

Casa del Sol ***** What's Up? ***** November 2021

Hi folks! I'm back! Not back in Casa del Sol (I'm still here north of the 49th parallel – well actually I'm south of it but that's another story), but I am back telling you what to do – err, what's going on this month in Florida's best little community. Gosh, I miss you guys. Word has it that Canucks will start to return this month (besides Neil!), now that our automobiles have been blessed. Look for the Goards, the Cunninghams and Sue Sheppard in November. The rest of us will straggle along behind to join the US snowbirds as they settle into the park once again. Today as I walked on the trail through our woods, the colored carpet of leaves crunched beneath my feet. Though temps are still quite mild, we know nature is preparing for winter. Florida is enticing.

Life at Casa went on for the residents without us during the summer. There was a Fourth of July celebration, Wednesday coffee visits, an Ice Cream Social and Pat Berei's 101st birthday party. **Yeah Pat!**

Building and Grounds Chair Chuck Nixon and his volunteers kept the park looking top-notch. Jim J. and the Board kept residents safe by monitoring the Covid situation as well as their usual (and sometimes unusual) responsibilities. *Thank You.*

We have lost so many dear friends since I last walked Casa's streets. We will remember them and the roles they played in creating our special community. To best honor their memory, let's keep the park welcoming and active so make sure you invite our new neighbors to coffee and activities. We want to get to know them all. During the winter there will be more of us together again, so please continue to keep everyone safe with the health protocols.

I understand I may actually have to find my lipstick again when I get to Florida. Here, we still wear a mask indoors in every public place and it has been announced that masks will be mandated until March 31, 2022. We've come to enjoy "airgasms" – which are the intense feelings of pleasure we experience each time we leave a public space and take off our masks. Ontario will lift more current restrictions January 17 after the holidays. We are definitely more cautious than Florida.

The **Homeowner's Board Meeting** will be **Thursday, November 11 at 10 am**. Please attend so you are aware of your park business and current developments. Three of the directors will be completing their 3 year terms in February and we need knowledgeable replacements for them. Go to the meetings to learn the facts and operations of our community.

Men's Coffee is each Monday at 8:00 am. so come at 7:45. (Seniors consider speed limits and appointment times totally discretionary.) That's where all the problems of the world get solved and men talk about whatever men talk about – until the next Monday and they do it all over again. Lug a mug and enjoy the coffee, doughnuts and gab for a buck and the 50/50.

At the **Nov. 3 Wednesday Coffee, 9:00 am** (so come by **8:30 am** so you can visit – and eat – before the meeting.) there will be a **business meeting** to discuss November activities.

This "other board" – the **Activities Board** – which oversees the "fun stuff" in Casa del Sol will be **electing officers** at the **December 1 Coffee Hour Business meeting**. Chairman Chuck would like to retire and a secretary (me) who isn't there, isn't much good so there's at least two spots to fill. This board is all about good times and our activities make our park fun for all.

The Park Ladies have a social time **every Monday at 1:00 pm**. Come and join the camaraderie.

Nov. 1 - Gift Bag Bingo. Bring a \$2 wrapped gift.

Nov. 8 - Game time – Rummikum, Mexican Train, Dominos

Nov. 15 – Lunch at *KeKe's Breakfast Cafe* on Bruce B. Downs

Leave the clubhouse at **12:30**. Sign up in advance on the clubhouse sheet so we know numbers.

Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Bingo. Bring \$2 in dimes plus 1 quarter

Nov. 29 – Bunco. Bring 1 quarter

As I write this, the **Veterans and Thanksgiving dinners** are still on a wish list. Will they be "Covid quiet" again this year?

On November 11 and 25, remember to honor and give thanks as we mark these special days.

But you *can* plan to eat your fill and visit with friends at the **Pancake Breakfasts** which will begin again in December.

Monday Night Bingo resumes this month at **6:30 pm**. Come early to get your favorite chair and numbers. **Nov. 1 and 8** will be 10 cent Bingo (Bring 20 dimes and a quarter) and regular bingo will take over the weekly slot on **November 15**.

While we're on the topic of games, **Tuesday Pokeno starts at 12:30**. Then there's **Cards at 5:30 and Hand and Foot at 6:30**. (Tuesday must be diet day for the card players because they don't take time to eat!)

The popular bi-monthly **Wednesday Movie Nights** cannot be held until we vote to renew our licence (to prevent a major fine and keep the Johnsons out of jail). It's a big chunk of change but gives us an evening so many enjoy. Granted, the clubhouse chairs don't recline - but we'd probably nod off to sleep if they did! Let's get movie nights going again.

Mexican Train leaves the station at **5:50 pm on Thursdays**.

Then it's the **Friday Night Fights – oops – Games at 6:30 pm**. We've never sure what games will appear. You can be sure there will be laughs and maybe a little competition.

And finally, there's **Saturday Cards at 5:30 and Hand and Foot at 6:30 pm**.

Now, for the more energetic.

The shuffleboard courts will get busier (**10 am Mon., Wed. and Fri.**) as the snowbirds return.

Everyone is welcome to play – those learning and those who can't seem to learn, like me. New teams are drawn each game. There is no scheduled league play so come when you can – and you'll want to come again. No big competition – just fun.

Missing from our calendar is **golf**. We need to find another venue and a new leader to set up tee times on the course. The past couple winters have not been kind to our golf family but hopefully we have more new golfers in the park.

These are the activities currently planned but they will no doubt be expanded *safely* as more residents arrive, so watch the breezeway bulletin board and keep your ears open at coffee hours. Spread the word.

We'll have to wait for January for a resurgence of the Quilting/Eating group and maybe, just maybe some of our other activities that Covid has sidelined for the time being – like dinners, dances and "Meet 'n' Greets.

On a final note, Arnold and I will see you in January. We will miss seeing the gorgeous Christmas decorations again (I think Arnold has wrapped his last clubhouse palm tree with lights.) As is our custom, we will freeze our wee touches at our hunting cabin with the family again over New Years. Then make sure you have the heat turned up when we arrive!

Cheers,

Gail

