

NATURES TALES

10201 Monte Cristo Road
Edcouch, TX 78538
956-262-4014

naturesresort@gmail.com
naturesresorttexas.com
January, 2011

The Expansion

The expansion is still grinding along at a snail's pace. Eleven of the 40 sites have sewer and water completed and electric cables leading to them. We are waiting (and waiting) to have the final electric hook-up for them.

The Planning Department, who gives approval for the final electric hook-up, continues to astound us. We filled out the necessary paperwork, gave them a check, and waited. Nothing happened.

When we called about the delay we were told that they did not have the architect drawings (the same drawings that we gave to them months previously in order to get their approval for us to commence with the expansion!) We emailed the drawings to them – again – and waited. Nothing happened.

When we called we were told that everything was in order, but the paperwork required the supervisor's signature – and the supervisor was sick and not in the office! And so we wait some more! After the supervisor has signed the paperwork it will be sent to AEP who does the actual work. Experience says "Don't get excited – AEP is sure to have their own set of delays for you!"

Once we have power to these 11 sites, 7 of them will be available for immediate use. The remaining four will have to wait until we have their access road put in – which cannot be done until we have all the water pipes across the road.

We are making progress with the expansion, but it is sooo slooowww!

CHRISTMAS IS FOR GIVING – and RECEIVING

By MarySue

Natures Resort "adopted" a family for Christmas this year. We're well aware that there are many needy families around us in this community. But we didn't know how to identify just one to receive our donated gifts to brighten their holiday.

The organist at the little Methodist church in Edcouch is an administrator in a public school system in Monte Alto, just a few miles north of the park. She was glad to help us and suggested a family in that community whose five oldest children are students in her school.

The names, ages and clothing sizes of the father, mother and six children were shared Natures residents. The children, four girls and two boys, ranged in age from 18 months to 16 years. Gifts began to pour in. There were dolls, stuffed animals, hand made foam rubber blocks, coats and clothing for each family

member, paper towels, toothbrushes, soap, blankets, and other essentials. Donated cash and gift cards made sure that the family could purchase anything that had been overlooked.

Canned or non-perishable food filled several boxes. Norm and Sheila, however, wanted to be sure that there would be enough to feed this large family. Off to a near-by grocery they went to shop for their gifts. Up and down the grocery aisles they searched, surveying the wide assortment of foods available. The longer they looked, the more confused they got.

Finally, they decided to ask an expert for help. They approached a fellow shopper – a Hispanic woman – and said, "Excuse us. We're from northern California and we're trying to help out a needy family in this community for Christmas. But we don't know what kind of food would be suitable for them. Can you help us choose foods that they would like to eat?"

The unknown lady shopper replied with a smile, "But, of course. Come with me." She led them to the aisle of Hispanic foods and pointed out the preferred types of beans, large bags of rice, salsa, vegetables and fruits that are local favorites.

She guided them patiently as they put into their shopping cart large quantities of the foods she had suggested, including a big bag of dried hot peppers and some candy for the children! They thanked her repeatedly for her help. Only when Norm and Sheila headed for the check-out line did their Hispanic food consultant resume her own personal grocery shopping.

Christmas is a time for giving. But, sometimes, being willing to receive – at least guidance and help – results in an even better gift to give!

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat!

Phew! December was a busy month! Dances, dinners, cookies, gifts! It's not an easy thing for one little cat to keep up with all the fun things going on at Natures!

- The ants ate ALL the leaves off Ellis & Barb's' orange tree. All that was left was one orange! It looked like a sad Charlie Brown Christmas tree with one ornament!

- Dr. Lin, a dermatologist, spoke to everyone about protecting skin from the sun, and then he did a skin screening for anyone who was interested. He didn't need to check me because my fur protects me from the sun!
- Ellis & Barb have a new tile floor in their Texas room. It looks fantastic!
- The impromptu craft fair showed off our very talented members.
- The Christmas Gift Exchange started with some peaceful traditional Christmas Carols and Bruce told everyone about the family we adopted for Christmas. Then we started our gift exchange and all the nice people here went crazy, running around the clubhouse stealing each other's gifts. I never saw such a thing!
- What yummy looking cookies at the Christmas Cookie Exchange. If you didn't take part you missed out on some good munchies!
- Beautiful sounds came from the clubhouse. It was a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. That's how to get into the true spirit of Christmas!
- Christmas Dinner was amazing. Hams were provided and everyone brought a dish to share so there was a huge variety and abundance of food. Everyone had a real feast. I think they all went home for a nap after dinner!
- Bill R is looking less like an Egyptian mummy than he did a couple of weeks ago. It's good to see the bandages getting smaller and smaller.

- More good news – After weeks of being shut in because of a broken ankle and leg, it was wonderful to see Rebecca being taken for a ride around the park, and to see her out at the dance and Christmas Dinner. I can't wait to see her walking, swimming and dancing again!
- Brad & Janice have poured their slab in the expansion area – the first to go in! There are other people ready to pour, but they have to wait until the roads in front of their lots are finished.
- Have you seen the nifty new height adjustable shower head in the outside showers? Leroy put that up for us! Thanks Leroy!
- We are all so sad that Dave and Evie will be leaving to take care of family up north. All the puppies are going to miss the treats that they always had ready for them.
- Larry got to use the BIG smoker that Bill S made. He smoked 10 hams (all at the same time) for Christmas dinner. Thank you Larry! The ham was delicious!

That's all from me. I'm hoping for purrrfect weather in January!



It's A New Year!

Looking back on the 'old' year, all that we, the owners, see is frustration, frustration and more frustration! The expansion caused more headaches, tension and utter frustration than any of us want to remember! However,

when we push all that aside we are able to see the other side of the coin.

Over the past three years Natures has grown beyond our wildest expectations. Although this is good for business, sometimes rapid growth can be harmful to the family atmosphere that we have treasured here at Natures. Phase I and II (the developed part of Natures) was booked solid for the winter months and, because of the delays in the expansion we were forced to turn many people away.

We hate to turn people away, and were disappointed that the expansion project ran into so many delays. However, there is a good side to this. Not having the capacity for extra people has given us a moment to stop and smell the roses. It has given us one season for 'new' faces to become 'old' faces, for new friendships to blossom, and for all of us to get to know everyone so that we remain 'the Natures family'.

We are grateful for this wonderful family who step up to the plate each time that someone is hurting or needs help. We thank you for being a part of Natures, and wish you good health, happiness and contentment in the coming year.

January Special Events

- 2nd Farewell for Dave & Evie. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 3rd Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you haven't signed up there are still some time slots available.
- 4th Men's Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. See bulletin board for details.

5th Green Mountain Energy. 10:00 a.m.
Green Mountain is giving a presentation
of their rates etc.

9th Birthday Party 6:30 p.m. Join us for
cake and ice cream to celebrate all the
January birthdays and anniversaries.

11th Fun Run SPI Ride \$11.00 per person
(includes lunch). Buy tickets from
Danny or Jan #64.

13th Dance 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Music
provided by Heartland Express – a 5
piece band.

15th Members Meeting. 9:00 a.m. If you are
at Natures, you are a member and your
attendance is helpful in deciding future
activities. Coffee and Donut provided.

20th Spaghetti Dinner. See Bulletin Board
for details.

28th Dance 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Music
provided by Renaissance Rockers.

Weekly Activities

Aerobics Indoors: – 9:00 a.m. Tuesday &
Thursday – Clubhouse

Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. Monday – Gazebo

Bike Rides: 9:00 a.m. Thursday. Meet on the
north side of the clubhouse

Bingo: 6:15 p.m. Clubhouse (Starts at 7 pm)

Camp Fire: 4:30 p.m. Friday. Bring hotdogs
to cook over the fire, buns, chairs etc

Euchre: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday - Card Room

Line Dancing & Western Dance: –6:30 p.m.
Wednesday – Clubhouse

Men's Breakfast: – 8:00 a.m. every other
Tuesday – Details on Bulletin Board

Mexican Train: - 7:00 p.m. Monday – Card
Room

Quilting: - 10:30 a.m. Monday – Clubhouse

Sewing Circle: – 1:00 p.m. Friday – Clubhouse

Shanghi Rummy: – 1:00 p.m. Tuesday and
Thursday – Card room

Soup Supper: - 6:00 p.m. Monday - Sign up

Trivial Pursuit: – 6:30 p.m. Thursday – Card
Room

Water Aerobics: – 9:00 a.m. Monday,
Wednesday and Friday

Water Volleyball: Watch impromptu board for
days and times.

Wii Bowling: 3:45 p.m. Tuesday – Clubhouse

Zumba: - 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday &
Saturday – Clubhouse

Check the Bulletin Board in the Clubhouse for
additional information. Also remember to
check the Impromptu Board for any last minute
changes or impromptu functions.