

Editor's Note: As residents of Briarwood, we may come from different parts of the country, different walks of life, and may not always agree with each other; but, like it or not, we are neighbors. With that in mind, please give our new Activity Committee the chance to try and help us get better acquainted in this season of friendship and giving of ourselves.

President's Message: Dear Briarwood Neighbors, My best wishes to you for a Happy Thanksgiving. Stay safe, and enjoy your time with family and friends. Eat plenty of turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie. Remember to give thanks for all your blessings. Happy Thanksgiving.

Debbie Whitaker
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NOVEMBER 12th BOARD MEETING RECAP

Discussion was held on the proposed budget for 2014. The budget draft will be mailed out this month and voted on at the December 10th meeting. If there is a surplus in next year's budget, the Board hopes to return it to property owners by reduction of association fees.

Truscapes has begun work as our new landscape management. Their first order of business will be to trim hedges, replace the dead ones, and eliminate weeds. All of our palm trees will be trimmed after that. Residents asked if they could spray the common areas for fire ants. They will also be spraying the grass growing in cracks in the streets and sidewalks. A motion was made and approved to accept Truscapes bid for planting new shrubs along the front wall on 33rd St. and putting down additional mulch in the common areas.

Two bids were received on the cleaning of the pool deck and bathrooms. A motion was made and approved to hire Southwest Services twice a week for \$375 per month, including all supplies.

Jason Miller, Safety Director, discussed the contract with our current security company for the pools. A decision needed to be made on the length of our maintenance contract with them. A motion was made and approved to accept a

24 month contract at \$178.40 a month, which will cover us through February 2015. At some point, the addition of security cameras could be managed with this system.

Jason announced that the "incident report" page on our website is up and running. Residents are asked to post and share anything they have witnessed or experienced, whether or not law enforcement is contacted and a report filed. This should help us stay informed on where, what and when any mischief is being committed and we can remain anonymous.

Debbie is hoping to set up the first meeting for a Neighborhood Crime Watch after the first of the year. It will be open to all interested residents and be held at the Worship Place church. The second, third and fourth meetings will be for the elected captains of each section only.

Debbie announced that residents will see some sprucing up at the pools in the near future. Hopefully, by the end of the year, the bathrooms will be updated, the surface of the pool decks repaired, and some additional lounge chairs will be added.

Briarwood Christmas Social: Vicky Newby, Chairperson of the Activity Committee, gave a report on the upcoming **Dec. 15th** social. To ready our community for the upcoming holidays, a **Decorating Party** is planned for **Sat., Dec. 14th at 9:00 AM**. All volunteers are asked to meet at the big pool. Refreshments will be provided. The two main entrances and the pool/tennis court area will be decorated. Donations of lights, extension cords, step ladders, greenery or other decorations will be appreciated. Residents may call Betsy Hawkins at 941-755-9013 to deliver items to her house before the 14th. A Christmas tree and stand are also needed to set up at the pool area. The tree will be decorated by crafts the children will make; but any ornaments will also be welcomed. The tree may be returned

Please see the reverse side for more about your Briarwood community

or donated to the Worship Place church. Donations of small white Styrofoam coffee cups are also requested to use in decorating the tennis court fence.

On **Sun., Dec. 15th**, the social begins at the big swimming pool at **3:00 PM**, with crafts for the children to make for the tree. We are hoping to have Santa come by for a visit around 3:45 to distribute candy. Anyone that would like to donate a bag of wrapped candy may do so at the pool on the 14th during the decorating. A **Potluck** is planned for **4:00 PM** at the pool. Dishes can be brought any time after 3:00. Banquet tables, extension cords and power strips will be provided. The board approved a \$125.00 expense to cover the paper/plastic ware for serving. We ask that you bring a dish according to the section you live in as follows for a good variety:

Section 1 - Desserts

Section 2 - Vegetables/Salads

Section 3 - Drinks

Section 4 - Appetizers/Breads/Crackers

Sections 5 & 6 - Meats/Main Dishes

Residents will need to bring their own chairs. Every family is also asked to bring canned food to donate to the Manatee County Food Bank. Anyone who wishes to may join in a neighborhood caroling parade, to leave from the pool around 5:30. Golf carts and wagons could be decorated, and Christmas songbooks will be provided. A separate invitation to this event will be delivered the first week of December with more details. Hopefully, those who know elderly or handicapped residents that cannot make the potluck, will drop off a nice plate of goodies to share.

The **Briarwood Christmas Ladies Luncheon** will be held **Tues., Dec. 3rd**, at **11:30 AM** at the Tara Country Club. Guests are asked to bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift. Call Sally Lowe at 941-758-4220 for reservations.

Next Monthly Meeting: will be held on **Tues., Dec. 10th**, at **7:30 PM** at the Worship Place, 5535 33rd St. All are welcome.

Decorating Contest: Our board members will be making the rounds the week before the social taking pictures of the best holiday decorations in our community. They will be posted at the potluck, where those that attend will be able to vote for their favorites. The results will be posted in the next newsletter.

The goal of the Activity Committee is to have some type of social event at least four times a year. An Easter egg hunt is already being discussed for the spring event.

Attention Moms, Dads, and Caregivers: A new **Community Playdate Group** will begin meeting in **January** for our young residents. This group will meet on the **first Thursday** of the month from **9:30-11:00 AM**. For location and information call/text Christina Audet at 850-445-1405, or email Jennifer Kenney at jennifer_kenney@hotmail.com.

Christina and Jennifer are also members of the Activity Committee and will be in charge of the crafts for the children on the day of the Christmas Social. Donations for this activity can be made by calling the above number or dropping them off at the pool on the 14th. The wish list is as follows: copier paper, construction paper, tape, crayons, stickers, scissors, ribbon, glue.

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