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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

It's time to be Thankful!

Last week we celebrated Thanksgiving, a day when we take time to be thankful for our family, friends, health and the material things that we have. As we think back on our lives, it is impossible not to also think of the many people who are not as fortunate as we are. So many people do not have family, or their health is failing or they simply struggle to survive each day because of the difficulties they face in providing for their families.

This is the time of the year that Natures reaches out to those in need. Monte Alto is a community only a few miles north of us and many people in this area are desperately in need.

Once again we will be reaching out to five families in Monte Alto with a total of 23 children. If you wish to be a part of this outreach program, next time you are in the grocery store purchase a few extra non-perishable food or toiletry items, and place them in the boxes in the clubhouse marked "Monte Alto"

In addition to the food we will also be providing all the ingredients for a Christmas dinner as well as Christmas gifts for all the children.

The names and ages of all the children as well as their wish list and the size clothing that they wear is listed in the three ring binder in the clubhouse. If you would like to purchase a gift or an item of clothing for a specific child, please sign in the appropriate column so that we can ensure that each child will receive gifts this Christmas.

Every year our Natures family has been VERY generous and we have been able to take a

trailer load of gifts and food to Monte Alto. Once again we are trusting that our family will come through to put huge smiles on many families' faces!

Tidbits from the Spirit of Speckles

Just about all of my winter Texan family are back, and we're having a wonderful time. Besides all of the usual activities, I'll try to remember all the other things that have been going on.



- That big ol' cement truck has been back. Doug & Joyce - Lot 15, Dave & Laurie - Lot 17, Mark & Patty - Lot 19, and Vicki - Lot 68 have all extended their cement pads.
- We are sad to see the beautiful quilts come down from the clubhouse walls, but will look forward to seeing different quilts next year! Thanks to those who displayed their quilts, and to those who did the work of putting them up and taking them down again.
- One of the favorite functions each season is the Beer and Brats Festival. Some people even changed their travel plans so that they could return to Natures in time to attend! Once again it was a huge success. Many thanks to everyone who brought beer and wine from their home towns, and to the organizers and helpers who made the whole event run smoothly and to DJ Dave who provided the music!

- The Natures Quilters made a beautiful mystery quilt that will be raffled, with proceeds going to the Fun Association.



Buy a \$2 ticket and win this Treasure!

- Jack & Cassandra (Lot 59) hosted and provided the music for the Veterans' Day Dance. A special tribute was extended to all the veterans here at Natures. Thanks to our generous Natures family, \$378 was donated to the Wounded Worriers Project - which was way over the goal of \$150 (\$1 per lot) Thanks Jack & Cassandra for a very touching and fun evening. Thanks also to those who helped with the set-up and clean-up. And a special thank you to all the veterans for their service!
- Two garage sales each year, and each time there is a mountain of stuff. Where does it all come from? Greg & Rainy, Steve & Sue and all their helpers have done an amazing job once again in organizing, sorting, pricing, selling and the final clean-up. Thanks you for all your hard work. Thanks also to everyone who donated items and to those who purchased the goods. Sales in the clubhouse amounted to \$823.75 and on Monte Cristo Road they made \$764.20 plus they received a donation of \$30.00 giving the Fun Association a grand total of \$1,618.95 which will be spent on more fun activities!

- The Blood Mobile came for the first of three visits this season. One unit of double red cells and 17 units of whole blood and were donated. Many thanks to everyone who came out to donate their life saving blood.
- What a wonderful celebration! Jay & Lee, Lot 305 invited the whole park to a big party in the clubhouse to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Jay's heart transplant. What a joy to be part of such a special celebration. I love you Jay (and Lee too)!
- Doug & Alannah decided to go back to the Philippians for a number of months, so we were all invited over to their lot for a 'send off social'. I know they are going to have a wonderful time, but I miss them already. Safe travels Doug & Alannah!
- It was sad, but it was happy too. We had a very touching Celebration of Life for Mike (Julia) and were given the opportunity of sharing stories of how he enriched our lives while he was with us. He is greatly missed and will always be remembered by all his friends here.
- What an incredible Thanksgiving feast we had. Hosts Greg & Rainy and Steve & Sue did an amazing job of coordinating all the helpers as well as those cooking turkeys, and making the dressing, potatoes and gravy. Added to this was an abundance of side dishes and desserts brought by those who attended the dinner. It was a wonderful spread with good fellowship. Many thanks to everyone who played a part in making this such a huge success.
- It's Christmas Time! As soon as the quilts came down a small group of volunteers spend a whole morning putting up Christmas decorations. Thank you so much for helping to get us in the Christmas spirit.

I'm exhausted from all these activities. November has been a busy month, and December will probably be even more busy! It's time for me to take my nap

Have a purrrrrfect holiday season!



December Special Events

Please check the bulletin boards for more details on these events!

- 2nd** Craft and Vendors Fair 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping
- 3rd** BBQ Cookout - Sign up required!
- 7th** Dance with Tony Perez Band 7:00 p.m.
- 13th** Birthday and Anniversary 6:30 p.m. Join us for cake and ice cream in the clubhouse to celebrate all the December birthdays and anniversaries.
- 14th** Dance with Ruthi 7:00 p.m.
- 19th** Fun Association Membership Meeting 9:00 a.m. If you are at Natures, you are a member of the Fun Association and are encouraged to attend. Free coffee and donut.
- 21st** Christmas Gift Exchange hosted by Steve & Jan, and Jan's elves.
- 24th** Christmas Eve Wine and Cheese
- 25th** Christmas Dinner. A Coordinator is still needed for this event.
- 28th** Dance with Lynn Dvorak
- 31st** New Years Eve Dance with DJ Steve

Weekly Activities

Belly Dance Lessons: 7:00 p.m. Thursday

Bingo: 6:15 p.m. Signup begins
6:45 p.m. Signup ends
7:00 p.m. Bingo starts

Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturday & 3rd Sunday. Sign-up required

Bridge: 11:00 a.m. Monday

Campfire: 5:00 p.m. Friday Bring your own hotdogs etc and something to drink.

Cards: 10:00 a.m. Saturday
6:30 p.m. Every Day

Crafting: 1:00 p.m. Friday. Bring whatever you are working on or just stop by for a chat!

Country Club Dance Practice:
7:00 p.m. Monday

Darts: 7:00 p.m. Saturday

Exercise: 8:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday

Happy Hour: 4:00 p.m. Wednesday

Mexican Train: 6:45 p.m. Wednesday

Petanque: 2:00 p.m. Every Day

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

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

Water Volleyball: 2:00 p.m. Every day (Check Impromptu Board for more information)

Wii Bowling: 3:45 p.m. Tuesday