

NATURES TALES

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

LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

www.naturesresorttexas.com
naturesresort@gmail.com
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The End of the Summer Projects!

At the end of September we started our last 'summer' project - The Billiard Building. When the September/October Natures Tales went on line, we had the cement pad poured, and the contractor was just starting to put up the studs.

Since then a lot has happened. Once the contractor began the framework it went up fast. Richard was on hand throughout the whole process to ensure that everything was done correctly and to our specifications - which, as it turned out, was a good thing. We almost had only one French door opening up onto the pool area when our plans called for two! Thank you for your sharp eyes, Richard!



Up Goes the Walls!



Up Goes the Roof!



Up Goes the Framework!

We added a single door on the west side of the building to eliminate having tools and equipment scattered around on the pool deck and the need for the workers to be walking back and forth through the pool area, thereby making the whole work project less intrusive to our Natures family.

Much to the contractor's dismay, Richard's sharp eyes also noticed that the sheetrock work had not been finished properly. After the seams were re-worked the contractor chose to put a textured finish on the walls and ceiling making the end result very acceptable.



On Goes the Paint!

After more than 7 years, the clubhouse floor still looks good, so we chose to use the same floor finish for the Billiard Building.

We are almost at the end of this project now. The contractors have finished their part. As soon as the floor is completely cured Albert will put up the trim and molding around the doors and walls and we will hang the lights.



And the Building is Complete!

Next will come the interesting part - Moving the billiard tables! We have decided that, although we have many willing volunteers, it would be best to hire a professional to move and set up the tables. We are looking forward to getting this project finished and being able to open the building for some fun

Our Family Returns!

We have enjoyed a quiet summer here at Natures, spending time in the coolest part of the park - the pool - enjoying each other's company as well as the company of guests passing through. During the summer, a small group of men continued the Tuesday morning Men's Breakfast Out, and Mexican Train was played whenever there were enough people around to play. Two dedicated souls enjoyed yoga three times a week. Summer is a wonderful change of pace after the hectic winter season, but, after a time, we hanker for our Winter Texan family to return and for the activities to start up again.

Fall is definitely the best time of the year here. It starts with a trickle of people returning, and then it seems as though the flood gates have been opened as our Winter Texan family all pour back into the park. Everyone has tales of their summer activities, and everyone is upbeat and ready to have fun. There is electricity in the air and a feeling of great anticipation.

No sooner have people who hosted events last season come through the gate than the activity they coordinated is started up again. And, just as in the past, we have an abundance of people offering to help the coordinators. What an awesome family we have!

We, the owners, remain in awe of what our volunteers accomplish. There are so many activities and special events throughout the season, and they are so varied and diversified that there truly is something for everyone! Other parks have heard about the amazing volunteering spirit here at Natures, and we have been asked on several occasion how we get people to volunteer. Our reply is "We don't 'get people to volunteer', they just do because we have amazing and awesome people here at Natures!".

The task of overseeing and coordinating all these activities and special events is a huge one, and is superbly handled by the Board of the Fun Activities Association, elected by Natures membership. Collectively they spend thousands of hours behind the scene working to ensure that everything runs smoothly and that everyone is having an amazing season.

Our thanks go to the members of the Board and to all the hosts, coordinators and helpers for everything that you do to make Natures such a special place. We are grateful to each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that this will be another great season.

The gang's all here (except for a few stragglers who will be here shortly), the activities are in full swing, and the season has begun - so LET'S HAVE FUN!

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat!

It is SO exciting! Almost every time that the gate opens, I see that another one of my Winter Texan family has come home again! I'm quite exhausted from rushing around the park greeting all my friends! Welcome Home!



- If you see someone who used to have hair and now only has a few tufts of hair, it is Brad, our Wi-Fi guy. He is ripping his hair out working with our Wi-Fi provider, getting the system working properly again. Thanks, Brad, for the hundreds of hours that you have spent on this project. You are an awesome volunteer and we all appreciate what you have done and continue to do for us.

- What a big crowd we had for the Halloween dance! There were many wonderful costumes, great snacks, good music, friends, fun and dancing. Many thanks to Ken & Terri and their helpers for hosting the event and to Bruce for providing the music.
- Barry & Peggy are having a Texas room and carport added to their home. They are tired of having workers around their home - but the end result is going to be great.



A New Texas Room and Carport in the making.

- It was quite an exciting day. Three palm trees on Lot #79 were being displaced - and Duane, Lot #22, adopted them. He hired a professional to move them, and now his lot is sporting three mature Queen Palms! Duane has put lights on their trunks which makes his lot look very pretty both day and night.
- It's fun watching as all the activities start up again: Aerobics, water aerobics, darts, bike rides, country and line dancing, bingo, Wii bowling, volleyball, Wednesday happy hour at Sandy's and the Friday night bonfire. More fun stuff is added every week! I really appreciate all the wonderful volunteers who coordinate these activities so my family can have fun.

- Art & Terry, Lot 10, have been excitedly awaiting the 'birth' of their special order Corvette. I wonder if they will have to drag an anchor behind it to keep it under the 5 mph speed limit?
- Rick & Margie, Lot #72, donated a love seat for the new Billiard room. Although many people will enjoy this comfort, I'm not allowed in the buildings, so I won't get to sit on it. (*Sigh!*) Thanks Rick & Margie!
- More and more people are putting down their roots. Richard & Karen, Lot #136 poured cement. Tom & Kathy, Lot #302, poured cement this past spring, and now they are spending time sunning themselves on their new pad. Richard & Ruth, Lot #233, also have a brand new pad.

That's all from me. Keep smiling, have fun and make this a purrrrfect season!



Weekly Activities

Aerobics/Exercise:

8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday (Starts 11/17)

Bicycle Ride: 9:00 a.m. Thursday. See bulletin board for details of each ride.

Bingo: Friday
 6:15 p.m. Signups
 6:45 p.m. Signups end
 7:00 p.m. Bingo starts

Cards: 10:00 a.m. Saturday
 7:30 p.m. Every Day

Darts: 7:00 p.m. Saturday

Happy Hour: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday at Sandy's

Line & Country Dance Lessons: Tuesday
 6:30 p.m. Beginners
 7:00 p.m. Intermediate

7:45 p.m. Partner Dances
 8:15 p.m. Country Western Couples

Men 's Breakfast out: 8:00 a.m. Meet outside the clubhouse

Mexican Train: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

Petanque: 2:00 p.m. Every day

Pickle Ball: 9:00 a.m. Every day

Water Aerobics: 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Water Volleyball: 2:00 p.m. Every day

Wii Nude Bowling: 3:45 p.m. Tuesday

November Special Events

Monday, Nov. 3rd: Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 6th: Ladies Day Out. Meet at the clubhouse.

Thursday, Nov. 6th: 7:00 p.m. Karaoke Night

Friday, Nov. 7th: Craft & Vendors Fair
 8:00 a.m. Vendor Set-up
 10:00 a.m. Sales begin

Saturday, Nov. 8th: Beer & Brats 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come have some brats and sample beer & wine from all over the country. Keys & Strings will be providing music from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 9th: 6:30 p.m. Cake and ice cream. Come celebrate the November birthdays and anniversaries.

Tuesday, Nov. 11th: Men's breakfast out. 8:00 a.m. Meet outside the clubhouse.

Saturday, Nov. 15th: Fun Association Members Meeting. If you are at Natures, you are a member and are encouraged to attend. Complimentary coffee and donut.

Wednesday, Nov. 19th: Garage Sale in Clubhouse

Thursday, Nov. 20th: Garage sale on Monte Cristo Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 27th: Thanksgiving Dinner. See bulletin board for more details.