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December 21, 2022

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Photos by Jo Kegel



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A CHRISTMAS LETTER

By Jean Scionti



I believe by now we all know what a Christmas letter is. What I didn't realize is that they originated as far back as 1954. I, myself, received my first one in 1985. After reading it, I thought, "*This is interesting.*"

Then I started to receive a lot more from other folks...some were several pages long with too much information. Epic travel adventures were big. Self-promotion was always a winner. Let's not forget the scholastic achievements of the children.

I will admit that now I, too, write a yearly Christmas letter to both family and friends. I keep it to one page and do try not to boast...too much.

Now I want to include all of you, the readers of "The POP", into this yearly ritual. Lucky you?

Christmas ... 2022

Dear Friends,

Thomas and I are back in Massachusetts, and it's that time of year to re-visit our decorations and all that says Christmas. My thought, "*Do we really need it all?*" My answer is an emphatic "NO!" It's time to clean out the attic of our Christmas decor. Here is how Thomas and I collaborated on this endeavor:

"Jeanie, where are you?" says the husband.

"Up here in the attic," answers the busy wife.

"Why?"

"Dear husband, we are going to purge ourselves of the trappings of Christmas past and deep six them!"

"Huh? Stop throwing those boxes down here! You'll break all the decorations!"

"Good! It's time to downsize. Let's take a look-see. Now, what don't we need?"

- Boxes, marked XMAS outdoor lights...new vinyl-sided house ... OUT!
 - Old Christmas tree lights...new pre-lit tree ... OUT!
 - Fake wreaths from yesteryear ... OUT!
 - Advent candles...in various stages of meltdown ... OUT!
 - Three Nativity sets ... Yikes!
- o (1) Circa 1950 paper mache Magi set with one king minus hands, one minus feet, and one minus head. Sentimental value ... OUT!
- o (1) 40-piece set...takes days to assemble. Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem faster than that ... OUT!

o (1) Porcelain set. Mm ... Looks like we have Mary, the baby Jesus and a monk carrying a chicken ... Yup, it's a keeper!"

"Jeanie, we don't have Joseph."

"Thomas! Your point? Don't look at me like that. If any of our grandsons should ask why Joseph is missing, we'll just say he's out collecting firewood."

"That's it Jeanie, enough already. We'll have nothing left!"

"Hmm... (1) old husband...OUT!"

"Get down from up there and do your Christmas letter!"

"Christmas letter...OUT? No, gotta have the Scionti update, right?"

Oh, my grandson just called and said, "Grammy you don't have to buy me any toys for Christmas. I am getting all my presents from Santa, and they are all FREE!"

"Mm...Christmas gift shopping" ... OUT!"

"Ah...done!"



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

By Joe Cortese



The disclaimer: “No, this is not about a Disney cartoon and it’s “not” about Glenda and me.” (Yeah, I know some of you were thinking that).

This story is about Plantation Oaks and the Garden of Eden that surrounds it, the Bulow Creek State Park “Beauty”. I’ve written many times about that old forest and my love of it but, in the last few weeks I’ve also learned about “the Beast”.

Glenda and I have now lived in Plantation Oaks for six years and though the forest was not my main consideration in purchasing here (and we didn’t even know about the park), I have truly come to enjoy the wonders that are in my backyard. I’ve never seen another place with a greater diversity of trees, bushes, insects, animals, birds and, of course, mushrooms (other than maybe a zoo) and I’ve spent a lot of time in a lot of wild places. So, I like to take long walks in the forest to enjoy nature, contemplate creation, ponder perpetual motion, or just find a cool place to walk the fur babies. That is where we ran into “the Beast”.

On the third week of September, I was walking our fur babies out on “Old Beach Road” (that is the dirt road that runs east and west on the north side of our community) and was paying too much attention to Bailey (my 17-year-old) when Babs (the new fur baby I wrote about that went through spinal surgery) came face to face with a pygmy rattle snake. By the time I pulled Babs back it was too late, and she had been bitten in the face. I with my trusty snake stick in hand commenced to beat the living s*** out of that d*** snake. I know some animal lover is gonna say “it wasn’t the snake’s fault”, but I’m NOT sorry. That d*** snake bit my baby and then cost me \$1,400.00 at the Flagler Animal Emergency Hospital! Take a deep breath because Babs is alright. She’s a tough little girl (as she proved by hiding a herniated disk that had calcified to her spinal cord) and, as such, she didn’t show any pain but, never-the-less, I got her back to the golf cart ASAP and drove home. Now fortunately Glenda was at the hairdresser with my van (thank God) and so I got Dawn (my wonderful neighbor) to drive us to the animal hospital where Babs spent the day. I later got a severe tongue lashing (from Glenda) about not watching the dogs close enough and never walking them in the forest again. So, I do have some empathy for the snake, but snakes are not the only nasty thing we have

lurking in our forest.

In September we had a little atmospheric disturbance (a good friend of mine won’t let me call them Hurricanes, bad luck or something) called Ian and, like many of my neighbors, I had to clean our yard of debris. While raking close to the edge of the forest I disturbed an underground yellow jacket nest and, even though I’ve been bitten by bees, hornets, and wasps these little yellow jackets pack one hell of a wallop. They got me three or four times around the ankle, and I thought I was going to have to go to urgent care. Last year while picking mushrooms in the forest I got into red bugs (better known as chiggers) and they’ll make you miserable for a couple of weeks. So, like Adam, I’m finding out there are many dangers in the Garden of Eden (besides women).

So, to wrap this up let, me caution you that not all the dangers are in the forest. The other night while walking our babies we came upon a pygmy rattler laying on the side of the road (enjoying the warm cement), and a year ago one of our neighbors was bitten by a pygmy rattler twice in the hand while weeding. So, these beasties can be anywhere, but I didn’t write this to make you paranoid of going outdoors but, rather to, simply remind you to “be careful” for yourself and your animals, and you won’t have any problems enjoying the beauties of our community.

P.S. To lighten this up a bit, I leave you with a “Simple” poem:



Simple

Beauty’s only skin deep,
I’ve heard that they say.
A gift for a moment,
That time steals away.
But real beauty is simple,
And in time will not fade,
It’s just not being ugly,
In the place dreams are made.
By Joe Cortese

Welcome to winter, when the snowbirds return and the bugs go back to wherever they came from...

Downsizing Stuff

By Joanne Kegel



I recently read the article in the August-September 2022 AARP magazine titled “What It Feels Like to Downsize” by Jimmy Dunne. Perhaps you read it. It brought me back to what we went through the past few years. I’m sure most of you have been through this ordeal already. If you still have the big house up north somewhere, you must have thought about it.

We downsized twice. Once from the big house to a small condo rental, then again to a smaller rental in Palm Coast, before we landed here. At the house, I spent about 5 years of weekends cleaning out the basement, planning for our escape south. Apparently, cleaning out just meant re-arranging or re-locating stuff. When it came to the big move, there was still so much stuff. Same when moving to Florida. What a chore! We donated or threw out so much. It’s ok. It’s only stuff. But now when we’re looking for some gadget, tool, or other, we find ourselves asking “why did I get rid of that?” Should have kept it. I reminded myself it was only stuff. Most could be replaced.

There were 2 sentimental things I discarded with sadness. But they had to go. One was my mother’s hope chest. She passed when I was very young, but somehow I wound up with it. After dragging it around for years, storing it in storage units, and my damp basement in the house for too many years, it had to go. It was falling apart and delaminating. I brought a picture of it to an antique refinisher, and he declined to work on it. That would have been very expensive anyway. When Dave loaded it onto the truck to the dump, I cried. The other sentimental items discarded were floppy disks. Huh? That technology went out years ago. But I had one of the first digital cameras that saved photos on to the floppies. Each one only held a few photos. I took many photos of my grandkids when they were little on those disks. Luckily, I was into photo printing at the time and most good photos wound up in albums, which are still stored up north at my daughter’s house. I have no room for those boxes and she’s going to inherit them anyway. My portable floppy disk drive would no longer



work with my newer computer. I cried when I had to throw out the box full of the disks. Dave also had regrets getting rid of expensive, good work tools, but would never use them in retirement. He sold some for a fraction of what they were worth. We had to do it. But no regrets, really. Life goes on. The house is no longer our problem. I will admit it was very liberating unloading most stuff. Even now there are items that we could still part with. Someday. It’s only stuff. I treasure what we have here and now. Perhaps you can relate. I have no old Christmas decorations anymore. They were getting tired anyway. I didn’t have much that was sentimental and we’ve had “Charlie Brown” Christmas trees over the past few years. I love decorating a bit more tropical and less traditional. Now I decorate a Palm tree.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy Holidays!



He knows if you’ve been bad or good. You might as well drop the act.”

CAN YOU PAINT YOUR VINYL SIDING?

By Mike Reed



There are local painting contractors who will tell you can't paint your vinyl siding. Not true. When we moved to Plantation Oaks 10 years ago one of our first upgrades was to have the paint color changed. Sherwin Williams has several colors and their guaranty on the paint is 50 years, except for Yellow. If you notice, several yellow homes in the community have faded.

Be sure to check with management to get approval if you are changing colors. They must approve. If you notice, the new owners of a home on Winthrop were required to repaint the home before they received final approval. As a suggestion, if you would like to paint your exterior, find a contractor who actually has experience painting vinyl siding.



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HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCTOBER 31, 2022



A Devilishly fun time had by all!



A NEW CRANBERRY DESSERT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Chef Kevin Gallagher, MS, CEC



Cranberries are one of the few fruits native to North America. Cranberry harvesting season is between mid-September and early November. Indigenous American peoples combined dried meat (usually venison), cranberries and fat to make “Pemmican”, which is like a modern-day energy bar. In addition to this bitter berry being consumed for food, it was also used for dyeing fabric and in poultices to remove poison from arrow wounds. Since cranberries were so important and widely available it is believed that they were present at the first Thanksgiving.

Cranberries have not always been called cranberries! Indigenous American people called this fruit “ibimi” which literally means “bitter berry”. German and Dutch settlers renamed the fruit “crane berry” because they thought the flower and vine looked like the head, neck and bill of a crane. Over time the first “e” was dropped, and the name was shortened to cranberry.

The primary cranberry growing states are New Jersey, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Washington and Oregon. Wisconsin produces the most cranberries. Massachusetts is in second place for the most cranberries produced in the US. The reason cranberries are primarily grown in those five states is because they have a specific set of needs in order to be fruitful. Contrary to popular belief, while cranberries need to be near water, they do not actually grow in water.

If you’ve ever bought cranberries, you’re probably familiar with the brand Ocean Spray. This company was founded by Marcus L. Urann (the same one who first canned cranberries), Elizabeth Lee, and John Makepeace. Ocean Spray is a farmer-owned cooperative, which gives all the profits back to its farmers. It is made up of over 700 growing families in North and South America. Seven out of ten cranberries that are sold in the world today come from Ocean Spray.

Here is a delicious and pretty holiday dessert that uses cranberries and very few ingredients. It’s a snap to assemble. While everyone is enjoying a bountiful meal, this eye-catching tart can be baking to perfection in the oven.



NANTUCKET CRANBERRY TART

Servings: 12

Ingredients:

- 1 package fresh or frozen cranberries, (12 ounces) thawed
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar



Instructions:

1. In a small bowl, combine the cranberries, 1/2 cup sugar and almonds. Transfer to a greased 10-in. fluted tart pan with a removable bottom. Place on a baking sheet.
2. In a small bowl, beat the eggs, butter, extract and remaining sugar. Beat in flour just until moistened (batter will be thick). Spread evenly over berries.
3. Bake at 325° for 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack. Dust with confectioners’ sugar. Refrigerate leftovers. (Best eaten warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream!)

A LITTLE TIP FOR YOUR HOLIDAY BAKING: SOFTEN HARDENED BROWN SUGAR

Submitted by Joanne Kegel



Don’t throw out that rock hard brown sugar. If it has turned lumpy or into a hard block, transfer it into a resealable plastic bag. Dampen a paper towel thoroughly, wring it out and place it in the bag with the sugar and seal tight. Within hours the sugar will break apart. Leave the towel in the bag and store. No more lumpy brown sugar!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Joyce Popp
- 2 Carol Haseltine
- 4 Toni Christ
- 4 Paul Cutright
- 4 Sue Fix
- 4 Sue Persch
- 5 Russell Akins
- 5 Leonard Gucciardo
- 6 Joanne Kegel
- 7 Marcia Fingland
- 7 William Holdsworth
- 7 David Wayne Hedrick
- 7 Edward Kaspshak
- 8 Michael McGeehan
- 10 Kathryn St. John
- 12 Phyllis Holdsworth
- 13 Laura Dawkins
- 14 Martha Duncan
- 14 Fraser, Anne
- 15 Mike Smith
- 17 Donald Donahue
- 17 Susan Saloom
- 18 Jennifer Hamilton
- 18 Michael Merry
- 18 Eddie Remondi
- 19 Cathleen Niedhammer
- 19 Harry Gilman
- 19 Carol Mahoney
- 22 Ron Dungan
- 23 Mary Slick
- 24 Gayle Lane
- 24 Frank Micalizzi
- 24 Donald Bettencourt
- 26 Frank Amaturio
- 26 Sandy Levan
- 26 Lesley Prompovitch
- 27 Renee Matteau
- 27 Noreen Bartolotta
- 27 Claire Bencal
- 29 Ellen Barningham



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Donald & Lorraine Donohue
- 6 Robert & Vivian Burbridge
- 15 Jack & Marilyn Wanatt
- 16 Paul & Nancy Cutright
- 20 David & Carol Manowski
- 23 Stephen & Ruth Ann Seltzer
- 23 Ron & Judy Dungan
- 27 Russell & Kathleen Atkins
- 31 Robert & Pamela Linton



We try hard to get it right. However, if we have missed your birthday or anniversary, have the dates wrong or name misspelled, please contact dbmatlock@live.com. Thank you!



It was Hanukkah and the tiny Hungarian village was afraid they may not have any latkes because they'd run out of flour.

Rudi, the Rabbi, was called upon to help solve the problem.

He said, "Don't worry, you can substitute matzo meal for the flour, and the latkes will be just as delicious."

A woman looks doubtfully at her husband and asks him, "Samuel, do you think it'll work?"

"Of course," Samuel replies,
"Everybody knows Rudolph the Rab knows grain, dear."



MYSTERY DINER

By Rich Bencal



A few years ago, the Mystery Diner submitted the information below on tips for Holiday dining. As the Holiday season is upon us, with lavish meals and parties starting and, since we have so many new residents, the Mystery Diner

has given permission to, once again, share this most important information for all to read, contemplate, enjoy and use during the holidays.

- 1. Avoid carrot sticks.** Anyone who puts out carrot sticks on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the spirit of the season. In fact, if you see carrot sticks, leave immediately. Go next door or down the street where they are serving rum balls.
- 2. Drink as much eggnog as you can, and quickly.** Like a fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find eggnog any other time of the year but now. So, drink up!
- 3. If something comes with gravy, use it.** That's the whole point of gravy, it does not stand alone. Pour it on, make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy, eat the volcano. Repeat!!
- 4. As for mashed potatoes,** why ask if they are made with skim or whole milk? If it is skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.
- 5. Do not snack before going to a party** in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a holiday party is to eat food. And lots of it!
- 6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's Day.** You can exercise in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps which you will need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat on eggnog we discussed in item 2.
- 7. If you come across something really good** at the buffet table, like frosted cookies in the shape and size of Santa, then by all means possible position yourself **near them and do not budge. Have as many as you can** before becoming the center of attention. These types of cookies are like a beautiful pair of shoes or a great deal on a power tool. If you leave them behind, you'll never see them again. Eat up!

- 8. Same as above, but for pies.** Apple, pumpkin, mincemeat, it does not matter. Have a slice of each. Or, if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When do you ever get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day? Your birthday?
- 9. Did I forget the fruitcake?** Yes, it is loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories. But avoid it all cost. After all, we must have some standards.
- 10. One final holiday dining and party tip:** If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you have not been paying attention to these holiday dining tips.

Seasons best to all... enjoy your food and the time with family and friends.



BEAUTY TIPS

By Terry Johnson

Brighten up Yellow Nails

Yikes! You removed your bright red polish only to discover that it left your nails looking rather yellow. To the rescue: hydrogen peroxide! It oxidizes the polish's pigment, restoring the nails' natural hue. Simply fill a bowl with enough peroxide to cover your fingertips, then soak nails' for a few minutes. Next, dip a cotton swab in the bowl and use it wipe under nails tips.



DECEMBER FUNNIES

I wasn't going to visit my family this December, but my mom promised to make me Eggs Benedict. So, I'm going home for the hollandaise.



Apparently, you can only see the ghost of Santa on the 25th of December. That's when he reveals his presents. Why was Mariah Carey sad when she was gifted a piece of land last December? She didn't want a lot for Christmas.

December is the worst time of the year for someone who is... Claus-trophobic.

Statistics show that the average person makes love 89 times per year. Looks like I'm in for a pretty wild December.

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS & FUN FACTS

By Betty Vandermyn



December is the 12th month in our modern-day Georgian calendar however it was traditionally the 10th month of the Roman calendar (until 153 BC). Hence, December comes from the Latin word *decem*, meaning “ten”. The month of December originally consisted of 30 days. When January and February were added to the calendar (around 700 BCE), December was shortened to 29 days. In the subsequent Julian calendar, two days were added to December making it 31 days long.

- **December 6** is Saint Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, inspires traditions around the world from hunts for presents to stockings or shoes filled with sweets.
- **December 7** is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- **December 13** is St Lucia’s Day, which has long been associated with festivals of light. Her feast day occurred on the shortest day of the year (hence the saying “Lucy light, Lucy light, shortest day and longest night”).
- **December 15** is Bill of Rights Day
- **December 17** is Wright Brothers Day.
- **December 18** marks the beginning of *Hanukkah*.
- **December 21** Winter Solstice - the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **December 25** is *Christmas Day*, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **December 26** Boxing Day (Canada, UK) and the first day of Kwanzaa.
- **December 31** is New Year’s Eve



Full Cold Moon

December’s full Moon, the full **Cold Moon**, appears on Wednesday, December 7, reaching peak illumination at 11:09 P.M. EST.

Geminid Meteor Shower

Look skyward on the night of December 13 after 9P.M. for a chance to catch a glimpse of the Geminid meteors. This meteor shower is the most active shower of the year.

December Birthstone is turquoise. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success. Zircon and tanzanite are also considered to be Decembers birthstones.

December Birth Flowers are the holly and the paperwhite (a relative of the daffodil with lovely white blooms)

Zodiac signs for December are:

Sagittarius: November 23-December 21

Capricorn: December 22- January 19.

And lastly, a Christmas Beggars rhyme:

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,

Please put a penny in the old man’s hat;

If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny, will do,

If you haven’t got a ha’penny, God bless you!

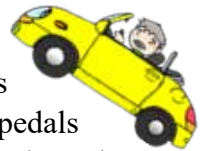


DRIVING WITH ALZHEIMER’S

Submitted by John Mercurio

Some people can continue driving in the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease, but it requires ongoing evaluation to ensure safety. Here are some tips from the Alzheimer’s Association that it may be time to stop driving:

- Forgetting how to locate familiar places
- Failing to observe traffic signs
- Making slow or poor decisions in traffic
- Driving at an inappropriate speed
- Becoming angry or confused while driving
- Hitting curbs
- Using poor lane control
- Making errors at intersections
- Confusing the brake and gas pedals
- Returning from a routine drive later than usual
- Forgetting the destination you are driving to during the trip



Merry
Christmas



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GOOD INFO TO HEED

Submitted by John Mercurio



Not all thieves are stupid!

1. LONG-TERM PARKING:

Some people left their car in the long-term parking at San Jose while away, and someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration that was in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home in Pebble Beach and robbed it. So I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration and insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

2. GPS:

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green, which was adjacent to the football stadium, and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and almost everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

3. CELL PHONES:

I never thought of this! This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral lesson:

a. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like "Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom etc."

b. And, very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

4. PURSE IN THE GROCERY CART SCAM:

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf. Wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that, although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.

GOOD ADVICE, ESPECIALLY DURING HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON!



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

By Georgy Byrne, Team Leader



Hello Neighbors,

Our last meeting was Friday, October 28th. We discussed the need for more training, both for the team and the community. Right now things are in the planning stage. I will pass on more information about training in future newsletters.

Things are getting back to normal since Ian and the worst of hurricane season has past. We're looking forward to a quiet holiday season. However, we remain ready should the need arise. Our next meeting is Friday, December 16th, at 11am in the clubhouse. As always, all are welcome to attend, and we would love to add you to our team. As always, stay safe!

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays.



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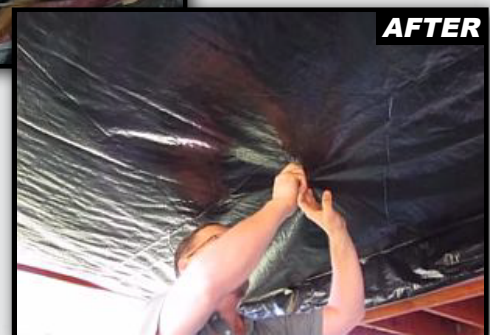
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HOW I MET MY HUSBAND” SERIES

By Dana Matlock

Sue & Tony Dymnioski moved to Plantation Oaks in 2000. They met in Stuttgart, Germany in 1965. I guess you could say that country singer Johnny Cash brought them together. Here’s how it happened...

Stuttgart, Germany, 1965: Sue Wirth, 21-year-old German woman, loved the music of Johnny Cash. So, when a concert was being held at the near-by Stuttgart Army Base, she had to go. Luckily the Airbase allowed local civilians to attend special concerts, like Johnny Cash or Elvis. Now, at that time, a single woman had to have an escort to attend a concert, so she talked her brother, Heinz, into going with her. The club was quite full and, as they tried desperately to find seats, they noticed a young GI (Tony) pointing to seats in front of his group. Tony had just arrived in Germany the day before. Sue and Heinz made their way to the empty seats and settled in. The group of GI’s included Sue and Heinz in their group and they became friends as they conversed and laughed together. After the concert Tony asked Sue if he could see her again. Sue happily agreed and two years later they were married. Sue began the long process of completing paperwork to be able to come to the US with Tony when his tour in Germany was over. In those days, neither Germany nor the US made it easy for a US soldier to marry a German citizen. Nothing would deter Sue however, and eight months later she was able to leave Germany for the US and start the process with US paperwork. Sue and Tony were happily married for 42 years until his passing in 2009. They have one son, Mike, who served 23 years in the Air Force as Crew Chief on injured soldiers’ transport planes.

Sue and Tony shared a beautiful life together thanks to the music and the man, Johnny Cash!



Sue & Tony Dymnioski (2004) Johnny Cash (1965)

NEW SERIES HOW I MET MY HUSBAND (OR WIFE, OR PARTNER)



Is there a special story about how you met? If so, we would love to hear it! You can submit to Dana Matlock at 386-439-3443, dbmatlock@live.com in your words and first person, or contact her, give her the details and she can write for you!



PORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

By Gary Watkins-President



Coming up in January 2023 will be PORA’s annual membership meeting during which elections are conducted for Director positions for the PORA Board of Directors. Presently, there will be four director positions up for election with two of them being present directors running for re-election. There is a process (some of which has started by the time this is read) to get to that point.

First, the Board of Directors appoint a nominating committee which is formed to collect and recommend PORA members for election to the Board of Directors. Applications are posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse and on the PORA Web page and need to be turned in by December 1. Applications are reviewed by the committee for approval and then posted on the bulletin board for review by membership.

Also, a meeting night will be held for any further nominations from the floor. Prior to the Annual Membership meeting, a “Meet the Candidate night” will be held for membership to learn about the nominations.

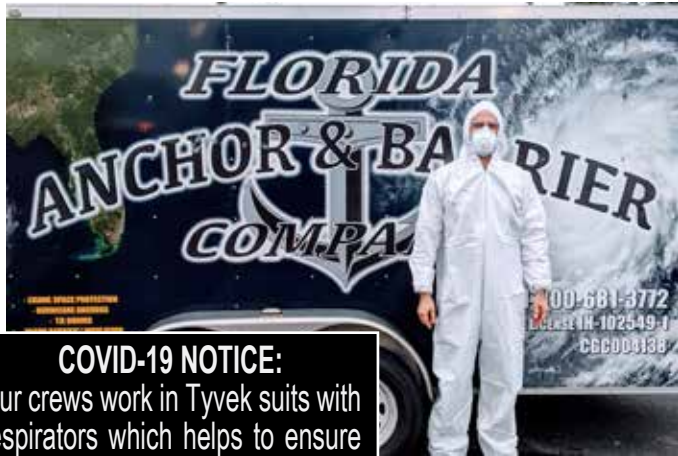
The most important thing to know about the election process is that your 2022 membership dues need to be paid thirty days prior to the annual meeting which, at this writing is scheduled for January 15, 2023, making December 16, 2022 the cutoff date to pay your 2022 dues. The dates and times for the election process will be posted and emailed once determined. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact me. Remember being a PORA member is important for our community.

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FEDERATION OF MANUFACTURED HOMEOWNERS (FMO)

By Dana Matlock, Plantation Oaks FMO Rep



Hello all, James Pursley is taking some time off, so I am filling in for him for this month. Not quite as entertaining as James' articles, but here goes...

Why do we need FMO and PORA (Plantation Oaks Residents Asso.)?

A good question. After all, we are retired and we moved to Plantation Oaks to enjoy our golden years in the sun and surf – easy lifestyle, no worries – be happy. Then we start to realize that we might be in a precarious situation because we may not have given a lot of thought to the park owner/lot renter relationship before purchasing our homes. Thankfully, in Plantation Oaks we are not alone as we have two great organizations available to support us – FMO and PORA.

Our state legislators define our homes as “mobile”, however, our beautiful, manufactured homes are truly not meant to be “mobile.” We can't just unhook from utilities and tow our home to a new location. That would involve months of planning, spending thousands upon thousands of dollars to find a new location, prepare the home, hire a contractor for the move, and restore your current lot to its original condition.

Rental communities do not fall under the *Landlord Tenant Act*. The only law that protects us “lot renters” is Florida Statue Chapter 723. By the way, that law also protects our park owners. To exercise certain rights defined in Chapter 723, and to allow for ease in negotiating and resolving issues with our park owners, we need a legal homeowners association as defined in Chapter 723. PORA, incorporated in 2000, is our homeowner's association and was formed to do just that - serve as the legal entity to represent homeowners on the local level – inside the gates.

FMO, formed in 1962, is the organization that serves as our watchdog at the state level – outside the gates. FMO retains a paid Legislative Counsel, Nancy Black Stewart, who monitors all bills that come before the state legislature, and she alerts FMO when action is needed to combat bills that may have a negative impact on us. She also meets with our state legislators to educate them on our mobile/manufactured home communities and urges them to reject bills that would have a negative impact. Nancy is in Tallahassee, so we don't have to be! However, we may be called on during the legislative

session to contact our legislators to protest proposed bills that could be detrimental to us.

PORA consists of homeowners who volunteer to give up their time in the sun to work for us. The FMO is mostly volunteers but does maintain a legislative counsel; an attorney, and contract agency that provides administrative services - these services are costly.

If you rely on others to keep these two valuable organizations functioning, you may wake up one day to find them gone. Consider getting involved to assist one or both organizations and, by all means, become (*or continue to be*) dues-paying members of FMO and PORA. They need your support to support you!

CHRISTMAS SONG QUIZ

Submitted by Joanne Kegel

Can you guess these Christmas songs by the images? (Answers elsewhere in the POP)

Happy Holidays!

1.  X 3	6.  
2. 	7. 
3.  	8. 
4.  	9.  
5.   	
10.  	

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Paula Davies, Social Committee Chair



Our social committee meeting was held on Monday, November 7. It went very well with so many new people stepping up wanting to help. *Lots of fun things are already being planned for 2023.*

December 10: Gingerbread House Decorating 10-12 PM - Terry Johnson. Please bring your house and the supplies you will need for an afternoon of fun decorating. All gingerbread houses will be left up till 3:00 PM for all to enjoy. Remember: No eating the displays.

December 10: First Annual Tree Trimming Pajama Party at the clubhouse 7-9 PM – Betty Vandermyn. We have a very large tree to decorate so please bring an ornament to hang and be part of the festivities. Betty is making it fun, fun, fun so come in your jammies and enjoy the music and drinks. Betty will also have a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse so she will know how to plan for dessert and drinks.

December 12: Christmas/Holiday Card Delivery. Cathleen Niedhammer. Wow, what a savings - no stamps! Drop off your cards in the box and Cathleen and her Elves will deliver to all our neighbors. Please, no stamps. Put the name and address on the front of the card and our Oaks Elves will be delivering them sometime the week before Christmas.

December 17: Santa and her Elves - Diane Williams. Please help by letting us know if you know of a shut-in, and, if you can, please donate something new that you think a shut-in would like. Diane and her Elves will be delivering them around 2 PM and then everyone is invited to meet at the clubhouse at 4 PM for festivities – fun, music and drinks. *Christmas Golf cart parade to follow.*


December 25, 2022 – Have a Very Blessed Merry Christmas from all of us.

December 31: New Year's Eve Party 8PM-Midnight, Paula Davies. \$22/each. Some of us have trouble staying up to midnight, but you will want to for this event. We have great entertainment, dancing, lots of games and prizes. There will be a Charcuterie Table. If you do


not know what that is...well, it is a full table of lots of different food, meats, cheese, fruits, crackers, towers of olives, pickles, etc. with a full six-foot hoagie in the middle and tons of great desserts.

HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL IN THIS GREAT COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN...2023

Back by Popular Demand



**CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY
CARDS DELIVERY**



Cathleen Niedhammer will provide free delivery of your holiday cards within Plantation Oaks again this year. A drop box will be available in the clubhouse on December 12 to start receiving mail. The last morning to drop your cards for delivery will be December 22. Anyone interested in helping may contact Cathleen by email: cathleenn62@gmail.com or text/call 207-838-2459. Start thinking about those holiday cards and stay tuned for more information as the time gets closer.



Plantation Oaks Cooks
Breakfast – 1st Saturday of the Month –
December 3, 2023

Dinner – Canceled for December

Watch Bulletin Board for more details

Water Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 10 AM

Line Dancing - Tuesdays– Beginners 1:00 – Advance 1:30 PM

Bingo - Wednesdays - 5:45 – 9:00 PM

Shuffleboard - Thursdays – 9:30 AM



**1ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
TREE TRIMMING
PAJAMA PARTY
WHEN: DECEMBER 10, 2022
TIME: 7PM- 9PM**

Help us decorate and design our own community Christmas Tree. There is no admission charge, however we ask that you donate an ornament(s) of your choice to represent yourself on the Christmas Tree. An ornament drop-off box will be set up December 10 if you wish to donate an ornament but are unable to attend. Check your emails for specifics. Desserts, coffee, hot chocolate, iced tea, and water will be available/ BYOB. Signup sheet will be on the bulletin board so please sign up if you plan on attending. Although not a sleep over, please dress up in your best “*Christmas Pajamas*” to celebrate this occasion. Let’s get together to meet, greet, and wish your neighbors happy holidays, sing Christmas carols, and have fun while we begin a new holiday tradition in our community!



If you, or someone you know, are in **crisis**, feeling **suicidal**, have been sexually assaulted, in need of resources, or just need to talk, call 988.

POP ON THE WEB

To view or print current or previous POP newsletters go to the PORA website, ourpora.org and click on Contacts/Links/The POP. If you are unable to reach this site you can also access all of the publications on www.4communitymedia.com; click on the *Newsletters* tab on the right hand side of the page and scroll through the list until you find Plantation Oaks – Flagler Beach, FL. Click on it and then you will have access to all of the newsletters published so far. Don’t forget to support our advertisers if you can. They keep this newsletter coming to you!

**2022
PLANTATION OAKS RESIDENTS’
ASSOCIATION (PORA)**

President - Gary Watkins
386-986-6246 - gwatty62@cfl.rr.com

Vice President – Betty Vandermyn
860-461-5392 - elzbthvnd@att.net

Secretary – Muriel Fallon
386-446-5208 - murielf@bellsouth.net

Treasurer – Janice Randolph
203-521-6288 - janlee9@yahoo.com

Director – Ray Neeb
386-439-3574 - QUASARKID20N@bellsouth.net

Director – Ken Pate
912-398-9943 - k.pate888@gmail.com

**PLANTATION OAKS
Federation of Manufactured Homeowners
(FMO) Representatives**

James Pursley - 386-986-9632
Dana Matlock - 386-439-3443



Mission Statement: To provide emergency assistance to our community when State/Local emergency services are delayed or otherwise unavailable. All residents are invited to register with us any special needs or emergency assistance you (or someone you know) may require in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. This information can be helpful in executing search and rescue, planning, and purchasing necessary supplies and equipment. **To register contact Donna Copeland, dmcopeland50@gmail.com, 704-886-7706.** Currently, we have 52 members and are always looking for new people. Please join us at our next meeting. For more information give me a call at 845-728-4679. For information on how to sign up for red alert warnings log on to WWW.FlaglerEmergency.com. You may also register for special needs evacuation assistance on this site or call **386-313-4200.**

HORSESHOES "R" BACK

Every Friday, 4 PM
Horseshoe Pits by the Pool



Answers to Christmas Song Images:

1. We Three Kings
2. Frosty the Snowman
3. Little Drummer Boy
4. Joy to the World
5. Holly Jolly Christmas
6. Silent Night
7. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
8. Rudolph Red Nose Reindeer
9. Do you Hear what I Hear?
10. Aweigh in a Manger



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