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Andrew Smeragliuolo

Assistant Community Manager Andrew.smeragliuolo@FSResidential.com (951) 973-7532 Direct Line

COMMUNITY WEB SITE:

MountainViewHOA.org



"THE VIEW"

December, 2023

Hello everyone!

Since the HOA Board will not have met again until after the December newsletter, there's not a great deal to discuss. So, how about some interesting holiday facts?

The first recorded incidence of **Christmas** actually being celebrated dates to the Roman Empire in 336 during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The date was not widely accepted in the Eastern Empire for another half-century and Christmas did not become a major Christian festival until the 9th century.

Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, is a Jewish holiday that begins on the 25th of Kislev, a month in the Hebrew calendar that usually falls within November or December. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean revolt against the Syrian-Greek army. The holiday takes place for eight nights and days and is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. It is observed from December 26th to January 1st and culminates in gift giving and food.

The holiday is relatively new, compared to other holidays celebrated in the U.S. <u>Dr. Maulana Karenga</u>, professor and chairman of Africana Studies at California State University, first created Kwanzaa in 1966. He created this holiday in response to the <u>Watts Riots</u> in Los Angeles in 1965 as a way to bring African-Americans together as a community and as a response to the commercialism of Christmas. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means first fruits, or harvest, in Swahili.

The legend of **Santa Claus** can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Santa is 1,750 years old!

Origin of the **Christmas tree**. Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition, as we now know it, in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree.

The **Candy Cane** Legend has it that the candy cane dates to 1670, when the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the Living Creche (manger) ceremony and in honor of the occasion, he bent the candies into shepherds' crooks. The modern-day candy white base color symbolizes Jesus' purity; the red stripes symbolize Jesus' blood when he died on the cross; and the J shape was chosen to represent the J in Jesus.

Happy holidays everyone.

Pat



Mountain View HOA Committee Highlights

Thursday, November 16, 2023 by Gretchen Williams

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

October 2023

Operating Income/loss - \$5,088.08
Y-T-D Reserve Funding Actual
Y-T-D Reserve Funding Budget \$17,968.00
Operating Funds \$126,121.59
Petty Cash \$1,500.00

DELINQUENCY STATUS REPORT:

As of October 31, 2023, there is a total of \$6,411.00 in delinquent assessments. This value represents an approximate delinquency rate of 2.0%, as compared to the last delinquency rate of 2.07% on September 30, 2023.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Thank you, Chuck Hedger, for volunteering to chair the ARC Committee.

ARC:

A nonrefundable application fee of \$95.00_is required for each Home Improvement Form filed with Management. Home projects that have no fee still need an application to be submitted to the ARC for approval. ARC has 21 approved applications and 2 new ones. Residents must complete the "application of completion" once the project is finished.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Check out the colored pictures on the outside bulletin boards from recent events, and the photo album in the clubhouse of past events.

New toner cartridge was purchased at a great discount.

A database for the "Friends of the Neighborhood" continues to grow. These entries are for each participating resident for their use and verification.

FACILITIES:

Completed projects were repairing the pool/spa heaters and purchasing two new patio loveseats. Also, the gutters were cleaned and the keypad was painted.

Proposals for repairing loose tiles on the deck and installing pavers in the dirt area behind the BBQs are in the future.

FINANCE:

The Finance committee reviewed the audit report. The change to a different auditor caused a few problems but the committee approved it. A CD came due and it was reinvested in another one.

LANDSCAPE:

Acacia bushes on some of the resident slopes were trimmed and several new Acacia bushes were planted on the hillside above the Pickleball court. More bushes were added to the pool area in order to hide a stump. More rocks added to the entrance is under consideration.

SOCIAL CLUB:

There is much going on in December:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – decorating the clubhouse.

Saturday, Dec. 9 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DINNER

Monday, Dec. 11 – judging of the best outdoor holiday decorations.

Sunday, Dec. 17 - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SECRET SANTA - Dec. 4-22

TECHNOLOGY:

The new A/V equipment is working well, but a problem with the TV Spectrum receiver had to be corrected. Also, the use of Microsoft PowerPoint with a laptop for the HOA meeting agenda is working well.

A wireless PowerPoint clicker will be purchased.

The consolidation of all the source documents was completed!!!

NEXT HOA BOARD MEETING:

Wed., January 24, 2024 (clubhouse at 6:00pm)



Social Club

Special thanks to all who continue to help with setting up our events. We couldn't have these events if it weren't for those who organize, set up, decorate, serve and clean up.

The Social Club meeting on Thursday, November 9th was called to order at 10:00 am by Carol Walker.

Financial Report: Judy Box gave the financial report. Bank balance is \$3094.70. This includes payments from 24 people who have signed up for the Holiday Dinner by this meeting date. At Oktoberfest TGIF, 50/50 brought in \$61.00 and the bar brought in \$88.50. Cost of food for Oktoberfest TGIF was \$319.97 and the cost of the Costume Parade was \$163.81. Rental income for \$150.00 was received in October.

Friends of the Neighborhood: Maxine Dixon asked if she and Olinda Fritz could proceed with asking the Riverside County Office of the Aging to come to the community for a presentation on services the office can provide to us. This was approved by the Social Club and will occur early in 2024.

Decorating for the Holidays: The gates were decorated by a group of volunteers headed up by Gretchen Williams on November 21st. The clubhouse will be decorated on December 5th in time for the Holiday Dinner.

Christmas Holiday Dinner: The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 9^{th} from 5:30-7:30 at the clubhouse. There will be 50/50, prizes and the bar will be open before the dinner is served.

Holiday House Decorating contest: New this year, we will be having a Holiday House Decorating contest and will pick three houses to each win a \$25.00 gift card. We will be driving around the community on December 11 from 5:30 – 6:00 pm to see all the hard work many residents have put into their creations and pick three. See the ad in this newsletter and get to work!

Christmas Holiday Celebration: The Men's and Women's Bible studies groups invite you to celebrate with them "The True Meaning of Christmas" on Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm at the clubhouse. There will be a video presentation, sandwiches, sides and dessert, and a sing-along to Christmas music. All are welcome to attend.

Social Club

Secret Santa: We are doing Secret Santa again this year and the deadline for participation is December 4th. Let Luanne English know you want to participate by December 4 and she will give you a name (your Secret Santa recipient) by December 8. You have until December 22 to surprise your recipient. See the ad in this newsletter for information.

Events on hiatus for December include: TGIF, Dine Out, Ladies' Luncheon, Water Aerobics (will resume in May 2024, Page Turners Book Club, Bingo, Dominoes, Billiards and Ladies' Night (will return in February 2024).

Baked Potato Bar TGIF: In January, 2024, we will have a Baked Potato Bar TGIF on January 26, 2024. The Social Club will provide the baked potatoes and condiments to go on them and residents are asked to bring sides, salads and desserts.

The Social Club wishes everyone a Joyous and Blessed Holiday Season!

The Social Club Committee: Carol Walker, Vivian Hollomon, Judy Box, Jo Lippire, Grace Paltikian







Outside Community Events

Men's Breakfast:

Wednesday, December 13, 2023; 9:00 am Black Bear Diner 24949 Sunnymead Blvd., MV

RSVP: Dan Klaas: 909-223-0116





Christmas Holiday Dinner

Join us for a wonderful dinner to kick off the holidays.

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the clubhouse

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Reservations were required by **November 21, 2023** along with payment of **\$20.00** per person. Limited to 60 persons.









Menu

Salad

Prime Rib

Lemon Chicken

Mashed Potatoes

Gravy

Green Beans

Dinner Rolls / Butter

Apple Pie



Come and enjoy a festive dinner, Christmas decorations and music. The bar will be available and there will be 50/50.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Men's and Women's Bible Studies invite you to celebrate with us the true meaning of Christmas



Sunday, December 17 5:00 pm At the clubhouse

- Christmas story in video presentation
- Sandwiches, sides and dessert
- Sing-along to Christmas music
- Everyone welcome



Would you like to be a Secret Santa?

You will get to surprise someone with a gift left on their porch, AND in return you will receive a gift.

If you want to participate, let Luanne English know by email or phone message by $\underline{DECEMBER 4^{th}}$.

Luanne.English@gmail.com or 951-751-7258

Luanne will then randomly select the names to be delivered. Then by Dec. 8th, she will deliver a name to your door that will be the person you surprise with a gift! You are their SECRET SANTA! And someone else will be your Secret Santa!

The gift can be something homemade or purchased (such as a decoration, calendar, gift card, a plant, etc.) for around \$10.00

You will then deliver the gift to their porch between the dates of December 18 - 22.

If you have any questions, please contact Luanne.

Something Lovin' from the Oven

By Eunice Kang



Christmas Cinnamon Stars

(Gluten Free)

1¼ cup pwd. sugar1 tsp lemon zest3 egg whites2 cups ground almonds½ tsp salt2 tsp cinnamon

- Sift and measure powdered sugar.
- Beat egg whites with salt until stiff (not dry).
- Gradually beat in sugar and lemon zest.
- ➤ Beat 5 minutes. Remove ¾ cup for topping.
- > Add cinnamon and almonds and blend well.
- ➤ Roll dough 1/8-inch-thick on lightly floured board and cut into stars with cookie cutter.
- Place on lightly greased cookie sheet.
- ➤ Top each star with ½ tsp reserved topping.
- ➤ Bake at 350° for about 10-12 minutes.
- > Do not over bake. Makes 3 dozen.

Date Nut Bars

1 cup flour	1 tsp vanilla
½ tsp baking powder	11 oz (1¾ cup)
½ tsp salt	chopped dates
½ cup butter	1 cup
1 cup sugar	chopped nuts
2 eggs	powdered sugar
	l .

- Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt.
- > Cream butter. Gradually blend in sugar.
- Add eggs, one at a time, beating until fluffy.
- Add vanilla.
- Gradually blend in flour mixture, beating after each addition.
- Stir in dates and nuts.
- Spread evenly about 1½ inches deep in baking pan or pans.
- ➤ Bake at 325° for 30 minutes. Cool.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into bars.

The Green Thumb Corner

From the archives by Victoria Klaas

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

December is often an odd mix of bitter morning cold or unprecedented afternoon warmth. Lots of plants will bloom in December and early January.

If you planted annuals like Violas or Icelandic Poppies in October, they are probably blooming right now. Turf grasses will benefit from a light feeding of granular fertilizer this month. Feed them again in January and February. Cold nights mean that summer producing nitrogen soil bacteria are now dormant and unavailable to roots. Artificial fertilizers will quickly green up brown or yellow lawns.

You should also plant your perennials this month. Delphiniums, Foxglove, Columbine, and Coral Bells will bloom in late winter. Crowded perennials such as Daylilies or Agapanthus may be divided during the winter months. This is also an ideal time to relocate roses or small deciduous fruit trees. Prune them down to a manageable size first before digging them up.

Cymbidium Orchids often begin blooming in December. These hardy orchids do very well outdoors under covered patios as they require some winter chill to bloom. Their flowers are spectacular as long, showy shapes of twenty or more blooms. You can also plant spring flowering bulbs like Narcissus, Tulips, and Hyacinths. Garden herbs and vegetables may also be planted in December.

This is also the month for snails and cutworms. Baits are available for both. Personally, I have found the live Decollate snail to be very effective. These small, conical snails look harmless but at night, they hunt in small "packs" to surround and devour the pesky European Brown Garden Snail. Don't expect to see them much as they burrow into soil by day and emerge after dark or on wet days. The more you release, the faster the infestation is controlled.

Don't forget to protect tropical and subtropical plants from frost. If frost threatens, cover them or move them under a patio or indoors. Don't prune these plants during cold weather as it will only stimulate new growth and make them more vulnerable. If plants are damaged by frost, resist the impulse to prune off the damage. The damaged portion will protect them from further cold injury. Be patient. Delay pruning tender plants until mid-April

~Happy gardening, Victoria



Something New this Holiday Season!

People do a lot of nice work decorating their homes for the holidays. This year, we will be giving 3 prizes to the best decorated homes. It's time to decorate your house and if you use a ladder, be sure to have someone watch you for safety.

- ❖ Decorating must be completed by Monday, December 11.
- ❖ We will be driving around the community on Monday, December 11 between 5:30 and 6:00 pm to see all of your hard work and pick 3 winners.
- Get out there and do your best!
- ❖ If you have any questions, contact Twila DeWalt: 951-242-9217

Oktoberfest Costume Contest Winners

Here are the winners of the Oktoberfest Costume contest:



Eunice Kang



Wendy Buck

Special Thanks

Thank you for decorating the gates!!



Darryl and Jain Householder

Eunice Kang

Dan Klaas

Gil and Nancy Lascurain

Bob Prentice

Ron and Gretchen Williams

CK and Nan Wong

Bob Victor

History Facts

A giant wave of molasses once flooded the streets of Boston.

On January 15, 1919, more than 2 million gallons of molasses spewed through Boston's North End in an event known today as the Great Molasses Flood. The incident occurred due to a faulty storage tank managed by United States Industrial Alcohol, a distilling company. The massive storage vat measured 50 feet high with a diameter of 90 feet, and was known to rumble and leak from the time it was built in 1915. These issues occurred in part because the walls were only 0.31 to 0.67 inches thick, far too thin to contain the weight of a full tank of molasses.

On January 12 and 13, 600,000 gallons of molasses were pumped into the tank, filling it to capacity. This, coupled with temperature fluctuations that affected both the molasses and the vat itself, put an added strain on the tank. Two days later, the container burst from the pressure, sending a 40-foot-high wave of molasses gushing through the streets at a speed of up to 35 miles per hour. The destructive force of gooey liquid destroyed buildings and claimed 21 lives, requiring 87,000 worker hours to clean up in the event's aftermath. For years after, residents claimed the area reeked of molasses on warmer days.



ARC Committee Notice



The December ARC meeting will be Monday, Dec. 18 at 9:30 am. Any new Home Improvement Forms requiring ARC approval must be submitted to FirstService early

enough for them to review and forward to ARC by Friday, December 15, 2023.

A Bit of Humor

- ➤ I wish I could Google my own mind and just type in stuff like, "What are my favorite movies" or "What was the name of the place with the really good egg rolls".
- Did you know that Christmas trees are happiest when you take all the lights off? They are delighted!
- ➤ Potatoes make French fries, chips and Vodka. It's like the other vegetables aren't even trying!
- I have been working really hard to expand my skill set as I get older. And I can honestly report that I have completely mastered the ability to forget what I am doing while I am doing it!
- If you see me smiling, it's because I'm thinking of doing something naughty. If you see me laughing it's because I've already done it!









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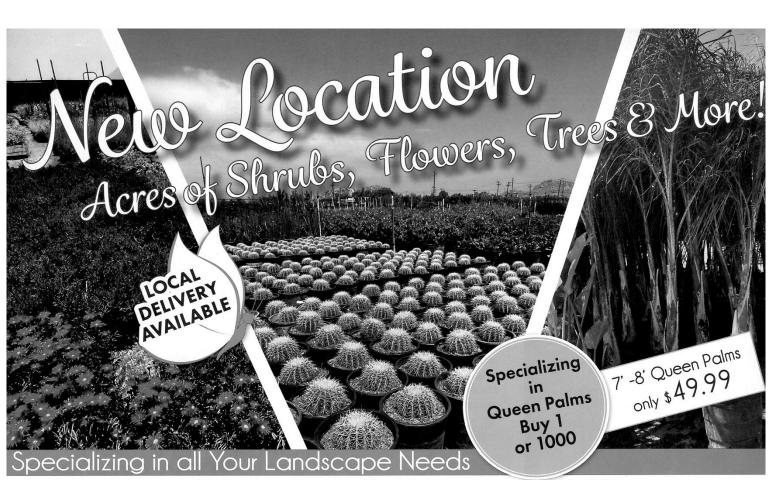




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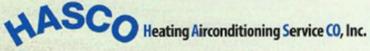






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