

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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Our New Showers are Beautiful!

It took a little longer than anticipated and cost a little more than budgeted, but the job of tearing down and rebuilding the showers is complete, and the end result is stunning!

Whenever one tears something down with the intention of rebuilding it, one always hopes that there are no unpleasant surprises. Gratefully what we expected to find when the walls came down was exactly what we found - that the walls definitely needed to be rebuilt, but that there was no additional work that needed to be done.



Just a glimpse of what it will look like.

Richard had his thinking cap on for a long time prior to this project being started, and with his input it was decided that all the showers would have hand-held heads, and that they would be set at different heights. The shower heads look a little like an additional chapter in 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' - Tall showers, medium showers and short showers! So, like Goldilocks, you should be able to find a shower that is just right for you!



Tearing out the old showers including the cement floor

The tearing down part was messy, but the rebuilding was quite exciting as we slowly saw everything coming together.



The New Showers

The outside shower was tackled first and when it was finished we all agreed that it looked spectacular. Then it was time to start the inside showers which were to be done in exactly the same tiles and colors. When these were completed they also looked terrific - BUT they made the bathroom look drab and unfinished. So this was where the extra time and expense came in. It was decided that in addition to the showers, we would also replace the wall tile in the bathrooms.

Although this meant that we had workers around for an additional 8-10 days, it was worth it as the bathrooms look very good except for the ceilings! After the success we had had with the outdoor shower ceiling it was decided that the same type of ceiling should be used for the indoor bathrooms, and Albert showed a real talent for this type of work doing an excellent job installing the new ceilings.



The Job is Complete and the Showers and Bathrooms look Great!

As always, we would like to thank all of our family who are currently in the park for their patience and understanding as we worked our way through this project.

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat!

The sun is shining, the days are long and life is good! It might be quiet, but it's certainly not dull here! Here's what's been happening:



- The pool is the social gathering place on these long, hot days. My people enjoy bobbing around on their noodles and rafts for hours. Speaking of rafts, the great entertainment in the pools is watching certain people floundering around trying to get on to their rafts. It is a sight to behold!
- Another favorite event is the ice cream social every Sunday evening. It's a good excuse to get together with friends and enjoy a cool treat on a hot day. Thanks to everyone who has hosted or helped make the ice cream sundaes successful.
- Mel & Tamara invited everyone to a Meet & Greet to celebrate their acquisition of Lot #67. All those who attended had a great time, and it was a great opportunity to get to know Mel & Tamara a little better. I'm so glad that they have joined our Natures family.
- Another celebration was July 4th. It was too hot to barbeque, so we opted for Church's Chicken with side dishes and desserts. Lee & Mary did a great job of hosting. Thanks guys!
- I was so excited to hear Don's good news that his treatments have worked so well. We are all thinking good things for you Don.

- Did you know that Pony Tail Palms get a big, fuzzy bloom on top? Neither did I!



- Brad is our hero! He converted a lawn mower into a mosquito fogger! From time to time he puts the mower on the back of his golf cart and drives around the park spewing out a thick cloud of fog which is keeping the mosquitoes under control. Thanks for your ingenuity Brad. We ALL appreciate it.



Here comes Brad! There go the Mosquitoes!

- More Heroes! Some strong winds broke a number of big branches off our trees. Many thanks to those who helped with cutting them up and disposing of them. As always, our volunteers are AWESOME!
- We have a new pet at Natures. His name is Toadie and you are right if you guessed that he is a huge toad. Toadie

hangs around the pool at night, and if he sees people in the pool he hops over to the edge hoping that someone will look for a bug and feed it to him. As ugly as Toadie is, he is really quite cute, and much to his delight most folks are happy to feed him!

That's all from me. It's time for my lazy afternoon nap! Keep having fun!



The 'New' Natures celebrates its 7th Anniversary!

How quickly time goes when we are having fun! It is hard to believe that seven years have passed since those harrowing couple of weeks prior to us taking over as we learned how to take care of the pools, understand the gate system, get a grasp on the office routine, and drive the backhoe that had no brakes!

Many wonderful things have happened since that time. A lot of improvements have been made, renovations completed, the big expansion project finished and of course, the phenomenal growth of our Natures family, who are the backbone of Natures.

There has been a lot of work during these seven years, but it has not felt like work at all. It has been fun and rewarding because of the fantastic support and encouragement that we have received from all of our family as well as our short term guests.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has had a part in making Natures the wonderful place that it is. Your volunteering spirit, warm greetings to new folks, caring and helpful attitude to other members of our family have all played a huge part in making Natures successful. We are grateful to you all and are pleased that we too are a part of this wonderful family.

The Saga of the Agave

The Agave, commonly known as the century plant, sits quietly in the ground for many, many years, not doing much of anything, but when it is time to bloom it certainly makes a statement!



In April the 3 Agaves on Lot 110 each started sending up a tall shoot. For most of us, it was the first time that we had seen an Agave flower, so we watched it with interest. Up and up it went until it was about 30' in the air. The base of this shoot was about 8" in diameter - the size of a small tree!



Agave flowers - Perhaps not spectacular, but certainly unique.

Many thanks to Julia for these amazing photos!



We learned that once an Agave blooms the whole plant dies, but we were not ready for its sudden death! The flowers were not yet open all the way to the top when we noticed that they had started leaning a little. Within a couple of hours they had fallen down! From the pictures below, it is apparent that the Agave has a very shallow root system which is simply no match for the huge growth above ground.



As it went up it sent out some side branches with little knobs on the end, and slowly the knobs developed into buds. The buds were large, and we were expecting something quite spectacular. However, when they opened, there were no petals - just the stigma and stamens.



The Sad End to the Agave Plants