

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## ***Happy New Year!***

A few more wrinkles, a few more grey hairs, and here we are looking at 2013! How quickly the year has gone, perhaps because of all the projects that were completed here at Natures during the past 12 months.

In a nutshell the major projects accomplished were to blacktop the caliche roads, seal the main driveway, cement all the paths as well as replace the cement around the petanque courts, put new windows in the north guest rooms, replace the cool deck in the pool area and re-plaster the main pool. Yes, it has been a very busy year!

However, on looking back on 2012 the most important accomplishment is not anything that the owners did or contracted to be done. It was, once again, what our residents, members and guests did. Prior to our expansion Natures was a caring family. Everyone pitched in to keep the park looking nice. When someone hurt we all hurt, or when there was a need people stepped in to help. We were concerned that with the sudden opening of a block of new lots we might become "the old folks" and "the new folks" and our family atmosphere would suffer. We are delighted that this has not happened! There are many new faces at Natures, but they have all been welcomed into our family and are simply "one of us", and now they are welcoming 'new' folks when they arrive. Our Natures' family continues on as strong as ever.

Our new family members either came to Natures with a volunteering spirit, or they were infected with it when they arrived here. They have joined the ranks helping with watering plants, keeping portions of the Memorial Garden tidy, hosting events, organizing

activities, and generally just pitching in where they see a need. As always, we are so grateful to everyone who volunteers as well as to those who are not able to volunteer, but are an encouragement to those who can. It is not Natures Resort or the owners of Natures Resort who make this such a great place to be. It is the people who spend time here, whether it is their full time home or winter home. We thank you all for lending a helping hand, caring about your neighbors, reaching out to surrounding neighborhoods, and for choosing to be here and making Natures what it is.

The owners would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May 2013 be a year of peace, contentment, joy and good health!

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

The season of over eating has come to an end, and now we are moving into the season of diets and resolutions for the New Year! Resolutions are okay, but dieting at Natures is close to impossible!



- There are some new activities at Natures. If you are looking for even more fun, check them out - two dart boards (in beautiful cabinets made by Steve) in the Billiard room and Pickleball on the shuffleboard courts.
- "Breakfast in a Bag" was a huge success. If you've never had "Breakfast in a Bag" you sure have missed something good! Thanks to Jim & Judy and all their helpers for a great event.

- Lots of people did their Christmas shopping at our Craft & Bake Sale. The clubhouse smelled of cookies and cinnamon rolls and the baked goods raised \$85.00 for the Monte Alto Community Center. We have very talented people here at Natures!
- Check out the new shed on Lot 220. I wonder if they are going to have dances in there?
- The Hello Jingle Bell Hop – with music provided by Ruthi – was a great success. Many thanks to Jack & Jane and their helpers for hosting the event.
- Donna in Lot # 81 has a nice new deck along with her newly added car port. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and take a look.
- That cement truck might just as well have its own gate code. Dennis & Francine (Lot 220) and Steve & Sue (Lot 312) have new cement pads.
- Crock Pot Pot Luck and Healthy Living Pot Luck – Seems to me that everyone really likes to eat! Thanks to Judy (Hootie), Joyce & Laurie as well as Steve & Jan for hosting the two pot lucks.
- Jeff & Kay did a great job in coordinating "Trim a Tree" and they and all the other volunteers made the clubhouse look wonderful for the Christmas season. Thank you all!
- This is strange, but true. Toni lost a diamond out of her ring. Everyone was hunting for it, and then amazingly, when Toni was sweeping off her back steps she saw a little sparkle – and there was her diamond! They actually found it!
- All my doggie friends asked me to thank Paula S for keeping the dog run nice for them and they also enjoy sending 'pee mails' to Sadie from the fake fireplug on Lot 17.

- A new house arrived at Natures, and Lee & Mary are the proud owners. Check it out on Lot 128.
- Investigating a lot of noise in the clubhouse I witnessed the strangest behavior. People were actually stealing other people's gifts, and the hosts allowed this continue. I'm told that the hosts did a great job, and that everyone enjoyed themselves. Sometimes I just don't understand humans!
- Christmas dinner was amazing. The hosts, Richard, Lee, Steve & Paula and all the cooks, decorators and helpers did a wonderful job. If anyone went home hungry, it was their own fault!
- For all you sleepy heads who don't get up early enough, I thought I'd show you what you are missing!



*Sunrise at Natures*

- Jay & Lee got a new house too – That's why they have such big smiles all the time. It looks really nice.
- Richard has been pulling his hair out trying to get the gate to work right. Thanks Richard for all the time that you have put into it. We really appreciate you!

That's all from me! I want to wish everyone a purrrfect New Year!



## ***Christmas is a Time for Giving***

Thanks to the many generous folks of Natures Resort, Christmas gifts and lots of food were delivered to families of the Monte Alto ISD community. Thirty-eight children from eight families received attractively wrapped gifts and all eight families received pre-cooked hams, bags of potatoes, bags of rice and beans, plus canned and boxed food, and some holiday treats.

Many thanks to the committee who coordinated and organized this community outreach. Another outreach will be organized in the spring, so watch the bulletin boards for more details.

## ***January Activities***

Additional details for these events are on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. Also, remember to check the Impromptu board for impromptu events or any changes.

- 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year Brunch 10:30 a.m. Hosted by Lauri and Joyce. Sign up please.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Swetsville Zoo video Hosted by Bruce & MarySue
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Blood Drive. Please sign up for this life giving event.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Show – Gordie & Debbie hosted by Frank & Ruthi 7:00 p.m. Clubhouse.
- 9<sup>th</sup>** Pot Luck hosted by Steve & Sue.
- 13<sup>th</sup>** Birthday and Anniversary celebration. Meet in the clubhouse at 6:30 p.m. for cake and ice cream.
- 19<sup>th</sup>** Members' Meeting 9:00 a.m. Complimentary coffee and donut.
- 19<sup>th</sup>** Dance 7:00 p.m. Renaissance Rockers Hosted by Sylvan & Sylvie
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** Baked Potatoes Hosted by Mel & Lauri. Please sign up.
- 25<sup>th</sup>** CPR & AED training. \$40.00. Payment due on 18<sup>th</sup>. See Judy – Lot 63.

**26<sup>th</sup>** Park Talent Show. Hosted by Hans & Hermien.

## ***Weekly Activities***

**Aerobics** (Low Impact) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 a.m. Clubhouse

**Bible Study:** Monday 10:00 a.m. Card Room

**Bike Ride:** Thursday 9:00 a.m. Meet outside the office

**Bingo:** Friday 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. card sales. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m.

**Breakfast:** Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Clubhouse. Sign-up.

**Campfire:** Friday 5:00 Fire Pit. Bring your hotdogs, buns & drinks and join the fun

**Texas Cards:** Saturday. 10:00 a.m. Clubhouse

**Country Western Line Dancing Lessons:**  
Thursday Clubhouse  
6:30 p.m. Couples Country Western  
7:15 p.m. Line dancing

**Euchre:** Monday 6:30 p.m. Card Room

**Happy Hour:** Wednesday 4:00 p.m. Sandy's

**Men's Breakfast:** Every second Tuesday. Meet outside the office at 8:00 a.m.

**Mexican Train:** Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Card Room

**Petanque:** Every day 2:00 p.m.

**Pickle ball:** Every day 10:00 a.m.

**Stitch & Chat:** Friday 1:00 p.m. Clubhouse

**Water Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:15 a.m.

**Water Volleyball:** Every day 2:00 p.m. Check the Impromptu Board by the pool for additional information.

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