

# TERRACE TALK

*The Newsletter of the Hampton Terrace Community Association*

Volume 4

8th Edition

est. 2016



## WELCOMING A NEW SEASON

### Why Community Matters Now More Than Ever

## INSIDE

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**YOUR 2021 HTCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Front: Dale Fuller (l) and John James (r)*  
*Back, left to right: Sid Roberts, Secretary Gabrielle Brockett, VP Bill Truett, Nic Wendland, Evan Hill, Carol Sivard, Lauren Hill, Treasurer Alyssa Feliho, President Brian Frey.*

As we reflect on a period unlike any we've seen before—and hope to never see again—we are reminded of the purpose of the Hampton Terrace Community Association: to bring neighbors together, look out for one another, and have some fun along the way. As always, we remain focused on our goals to increase community involvement, give back through service and philanthropy, and recruit the next crop of HTCA leaders.

All of this is still possible even with current recommendations regarding social gathering, and we have a lot to look forward to in 2021. We have a robust turnout in the HTCA Board with 11 active members, neighborhood

beautification projects on deck, and rumor has it even a safe return to in-person events!

We may all feel a little battered after the year we've gone through, and many of us can appreciate the importance of community in a new way. And it is important! Research from the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Institute for Health (NIH) demonstrates the link between community participation and positive outcomes in mental and physical well-being. In the coming months, residents of Hampton Terrace will have no shortage of opportunities to participate in our community. Special thanks and kudos to outgoing Board members for all their hard work in keeping the torch lit during an unprecedented and challenging year.

According to the Community Associations Institute, there are more than 338,000 community associations in the US, and we get to live in the very best one. We love our neighborhood because we love our neighbors. Thank you for your support of the HTCA, and here's to a great year ahead!

## HTCA VIRTUAL MEETINGS

**The next HTCA meeting is:  
TUESDAY, APRIL 6th @ 7PM**

*The HTCA will be meet via Zoom the first Tuesday of every other month at 7PM. Join the meeting with the click of a button!*





# THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING

BY BRIAN D. FREY  
HTCA PRESIDENT

To say that most folks are happy that 2020 is behind us is likely an understatement, and while our world is certainly not out of the woods yet when it comes to Covid-19, I prefer to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

While life may never return to what it was, and 'normal' will be defined in a new way, offering positive perspective on what was and what is to be allows for some solace in knowing that we are a strong and resilient nation and community.

I believe in many ways, that the pandemic has encouraged us to slow down and appreciate what we do have in our lives, and to appreciate the things that we likely overlook on a day-to-day basis. It has forced us to communicate differently and perhaps more often, and it has taught us how precious life is and to not take the little things that bring happiness and joy to us for granted.

It has encouraged us to be cautious and calculated when it comes to making decisions, and it has really forced many of us to pay closer attention to our health, our habits, and how those choices can affect those around us. Where it has spawned at times contentious banter and interactions with others in public and on social media, it has also encouraged discussion and healthy debate. Helping us to look deeper into how the everyday choices we make can affect our friends, our family, our neighbors.

As a neighborhood association, the pandemic has helped change and re-direct our perspective on how to continue to be effective and productive for our community. It challenges our normal processes, and it has invited us to think outside the box when it comes to planning events and projects to engage our community. It has helped us to understand more than ever how important our Welcome Wagon is in reaching out to new neighbors and it has truly opened our eyes to the importance of our work as an association. To the HTCA, it is more important now than ever to focus on our mission of being an inclusive and engaging advocate for our neighbors and to work as hard as we can to recognize that our community, our city and our world are better when we work together for a better tomorrow.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

BY BRIAN D. FREY

Many recent incidents of police activity in Hampton Terrace have simply been crimes of opportunity. In response, the HTCA Neighborhood Watch and Tampa Police Department reminds residents to:

- Lock your cars at night
- Secure your valuables and sheds
- Never leave weapons in your vehicle
- Report suspicious activity and/or photos and footage to TPD

If you are interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch, please email [info@myhtca.org](mailto:info@myhtca.org)



Buy your  
Neighborhood Watch  
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**Gabrielle Brockett**

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**Lauren Hill**

**John James**

**Sid Roberts**

**Carol Sivard**

**Nic Wendland**

**The Hampton Terrace Community Association (HTCA)** is a 501C3 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto:info@myhtca.org).

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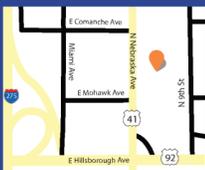
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# BOOK CLUB

## HAMPTON TERRACE'S SWIMMING LITERATI



BY PEGGY REINEKING

The Hampton Terrace Book Group started in February, 2018. A group of men and women neighbors, most of whom are retired, decided to meet in the late afternoon one Thursday each month for happy hour with books. However, some of our working neighbors also come if their schedules permit, and some of our members live outside of Hampton Terrace.

We've read a wide range of books, from non-fiction to best-selling novels to satire. The books are mostly recent, although we've read some pretty old stuff too. At the last meeting one of our members said, "I've joined this group so that I'll read books I wouldn't normally read. It expands my exposure to different subjects and styles." We chose books two months ahead so that we have time to find them in our preferred formats and read them.

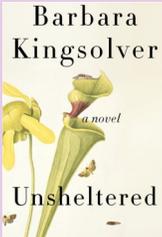
*"This group is 49% about books and 51% about neighbors."*

Initially we took turns hosting the book group at different houses, and the host provided wine, soft drinks and snacks. But then COVID hit. We tried to meet via Zoom, but that's not much fun, and it didn't fulfill our social needs. However, we found that sitting around the deck of a swimming pool, or right in the pool, provided plenty of social interaction with social distancing, but we just have to speak a little louder. During the pandemic and through the seasons we've been adjusting the starting time to get the warmest/coolest late afternoon daylight hours.

Beside discussing the book of the month, we also share neighborhood news, laughs and stories. This group is 49% about books and 51% about neighbors. We don't scold anyone if they haven't read the book because they can still contribute the other stuff.

We have a big enough group, but there's always room for one more. If you'd like to join us, please text Peggy Reineking at (202) 262-6882 for more information.

Upcoming Books



**March:**  
*Unsheltered*  
Barbara Kingsolver



**April:**  
*The Invitation*  
Oriah Mountain Dreamer

ON THE MENU

3 GREAT BRANDS!







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# THANK YOU!

To our 2020 Travelin' the Terrace Sponsors

...and stay tuned for what's in store in 2021!



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Thank You FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT!  
WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A PROSPEROUS 2021!

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## DANCING TO NEW HEIGHTS

BY GABRIELLE BROCKETT

If you've ever met our exuberant neighbor and former HTCA Vice President Cassie Plumridge, you'll have no trouble believing she learned how to dance before she could walk. "Dance has always been my passion in life," Cassie explained, and she's turned that passion into a successful career in dance and theater production. So when she found herself with a lot more time last March (compliments of COVID), Cassie began looking for places to use her abundant creative energy and expertise.

*"Dance has  
always been my  
passion in life"*

The stay at home order put in place last spring had so many families out walking around in the neighborhood that Cassie was inspired to spread joy and connect with her neighbors by hosting "Walk on By" dance parties in front of her house. She enjoyed seeing all the children (and adults!) dance by and smile so much, she decided to bring those smiles to faces all around the community.

With government mandates in flux about what businesses could be open, Cassie knew the safest way to start was with virtual classes. Recognizing that many of her peers in the industry had

been put out of work by the pandemic, Cassie was able to recruit top-talent instructors from all corners (the virtual ballet teacher lives in Brazil!) and started Zoom classes in September.

The virtual classes became an instant hit. They are a great option for families that need more flexibility, and because students can join from anywhere, cousins and friends that live in different states could now take dance class together—they have students from Arizona to North Carolina!

Despite the success of the online classes, Cassie longed to be in a physical space with her students as soon as it could be done safely. The search for the right space began in the summer and in January, she opened her brick and mortar location in Tampa Heights, transforming a previously vacant space into a community dance studio with 10 premier instructors, a professional-grade sprung dance floor, and over 100 students. NHDA now offers virtual, group, and private classes in ballet, tap, hip-hop, jazz, acrobatics, and musical theatre for ages 3 to adult.

In addition to the quality and variety of its classes, NHDA's focus on making dance accessible for all ages & skill levels has contributed to the studio's popularity. "So many studios focus on competitions, [which] cost a lot of money and time—if you don't have those things, I still want you to have the opportunity to get a great dance

education." But Cassie also attributes her success to neighborhood support. "This community is all about local businesses. People thought I was crazy for trying to open a small business during a pandemic, and I would just tell them: 'You don't know the Heights—it's different here.'"



*New Heights Dance Academy owner Cassie Plumridge at her studio's Grand Opening*

### *New Heights Dance Academy*

2905 N. Florida Ave, Tampa FL

To view the NHDA's calendar and register for classes, visit:

[www.newheightsdancetampa.com](http://www.newheightsdancetampa.com)

# RECREATION STATION: RUNNING

BY GABRIELLE BROCKETT

**Run the Terrace** is a loose and laid-back assortment of neighbors who share a vague goal of regular cardio-vascular exercise. Runners, walkers, and joggers of all abilities and ages are welcome! The group meets at 7:15 on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Clifton Street median. Hampton Station Pizza generously provides a free beer to Run the Terrace members after their run on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Watch the Run the Terrace Facebook page for information on the upcoming Gasparilla Virtual 1/2 Marathon group run!

Great places to run:

- Flatwoods Park
- Bayshore Boulevard
- Safety Harbor
- Lettuce Lake Park
- Greco Middle School (for track workouts—very busy)

Check out [www.runtampa.com](http://www.runtampa.com) for more information on running in the Greater Tampa area!

## Any Home Inspection Services

- Buyer Inspections
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- Partial System Inspections



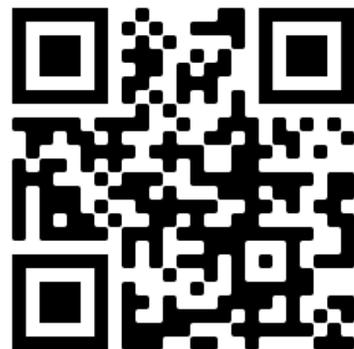
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# Please donate to the HTCA!

We rely on the support of our generous neighborhood donors to fund efforts such as our Great Pumpkin Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, neighborhood cleanups, and much more!

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# GARDEN CORNER

## PRETTY POTS AND PLANTERS

BY AUTUMN SCHWAB WHITE,  
OWNER, DRAGONFLY LANDSCAPE & WATER GARDENS

**Winter in Florida** can feel like an extended Spring, and has many homeowners looking toward the freshness of Spring colors. Fortunately, adding color and interest to your outdoor spaces can be as simple as a few decorative pots or planters with seasonal flowers in thoughtful places.



There are several things to consider when designing decorative planters, but the most critical is location. Choose a location that is highly visible, that will enhance an outdoor area that you frequent, and where access is easy for watering, and care. Common locations include pairs of planters near doorways or entrances (many of our urban

corridor homes have built-in concrete planters along porch steps), clusters of pots of varying heights in backyard patio spaces, or larger single pots that may work as anchors in a larger design.

Next, consider planter size, material, color, and shape. Choose something that fits your personality and style (modern or quirky; muted or bright; unfinished or glazed.) Keep in mind that unglazed pots, like classic terracotta, tend to dry quickly and are better suited for drought-hardy plant material like succulents. Glazed pots or planters of impermeable materials (metal, plastic, glazed ceramic, coated concrete) can fit a variety of soil conditions.



Choosing plant material is the obvious next step. The most common guideline for container design is to choose a “thriller” (a plant with height and drama, drawing the eye upward), a “filler” (medium height with dense foliage or flowers,

something that creates body and density), and a “spiller” (a vining or draping plant that will literally spill down the sides of the planter, drawing the eye downward.) Consider the sunlight conditions and make sure to choose plants that will thrive in those conditions. Ferns, philodendron, aglaonema, begonias, and dracaena (among many others) will do well in a shadier space, for example, while plants such as salvia, pentas, kalanchoe, alyssum, sweet potato vine, portulaca, grasses, and most iris will do well in a sunnier space. Combinations are endless, but make sure that the sunlight and water requirements of your plant groups are compatible with each other. Finally, choose a potting soil that contains perlite to help prevent soil compaction, and use a chunky material like mulch or rock to line the first few inches of your planter bottom to assist with drainage.



Don't have a green thumb? Don't be afraid to fail! Even the most experienced of gardening professionals won't make perfect choices every time in planter design. Some plants thrive, while others will fail, even in ideal conditions. Replace what doesn't work, change colors and structure a few times a year for variety, and get some dirt under your nails as often as possible. **Happy planting!**

### Prepping the Perfect Planter

#### 1-SELECT A LOCATION

- ✓ Highly visible
- ✓ Easy access
- ✓ Enhances a favorite area

#### 2-CHOOSE A PLANTER

- ✓ Size
- ✓ Material
- ✓ Color
- ✓ Shape

#### 3-PICK YOUR PLANTS!

- ✓ Thriller-Filler-Spiller
- ✓ Potting soil with perlite
- ✓ Consider sunlight conditions
- ✓ Chunky liner material for drainage

## NEW NOSHES

### WORTH THE (XTREME) WAIT

Xtreme Tacos Opens in Seminole Heights

After years of holding its breath, Hampton Terrace can finally inhale the sweet, tortilla-y scent of Xtreme Taco’s success in opening their Seminole Heights restaurant. The new location, on the corner of Nebraska and Powhatan, is open for carry-out and limited dine-in **Tuesday-Sunday 5-9:30PM** during their soft opening. And if tacos weren’t enough, they also carry a great selection of beer, cider, and wine. Their popular food truck will continue walk-up service at c. 1949 and Seventh Sun brewery but will no longer accept call-ahead orders. ¡Felicidades!



#### OTHER NOSH NEWCOMERS:

**Gangchu Chicken & Beer**—Korean fried chicken from the owner of Ichicoro Ramen plus beer, wine, & cocktails. **6618 N. Nebraska Ave.**

**H2 Kitchen + Pizzeria**—NY-style pizza, pasta, and hot subs from the owners of Harvest Bowl. (Closed Mondays) **6113 N. Florida Ave.**

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## WELCOME WAGON

### Welcome to our newest neighbors!

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We are so glad you're here ❤️



## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Tampa Police Dept. Non-Emergency Line: 813-231-6130

Tampa City Council: 813-274-8131

City of Tampa Code Enforcement: 813-274-8211

Hurricane Information 813-274-7700

TECO Electric Power Outage or Safety Concern:  
toll-free 1-877-588-1010

Neighborhood Enhancement (weekends): 813-690-4631

Transportation & Stormwater Services: 813-274-3101

**Tree Hotline/Emergency:**

- Illegal Tree Removal: 813-258-8733
- Fallen Tree (business hours): 813-274-5744
- Fallen Tree (after hours til Midnight): 813-931-2168
- Fallen Tree (after hours Midnight): 813-274-3101

Wastewater Emergency Repair/Sewer Backup: 813-259-1693

Water Dept. Emergency Services (24 hours): 813-274-7400

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### April

#### HTCA Annual Easter Parade & Egg Hunt Returns!

Saturday, April 3rd - 11 am to 1 pm

Parade Begins at 1224 E Clifton

Egg Hunt follows at 1005 E Clifton St



### HTCA Meeting

April 6th - 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Hosted Online via Zoom



### May

#### Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful Cleanup

Sunday, May 23rd 10am-11:30am

DID YOU KNOW?

# YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER!

ALL RESIDENTS OF HAMPTON TERRACE ARE MEMBERS OF THE HTCA!

### Get Involved:

- Sign up for our email list
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Join a Committee

[INFO@MYHTCA.ORG](mailto:INFO@MYHTCA.ORG)

The Hampton Terrace Community Association presents

# THE HAPPY-HOPPY EASTER PARADE & EGG HUNT

FEATURING HAMPTON THE BUNNY

Saturday April 3rd 2021 @ 11am

Parade begins- 1224 E. Clifton Street  
Egg Hunt follows at 1005 E Clifton Street





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