

Moosehaven News

Heart of the Community

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sometimes I wonder how the Christmas season became so distorted, so commercial and how long it will be before Christmas, the real meaning behind the celebration, will be such a small part of it all as to become invisible completely.

I appreciate the fact that people not of the Christian faith do not celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ, but generally some holiday, no matter the name, is generally held at this time of year. I do not understand the people who say that Christmas has nothing to do with religion. Um, Christmas is defined in Webster's Dictionary as follows: "a Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ or the period of time that comes before and after this holiday." Christ-mas, Christ....Jesus? See the connection?

No matter what holiday you celebrate, no matter what you call that celebration and no matter the cause for the celebration, I think we can all agree that this time of year calls for a sense of goodwill, a desire to share, to smile, to care and to give. Help someone in need, give with no expectation of anything in return, let someone cut into traffic in front of you, give that hug, that smile, that kind word.

Thanks to our generous fraternity, our residents here at Moosehaven are so Blessed. We offer plenty of smiles, hugs and laughs and LOTS of parties! Merry Christmas to you and Happy New Year!

Marina D. Mathews
Editor

(A quote below from an old favorite!)

Charlie Brown:

Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?!

Linus:

Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

Lights please. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo the angel of the Lord came down upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men."

That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.



Volume 10, Issue 12
December, 2016

Newsletter Editor:
Marina Mathews

What's Happening?

- Lakeshore Lodge Christmas Party @ Moosehaven
- Cub Scouts Christmas Visit
- Island View Baptist Christmas Program @ Chapel
- Alhambra Theater
- GA Tree Lighting Events
- Resident Christmas Party
- Michigan Deck Dinner
- District Sports & Meeting @ Lake City Lodge
- Christmas Chorus Performance @ Chapel
- View local Christmas Lights
- Local Elementary School Dance Performance at Moosehaven
- Fried Chicken Dinner @ Lakeshore Lodge
- Christmas Eve Service
- New Year's Eve Celebration @ Lakeshore Lodge

To visit Moosehaven and schedule a tour, please contact

(904) 278-1200
or visit

www.moosehaven.org

Just John

We put up Christmas trees during the holidays and marvel at their beauty but have we ever really stopped to consider what it is that makes them so beautiful?

Let us start with the tree itself. Each branch, covered with thousands of tiny green needles, gracefully ascends from the widest at the bottom to the single one at the top pointing skyward. Then there are the lights...strings of tiny little bulbs all shining brightly together. We should not forget the decorations...scores of them, hung carefully around the many branches. Individually, these elements, needles and branches, lights and ornaments are attractive. Together, they transform a simple pine tree almost magically into a beautiful Christmas tree.

The same is true of Moosehaven. Each of you working together makes Moosehaven truly The City of Contentment. This was a terrific year with many successes. We achieved one of our most significant successes late in the year. In fact, we turned an annual challenge into a resounding success when we achieved a deficiency free survey in November – something that only 5% of skilled nursing facilities achieve each year. Talk about a demonstration of the quality and commitment each employee brings to their job at Moosehaven - WOW!

What else did we do this year? Well, we opened the final component of the Brandon Place Project – the beautiful and affordable St. Johns Apartments. We've already received interest, including applications, in this new Moosehaven retirement option. However, St. Johns Apartments wasn't the only grand opening at Moosehaven this year. Judy's Place, which offers adult day care to the greater community surrounding Moosehaven, also opened. Thanks to the generosity of a Moose family and the partnership with Clay County Aging Services, Moosehaven is now able to offer Moose hospitality and a necessary service to the surrounding area.

Talk about community outreach! Our "Heart of the Community" events – Easter, Halloween and Fourth of July continue to grow and generate positive comments and community goodwill. Did you know that our American Pride Fourth of July event brought over 20,000 visitors to Moosehaven? That is truly amazing.

Next year promises even more growth and success with implementation of the Centennial Project. I look forward to working with you on this new project, which will continue to improve the many programs, services, and accommodations offered at Moosehaven.

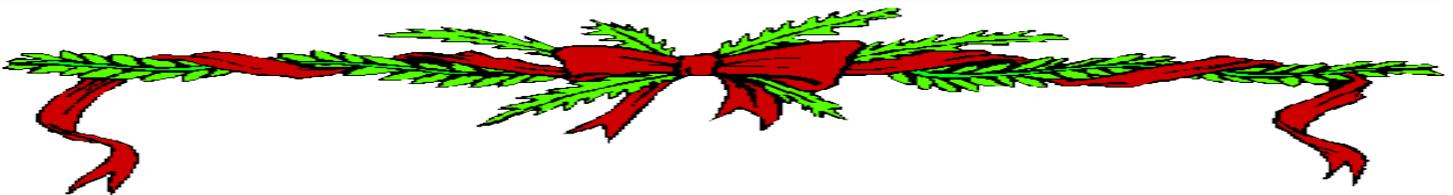
Most importantly, throughout this year, you, our employees, our lights, have shown brightly in your service to our residents. The many acts of service and kindness that you perform each day are the ornaments that adorn our tree. I regularly receive notes and cards from friends and families of residents thanking Moosehaven – each of you – for your commitment to the care of their loved ones. There is truly no greater testimony to the brilliance of your service than those notes of gratitude.

Too often, we admire the tree without recognizing the contribution that each light and each ornament makes to its beauty. On behalf of the residents, their families and friends and myself, I thank each of you for your contributions to the success of Moosehaven.

I wish each of you and your families a wonderful and blessed Christmas and much joy in the New Year.

Well, that's December, another year is coming to an end and I'm...

Just John





Structured Activities

On behalf of everyone in our Structured Activity Program, we would like to say we are very blessed to have each other, our friends, and our Moose family.

Our program is structured around the individual's needs, as well as those of the group. Each person brings to the program their own personal touch. For example, we entered the Chili Cook Off. Our recipe was a combination of many of the participants "family" recipes. One recipe even in-

cluded peanut butter, so we called it Momma's Peanut Butter Chili.

Our Christmas photo, shown here, was another example of everyone blending their uniqueness. Ms. Shirley shared her Christmas tradition of singing Happy Birthday to Jesus, both when she was a child and then to her children and grandchildren. Thus, we included the Happy Birthday sign and cake.

Each person in our program is encouraged, but not required, to join us in our daily meal. We take turns with the serving, setting up, and cleaning up after the meal. We share our past, present, and future dreams with each other. We join together as a team to help and support each other.....but mostly, we have as much fun as we can muster. We play games, tell jokes, have travel adventures, trivia, movies, and so much more.

On behalf of the Structured Activity Program, we would like to wish you a very blessed and happy Christmas. And to remind each of you that Christmas is a time to celebrate Christ's birthday, the greatest gift in the world. So in the wise words of Frosty the Snowman, from all of us to all of you, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Violet Tamplin, Structured Activity Program Coordinator

ADMISSIONS

I enjoy listening to the song "Don't Blink" by Kenny Chesney. My two children are adults, one in college and the other with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. It all happened in a blink. They were kids and I was the typical mom-taxi, 2 - 3 sports each with a lot of games and camps and travel. And suddenly it all stopped, they graduated, they moved out, they became adults. And while they are starting new lives and 'finding themselves', I find that I too am starting a new life without a schedule dictated by school activities and sporting events; a new life where I get to decide what I want to do each day with my free time. Free time? Yes!

A similar evolution happens as we grow older and our activities, interests and social groups change. We may need to adapt to changes we never thought to undergo, like downsizing from a home that has become unmanageable, some loss of mobility such as the inability to drive or navigate stairs and perhaps needing assistance with some daily activities and functions.

These are the needs that a retirement community, which offers solutions and assistance for the issues we face as we age, can fill. The Moosehaven Retirement community is just such a place and in addition to top-rated healthcare, outstanding amenities and activities programs, it is located on an absolutely gorgeous 73-acre campus on the banks of the St. Johns River in sunny Florida.

As always, I encourage our residents to act as ambassadors and spread the word at your home lodges and chapters about the wonderful blessing that is Moosehaven. Fraternal members are encouraged to come for a visit, learn what we do and what we offer at Moosehaven, so you can also be an ambassador for this paradise. Please visit www.moosehaven.org to learn more or schedule a visit.

Nine applicants will be presented for consideration at the December Admissions Meeting.

Please join me in welcoming our newest arrivals to Moosehaven under the Moose Life Admissions Program. Mr. Richard Coe arrived on November 3rd from Grants Pass, OR Lodge 2454. Ed and Edith Layton arrived on November 28th from Sebastian River, FL Lodge 1787 and Chapter 1764. Gary Wagner arrived on November 29th from Indianapolis, IN Lodge 17. Please take a moment to welcome them to their new home in paradise!

Marina D. Mathews
Director of Admissions, Moose Life Program

Therapy News

Well, it's November and because we are coming closer to the holiday season, I usually write about the importance of spending time in gratitude for all the amazing blessings with which we are each gifted. But this year, I am going to put a slightly different slant on that.

“Do you have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within you?”

I read that somewhere recently, and the concept really struck a chord deep within me. I know I had also read a quote from Dr. Wayne Dyer a few years ago about not “dying with your music still inside you”. This one is pretty much the same concept, but for some reason it stuck itself into my heart a bit deeper and made me question my very purpose.

Maybe Dyer's quote didn't affect me as much because I'm still at a point in my life where I have felt like I have a long time before I die, and so the cause didn't seem so immediately desperate. But to have to answer to the amount of courage to bring forth those gifts. To me that feels like a bit of a game changer. At the very least, it absolutely causes me to reflect on and challenge what I have deemed as personal and professional priorities.

“Do I have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within me?”

So much of what we see can act as a mirror. Our actions have the potential to shine our light in a way so that it can reflect back to us. This is really about each of us using our own unique gifts in a way that benefits everyone. For now, I just want each of you to ask yourself the questions. Are you living in such a way that you are giving yourself the space and permission to be the best you can be? Do you have the courage that it takes to step out of routines and self-imposed limits?

I think I am just going to sit with that for a while. I'd like to encourage each of you to do the same. We only get so many chances in a lifetime to make a difference and try to be our best selves. This holiday season is quickly drawing near. I'm on a mission to open the beauty of my gifts with serious attention.

It can also be such a gift to be able to find ourselves in each other. And, I am incredibly grateful for that.

Jennifer Bothast, COTA
Moosehaven/Rehab Director



SIMPLY HELEN

Christmas is here again!

Yes, it's hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner and here we are once again preparing our campus for the Christmas Season. Before the Thanksgiving Holiday, our maintenance staff began the season by delivering all the Christmas decorations to their destinations for staff and residents to begin their decorating, and upon their return from the Thanksgiving Holiday, Santa's elves began stringing lights throughout the campus. Both staff and residents alike work diligently to get the campus ready for our "Annual Georgia Tree Lighting." Our residents look forward to a 3-day celebration with our Georgia Moose friends beginning on Thursday, Dec. 8th and ending on Saturday evening, Dec. 10th when we officially "light" our campus. Director General Hart and his lovely wife, Christy joined us last year and enjoyed it so much, they are coming back this year. It's nice to have them join us at any time, but especially the start of the Christmas Season.

Let me tell you, our Georgia friends know how to throw a party; they even bring Santa and Mrs. Claus with them.

We begin our celebrating on Thursday and end it with the Tree Lighting in our beautiful Moosehaven Chapel. Our residents place bright red poinsettias throughout the chapel, lite the tree and celebrate the reason for the season with Christmas Music that tells the true Christmas Story. When the Chapel tree is lit, it signals the rest of the campus to "light up." Following this beautiful service, Georgia hosts a reception (party) in the Michigan Building.

I believe Christmas is a time to enrich the lives of those around us by simply giving of ourselves. God blesses each of us in ways to be a blessing to others. Christmas is merrier when we reach beyond ourselves and do special things for others

I am very blessed to be "one" of the "many" that work diligently throughout the year to ensure that our resident's lives are enriched in various ways. Thank you Georgia Moose for making it possible to end the year with a beautiful Christmas Season.

I realize this is one of the busiest times of the year, but I can assure you, someone needs a piece of your time. I challenge you to stretch and give a sacrificial gift to someone – your time. May we all be obedient to God's call this year by celebrating Christ and enriching the lives of others as we celebrate the birth of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. 1 Samuel 15:22 said *"Obedience is better than sacrifice. How about it? Will you be obedient to God's call? Life is too short to miss out on the blessings of giving."*

Merry Christmas!

Simply Helen



BILL'S BOARD

On the last weekend in October I drove from Jacksonville to Claxton, Georgia to meet my parents at the old family home they still have there. If you have ever heard of Claxton it is probably because of the “World Famous Claxton Fruit Cake” that has been baked there since 1910. I remember my grandparents and relatives of their age considered that fruit cake to be a special delicacy and they were proud it came from their town. In fact Claxton is often referred to as the fruitcake capital of the world. (Corsicana Texas makes the same claim but we pay no attention to that) I can practically hear some of you who think of yourselves as witty saying, “I always knew he came from a long line of fruitcakes.” That aside, whenever I can I make this trip on the back roads of North Florida and South Georgia. Driving back roads is a pleasure my son and I share. It makes for a far more relaxing and interesting drive than the interstate highway system and my son points out that it is safer as well.

The longest portion of the drive is on what is now called highway 121. It runs from North Carolina to West Central Florida. My drive through North Florida and South Georgia is on the original Woodpecker route. It was established in 1922 to allow automobiles to travel from South Carolina to Florida through Georgia. In 1922 they did not assign it a number just the name Woodpecker route. It is one of the oldest automobile routes in the country and was one of only 14 “automobile trails” in Georgia, according to the Automobile Legal Association Green Book from that time. Interstate travel on the route came almost to a standstill during the great depression. In 1947 it was revived as the Woodpecker Trail and permission was granted to use the likeness of Woody Woodpecker himself on the logo. The Woodpecker Trail (Highway 121) is still considered to be a favorite scenic drive in Georgia.

Although the road is in excellent condition and the scenery is beautiful you get the feeling that things are older and move more slowly. You see things that you don't see from the major interstates. In the early stages of the drive you travel through the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife refuge and the Altamaha River Water Management area where you can stop and see wildlife including, alligators, deer, bobcats, raccoons, hawks, and birds of all kinds including woodpeckers of course. You drive for 50 miles through the long leaf pine capital of Georgia. The moon light shining through these pines is the inspiration for the state song Georgia on My Mind written in 1930 by Hoagy Carmichael and Stewart Gorrell. You can stop in Metter and buy some real Vidalia Onions and see the Guido Gardens. If you come to Moosehaven I will be happy to teach you the proper way to pronounce Vidalia because most of you don't do it right. If you travel further on the trail than I did you can go to the Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen or the Bird Dog Capital of the World in Waynesboro.

As you might guess, much of the area is agricultural. There are miles of corn and cotton fields. In late October they were just bringing in the last crop of cotton for the year. It still seems strange to me to see round bales of cotton 6-8 feet in diameter instead of the much smaller rectangular bales. I drove by two country churches in different towns that both had big signs that said “Biker Sunday This week”. I got a chuckle out of this but on my way home Sunday morning both parking lots were packed with over 100 motorcycles. Who would have ever thought to combine Baptists and Bikers? Well somebody did and their out of the box thinking gave them a new way to spread their message and fulfill their mission. I passed many pecan groves. I will also be happy to teach you how to pronounce pecan properly here is a hint P-can. These days they set up a huge net under the trees and have a machine that shakes the trunk so the nuts fall into the net. However, in some places you can still



Bill's Board Continued.....

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DORIS HALL

This month we will get to know Doris Hall a little better! Doris was born in Lake Shore Park, Ohio on September 17, 1931 to Mabel Bliss and Almond Peck. While her mother and father were both farmers, Mabel was a second parent to her youngest brother, Almond Jr. When Doris was just 10 years old, her parents decided to go their separate ways and Doris explains her father was truly never much of a father to her.

In Doris' small home town, Connie, Ohio there was only one high school in the area where she and her brothers, Donald and Almond Jr. graduated from. After high school Doris did not attend college due to helping her family. Doris worked a variety of jobs including a movie theatre, the dime store, and a corporation that no longer exists today. Her longest and favorite job was being a housewife. Doris explains her husband said "you will never have to work!" as he proudly supported his family.

Doris got married at 18 years old to Stanley J. Hall. The two of them met on December 8, 1949 and married on December 25, 1949. Stanley was proudly serving the military and during his time off for the holiday the two of them decided to marry. Doris and Stanley were married for over 60 years! Doris explains when she first got married to Stanley, people repeatedly told her "it will never work!" and she is extremely happy those people were all wrong as it obviously was death that did the two apart.

By 19, Doris was blessed with her first child, Joseph. Doris and Stanley had a total of 3 children. Connie is the only girl, and she is looking to retire soon from her job as a computer programmer in the Arlington area. Joseph is already retired and living in Mandarin. Keith was the youngest of the three and he has already gone to heaven. Together, Doris has more than 8 great grandchildren!

Doris joined the Moose on July 5, 1989! Stanley and Doris were living in the Beach area and moved into Orange Park. The two kept seeing Moosehaven and had no clue what it was. Doris thought about joining, but never knew really how or where to start. It was not until Stanley saw a co-worker reading a Moose magazine that he finally had someone he could personally ask about the Moose. They both joined and never left. Doris even got her son to join who was stationed in Washington State during this time. Throughout the years Doris has been a first ladder in the chair. Both Doris and Stanley have worked in the kitchen at the local lodge for a few years also.



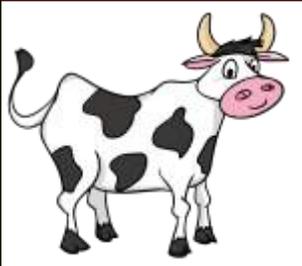
Currently, Doris does not have many hobbies other than watching TV and going to the activities on campus with her friend and nurse, Violet. Doris makes it a point to mention how much she loves the staff and residents at Moosehaven. She says it is a true family here and she loves being here. When asked who her closest friend is, Doris eagerly answers, "Violet!" The advice Doris would like to leave for the next generation is, "Come to Moosehaven!"

*Sumaira McCloud
Marketing Associate*



...Bill's Board Continued

see dozens of people going through the groves gathering nuts from the ground by hand in the old way. Then again there are people like my nephew who uses a Shop Vac with a long cord to suck the nuts up from the ground. I also passed many miles of pasture land populated by horses, cattle and occasionally a few goats. I travel this route 6-12 times a year and the scenery changes depending on the time of year. But there is one thing that I see every time I make the drive and this time was no different. I never fail to see a small herd of cows grazing in a pasture surrounded by an old style three strand barb wire fence. Most of the cows are grazing apparently contented, fat and happy without a care in the world. Then there is one cow stretching his neck between the second and third strand of barb wire. He is pushing as far as he can go with the barbs causing him pain to the neck. What is he doing? He is trying to eat a particular clump of grass just out of reach on the other side of the fence. I can't tell any difference between the grass on the outside of the fence and the grass on the inside but apparently it



makes some difference to this particular cow and no other. It always reminds me of people I know who are not contented with what they have. They are always straining for something just out of reach and will not be happy until they reach it. But like the cow, they frequently don't quite get it all or if they do there is always one more clump of grass just a little further away that they just have to try for despite the pain. My farmer friends tell me cows are not very bright so we should probably not strive to emulate them.

If you have some free time and like a nice drive try the Woodpecker Trail and watch out for the cows.

Bill Tippins

Chili Cook-Off, A Successful Event!



Top Left: CT Moose Association took **1st Place** in the overall People's Choice and took 3rd Place in the Fraternal Division!

Not pictured: TN Moose Association took **3rd Place** in the overall People's Choice!

Top Middle: AL Moose Association took **2nd Place** in the Fraternal Division!

Top Right: FBMA took **1st Place** in the Fraternal Division!



Bottom left: GA Moose Association took **1st Place** in the Best Decorated Booth and 1st Place in Fraternal Fundraising!

Bottom right: Moosehaven Clinic took **1st Place** in the Department Division!



This event was a fundraiser for the K9 For Warriors Program. We were able to raise \$10,000 to sponsor the training of one dog and one warrior. For more information on this worthwhile organization please visit: www.k9forwarriors.org.

Marketing at Brandon Place

“There is nothing more exciting than meeting new people, hearing their stories and being inspired.” There’s a lot of truth in common quotes we read on social media and in our travels. This one in particular strikes a chord among our residents at Brandon Place.

For many seniors, the thought of making friends in a new neighborhood can be quite overwhelming. Let’s face it, there’s a known comfort in familiar surroundings. Knowing who your neighbors are, the forged friendships and the sense of community have all provided a safe haven over the years. Realizing change is not easy; we have created a way to ease the burden of transition for our new applicants. Scheduled Meet and Greet events, and our newly formed Ambassador program, provide opportunities to introduced new applicants and residents to our neighborhood in a fun and inviting way. Having a chance to candidly chat with seasoned residents; applicants make new friendships and become part of the community.

The Ambassador program provides an added benefit of guiding new arrivals through the daily routine and activities offered on our expansive campus.

Prior to moving in to their new home at Brandon Place, applicants already feel like part of the community. Meeting new neighbors and learning their personal stories of why they chose Moosehaven, truly inspires new residents to set roots and call Brandon Place home.

Gini Turner
Director of Marketing and Sales



Staff Birthdays

Lydia Bagwell
Janice Wilson
Cynthia Wagner
Teresa Brown
Wendell Johnson
Yung-Li Sheng
Yolanda Manana
Serge Milord
Stephen Tayao

BIRTHDAY
HAPPY

Raise The Roof...Hard Hat Awards

We recognize residents and staff who go over and above and who, in their own way, are helping raise our roof by giving them their own hard hat award.

- ⇒ **Scott Fuchs, Environmental Services**, is recognized for his willingness to step in and work to get a project completed.
- ⇒ **Janice Cieplinski, Clinic Director**, is recognized for going over and above in assisting other departments when needed.
- ⇒ **Jessica Sirles, Dietary Aide**, is recognized for going above and beyond in assisting residents with their meal plans and her caring for the residents that is evident every day.
- ⇒ **The Leadership Team** is recognized for their volunteerism in working to ensure the Heart of the Community events are successful..

If you would like to add someone's name for our Raise The Roof column, please contact Marina Mathews, Director of Admissions at x1214 or Helen Taylor at x1217.

Resident Birthdays In December!

Blanche Bade

Karin Dixon

Linda Feagan

Charlotte Helfer

Junior Orr

Sue Rash

Nancy VanBeek

Joyce Bell

Paul Doll

Jo Ann Fissel

Duane Hinz

Mary Orr

Gary Sagen

Shirley Walters

Ethan Campbell

Mary Embrey

Donal Frati

Brenda Long

Anna Osborn

Ruth Schrader

Crystal Winsor

Alda Carmisciano

Phyllis Engle

Dorothy Goeke

Pansy Mettler

Dale Parker

Ruth Shields

Resident Anniversaries In December!

Bob and Kathleen Morris

Joseph and Donna Noack

Junior and Mary Orr

Make sure you visit the Moosehaven and Brandon Place websites where you can see information about all of our Upcoming Events and Campus News. Copies of the monthly newsletter are also kept on the website under the Moosehaven News page!

MOOSEHAVEN.ORG
BRANDONPLACE.ORG



Be sure and visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search Moosehaven to see promotional videos about Moosehaven and Brandon Place at Moosehaven.

It's your future, your retirement so be sure to check us out! You can also visit www.moosehaven.org or www.brandonplace.org for more information.

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