

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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The Expansion: Finally Officially Complete!

Hidalgo County Planning Department just could not resist one last monkey wrench in the works! When we contacted AEP to install the final meters and turn the power on, their request was denied by the Planning Department because our new roads were not blacktopped! This was an interesting development as the previous two thirds of the expansion had already had meters installed and the power turned on!

Our intention has always been to blacktop the new roads – but we wanted the caliche roads to weather first so that they would be a better base for the blacktop. Another reason to delay blacktopping is to allow the trenches for the water pipes and electric cables to properly settle, thus avoiding ruts from developing in the new blacktop roads. Previously the Planning Department had given us permission to postpone the blacktopping until October of 2012.

After some letter writing and many hours spent with the Planning Department and Health Department reminding them of their previous agreements, they eventually authorized AEP to install the meters and turn the power on.

That should have been “The End” but once again the job couldn’t be done without first hitting a road block. This time it was typographical errors from the Planning Department to AEP, and then AEP having communication problems with their technician. It took three weeks but finally the last of the meters have been installed and the power turned on! This is now the end of all the official dealings with the authorities!

We thank our volunteers who had all the RV power boxes wired in anticipation of the meters being installed and the power turned on. We also thank our resident volunteers who went to work as soon as AEP left the grounds and immediately installed these power boxes onto the power pedestals. Great job guys!

But we were not finished with what we wanted to do. We asked for volunteers to help plant 25 palm trees along the main driveway, and with the help of about 8 people a trench was dug, a watering system installed and the trees are now planted and staked. Although we have planted a total of 65 trees in the expansion area there is still additional landscaping to be done, but the weather has

turned too hot for transplanting, so we will wait until the fall to continue.

Again we extend our sincere thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with many different aspects of the expansion as well as our thanks to everyone for their patience, understanding and encouragement while the work was going on. We truly appreciate all of our Natures Family!

***Tidbits from Speckles,
Natures' Proud Cat!***



It makes me sad when my friends leave and go back to their homes up north. Although I miss them a lot, now I do have more time to laze around in the sun – and I enjoy that! But I am still keeping an eye on everything that goes on at Natures!

- During the summer Richard (& Barb) will be responsible for taking all the photos for Natures Tales. Thanks Richard! {Al & Jean will do this when Richard is away}
- People were busy planting trees again! There's a whole row of palm trees going up the driveway, and they are going to look great when they get big!
- Workmen were hammering and sawing and now Jane (& Jack) has a new studio room. I wonder how many first place quilts will come out of there?
- Once again Larry & Ed smoked the hams for about 40 people who attended the Easter Dinner. They smelled delicious! Thanks to everyone who made this occasion such a success.
- Repair work has been done on the billiard room and weight room doors.
- New mini blinds have also been put up in the billiard room and weight room.
- A concrete pad was poured, and thanks to our volunteers we now have a new shed for the ZTR mower and hand mowers. Great job guys! Thanks for all your time, work and effort.
- More concrete work! The tripping hazard between Lot 1 and the parking area in front of the office has been removed! Instead of the unsightly dip, there is now a gentle slope leading from the parking lot to the cement on Lot 1.
- Things are moving around again! The big notice board that was on the west side of the mailboxes is now located in the card room.
- Denny built two sets of new mail boxes where the notice board used to be – so now all the new sites as well as the pull-throughs and guest rooms will all have their own mailboxes.
- All the guest rooms have a new cabinet above the sink and fridge for the dishes and condiments. They look pretty spiffy!
- Mini blinds have been installed on all the doors in the card room so that people can play cards while other activities are going on in the clubhouse.
- The card room also has a brand new air conditioner. Now the summer folks will have a cool place to play cards or to

have their ice cream sundaes. Don't you wish you were here?

- What a nice surprise! Bob & Florence came back with a load of goodies for their house. I didn't expect to see them until the fall!
- Richard & Barb are repotting many of the plants around the pool. They will look so pretty when our Winter Texan Family returns. Thanks guys!
- Once again the killdeers built a nest in the Memorial Garden, and now we have some baby killdeers running around the park. I promise to leave the babies alone!



*Mommy Killdeer and Babies.
(Daddy was keeping the photographer at a safe distance!)*

- The kitchen has had a super good cleaning and is sparkling once again. Thank you everyone for your hard work.
- Poor JoAnn! She was bonked on the head when some vertical blinds fell down. I'm so glad that she wasn't hurt.
- Rick was in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and Tinka, and we hope that he will feel better soon.

- On Mothers' Day we all had cake and ice cream in the clubhouse. Yummmm!
- The 40 Live Oak trees along the west fence have been pruned – cutting off the lower branches to encourage them to grow up and over the fence! They were also fertilized. Grow trees, grow!
- We have some new annual members, Ron & Jill who have taken Lot #130. Welcome to Natures!

We're having a wonderful summer! Don't you wish you were here? I hope June is a purrrfect month for you! That's all from me.



Getting Ready for the New Season

The majority of our winter Texan family have left us and returned to their northern homes and activities. What they don't know is that as soon as they are gone the remaining folks at Natures immediately start working on getting the resort ready for the next season and making things better for them when they return.

When people come back in the fall they remark on how nice everything looks – but they have little or no knowledge of all the work that is done at Natures during the summer to make it look that way.

Although we are not tackling any major renovations or projects this summer, we will be painting the weight room, billiard room, card room, kitchen and all the external doors. The kitchen and library will be spring cleaned. The clubhouse walls will be washed down. The

chandeliers will be cleaned. All the lights along the paths will be cleaned and painted. The bars around the gate keypad as well as the gate will be painted. The orchard, memorial garden and plants around the pool and clubhouse will be maintained and watered. In the heat of summer this is a big and important job. Many of the plants around the pool will be repotted.

Trees will be trimmed, grass will be mowed (In the summer many times this is done twice a week!), the grounds will have a general cleanup, and a new shed for the lawnmowers will be built. In her column Speckles has mentioned other projects that have already been completed.

Four years ago we started a war against the ants. Although the war will never end, we have subdued our enemy and have them under our control. To keep them at bay our resident volunteers patrol the grounds and “feed” them when they try to set up camp.

Now we are starting a new war. Beware sandburs! Here we come! We realize that sandburs are a part of South Texas, but, like the ants, they are unwelcome at Natures and we are going on an aggressive spraying campaign against them.

And how is all this accomplished? The majority of these items are done by volunteers – the permanent residents of Natures. Although these folks often keep a low profile during the busy winter season, Natures Resort is their home, and during the summer they do an enormous amount of work to make the resort such a special place. We ALL owe them our gratitude and a huge “Thank You” for everything that they so willingly do. These

wonderful people are the backbone, heart and soul of Natures.

It's Fun Time!

Even though there is a lot of work going on at Natures, our residents, annual members and visiting guests still find time for fun.

Mother's Day was celebrated with a cake and ice cream social which almost everyone in the park attended.

On May 14th people gathered in the clubhouse for a fruit festival: Watermelon, cantaloupe and pineapple. The Rio Grande Valley has the most delicious tropical fruit at this time of year, so this event will probably be repeated!

Any excuse is a good reason for people to get together. On May 17th we celebrated the full moon with a “Full Moon Swim”. Unfortunately the moon was completely obscured with clouds, so it became the “NO Full Moon Swim”! This was followed by snacks and ice cream in the clubhouse.

On Saturday, May 21st, the clubhouse was the place to go for breakfast. A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast was enjoyed by 29 people.

On May 30th Memorial Day was celebrated by a potluck. This was attended by 39 people.

June is going to be a fun month too. Here is just a quick preview: Pizza lunch hosted by Tony and Pam, Hamburger cookout hosted by Mel & Randy, Sausage Gravy & Biscuit breakfast hosted by Al & Jean and ice cream sundaes every Sunday night. Come join us!