

TERRACE TALK



The Newsletter of the Hampton Terrace Community Association est.2016

Volume 1

1st Edition

Spring/Summer

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Introducing...

TERRACE TALK

A newsletter by the community, for the community of Hampton Terrace

HTCA MONTHLY MEETINGS

The HTCA meets the **1st Tuesday** of each month at **7pm** at **Seminole Heights United Methodist Church** in the fellowship hall located in the lower level of the church. Enter through the covered door on the parking lot side of the building.

ALL are welcome!

ARE YOU ON THE HTCA E-BLAST LIST?
info@myhtca.org

By Co-Editors Brian D. Frey and Bill Truett

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Terrace Talk, the Hampton Terrace Community Association's official newsletter. To say that we are thrilled with this first edition is an understatement.

When we first founded the HTCA we knew right away that it was important to plan a newsletter, but not just a newsletter about what the HTCA is doing, but a publication that would embody our neighborhood and community with neighbors contributing articles, calendar information for what is going on around us, helpful tips and information and fun articles too.

This past year has been a year of a lot of firsts and we are so excited to add yet another one, that we feel will not only enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood, but the community around us.

This is the first of three editions this year, two more will follow in the third and fourth quarters of 2017. We are selling advertising, and as you see when you peruse your sparkling new copy, we are already being supported by many great businesses throughout Seminole Heights.

We feel strongly that a community that communicates only becomes stronger. We have seen that due to the strength of our Neighborhood Watch and other projects we have produced. Terrace Talk is yet another means to communicate to the entire neighborhood.

If you are interested in contributing as a writer, please let us know. If you are interested in being a member of the HTCA board or to volunteer for events and projects, let us know, and if you would like to advertise with us...let us know that too! We hope you enjoy...TERRACE TALK!

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WELCOME...from the President of the HTCA

By Brian D. Frey

The HTCA was formed exactly one year ago this month. It has been exciting, challenging, exhilarating and exhausting all in the same sentence. But most of all, it has been rewarding. The success of the HTCA is because of YOU...our neighbors and friends. We are so excited to bring another new element to what we do— **TERRACE TALK**, our new and exciting newsletter for the community; by the community.

Terrace Talk will be published once per quarter and our goal is to fill the pages with information about our neighborhood, our community, and our city. We also want to hear from YOU. We need for YOU to be contributors. We need for you to have a voice and to be creative as well. Not just in the newsletter, but within the neighborhood too.

We are an ALL VOLUNTEER association and I am so proud of our Board, folks who step up and meet the challenges head on! I am eternally grateful for the continuous hard work of Bill,

Sid, Michelle, Brent, Susan, Mona, and Lesly. There are others who worked incredibly hard in the last 2 years to assure that we were relevant and successful— Thank you to Victoria Strange, Kelly Honan, Grant Mehlich and Jim Burdett. All of these neighbors care deeply for our neighborhood and community and have given of themselves to make our corner of the world a better place. The HTCA works hard to be inclusive and transparent; to be communicative and accessible to all of our neighbors. We realize that we cannot please everyone, but we certainly try to be welcoming and inviting. Together, we will all continue to make Hampton Terrace the best neighborhood in Tampa. In closing, we are so thankful for YOU— our neighbors. THANK YOU for your contributions and your hard work volunteering at our events and projects, and THANK YOU for allowing the HTCA to grow and thrive. I am honored and proud to serve as the President of the HTCA and can't wait for what lies ahead. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!



A note from the HTCA VP & Co-Editor of TERRACE TALK

By Bill Truett

A new chapter in my life started in March 2013 when Dan and I moved into what we affectionately call Clifton House. On my daily walks with the fur babies, I met so many neighbors the first few days and now so many of you have become dear friends. Our community is truly the jewel in Tampa and I shout that loudly to all who I meet. So, when people ask me what is so exciting about living in Hampton Terrace, I say without hesitation that it's a neighborhood that if you needed to borrow a cup of sugar, you...just walk next door.

In my previous 13 years of living in the suburbs, I forgot what it was like to have neighbors who are also my friends. More importantly, I can now say I'm at home. While Tampa was my official mailing address, it never felt like home until now.

It's home now because I'm part of something. Whether it's a walk around Lake Roberta talking with friends, meeting new neighbors or

the impromptu invite by neighbors to go to a cookout or bonfire, it's just fun living here in Hampton Terrace. I enjoy the family dinners that happen each Wednesday and if you want more info about these dinners, please email me at VP@myHTCA.org.

As Vice President of HTCA, I'm honored to be part of a community volunteer association whose mission is to simply involve our residents and to improve our community. Our HTCA Board consists of hard working residents who freely offer their time to give back to the community. It's fun and rewarding to plan and participate in neighborhood events such as Paint Your Heart Out, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, KTBB cleanups, the Great Pumpkin Festival, the pancake breakfasts and I can't wait to attend the next Neighborhood Mixer! I'm proud of all that's been accomplished since Brian Frey first asked me to be part of HTCA. We have so much more to do. If you can, please help when we need volunteers. See you on my walks!



PRESIDENT & CO-EDITOR

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Bill Truett
VP@myhtca.org

TREASURER

Brent Williams

SECRETARY

Michelle Benningfield

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mona Roberson
Lesly Longa
Susan Dinning Lane
Sid Roberts

The Hampton Terrace Community Association (HTCA)

is a Florida not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of social activities and community awareness. Hampton Terrace is defined as the neighborhood of over 500 rental and privately-owned residences bordered Hillsborough Ave. to the south, Nebraska Ave. to the west, Hanna Ave. to the north and 15th St. to the east. We are not a political or religious organization, and membership is open to all residents. Donations made to the HTCA are welcomed.

TERRACE TALK

Terrace Talk is the newsletter of the Hampton Terrace Community Association. Terrace Talk welcomes unsolicited, politically neutral manuscripts, though we cannot guarantee their publication. All submissions are due the last day of the month before publication, and may be sent to info@myhtca.org.

ADVERTISING IN TERRACE TALK

We accept print ready digital advertisements at the following rates:

\$25- business card
\$50- 1/4 page
\$75-1/2 page
\$150- Full page

Advertising payments are not tax deductible.

MAIL- HTCA
P.O. Box 9631
Tampa, FL 33674-9631

EMAIL-info@myhtca.org

Contest yields a NEW Hampton Terrace flag...**ON SALE NOW!**



Hampton Terrace finally has a flag! Beginning in October of 2016 a contest was formed by the HTCA welcoming designs from the community to come up with the idea for a neighborhood flag. We received multiple entries from neighbors Shannon Jones, Alyssa Feliho, Tara Williams and Jose Alfonso Renteria. All designs that were received were creative and thoughtful. The Board of the HTCA then narrowed the entries

down to 2 choices, and from that, the community voted on their favorite via Facebook. The winning entry was designed by neighbor Tara Williams. According to Tara, "Pulling inspiration from stained glass windows from historic bungalows, the flag represents the oak trees surrounding our lake, as the central meeting point for our neighborhood." Congratulations Tara and thank you to all of the artists who contributed to the contest.

The HTCA is excited to be selling these flags to the community as a fundraiser but also as a physical example of the pride that we all have in our community. Continue below to find out how you can order your NEW flag today and show your neighborhood pride!

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER YOUR FLAG

- Each flag is 28"x44" with a sleeve pocket
- Individual Flags.....**\$47**
- Flag Packages (flag, rotating pole, bracket)...**\$85**
- Mail a check to the HTCA P.O. Box 9631 Tampa, 33674-9631
- Email info@myhtca.org for the link to our PayPal site

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ON THE BEAT

Neighbors work together with TPD to combat crime, promote safety in Hampton Terrace



NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH
 We report ALL suspicious activities to:
 Tampa Police Department
813-231-6130

By Sid Roberts, Neighborhood Watch Chair
 It certainly wasn't an easy start up. Faced with the knowledge that a current Neighborhood Watch existed but was for the most part inactive, a core group of neighbors bonded together to petition the city to allow for a 2nd Neighborhood Watch program in our community. Though we trudged through a lot of road blocks and challenges, the city allowed us to create what we are proud to consider a near-model Neighborhood Watch. Realizing

that petty crime and prostitution were plaguing our beloved Hampton Terrace, we formed an e-blast system and took to social media to bolster support. Our communications and strong ties with city officials and the Tampa Police Department District 2 have helped us to stay on top of crime trends and happenings and allows us up-to-date communications. We led a campaign and sold over 150 Crime Watch yard signs. The most important part of all of this for me, is our sense of community

pride. Neighbors helping neighbors and looking out for one another. Spreading information to help thwart crime and capture criminals, stopping break-ins, reporting prostitution activity and sharing information about video monitoring systems and other technology helps deter crime. I am so proud of our progress.

Become a Block Captain TODAY!
 email info@myhtca.org today!
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TAKE ACTION!

TampaGov.net and how it works for you

By Brittany Loubier

Have you noticed something unsightly, unpleasant or perhaps even illegal in your neighborhood? While complaining via social media can make you feel temporarily better, why not take matters into your own hands rather than hoping someone else will do it for you? The City of Tampa's website TampaGov.net is very easy to use and can be accessed by any computer or mobile device...you can also download the app! Neighborhood Enhancement is the City of Tampa Department that handles these issues.

On the TampaGov.net website you can submit requests for-

- **Illegal Dumping or Accumulations on Right of Way's**
- **Graffiti removal**
- **Litter abatement**
- **Neighborhood Tree Services (Right of Way)**
- **Illegal Sign removal (Right of Way)**
- **Roadkill removal**

You can also report suspected violations for any of the following-

- **Accumulated junk, trash or debris on private property**
- **Abandoned/inoperative vehicles**

- **Building or Structural Violations**
- **Overgrown lots or yards**
- **Commercial vehicle violations in a residential zone**

If you prefer to call, you can do so by dialing **813-931-2140** even after normal business hours to submit a request or report a violation.

If you are concerned about potential animal mistreatment, abuse or neglect you can fill out an online form or call **813-744-5660**.

Being pro-active only helps to strengthen our neighborhood and our community.

[Sash & Stile]



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What do you about Hampton Terrace ?



HT Facebook Banner designed by Jose Alfonso Renteria

I love my neighborhood because



Susan Dinning Lane Living on Lake Roberta I am fortunate to see all the enjoyment & pleasure it brings to so many people & our furry friends.

Mona Roberson The beautiful bouquet of people in my neighborhood!

Autumn Maria Always seeing and knowing someone on a walk through the neighborhood.

Mark Bittrich Porch Parties! Lol

Michelle Benningfield All of our neighbors are friends and some are like family

Luisella Mazzone I love that people say hello and will stop and chat with you. Our historic homes are beautiful to stroll by and look at too, all different and unique .

Chris Crum Genuine people looking out for other people.

JoEllen Irizarry The strong sense of community - the way everyone looks out for each other and the neighborhood. The unique collection of historic homes - from bungalows to Mediterranean to cottages to the castle on the lake. The lemon pepper wings at Hampton Station. And most of all the people. The weird, quirky, fascinating, sometimes aggravating but always entertaining group of people that live here. I love all you freaks.

Megan DiTizio Warts and all, it's a great place to be. I'd rather be here than some Stepford-ish gated community place any day.

Wade Carr I like the diversity of our neighborhood. Never boring! I love how the hipsters respect the residents that have built up this neighborhood. Everyone gets along so well together.

Robin Miller Quiet, simple life style. Easy to get to know neighbors. Just walk a dog to the lake. Having Publix so close and all of the neighborhood restaurants.

This is a mortgage ad.

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/3 cups mashed overripe bananas

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) & lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.
- In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together butter and brown sugar. Stir in eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture; stir just to moisten. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan.
- Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack.

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Gardening Corner

"When being shady ain't a bad thing" Exploring ground covers that may work well in your yard.

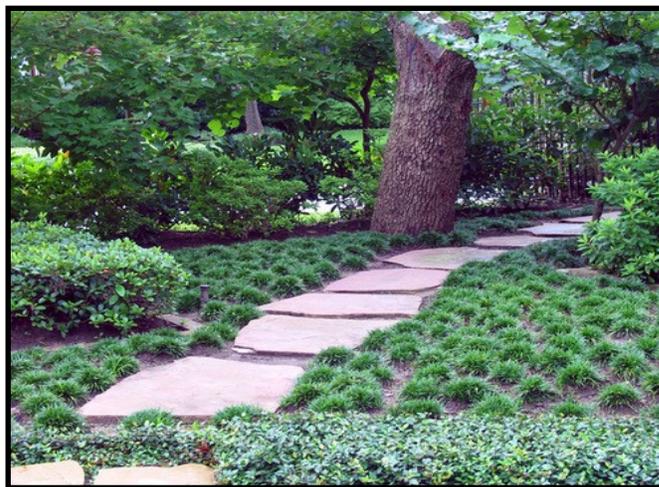
By Autumn Schwab White of DragonFly Landscaping

Editors note— Autumn and her husband Chuck own DragonFly Landscaping a local Seminole Heights Business and will be regular contributors to our newsletter. We are very grateful.

As Winter and Spring wrap up, our Summer rains will return... and with that the seasonal groundcover that many of us with intense tree canopies over our landscapes call our "lawn." Although those homeowners with heavily shaded properties can revel in the slightly less harsh ambient summer temperatures, they will not find success with traditional sod or turf installations in their landscapes. There's nothing like the feel of grass underfoot, but what options do you have if you can't grow grass? Depending on the functionality and style needs of the homeowner, there are a variety of groundcover options (both living and not) for low-light landscapes.

...what options do you have if you can't grow grass?

Unlike turf, most groundcover won't tolerate foot traffic, so you'll need to plan for walkways, paths, and rooms to provide access and open spaces in a low-light landscape. There are a variety of hardscape materials that can provide walking, standing, and sitting spaces, including manufactured pavers, natural flagstone, crushed or bulk stone/pebbles, and mulch. Pavers and flagstone can be the more expensive options, but consider mixing media by creating larger rooms with those harder materials and using river rock or mulch to create paths or small destination areas.



Mondo grass and Asiatic jasmine line a natural flagstone path. These and other options can be explored by calling your local landscaper.

Between and around these paths and rooms, low-lying groundcover species can be planted to make the landscape feel open without filling it in with larger plants and shrubs. Grass-like options for low-light conditions include liriopse, mondo, and dwarf mondo. Vining and creeping species options include Asiatic jasmine, wild petunia, various low-lying ferns, golden pothos, and creeping inch plant (*callisia repens*.) It is important to note, however, that vining species require regular management (trimming) to keep it from overtaking nearby shrubs or other landscape. Although these species do not tolerate foot traffic well, using a combination of living groundcover and hardscapes can create the feel and visual effect of an open lawn without full sun conditions or high-maintenance turf.

NEIGHBORS UNITE

Trash control issues at Lake Roberta closer to being solved by City of Tampa



Photo by Bill Truett
The crown jewel of Hampton Terrace— Lake Roberta

By Bill Truett

With the recent dry spell, the lake receded to the lowest levels in many years. A recent rain refreshed some of the water and with rainy season approaching, the lake should soon recover. Over the past few years many residents have spent hours each weekend cleaning the lake, removing vegetation, debris and trash. With orchestrated

efforts by both associations and a renewed effort by the City of Tampa Parks Department to maintain the lake, Lake Roberta overall is doing well.

Recently, HTCA and HTNA attended a meeting with the Storm Water and Transportation Department Engineers. Thank you to Myron Griffin, a long-time Hampton Terrace resident, for organizing this meeting. There were concerns discussed regarding storm water safety, debris and keeping Lake Roberta sustainable. As a result of the meeting, we do expect the Storm Water Division to consider modifying the current stormceptor and to improve the storm outlets in the lake. They are also considering a dredging project to remove collected sediments over the years. We hope to learn more over the next few months. Stay tuned!

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DID YOU KNOW...

The HTCA formed our Welcome Wagon in August 2016. Since then, our committee of volunteers led by our very own “Nana” Susan Lane have personally delivered over 40 custom-made Welcome Baskets to new HT residents. Currently they are slated to deliver 20 more in the next several weeks!

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THE COMMUNITY CORRAL

South Seminole Heights Neighborhood

By Stephen Lytle, *President South Seminole Heights Civic Assoc.*



South Seminole Heights is a beautiful pocket neighborhood within The Heights, similar to Hampton Terrace. Comprised of about 1,300 residences, our borders are Florida Avenue to the east, Hillsborough Riv-

er to the west, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south, and Hillsborough Avenue to the north. The neighborhood is located in the southwestern edge of Seminole Heights. If you enjoy spending time by the water SSH's is where you want to visit. Nearly 50% of our waterfront in our neighborhood is made up of city parks including Haya Linear Park, Rivercrest Park, and Reed Park, which houses the offices of Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful.

The South Seminole Heights Civic Association is the active

neighborhood association and holds many events throughout the year to engage our residents in the community. We host quarterly porch parties, neighborhood happy hours, a Trick or Treating event in Rivercrest Park, an annual holiday decorating contest, and more. The association is made up of strong, effective leadership, on both our board and the committees, which has paved the way for our neighborhoods success. Our current goals are to become a registered 501(c) 3, add Highland Ave to the City of Tampa's list for Completed-Street projects, and to develop a signature event like the Home Tour and Taste of the Heights to raise money to put back into our neighborhood. Additionally, we are currently in the process of finalizing details for the City of Tampa's first street mural to be painted near Rivercrest Park. Installation is expected to take place in July.

Come check us out in South Seminole Heights. You can spend your time at local establishments like Red Star Rock Bar or The Independent, grab some coffee at Spaddy's and fresh bread from Faedos Bakery, or just enjoy a nice stroll through the trails of our waterfront parks.

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NEIGHBOR PROFILE– The Crums Life in the “Cottage on the Corner”



Photo provided by Chris Crum
HT neighbors and residents Chris and Jessica Crum

By Chris Crum

Hello, neighbors, we're the Crums! Chris (old), Jessica (young), Kevin (13), Erika (10), Jacob (goofy Golden Retriever), and Vinnie (territorial Lab mix). We moved from Lutz into Hampton Terrace six months ago. The daily commute to the Air Force Base, as well as life in a deed restricted HOA, became exhausting. It's by accident that we ended up here, since my recollection of this area several years ago was not a positive one. We were determined to find a place outside of an HOA, within city limits, and not in a snobbish neighborhood we couldn't afford. Thus, began the Zillow search. We looked and looked, and kept finding great houses in not so great locations. Then a realtor gave us a call. She'd seen this cute little cottage home a block away from her place, for sale by owner. She set an appointment and we met the lovely

Ms. Bridget Sweeten. We fell in love with the place the moment we walked in the door. The real clincher was the neighborhood itself. This just feels like home.

Now... a little about us! I'm Chris, and I am a Defense contractor working on an international communications program. I grew up in Canby, Oregon and joined the Navy out of high school back in 1992. I've lived in California, Texas, Italy and now Florida, and have visited more than 40 countries during my career. I was enlisted on a Guided Missile Cruiser for four years, based in southern California. During that tour, I spent two years and eight months at sea, but managed to see Hong Kong twice, Australia once, Singapore once, sit off the coast of Somalia for a while, complete a Shellback initiation, recovered helicopters on rough seas, and spent endless nights driving my ship back and forth in the Persian Gulf. I thought I'd seen the last of the desert in the 90s, and then 9/11 happened. I had retrained into a technical career field in the Air Force and was stationed here at U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) on MacDill AFB. We deployed and I spent the next six years going back and forth to Iraq, Afghanistan and a few other countries in the region. Each deployment came with unique and very humbling experiences. During this time, I ended up getting an opportunity to move back to Naples, Italy. In between deployments, my job was to help the Navy modernize their technical capabilities in Europe and train U.S. and NATO Forces heading downrange with the tools, tactics and techniques they'd need to be successful. We also facilitated the communications-

...Continued on Page 9

NEIGHBORHOOD SCRAPBOOK

HTCA events and projects promote neighborhood and build community



JOIN US FOR HTCA EVENTS AND PROJECTS
 Check out **COMMUNITY CALENDAR PAGE 11** for more info!
 Also the neighborhood Facebook page is **Hampton Terrace Historic District Neighbors**



NUMBERS TO KNOW

- ⇒ **Tampa City Council:** 813-274-8131
- ⇒ **City of Tampa Code Enforcement:** 813-274-8211
- ⇒ **Electric Power Outage or Safety Concern (TECO 24hrs):** 1-877-588-1010
- ⇒ **Hurricane Information Desk:** 813-274-7700 (during an emergency only)
- ⇒ **Neighborhood Enhancement:** 813-690-4631
- ⇒ **Emergency Drainage/Flooding (24 hours):** 813-274-3101
- ⇒ **Tree Hotline/Emergency** - Illegal Tree Removal (24 hours): 813-258-8733 - Fallen Tree: 813-274-8615 - Fallen Tree: 813-931-2168 - Fallen Tree: (after hours Midnight to 7:30 AM): 813-274-3101
- ⇒ **Wastewater Emergency Repair/Sewer Backup (24 hours):** 813-259-1693
- ⇒ **Water Department Emergency Services (24 hours):** 813-274-7400

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318 S. Edison Ave.
Tampa, FL 33606
813.541.5048

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

6th- 7pm

HTCA Monthly Meeting
Seminole Heights United Methodist Church– lower level

24th- 7pm

Tampa Police Dept. Roll Call to be held at 1414 E Henry Ave

JULY

4th

****CANCELLED** Monthly HTCA Meeting**
due to the Independence Day Holiday

4th- 6pm to 10pm

Independence Day
Celebration at Channelside Bay Plaza

5th thru 27th

Annual School Supply and Backpack Drive
*Appreciation Night at
Hampton Station is the 27th @7pm*

AUGUST

1st- 7pm

HTCA Monthly Meeting
Seminole Heights United Methodist Church– lower level

26th- 9am to 11am

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful
Neighborhood Cleanup
Meet at Lake Roberta west entrance

...NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE (continued from Page 9)

for President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and my Admiral during the Libya campaign to topple Gaddafi. Now, I focus on international maritime support for freedom of the seas, counter-proliferation of people and weapons, and support to counter-terrorism operations.

I met my amazing wife, Jessica, while stationed in Naples, Italy while working as a government civilian and during a one hour flight we shared to Genoa. After several months of correspondence, she came to see me in Napoli. On February 14th, 2014, we got married on Anclote Key. My kids are Kevin -13 and Erika-10. Both are honor roll students in Westchase and all around awesome kids. Kevin was born here in Tampa and Erika was born in Italy. They're bilingual and, in fact, will be traveling back to Italy for their summer vacation with fami-

ly in the Campania and Calabria regions of Italy.

Jessica is from Sanremo, Italy on the Ligurian Sea. Most people know it as the French Riviera. She's given up a lot of beautiful cultural things to start a family with me in the States. When we met, my Italian was atrocious and she spoke no English. She was determined to learn the language, so she bravely immersed herself in retail sales. Talk about a culture shock! Her English is now fluent, whereas my Italian is not nearly as good anymore. Jessica's a unique spirit. At 16, she left home for a summer job at a resort in Sicily, working as an Activities Coordinator. She received her diploma in Hospitality Services, which is an optional track of study in Italian high school. She speaks four languages; Italian, English, French and Spanish. Her passion is animals, which is another reason we love living in Hampton Terrace!



Keeping it local – right here in Hampton Terrace - since 2014

Our neighbors here in Hampton Terrace have watched us grow from a fledgling little air conditioning company to what we've become today.

We attribute much of our success to the support of our neighbors in trusting us to take care of their air conditioning needs.

Not only that, the referrals we get from our neighbors have been incredibly special, and so humbling.

We like to take every opportunity to help our neighbors in Hampton Terrace out in return.

Instead of a fancy, flashy ad, we just want to let you know *we're here for you when you need us.*

WE TREAT OUR NEIGHBORS RIGHT!

813-579-6358

www.thecomfortauthority.com

If you need a maintenance on your AC, make sure to let us know you're our Hampton Terrace neighbor and we'll be sure to give you the HT rate of \$129 (normally \$189).

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