularly vulnerable in homes that have pools but do not include children in the family.

Tampa Palms Has Five Parks To Enjoy This Summer

An Amazing Array Of Recreation Options

The Tampa Palms five-park system, each park with its special variety of recreation events, is an amenity that even many municipalities would be proud to call their own.

Compton Park

The jewel of the park system - Compton Park features

- A Junior-Olympic size heated pool,
- A children's pool
- An expansive pool deck and covered areas
- Court facilities:
 - ◊ Three top-notch tennis courts
 - ◊ Two pickleball courts
 - ◊ Basketball courts
- State of the art and accessible playground
- Three meeting rooms
 - ◊ Catering kitchens
 - ◊ Audio visual facilities
 - ◊ Accommodating 70 to 130 people.
- Conference room with audio visual facilities
- Picnic areas with two one-acre open fields,
- Pond with deck.



Ray Ferreris, Parks & Amenities Manager, directs the park system. He asks that residents call him if they have any questions about the amenities.

Ray notes that reservations can be made up to one year in advance for the meeting rooms. The Azalea Room can accommodate 70 guests and the Palms Room can accommodate 130 guests, or can be divided into two smaller rooms.



Take Look At The Rest of The Parks

River Park— A Treasure Along The River



Tampa Palms own forty acres of natural preserve is located along the river with miles of trails for hiking, a pavilion to enjoy picnics. There are also restrooms, volleyball nets, and swings.

Amberly Park— Quiet Repose & Playground

Twelve acres including restrooms, playground, swinging benches, illuminated jogging trails, a lake fountain and a pavilion equipped for picnicking and grilling.



Oak Park



Ten acres of true native Florida landscape which is protected as a conservation area featuring eco-friendly walking trails, century-old oaks and wildlife including legally protected gopher tortoises.

Hampton Park—Athletic Events & Playgrounds

Amenity rich with athletic events and also pavilions and open fields.

- Tennis / Racquetball / Basketball
- Playground
- Pavilion / Restrooms





Hyper-Inflation Conditions Still With Tampa Palms

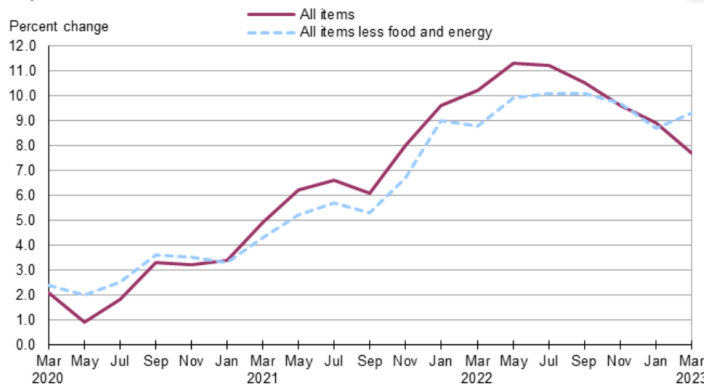


Tampa Struggles With Local Inflation

With a certain amount of relief, there have been at least temporary improvements in the level of inflation increases.

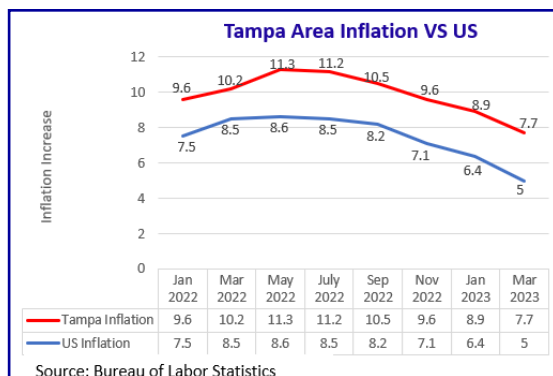
While the national media celebrated the slowing of cost increases in March to 5%, Tampa Palms residents had a little less to celebrate. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tampa area inflation was at 7.7% and the core inflation - everything except food and power - was at 9.3%.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, March 2020-March 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Tampa Area CPI rate is higher than the national; this is not a on-time spike. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the Tampa area inflation rate bi-monthly and the Tampa results are consistently slightly more than 30% higher than the national rate.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

For more information or to monitor local inflation impacts, please go online to: https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/news-release/ConsumerPriceIndex_Tampa.htm.

Taking Care of the Residents & Community

For many in Tampa Palms, their home is the family's greatest single asset. Both the CDD and the TPOA have taken prudent actions to buffer the residents from the effects of this multiyear and 40-year high inflation while at the same time making certain that Tampa Palms remains upscale and competitive for home values.

A quick look at the operating metrics taken from the CDD and TPOA budgets and the BLS reports shows just what a very difficult balancing act the care for residents and the preservation of the community truly is.

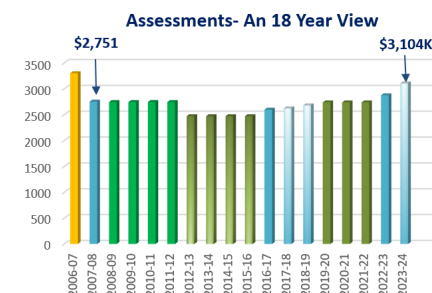
Operating Metrics (40-Year High)

	CDD Assessments	Tampa/ St Pete/Clw CPI
3 Year Compound Total	5.0%	22.2%
CY 2022	5.0%	9.6%
CY 2021	0%	8.0%
CY 2020	0%	3.2%

Some of the steps taken by the CDD include:

- Park support streamlined to provide continued safety at less cost.
- Deferred capital improvements, where possible and consistent with maintaining community.
- Reserves used to moderate assessments
 - ◊ \$120,000 planned in 2023 Budget
 - ◊ \$ 53,000 planned for the 2024 Budget

It is clear that draining the reserves is risky but the good news is that with a moderate increase that drain will be reduced.



The tentative plans for the FY 2024 CDD Budget will be an increase of 8%.

This equates to an average increase of less than \$95 on the tax bill for single family homes and less than \$30 for condo's; and is reflective of a two-year depletion of reserves by \$173,000.

What Are Florida Crosswalk Laws ?

New Crosswalk Striping & Lights May Improved Safety

Florida law is designed to protect pedestrians. The law is [F.S. § 316.130](#):

- Vehicles must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks when pedestrians are on vehicle's half of road.
- Pedestrians must not leave curb when vehicles are close.



However, many drivers seem unaware of this law and think that vehicles have the right of way. This is especially evident along Tampa Palms Blvd, even near the schools.

When the enhanced crosswalk markings are completed and the pedestrian activated lights at three locations are installed, drivers will be made more aware of the crosswalks.

Folks Are Asking, What About The Dots?

Changes Along Tampa Palms Blvd May Add More Safety

Residents calling the TPOA and CDD want to know, "what are those dots between the lanes along Tampa Palms Blvd?"

Raised pavement markers have been added to the lanes along the newly paved Tampa Palms Blvd.

They provide both a tactile and audible delineation of the drive lanes and are one more safety device.



During the many meetings held in advance of the TP Blvd restoration, the most common theme expressed by the residence was that of the need for traffic calming, especially speed reduction.

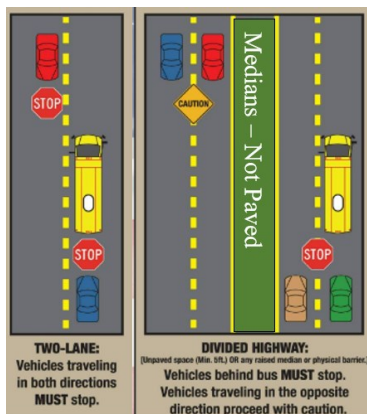
Along with the slightly narrowed lanes, these markers are a *complete streets* safety enhancement.

Where Is Stopping For School Buses Required?

A Little Confusing With Medians

There can be little doubt in anyone's mind that for child safety no driver should ever pass a school bus stopped to pick-up or drop off children.

Some confusion comes with medians. Do medians divide the road as specified by law or not?



For two lane roads, all the vehicles both behind and approaching a stopped bus must stop. This applies to Amberly Dr, Compton Dr and Yardley Way.

For four lane roads with medians dividing the lanes, vehicles behind the bus must stop. Vehicles that are approaching on the opposite side of the medians should use caution.

Vital Annual Fire Hydrant Maintenance

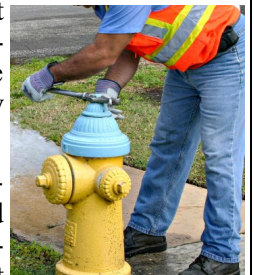
Water Available When & Where Needed

Have you noticed someone opening the fire hydrants along the roadways? No worries, this is not summer-time mischief.

These are City of Tampa Water Dept technicians who test Tampa Fire Department hydrants each year to make certain that if they are needed, they are fully operational.

Every fire hydrant is "flushed" annually to ensure proper operation and available flow. Annual hydrant testing involves opening the hydrant enough to ensure there are no restrictions in the hydrant or piping. Flushing for maintenance usually lasts only minutes.

After tested a label is attached to the hydrant. Did you know that the color of the hydrant "cap" (the top) let's TFD know what to expect in flow. Most in Tampa Palms are light blue and deliver 1,500 GPM or more.





Tampa Palms Blvd - Area 1 Restoration In Progress



A World Of Difference

The boulevard restoration project is moving along at a fast pace. There are a number of phases to this project before completion so while many residents think that the teams are almost *done and gone*, the reality is that there is quite a bit more to complete.

Speed tables have been installed at the following four locations:

- Amberly Drive/Tampa Palms Blvd
- Compton Drive / Tampa Palms Blvd
- Halsey Rd / Tampa Palms Blvd
- Yardley Way – Penwood / Tampa Palms Blvd.

While the tables are not yet complete (the turn lane portions are unfinished) the tables appear to be effective in slowing traffic for all but the most defiant.

This is a before picture, eastbound just before Compton.



Coming Attractions

Two signs were destroyed at the Amberly/TP Blvd intersection, and not by the contractors.

A driver lost control and destroyed a traffic sign along TP Blvd and then careened across Amberly Dr. and destroyed a stop sign before coming to a stop just shy of the wall. The City replaced the stop sign in a day and on a weekend.



The remain work includes:

- Final striping, of the roads, speed tables and crosswalks.
- New traffic control signs for the speed tables and crosswalks.
- Turf repairs in places.
- Pedestrian activated crossing signs.



Today driving in that same area eastbound, approaching the Compton Dr. / Sanctuary Dr. intersection is a different experience - even without the finished speed tables, the final signs and pavement markings.



Advertising Signs, Are Not Part of the Tampa Palms Landscape

Sign Regulations

For new neighbors, the Tampa Palms sign rules are sometimes not well understood but they are relatively flexible.

Per the governing documents owners may not install any sign on their property which is visible from the street, or from another property without the prior written approval of the TPOA.



To assist owners in selling or renting their homes and to support owners who wish to make a political statement during elections, the TPOA has granted blanket approval for the following signs to be placed on owner property

- One “for rent” or “for sale” or “open house” sign.
- One political sign, displayed no more than six weeks before an election and promptly removed the day after the election.

Snipe signs of any kind placed in the yard are not permitted by the TPOA **no matter what the content of the message.** Caution: this also applies to contractor signs that are often placed by workers to the surprise of owners and without the resident’s permission.

City of Tampa Ordinances forbids the placement of snipe or illegal signs along public roads.

While there are a few “we buy houses” and “pressure washing” type advertisements placed, the most common signs that show up on the boulevards are left there by real estate agents who want to advertise open houses.



Any signs left on the boulevards are collected and discarded.

Community Director: Brian Koerber Parks & Amenities Manager: Ray Fererris

16101 Compton Drive M-F 9 AM - 5 PM

Phone: 977-3337

Fax: 978-8067

E-Mail: tpoamail@aol.com
BkoerberTPOA@aol.com

Web Site: www.tpoa.net

Board of Directors

Tracy Falkowitz, President	977-3337
Maggie Wilson, Vice President	977-3337
Debbie Libertiny, Secretary	977-3337
Don Oneal, Treasurer	977-3337
Jodi Pecoraro, Director	977-3337

CDD

16311 TP Blvd. West

Maggie Wilson, Consultant

Phone: 977-3933

Fax: 977-6571

E-Mail: cdd.tampa@verizon.net

CDD Board of Supervisors

Gene Field (Chair)	977-1162
Don Oneal	977-3933
Richard Diaz	220-3200
Tracy Falkowitz	977-3933
A. Michael Gibson (Vice Chair)	977-3933

Tampa Palms Parks

Compton Park	972-0897
Hampton Park	972-5699
River Park	971-6241

Police & Fire

911

Non-Emergency Police	231-6130
Non-Emergency Fire	223-4211

Local Schools

Tampa Palms Elementary	975-7390
Lawton Chiles Elementary	558-5422
Liberty Middle School	558-1180
Freedom High School	558-1185

Miscellaneous

Street Repairs	274-3101
TECO	223-0800
Hillsborough County Solid Waste	272-5680
Water Department	274-8121
New Tampa Rec Center	975-2794
Councilman Viera	274-7073
Commissioner Hagan	272-5452



April-May 2023 Amenities Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
16 8 Private Event 9 Private Event 1 Private Event 3 Private Event	17 4 PM Private Event 5 Covenant Com	18 10 Private Event 1 TPWC Bd 6 TPOA Board 7 Private Event	19 9 Private Event 4 Private Event	20 4 Private Event 4 Private Event 6 Private Event	21 10:30 Sanctuary HOA 5 Private Event	22 10 Private Event 10 Private Event 4 Private Event 5 Private Event
23 8 Private Event 9 Private Event 1 Private Event 3 Private Event	24 4 Private Event	25 ELECTION DAY 7 Private Event	26 3 Private Event 4 Private Event	27 10 TPWC Bridge 4 Private Event	28 5 Private Event 5 Private Event	29 10 Private Event 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 5 Private Event
30 8AM Private 2 Private Event						

MAY 2023

	1 4 Private Event	2 10 Private Event 7 Private Event	3 9 Private Event 4 Private Event	4 9 TPWC 0 Private Event 4 Private Event (2) 5 Private Event	5 5 Private Event 5 Private Event	6 10 Private Event 10 Private Event 5 Private event 5 Private Event
7 8 Private Event 9 Private Event 2 Private Event 3 Private Event	8 4 Private Event	9 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 7 Private Event	10 4 Private Event 6 CDD meeting	11 10 TPWC Bridge 4 Private Event	12 10 Private Event 3 Private Event 5 Private Event	13 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 5 Private Event
14 Mother's Day 8 Private Event 1 Private Event	15 Flag Day 4 Private Event 4 Private Event 4 Private Event 5 Covenants Com	16 10 Private Event 1 TPWC Board 6 TPOA Board 7 Private Event	17 9 Private Event 10 Sanctuary Bd 4 Private Event	18 9 Private Event 4 Private Event 4 Private Event 6 Private Event	19 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 5 Private Event	20 10 Private Event 11 Private Event 5 Private Event
21 8 Private Event 9 Private Event 3 Private Event 3 Private Event	22 4 Private Event 4 Private Event	23 10 Private Event 7 Private Event	24 9 Private Event	25 10 TPWC Bridge 4 Private Event 4 Private Event	26 Last Day of School 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 5 Private Event	27 10 Private Event 10 Private Event 5 Private Event 5 Private Event
28 8 Private Event 9 Private Event 3 Private Event (2)	29 Memorial Day 4 Private Event	30 10 Private Event 7 Private Event	31 4 Private Event	Memorial Day May 29 "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy		



Amenities Are Important To Residents

The amenities (parks, pool, tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, racquetball along with meeting facilities) for Tampa Palms are all open to all residents.

- There are no restrictions on size of outdoor gatherings at any of the five Tampa Palms Parks. Common sense should be used. Reservations required to reserve pavilions.
- Both the main meeting room (Azalea 70 guests) and the meeting building (The Palms 130 guests) are open for Tampa Palms residents to use for private engagements. Reservations required.



Tampa Palms Owners Association
16101 Compton Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA, FL
PERMIT #1741

Tampa Palms CDD Meeting Agenda

**May 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Compton Park Recreation Building
16101 Compton Drive, Tampa, FL 33647**

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Strategic Planning
4. Public Comments
5. Board Member Discussions
6. Consultant Reports
 - Around the Neighborhoods
 - FY 2022-22 Budget Discussion
 - Paving Update
7. Other Board Business
8. Public Comments
9. Board Member Discussions
10. Adjourn

New Tampa Players At The Performing Arts Center

The New Tampa Players brought their amazing Penguin Project production of *Beauty & the Beast Jr* to the NTPAC last week.



The Penguin Project is an innovative theater program for children and young adults with disabilities who are supported and encouraged by their peer mentors. The cast of 51 Penguin Project artists delighted all with this classic tale.

Coming this Fall, the NTP will present Grease & Shrek.

