



OFFICE: 8201 40th Street North • Pinellas Park • FL 33781 • (727) 577-9205

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December • 2016

**Issue 10
40th Year**

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GOLDEN GATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

8201 40th Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Paul Carter | President, Lot #87 | 577-7752 |
| Mike Sorenson | Vice President, Lot #433 | 568-9197 |
| Don Kuzmickas | Treasurer, Lot #140 | 579-9089 |
| Dennis Dufault | Secretary, Lot #245 | 615-974-9424 |
| Jim Alaimo | Director, Lot #433 | 735-2634 |
| Jane Hotchkiss | Office Manager | 577-9205 |

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Office Phone: (727) 577-9205

Office Fax: (727) 576-3287

E-mail Address: goldgateresassoc@tampabay.rr.com

Emergency Number: (727) 578-2891



FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Board of Directors meeting held on November 15, 2016, there were 10 shareholders present to observe the proceedings. Our financial report for the month of October 2016 shows that income for the month was \$33,296 with expenditures of \$25,735. The financial statement for each month is posted on the bulletin board at the rear of the hall for everyone to review.

The Board of Directors approved the following expenditures during the month of October: The purchase and installation of six fans for the Shuffleboard Court; purchase five tons of red lava stones for around the Club House; purchase a computer for the back office and; hired Forever Green to trim an Oak Tree on New Circle Drive.

BUDGET MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2016

Please make sure you either come to the meeting or send in your proxy so that we can have a quorum of Shareholders at the meeting and can have a vote on the budget.

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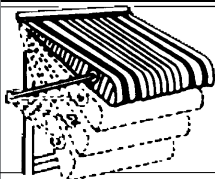
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RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first notice of the Annual Meeting to be held on February 20, 2017 will be mailed or distributed to all shareholders on or before December 20, 2017. This notice describes the procedure to be followed in qualifying to run for the Board of Directors. At that Annual Meeting, it will be necessary to (re)elect two directors to our Board. The terms of Paul Carter and Dennis Dufault will expire in February, 2017. They have served 3 years and are eligible to run. Jim Alaimo will remain on the board for two more years as his term will expire in February 2019. Donald Kuzmickas and Michael Sorenson will remain on the board for one more year as their terms will expire in February 2018.

NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION

Please remember to submit your proxy if you cannot attend the upcoming Budget meeting on 12/20/16. Your proxy counts towards attendance in being able to attain a quorum. Without a quorum, the meeting cannot be held. Thank you in advance for your participation



UNUSED ENVELOPES



The office sends out a number of packages each year to all residents for upcoming shareholder and budget meetings. To minimize expense, all materials are printed here. If you don't need or use the envelopes provided in the package, it would be appreciated if you return them to the office for re-use. Remember....it's your money!

NOTICE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Shut off water valves

If you are using the water outdoors, please remember to shut off the valve at the house instead of just turn the nozzle on the hose.

Reminder to all new residents the office does not send an invoice (bill) for monthly maintenance fees. Maintenance fees are due and payable on the first day of every month. Payment can either be mailed or brought to the office. There will be a late payment charge of \$1.00 per day, with a maximum of \$25.00 per month for maintenance fees received after the fifth day of the month.

COMMUNITY RULES REMINDER

Rule 8: SELLING UNIT: "Your unit may be sold only to persons who have first been approved by the Board of Directors. No more than two for sale signs per unit not to exceed 24"x 24", are permitted and if not in the window of the unit the signs must not interfere with law maintenance. Shareholders may sell their units or may utilize any outside brokerage service."



ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Any article submitted to the Golden Gate Newsletter should have the author identified. If you have a computer with an email connection, articles may be emailed to ggmedia@tampabay.rr.com, preferably by the Monday before the third Tuesday of the month. The Board of Directors' Meeting is the third Tuesday of the month and the agreement with the publisher gives us up to the day after the meeting to deliver copy to be published. If you don't have a computer you may continue to deliver a double-spaced paper copy, again, preferably by the Monday before the third Tuesday of the month.

LIGHT UP AT NIGHT

If you are riding a bike or driving a golf car at night you should have lights on so others can see you.

spray, beginning in May and ending in September. However, if you have ornamental plants that could be harmed by the spraying, you will have to make other arrangements, since we will not be responsible for any damages.

If you choose not to participate, the weed issue for planters and the front of your home will continue to be your responsibility, and be subject to the terms of rule #16 concerning work done in your absence.



SAFETY & SECURITY



“Remove It!!” “Lock It!!” or “Lose It!!” This is a new campaign to all Pinellas County residents to lock your vehicles. There have been a rash of burglaries to unlocked vehicles. Officers will be using notices on vehicles to instill upon the citizens to lock their vehicles so they won't become a victim.

PARKING REQUEST

Whenver you, your guests, or contractors need to park out on the street, please follow Community Rules!

- No parking on the sidewalks. Your maintenance fees pay for all repairs.
- Please use common sense and do not park near or on corners or close to intersections. We would encourage parking on the same side of the street to avoid traffic having to “zig-zag” to get by. This causes obstructions and creates a dangerous situation for cars, golf carts and bicycles trying to proceed by the vehicles.



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“TIS THE SEASON”

Just a reminder that once Pinellas County swells with our welcome “snow-birds” petty theft and vandalism tend to increase. It is wise to always keep your home and vehicle doors locked and lock up your bikes, trikes, tools and sheds even when you are home. As always, please remember there is no soliciting allowed in our Community and you should call the Police dispatch number 369-7864 to report all solicitors. Never invite them in to your home.

If you identify a maintenance item around the Community, please ask someone in the office (Jane or a member of the board) to complete a work order for Lam or Jim. This allows them to track, prioritize and complete their daily work load. Thank you!

BICYCLES

Please remember that bicycles are vehicles and must obey all traffic laws including stopping at all stop signs. This applies to residents and visitors.



REMINDER

The Association continues to collect aluminum cans for recycling. For your convenience, four (4) stations have been designated as pick – up areas.

- One is the trash building behind the Clubhouse.
- One (blue container) is in the east area of the Shuffle Court.
- One (blue container) is at the Maintenance Area.
- One on the rear patio.

Thank you for your contributions and cooperation.



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CARRIER

If you are returning to the Community after being gone for the summer, please put a note on the outside of your box stating you are back. Also please remove sticker dot from your box.

RECYCLING ON WEDNESDAY

No plastic bags please!

Aluminum Cans – Empty aluminum cans used for drinks or food. Rinse and crush if possible.

Cartons – Empty gable-top beverage containers such as milk, half and half or orange juice

...continued on page 10

cartons. Rinse and crush if possible.

Glass – Empty glass bottles or jars (all colors). Labels okay. No caps or lids.

Mixed Paper – Any clean, dry paper item that tears, such as white or colored paper, shredded paper, office paper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, envelopes, wrapping paper, or paperboard items such as cereal boxes. No paper towels or tissues.

Newspapers – Clean and dry newspapers (including inserts). No string or twine. It's okay to put the newspapers inside a paper bag.

Plastic Bottles – Empty bottles such as water, soda or mouthwash bottles. Rinse and crush if possible. No need to check for a number—just “check for a neck” (i.e., an opening smaller than the base). Bottles only; no tubs, cups or bags. Labels okay. Caps okay but remove the cap from the bottle so that liquids dry out. Place the cap and the bottle in the bin.

Steel (Tin) Cans – Empty steel cans used for food such as soup cans. Labels and lids okay. No paint cans. Aerosol cans okay. Rinse if possible.

TO ALL GOLDEN GATE RESIDENTS

We will once again be putting up the “Christmas Card Tree” for all residents who wish to express their holiday wishes to neighbors and friends by placing a Christmas Card on this special tree. This has been a Golden Gate favorite, and we are happy to continue this tradition. The tree will be located in the alcove by the patio entrance to the hall.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Since the Christmas season of 1999, Golden Gate has proudly sponsored the Angel Tree benefiting the needy foster children of our community.

Without our generous residents, hundreds of children would have a very bleak Christmas.

Each tag on the tree represents the wishes of a child. These are just suggestions to pick from. Once you have chosen a tag, sign for it, please gift wrap it and tape the tag securely to the gift then bring it to the office. They will be picked up by a representative of the Foster Parent Association to be distributed in time for Christmas.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Joan Glennon 578-4554





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Carol Zapiecki, Clearwater, FL

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THANK YOU

The Board of Directors would like to thank Hellen and Roger Bonenfant for their dedicated service to our community. Between decorating the front gate's Directory over the past three 1/2 years and Roger having served six years on the Board of Director's they have contributed to the making Golden Gate the place to live in Western Florida. Their selfless giving of time and wiliness to do whatever it takes to get things done reflects the best of the Golden Gate community.

We wish you the best in Tennessee and you well be missed!

The Board of Directors would also like to thank Debbie and Jim Alaimo for volunteering to continue decorating the front gate Directory!

2017 PHOTO DIRECTORY

By the time you read this article we will have had our first 3 days of photo sessions. Due to the several holidays in the next few months (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year) we have scheduled our next set of photo sessions for Feb. 9th, 10th and 11th 2017 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

Anyone who attends a photo session will receive a FREE 8 ½ x 10 photo plus a 5% discount coupon which can be used towards any purchase, if they so choose. No purchase is required. They will also receive our new color photo directory (with resident directory information in the back) plus a copy of the directory in .PDF format which can be used on your computer or phone.



Please call Jim Alaimo at 727-735-2634 to schedule the date and time for your photo session as dates fill up quickly. We also can give you a phone number to call to schedule your photo session almost anywhere in the United States if you are unable to be here when we schedule photo sessions.

GOLDEN GATE CHURCH - THE CHURCH IN THE PARK

We are happy to announce that are congregation is growing with the return of our northern friends. Pastor Bowers continues to bless us with his spiritual message each Sunday morning. Gail has returned and our choir did really well on their first Sunday back. The choir will be rehearsing on Fridays @ 2:30 pm. Pastor Bowers reminds us to always carry our swords to church, (your Bible).





BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|----|------------------|-----|
| 1 | Dennis Baker | 53 | | | |
| | Karen Jones | 82 | 19 | Jeannine Cyr | 15 |
| | Calvin Sauers | 233 | | Debbie Alaimo | 17 |
| | Thomas Sydeski | 28 | 20 | Patricia Lardeo | 311 |
| 4 | Sally Hervey | 149 | 21 | Donna Beach | 410 |
| 7 | John Bankhead | 289 | | Claire Bel Air | 122 |
| | Onaline Frye | 115 | | Susanne Johnson | 156 |
| | Raymond Hopkins | 27 | 22 | Geraldine Miller | 80 |
| | Frances Hogge | 239 | 24 | Joan Craig | 181 |
| | James Stephenson | 235 | 25 | Paul Barlow | 429 |
| 8 | Suzanne Gross | 128 | 26 | David Blakeslee | 66 |
| 9 | Paul Hamel | 432 | | Frederick Miller | 80 |
| | Patricia Thomas | 135 | | Shelly Wilson | 434 |
| | Rene Wehner | 112 | 27 | Arthur Braley | 406 |
| 10 | Sylvia Kellan | 117 | | Edna Payne | 186 |
| | Nicholas Pakidis | 308 | 28 | Sandra Noel | 246 |
| 11 | Bonnie Ernest | 427 | 29 | Susan Korona | 38 |
| 12 | John Kolodizieizyck | 229 | 30 | Dennis Dufault | 281 |
| | Ronald Sornson | 251 | 31 | Linda Baker | 53 |
| 16 | Sue Thompson | 271 | | Loretta Stacey | 52 |
| | Cyndi Wilhelm | 147 | | | |



THE GOLDEN GATE THEATER CLUB NEWS

By Charlene Whitehead, Secretary

As I write this newsletter I am so happy to be back for another season of Food, Fun and Frolic with friends here at Golden Gate.

Now that Halloween is over, Christmas will be upon us in the blink of an eye, so the saying goes.



Our Christmas Show will be the evening of Sunday December 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsals and costume fittings are well underway. Marie Avitabile -Vice President; and Paul Carter – President; have been busy working on this year’s Theater Club Shows while a number of us were back home relaxing with family and friends. How could we manage without them?

Christmas Flyers will be in your mailbox the week of November 21, 2016. There will not be any ticket sales, as this is traditionally our complimentary Christmas show for the residents and guests of our Golden Gate Community.

Welcome to all our friends Old and New.



**Lot Model Clearance Sale
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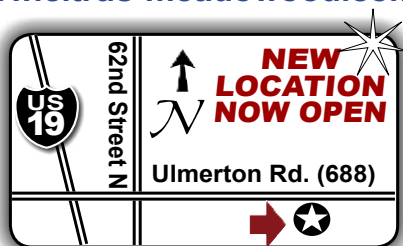
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CONCRETE WIZARD

DECEMBER • 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|---|---|---|
| <p>JANUARY 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p> | | |
| <p>8:45 AM Church Service</p> <p>10:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>1:00 PM Bocce</p> <p>1:00 PM Theatre Club</p> <p>7:00 PM Christmas Show</p> | <p>4</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> | <p>5</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> |
| <p>8:45 AM Church Service</p> <p>10:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>1:00 PM Bocce</p> <p>3:00 PM Scottish Club</p> | <p>11</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> | <p>12</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> |
| <p>8:45 AM Church Service</p> <p>10:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>1:00 PM Bocce</p> | <p>18</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM PM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> | <p>19</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM PM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> |
| <p>8:45 AM Church Service</p> <p>10:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>1:00 PM Bocce</p> | <p>25</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> | <p>26</p> <p>8:00 AM Pool Exercises</p> <p>8:00 AM Power Walk</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Line Dancing</p> <p>11:00 AM Friendship Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>11:30 AM Yoga</p> <p>1:00 PM Euchre</p> <p>1:00 PM Nova Shuffle Prac.</p> <p>5:30 PM Bingo Card Sales</p> |
| <p>Christmas Day</p> | | |

Golden Gate

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 1 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:30 AM Director's Workshop if posted 11:00 AM Nova Shuf. League 11:00 AM Hall/Nova League 5:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:00 PM Pinochle | 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 2 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM 5 Mile Walk 11:30 AM Chair Yoga 2:00 PM Horseshoes 2:00 PM Church Choir 5:00 PM Pot Luck 7:00 PM TC Chorus/ Dress Rehearsal | 3 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 12:45 PM Horse Collar Shuffle |
| Pool Exercises 6 Power Walk 1 5 Mile Walk 1 Friendship League 1 Hall/Friend- League Men's Club | 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 7 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM Labor of Love - Christmas Delivery 1:00 PM Euchre 7:00 PM Theatre Club Meeting Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:30 AM Director's Work- shop if posted 11:00 AM Nova Shur. League 11:00 AM Hall/Nova League 5:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:00 PM Pinochle | 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 9 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM 5 Mile Walk 11:30 AM Chair Yoga 2:00 PM Horseshoes 2:00 PM Church Choir 7:00 PM TC Chorus | 10 8:00 AM Men's Club Breakfast 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Cookie Sale 12:45 PM Horse Collar Shuffle |
| Pool Exercises 13 Power Walk 5 Mile Walk Friendship Shuf. Hall/Friendship Set up for Evening 20 Club Shuffle meeting | 14 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM Labor of Love 1:00 PM Euchre 8:00 PM Dance | 15 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:30 AM Director's Work- shop if posted 11:00 AM Nova Shur. League 11:00 AM Hall/Nova League 5:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:00 PM Pinochle | 16 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM 5 Mile Walk 11:30 AM Chair Yoga 2:00 PM Horseshoes 2:00 PM Church Choir 4:00 PM Happy Hour | 17 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 12:45 PM Horse Collar Shuffle |
| Pool Exercises 20 Power Walk Budget/Board Friendship Shuf. Hall/Friendship Nuggets Meeting | 21 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM Labor of Love 1:00 PM Euchre 5:30 PM WC Christmas Party 7:00 PM Women's Club Meeting | 22 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:30 AM Director's Work- shop if posted 11:00 AM Nova Shur. League 11:00 AM Hall/Nova League 5:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:00 PM Pinochle | 23 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM 5 Mile Walk 11:30 AM Chair Yoga 2:00 PM Horseshoes 2:00 PM Church Choir | 24 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 9:00 AM Christmas Brunch 12:45 PM Horse Collar Shuffle Christmas Eve |
| Pool Exercises 27 Power Walk 5 Mile Walk Friendship League Hall/Friend- League | 28 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM Labor of Love 1:00 PM Euchre | 29 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:30 AM Director's Workshop if posted 11:00 AM Nova Shur. League 11:00 AM Hall/Nova League 5:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:00 PM Pinochle | 30 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 8:00 AM Power Walk 9:00 AM Senior Tai Chi 10:00 AM 5 Mile Walk 11:30 AM Chair Yoga 2:00 PM Horseshoes 2:00 PM Church Choir | 31 8:00 AM Pool Exercises 12:45 PM Horse Collar Shuffle 9:00 PM New Year's Eve Dance New Year's Eve |

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GOLDEN GATE WOMEN'S CLUB

By: Pat Stephenson

The season is back in full swing. Activities are abundant in our community. The Women's Club is no exception. Our first bake and holiday decoration sale was a success. I'd like to thank all our fabulous bakers and members of our community for making them a success. The cookie and holiday decoration sale will be repeated at the Dec. 10th Men's Club breakfast. If you have any unwanted decorations, please contact a club officer. If you wish to donate cookies or a special baked good, there is a signup sheet in the clubhouse.

The December Happy Hour will be Dec 16th, 4-6PM. Bring a sharable appetizer and your drink of choice. The Women's Club sponsors the Christmas Brunch on Dec. 24th. Tickets go on sale Dec. 13th. We also sponsor a "Toys for Tots" collection for the Salvation Army. A flyer asking for donations will be distributed prior to the event.

In order to get a Photo Directory you have to be in the directory. You will get a free 8X10 to share with your family. We will be scheduling more photo sessions after the first of the year. Information will be posted in the clubhouse.



LABOR OF LOVE

Sewing on Saturdays will start up in January. Bring your machine and lunch and sit and sew at the clubhouse. We always have a good time and learn from each other.

You may work on your own project or the one I will be showing. I demo a technique or item each month. If there are fabric requirements, they will be posted on the bulletin board. We will be meeting 10:00 – 3:00 on the first Saturdays of January, February, March, and April.

If you do not have a machine in Florida and still wish to sew, Labor of Love has some to lend to park residents.

Jean Kent, 107 A. St
Jkent12@hotmail.com



ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Guy & Ruth Wells | 287 |
| 5 Ronaldo & Rita Thibeault | 273 |
| 6 Chas & Cookie Urian | 73 |
| 12 Douglas & Judith Beard | 74 |
| 18 James & Patricia Stephenson | 235 |
| 21 Gary & Marlis Simpson | 196 |
| Sidney & Loretta Stacey | 52 |
| 26 Gerard & Carol Souliere | 406 |
| 27 Gordon & Gail Perrin | 8 |
| 29 Roger & Charlotte Hassen | 7 |
| 31 Gaetan & Micheline Cote | 77 |
| Roger & Marilyn Fent | 211 |
| Cletus & Patricia Thomas | 135 |



GOLDEN GATE NUGGETS

By: Harvey Hodder, Secretary

Can you believe it? The stores have all of their early bargains on display for Christmas and, although it is not yet the middle of November at the time of writing, roadside vendors are already out in full force!

Some people feel Christmas has become too commercialized too early! Even if we account for the “willing buyer and willing seller” concept, I always feel we should at least wait until the end of November before we embrace the Christmas atmosphere!

But that may just be me with my older attitudes!

Before we know it, we will hear “jingle bells” and see Santa at the Mall posing with young children for the traditional photos! And, let us not forget our wonderful traditions at Golden Gate! I always appreciate and love the way our Board and staff decorate our clubhouse and we sincerely enjoy the various home decorations around our Park. Last year, it was our first time participating in the traditional “Christmas Sing-Along” organized by Don Kuzmickas and his team! What a wonderful evening! Thanks Don for the experience, the laughs and the sheer joy of Christmas we all share! For the second year, we will remain in Florida for this Christmas season! Perhaps that says something about the fun we have at Golden Gate! Or maybe it is because our youngest grandchild is now 27 years old

Now, here’s the deal on upcoming Nugget activities:

1. December 02nd: Pot Luck Dinner, hosted by Pearl and myself with the help of many others. Bring along your wonderful dishes and let’s share some precious time together.

2. December 14th: Christmas Dance: Hosts are Joann Rash and Jean Chudzik. Buddy Vee will be bring us the dance tunes. Get those feet all comfortable, dress up as you choose, and share your best Christmas moments with friends. The theme this year will be “A Gift-Giving Christmas”. Tickets, at \$5 per person will be sold at the Clubhouse on December 6th and 7th beginning at 9:00 am.

...continued on page 25

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3. December 20th: Come join us for our monthly meeting. Share your views, your stories, your best Christmas thoughts or whatever might be on your mind! Meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

4. December 31st, 2016! The end of another Year! Mark the New Year's Dance on your calendar! Tom Davis is joining us again this year! It promises to be a wonderful evening of special music in an atmosphere of hope, thankfulness and love! Tickets will cost \$15 per person and will be on sale at the Clubhouse on December 20th and 21st starting at 9:00 am.

Christmas always sends messages of hope, love, joy and sharing! This Christmas, do all you can to pass these virtues on to all those people special in your heart! Merry Christmas and blessings to all.

All the best in the New Year! We are filled with celebratory best wishes and with resolutions that we trust will fulfil the best in all of us! Perhaps, we could reflect on the words of the poet, T. S. Eliot when he wrote:

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language
And next year’s words await another voice
And to make an end is to make a beginning”
Happy New Year to you and yours!

December Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | | | 5 | | | |
| 6 | | 3 | | 9 | | 5 | | |
| 9 | | 1 | | | 8 | | | |
| | | | | | | 6 | | 2 |
| 8 | | | | | 6 | 7 | | 3 |
| | | | 3 | | | | | 4 |
| | | 4 | | 5 | 2 | | | 6 |
| | | | | | 9 | | | |
| 1 | | | | 6 | | | 8 | |



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 |

You can't miss these December holidays

The celebrations and holidays of December come from many different countries and cultures. Here's a guide to what your friends and neighbors are up to this month:

- Hanukkah, Dec. 24-Jan. 1. Hanukkah marks the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem following the Jews' victory in the Maccabean Revolt in 165 B.C. According to the Talmud, the Jews had only enough olive oil to keep the eternal flame in the Temple burning for a single day—but miraculously, the oil continued to burn for eight days, during which time the Jews were able to produce and consecrate fresh oil for the flame. The eight-day Jewish holiday begins at sundown. Hanukkah is observed by the lighting of a nine-branched candelabrum, called a menorah. One candle is lit each of the eight nights, with a central candle lit each night to light the others.



- Christmas, Dec. 25. This Christian holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus, sometime between the years 7 and 2 B.C. The word “Christmas” comes from “Christ’s Mass,” a phrase first recorded in old English in 1038. Christmas began to be observed with feasts and celebrations in the Middle Ages—the online encyclopedia Wikipedia notes that King Richard II of England hosted a Christmas feast in 1377, with 28 oxen and 300 sheep eaten. The colonial Puritans of New England disapproved of Christmas celebrations, banning them during the 17th century. But other colonists observed the day with Christmas trees and nativity scenes. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law making Christmas a federal holiday in 1870.



- Kwanzaa, Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. A seven-day celebration of African heritage and culture, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by activist Maulana Karenga to provide African-Americans with a holiday that emphasized their shared history and experience. The name Kwanzaa derives from “matunda yakwanza,” a Swahili phrase meaning “first fruits.” Houses are decorated with African art and colorful cloth, and seven candles are placed in the kinara, a candleholder. The central candle in the kinara is black, with three red candles on the left and four green candles on the right. The candles represent the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which are contemplated each day as one is lit: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.





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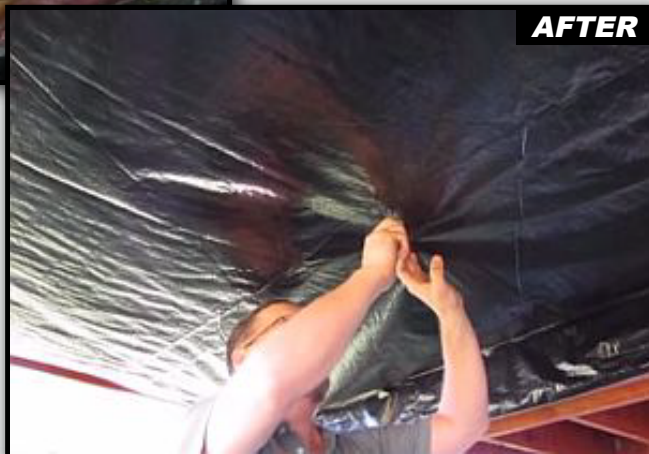
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The smell of hate

A teacher decided to play a game with her class. She told each child to bring in a plastic bag containing a few potatoes and to give each potato the name of a person that the child didn't like. The number of potatoes that the children put in their plastic bag would depend on the number of people they don't like.

The next day some children had two potatoes, some had three, and some had five potatoes or more. The teacher then told the children to carry the potatoes with them wherever they went for a week.

Days passed, and the children started to complain about the unpleasant smell let out by the rotten potatoes. Also the children with five or more potatoes complained because they had to carry heavier bags. The children were relieved when the game finally ended.



Then the teacher told them the meaning of the game: "This is what happens when you carry hatred for somebody inside your heart. The stench of it spreads everywhere, and you carry it with you wherever you go. If you can't tolerate the smell of rotten potatoes for just one week, can you imagine what is it like to have the stench of hatred in your heart for a lifetime?"

The elephant's teeth

One day a hungry mouse in the jungle found a small nut. He tried to bite into it, but its shell was too hard and thick. Irritated, the mouse said, "Why did the gods give me such tiny teeth?"

Suddenly he heard the voice of a god from far above. "Mouse, go out and look at all the animals in the jungle. If you find one whose teeth you like, I'll give them to you."

Overjoyed, the mouse ran through the jungle, looking for the biggest teeth he could find. He looked at many animals but didn't find any teeth he liked until he spotted an elephant. Envious of the beast's thick tusks, he wandered over and asked, "Sir, are you happy with those big, long teeth?"

The elephant answered: "Friend, these are just for show. I can't use them to chew food as you do. At least you don't have to bear the weight of these huge teeth."

Hearing this, the mouse realized he was better off having tiny teeth and went off to find his nut again.



Seeing Santa Claus

A grandmother took her grandson to the shopping mall in December to see Santa Claus. The young boy was very excited to sit on Santa's lap. "Now, little boy," Santa said, "tell Santa what you want for Christmas."

In a very loud voice, the boy said, "I want a NINTENDO, and a NEW BIKE, and some BOOKS, and—"



"You don't have to shout," Santa chuckled. "Santa isn't hard of hearing."

The boy leaned forward and whispered, "No, but my grandma is."

Wrong answer

A man was being sentenced in a California court for shooting and eating a condor—an endangered species. Looking for mercy, the defendant made a passionate speech.

"I'm truly sorry, your honor," he said. "I just moved here and I don't have a job, and I was hungry and cold. I'd never seen a bird like that, and I had no idea it was endangered. I've never done anything like this before, and I'll certainly never do it again."



The judge gave him probation, telling him not to let it happen again. Then he said: "I'm curious. What does a condor taste like?"

"Oh, kind of like a cross between a whooping crane and a spotted owl."

Reduced sentence

A criminal with a long record of transgressions was on trial for his latest crime. The jury found him guilty on 33 counts, and the judge sentenced him to 189 years in prison. Realizing that even with time off for good behavior he would be more than 100 years old when he was finally released, the prisoner burst into tears.

Touched by this display of remorse, the judge paused to reconsider. "I didn't mean to be so severe," she said. "Thinking it over, I can see that I've imposed an extremely harsh sentence. So you don't have to serve the whole time."

The prisoner beamed with new hope until the judge leaned toward him. "Just do as much as you can."

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‘Smart windows’ coming soon?

A new flexible material for windows and sunroofs may be able to control the heat and light they receive from the sun, according to the Phys.org website. Scientists at the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin used a low-temperature process to create a material with a unique structure that doubles the efficiency of the coloration process, allowing it to switch between clear and tinted more quickly than other coatings.



The scientists, part of an international team, believe their research could lead to the creation of materials for other applications such as supercapacitors to store and release electrical energy rapidly and efficiently.

Rare shark may have lived almost 400 years

Trees can live thousands of years. Animals don’t live nearly so long, but scientists have discovered what they believe may be the longest-living vertebrate animal—a Greenland shark. Analyzing carbon in the eye lenses of one Greenland shark after its death, marine biologists at the University of Copenhagen determined that the shark was 392 years old, give or take about 120 years. That beats the previous record holder for vertebrate longevity, a bowhead whale that lived about 211 years.



Little is known about the Greenland shark. It’s one of the largest carnivores in the world, and dominates the food chain in northern waters. The scientists studied Greenland sharks accidentally caught by fishing boats, analyzing their eye lenses because sharks don’t have the kind of bones that build up calcified rings as they age. Although some scientists disagree that the shark’s age is typical, they concede that we know little about the average lifespan of this mysterious predator.

Particles may halt bleeding, save lives

Saving a life after an accident or injury is often a matter of stopping blood loss as quickly as possible. The Science Daily website reports that scientists have devised nanoparticles that can locate the site of a bleed and help form blood clots to stanch the flow.

The nanoparticles are coated with molecules that adhere to a glycoprotein in activated blood platelets and bind to those platelets to form clots. The particles have been tested in rats and pigs, and they soon will be tested for their effectiveness in human blood—potentially saving thousands of lives.

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Japanese Garden Art and Craft Show. Dec. 9-10, 9am-3pm. Artists wanted \$10 per table. Please call Charlotte 727-531-3651.

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CRAFT FAIR: Dec. 3rd 9-1. Southwind MHP 795 County Road 1, Palm Harbor.

Craft Fair Sunday Dec 4th Noon to 4PM. Down Yonder 7001 142nd Ave N, Largo.

CRAFT SALE: Saturday, December 3rd, 2016, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Sugar Creek MHP @ Clubhouse, 10265 Ulmerton Road, Largo (Behind Pier One Store). Bake Sale and Lunch. Tables \$10.00. Call Sally 727-584-4204

Palm Hill Ccountry Club Bazaar, Craft & Bake Sale. Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 8:30-1:00. North Clubhouse - 401 8th Ave. SW, Largo

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