



# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## ***We are Thankful!***

Thanksgiving has come and gone, but it gave us time to reflect back on the many things we have to be thankful for.

Topping the list is our Natures Resort family. Over the past year I cannot count the number of times that I've received a helping hand with a task that needed to be done, or been given a hug or an encouraging word when I needed one, or had a meal dropped off at my door just because. And I am not the only one who has received these kindnesses. Natures is filled with people who go out of their way to help other members of our family with whatever their need is. This tight family bond is what makes Natures special, and each and every one of you are appreciated for reaching out in kindness to other family members.

Have you noticed that we have a flag pole again? We are for thankful for Denny who not only gave us a new flag pole, but also installed it for us.

We are thankful for the Fun Association Board who put in countless hours to ensure that our season is filled with an abundance of special events and activities.

We are thankful for everyone who coordinates the activities or hosts the special events, and we're thankful for the volunteers who help them. Without them we would not have dances, dinners, breakfasts, birthday cake & ice cream, Friday fire, darts, happy hour, petanque, volleyball, bingo and various exercise programs. We also would not have special events like Fun-in-the-Sun, spring & fall barbeques, and many other fun events.

We are thankful for those who volunteer in the background. Have you ever wondered who shelves the library books, writes trivia on the board, brings the Winter Texan Times into the park, maintains the dog park, scrubs the edge of the pool, runs the NR-Activities Google group? These and so many other tasks are done by people who are not looking to be recognized, but simply wish to do their part to help our Natures family.

I am personally thankful for Dan & Kelley who have helped me out so many times by fixing/repairing various things that broke or wore out in the park while I was without any help. I'm thankful for the staff at Natures. Valerie, Tony and Carolina all do so much to ensure that Natures is the place that people want to call their home, whether it is year round, six months or a shorter visit. Janice and Laurie, who help out by taking the phone in the afternoons are also greatly appreciated.

Life doesn't always turn out the way we plan it, but in spite of this, we have so many things that we should be thankful for. This is a good time of the year to stop, take a deep breath, and look back on all the good things in our lives.

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

Our season is in full swing, and it's a busy time for everyone, especially me, just one little cat trying to report on everything that is going on! I'll do my best!



- The RC race track is getting a workout every Sunday! Personally I wonder if some of the RC drivers should be allowed on the roads. I've seen some dreadful crashes on the race track! Even if you don't have an RC car, come out to the track and watch. It's fun! Every Sunday at 12 noon.
- One person's junk is another person's treasure, and we're grateful for this because it makes for an amazing garage sale! The tables were piled high with items donated for the sale. The in-park sales of these treasures amounted to \$1,075.75 and the tables were STILL piled high, which made for a good outside sale day of \$1,133.90 giving a grand total of \$2,209.65 which is going to pay for a lot of fun for all of us. A big thank you goes to the organizers, Sue & Steve, and Rainy & Greg and to their many helpers who spent a whole day pricing everything. There was another group of helpers who need to be thanked for transporting everything from the shed to the clubhouse, then from the clubhouse to Monte Cristo Road, and lastly transporting the items not sold to Monte Alto. The garage sale couldn't take place without all the donations, so we also thank everyone who donated items and as well as everyone who bought any items.
- The Fall Barbeque is a fund raising event for the Fun Association, but it is much more than just raising money. It is a great social event where friends can gather and enjoy a good hamburger or hot dog. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event as well as those who organized it. It was a huge success.
- Our Thanksgiving meal was a real feast, and if anyone went home hungry it was their own fault! Thanks go to the hosts, Jerry & Joan and all their helpers who did an amazing job of ensuring that the meal ran smoothly. Thanks also to everyone who cooked a turkey, and to

those who were on the clean-up crew. It was a great social occasion!

- Three Saturday's a month, wonderful smells come from the kitchen. Many thanks to the breakfast crews who do an amazing job of providing a delicious breakfast. Not only are these meals a fun social time, but they also raise money for the Fun Activities Association so that we can have MORE fun!

That's all from me! I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas, and enjoys all the Christmas activities!



### ***Upoming up: The Season of Giving***

#### **Monte Alto:**

In the past our Natures family has sponsored a number of families in Monte Alto to ensure that there is plenty of food on the table on Christmas day, as well as gifts for all the children in each sponsored family.

This year we are sponsoring 5 families with a total of 23 children. Details of the families and children are in the three ring binder in the clubhouse. If you wish to purchase a gift or clothing for one of the children, please write your name next to the item. Each gift should be wrapped and clearly marked with the child's name. There are boxes in the south west corner of the clubhouse where you may leave the gift. This is also the place where you may leave food and toiletry items.

A couple of days before Christmas Santa (Yes, Santa really does help us with this outreach) and his helpers deliver the gifts and food to the families. Santa usually causes quite a stir when children in the neighborhood see him, so he always has candy with him and will spend a minute or two with these children sharing his candy. It is a delightful experience

for Santa and the helpers, and is greatly appreciated by the families who we sponsor.

### Gift Exchange:

After we have shown our kind side by supporting Monte Alto, we show our 'nasty' side at our gift exchange. For an evening of fun, laughter, hopes and defeats, come to our gift exchange.

Each person brings a wrapped gift, and is given a number. The numbers are drawn randomly and when your number is called, you get to either choose an unopened gift on the gift table, or steal someone else's opened gift. Gifts can only be stolen twice then they become safe, so much plotting and planning has to take place in order to get something that catches your eye. This is when our nasty side comes out. Beware! Even your best friend will steal from you!

### December Special Events

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|-------------|------------------|--|
| <b>5th</b>  | 7:00 p.m.        | Open Mic/Karaoke                                 |
| <b>6th</b>  | 1:00 p.m.        | Days for Girls Workshop                          |
| <b>7th</b>  | 7:00 p.m.        | Dance Music by Gatos<br>Locos                    |
| <b>8th</b>  | 6:30 p.m.        | Cake and ice cream.                              |
| <b>11th</b> |                  | Christmas Parade.                                |
| <b>15th</b> | 7:00 p.m.        | Open Mic/Karaoke                                 |
| <b>16th</b> | 7:00 p.m.        | Dance Music by Steven<br>May                     |
| <b>20th</b> | 7:00 p.m.        | Christmas Gift Exchange                          |
| <b>21st</b> | 9:00 a.m.        | General Members                                  |
| <b>24th</b> | 7:00 p.m.        | Christmas Eve Wine &<br>Cheese                   |
| <b>25th</b> |                  | Christmas Dinner                                 |
| <b>31st</b> | <b>8:30 p.m.</b> | New Year's Eve Dance<br>Music by Tony Perez Band |

### Weekly Activities:

#### Monday

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|-----------|-------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Morning Exercise  |
| 9:00 a.m. | Pickle Ball       |
| 9:30 a.m. | Advanced Exercise |
| 1:00 p.m. | Hand & Foot       |
| 2:00 p.m. | Petanque          |
| 2:00 p.m. | Water Volleyball  |
| 3:45 p.m. | Wii Bowling       |

#### Tuesday

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|-----------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Pickle Ball           |
| 1:00 p.m. | Hand & Foot           |
| 2:00 p.m. | Petanque              |
| 2:00 p.m. | Water Volleyball      |
| 7:00 p.m. | Country Dance Lessons |

#### Wednesday

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|-----------|-------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Morning Exercise  |
| 9:00 a.m. | Pickle Ball       |
| 9:30 a.m. | Advanced Exercise |
| 1:00 p.m. | Hand & Foot       |
| 2:00 p.m. | Petanque          |
| 2:00 p.m. | Water Volleyball  |
| 4:00 p.m. | Happy/Social Hour |

#### Thursday

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|------------|------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Pickle Ball      |
| 11:30 a.m. | Veggie Joe       |
| 1:00 p.m.  | Hand & Foot      |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Petanque         |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Water Volleyball |

#### Friday

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|------------------|------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m.        | Morning Exercise       |
| 9:00 a.m.        | Pickle Ball            |
| 9:30 a.m.        | Advanced Exercise      |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Crafting in the Corner |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Hand & Foot            |
| 2:00 p.m.        | Petanque               |
| 2:00 p.m.        | Water Volleyball       |
| 5:00 p.m.        | Camp Fire              |
| 6:15 - 6:45 p.m. | Purchase Bingo tickets |
| 7:00 p.m.        | Bingo                  |

#### Saturday

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|------------|------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Pickle Ball      |
| 10:00 a.m. | Texas Hold'em    |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Petanque         |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Water Volleyball |
| 7:00 p.m.  | Darts            |

#### Sunday

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|-----------|------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Pickle Ball      |
| 2:00 p.m. | Petanque         |
| 2:00 p.m. | Water Volleyball |