



# TEMPLE CREST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Serving the Community of Temple Crest Since 1948

April 2007 • Volume 2, Issue 2

THREAT ADVISORY  
ELEVATED

Temple Crest Civic Association  
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### OFFICERS -

Terry Neal, *President*  
John Dausman, *Vice President*  
Missy Hoffman, *Secretary*  
Shelly Clark, *Treasurer*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 26th -**  
City Council Public Hearing on  
46th & Regnas

**May 14th 7 PM**  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION MTG

**June 11th 7 PM**  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION MTG

**June 14th -**  
City Council Public Hearing  
Racetrac Gas Station

**July 9th 7 PM**  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION MTG

### Use email?

If you use email regularly, please send us your email address and we will update you on neighborhood news that arises outside the scope of this newsletter. Send your email address to terryneal@terryneal.com.

Future plans for a dedicated Temple Crest website will allow you to view and download current and past issues of the newsletter, as well as stay posted on neighborhood news. ■

### Safety Watch

#### TIP OF THE MONTH - I.C.E.

Save emergency contacts in your cell phone under "ICE 1", "ICE 2", or "ICE 3". That way, In Case of Emergency, your emergency contacts can be accessed through your cell phone by responding emergency personnel. ■

## Message from the President



### WHY I'M REALLY ANGRY AT BUDDY JOHNSON...

*...and why I hope, after reading this, you will be too.*

### I need your help.

Something unexpected happened to me while walking the neighborhood asking people to vote in the city run-off elections. Over and over again I was asked, "Where do we vote?" or "Why don't we vote at the clubhouse anymore?" One neighbor even told me she couldn't vote anymore. Hooked up to oxygen and on a walker, she said she had no way to get to the new polling place. Before, she continued, I could at least walk over to the clubhouse and vote.

**Two** issues ago I tried to answer your questions about how the Supervisor of Elections pulled a fast one on Temple Crest, moving the polling location from our clubhouse on Miller Avenue. Never giving us chance to comply, their office stated we were not compliant with ADA laws.

What infuriated me, and should make you angry as well, is that we were never given a chance to comply with the requirements for persons with disabilities. The law required Buddy Johnson to offer the opportunity to us...and he didn't. The Civic Association would have put in the parking spaces if we had been told.

### And so the decades long tradition of voting at the clubhouse ended.

The real kick-in-the-pants to all of us however came in a recent newsletter from the Supervisor of Elections. I'm including excerpts from the newsletter in the article box here above right. It speaks for itself.

### FROM BUDDY JOHNSON'S NEWSLETTER THE VOTERS' VOICE!

"ALL POLLING PLACES ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE."

The article stated that "Buddy Johnson and his staff are especially concerned that every precinct is accessible to voters with special needs...Johnson put Manager Rich Cervetti in charge of ensuring ADA compliance, and Cervetti came up with several innovative and cost-effective ideas to help voters with special needs."

Continuing, "The biggest concern...was handicapped parking...some 57 polling places had no paved parking for handicapped vehicles. Since most polling sites are not public buildings, Cervetti had to either find other sites or come up with a temporary fix. His temporary fix turned out to be a simple and inexpensive solution of strong, reusable plastic tiles that fit together much like Lego blocks. Easy to set up, the tiles create a smooth pathway for voters who use canes, walkers or wheelchairs."

**Now get this:** "Crews from the elections office set up these pathways at 19 current polling places the day before an election."

**That's right! Your tax dollars paid for these solutions!**

Now we find out that, while other polling places had the same issues as our clubhouse, Buddy Johnson went to the trouble to not only FIND a solution but he PROVIDED a solution for them... BUT NOT FOR US!

### So here's where I need your help!

Call the Supervisor of Elections office at 813-272-7043, e-mail him at voter@hillsboroughcounty.org, fax a letter to 813-272-7043 or write him at the County Center, 16th Floor, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33602.

Contact Buddy Johnson and demand that our Civic Association building be restored as the official polling place for Temple Crest, as it has been for over 50 years. Tell him to put things right. □

*Terry Neal* ♦ President

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## HOME BUSINESSES AND CITY CODE

Recently, a resident inquired about home businesses. Gloria Moreda, the City of Tampa's Land Development Department Head wrote back with the following information. I found it so informative that I am including her response in this newsletter.

A home occupation is a special use 1 in residential districts. A special use 1 is reviewed administratively by the Zoning Administrator for compliance with the special use criteria, 27-272. See Below. If the criteria is not met, the ZA will deny the petition. The petitioner could appeal the decision to City Council, which is a noticed public hearing similar to the Special 2 process (only typically held in the day time). Section 27-272. Regulations governing individual special uses. **Home occupation. The following specific standards shall be used in deciding an application for approval of this use:**

- a. A home occupation shall include but not be limited to the following: domestic crafts such as seamstress, sewing, tailoring, weaving, washing and ironing, beauty and barber shops (one-chair operations only), dog grooming (provided no overnight keeping of animals), repair of small household appliances, private tutoring and instruction (limited to five (5) pupils at any one (1) time) and professional services.
- b. No persons shall be employed other than members of the immediate family residing on the premises.
- c. The use of the dwelling unit for the home occupation shall be clearly incidental and secondary to its use for residential purposes. Not more than twenty-five (25) percent of the floor area of the dwelling unit shall be used in the conduct of the home occupation, and no outside display, storage or use of land is permitted.
- d. There shall be no change in the outside appearance of the building or premises as a result of such occupation with the exception of a nameplate, which shall be attached to the principal structure, shall not be illuminated and whose maximum size shall not exceed two (2) inches by twelve (12) inches.
- e. No home occupation shall be conducted in any accessory building.
- f. No mechanical equipment shall be used for storage on the premises, except such that is normally used for purely domestic or household purposes, nor shall it create noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses outside the dwelling unit. In the case of electrical interference, no equipment or process shall be used which creates visual or audible interference in any radio or television set off the premises or causes fluctuations in line voltage.
- g. No commodity shall be sold on the premises nor displayed or warehoused on the premises for sale elsewhere.
- h. No traffic shall be generated by such home occupation in greater volume than would normally be expected in the neighborhood.
- i. A home occupation shall not be interpreted to include activities such as but not restricted to auto repair and tune-up, clinics, welding shops, animal hospitals or kennels.
- j. The use can qualify for all local, state and federal licenses, certificates and permits. □

## GOT CITED BY CODE ENFORCEMENT? HERE'S SOME HELP!

Teenagers and their adult leaders from parishes all over the U.S. will spend four sweaty days of heavy outdoor labor and service projects to help those in need, including residents needing help complying with code enforcement. These teens are participating in the weeklong Catholic H.E.A.R.T. (Helping Everyone Attain Repairs Today) Work-camp. This service camp week aims to serve those who do not have the money or health to do projects such as fixing up their house, and cleaning up outside.

On June 10, 2007 we are expecting approximately 250 youth and youth leaders to arrive in Tampa to begin their week of service through the Department of Code Enforcement. The Catholic H.E.A.R.T. Work-camp is two-fold. First of all, it gives teens an opportunity to serve the elderly, disabled, and those who cannot afford needed repairs. Secondly, it will spiritually enrich the lives of the participants, and to provide them opportunities to experience God's love in a deeper manner. Projects include painting, outdoor yard work, planting flowers, indoor cleaning, minor construction, maintenance repairs, and weatherization.

The local manager for the Tampa Catholic HEART Work-camp is Pamela Brewer. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Pam at home 813-740-9871, and cell 813-624-3660. During the week of June 10 - June 15 you can contact her at Mary Help of Christian School at 813-626-6191.

To learn more about the project called Catholic H.E.A.R.T. Work-Camp, visit [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://www.heartworkcamp.com). □

# THE CODE ENFORCEMENT JOURNEY

## CHAPTER 2 *by Richard Formica*

Last issue we discussed why there are so many Code Enforcement rules. Now let's address two comm code enforcement violations and the process when a citation is written. The first most common violation is excessive noise.

Section 14-151 of Tampa city code states that, "...it is unlawful for any person(s) to permit, cause, amplify, create, emit, or sustain excessive noise on any property located in the City of Tampa."

Noise is defined by decibels levels. The time of day determines the level of allowable decibels. The problem confronting law enforcement is measuring the decibels before a citation can be issued. For a citizen, the rule of thumb is that the decibels are above the legal limit if it loud enough to be heard beyond 25 feet. When in doubt ... call the authorities.

The second most common code violation is graffiti. Section 19-57 of Tampa city code states, "...it is unlawful for any person to write, paint, inscribe, scratch, scrawl, spray, place or draw graffiti of any type on any public or private building, structure or any other real or personal property..."

Additionally, as the code further elaborates, "...it is unlawful for any person owning property, acting as manager or agent for the owner of the property, or in possession or control of property to fail to remove or effectively obscure any graffiti upon any public or private building, structure or other real or personal property."

If you are not able to remove graffiti because of financial or physical problems, the City of Tampa has graffiti removal programs. Call the Office of Neighborhood Relations to see if you meet the qualifying requirements.

So what if you receive a code enforcement citation? Citations are issued by many sources, primarily area inspectors or complaints by residents to the City Council, the Mayor's office, or directly to Code Enforcement. Once a citation is issued, you will be notified by regular mail or hand delivery. You have 14 days to correct the problems. There will then be a re-inspection. If you pass this second inspection, the case is closed. If not, you will notified by certified mail that you failed and why. You will have 21 days to correct the violation before a third inspection occurs.

Failure of the third inspection can trigger several possible resolutions, as determined by the inspector, and depending upon the circumstances as follows:

- an appearance before the Code Enforcement Board. This involves several steps, including a first appearance before a Hearing Master who may resolve the case before it actually proceeds to the Board; or
- sent to criminal court for resolution; or
- if the homeowner has a proven financial, medical, or physical hardship the case may sent for diversion services.

Resolution to code violations can take place quickly or last several months.

As with any neighborhood, Temple Crest has a diverse population of residents, some who care about their property and others who do not. For those of us who do care, in most cases all it takes to avoid a violation is to keep the grass mowed, the litter picked up, the house painted and in good repair. □



## FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

### CITY

Building Permits (Residential)	259-1775
Building Permits (Commercial)	259-1750
Cable Communication (City)	274-8217
Clean City Division	931-2140
City Council	274-8131
Code Enforcement	274-5545
Convention Center Info	274-8511
Ditch Cleaning (Stormwater)	274-8588
Fire Department Information	274-7000
Mayor's Office	274-8251
306 East Jackson Street • Tampa, Florida 33602	
Pam Iorio, Mayor	Fax 274-7050
Neighborhood Action Line	274-7734
Neighborhood & Community Relations	274-7835
Occupational Licenses	274-8751
Park & Picnic Reservations	931-2121
Pot Holes	274-8197
Public Works Emergency After Hours	
24 hour line	622-1940
Recycling Services	348-1142
Service & Information Desk	274-8211
Stormwater – Emergency Drainage & Flooding 24 hour line	622-1901
S.W.E.E.P (formerly N.E.A.T.)	348-1111

### TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency Dispatch	231-6130
District Three (includes Temple Crest)	
Information/Switchboard	276-3200
Crime Prevention	276-3429
Records Section - Accident	276-3242
Records Section - Criminal	276-3245
Robbery / Homicide / Assaults	276-3564
Auto Theft / Hit & Run	276-3564
Narcotics	276-3606
Detox Center	238-9505
Neighborhood Watch District 3	276-3317
Parking Tickets	274-8177
School Resource Officers	276-3709
Truancy Intake Center	975-2018
Traffic Signals (Out)	274-8197
Wastewater Emergency Repair & Sewer Backup 24 hour line	259-1693
Zoning	274-8405

### INFORMATION LINES

County Information Line	272-5900
State Information Line	272-2500
Federal Information Line	(800) 688-9889

### OTHER

Bus Information	254-4278
Chamber of Commerce	228-7777
Downtown Partnership	221-3686
Election Information	272-5850
Health Department	307-8000
Light & Street Light Repair	223-0800
Mosquito Control	554-5025
Mayor's Beautification Program	221-8733

**www.tampagov.net**  
To email City personnel:  
firstname\_lastname@tampagov.net

### 1st Annual City of Tampa

# Clean City Day

## Saturday, May 5

**Raymond James Stadium**  
South Parking Lot

**Registration** 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

**Official Kick-Off** 8:30 a.m.

**Clean Up Initiative**  
9 a.m. to 12 noon

**Celebration with food and live entertainment at Raymond James Stadium**  
12 noon- 3 p.m.

**Volunteers Needed** to assist in ALL areas of the city: East Tampa, New Tampa, North Tampa, South Tampa and West Tampa.

For more information regarding this event or to become a volunteer, please call (813) 931-2187 or visit our website: [www.TampaGov.net](http://www.TampaGov.net).





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