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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

Tidbits from Zeus, Natures Proud Cat!

Oh the lazy days of summer! There is nothing better than finding some cool shade for a long afternoon snooze. But I do still have work to do, keeping track of what is going on here at Natures!



- Our brush trailer had reached the point where even I, just a little cat, was afraid that I would fall through if I walked on it. It needed a completely new bottom. Dan volunteered to take out the old trailer floor, and put in a new one, but even he was surprised by the sad state the trailer was in. Before he could put in the new boards he had to weld in a number of pieces of metal to reinforce the rusty frame. Thank you Dan for all your hard work. The trailer should be good for a few more years!



Dan, Working on the Brush Trailer.

- We celebrated the start of the summer season with a Memorial Day pot-luck meal. The Fun Association provided the meat for pulled pork, which Laurie & Dave cooked and prepared. Together with all the side dishes and desserts that people brought, it was quite a feast. Many thanks to Laurie & Dave and their helpers as well as those who helped with the clean-up after the event.
- It seems that there is always something going on making Natures a better place. A big crane came into the park and the people going up in the bucket told me that they were putting in new, faster WiFi access points.



New WiFi Access Points going up!

- Laurie is great at making sure that we eat and have fun! She organized an Appetizer Happy Hour. There was such an abundance of food that it was more like a two hour happy meal! It was great to socialize and chat with everyone. We also discovered that it was Dave & Elaine's 49th wedding anniversary. Congratulations Dave and Elaine!

That's all from me! I hope you're all having a wonderful summer!



Summer Maintenance

Each year we tackle various projects to ensure that Nature's continues to be a well maintained park that we can be proud of. This year we had 2 main projects that we had scheduled to be done during the summer when there are the least number of people in the park who will be impacted by the inconvenience.

Road Repair:

The road immediately inside the gate is an area that receives the most use and abuse. Any large vehicles, especially the trash truck, that come in and immediately make a left or right turn tend to tear up the blacktop, and it was time to have that area re-paved. There were also a couple of areas in the park that needed to be patched.



Tearing up the Black Top.

Obviously trying to pave immediately inside the gate is difficult. The road cannot be closed as access to and from the park has to be maintained. However, with a minimum of inconvenience to us, the workers did a great job allowing vehicles to go through while they were working. It is good to have this job behind us.

Big Pool Re-plaster:

Re-plastering the big pool is a huge undertaking and it had more than its share of frustration to our full time residents!

The pool was emptied, and then the noisy, messy job of chipping out the old plaster was started. Although the volley ball pool was available for use, the noise and dust created by the workers made it unpleasant to be in the pool area.



The Start of the Chipping



A Dry Pool with the Plaster Removed.

Once the chipping was finished, all the old plaster had to be shoveled into buckets and manually carted out of the pool and loaded in a trailer to be disposed of. Then the pool had to be washed and the last of the dust and sludge removed.

During this process we were frustrated to have a number of days when the workers failed to show up to work. This stretched what should have been about a week into two weeks.

That was not the end of our frustration. The workers did not do a very good job of picking up all the loose pieces of plaster, so Misty put out an SOS asking for help, adding a bribe of ice cream and brownies after the work party. Once again our wonderful volunteers came through, and in about 20 minutes, a large group of people had the bottom of the pool completely clean. This would have been a big job for one person, but was made easy and fun - there was a lot of joking and laughter - when it was tackled by many people. A big thank you to our volunteers for their labor, and to Laurie for making sure that everyone received their bribe when the work was complete.

The workers did a great job of chipping around the "NR" in the pool, but the turtles were a little more difficult, and there were a few amputations. Fortunately the amputated limbs were able to be reattached with surgical precision, so the turtles survived!

The next frustration was "the supply chain". The contractor was not able to get sufficient plaster for the job, so work was delayed for a further 4 days.

Eventually the BIG day arrived. Eight men showed up at 6:30 a.m. to plaster the pool. They worked almost non-stop until about 3 p.m. and the ugly pool was transformed into a beautiful new pool. Immediately they were finished, three hoses were run into the pool, and by 10 a.m. the next morning the pool was once again full, albeit with somewhat murky water.



Plastering the Pool

The final step was getting the water crystal clear and balanced and two days later we are again able to enjoy a snowy white pool filled with sparkling clear water.