



Countryway Newsletter

Home Owners Association

December 2024



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 813-433-2016

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Please also visit our community website at
<http://www.countrywayhoa.com/>

Countryway Board of Directors Meetings are held at
 6:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month by
 teleconference.

The number to dial in can be found on the
 Countryway Website.

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BAYBROOK

I'm a resident of the Baybrook subdivision, and I noticed Baybrook doesn't usually have an entry. I'd like to contribute is the following:

It's that holly-jolly time of year again where folks are out sprucing up their homes and yards with holiday decorations.

In the spirit of decorating, I'd like to acknowledge our neighbor Anthony P. For the last fifteen or so years, this craftsman has been busy in his own little workshop, creating beautiful wood cut-outs that he hand-paints to put into Baybrook resident's yard. Each year there's been a different theme, ranging from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, teddy bears, penguins, the Minions, nutcrackers, The Simpsons, elves, Winne-the-Pooh, and Pokémon! Just to name a few.

It lights up my own otherwise grinchy heart to see the neighbors putting theirs out each year, and to hear them excited for and anticipating what the current year's theme is going to be. Like Santa, with the help of his elves, the finished pieces are set out at night to be found the next morning. As the Christmas bells toll closer and closer, I wonder what this year's theme will be.

And after the big storms we've had this year, it would be nice if neighbors could continue their generosity and support of each other.

Remember to be kind and celebrate not only the season, but every day.~

EDITORS NOTE: *Thank your for emailing your article. I encourage all all separate divisions of Countryway to send in articles. One person from each division. Email to me by 9:00 am on the 4th Friday of each month. Please provide your phone number in case I need to reach out to you. In the subject area write the name of our division.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.
ikarepublishing@aol.com*

ESTATES Seasons Greetings!

As we step into the heart of the holiday season, there's a special magic in the air. December brings a time to celebrate not only the festive lights and gatherings but also the resilience and strength that make our community shine even brighter. After facing the challenges of the recent hurricanes, our neighborhood has come together in ways that truly highlight the spirit of togetherness and hope.

This month, let's take time to appreciate each other, enjoy the beautiful lights, and reflect on how our community continues to grow and thrive. With a mix of holiday cheer and heartfelt gratitude, we look forward to all that we'll share in this season and beyond.

Here's what's happening this month:

- 12/15 Potluck Christmas Party *
- 12/18 Ladies Game Night
- 12/19 Sip N Twinkle Trek
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day

Ladies' Game Night Invitation:

The ladies in our neighborhood are invited for a fun evening of games and socializing.

Date: December 18th

Time: 6:00pm

Where: 11223 Bloomington Dr.

RSVP: Tia, text 407-463-2603.

See our Facebook page for more information.

Please bring an appetizer to share and BYOB. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Sip N Twinkle Trek

Join us for our 2nd annual Sip N Twinkle Trek through the neighborhood! This will be a wonderful evening to connect with neighbors, enjoy festive decorations, and appreciate the lights that make The Estates feel magical this time of year.

Where: Start out your front door with a stroll through the neighborhood

When: December 19, 2024 6:30-8:00pm

Highlights: Bring your Hot Toddie, Hot cocoa, or beverage of your choice and start caroling or socializing while enjoying the sights and sounds of the season. Feel free to dress up in your favorite holiday attire.

Please Post any Photos you take to our Facebook page or email to me and I will send them to Karen at IKarepublishing@aol.com

A Brighter, Stronger Neighborhood

After the hurricane, our neighborhood needed some extra TLC. With the inspiring spirit of resilience, we were able to renew curbing around the island and refresh several places along the wall, trimmed trees and cleaned up to improve the appearance to our neighborhood. Thanks to these efforts our homes are welcoming once again. Let's celebrate this achievement and enjoy the improvements we've all made together.

Let's end the year with joy, community, and the warmth of being together. We look forward to seeing you at the stroll!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

TWO EVENTS

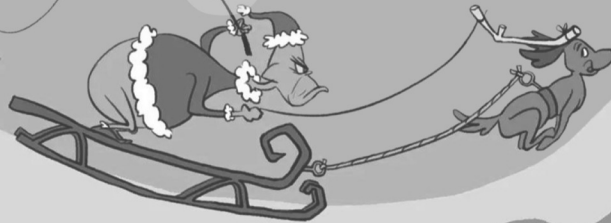
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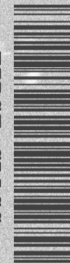
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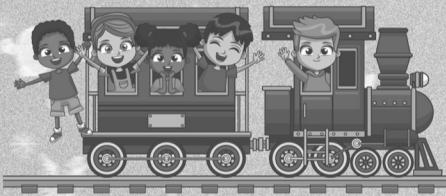
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GLEN OAKS

A Season of Gratitude and Cheer!

As we have closed out November and welcome the holiday season, your Glen Oaks HOA Board wishes you and your loved ones a joyful time filled with warmth and togetherness. Here's what's happening in our community:

Next Board Meeting

Date: TBD

Location: Countryway Golf Course Dining Area
Let your voice be heard! Stay connected and join us for the next board meeting.

Sidewalk Safety Alert

Noticed a cracked or uneven sidewalk? Your help in reporting maintenance issues ensures our community remains safe and accessible. Submit your requests at:
[Hillsborough County Sidewalk Services(<https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311/roads-sidewalks/>)

Your proactive efforts made a difference with the streets, and we can do the same for sidewalks!

Planning Home Improvements?

Before making any changes to the exterior of your home or lawn, don't forget to complete an **ARC form!** You can find the forms online via Vanguard: Vanguard Portal](<https://vanguard.cincwebaxis.com>)

Submit your ARC requests and violation appeals:

Online: Through the Vanguard portal
In Person: At Glen Oaks board meetings or at GlenoaksHOA@outlook.com

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to **8752 Huntfield Street** for winning **Yard of the Month** for November! Your beautiful landscaping adds charm to our community.

Winners receive a **\$25 gift card** and, of course, bragging rights! Thank you to everyone for maintaining such lovely homes. Keep up the fantastic work, and you might be the next to win in December!

A Festive Reminder

As the holiday season approaches, consider spreading the cheer with festive decorations! Lights, wreaths, and displays add to the community's holiday spirit, making Glen Oaks a truly magical place to be.

Warm Wishes from Your Glen Oaks Board

May your days be merry, your hearts be light, and your homes shine bright this holiday season!

Your Glen Oaks HOA Board

MEADOWS

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! We hope everyone is ready to make this a December to remember! Wherever this month takes you, we wish you a joyful holiday season from our families to yours.

Giving Thanks!

On Saturday, November 16th we hosted our 4th Annual Meadows Community Friendsgiving event, and it was a tremendous success! Watching residents—both new and long-time neighbors—come together to kick off the holiday season was truly heartwarming!

A huge thank you to the residents of Plantain Court for letting us take over your cul-de-sac for the evening! The food was delicious, and the company was unbeatable. We're already looking forward to next year! Special thanks to:

- Kelly & Phil - for sharing your side yard for the projection screen and providing the power!
- Jack & Susan - for the generous mobile liquor bar!
- Kathryn & David - for keeping things tidy with the trash can & for keeping us hydrated with the Boysenberry Bar!
- Kim - for putting together all the amazing prize bags for the raffle!

December Happenings

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, here are some important dates to remember:

- Hanukkah: December 7–15, 2024
- Winter Break (Hillsborough County School District): Monday, December 23, 2024, through Friday, January 3, 2025
- Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- Kwanzaa: December 26, 2024 – January 1, 2025
- New Year's Eve: Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Home for the Holidays

With families gathering to celebrate, we anticipate increased vehicle traffic and parking in the community. Please drive with caution and care. We also encourage residents to utilize garages and driveways for parking to minimize street congestion, making room for visitors and guests.

'Tis the Season...

For safety! Nothing dampens the holiday spirit faster than theft, so take these precautions to keep your home and vehicles secure:

- At home: Lock all windows and doors, close curtains, and leave lights on when you're away.
- In vehicles: Lock doors and remove valuables like laptops, purses, wallets, and packages, or store them out of sight in the trunk.
- Stay vigilant: If you see something suspicious, say something! Report concerns to the Hillsborough County Police Department at 813-247-8000.





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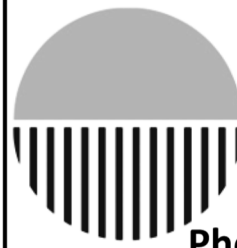
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Sip N' Stroll

Back by popular demand, join us for the **5th Annual Sip N' Stroll** through the Meadows on Saturday, December 21st, from 6–8 p.m. There's no official starting location—just step out of your house and start strolling!

Enjoy the festive decorations, and don't forget to cast your vote for the best holiday home. The winning residence will receive a \$25 prize! Ballots will be delivered to mailboxes and available the night of the event at **8601 Thimbleberry Lane** (near the South Entrance). Stop by to cast your vote and say hello!

Get in the Know. Stay in the Know.

Haven't joined our Facebook page yet? Let's make it your first New Year's resolution! Our private group is for residents only and is the best way to stay up-to-date on neighborhood happenings in real time. Search for **"The Meadows of Countryway"** in the Facebook app or visit us at: www.facebook.com/groups/meadowsofcountryway/.

Did You Change Your Batteries In Your Fire Alarms?

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue rule of thumb is: change smoke alarm batteries when the time changes in the fall. The county offers a program where Hillsborough County Fire Rescue personnel come to the home, inspect alarms and test for functionality. If alarms are out of date, or home does not meet current fire code standards, new alarms are recommended.

Guidelines

You must have proof that you own and live in your home (homestead)

Mark your calendar to set-up an appointment in January 2025



STONEYBROOK



Stoneybrook Ladies Gift Exchange

When: December 6th, 6:30-9:30pm

What: White elephant style gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift that ranges from \$20-\$25, as well as an appetizer and a drink to share.

Where: 10130 Vista Pointe

Flamingo Friday

When: December 13th, 5:30pm

What: Pizza and snacks will be provided but feel free to bring a dish if you wish and don't forget to byob! (Holiday wear is encouraged!)

Where: The house with the pink flamingo in the yard



Santa's Stoneybrook Visit

When: December 14th, 5:30pm

What: Santa makes a visit with his head elf to ride by and share holiday wishes! If you'd like to see Santa, be sure to be outside and ready to wave hello to Santa!

Thanks!

Lauren Grimmer

Why Is Shiny on One Side?

When you pull a sheet of aluminum foil off the roll, there's a notable difference between the two sides. One is so shiny that you can practically use it as a mirror. The other, well, it's still silver but not nearly as sparkly. It turns out there's a good reason.



According to Reynolds Wrap, the difference is a by product of the manufacturing process. You see, aluminum foil is milled in different layers. Heat and tension are applied to stretch the foil until it's thin enough to become the familiar sheets you buy in stores and use at home.

The factory manufactures two sheets of metal simultaneously to ensure the sheets are strong enough to withstand breakage. The side where the foil comes into contact with another layer of foil appears dull, while the other side, which hasn't made contact with another sheet, appears shiny. In other words, the two sides look different, but when it comes down to it, they're both made of the same stuff.

Does the Shiny Side of Aluminum Foil Reflect More Heat?

Aluminum foil reflects heat from both its dull and shiny sides equally. While aluminum foil has a dull and shiny side, there is no difference in how either side reflects heat.

Should You Use Aluminum Foil with the Shiny Side Up or Down?

Quite simply, it doesn't matter what side of aluminum foil you use. Either is acceptable. Since the exact same material makes up both sides, they will perform precisely the same way. The only difference is aesthetic. So feel free to work both ways. In the end, your food will cook the same. Mystery solved.



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5 Festive Things To Do In Tampa In December - A Holiday Guide

December is a magical month in the Tampa Bay area. Average Tampa temperatures in December ranging from a high of 73 degrees to a low of 57 degrees make it easy to enjoy outdoor fun and attractions.

While the temperatures remain warm, the twinkling lights, live music, and festive entertainment bring out the holiday cheer. The best part is that there are so many fun things to do in Tampa Florida in December for all ages if you love food vendors, live entertainment, and festive shows.

1) Get In The Holiday Spirit With A Boat Tour

One of the perks of visiting Tampa and Clearwater Beach in December is that the water is just fine! This is a wonderful place to take a boat tour. The Tropics Boat Tours, offer year-round Dolphin Exploration Tours and Sunset Celebration Cruises in Tampa Bay Area. Booking a cruise can be a great way to treat your friends or family to an unforgettable gift!

Whether you're in the mood for one of the daily cruises aboard a double-decker catamaran or you prefer to make private memories aboard a personal charter, you'll enjoy unparalleled access to wildlife and views. Incredible itineraries bring you from Clearwater Bay through Clearwater Pass to the sparkling waters of the Gulf of Mexico. As a guest, you'll enjoy:

- Narration from experienced guides who are ready to teach you about the environment and local dolphin population.
- Spectacular views of the coastline along Tampa Bay! Get your camera ready!
- World-class, luxury boats with all the latest features and amenities.
- Options to purchase wine, beer, cocktails, and soft drinks.

Experienced guides will teach you all about dolphins and their environment while you enjoy the spectacular views of the coastline. Book a spot for the entire family with The Tropics Boat Tours this December!

Experience A Holiday Wonderland On The Water At The Lighted Boat Parade

As the holiday season unfolds, there's no better way to get in the festive spirit than by taking a Lighted Holiday Boat Parade Cruise. This enchanting experience is perfect for families looking to create lasting memories together. Boarding begins at 5:30 pm on the 14th of December, and with tickets priced at just \$35 for adults and \$20 for children aged 4-12, it's an

affordable way to celebrate the season. So gather your loved ones and grab your cameras for an unforgettable evening on the water.

2) Visit Busch Gardens For A Wonderful Time

Looking for family fun in Tampa Bay? The holiday season provides some wild entertainment at Busch Gardens! This park hosts an award-winning holiday event called Busch Gardens Christmas Town. Running from November 15 through January 5, this festive event features nearly 70 miles of dazzling lights spanning the park! Highlights include:

- Santa's North Pole Experience at Santa's workshop
- Rudolph's Winter Wonderland
- The Holly Jolly™ Express locomotive experience that brings riders along a track with views of a 65-acre space that's home to the park's zebras, giraffes, rhinos, and more
- Special holiday dining experiences offering festive sweets and flavorful hot chocolate
- Live shows and entertainment featuring ice skaters, fireworks, and Christmas-themed entertainment with your favorite Sesame Street® characters

Entry to Christmas Town is included with your day pass to Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. All of the park's regular rides and attractions will be operating as normal during the event. Don't miss your chance to see this iconic Tampa Bay park all lit up for the holidays. Put visiting Christmas Town at Busch Gardens on your list of things to do in Tampa in December!

3) Enjoy Ice Skating And Shopping At Winter Village At Curtis Hixon Park

Winter Village at Curtis Hixon Park features an outdoor ice skating rink. Situated along the famed Tampa Riverwalk, Curtis Hixon Park comes alive with festive lights, sounds, and entertainment for the holidays from November 22 through January 5. Each reservation gives you 90 minutes of skate time with skate rentals included. Just be sure to make your reservation online before showing up for ice skating!

In addition to the exhilarating ice skating experience, Winter Village offers a delightful array of holiday activities that the whole family can enjoy. The Shops at Winter Village is a unique and festive retail experience featuring boutiques from local vendors. Shoppers can enjoy views of the Hillsborough River as they shop at pop-up shops held in PODS® containers. The layout of the event is reminiscent of winter markets found in major cities around the world. The event will host up to 40 vendors per weekend.

A café will also be set up with food vendors offering cozy, holiday-themed beverage and dining options. You can look forward to crepes, gourmet chocolate, craft cocktails, and more! The atmosphere is truly magical, with twinkling lights and cheerful music creating a winter wonderland right in the heart of Tampa. Don't forget to snap some photos with the stunning backdrop of the park and the city skyline, making for perfect holiday memories to cherish for years to come.

Pro Tip: To avoid the busiest times, consider visiting during weekday afternoons or early evenings. This way, you can enjoy a more relaxed skating experience and have plenty of time to explore all the festive offerings at Winter Village!

4) Attend Tampa's Santa Fest & Tree Lighting

Tampa's famed Santa Fest happens the first weekend in December! In 2024, the event will take place on December 7. Santa Fest also coincides with the big tree lighting in Tampa. Here's what the itinerary looks like:

- The big parade starts at 1 p.m. at Morgan Street and Madison Street. The route travels west on Madison Street to Ashley Drive before turning north to end at Ashley Drive and Cass Street. If you want the best views, get there early to park your chair along Madison Street.
- Tampa's official tree lighting ceremony event kicks off at 6 p.m. Prior to the tree lighting up, guests can enjoy a showcase with live music, holiday dancers, and much more live entertainment for all ages!
- Finally, it's time for the big event! The Tampa tree lighting actually includes seven stunning Christmas trees.
- The evening wraps up with a holiday movie with free admission! There's simply no better option for live entertainment and merriment in December in Tampa!

5) Discover Fun Things For The Holidays At The Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium in Tampa turns into something of a Christmas town for sea life during the holiday season! The aquarium creates a fun theme for guests looking for festive things to do in Tampa Bay each year. The theme for 2024 is YuleTides at The Florida Aquarium. During this immersive event, families, couples, and everyone else can have so much fun exploring coastal holiday traditions from around the globe! The Florida Aquarium's holiday experience runs from November 29 through January 5, transforming the aquarium into a dazzling underwater wonderland that you won't want to miss!



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Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous new year in 2025!



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