

THE MESSENGER AT FOUR SEASONS



*Painted by Jan Lemucchi.
Member of the Art Club at Four Seasons - Come join us!*

DECEMBER 2023

Lodge Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday 6am-9pm
Friday- 6am-10pm
Saturday-Sunday 8am-7pm

Outdoor Amenities:
Monday-Sunday
5am-10pm

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Four Seasons Lodge

Phone (661) 873-0580
Fax (661) 873-0579
www.fsbhoa.com

The Beauty Bar

Phone (661) 873-0581

Landscape Work Orders

Email: help@cmlandscapeinc.com

K. Hovnanian's Customer Service

Phone (877) 832-6231
service123@khov.com

Seabreeze Owner Information Portal

Commarea.cincwebaxis.com

Front Desk Email

frontdesk@fsbhoa.com

California Water Service

Phone (661) 873-7260

Animal Control

Phone (661) 326-3436

City Solid Waste

Phone (661) 326-3114

Fire Department

Phone (661) 326-3911

Police Department **(non emergency)**

Phone (661) 327-7111

The Office

Leanna Cutler

General Manager, CMCA, AMS

Leanna.Cutler@seabreezemgmt.com

Saretha Headley

Property Services Coordinator

Saretha.Headley@seabreezemgmt.com

Anwar Alshami

Lodge Attendant

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Lodge Attendant

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Michael Forrest

Porter

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Don Wolfe
President

Lorenzo Alvarez
Vice President

Bill Ferguson
Treasurer

Pawel Bankowski
Secretary

Rodger Barnes
Director

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& Regs article this month!

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Mike Callagy keeps you up to
date with the latest landscape
news!

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We asked residents to provide a photo
of their pets this holiday and they
didn't dissappoint. If you have a photo
you would like to provide email it to
frontdesk@fsbhoa.com

PAWEL BANKOWSKI INTERVIEW (FINALE) - 32-35

This month the Newsletter
Committee got to interview resident
Pawel Bankowski, and it was so
riveting we had to put it in 2 parts!
Here is the finale.

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Sherry Core let's those know they are
not alone this holiday season. If you
or someone you know is struggling
this season please reach out to a
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FIRST OIL ON THE KERN- 10-12

Kitty DeArmond includes her
piece called 'First Oil On The
Kern"

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Keep track of all the upcoming
events and meetings for the
month of December.

CLUBS & CLASSES 17-31

Join a club, and spend your
days with new people and good
energy.

DECEMBER FUN! - 36

Enjoy Special December fun facts,
special days, and December
throughout history.



Some Words From Your Treasurer

Bill Ferguson - BOD Treasurer

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I wish you all the best of holiday seasons. Yes, 2024 is only a blink of the eye away. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

It's disappointing but the financial reporting problems mentioned in last month's "Words" have yet to be resolved. Once again, the financial committee rejected the report back to Seabreeze for corrections which were made by the end of the month. That corrected report did show another increase in our operating cash. As you may be aware, if you were keeping up with the changes preceding the release of our 2024 budget, we were expecting a larger than normal carryover into next year. In anticipation of this we allocated \$38,830 to contingency to "place hold" this likelihood. As of last month, considering that historically we drop, on average, about \$25,000 in the last two months of the year, we should end 2023 with an approximate \$72,000 carryover.

A couple of members responded to my last "words" and one of the questions was "Is there any concern that raising the HOA fee at this time will increase the delinquency amount and/or the number of delinquencies? My reply is that we haven't seen evidence of this in the past, where as an example, in 2021 we required a 13.7% increase. I have to thank our membership for that and for their understanding of the need to adequately fund our lifestyle choices.

I was also asked about the assessment increase, first noted in the September Messenger and the board meeting on the 27th, and why we did not give more forewarning. This answer was fairly simple, although we had been working on the 2024 budget since the May time frame, our budget subcommittee didn't reach a consensus for the BOD until September 25 which was only two days prior to the board's meeting. The major holdup was obtaining the reserve analysis from our vendor. As you may know, this analysis describes almost 20% of our budget and must be approved prior to any budget finalization.

Some Words From Your Treasurer, CONT.

Bill Ferguson - BOD Treasurer

Another question was “Is there any guarantee that these (budgeted) funds that are set to replenish the reserve are not available to be spent as quickly as they are put in?”(Response) Yes, the distribution of funds is all described in the breakdown of the budget. This is where we have allocated 18.9% of the budget to the reserves.

This takes me to the subject of a finance forum. These types of questions were intended to be explained in my October 3 forum which at that time was based upon the September financials. Any future forum must include up to date financial data and, while I continue to work on this, I won't have end of year data until January. At that time, I intend to reschedule an updated forum and will do my best to ensure that there is no interference with any other HOA or social event

Once again, thanks for reading my “words”. I really enjoy your feedback so keep it coming. As usual, I intend to respond to all of your thoughts and questions as candidly and accurately as I can either personally via email or in next months “Words”.

So, send your responses and questions to: billfergus@aol.com. As always, I intend to offer more financial thoughts next month.

Bill



RULE REMINDER

PET CONTAINMENT

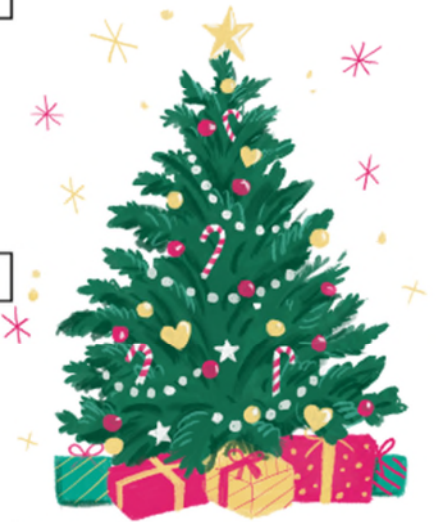
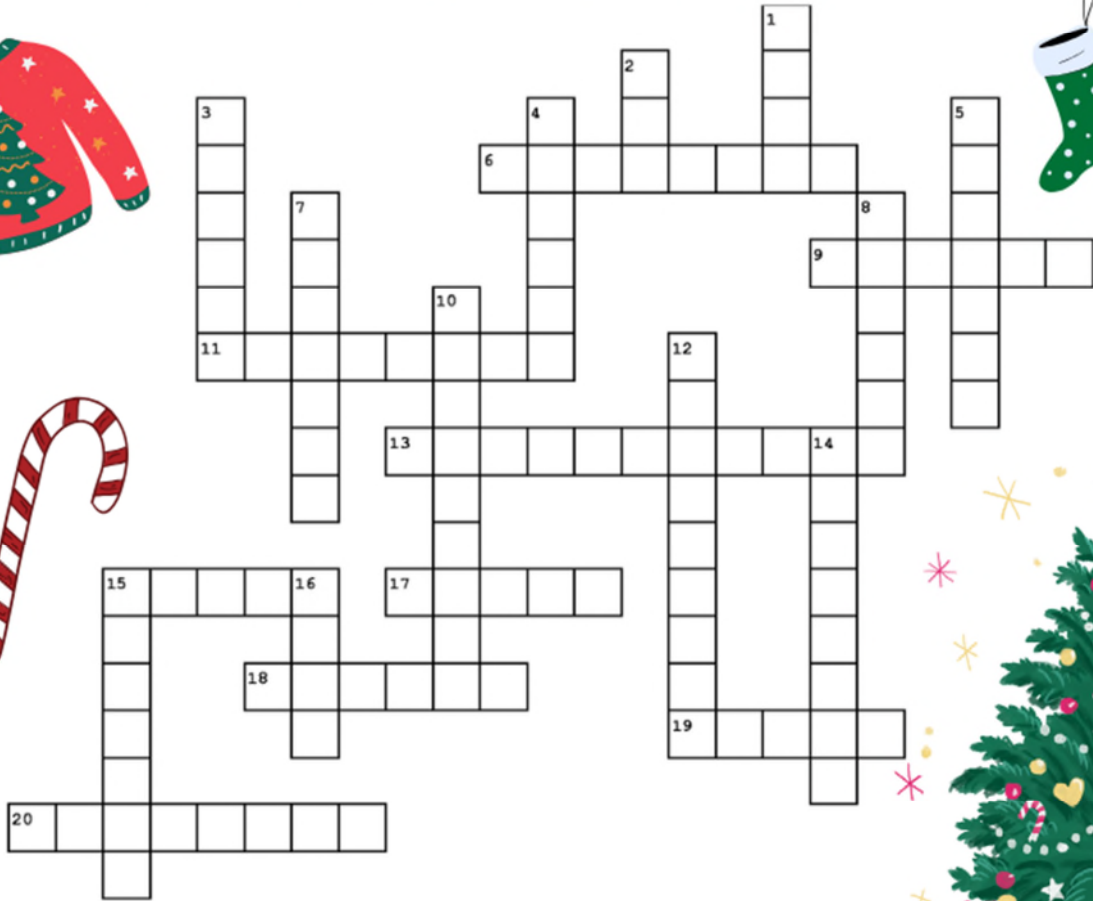
- All pets of a Resident or guest must be kept within an enclosure or enclosed yard of adequate height and strength to prevent escape.
- Outside of a Residence or fenced yard of a Residence, an animal must be on a leash held by an individual capable of controlling the animal and in accordance with the City of Bakersfield's leash law.
- All pets (dogs, cats, et cetera) are prohibited in/or on the Lodge Facilities except where Federal or State laws apply.



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- Decorations creating traffic congestion or a nuisance to neighbors shall not be allowed.
- Decorations may be hung or set out fifteen (15) days prior to a holiday and must be removed fifteen (15) days after the holiday, without ARC Committee approval.
- Christmas Holiday lighting and decorations shall be installed no earlier than Thanksgiving Day and shall be removed no later than January 15th.
- Use of exploding devices of any kind is prohibited in the community.

Christmas Crossword



Across

6. My family takes Christmas _____ on Christmas.
9. During Christmas you usually are with your _____.
11. Every Christmas Eve morning I look in my _____ and see what's in it.
13. You put _____ on your tree.
15. Every year my family gets Christmas _____.
17. _____ is someone that lots of kids believe in.
18. Most families watch Christmas _____ on Christmas Eve or Christmas.
19. Often people use _____ as Christmas candy.
20. It is really tiring looking for _____ for people.

Down

1. You decorate your _____ for Christmas.
2. For Christmas celebrations most people put a Santa _____ on.
3. I decorate my room and tree with _____.
4. Christmas is all about _____.
5. Christmas is a festive _____.
7. _____ is one of Santa's reindeer.
8. There are lots of Christmas _____ that we sing on Christmas.
10. We hang our stockings on our _____.
12. _____ is where Jesus was born.
14. The _____ is a Christmas play.
15. If you believe in Santa you usually put out _____ for him.
16. Up in the north it usually gets some _____ on Christmas.

Conversation with the Rules & Regulations Committee

Sherry Core - Committee Member

**“This land is your land, and this land is my land
From Panorama Drive to Paladino Drive
From Vineland Road to Citrus Hills Drive
This land was developed for you and me.”**

We chose this land for its beautiful amenities, friendly neighbors, and sense of security. Here are some Rules & Regulations to remind us how we can protect and care for this land that we share.

- **If the U.S flag is to hang after sunset, illuminate it with light.**
- **Decorations creating traffic congestion or a nuisance to neighbors shall not be allowed.**
- **Christmas Holiday lighting and decorations shall be installed no earlier than Thanksgiving and shall be removed no later than January 15th.**
- **Trash containers are to be placed for collection after 5:00 p.m. the evening prior to the day of collection and be removed by evening on the day of collection.**
- **All guests must be accompanied by a Resident at all times when using the Lodge Facilities.**
- **Eight (8) guests per day per household are permitted use of designated Lodge Facilities.**
- **All guests must register with the Lodge Staff when first entering the Lodge.**
- **Any dog, cat, bird, or other animal is to be kept solely as a household pet and not for commercial purposes.**
- **An RV owner may petition the Board Annually to designate the street parking space immediately in front of the owner’s lot for extended parking privileges and to be reserved for the owner’s exclusive use for up to 96 total hours (4 days) per month. In using these hours, the RV owner may not park for longer than 48 continuous hours at a time.**
- **Prior to conducting a yard/garage/estate sale a Resident must submit a request in writing and obtain permission from the Management Company.**
- **Residents may reserve the Arts & Crafts Room, Ballroom, and Conference Room. Please see the Lodge Room Rental Packet for details or contact the Activities Director.**
- **No glass objects including Pyrex or bakeware are allowed in the BBQ area.**

Peppermint Martini



Prep Time: 10 Minutes
Total Time: 10 Minutes

Ingredients:

- *ice cubes, as needed*
- *5 fluid ounces vanilla vodka*
- *2 fluid ounces white creme de menthe*
- *½ fluid ounce peppermint schnapps*

Directions:

1. *Gather all your ingredients.*
2. *Fill a cocktail shaker with ice.*
3. *Pour vodka, creme de menthe, and peppermint schnapps over ice. Cover the cocktail shaker and shake well, about 30 seconds.*
4. *Strain into two martini glasses. Garnish with peppermint sticks if desired and enjoy!*



First Oil On The Kern

Submitted by Kitty DeArmond, Resident

(Photo courtesy of South Florida DX Assoc.)

Bakersfield today is undoubtedly best known throughout the United States because of her oilfields. Although petroleum was commercially exploited at Temblor on the West Side during the 1860's, Bakersfield first became celebrated as an oil town following the discovery of oil on the Kern River in 1899. The production of oil was "old hat" to the whole western area of the San Joaquin before much attention was directed to the long known seepages below China Grade Bluff. Little heed had also been paid earlier to the gas well brought in by Captain John Barker on his river ranch in 1892, and used by him for domestic heating and cooking.

One believer in the existence of oil on the Kern River was Tom Means, owner of a small "ranch" seven miles northeast of Bakersfield a short distance east of the present Gordon's Ferry Bridge. Means' house stood on the south bank with a triangular 20-acre parcel lying across the river.

In the spring of 1899 Means was approached by James Elwood who requested to cut out the small timber on the Means' property. Means, however, induced Elwood to dig for oil and gave him a lease on his property for this purpose.

In need of practical advice and assistance Elwood and his son, Jonathon, drove to McKittrick, then called Asphalto, to talk with Milton McWhorter who was drilling in that area. McWhorter, a veteran of Oil City, Pennsylvania, returned with the Elwood's and agreed to drill a well for them on the Means Ranch. The contract price was to be seventy-five cents a foot, the casing to be furnished by McWhorter. The Elwood's were to furnish oil for the boilers.

Since the expense of hauling oil from McKittrick, or Old Sunset, across the San Joaquin Valley was out of the question, McWhorter suggested that the Elwood's dig for oil under the bank almost level with the surface of the river. They used a simple auger-like drill, which cut a three-inch hole. After several failures they finally struck oil sand at the tremendous depth of thirteen feet! While McWhorter was preparing his steam rig and derrick a sort distance away, the Elwood's began excavating a shaft on top of the bank above the former location.

First Oil On The Kern

Submitted by Kitty DeArmond, Resident



Digging with pick and shovel they laboriously hoisted the dirt to the surface with a hand windless. Finally, at forty-three feet they again struck the same oil strata. Because of the soft formation the Elwood's were obliged to install timbers at this point. No effective method was at hand to draw off the strong gas fumes that now invaded the shaft, so the Elwood's, again on the advice of McWhorter, screwed an auger bit on the end of several lengths of pipe. A wooden crosspiece was clamped to the top section, and turning this by hand they drilled an additional thirty feet. Oil then rose into the excavated section at the rate of about three barrels a day.

Within an hour after the first oil was hauled from the pit it was burning under McWhorter's boiler at the new rig. Nineteen days later on July 26, 1899, at a depth of 256 feet, the first drilled well on the Kern River 1910 Dorman Bros. Photo of the Kern River Field. reached completion. The casing size was five 1910 and five-eighths inches. Never a big producer, this well continued to produce for quite a few years. At first no one would believe the oil had been found along the Kern. Some folks suggested that the well had been "salted" with McKittrick oil, which it closely resembled. But at last the doubters were satisfied, and the boom was on!

Within a few years thousands of men were at work on the Kern River leases, and great quantities of local crude were leaving the area in railroad tank cars.

First Oil On The Kern

Submitted by Kitty DeArmond, Resident

Prosperity became a mixed blessing to Bakersfield. Killings, beatings, and robberies were commonplace. The red-light districts became notorious, and the sleepy sedate little town was suddenly known as the toughest spot in the country. It was a reputation Bakersfield was not to live down for many years. The Kern River field quickly entered a period of great expansion. Dry holes were few and the year 1904 saw a production peak of 17½ million barrels, the largest of any California field.

Note: The Discovery Well site is marked by State Registered Historic Landmark No. 290. It is located on Round Mountain Road, 0.7 miles east of the intersection of Round Mountain Rd. and China Grade Loop.

**What's happening at our HOA Board meetings?
Check out meeting agendas, minutes, treasurer
reports and budgets at our new Four Seasons
website.**

FSBHOA.com

**If you are a first time user of this site, be sure to
login in order to see all the features of the
website.**



A Word From Landscape Committee

By Mike Callagy (Landscape Chair)

Thanksgiving is behind us, Christmas, and the New year ahead, along with more turkey, ham, pecan and pumpkin pies and calories than the entire Pittsburg Steelers team will burn up in a season. No problem. We are tough, amma-right?

It is time to hit the pause button and stop to appreciate the community in which we live and the life and lifestyle we are afforded us in America. One only must watch one local and national news broadcast to see, plainly, that we have been blessed big time. We live in an amazing community with amazing neighbors, all 600 or so from every walk, social, economic, and ethnic background. Eileen and I wake up every morning looking forward to another day with everyone. Do we agree on everything; nope; do we see the future in the same way; nope. Do we get frustrated with each other from time to time; yep. But, none of that divides us and our effort to do life together. No matter what anyone thinks, God has shone His face on us, every one of us, big time. We live way above the “average” lifestyle of Americans. Eileen and I are very thankful for all the volunteers, our amazing staff, and Board. So, from Eileen and I, we wish everyone a very, “Merry-thankful-joyous-warm-and peaceful” year end season.



Oh, this is a landscape committee update, oops. Hey, I'm a certified geezer, cut me some slack! This has been a huge year and our landscaping has done very well. Phase one of the parkway retrofit project is complete, our botanical garden has a new look and the Paseo and lodge grounds are beautiful. We replaced, repaired, and reinstalled sprinklers, pumps, and motors beyond count. We are a country club without a golf course. Not too bad I think for any folks, even old ones. My deepest thanks, gratitude and appreciation to the landscape committee, resident input and help, our board and board liaison, staff, C & M Landscaping team, along with Grant and Jose. Everyone has done well.

Yep, next year will hold some challenges and difficulties. What year has not? Your committee is committed to face and solve them making our community even more beautiful.

Mike Callagy
Landscape Committee Leader

*Be Thankful
Be Grateful
Be Blessed*



Mookie & Gabby

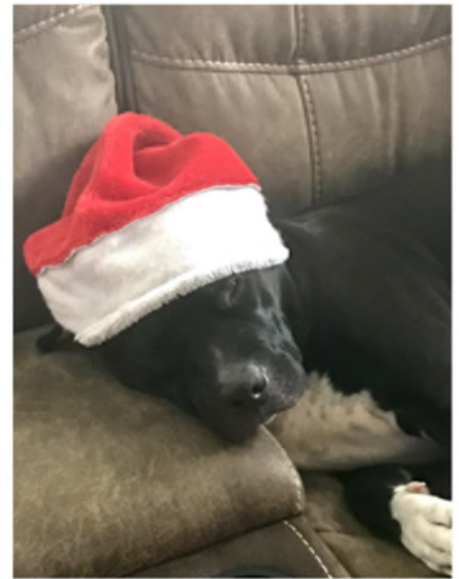


Annie

Please email your pet's photos to be featured in our newsletter. All different kinds of pets welcomed!



Molly Hill



Boston



Toby



Mojo



Sunset Cruisers

by Susie Yslas (Club Leader)



Sunset Cruisers
Holiday
Golf Cart Parade

Decorate Your Golf Cart for the 1st Annual

Golf Cart Holiday Parade.

This event will be combined with our

1st Annual, Fluffy Friends Stuffed Animal Holiday Drive

On December 12th, between

4:30pm- 5:30pm.

Community bring your family out to enjoy the parade of Carts.

Club Leader, Susie Yslas



REMINDER THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2ND AT 2PM



HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE



\$5 ADMISSION
BRING A GIFT OF AT LEAST \$20
TO EXCHANGE



Saturday, December 2nd, 2023
2pm-4pm in the Lodge Ballroom
SIGN-UPS GO TO 65 PERSON MAX
NO GAG GIFTS



DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM
LIGHT FINGER APPETIZERS & DESSERTS
TEA & WATER WILL BE PROVIDED

BYO ADULT BEVERAGE
THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT



SIGN UP DEADLINE: 11/29/23
REFUND DEADLINE: 11/27/23

CHRISTMAS MAD LIBS



I am so excited for Christmas this year! I've been doing a lot of _____ing to prepare!
VERB

I have already picked out presents for everyone. I got _____ a _____,
PERSON NOUN
and _____ a _____. I wrapped their presents in _____ and hid them in
PERSON NOUN NOUN
the _____ so they wouldn't find them.
ROOM IN HOUSE

_____ and I made _____ for everyone to enjoy. They smell _____. I
PERSON FOOD ADJECTIVE
can't wait to eat them!

We picked out the perfect tree. It is _____, and _____ and smells like
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE
_____. It's my job to _____ the tree every day.
SCENT VERB

I've been hoping for a _____ under the Christmas tree this year. I
NOUN
really don't want to get a _____ this year!
NOUN

_____ tells me that I need to go to bed early on Christmas Eve so
PERSON
Santa can come. He's going to drive his _____ with his _____s and
TRANSPORTATION ANIMAL
land on our roof.



I hope everyone has a _____ Christmas!
ADJECTIVE





Fluffy Friends Stuffed Animal Holiday Drive



Adventist Health 3 South Pediatric Unit Has Partnered
with the

Four Seasons **Sunset Cruisers** for our
1st Annual, Fluffy Friends Stuffed Animal Holiday Drive



On December 12, at 4:30pm. We are asking for the participation of our Four Seasons neighbors. We will be Cruising through your neighborhood between the hour of 4:30pm-5:30pm. If you would like to donate a **Brand-New** stuffed animal to our

Fluffy Friends Drive the children in the Pediatric Unit will be receiving your generous donation during their stay at the hospital during the Month of December. As we pass through your neighborhood you can drop off your Brand-New Stuffed animal in the large gift box located on the lead Golf Cart.

Adventist Health of Bakersfield along with the Sunset Cruisers would like to thank you in advance for your donation in benefiting the Children in the Pediatric Unit and bringing a smile and comfort to these precious children during their stay.



Cruisers this is a great opportunity for all of you golf cart owners to get acquainted with one another as well as getting familiar with our neighborhood. If you have an empty seat or two in your golf cart, you may want to invite a neighbor for a ride along. The more the merrier, they are certainly welcome.

NOTE: Community, from Dec. 6th – 12th If you choose to drop off your new unwrapped Stuffed Animal Beforehand there will be a Gift Box outside the home of 6211 Oslo Place marked

Fluffy Friends.

Club Leader, Susie Yslas



Yule Love Us Carolers



Please join us on December 2nd at 5:30pm in the lodge parking lot for some good old fashion Christmas Caroling. We will be driving through the neighborhood by car or golf cart caroling at random homes. If you would like us to stop by your home to carol, please text Susie Yslas at 661- 802-1243 with your name and address. To limit the number of vehicles you may want to double up with friends/quests.

We will gather for Hot Cider, Egnog, and other Holiday treats in the lodge ballroom.

Please drop off your treats in the Ballroom beforehand. Bring your beverage of choice as well as an appetizer or snack to share afterwards.

You don't need to have the voice of a songbird to join us. Song Sheets will be provided. Dress warm as it gets chilly.

Club Leader, Susie Yslas

Golden Voices Karaoke - Laurie Dean (Club Leader)

Holiday Greetings Four Seasons Friends and Neighbors!

We held our second "Golden" Karaoke Singers Club on Friday, November 17th, 2023.

There were twenty-three (23) guests in attendance, and everyone was singing and having a wonderful time!

Our night was filled with soloists, duets, oodles of group sing a-longs, Thanksgiving humor, hilarious videos, and all kinds of dance moves.

There were songs selected from all kinds of artists, genres, and years. The good news is we are using U-Tube for our Karaoke night! No more Karaoke machine and CD's! You have the opportunity to choose any artist or any song that you enjoy! More than likely, there will be a someone in the room that will know the song!

The room was filled with a numerous amount of great vocalists, and we look forward to hearing them singing all kinds of songs at our next club event.

If you have any suggestions, they are all welcome!

I hope to see you at our next Karaoke evening which is scheduled for:

- Date: Friday, December 29th, 2023
- Time: 6:00 P.M.
- Location: Lodge ballroom.



Quote from John Denver: "Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same."

Holiday Humor:

- What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol? **Silent Night**
- What's the Grinch's least favorite band? **The Who!**
- Which one of Santa's reindeer has the best moves? **Dancer!**
- Who is Santa's favorite singer? **Elvis**



"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love." – Hamilton Wright Mabie.

Whatever your plans are, wherever you are going, I wish you ALL happy, peaceful, and safe holidays.

Lots of Love and blessings from my merry home to yours!

Laurie Dean / Club Leader
Phone: 949-690-3096
Email: izebra311@yahoo.com



Update: Neighborhood Watch is now called Safety First @ Four Seasons

Computer Club

by Dave Keeney (Club Leader)

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 9th, 2023, 9:00 am

Location: The Lodge Theatre or Zoom



Any questions about computers or technology will be discussed. These meetings are intended for non-techies so if you have a question, would like to learn how to do something on your computer, or are just curious about something technical, please come join our meetings.

Crafters Club

by Nancy McKenry (Club Leader)

Do you love crafting and getting together with friends? If you do, consider joining the Crafters Club meetings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. We meet in the Conference Room from 1 pm-4 pm and have a lot of fun!

-Nancy McKenry
njmckenry@gmail.com



Chair Yoga Class

by Melanie Yates (Club Leader)










The mornings are a little chilly and it makes us want to stay in bed under the covers. I have a great way to get you warmed up! Throw on your comfy clothes and join us for Chair Yoga! Chair Yoga is a great way to stretch and strengthen your body for greater flexibility and balance. Follow along at your own pace and ability. Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:00 am. No previous experience or special equipment required. Questions? Call or text Melanie Yates at 661.703.0740.



Committee Meetings & Club Times are Subject to Change, Check with Lodge for most current information

DECEMBER 2024

LODGE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 6AM-10PM
OUTDOOR AMENITIES: MONDAY-THURSDAY 6AM-10PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
3	4 Dance Fitness 8am Koffee Klatch 8:30am Chair Yoga 9am Pinochle 1pm NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE 1PM Dance Fitness 5:45pm 	5 Pickleball 7am Crafters Club 1pm Bridge 1pm SOCIAL COMMITTEE 1PM Bocce Ball 6pm Dance Fitness 5:45pm	6 Pickleball 7am Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Poker/Dealers Club BOD MEETING 6PM
10 	11 Dance Fitness 8am Koffee Klatch 8:30am Chair Yoga 9am Pinochle 1pm Dance Fitness 5:45pm 	12 Pickleball 7am Bridge 1pm Safety First @ Four Seasons 5pm Bocce Ball 6pm Sunset Cruisers 6:30pm	13 Pickleball 7am Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Veteran's Club 10:30am Canasta Christmas 12:30pm Poker/Dealers Club Dance Fitness 5:45pm
17	18 Dance Fitness 8am Koffee Klatch 8:30am Chair Yoga 9am Pinochle 1pm Dance Fitness 5:45pm 	19 Pickleball 7am Crafters Club 1pm Bridge 1pm Bocce Ball 6pm	20 Pickleball 7am Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Ladies Luncheon Canasta 1pm Poker/Dealers Club Dance Fitness 5:45pm
24 LODGE CLOSED   New Years Eve Party 7:30pm	25 LODGE CLOSED  	26 Pickleball 7am Bridge 1pm Neighbor2Neighbor 1pm Bocce Ball 6pm	27 Pickleball 7am Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Poker/Dealers Club Dance Fitness 5:45pm

023 CALENDAR

-9PM FRIDAY: 6AM-10PM SATURDAY-SUNDAY: 8AM-7PM
TUES: MONDAY-SUNDAY 5AM-10PM



POOL CLOSED
MON, WEDS & FRI
6AM-10AM

Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Bunco 1pm Tripoli Game Day 1pm Pickleball 5:30pm	2 Holiday Gift Exchange 2pm Yule Love Us Carolers 5:30pm
6 Pickleball 7am Art Club 10:30am Bridge 1pm Bingo 5:45pm Voice 1pm M	7 Pickleball 7am Art Club 10:30am Bridge 1pm Bingo 5:45pm	8 Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Game Night 1pm Tripoli Game Day 1pm Pickleball 5:30pm ARC APPLICATIONS DUE - 2PM	9 Computer Club 9am N2N Holiday Home Tour 1pm
13 :30am s Party Voice 1pm 5pm	14 Pickleball 7am Art Club 10:30am Bridge 1pm ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW 1PM Bingo 5:45pm	15 Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Game Night 1pm Tripoli Game Day 1pm Pickleball 5:30pm	16
20 11:30am Voice 1pm 5pm	21 Pickleball 7am Book Club 10am Art Club 10:30am Bridge 1pm Bingo 5:45pm	22 Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Game Night 1pm Tripoli Game Day 1pm Pickleball 5:30pm	23 Computer Club 9am
27 Voice 1pm 5pm	28 Pickleball 7am Art Club 10:30am Bridge 1pm Bingo 5:45pm	29 Dance Fitness 8am Chair Yoga 9am Game Night 1pm Tripoli Game Day 1pm Pickleball 5:30pm Golden Karaoke Voices 6pm	30

NEW YEAR'S 2024 EVE PARTY



Champagne included for
midnight toast!



Catering Provided
By:
Porkchop & Bubbas
BBQ

SUNDAY 31 DEC, 7:30 PM

In the Ballroom

Social Hour:
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Dinner Served at 8pm

\$65
ENTRY

Entertainment by
Canyon River band

RESIDENT TICKETS AVAILABLE: 12/2/23
GUEST TICKETS AVAILABLE: 12/17/23
REFUND DEADLINE: 12/23/23 BY 3PM
SIGN UP DEADLINE: 12/27/23 BY 3PM

CLUBS & CLASSES

Social Committee

Sherry Davis (Committee Chair)

Greetings Friends. It's December! Where has the time gone? It's wonderful to look back on all the activities and reminisce about all the fun things we have done.

I hope everyone signed up for the Holiday Gift Exchange which is scheduled for December 2nd. The Committee has expanded the attendance to 65 this year and it promises to be raucous afternoon. I hope to see you there.

The second event for December is the New Year's Eve party which is scheduled for December 31st at 6:30 P.M. You will have the first hour to mingle with your friends and dinner will be served at 8:00. After dinner the Canyon River Band will entertain and ring us into 2024 at the stroke of midnight. Tickets are on sale at the Lodge for \$65 per person. This promises to be the BEST!

As we move closer to the new year I hope you take in all the great festivities that Bakersfield has to offer. Just a reminder that Holiday Lights at CALM, which is in our back yard, is back this year as a walk-through event. Being part of media night, I can assure you that it's better than ever.

The Social Committee would like to thank the community for your support in 2023. We will do our best to make 2024 even better. The first event to add to your calendar is the annual Chili Cook-Off in February.

Always remember why we celebrate this season. Keep all in your prayers and thank GOD for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

Ciao for now,



Sherry Davis
Social Committe Chair

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Club



Neighbor 2 Neighbor Club Presents
THE FOUR SEASONS HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Saturday, December 9, 2023
5 Decorated Homes ~ Refreshments/Social

Only \$20.00
Tickets can be purchased in advance from club members.
CASH ONLY



1:00 pm	Bring your ticket to the Lodge Lobby to receive home tour map, entrance wrist band, ticket for the door prize, and wine tickets
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Visit the 5 decorated homes
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Refreshments & Social in the Lodge Lobby

Our next club meeting is Tuesday, December 12th, at 1:00 pm in the Lodge Craft Room. All community members are always welcome to attend.

Margaret DeArmond, 661-304-0093, mdearmond@mac.com
Donna Holtzclaw, 661-303-6649, donnaholtzclaw@yahoo.com

You can find everything you need on our website including, applications, club details, event flyers and so much more!

FSBHOA.com

If you are a first time user of this site, be sure to login in order to see all the features of the website.



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Visit the 5 decorated homes

2:30 - 4:30 pm
Refreshments & Social in the Lodge Lobby

Tickets can be purchased from club members.

Donna: (661) 303-6649 Margaret: (661) 304-0093 Sharon: (661) 809-2450

Deadline to purchase tickets: Monday, December 4th

Questions or more information, contact club leaders:
Margaret DeArmond, 661-304-0093, mdearmond@mac.com
Donna Holtzclaw, 661-303-6649, donnaholtzclaw@yahoo.com

Please, no indoor pictures of the homes. This is an adults-only event.

CORNER ADVERTISEMENT



Ladies Luncheon - Annette Harder (Club leaders)

Rosemary's Family Creamy was established in 1984 by Frank and Rosemary DeMarco. Today the family tradition is carried on by daughters Roseanne and Katie and grandson Patrick. The ice cream is made on the premises as are the hot fudge and caramel sauce. Even the baked products are made at the creamery.

Rosemary's also serves sandwiches, soup and chili. Just in case you think 24 ladies had dessert first, oh wait, the smallest one in the group did! But what a treat to think, wow, we can eat it first and have room for a sandwich. We had nothing but praise for the staff. They had us fed and sugared up in an hour. Looking forward to a return visit.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 11:30am we will be going to Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Dr. Bakersfield. A request from Hodel's is this, the group has to all be there to be seated. Good thing they have a waiting area! Sign up sheet at the front desk. If you need a ride or can give one meet at the flagpole between 11/11:15am.

Annette Harder//Club Leader



CLUBS & CLASSES

Sunshine Club - Linda Hofer (Club Leader)

Compassion....."Care"..... Concern

The Sunshine Club is here to help our neighbors and our community. In addition to providing cards and small gifts for those who are ill or hospitalized, the Sunshine Club maintains the plants in the Lodge. Not only are the plants getting proper care, but we also save the community over \$3,000 annually!

A couple of our gals have offered to walk a sick neighbor's dog and occasionally we have supplied meals to neighbors when an unexpected illness or hospitalization has occurred. We have offered rides to the Beauty Bar and special events at the Lodge. Recently we committed to delivering the Newsletter to those who are homebound. Last, but not least our club assists with memorial services in our Ballroom providing linen for the tables and coffee set up. As always, we need the help of the community to identify neighbors in need!

Please contact Linda Hofer (Club Leader), via phone, text, or email, with information or requests.

Home: 661-368-1995 Cell:510-374-8366 Email: hofer1951@gmail.com

NEW TEMPORARY GATE CODE

Effective December 1st, 2023

ASK THE FRONT DESK

We will put out an e-blast as usual. Please remember to never give your personal gate code out. The temporary code can be given to delivery drivers, repairmen, etc. However, if you are not comfortable with that you can always have them call you from the call box to let them in with the push of 9 on your phone.

We change our Temporary Gate Codes monthly for your security!

CLUBS & CLASSES

Book Club - Kathleen Reisig (Club Leader)

The Book Club will meet in the Lodge Library on December 21 at 10:00a.m. Bring your suggestions for our reading list for 2024. New members are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Kathleen Reisig
Book Club Leader



Pinochle Club - Linda Hofer (Club Leader)

For those of you looking to fill an afternoon with entertainment that not only stimulates the mind, but connects you to fun people, this is the card game for you! Our group welcomes newcomers, seasoned or new to the game. We will be happy to teach you! We meet every Monday from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Please call Linda Hofer at 661-368-1995 or text 510-374- 8366.



Bridge Club - Catherine Patrick (Club Leader)

The Bridge Club meets in the library at the Lodge on Tuesday and Thursdays from 1-4 pm. We play Goren. We welcome all levels of players including those whom have never played. We are patient and willing to teach. Don't be intimidated by stories you've heard. Come and try it. If you like cards/games, bridge is the ultimate.

Contact: Catherine Patrick
Capshamrock@aol.com



CLUBS & CLASSES

Art Club - Norma Neil (Club Leader)

The Art Club's watercolor class has been enjoying lessons geared to the Holiday season experiences. Each week has a short lesson that can be completed independently while building skills that can be reused in subsequent paintings. Many of these projects can be the subject of unique and personal Christmas cards.

We are studying the winter glow of light while painting candles and lanterns. Other class lessons use a similar technique .

The next free Art Club event will be in January. If you would like more information on the free Art Club activities or the weekly classes, contact Norma Neil at 661-204-4653. Call Norma for an invite to observe a class to see what it is all about.

New students, even those new to painting, will be welcomed early in the year. If you have previous painting experience, you're welcome to join anytime.

"The Lantern in the Snow" was painted by Darlene Foss who started in March with her first painting class.



I joined the Art Club in March after moving back to Four Seasons, best place ever! I started the class with absolutely no experience thinking I would be lucky if I could paint stick people. I never dreamed I might be able to actually paint something! This is a great group of ladies that get together and are willing to help each other and share things they have learned along the way. I really enjoy spending Thursday morning with them! -Darlene Foss

Veteran's Club

Just like last month, December holds great meaning for all of us, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th, 82 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed December 7, 1941 as, “a date which will live in infamy.” Today we honor those who died in the attack at Pearl Harbor by flying the American flag at half-mast, we commemorate the day with memorial services, and with wreath laying ceremonies. There is no official database of Pearl Harbor survivors still living, but it’s assured that the number gets smaller each year. In all, the National WWII Museum says that 234 veterans of WWII die each year. That means there are fewer front-line folks who became caretakers of that history, sharing their stories of Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Iwo Jima and Bataan and countless other pivotal moments from the mammoth worldwide conflict. All you can do is hope those lessons we learned from the survivors of Pearl Harbor and other WWII battles are so ingrained in the consciousness of this country that we’ll never get caught with our britches down again. America must never forget!

Our November guest speaker was Mr. Jose Lopez, Director, Kern County Veteran Services Department. Those in attendance appreciated all the information he provided regarding their services and we’re working on scheduling Mr. Lopez to make a presentation at Four Seasons and invite all veterans in both our communities to attend.

To learn more about Kern County Veteran Services Department visit their website at <https://www.kerncounty.com/government/veterans-service> . The office is located at 1120 Golden State Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, phone number is (661) 868-7300, email address is kernvets@kerncounty.com.

Our 2024 guest speakers schedule and BBQ potluck is below and we’re still working on organizing a couple excursions, so stay tuned for more information.



CLUBS & CLASSES

January 10th – Daughters of the American Revolution

March 13th – Sons of the American Revolution (gathering will be held at Four Seasons)

May 8th – African American Network of Kern County – Buffalo Soldiers (gathering will be held at Four Seasons)

September 11th (Patriots Day) – American Legion Post 26

October 16th – 3rd Annual Veteran BBQ Potluck (gathering will be held at Four Seasons)

November 12th – Wounded Heroes Fund

Our monthly luncheon gatherings are on the second Wednesday of each month at Huckleberry's Restaurant, located at 2673 Mt Vernon Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93306; festivities start at 11:30 am. If you plan on attending December 13th luncheon, please RSVP by Sunday December 10th by either calling, texting or emailing Penny Martinez using the contact information noted below.

Looking forward to a blessed New Year, with the opportunity of meeting fellow veterans and hearing from guest speakers.

Penny Martinez
President & Secretary, Veteran's Group
Email: figment5802@gmail.com
(661) 873-7615

Clark Machamer
Chaplain, Veteran's Group
(661) 469-2701





RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



The Messenger Committee is looking for neighbors in our community to interview. Pawel Bankowski Interview – Part Two

Sandy: What career path did you take?

Pawel: In my first two years in the USA, I worked as a clerk in an engineering firm. At that time, I was learning English and American engineering systems. In Poland, we used the metric system, so it took some time for me to become familiar with the unit systems in the US. After two years, I passed the Professional Engineering exam, and I received a license in the State of Illinois. My first engineering job was for Berkeley Pumps, where I designed engine-driven contractor pumps for dewatering construction sites and large diesel engine-driven pumps for irrigation. I designed and built engine-driven plastic contractor pumps, which one person could carry to a construction site. It was a unique design because at that time in the late 1980's most contractor pumps were made of steel or aluminum, and they required two people to carry them. My pump was called internally at Berkeley Pump, the "Pawel Pump." Unfortunately, I didn't receive royalties for that pump. In the early 1990's, I was hired by Bombardier Recreational Products to work on waterjet propulsion systems for jet boats in their Research and Development Center in Central Florida. Boats with waterjet propulsion have a flat bottom so they can be launched from the beach, and they can operate in shallow water. Such boats are used in the military and more recently they are used as recreational jet boats and personal watercrafts.

Sandy: Who has made the biggest impact on your life and why?

Pawel: When I was growing up, I closely watched my father, and I was impressed by his skills and his achievements. I consider both my paternal grandfather and my father as artists who were able to custom-make clothes, which they designed and tailored to fit a person's unique body shape. My father always looked to improve his skills by learning new techniques from others, but my grandfather learned tailoring on his own. He was successful, but his skills were limited to making coats for men and women, and pants for men only.

PAWEL BANKOWSKI - PART 2

My father knew that he couldn't learn how to design and make other clothes like suits, jackets, or skirts from my grandfather, so he decided to continue learning how to design clothes at the workshops of the best tailors in Poland. He wanted to expand our family tailoring business. My father chose this way of learning because there was no school providing training for tailors in Poland at that time in the late 1940's. When I was growing up, I helped in my family workshop by doing some supportive work related to making clothes. Most of the time, I did preliminary stitching of the fabric, pulling out preliminary threads or ironing clothes. I was never involved in designing clothes. Having been inspired and influenced by my father, I decided to learn design of machines and became an Engineer. My father was not happy that I did not utilize my talent in designing clothes and join him in the family business. When I studied mechanical engineering at the Polytechnic and became a successful designer, my father became supportive of my choice. My father had a strong work ethic; liked to learn new things, and he always provided the best he could for our family. My father made the biggest impact on my life. Today, I can say that my father's influence led to my successful professional career lasting 45 years, in Poland, Germany and the USA. It looks like my father's influence is going to continue, because my oldest son decided to learn how to design industrial equipment by watching my successes in designing machines.

I have to mention that my mother also had an influence on my life, by introducing me to sensitivity, generosity, and humbleness. She showed me that everyone needs a balanced outlook on life. I share my mother's best qualities to resolve disagreements between people, and to be loyal to your spouse, regardless of the hardship life brings us.

Sandy: In reflection, how do you think your life would have been different had you not come to the states?

Pawel: I believe I would have had a successful engineering career in Poland if I would have stayed there. However, I likely would have had frequent conflicts with authorities, and financially I would have been in a much worse situation. I likely wouldn't have the opportunity to own a home, and there wouldn't have been much opportunity to travel internationally. I'm very grateful to live in the USA and to have had the opportunity to immigrate here all those years ago.

PAWEL BANKOWSKI - PART 2

Sandy: What brings you the greatest joy?

Pawel: When I was a small child in the early 1960's, we used to go on family summer vacations to nearby villages to help farmers with harvest season. My happiest childhood memory is from one of those family summer vacations near the Baltic Sea coast. When we were visiting the Baltic Coast in the late 1960's and early 1970's, life seemed very peaceful in Poland. There were no hotels, so we stayed in private homes. Today there are many famous resort towns with luxury hotels. Such trips by car would take us about 8 hours to travel and were stressful because roads in Poland were in poor shape at that time. However, the journey was always worth the happy memories we made at the seaside. In summer, the weather was perfect for a relaxing vacation, with sunny days and warm water in the Baltic Sea.

I have to say that travelling to different domestic and international destinations brings me the greatest joy. I love to travel, and my passport is well worn. I enjoy going to places where we can learn about others' cultures or just simply relax on a beach somewhere. I have fond memories of traveling to Aruba with my wife and children. I've traveled to most of the states in the USA and to 33 countries, on 6 continents.

Sandy: What brings you the greatest sadness?

Pawel: The death of close members of my family has brought me the greatest sadness. My saddest childhood memory is related to the illness and death of my paternal grandfather. My grandfather was funny and a very likeable person. He often told jokes and had a happy and optimistic attitude towards life. My grandfather had a stroke and died when I was a young boy. Later my other grandparents and my parents passed away, which also brought sadness.

A few years ago, my wife passed away after battling cancer for five years. She was a beautiful and smart woman. We were happily married for 32 years, and we went through many hardships in our life together. It was the greatest sadness to say farewell to her.

PAWEL BANKOWSKI - PART 2

Sandy: Are you still working or are you retired?


Pawel: Prior to retiring last year, I was designing and building pumps for the semiconductor industry. Every computer chip is tested for performance before is used in a computer. During testing a lot of heat is generated so the cooling system has to be used to remove that heat. Stainless steel pumps circulating dielectric fluid are used in that cooling system. I was head of the engineering department at a company that manufactured pumps for the semiconductor industry.


As you can see it seems that destiny had other plans for my professional career than what I wanted when I was growing up in Poland. I did not become a Mathematician like I really wanted. I didn't work in the team designing pumps for the Nuclear Power Plant in Poland, which I dreamt about. Today, I can say that I loved what I was doing, and I had a successful professional engineering career in Poland and in the USA, lasting 45 years. I held senior management positions in Engineering and Operations at companies in Illinois, Florida, Arizona, and California. I had the opportunity to supervise engineers representing different nationalities and different cultures in Europe and in the USA. Some of my responsibilities were to design waterjet propulsion systems for Sea-Doo jet skis and jet boats; to design engine driven contractor pumps and to design large dewatering or irrigation systems. I have a master's degree in mechanical engineering, and I am a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of California and Illinois.


I would like to add an interesting fact that a few years before my retirement, I received a job offer from a company in Southern California to become a manager of a team designing pumps for Nuclear Power Plants in the USA. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to pursue that opportunity, but it is funny how things can come full circle sometimes. Now I enjoy living in our wonderful resort like community.


A huge THANK YOU to Pawel for taking the time to speak with the Newsletter and answer questions. If you know anyone we should get to know please email us at fsbhoa@gmail.com.

DECEMBER FUN FACTS


Gem Stone - Turquoise, Tanzanite, and Blue Zircon 

Flower - Narcissus and Holly 

Horoscope - Sagittarius (November 23rd to December 21st) 
Adventurous, optimistic, philosophical.

Capricorn (December 22nd to January 21st) Responsible, 
disciplined, ambitious.

SPECIAL DECEMBER DAYS

National Fruitcake Month 

December 1st - Eat a Red Apple Day

December 4th - National Cookie Day

December 13th - National Cocoa Day

December 15th - Ugly Sweater Day 

December 22nd - Winter Solstice

DECEMBER IN HISTORY

1773 - Boston Tea Party

1787 - Delaware is the 1st state to adopt the Constitution

1791 - Bill of Rights adopted

NEW
CA
WA
RE

1891 - 1st Pepsi served



1901 - 1st Nobel Prize awarded

1933 - Prohibition repealed after 14 years

1967 - 1st successful heart transplant surgery

*Written by Mary Sullivan (Four Seasons Resident & Newsletter
Committee Member)*

The holidays can be tough for some, you never know what someone is going through, so please remember to be kind to your neighbors and those around you.

There is no shame in reaching out.



Singing the Blues During the Holidays
by Sherry Core (Resident)

iNeuropsychologist Angela Drake has some advice for navigating the season's emotional challenges.

Loneliness has negative health effects: The holidays can amplify loneliness, especially when people no longer have family or live far away from their families or friends. For people who do not have a network of friends or a support group, Drake's advice is to get out there and find one. She notes that people find community through many avenues, including churches, clubs, meetups, volunteering, cultural centers, and many others.

Have a Plan: Drake suggests having a specific plan for what you will do if you feel stressed out, sad, or anxious during the holidays. It could be calling a friend, walking, turning on music, reading, or watching your favorite TV show. The activity is as individual as you are. It's about being proactive and engaging in self-care, rather than trying to ignore or stuff down emotions, which typically only work so long.

Share the happy memories: The holidays can be a time of grief as people are aware of loved ones who have passed away. Drake recommends reminiscence therapy. The idea is to acknowledge loss and grief but not dwell on the sad memories. Just focus on the happy memories. "I encourage people to celebrate that person. Talk about them, reminisce, tell stories."

Dial 988: The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States. More information can be found on their website <https://988lifeline.org>

K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons Lodge at Bakersfield Community Association



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