Here are the upcoming signature events in the community.

Upcoming Event

**Wellswood Eats**

**Description:** Too busy to cook dinner? Order ahead and stop in to pick it up on your way home! Proceeds go toward the Wellswood Civic center building improvements.

**Date:** Friday Oct. 19th  
**Time:** 5 - 7 pm  
**Location:** Order ahead and pick up at the Wellswood Civic center or schedule for delivery

See menu and details here:  
[Wellswood Eats](#)

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Upcoming Event

**Return of the Haunted House!**

**Description:** A family fun event! We are bringing back the community haunted house this year. It will be at the Wellswood Civic center on Halloween night. More details to come in October events flyer

**Date:** Wednesday Oct. 31st  
**Time:** 6-8 pm  
**Location:** Wellswood Civic center

All donations will go to Meals on Wheels  
See details here: [Haunted House](#)
Wellswood Civic Association general meeting:  
Monday September 10th 7pm  
We will be discussing the by laws overhaul for review and vote in November, upcoming events in October and Wellswood board work over the long summer break.  
Come! Meet your neighbors.  
Be informed!  
Next general meeting will be on  
November 12, 2018  
Next crime watch meeting will be on  
October 8, 2018

WELLSWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS  
@ 7:00PM  
September 10, 2018  
November 12, 2018  
January 8, 2019

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH MEETINGS  
@ 7:00PM  
October 8, 2018  
December 10, 2018  
February 11, 2019

President's Message:

Hello Neighbors,

As fall is quickly approaching, we are currently planning our season.

We are excited to announce that we will be holding a children’s haunted house at the The Wellswood Civic Center. The haunted house admission will be by donations only, with all proceeds going to our neighbor, Meals on Wheels.

We are also excited in October, to be hosting Wellswood Eats again.

This year’s breakfast with Santa will be a pet friendly event.

We will be voting on our new By-laws at our first board meeting on Monday, September 10th.

Please join us and show your support for the beautiful Wellswood Community.

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy & safe fall.

Dominick Perrone  
Wellswood Civic Association President

Neighbor Spotlight

Every where I live, I tend to adopt an “extra” grandmother. I got really lucky when I adopted Ruth Sumner.

She was my neighbor two doors down on River Shore Drive in Wellswood. For the first year, maybe a little longer, I would see her working in her yard all the time, but we never spoke. Every time I walked my dog she would be there, very engrossed in the weeding and tending of her lawn and her crotons. Sometimes I would say hello and she wouldn’t respond. I know now that she was a bit hard of hearing. At the time, I thought she was just not that friendly.

But as time passed, I did try again to say hello and eventually she heard me. We got to know each other in 5- or 10-minute increments while I was out walking the dog. Eventually she had me in to help her save a file to her computer, a project she was working on for her Sunday school class. She told me that she often would visit classrooms to tell her tale, sort of an Anne Frank type of story. She showed me photos of her two children and their families.

Over time, she started to share stories of her past: her time in Germany before the war; time spent in China after fleeing the Nazis; her love for her husband Forest;
their time building the house she still lived in, and raising their kids, and leading scouts and other fun family adventures; Forest’s long battle with an Alzheimer’s-type of disease which robbed him of his mind and memory.

Some of these stories sound sad, but I can assure you she was the most positive person you could ever know.

Her stories got more detailed as the years went by. She eventually told me of the tragic death of her mother. Ruth was only 4 at the time, and she and her older sister had gone to a party in a neighboring town. They called home and asked to stay overnight as it had gotten late.

Her parents owned a restaurant and bar. That night, a customer was drinking too much and her father had cut him off at the bar. The man was so angry that he followed Ruth’s father home, snuck into the building, and shot both of her parents. Her father survived. Her mother did not.

Her mother was pregnant, so her death was a double tragedy. She would have had a younger brother.

She also told me of her time in the Jewish ghetto in Beijing, China, under Japanese occupation, and how she had met and fallen in love with an American soldier named Forrest. He was from Wellswood and had attended Hillsborough High. He talked about walking through a cow pasture, then swimming across the river, to get to school. After a few short months of courtship, he proposed, she accepted and they left China together, spending time in Nanking, Shanghai, Manila, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and eventually back to Wellswood. They personally constructed the house where they spent the rest of their lives.

Earlier this year, our neighbors witnessed what seemed to be a mini-stroke. Her family was notified and I know she saw a few doctors and specialists. Around that time she mentioned that her story was part of a documentary and book. The documentary is called Port Of Last Resort: Zuflucht In Shanghai. The book, which she was interviewed for, is called Port of Last Resort: The Diaspora Communities of Shanghai. Both are available through Amazon.

In early April, she suffered a larger stroke. She rebounded only to be diagnosed with cancer a little while later. She passed at speeders beware!

"You just got pulled over – now what?"

The windows are down, the radio is cranked up and you’re headed to work. You look down and see your odometer, cruising at 65 mph in a posted 45 mph zone. As you look up from the odometer, you see the red and blue lights parked off to the side. Your heart sinks as you see the officer pull out onto the road and make his way behind you.

We all know that feeling of dread when the police pull out from the side of the road, flip on the flashing lights & sirens & speed up until they are directly behind you. What do you do, what should you do..? The smartest move is turn on your directional (blinker) and pull over as soon as it is safe to do so. If you’re on a major highway, do not stop in the middle of the road. Turn onto a side street or pull into a parking lot.

Roll your window down and wait for the officer to approach your vehicle. Make sure you keep your hands on the steering wheel until he arrives at your window. If he asks for license, registration and insurance, explain where you keep those items and inform him that you are going to be providing them to him. Remember to be polite and respectful. Do not argue with the police, if he asks you to sign the ticket, sign it. Failing to sign a traffic ticket in Florida is a misdemeanor and law enforcement can arrest you for failing to sign your ticket. Signing a traffic ticket is not an admission of guilt.

If the police give you a verbal warning, be sure to thank them and go on your way. If the police inform you that you were speeding or violating a traffic law, it is best to listen, be polite and not argue. At the time you receive the ticket, the police do not have to show you any evidence of your speed. The best thing you can do at this point is accept your ticket and be on your way.
Many times over the years I would see her doing strenuous work around her house, standing on a ladder or exerting herself in the heat. I'd scold her and she'd just laugh and say, “The Lord can take me any day. I'm ready. I've got more friends up there than I have here!”

She did get her final wish, a wish that she often mentioned: to die in the house the Forrest built, right here on River Shore, surrounded by the huge family that they also built together.

Last year we begged Miss Ruth to evacuate with us in the days leading up to Hurricane Irma. She kept telling me that the Lord was watching over her, and if He wanted her to leave, He would send her a sign. I had to raise my voice a little in exasperation when I repeated our offer and said, “Maybe I'm the sign, Ruth! Maybe we have room in our car for a reason!” She eventually decided to go with us, and had a great time with my grandmother reminiscing about the Great Depression and Tampa in the old days.

Tina Rice

Photo left to right: Ruth Sumner, my dog Max, my daughter Maddie, and my real grandmother, Mary Lorino, who is also a Wellswood resident

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You have a speeding ticket – now what?

In Florida, you have a few options. You can pay your ticket, but you risk having points assessed to your license which can result in higher insurance premiums or even a possible driver's license suspension. Once you pay a ticket, it is on your Florida driving record for your life. Tickets and points do not “fall” off.

Typically insurance companies will only pull a three (3) year driving record when issuing an insurance policy. This means the insurance company can only see the most recent 3 years of your driving history.

You may wonder what other options you have available. In Florida, you have the ability (if you have a Class E driver's license) to elect a defensive driving school up to five (5) times in your life time in exchange for no points being assessed to your driving record. You may elect to do defensive driving school once every 12 months. So if you have received more than 1 ticket in the past 12 months and you elect driving school, you will not be eligible to elect a driving school again during the 12 months. This is a rolling calendar, not January to December.

If you do not elect defensive driving school and you decide to fight your ticket, you can set your own court date or hire an attorney. To set your own court date, you will contact the Clerk of Courts (in the county where you received the ticket) and set a court date or you can hire an attorney, who will set a court date on your behalf. If you elect to go to court, any number of things may happen. The Judge could throw the ticket out (dismissal or a finding of not guilty), he or she could order you to pay court costs or you could be ordered to pay court costs and attend a driving school.

Whatever you decide to do with your ticket, please do not ignore it. The ticket does not disappear if you ignore it. If you do not pay your ticket or set a court date timely, your driver’s license will be suspended indefinitely. Which means that you will not be permitted to drive on the roadways in the state of Florida until you clear up the suspension and pending ticket.

Michelle Lambo

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Ruth and Forrest Sumner
Mannys on the bay nursery

MANNY - STILL ROCKIN' THE BAY!

Manny Gil came by his current profession - proprietor of Manny's on the Bay Nursery - by happy accident.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Manny moved in 1970 to New York City and then lived in Passaic, NJ. He has lived in Tampa for 25 and a half years.

A house painter by trade, in 1975 he visited a nursery for a landscaping estimate and was offered a job. He began his own business from the backyard of a house on Caracas. One day, while crossing over the Hillsborough River, he spied the property across from Meals on Wheels and set up shop there in 2001.

Since his very first day, Meals on Wheels coveted the property and asked Manny every year if he would consider giving it up. His landlord, Paloris Property, always told him he was good. But in February 2017 Manny was informed that the property had indeed been sold and he had one month to move. Hence the new digs, across the street. It's a little cozier, with lots of charm and the same great service.

Manny says he didn't get mad and gained more strength from the experience. He considered retiring but doesn't want to give up what he loves, and has received lots of love and support from the community. (Full disclosure - Manny gets a good part of this writer's paycheck, for blooms and herbs.)

Manny has four children and 9 grandkids, who keep him busy when he's not arranging Palm trees. We're glad he stayed in the neighborhood!

Sharon Tagle

Pruning Palm Trees

Care should be taken when considering whether to prune your palm trees. Most palms in Florida are deficient in potassium (our sandy soil does not provide sufficient K). Therefore the older leaves may be brown-ish due to giving up their K to the newer leaves.

The U of F publication ENH1182 informs that it is best to fertilize your palms. The brown leaves will turn green again unless they are actually dead. Dead leaves will hang down right on the trunk. There are several other tips:

Do not give your palms a "hurricane cut" (cutting at 11:00 and 1:00 on a clockface) – that is detrimental to the palm tree, leaving the newer weaker leaves to bear the brunt of any stiff winds, putting your tree in jeopardy.

The canopy of a healthy palm tree should be rounded. No leaves with tips above the horizontal plane (9:00 and 3:00 positions on a clock face) should be removed.

Removal of completely dead leaves and flower and fruit stalks from palms is never a problem. However, half-dead or discolored lower leaves are a symptom of K or other nutrient deficiencies. Despite their unattractive appearance, these leaves should be left on the palm as they are providing K in the absence of sufficient K in the soil. It is preferable to treat the K deficiency with effective fertilizers to prevent these older leaves from becoming deficient than to cut them off, only to have the symptoms return.

Leaves should be cut close to the trunk, but never cut into the trunk with a machete as this can result in wounds that have been shown to allow Thielaviopsis trunk rot, a lethal disease, to become established. Do not pull brown leaves off as this can cause a
Mayor's Neighborhood University

I attended the Mayor's Neighborhood University kickoff bus tour. We also met Bob Buckhorn and the people who essentially manage the city. The bus tour took us throughout all the "Heights", Sulphur Springs, and Downtown Tampa. There is so much rich history here; it’s quite amazing.

The MNU is a city program aimed to educate it’s residents on how the city operates at all levels and to increase community involvement and awareness for areas of need.

I’ll share more details as my classes progress. It’s a 12 week program that runs twice a year. We meet every other week until "graduation" in December.

More info can be found here: https://www.tampagov.net/neighborhood-empowerment/info/mayors-neighborhood-university.

Lindsay Kelly

Fertilize quarterly. It is essential that 100% of the Nitrogen, potassium, and Magnesium in such a fertilizer be in slow release form. Florida’s soils have very low capacities to retain these elements in the root zone during periods of heavy rainfall or irrigation.

Kitty Wallace

 advertise here!

Do you want to advertise your business in our quarterly newsletter?
Business cards $40
Half page ads $60
Full page ads $100
*WCA members eligible for a discount
Email us here for details

Thank you to everyone that came out for our first Political Forum hosted by Wellswood Civic Association and Macfarlane Neighborhood Association. We look forward to our next forum in spring for the upcoming City Municipal Race in March of 2019!

Wellswood Real Estate News

Here is what’s for sale and selling in the Wellswood neighborhood over the last 3 months
Your Wellswood Neighbor and REALTOR

$210k is the average value for what homes in Wellswood have sold for in the past 3 months

*October 2021

FOR SALE

Jessica Scriverani
Licensed Real Estate Agent
845-342-8665
JessicaSellingGB.com
www.SellingGB.com

12 Homes SOLD

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2 Homes UNDER CONTRACT

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Would you like to know what your home is currently worth?
Call Jessica Scriverani to receive a FREE market Report/Value on your home!

Click here for information on renting the Civic Center

Wellswood Civic Association Membership Form

Name _____________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
Phone Number _______________________ email ________________________________
(email address will NOT be shared)

MISSION:
It is the mission of the Wellswood Civic Association to preserve and protect the integrity of this historic community and enhance the quality of life for its residents.

ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY $20 PER FAMILY
Please make your check payable to the Wellswood Civic Association Mail to 4806 Wishart Blvd. 33603, or drop into the mail slot on the door of the Civic Center. Dues have remained the same for over 40+ years and are due in January. Feel free to make an additional donation.

Thank you to our community partners who make this newsletter possible!
**Seminole Heights Family Dentistry**

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