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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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

It has been hot, hot, hot, but I find a nice cool place under the shrubs to watch as all my people head to the pool to cool off. That seems to be the social place these days! The park is very quiet, with our Winter Texan family up north, and now many of our residents have gone on vacation. However, there are a few things that have been going on that I can tell you about.



- What a lot of excitement! Rebecca & Willis were driving the Purple Peace golf cart up to the office and just when they parked it, it gave a "Pop" and smoke started to bellow out from under the seat! Willis ran into the clubhouse, grabbed a fire extinguisher, ran out again and found there were bright yellow flames under the seat! He quickly extinguished the fire. But then it reignited! He had to put it out three times before it stopped burning! Richard and Denny worked on the cart in hopes of resurrecting it. Richard eventually declared it dead, but Denny persevered, and weeks later brought it back to life. Way to go Denny! I notice that Rebecca doesn't use the Purple Peace golf cart anymore!
- Robert & Kathy were parked on Lot 0 next to a Killdeer nest and hoped to see the babies hatch before they left, but that didn't happen. Three babies hatched just hours after their departure!

- It took a while but at last Ron & Patsy's house arrived. Congratulations on your new home. We are so glad to see you putting roots down here at Natures!



*Another New Home!*

- Memorial Day was a special occasion to remember those who have fallen in action as well as to honor everyone who has served this country. Ken & Terri and Ken & Barbie hosted the Memorial get-together. Thanks for a job well done. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the Subs.
- There was a big celebration because the fence was still up - which seemed a strange thing to celebrate - until someone explained to me that it was exactly one year ago that there was a big storm here and the whole fence was blown away. I'm glad that we haven't had any more nasty storms like that! Personally I think it was just an excuse to have a party!
- Once again Al & Jean have been hosting the weekly summer Sunday Ice Cream social. Thank you so much for keeping the ice cream tradition alive. This was something that Frank really

enjoyed so we always think of him when eating our ice cream.

- Tony offered to bring some Lonches to the Friday fire, thinking that there would be the usual dozen or so people. That quickly changed as word spread. About 45 people signed up for the lonches, and it turned into a wonderful pot-luck hosted by Tony and his helpers. The lonches were delicious! Many thanks to Tony and all who helped to make this such a successful, fun event.
- July 4th was another great celebration with good food and camaraderie. Many thanks to Terry for organizing the event, and to Ken and Barry for braving the heat and cooking our hamburgers.
- We celebrated the 9th anniversary of the "New" Natures. This was when the new partnership with Frank, Bill & Sandy and Bill & Misty was formed. How the time flies! Once again we celebrated in true Natures fashion - with food! Yummy cake and ice cream.
- Some people amaze me. I heard music and voices in the clubhouse and was amazed to find that even though it is so hot we still have some people who are energetic enough to exercise and do yoga regularly. Way to go guys!

That's all for now! I hope all my friends are having as purrrrrfect a summer as we are here. We miss you!



### **Summer Projects - Part 2**

Some projects are more exciting than others, but all are important to keep Natures looking good, and a place we are proud of.

We have been busy with many maintenance projects: Checking the septic systems, cleaning and staining all the outdoor wood benches, trimming trees, repairing the roads and painting.

Besides the summer maintenance there have been other projects. One of the 'not so exciting' projects was to cement the dumpster area. Because of the weight of the trash trucks we had to put in an extra thick cement pad with heavier duty rebar to prevent cracking. Also, to prevent the trash trucks from pushing the containers off the edge of the cement, Richard and Al devised some solid backstops. The area looks much tidier now, and the days of muddy feet after the rain are over!



*Cementing the Dumpster area.*

Another huge project that we are working on is re-vamping the entire Wi-Fi system. As everyone is aware, with the many devices that people have these days, we have outgrown what used to be a good Wi-Fi system. Our aim has always been to have free basic Wi-Fi so that people can pay bills, do banking, and use their email accounts on the internet.

This is not a project that we started just this summer. This was started 18 months ago as we educated ourselves on what we needed, what was available, and how we could accomplish what we wanted. We looked into the possibility of getting Time Warner cable or fiber optic cable which would be a much cheaper and more efficient way of supplying Wi-Fi to everyone, but these options are not available now or in the foreseeable future. The only option that we have is to get the Wi-Fi point to point from a tower to us.

To improve our options and enable us to get vastly increased bandwidth we learned that we needed to build an 80' tower. Without a tower we would continue to be limited as to how much bandwidth we were able to receive.

Building this tower has been a huge undertaking. There are many different kinds of towers, most with guy wires that could create hazards for our Natures family, so we decided that we needed a free standing tower.



*The hole and footing for the Tower*



*Building one of the Sections*



*Filling the hole with cement*

This created its own set of problems as it would need a huge base to keep it stable, upright and safe. No matter what we did, the tower would not look pretty. We also had to take into consideration that cement trucks would need to be able to get to the place we chose. After considering many different options we decided the safest and least obnoxious place for a tower would be on the south end of Richard's Billiard Room.

The hole that was dug for the foot of the tower was 10 foot by 10 foot by 4 foot. To put that into perspective, it took two cement trucks to fill it! The next step was to build the above ground sections of the tower. This was done on the ground, and then a large crane was

used to lift them into place where they were bolted together.



*The first section going up!*



*It's high up there!*



*Hoisting another section into place.*



*This is the completed tower. The little dot on the top Ken, Lot 232*

The tower is now complete, but this is only the first phase of revamping our Wi-Fi system. The next phase is improving our ability to get Wi-Fi to each lot. There will be more about that in the next Natures Tales.