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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY



Don't panic! Be Proactive! Be Careful! And..... REMEMBER SOCIAL DISTANCING

What is going on here?

*Editorial by Cally,
Natures Proud Cat*

Something very strange is going on at Natures. I'm supposed to give you all the news, but I just don't know what is going on. The first hint that something wasn't right was when I heard people saying that couldn't find any hand sanitizer in the stores. Then people were discussing toilet paper!!

Then I heard that the St. Patrick's Dance was cancelled! Why would it be cancelled? We ALWAYS have a dance on St. Patrick's day. For a moment I thought that my Natures Family had forgotten how to have fun!

Later on St. Patrick's Day I heard some music outside with laughter and other fun sounds and when I investigated I saw that my family was still having fun! They were dressed in green, and were all walking around the park a bit like a parade, but they were all spaced about six feet apart! It was a very strange looking parade but I was happy to see them happy!

Then I heard that the owners' appreciation dinner and dance was cancelled. How could that possibly be cancelled? The owners ALWAYS want their Natures Family to know that they are greatly appreciated!

And that was just the start of the strange things going on. I felt so bad when our Canadian family started packing up and leaving. Why would they do that? It was only the middle of March. They ALWAYS stay much later than that. They sure are a fun group of people and with them leaving it seemed that everyone was getting more and more sad.

Then things went from strange to weird! Misty asked people to pack away most of the chairs and tables in the clubhouse, and spread the remaining few out with big spaces between them. Where was everyone supposed to get together? Our nice clubhouse looked like a deserted barn. And the loungers outside were also spread out. It was hard for people to have a conversation with all the big spaces.

More new 'rules': No more than 10 people in the pool at one time. No more than 4 people in the hot tub. And only 3 on 3 volley ball. All these changes sure make this place seem very unfriendly - yet we are a caring, loving family. So WHAT IS GOING ON?

I think I have worked it out. People started talking about Corona coming to the Rio Grande Valley. Apparently he (or she?) is not very well liked, and nobody wants him (or her) here at Natures! So everyone is putting on a very good show of how unfriendly we are. I even heard Misty telling people that they had to practice UNSOCIAL DISTANCING. She seems pretty serious about keeping Corona out of the park.

This seems like such a lot of work to keep Corona out of the park. Why doesn't Misty just lock the gate so he can't get in, and let us go back to having the fun that we always have here?

I can't wait for Corona to go away so that we can get back to the way that things were. But until that time, remember UNSOCIAL DISTANCING. That will keep Corona away!



The Giving Nature of Natures!

"Days for Girls", an international organization dedicated to distributing reusable feminine hygiene products to girls and women around the world, has become an important part of Natures. A few years ago Pam, Lot 303, became involved with Days for Girls while in Canada, and when she returned to Natures she shared what she had been doing with some of the crafters. These women were immediately smitten with the concept of Days for Girls - giving dignity back to women in 3rd world countries who did not have access to menstrual products. And thus was born "Days for Girls" at Natures.

This small group, led by Pam, have been instrumental in producing 1,200 kits over the past four seasons, but they could not have

achieved this without all of the Natures Family chipping in. Many people donated money which was used to purchase fabric to make the kits. For the past three years Lynne has made a Queen quilt and some of the other prizes which were raffled and, thanks to the generous support of our Natures family, raised further funds for fabric purchases. The monthly Days for Girls workshops have been well attended, and mountains of work was done at each one to help make the components for the kits. A big thank you goes to the entire Natures community for their ongoing support of the Days for Girls project.

The winners of the 2020 quilt raffle are:
Bed Quilt: Linda (Richard) #222
Floor Mat: Skirt Boy Steve #116
Table runner: Joan (Jerry) #62

Congratulations to our Winners and Thanks to Lynne (formerly Lot 53) who made all the prizes

To date, Days for Girls International has reached over 1.7 million girls worldwide. Their goal is to reach Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

At our last workshop of the season we assembled 380 kits which were taken to the displacement camp at Matamoros. Next season will bring another quilt raffle, and, although Pam will not be here to lead the project, Days for Girls will continue on at Natures. Many thanks to Pam for introducing Natures to this very worthwhile organization, and for the great job that she did organizing the workshops and distribution.

Another ongoing project at Natures is having three blood drives each season. Many thanks to Ken, Lot 56, who arranges for the Bloodmobile to come to Natures so that we can donate blood without having to leave the park! At the last blood drive of the season 20 people volunteered to give blood and 24 units of blood were donated. These donations added to the previous 2 blood drives makes a total of 76 units of LIFE SAVING blood for the season. A big thank you goes out to all who donated at any and all of our drives. You really do make difference in the lives of others.

Tidbits from Cally, Natures' Proud Cat

March started like a regular month, but then many of our activities were cancelled because of Corona, so I don't have much to report .



- We had a spring barbeque which was a huge success thanks to the organization of Rainy & Greg and all their helpers who did the chopping, grilling, setup and cleanup. They raised \$334.00 for the Fun Association.
- Once again I'm amazed! We have two garage sales each season, and each time ALL the tables in the clubhouse, plus extra tables brought in are piled HIGH with people's unwanted treasures. Where does all this stuff come from? Sue & Rainy do an amazing job of organizing this event with the help of a small army of people who cart all the merchandise from the garage sale shed to the clubhouse, and then sort and price all the items. After the sale in the clubhouse everything left is packed up and the next morning tables and merchandise are carted outside for the Monte Cristo roadside sale. Anything remaining at the end of the second day is given to Monte Alto. Many thanks to everyone who helped with this huge project. The garage sale raised an impressive \$1,621.00 which will be used for fun activities that we can all enjoy.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all the donations from our Natures family, so a big thank you also goes out to our generous family and as well as those who just can't resist a good bargain!

That's all from me. Our season came to a rather abrupt end, but I wish everyone safe travels, and a happy and HEALTHY summer.



The Owners Appreciate Each and Every One of You!

The Corona Virus prevented us from having the Annual Owners' Appreciation Dinner and Dance, so the owners would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of their help and support over the past season.

The Fun Association Board has worked hard to ensure that we had a great season filled with a variety of weekly activities and special events. They were helped by a large number of people who hosted events or coordinated the weekly activities. And the hosts and coordinators were helped by people willing to set up or clean up or do whatever it takes to lighten the load. This is quite an army of people all of whom make it so much fun to be at Natures. Without all of you we could not have all the activities that we enjoy.

There are people who don't help with the activities as this is not their comfort zone, but they help out in different ways. Some quietly repair something that has broken, or make meals for a sick neighbor, or drive them to the doctor, or walk their dogs. Some prefer to be in the background and you may never see what they do - like picking up the Texas Times, re-shelving the books in the library, keeping the birthday list up to date, or running the Activities Google Group. The list is endless. Some cannot physically help, but they too play such an important part by their positive, encouraging and caring attitude, greeting new people, sending cards to people or giving a hug (prior to the Corona Virus) here or there where it is needed.

Everyone at Natures has played a part in making Natures what it is today. The owners want you to know that we do not take any of you for granted, and that we are grateful for all that you do. YOU are the most awesome family who has created a place that people want to come to. Thank you to each and every one of you.

On a personal note, Misty would like thank everyone who has been so supportive and encouraging while we negotiate the forced changes due to the Corona Virus. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.