

Volume 2,
December 2020

Board of Directors Meetings

Unless otherwise notified, the monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse from November through April. At this point in time, the meetings are only open to the Board of Directors.

Keep checking the newsletters for changes in the rules for COVID19.

A Note from the Editor....

First of all, I would like to thank the residents who took the time to prepare an article for last month's newsletter to let us know what you were up to during the pandemic. I think it made a nice segment to the newsletter. In that regard, I was thinking it might be fun, every so often, to give you all a subject to write a little something about. I thought of -"My Most Memorable Christmas" But I didn't think of it in time for the December newsletter. Keep your eyes open and, if you have any ideas let me know, too. I think we could have fun with it.

I am always interested in what you have to offer. This is OUR newsletter....not just mine. So if you have something you would like me to put in the newsletter, let me know. I will see what I can do.

Happy Holidays,

Sherry Stover

slstover51@gmail.com

Welcome to December and the end of 2020, a year of firsts. Hopefully you all have noticed that new restrictions have been posted at the clubhouse/pool area. We all hope that Ultra 5 will continue to relax the Covid restrictions that have been in place for most of 2020. There will be no access to the kitchen at the clubhouse for the near future, but hopefully this will change too. I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Joyous Christmas Season.

Hope to see you all soon.

Tom Clark



*I look in mother's closet,
And what do I see
But a huge pile of presents!
Maybe one is for me.*

*If I just take a peek
At those bundles in there,
I wonder whether mother
Really would care...*

*~"Christmas Presents," in The Herald,
December 1943*



IMPORTANT INFORMATION - If you have an activity and/or event that you would like included in the newsletter, please be aware that any contact information you furnish will be included both in the printed document as well as any digitized (online) copies of the newsletter. Your submission indicates your acceptance of the above.

Thank You.

LAUREL ESTATES 55+ COMMUNITY, N FORT MYERS, FL

The Laurel Ledger



BECAUSE I STILL BELIEVE

I'm like a child about Christmas.
 I still believe.
 To me, the sparkle and the glitter are real,
 And the gifts that I receive come from the heart.
 The season is its own excuse for giving,
 and I love the generosity I feel.
 The tree, the ornaments, the lights are all for me.
 It's magic and I feel it every year.
 Maybe that's because I still believe.

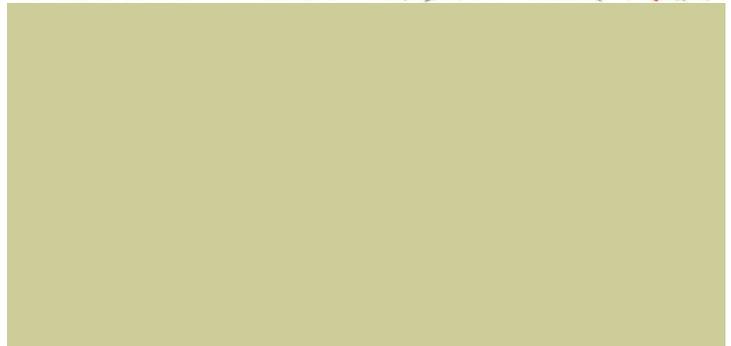
Rae Turnbull

Found this in a magazine around 1972, cut it out and framed it.

Don't Forget....

Christmas Light/House decoration contest - Get your Holiday Spirit on!

December 22 between 8:00pm and 10:00pm judging will be held. Traditional, Modern or The Nightmare Before Christmas, all decorations are welcomed and encouraged. Dress up and be part of your decorations. Award will be given for first, second and third place best decorated house. Winners will be announced on December 23rd via post on the club house bulletin board. Get your thinking caps on, let's light up our community with



Christmas Food and Toy Drive

Our yearly Christmas Food Drive and Toy Drive will be taking place starting December 1st and ending December 24th at noon. Drop your donations off at the club house or at Earl Harvey's carport at 2742 Teakwood Blvd. Gifts for 5 to 10 yr olds are especially needed.

Thank you

Mr. Harvey's Retirement

Earl Harvey, after handling the Blood Bank and the Food and Toy Drives for over 20 years, has decided that it is time to retire from that and just put his feet up. Hopefully some caring person will take over. So many depend on us. If interested, contact Mr. Harvey (239-656-6559) or Tom Clark (616-218-2527)

REMINDER FOR JANUARY

January 30th

8:00 am - noon or

1:00 Table rental -

\$5.00

Call Sherri Hinchman at 856-776-9151 if you need a table or email to shinchman@gmail.com

Start saving your treasures!

**Breakfast items
in the morning.**

**Boxed lunches
at lunch time.**



WarmDecemberBirthdayWishes

Hintz	DAVID	1
Tschirhart	MICHAEL	1
Swick	JANICE	1
Spoth	RON	2
Poe	HAROLD	3
Holman	WALENA	4
Braaten	CHRIS	9
Woods	Leon (HEWEY)	13
Moty1	CATHERINE	17
Scroggins	JACK	18
Senecal	GENE	18
Rudolph	JIM	21
Burns	LOUISE	21
Frank	PAT	22
Sadler	CAROLYN	23
Cushman	BARBARA	24
Holman	RAY	26
Samson	RAY	26
Powers	THERESE	27
Verrill	SYLVIA	29
Calvin	TODD	31
Collins	CYNTHIA	31
Staup	CARLEEN	31
Swick	GREGORY	31

A Box Full of Kisses

The story goes that some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy."



The man was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found out the box was empty. He yelled at her, stating, "Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside? The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child. It is also told that her father kept that gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each one of us, as humans beings, have been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses... from our children, family members, friends. There is simply no other possession, anyone could hold, more precious than this.

thesilentchild | tumblr



A Joyful Christmas

The Best Rum Cake Ever



Ingredients

<i>1 or 2 qts Rum</i>	<i>Baking Powder</i>
<i>1 C butter</i>	<i>1 t. baking soda</i>
<i>2 lg eggs</i>	<i>Lemon Juice</i>
<i>1 C dried fruit</i>	<i>Brown Sugar</i>
<i>1 t. sugar</i>	<i>Nuts</i>

Before you start, sample the rum to check for quality. Good, isn't it? Now to go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check the rum again. To be sure it's of the highest quality, pour one level cup into a glass and drink. Repeat. With an electric mixer, beat 1 C. butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 seaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile make sure the rum is of the top quality for sure. Try another cup. Open second quart if necessary. Add two arge legs and two cups fried druit, and beat till high. If druit gets struck in the beaters just pry it loose with a drewscraver. Check the rum again for tonscisticity. Next sift 3 cups of pepper or salt (it really doesn't matter). Sample rum again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add 1 or more babble-spoons thugar, or what ever color you can find. Wix mel. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350 gredes. Now pour the whole mess into the boven and ake. Check the rum again and go to bed.

Self Isolation through the Summer

Sylvia & Jon Verrill

Thanks to a tiny kit my sister gave me a couple years ago, I have discovered and become addicted to needle felt-

ing. I have quite the me-



nagerie! Thank goodness I have sold quite a few items to offset the cost of the wool.

I also decided to brighten up the master bedroom in our house. We also froze and enjoyed many mangos due to our generous neighbors.



Jon did a bit of sprouting, baking and helped with the raising of a few monarch butterflies.



e also challenged me to a few games of Hand n Foot.

If cold December gave you birth—
The month of snow, and ice, and mirth—
Place on your hand a turquoise blue,
Success will bless whate'er you do.
~Author unknown, "A Gem for Every Month," c.1883

Resident Christmas Card Drop Box



With the Holiday Season quickly approaching, and the pandemic social distancing in place, we will all miss our wonderful seasonal gatherings. What better way to stay in touch, with our dear Laurel Estate friends and share the holiday spirit, than with a card. A Christmas Card drop box will be located in the clubhouse beginning November 21, 2020 through December 20, 2020. If you wish to send a Laurel Estate resident a card of good wishes, please feel free to drop that card in the box. No stamps necessary. The cards will be delivered to each resident beginning December 21 through December 24. Cards will be dropped off at your door step. No contact delivery.

Wishing you and yours a very happy safe holiday season.

An excerpt from

A Cup of Christmas Tea

By Tom Hegg

I sat alone with feelings that I hadn't felt in years.

I looked around at Christmas

Through a thick, hot blur of tears.

And the candles and the holly

She'd arranged on every shelf...

The impossibly good cookies

She still somehow baked herself...

But these rich, tactile memories

Became quite pale and thin when measured

By the Christmas my Great Aunt kept deep within.

Her body halved and nearly spent,

HELP FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Ande Smith with North Fort Myers VFW Auxiliary is still clipping coupons for our military families overseas.

Please take what need from the paper and donate the rest if you can. There is a plastic box in the clubhouse on the shelf or call me to pick up from your house if you can't get to the clubhouse.

Thank you for your continued support. You can reach me at 239-656-2821 or 2743 Breezewood Drive.

January Newsletter - Due to the Christmas holiday, the January newsletter will not be printed until December 26. The deadline for articles WILL remain 2:00 pm on December 24. Please make sure you proof read your articles.

but my Great Aunt was whole.

I saw a Christmas miracle...

The triumph of a soul.

The triple beat of two feet and a crutch came down the hall

The rattle of the china in the hutch against the wall.

She poured two cups. She smiled, and then she handed one to me,

And then we settled back and had a cup of Christmas tea.



I purchased two of these sets (teacup & saucer and book) back in 1996 - one for my mother and one for her sister, my aunt. I always envision, when I read this, our Christmas traditions with family in the quaint little town of Mifflinville, PA

Kenny's Crafts

Month of December

DECEMBER 1	CANDY CANE DOOR HANGER	\$7.00
DECEMBER 8	GLASS BLOCK DECO W/LIGHTS	\$8.00
	FOR CHRISTMAS	
DECEMBER 15	PAINTING 'LADY IN RED'	\$7.00
DECEMBER 22	UGLY SWEATER COOKIE	
	DECORATING	\$7.00



Picture Directory

There have been various inquiries regarding the picture directories for Laurel Estates. The only thing I know is that Pat Frank was hoping to have them sometime in November.



Please sign up in advance



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G
 Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M
 S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q
 P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S
 G R E H N X R L B P Y N N N H R S O I L
 B N Z C S T B H J O M D P I M O A B V M
 Y M I S T L E T O E Y R D E E S M C I U
 G O C N O R L D K C O Q O N R T T W N B
 W K Y Q C Z E J A G O V T D R Y S D G Q
 L O R T K L C N I C G P N R Y L I N X S
 J N X J I R E F B A V A P J E H R D C Z
 X L W O N H T A E R W V I I L E H A Y E
 W L R D G Z G Y L D J C G N X E C M B O
 M Y A D I L O H L S U H J A W N Z A M J
 I X P D B T V H S K M W S E L D N A C U

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| BELLS | RUDOLPH | ELVES | JOY |
| CANDLES | SANTA | FROSTY | MERRY |
| CANDY CANE | SEASON | GIFT | MISTLETOE |
| CARDS | SLEIGH | GIVING | NOEL |
| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTH POLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |

