



K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons Sentinel

Volume 4, Issue 1

THE LODGE AT BEAUMONT

HOURS: 7 a.m.—9 p.m. • 7 DAYS A WEEK

LODGE PHONE NUMBER: (951) 769-6358

"Deck the Lodge with Crafts and Jollies..."

By Cindy Graves

What a great holiday celebration we had in December, starting with our resident crafters displaying their wares during the Holiday Craft Fair.

I am always impressed with the handy work of so many creative individuals such as our librarian framer, or the tasty homemade delights of the Freeman family and the adorable "baby ornaments" of Ute Wirz as well as the artsy stamping crafts and cards of Barbara Wasco. Nicole VanDen Bree always displays such delightful European niceties and Maria Pollack took us to Peru with the traditional native crafts that she invited us to admire and purchase.

There were many more fascinating and talented crafters tempting all who attended this event to complete their holiday shopping at their tables. Good job crafters! For those of you who haven't attended one of these wonderful fairs, you are really missing out!

One of the next big favorite parts of the day-long celebration was the Performing Arts Holi-

day Variety Show. What talent! All the acts were fantastic!

John Horning and his puppet bird "Vern from Sun Lakes" had us laughing at the start of the show and then Betty Ann James and friends educated us on the cultural celebration of Kwanza. Eileen Gilbert shared a beautiful original Christmas poem and the "Classy Strutters" got our toes tapping and our arms swinging as we watched their synchronized dance steps.

Hanukkah was explained through story and song with the lighting of the Menorah, thanks to Ann Savy, and Colin Taylor kept us amazed and awed with his magic "Twilights." How lovely Thanh Harrah was, dressed in her elegant traditional Vietnamese outfit and the holiday love song she sang in her home dialect brought tears to our eyes.

The "Night before Christmas" skit performed by Rich Loquet and the "children" literally had us rolling on the floor with laughter as "Colleen-the-brat-Barreto" perfectly imitated a four-year-old, while the rest of the "kids" threw rubber worms and disrupted a patient, reading, Rich Loquet. Last but not least, the hilarious antics of the British couple Linn and Chris Pike doing their rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas provided the perfect finale to this excellent production!

If you didn't get a chance to see this show, be watching for the Four Seasons Beaumont Independent Film Festival planned in March, where we hope to present excerpts from this and other events in our "Year in Review" film.

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Penny McDonnell & Friend



Rich Loquet, Bobbie Eckel, Willis Fagan, Colleen Barretto, Beverly Fagan, & Patty Jordan

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December

Wednesday, 3rd - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start
Wednesday, 17th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start

January 2009

Wednesday, 7th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start
Wednesday, 14th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start
Wednesday, 21 - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start

February 2009

Wednesday, 4th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start
Wednesday, 11th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start
Wednesday, 18th - 5:00pm Ticket Sales Start



Want to Learn to Line Dance?

Boot, scoot and boogie yourself into a Beginners Line Dancing Class.

Starting in January there will be a class available every Thursday at 4:00pm in the Ballroom. Bring your boots, hats, and energy for a step by step beginners Line Dancing class.

Note:

For all experienced Line Dancers, an experienced class is available right after.

5:00pm in the Ballroom.

Contact Zelyne Rudolph
for further information



Valentine's Day Dinner Dance

Saturday, February 14, 2009

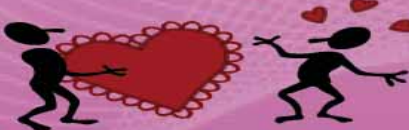
6:00pm-8:30pm

\$ 18.00 per person

This is a BYOB event.

Tickets go on sale January 5th, 2009

If you want to hear a good band, with good company, while enjoying a delectable dinner, this is the place to be.
Everyone is encourage to come
& have a good time.



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"White Sands" Liquid Texture Firm Hold: Provides long lasting designs without regard to humidity. Leaves hair soft & silky without flaking or leaving residue on hot tools. Create & recreate any hair style imaginable. Specially designed for dry hair styling.



"White Sands" Liquid Texture Medium Hold has similar traits as Liquid Texture Firm Hold, but it can be used wet or dry. This product was created for round brush styling. It allows the round brush to glide through the hair without catching, achieving a flat iron effect with volume & shine.



~Diane's Specials~

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Super bowl Sunday Special: February 1, 2009

Buy ONE Large pizza for \$10.00 get the second one for \$5.00 (1 topping)

**Look for an upcoming ALL DAY special in the near future.*

Bistro Entertainment Schedule

CHECK IT OUT!!

Performing Arts "Karaoke Night" in the Lodge "Have dinner at the Bistro, then participate & enjoy the "Karaoke entertainment."	January 10 th , 2009	from 5:00pm-7:00pm
A "Magic Show" at the Bistro performed by the expert Magicians Colin Taylor & John Horning. Be AMAZED & entertained at the humorous magic of these two performers.	January 29 th , 2009	from 5:00pm-7:00pm

Now at Smitty's:

***Taco Tuesday \$1 each, add beans & rice for \$1**

*** Chili dog Sunday \$1 each add cheese \$0.50**

***Smitty's now has whole pizza's every day for \$10, Free delivery**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009!

Dear Homeowners

The following classes will be offered from Jan 12th thru the end of Mar. 2009. Please make note of the time changes to our schedule in order to provide chair fitness to our H2O participants.

Morning Classes Schedule

MONDAYS:

8:15am	Chair Fitness	Aerobics Room
9:15am	Conditioning	Aerobics Room

TUESDAYS:

8:15am	Chair Fitness	Aerobics Room
9:15am	Step	Aerobics Room

WEDNESDAY:

9:15am	Conditioning	Aerobics Room
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THURSDAY:

9:15am	Gentle Yoga	Aerobics Room
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NEW! SATURDAYS:

9:15am	Gentle Yoga	Aerobics Room
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Evening Classes Schedule

NEW! TUESDAYS:

5:45pm	Step & Tone	Aerobics Room
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NEW! THURSDAYS:

5:45pm	Zumba Gold	Aerobics Room
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- I'm available for personal trainings by appointment
- AM hours on Mondays & PM hours Tuesdays
- Call (951) 892-5141

As always I welcome your comments & concerns in order to best suit your health & fitness needs. Remember you can reach me at the number listed above which also appears on your monthly card

Healthfully yours,

Carmen Lopez

Bring a neighbor to class, if they join you get \$5 off your next month card



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Get Ready for Super Bowl Sunday!!

February 1, 2009

See the game on the BIG SCREEN in the ballroom! Bring your favorite potluck or order from Smitty's special game menu. It's a FREE event!!

B.Y.O.B (Bring your own beverage of choice) or order from Smitty.

Ballroom opens at 1pm, Game starts at 3pm.

HOA News

Manager's Update

By Lisa Lynn, General Manager

At the Open Session Board meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 11 the Directors approved a heating and air conditioning maintenance contract, renewed the Springdale insurance policy, approved the refurbishment of the theater projector, approved the license to permit playing copyrighted music in the Lodge, approved the budget for the Social Committee and Association sponsored events for the first quarter of 2009, approved the installation of the Neighborhood Watch signs and, pending follow up, approved the installation of speed limit signs along Four Seasons Circle. Overall, 31 new action items were requested of Management by the Board of Directors.

The Board also approved the November meeting minutes and the October Financials. The Board meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month, with the Executive Session at 8 a.m. in the Lodge Conference room and the Open Session at 1 p.m. in the Lodge Ballroom. The next scheduled Open Session is Thursday, January 8.

The District Delegate elections will be coming up after the first of the year and members are encouraged to apply for these positions. A Delegate and Alternate Delegate will be elected for each district area. Applications are available from the Lodge front desk.

Elections for a seat on the Board of Directors will be held in April. Anyone interested in running for this position should complete a candidacy form available at the Lodge front desk. Candidates must be a homeowner member on title for the property or have a notarized power of attorney authorizing the holder to exercise the Member's right to serve as a Director.

A list of upcoming election dates and deadlines is included in this month's newsletter.

A New Year is a time to reflect on the events from the past year. Here are some actions the Board of Directors have taken behalf of the Association in 2008:

- ❖ Capital Asset Management program initiated.
- ❖ Added spike strips, cameras and arms at the gates.
- ❖ Approved the Landscape Committee's budget for plant replacements.
- ❖ Approved the Social Committee's budget for 2008 events.
- ❖ Approved the Communication Advisory Committee's request for a website.
- ❖ Had the billiard tables refelted.
- ❖ Replaced the umbrellas at the pool and the

wind screens at the tennis courts.

- ❖ Purchased an Earthquake Insurance policy to protect the common area assets.
- ❖ Reviewed, adopted and implemented various policies, procedures, and action items recommended by the Association committees.

District Area By Street Name

<u>ARBORS DISTRICT 1</u>	<u>LANDMARK DISTRICT 2</u>
BIG BEND	BOISE ROCK
CANARY CREEK	BULOW ROCK
KINGS CANYON	GOODRICH ROCK
TABOR CREEK	MESA VERDE PARK
TIJERAS CREEK	PLYMOUTH ROCK
	TABLE ROCK
<u>ARBORS DISTRICT 2</u>	
ARCHES PARK	<u>LAUREL DISTRICT 1</u>
BLOWING ROCK	CLARK CREEK
ROCK MOUNTAIN PARK	LEWIS CREEK
SHINNING ROCK	PIPER CREEK
	POTTER CREEK
<u>HERITAGE DISTRICT 1</u>	SALT CREEK
BLACKBERRY CREEK	
CRANE CREEK	<u>LAUREL DISTRICT 2</u>
DEWEY CREEK	GLACIER PARK
GRANITE CREEK	YELLOWSTONE PARK
KETTLE CREEK	
OWL CREEK	<u>MONARCH DISTRICT 1</u> South of Quiet Creek
TROUT RUN	FOUR SEASONS CIRCLE
TURTLE CREEK	LEWIS CREEK
	QUIET CREEK
<u>HERITAGE DISTRICT 2</u>	
BLOOMINGTON PARK	<u>MONARCH DISTRICT 2</u> North of Quiet Creek
BRIDLE TRAIL	CASCADE CREEK
GREEN CREEK TRAIL	FERN CREEK
PIPE SPRINGS	PAINT CREEK
	QUIET CREEK
<u>LANDMARK DISTRICT 1</u>	THISTLE CREEK
BARTRAM TRAIL	
BRUSH CREEK	<u>SPRINGDALE DISTRICT 1</u>
CHIMNEY ROCK	BEAVER CREEK
DEWEY CREEK	
GREEN CREEK TRAIL	
WHISPER CREEK	

HOA News

NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR THE ELECTION OF DISTRICT DELEGATES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 23 – Deadline for Delegate applications

January 27 – Mailing of notice of District Meetings for Election of Delegates, including secret ballot for delegate election and notice of meet the candidates on February 3.

Tuesday, February 3 – Meet the Candidates – Delegate candidates at 6pm in the Ballroom.

Tuesday, February 24 – Delegate Elections (quorum required)

10:00 a.m. – Springdales

10:30 a.m. – Monarch 1

11:00 a.m. – Monarch 2

11:30 a.m. – Laurel 1

12:00 p.m. – Laurel 2

12:30 p.m. – Landmark 1

1:00 p.m. – Landmark 2

1:30 p.m. – Heritage 1

2:00 p.m. – Heritage 2

2:30 p.m. – Arbors 1

3:00 p.m. – Arbors 2

Friday, March 6 – Reconvened Delegate Elections (reduced quorum requirement) (separate times by district area; same time schedule as above)

March 13 – Deadline for Board of Director applications

March 17 – mailing of secret ballots for Board election

Tuesday, March 24 – Meet the Candidates – Board candidates at 6pm in the Ballroom

Thursday, April 16 – Delegate meetings (time to be announced) – count ballots

Thursday, April 23 – Annual meeting (Delegates cast directed votes) – Organizational Meeting to follow Annual Meeting for Board election of officers.

Safety Committee

Our Four Seasons Safety Committee is busy obtaining signs to remind residents about the speed limits in the community -- and to warn outsiders that we are a Neighborhood Watch Community, albeit a fledgling one, until we can get a full complement of block captains.

Our winter windy season is upon us. Residents are urged to keep a full canister of propane gas available for their barbecues. That way you can still cook dinner -- even if the electricity is off all around us! Be aware, too, that there is a method of opening your garage door manually. It is advisable to read the instructions on your door opener or the manual before it becomes a necessity to find out!

Many residents are away for short periods during the winter months. Be aware of your neighbors' schedules and help by picking up any accumulated newspapers or unwanted solicitation materials. Alert prevention on our parts may save a burglary at a friend's house! -- Richard Urie, Chairman, and Bobbie Eckel

Architectural Review Committee

One Nov.27, the Press-Enterprise printed an extensive article about the ongoing California water shortage and the possibility of future water rationing in the Inland Empire.

I recommend that anyone concerned about this issue to read the article.

We in Four Seasons at Beaumont all need to give some serious thought as to what the consequences might be and to find ways to conserve within our community, especially at the Lodge. -- Herb Wachtel, Chairman

Rules and Regulations Committee

Two new probationary members, Louise Lyon and Vivien Samuel, were introduced to the Committee at the November meeting.

The first item of discussion regarded the procedure for conducting an HOA member-run meeting. Howard Lyon is drafting a procedure and will submit it to the Committee for review.

The status of rule changes which have been approved by the Board of Directors was presented: Parking rules are going to the homeowners shortly for comment; Committee rules are on hold for revision. Tenant and Caregiver Guidelines have been reviewed by the Legal Department with no changes made. It was suggested that these rules be sent out to homeowners reiterating the owners' responsibility for compliance.

The Committee also discussed updating the waiver form for club and vendor sponsored physical activities.

The Rules and Regulations Committee was advised that ARC is in the process of updating its guidelines. The Rules Committee recommended that ARC provide a draft of the completed front yard landscaping guidelines in order to begin the review process.

The issue of revising daily and holiday Lodge hours was presented again. General Manager Lisa Lynn will provide additional information regarding current daily usage and labor costs involved in the change.

The Facilities Committee Charter has been sent out to the

homeowners for a 30 day review and comment.

The Committee continues to review different sections of the Guideline Book to ensure applicability to the community and agreement with the CC&Rs.

Lodge rental fees for charitable or non-profit was discussed. Louise Lyon will review surrounding community hall rental rates. Jacque Sneddon will ask the Board if they want the Rules and Regulations Committee to pursue this issue.

The Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 9 a.m. in the Lodge. -- John McLaughlin, Chairman

Social Committee News

By Melody Seewoster

At the time of this writing it was way too early to report on the New Years Eve Gala. I will let you all know about it in the February Newsletter. One thing I can say about it, the committee worked long and hard to make this an outstanding affair and I hope we did a good job for you. All of us on the committee are committed to bringing you the very best we can on any of our events.

We have had two resignations. Claudette Harsany and Eileen Gilbert are both leaving the committee and we would like to take this time to say thank you for all of their help over the past months.

Since we have two people leaving that means we have two openings on the committee. If you are interested in working hard, paying for your entry to the events and having a good time please think about joining our team. Just fill out an application at the Lodge to be considered for this committee.

Our next event will be the Valentine's Day dinner dance, on guess what? Feb. 14. Tickets go on sale Jan. 5 so be sure to buy them early. For more information see the flier in the lodge.

Landscape Committee

At the regularly scheduled committee meeting on Nov. 17, Brad Alms Landscaping Co. reported that a separate contractor was accomplishing an erosion control project on the west side of the Green Creek Trail bridge over Potrero Creek.

The committee discussed the report from the certified arborist who did a health survey of the larger palm trees around the swimming pool and back patio of the Lodge. After a careful review of the report and on-site inspection, the committee voted to send a formal recommendation to the Board to not replace the dead, dying, and missing palm trees adjacent to the swimming pool.

Rather than replace the expensive palm trees, the recommendation will be to concrete-in those few areas. That should be more cost effective and should reduce wind-blown debris from the trees getting into the pool while expanding the pool deck space to meet the growing need of swimming pool users in the peak summer months.

The committee members reviewed a significant amount of landscape information provided by Riverside County concerning which trees, shrubs, plants, and ground cover varieties are drought tolerant for our geographical and climate zone. The committee is building a spreadsheet, by plant category, which will outline those plants that offer a significant number of choices, but are limited to using only "low" or "very low" amounts of water. The resulting hundreds of choices of plants will ultimately be included in a

HOA News

recommendation to the builder to use for future construction phases of Four Seasons Beaumont with a goal of reducing water use and resultant costs. Likewise, such a list of drought tolerant landscaping might be useful to Four Seasons residents who might be altering their own landscaping at their homes.

O'Connell Landscaping, which has maintenance responsibility for most of the front yards and common areas doesn't recommend any plant replacement in the months of January and February and June to September. The cold temperatures in January and February and the hot temperatures June through September can too often traumatize freshly transplanted plants. While understanding that there are seasonal variations, the committee intends to follow O'Connell's recommendations. As a result, residents submitting plant replacement requests in December or during the heat of summer should know that approved replanting actions may wait until the transplants have a higher probability of surviving temperature extremes.

Now that winter is officially here, residents are reminded that they may want to cut back on watering their back yards.

During the month of December, Euclid Management dispatched 100 pieces of correspondence to residents who had sent in requests for landscape service. Of these, 34 were notices of completion; three were responses to resident concerns, and 63 responses on plant replacement requests.

The next meeting of the Landscape Committee will be Monday, Jan. 19, at 9 a.m. at the Lodge. — Fred Weck, Chairman

Finance Committee

The committee is joining with the Board to meet with KHovnarian builder representatives for an explanation of the projected 2009 budget. When a reasonable conclusion is reached, a series of town hall meetings will be conducted to convey the results.

The committee continues to monitor the ongoing income and expense of the Association and is working closely with the Board of Directors and Euclid Management to ensure that the Home Owners Association stays within its means.

The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 27 at 1 p.m. at the Lodge. -- Joyce Mackay, Chairperson

Bistro Committee

The Bistro Committee is working with the Performing Arts Club, activities director and the Social Committee to organize events that will include the Bistro.

We encourage any homeowner with a complaint, praise or suggestion to come to our Committee meetings, the first Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Lodge.

Bistro Specials: Look for more all-day dinner specials like the very successful one on Dec. 6. Smitty is hoping to have them at least once a month.

Every week specials include Tuesday Tacos for \$1 each and Sunday Chili-Dogs, also for \$1 each. Wednesday and Friday evenings feature dinner specials. Call the Bistro to find out what delectable delights and deals are available!

Remember that the Bistro, Performing Arts Club, Activities and Social Committee are presenting magic shows and karaoke nights for your eating and entertainment pleasure, starting in January.

Make it a habit: be at the Bistro for fun and good food! -- Sandy Dwyer, Chairperson

No Partridges but Twenty Pear Trees

By Len Tavernetti

While many residents strung lights on their houses in early December, the homeowners along Canary Creek witnessed the planting of pear trees in their front yards. Almost three years after moving into their houses and expressing concern about the olive trees planted on this street, members of this Arbors community finally saw these undesirable trees removed.

At the time this area was turned over to the Homeowners Association it was believed that the olive trees (Swan Hill) were non fruit-bearing. As it turned out they were European olive trees which do bear fruit. Semi-annual spraying to prevent the trees from bearing fruit is only partially successful and as the fruit ripens birds scatter the olives in the grass and on the sidewalks. The fruit gets crushed by pedestrian traffic and stains the walkways and get tracked in onto carpets. The trees also grow very large, too large for the small front yards on Canary Creek, and their root system could eventually disrupt underground utility lines.

Last year the Landscape committee addressed this problem with both the builder and landscape contractor seeking solutions. An initial spraying of the trees verified that this was not a realistic solution. By the time a suitable solution was in hand the optimal planting season (late fall) for replacement trees had passed.

This year the Landscape committee invited homeowners to select which tree they would like on their street and the Bradford Pear was selected. This tree Matures at 40 feet in height and 6-30 feet in width making it more suited to the small yards on Canary Creek. The trees will blossom in the spring but not bear fruit.

Other areas in Four Seasons also have European olive trees and will be replaced during 2009. The Landscape committee will identify the trees, solicit homeowner input on replacements and then request budget approval from the Board of Directors.

Attached photo is of an O'Connell landscape worker planting one of the pear trees.



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The Four Seasons Schedule for Clubs and Classes

GROUP	Meeting Times & Locations (Unless otherwise indicated meet at the Lodge)	CONTACT
8-Ball Club	Practices: Mon., Wed. & Fri. @ 7pm-9pm. Team Meeting: 1 st Mon. of every month In-house tournament: 2 nd Tues. of every month Couples tournament: 3 rd Thurs. of every month	Del Lyles (951)845-5114 or Dewey Allen (951)769-4354 or Dot Hurst (951)797-3068
Art Lover's League	Call Abby for info. (Varies)	Abby Cameron (951)849-6987
Asian Club	2 nd Tues. & 3 rd Fri. of the month @ 10:30pm	Thomas Lee (951)849-6168
Aviation Club	Varies	Steve Sarchette (951)769-8004 or George Robinson (951)572-5747
Beginners Shall We Dance	Every Monday @ 6:30pm Practice: Every Thursday @ 6:30pm (if no other event planned)	JoAnne Haberman
Bingo	Every 1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd Wed. of every month @ 5pm	Donna Freeman (951)845-1762
Book Club	Last Tues. of the month 9:30am-11:30pm Evening Session: following Wed. 7pm-8pm	Eileen Gilbert
Bocce Ball Club	Unknown	Ernie Reynoso (951)769-7516
Bridge Club	Every Monday @ 12pm	Helen Shoemate (951)769-1106
Canasta #1	Every Thursday @ 1pm	Melody Seewoster (951)769-2774
Canasta #2	Every Wednesday @ 1pm	Just come to game.
Fitness Club		Marilee Russell (951)769-8014
Golf Club	Varies	Ed McBratney (951)572-5447
Hearts	Every Tuesday @ 6pm	No Leader
Hiking Club	Varies	Bev McLaughlin (951)769-3344
Knit/Crochet Club	Tues. mornings @ 9:30am	Dorothy Payne
Life Guide Bible Study	Every Tues. evenings @ 7pm-8:30pm	Don Cummings (951)572-5329
Line Dancing	Every Thursday @ 5pm	Theresa Brown (951)797-3133 or Zelyne Rudolph: Zelynerudolph@yahoo.com
Open Art Studio	Every Friday @ 10am	Abby Cameron (951)849-6987
Pan	2 nd Thurs. of every month	Elaine Israel
Performing Arts AKA Entertainment Group	Varies, E-mail for meeting dates, etc	Zelyne Rudolph: Zelynerudolph@yahoo.com Eileen Gilbert: eggcellent@msn.com
Ping Pong Team	Every Mon. & Fri. @ 10:30am	Niles Sundrstum
Racquet Club	Beginners Group: Mondays @ 5pm Drill Group: Tuesdays @ 5pm, (Mtg.'s Vary)	Loren Duchesne, Chairman or Cheryl Smith, Tennis Pro: (949)929-5443
Red Hat Society	Varies	Melody Seewoster (951)769-2774
Seasoned Solos (Singles group)	Potluck on the 1 st Friday of the month @ 6pm	Mary Castle (951)769-5444 or Sharon Cox (951)922-6065
Spanish Club	2 nd & 4 th Saturday of the month (Varies)	Amalia Reynoso (951)769-7516
Sunday Morning Bible Study	Every Sunday @ 9:30am	Karen Requay
Taste d'Vine Wine Club	3 rd Thursday of the month @ 6:00pm	Anita Worthen (951)769-9858
The Rv'ers	2 nd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm	Joyce or Rob Mackay (951) 572-5504
Travel Club	Call Melody for Info.	Melody Seewoster (951)769-2774

Classes

Computer Class	Mon & Weds 1pm-3pm (If available)	Bill Rusche (951)769-4241
Pro-Fit : Offered classes: Conditioning, Aerobics, Step-aerobics, Gentle Yoga, H2O Fitness, etc.	Call for more information & price list *For monthly schedule check the flyer rack by the front desk.	Carmen Lopez (951)892-5141

K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons At Beaumont Committees

Architectural Committee

Herb Wachtel, Chairperson
Jerry Dixon
Marlene Doyle
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The Board of Directors for the K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons at Beaumont Community Association met on Thursday, December 11, 2008 in the Lodge Ballroom. Executive Session was held at 8 a.m. and the General Session was held at 1 p.m..

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 8, 2009 at 1 p.m. in the Lodge Ballroom.

Executive Session – 8 a.m.

General Session – 1 p.m.

Contact Information

THE LODGE

1518 Four Seasons Circle
Beaumont, California 92223
(951) 769-6358 Office
(951) 769-6514 Fax
(951) 769-4928 Movie Line
(951) 769-6997 The Salon
(951) 769-0717 The Bistro
(951) 769-4131 Potrero Gatehouse
(951) 769-4396 Crooked Creek Gatehouse

Euclid Management Corporate Office

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P O Box 513417 • Los Angeles, California 90051-3417

Euclid Management On-Site Beaumont Office

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Sheree Sourgose, Assistant GM
Cindy Graves, Activities Director
Krystal Orellana, Recreation Assistant
Crystelle Casarez, Lodge Attendant
Nelly Alcocer, Lodge Attendant
Marina Mendez, Lodge Attendant

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Fire: 845-3718
Hospital: 845-1121
Dial-A-Ride: 769-8532
Chamber of Commerce: 845-9541
Beaumont City Hall: 769-8520
550 E. 6th St
Animal Control: 922-3301

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT www.euclidmanagement.com LOG ON AND CLICK ON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, ON THE LEFT BAR CLICK ON ASSOCIATION INFORMATION, IN THE DROP DOWN BOX FIND "FOUR SEASONS BEAUMONT" AND USE THE PASSWORD – 9904. YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ON THE ASSOCIATION FINANCIALS, MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS, COMMUNITY GUIDELINES, ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES, AND ARCHITECTURAL FORMS FOR PLAN SUBMITTALS.

Clubs & Activities

Bridge Club

Happy New Year from the members of the Four Seasons Bridge Club.

If your new year's resolutions include meeting new people and sharpening your mind, then this club is for you. We meet every Monday at noon in the Card Room at the Lodge. If you enjoy playing bridge for fun and fellowship, you are welcome to join the group. Please call Helen Shoemate at (951) 845-9312. We would like to offer beginning bridge lessons to residents of the Four Seasons Beaumont community. If you are interested, please contact Mary Townsend at 951-769-1106, or e-mail her at mctown41@hotmail.com.

Now for some interesting bridge trivia. Many famous people have been and are bridge aficionados. Test your knowledge of these famous bridge players. Answers appear at the end of this column.

1. Perhaps the world's most famous investor.
2. One of the world's richest men; computer geek turned multi-billionaire.
3. Famous female tennis player.
4. Longtime president of the Washington Post newspaper.
5. Famous cartoonist.
6. One-time actor. Author of a popular newspaper bridge column.
7. Famous basketball star.
8. Famous comedian.
9. Famous playboy.
10. Supreme Court justice.

Local News: Bridge winners during the previous 30-day period include Bill Guy, Carl Carson, Selena Tracer, Jim Townsend, Joyce Mackay, and Archie Shoemate. Congratulations to all the winners. And very special wishes go to Archie Shoemate, who celebrated his 80th birthday on November 30. Cheers, Archie....here's to many more!!

If you know nothing about the game of Bridge, and are just interested or curious to see what it is all about, you are welcome to come on a Monday afternoon and just observe the play. Share an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Answers to Bridge Trivia: (1) Warren Buffett, (2) Bill Gates, (3) Martina Navratilova, (4) Katherine Graham, (5) Charles Schulz [the American Contract Bridge League named Snoopy an Honorary Life Master], (6) Omar Sharif, (7) Wilt Chamberlain, (8) George Burns [He said, "Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys. It also separates husbands and wives."], (9) Hugh Hefner, and (10) John Paul Stevens. -- Mary Townsend

Line Dancing

By Zelyne Rudolph

New Thursday Hours: 4 p.m. New Dancers

5 p.m. Experienced Dancers

Location: Ballroom

The line dancing participation has been great. We are getting more new people each week and because of this I feel some changes are in order so that the group can grow properly. I would like to see all new dancers come at 4 p.m. every Thursday. If you come then, you can expect slower teaching techniques in the developing stages of the dances. Because you are new, we can spend more time with you.

After you learn a dance and you feel comfortable to just have a

review immediately prior to dancing with the music, that will be for the more experienced dancers coming at 5 p.m. You experienced dancers are important for the lifeblood of the line dancing group.

Any of you more experienced dancers who have a favorite dance and/or music should come and support the group by teaching us what you know. Let me know and we will schedule time for you to teach your dance. Make sure you have written material for the dancers to take home to practice. The group will grow and become more stable when we have several teachers who can fill in.

The friendships you develop will strengthen your ties to this community, making us all more successful. Happy New Year, Four Seasons Beaumont.

Performing Arts Club

By Zelyne Rudolph

The official name of the club is the Performing Arts Club and Dec. 6, was its second show in as many months. We wanted to end the year with a bang and what fun we had putting it together and performing it. I am so grateful to have the caliber of performers to work with. We could all sit at a table and throw out ideas and the next thing you know, we have a show! Thank you to:

Rich Loquet; Bobbie Eckel; Colleen "the brat" Barretto; Bev and Willis Fagan; Patty Jordan; John Horning and Vern (the puppet); Colin Taylor, Magician; Betty Ann James and friends; Jerry Wright; Wanda Valentine; Anita Worthen; Verlette Brummell; Eugene Rudolph; Nettie Lee; Linda Wright; Eileen Gilbert, Poetry and Luminarias; Anne Savy who did double duty as Hanukkah participant and stage hand; Melody Seewoster, stage hand; Steve Sarchett and Abby Cameron, our set designers; The Classy Strutters -- Bill and Tanya Guy, Joe and Esper Manzanal; Diana LeVigne and Padoo Peralta; Chris and Lin Pike for their 12 Days of Xmas; Thanh Harrah for her beautiful Vietnam Song, and Audio Guru Roland Harrah.

In 2009, the Performing Arts Club in conjunction with the Bistro Committee will present Karaoke Night, once a month, beginning Jan. 10. Come out and be a star. On Jan. 29, we present Magic Night at the Bistro from 5 to 7 p.m.

An additional two shows have already been set for June and September but we don't know what they will be. It could be a play, a concert, a musical; who knows? It will depend on the talent we have. I do know the club needs a piano badly. A piano will greatly improve our ability to entertain. We would welcome the donation of a good one. Please contact us if you are interested.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The purpose of this Bible study is to provide an opportunity to study the Bible on Sunday mornings. Getting to church on Sunday is no longer a problem. Church has come to YOU! 9:30 am at the Lodge (in the craft room). Come and enjoy fellowship and study God's word.

The teacher is Michael Khan. We leave each week inspired and strengthened. Our desire to become servants of God is realized by serving each other, and our community. We seek God's guidance for our lives by meditating and studying his word.

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" 2 Tim 3:16. Experiencing, celebrating and proclaiming the love of God through Jesus Christ is the center of every meeting.

Clubs & Activities

Everyone is welcome. Come and join us, meet other people in your community Let us grow together in Christ Jesus as we dig deep into His word so that we may become more like Him. -- Karen Fuqua

Book Club



The November meeting of the Four Seasons Book Club found the readers discussing Philippa Gregory's best seller, *The Other Boleyn Girl*. Although many had previously seen the highly acclaimed film, all who read the book agreed that it was fascinating.

After a brief overview of the writer's background, the facilitator led the group through the questions of the historical accuracy of the two Boleyn girls' ages and sexual experiences. Discussion then progressed to the morals and activities of the courts of England and France, the status of women in the early 1500's, the dichotomy between the upper and lower classes and the part played by George Boleyn in the plot to keep Anne on the throne. Both men and women readers were eager to share their feelings about the characters, the political intrigue, the child-rearing beliefs of mothers in that era and the escapades of the court of Henry VIII.

The December selection, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, promises to be equally thought-provoking.

The Book Club members held their annual Book Club Holiday Party on Dec. 10. Great fun and food were enjoyed by all! Our thanks to chairperson Terri Jackson and her Lodge helper, Activities Director Cindy Graves, for a delightful event!

Book Club selections for January are *The Shack* by William P. Young and *The Distant Land of My Father* by Bo Caldwell. February will find us enjoying *Crashing Through* by Robert Kurson and *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan.

The Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lodge Ballroom. All residents are encouraged to come and join us. Our eclectic selections are guaranteed to widen your reading horizons. All books are proposed and selected by the group as a whole -- and refreshments are an integral part of our meetings!

If you are unable to attend the Tuesday morning sessions, the Book Club holds an evening discussion on the following Wednesday in the Lodge Library from 7 until 8 p.m. -- Bobbie Eckel

Improving the Vintage in 2009

By Leonardo

Most red wines improve with age and at Taste d'Vine we plan to follow this pattern with two big changes. The first change comes with the election of Anita Worthen as president of our club for 2009. Anita is known as the wine authority in our group and brings to the

club considerable knowledge of the wine industry.

With Anita's election Tony Ramu steps down as president. Tony was the first president of Taste d'Vine who was instrumental in pulling together a group of wine lovers and organizing us into a club. Over the last year and a half Tony has presided over the wine club and launched us as a premier social group here at Four Seasons Beaumont. Thanks, Tony.

The second major change for 2009 is that the club will meet monthly instead of bi-monthly. Meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month 6 to 8 p.m. as they were this year. While our agendas are flexible, our intent for this year is to have meeting themes that bring education and first hand knowledge about the wine industry. We kick off the year in January with a discussion of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Members are asked to bring one or the other to the meeting on 15th as well as an appetizer or dessert and their wine glass.

If you are new to Four Seasons as a homeowner or renter, the wine club is a great place to meet your new neighbors and catch up on life in our community. Please call Len Tavernetti at (909) 744-2388 for more information.

Knitting and Crocheting Group

As previously reported, two afghans have been completed, and we ended up with a total of 16 baby blankets. I will be delivering them to the hospital nursery unit sometime during the first or second week of December.

The group got together on Friday, Dec. 12, for our annual Christmas lunch. We went to D'atillo's Italian Restaurant in Hemet. Lots of fun.

We are now working on individual projects for the new year.
--- Dorothy Payne

Racquet Club

Happy New Year to everyone. I trust you all had a wonderful holiday. The best bargain of the season was the falling prices of gasoline and I am sure that everyone took advantage of that and traveled around to see family and friends. The weather turned so cold that many of the tennis groups were canceled. We hope that the New Year treats us a bit better.

As this is being written, we have no access to the Ballroom at the Lodge for the Aussie Open party. We will investigate the use of another room at the Lodge, but the problem may be of food availability. We will work on this and try to make something happen. The club members will be sent e-mails to let them know what we are able to make happen.

The January schedule for clinics and groups will probably be sparse due to the weather and tournament activity. Anyone wanting to watch some very good senior tennis should make a trip out to the Palm Springs area as the month of January is full of tournaments and players coming to the Coachella Valley from all over the country.

As soon as I find out my umpiring schedule, I will send out notification of when the clinics will be. Thank you all for your patience. I appreciate your understanding during this busy time of the year.

The FSBRC board will continue to discuss the issues requiring our attention, the challenge ladder, equipment storage area, Aussie Open party, etc.

See page 16

January 2009



K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons at Beaumont Activity Calendar

Lisa Lynn,
General Manager

Sheree Sourgose,
Assistant GM

Cindy Graves,
Activities Director

Krystal Orellana,
Recreation Assistant

Crystelle Casarez,
ARC Assistant

Nelly Alcocer,
Lodge Assistant

Marina Mendez,
Lodge Assistant

Frances Farrar,
Lodge Attendant

1518 Four Seasons
Circle
Beaumont, CA 92223

(951) 769-6358 Office
(951) 769-6514 Fax

(951) 769-4928
Movie Line

(951) 769-6997 Salon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
4 * 9:30am	5 * 9a	6 * 9am
11 9:30	12 *9am	13 *9am Saf
18 * 9:30am Bible *1pm Board Games in Game Room	19 *9am Conditioning Class *10:30am Ping Pong *12pm Bridge *6:30pm Beginners Shall We Dance *7pm 8-Ball Club Practice	20 *9am A
25 * 9:30am Bibl	26 *9am	27 * 9am A

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *9am Y	2 *9am C	3 * 9a
7 *9am C	8 *8amBO	9 *9am	10 * 9am Y
14 *9am	15 *9am Yo	16 *9am C	17 * 9am Y
21 *9am Fit	22 The Lodge Closed All Day	23 The Lod	24 * 9am Yog
28 *10:30a	29 The Lodge Closed All Day	30 The Lod	31 The Lod

Clubs & Activities

See you on the courts!! --- Cheryl Smith, Resident
USPTA Developmental Coach

RV Club

Due to the Holidays, no December meeting was planned. Members are looking forward to attending the Quartzsite Sports, Vacation and RV Show in January. Fellow RVers plan to begin arriving Jan. 12 and staying thru the 25th. A few adventurous travelers plan to proceed to Puerto Penasco, Mexico for another week before returning home.

San Clemente State Park, overlooking the beautiful Pacific, is our destination February 22 thru 27.

Chula Vista RV Park is planned for April 13 thru 17. Rumor has it there may even be a boat ride included.

Several members have expressed an interest in traveling to Yellowstone Park, Mount Rushmore, Jackson Hole, etc. this summer. Anyone interested?

New members are welcome. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Lodge. -- Joyce Mackay

Seasoned Solos

Looking back at the past year I realize how many new friends we have made and what an asset the group has been for so many of us. We have taken day trips, gone to socials at the Lodge as a group, and gone out for dinner in addition to our monthly potlucks. This group has helped me feel "at home" in Four Seasons and Beaumont. I hope it has helped others too. We started with a few members and have grown to over 30 members.

New group leaders will be starting with the new year and I look forward to their new ideas, plans, and activities.

New member are always welcome. For information please call Denise at (951) 572-5317 or Toby at (951) 769-2380. -- Mary Castle

Walkie Talkie Hikers

The Walkie Talkie Hikers did not schedule a December hike, undoubtedly knowing they would get enough strenuous exercise during the holiday preparations and activities.

The next scheduled hike is set for Tuesday, Jan. 13. The group will be hiking through a wonderful area, the Santa Rosa Plateau in Murrieta. The hike will be an easy one, about six miles in length. A nearby Italian restaurant will be the destination for lunch following the hike.

Interested participants meet outside the Lodge at 8 a.m. Dress warmly -- in layers. Bring water and a snack. Co-leaders, Pete Hersey and Bev McLaughlin will both be driving. For any additional information, please call Bev at (951) 769-3344. --- Bev McLaughlin

Art Lovers' League

The Art Lovers' League had a night out in December in Riverside. We enjoyed a dinner, then admired the fantastic lights and decorations at the Mission Inn. It was a beautiful evening so we strolled through some of the shops and then the art museum. Everyone had a great time.

Our next meeting is Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. when we will be discussing and planning some exciting outings for 2009. If you

are interested, please come with your suggestions. For more information, call Abby Cameron, (951) 849-6987.

Happy holidays to you. -- Abby Cameron

Four Seasons at Beaumont Golf Club

Golf! Golf is harder than baseball. In golf, you have to play your foul balls; and, that's if you can even find your ball.

An interesting thing about golf is that no matter how badly you play one day, it's always possible to get worse.

Golf's a hard game to figure. One day you'll go out and slice it and shank it, hit into all the traps and miss every green. Then, the next time you go out and, for no reason at all, you shoot a great round.

Happy New Year to all 4SBGC Golfers, their families and their friends. And, may you play your best golf (yet) in 2009. -- Ed McBratney, 4SBGC President

Life Guide Bible Study Club

THE LIFE GUIDE BIBLE STUDY CLUB'S first meeting in the New Year is Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom. We will be studying the book of Proverbs -- a book in the Old Testament that gives wisdom to handle life with skill. Proverbs is relevant and up to date and it is rich with practical instruction. It looks at subjects like money, sex, power, family and friends, career, success, failure, aging and conflict and gives you knowledge and wisdom that you can use in your everyday life. Come and join us. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

The Life Guide Bible Study Club meets in the ballroom of the Lodge on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club provides an opportunity for us to meet people in the Four Seasons community, and also a chance to encourage and strengthen one another in our walk of faith. By the way, each lesson is self-contained, so you will benefit from the discussion even if you have missed previous lessons. This study time will give you an opportunity to share your faith and gain encouragement and help from others in the group. For more information, call Don Cummings at 572-5329. -- Don Cummings

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Homeowners Travel Club Trip List

By Melody Seewoster

2009 Locations

Day Trips

Jan. 15, Taste of LA,
Olvera St., Chinatown, Little Tokyo, wine tasting and lunch at Tam O'Shanter Inn \$ 92.00

Jan. 22, The Hearst Collection at LACMA 68.00
View over 170 objects of art belonging to William Randolph Hearst. Lunch on
your own at the Farmer's Market before you docent guided tour at the LA Museum
of Art.

Feb 8, The Producers at Musical Theatre West 85.00
Lunch on your own along the harbor in Long Beach before the show

Feb. 14, Phantom of the Opera 130.00
Lunch on your own before attending this show

Apr. 19, Mamma Mia, 130.00

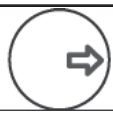
For reservations please call (760) 325-5556. Reservations must be followed by check payment within 5 business days or space is automatically resold. Payment is non-refundable for day tour cancellations received up to 5 business days prior to departure. All tours require a minimum number of persons to operate. Make checks payable to: Gadabout Tours and mail to 1801 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, suite 100, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Attention Reservations. Pick up point is at the Sun Lakes Shopping Center at Carl's Jr. You will be notified of pick up times.

Extended Trips

April 26, 2009	19 day Panama Canal Cruise	\$ 3141.43	Inside cabin
		3641.43	Outside cabin
		3671.43	Balcony
Sept. 27, 2009	14-day Hawaiian Cruise	\$1545 to \$1595	inside cabin
		+fuel charge and taxes	
		\$1945 to \$2220	outside cabin
		+fuel charge and tax	
		\$2295	balcony +fuel charge and taxes

Call Melody at (951) 769-2774 for more information or to make reservation

Four Season's Community Info



Fitness Corner

10 Reasons Why Dancing Is Good For You

By Zelyne Rudolph

Do you have a problem with exercising? Does it seem to be work to "break a sweat"? Do you continue to put exercising on the "back burner" and often find that days and even weeks go by without exercising? Exercise guidelines call for aerobics and strength training. Dancing provides the aerobics. There are many reasons dancing is good for you. Here are some of them.

1. **Burn calories and lose weight.** Dancing is all about moving your body, which is a great way to burn calories. The amount of calories depends on how aggressively you dance. In a one-hour session you can burn from 250 to 400 calories. That makes losing weight fun and enjoyable.
2. **It makes you smarter.** Recent studies actually show that remembering dance steps causes your brain to reroute between areas that have been damaged. If you find yourself having difficulties with memory, that is a sign that you should not give up but compel your brain to make new connections.
3. **Improved health.** Dance can effectively promote good health by improving cardiovascular fitness, strengthening the muscles, increasing circulation, decreasing blood pressure, lowering the risk of coronary heart disease, reducing stress, among many other positive benefits.
4. **Good for bones and joints.** Dance is a weight-bearing activity, which means it's great for your bones. Weight-bearing exercises are proven to increase bone density and help reduce the risk of osteoporosis.
5. **Great way to exercise and stay fit.** Dance is a great way to stay in shape while your mind is telling you that you are having a great time.
6. **Greater coordination.** Your body will love the improved control over coordination and timing skills. You will learn how to move with better grace and poise.
7. **Great way to meet new people.** Dancing provides a natural icebreaker and is a great way to meet new people and make new friends.
8. **Build confidence.** Dance builds confidence by giving you a sense of success and achievement when you master it.
9. **Lifts your mood.** Any exercise can raise your spirits by raising the endorphin levels. Mental health providers recommend those suffering from depression to exercise.
10. **Improved overall well-being.** Dance has an outstanding positive effect on both physical and psychological well-being.

Four Seasons has two methods of dancing. Shall We Dance will begin again on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m., in January and line dancing continues on Thursdays, beginners at 4 p.m. and experienced dancers at 5 p.m.

Neighborly Notes

By Bobbie Eckel

Banning Center for the Arts is presenting a special showing, The Color of Blackness, by Otis Washington. The display will be open through Jan. 24. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. The public is invited; admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. Banning Center for the Arts is located at 130 San Geronio in downtown Banning. For additional information, please call (951) 849-3993.

Kudos to those good neighbors who offer support and love to fellow homeowners who are dealing with illnesses, accidents or deaths in the family. Our community is still small enough to show that we care -- both individually and collectively. I hope that we never grow so large that we lose these qualities!

Be on the watch for a special workshop sponsored by the Landscape Committee in early spring: a "how-to-workshop" for residents who want to establish a drip irrigation system in their yard. Drip irrigation uses less water; given the drought conditions of California, we need to thoroughly explore all possibilities to conserve water!

Let's make 2009 a great year in our Four Seasons community!

Travel News

By Melody Seewoster

Some news from Princess: They are considering dropping their Los Angeles to Hawaii to Los Angeles itinerary. If you have been thinking of taking this trip with Princess then you should think about the trip we are taking September 27, 2009.

This is a 14-day cruise that will include the following ports:

Hilo, ~~av~~^{hii}
Honolulu, ~~av~~^{hii}
Kauai, ~~av~~^{hii}
Maui, ~~av~~^{hii}
Ensenada, ~~ex~~^{mo}

We will leave from the Port of Los Angeles and return to that same port.

Prices range from \$1,545 (inside cabin), \$2,220 (ocean-view) \$2,395 (balcony) and \$2,795 (minisuite). Prices could be lower based on past passenger rates.

Fuel: \$126 (or to be determined closer to sailing. Fuel supplement may be reduced or eliminated, depending on crude oil prices.)

Government fees: \$48.05

Insurance Protection: eight percent of cruise fare.

Deposit: 20 percent of base cabin rate. Final payment due 7/13/09.

Deposit refundable up to final payment. For more information or to make reservations call Melody at (951)

769-2774. Flier posted in Four Seasons Lodge.

City of Beaumont is Proactive on Home Foreclosures

By Melody Seewoster

The current economic situation has led the City of Beaumont to monitor distressed properties.

In general, the city's tracking efforts have clearly shown that Beaumont is well below foreclosure rates found in other areas of Riverside County.

Statistically home pricing in Beaumont has consistently been more affordable than in other areas of the Inland Empire. When the downturn in the economy hit the market, Beaumont did not see the

Four Season's Community Info

drastic difference in housing prices that other areas experienced.

This was an advantage to those who brought their homes during the peak periods in Beaumont as compared to other market areas. Additionally, the current resale market is more affordable for those looking to move into the area.

In regard to new home construction, the city has been more flexible when it comes to working with builders in order to move inventory more efficiently. Developers have also built homes in smaller phases, resulting in fewer homes standing empty.

In order to handle the effect of abandoned homes, the City Council approved an amendment to the municipal code to protect neighborhoods from this plight of vacant properties.

Vacant homes can be left by property owners to be taken over by banks without proper notice. This results in the decline of the property and its appearance.

The new ordinance, entitled "Regulation of Abandoned Residential Properties," establishes uniform regulations to prevent the detrimental effects associated within abandoned and distressed properties.

The code calls for the property to be maintained in a manner comparable to the neighborhood standard. Those standards include the following:

Abandoned properties shall be maintained so as to be kept free of evidence of vacancy.

They shall be free of graffiti by removal or painting over with exterior grade paint that matches the color of the structure

Landscape maintenance will be maintained on visible front and side yards.

Pools and spas shall be kept in working order, and must comply with fencing requirements.

The City of Beaumont is continuing to monitor the real estate climate to retain property values for its citizens.

A "Novel" New Year Resolution

By Bobbie Eckel

By the first of January most of us have safely made it through "Resolutions Week," that final week of December when we decide how we want to change our lives in the New Year.

Some of us choose weight loss, reorganizing our finances, improving our physical fitness or spending more quality time with family and friends.

I propose an addition resolution for 2009 -- Word Gain -- making an effort to learn more about the variety and richness of American English words and expressions.

The English language is an amazing and complex structure, often daunting to those attempting to master it as a second language. Our words come from many sources and from many events. The mind boggles at the specificity of technical words and the structure of the grammar. The happy rules we learned as children are seldom consistent -- nor is the spelling or pronunciation of the language.

To a word lover, however, these pitfalls are minor compared to the sheer joy of words and their relationships. Many books have been written about our language. One of the most interesting series I have found is the booklets by the Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries. The series started in 2005 with *100 Words Every High School Graduate Should Know*, *100 Words Every High School Freshman Should Know* and *100 Words Almost Everyone Confuses and Misuses*.

In a later booklet in the series, the Senior Editor, Steve Kleinedler, writes the "mission statement" (to use the current term) of the American Heritage dictionary staff, "We hope that you will have as much fun reading *100 Words Every World Lover Should Know* as we did in compiling this book."

The words in this last book have been chosen by the staff based on their unusual histories, interesting meanings and appearance in literature. Some, I suspect, are also included because they just flow trippingly off the tongue! **Humuhumunukunuaapuaa** (hoo moo hoo moo noo koo noo koo ah poo ah ah) is a good example of this. It's the name of one of two triggerfish which are native to the outer reefs of Hawaii. The humuhumunukunuaapuaa is also the state fish of Hawaii and is featured in many island songs. How do you make it plural? An "s" at the end is optional.

As with any dictionary, the words in the series are presented alphabetically, each with the grammatical part of speech noted, inflections, order of senses (common meanings given first), examples of usage and etymologies. Some entries include notes citing interesting information regarding the history of the word.

Anathema (uh **nath** uh muh), most commonly meaning an ecclesiastical ban or curse and broadening to include a person or thing generally reviled, damned or shunned, came to our language from the Latin root and Greek word for something dedicated to evil. The editors noted the quotation from the Atlantic Monthly, "Essentialism -- a belief in natural, immutable sex differences -- is anathema to postmodernists, for whom sexuality, along with gender, is a 'social construct'."

Chortle (**chor** tul) makes you smile just saying it! Defined as a snorting, joyful laugh or chuckle, the word was coined by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking Glass*, published in 1872. Carroll created a portmanteau (blend) word by combining "chuckle" and "snort".

And then there's a **cruciverbalist** (kroo suh **ver** buh list), a person who constructs crossword puzzles or one who enjoys word games, especially crossword puzzles. The word comes from the Latin translation of the English word "crossword". What fun to quietly explain, "In my spare time I'm a cruciverbalist."

The adjective **desultory** (**des** ul tore ee) means having no set plan, acting randomly and disconnected, jumping from one thing to another. The authors offer the example from Scott Anderson, *Men's Journal*, "Our conversation so far had been desultory, with lots of long silences and me staring fixedly out the window." That type of social situation we can all relate to occasionally.

Halcyon (**hal** see un) is an interesting word. It can be an adjective, meaning calm and peaceful or prosperous/ golden. Eammon Fingleton, *In Praise of Hard Industries*, uses it in this way, "There is probably hardly a single American who does not yearn for a return to the halcyon years...when American manufacturers paid the highest wages in the world yet nonetheless almost effortlessly dominated world markets." Halcyon can also be used as a noun, referring to a kingfisher or the fabled bird associated with the kingfisher that supposedly had the power to calm the wind and waves while it floated on the sea during the winter solstice.

So many words, so little time / space. Hardly a laconic (concise) subject, but one does not wish to appear a nudnick (pest). I'm working on my Word Gain resolution. I hope you will join me in this sesquipedalian (long and complex or having many syllables)



Four Seasons Spotlight

By Crotchet E. Oldman

I'm losing my touch.

I used to be able to reach in my cluttered pants pocket and among all the coins, keys, handkerchiefs and what-not, and by feel pull out, say, a quarter, dime and nickel to pay a 40-cent bill. (That, of course, was when 40 cents would buy a hot dog and a coke; now it's more likely to cover part of the sales tax -- but that's a different irritation.)

Today, with my age-dulled senses, I'm lucky to distinguish between a half dollar and a house key.

I have to take out all the coins, put them in my palm and count out the right change. This clumsy, time-consuming delay invariably exasperates those behind me in the checkout line. They shift from foot to foot and clear their throats while I count, "let's see twenty-five and ten is thirty-five and five is forty – is that right?"

I can't seem to add silently anymore – I count out loud, and at first glance those new nickels look a lot like quarters, and with that accursed sales tax, almost nothing comes out to the even dime or nickel, but to the odd penny. I try to fish out and spend my pennies to avoid getting more back in change and be burdened with a pound of copper in my pockets.

In the line at Ace Hardware before I started counting the coins not long ago, the checkout girl said, "And the discount is ten percent." "What discount is that?" I asked.

"Because you're so cute," she said. Well, that took some of the sting out of it, but I knew perfectly well it was the senior discount. I wish she had shown some hesitancy, some uncertainty. "Can you show me proof of age?" or "Are you really over 65?" would have been nice.

But, to get back to my lost touch. When I used to smoke (I know, I was destroying my lungs and circulatory system and abetting cancer in nearly every organ—but that too, is a different complaint) my fresh pack of Lucky Strikes had a bright red strip around the top of the cellophane hat I could grasp and zip off with one quick motion. Then I would tear out the foil next to the tax stamp and the pack was open.

Not any more. The accursed impenetrable plastic packages today take a jack hammer or a power saw to open.

At McDonalds or Burger King I wrestle with the little packets of salad dressing and ketchup and mustard trying to tear them open. One needs long, sharp fingernails of Ming the Merciless and the grip of a bone setter to penetrate those stubborn things.

I recently had a meal at a Chick-fil-A restaurant and I found all the little packets had a place on them that said "open here" with an arrow pointing to the exact spot. I opened them with ease. As I was leaving I saw a picture of the founder and owner in the lobby. He looked like a really old guy, and I figured that was why he knew packets need to be easy to open.

Not long ago, I was opening a parcel that had been mailed to our house and tied with a strong, thin string. I tried to slip the

string off the package, but it was too tight. I rummaged around in my pocket looking for my jackknife and came up with – a Chapstick.

I briefly considered waxing the string and using it for dental floss, but realized I'd have to find the knife anyway. So I emptied my pocket, found the knife and opened the package.

Earlier, I bought some AA batteries handsomely displayed in a plastic bubble package with a cardboard back. The back had a teeny tab that said "OPEN/CLOSE HERE." I got the best grip I could on the infinitesimal tab and pulled. It slipped from my fingers. It was too small to hold and anyway it was bonded to the plastic with some kind of Gorilla Glue.

There appeared to be some perforations in the cardboard that I poked at and worried for a time, until I realized the batteries were packed too tightly against it for me to make any progress. I turned the package over and could see the batteries, tantalizingly displayed but so far, unobtainable.

Finally, I took out my pocket knife and went after the plastic bubble itself. It was made of the same stuff as the windows on an armored car. I stabbed and sliced until the blade penetrated and then sawed until I had cut to one corner of the bubble, which then suddenly gave way. The blade sprang out and stabbed me in the thumb.

I got the batteries out – blood-spattered but usable.

What ever happened to red strips and cellophane?

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Activities Director Corner

By Cindy Graves

January is here! Time for new beginnings, new involvements, new resolutions and new events to look forward to! This week, the Finance Committee reviewed my proposals for the 2009 events. My latest feed back from those in-the-know seem to indicate that the events will be OK'd!

Let me share with you some of those events, so you can mark your calendars in expectation! This is going to be a great year starting with some new entertainment from the Performing Arts Club.

"Karaoke Night" is coming to a Bistro near you! Evidently the true Japanese term "Karaoke" means "entertainment" (so I was told), and that will be the truer sense of what the "Four Seasons Karaoke Nights" will be like. Not only will there be American Idol type resident celebrities singing to prefabricated music selections, but, there will also be opportunities for musicians, puppets and other entertainments to be showcased. These Karaoke Nights will be in January, February, March and April. Check the calendars for exact time and dates. No two evenings will be the same!

The next big event will be the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, Feb. 14. Tickets will be \$18 each and will go on sale on Jan. 10.

Singles are welcome and encouraged to come! This is fun for everyone!

March 21, will be the next Mystery Dinner Theater. This audience participation, English murder mystery is called "St.

Cakes". If you liked the Murder in Margaritaville event, then this will surely be your cup of tea! I'll let you know next month what day the tickets will be available (I think it will be Feb. 9).

This year sounds like it will be a great year for the Wine Club as well. Anita Worthen is hot on the planning trail, coming up with all kinds of special events for 2009. I can't wait for you to hear of some of the unique and interesting guests that they will be featuring. Prepare yourself to be educated and entertained in the "fineries of wineries" among other things. How sophisticated and refined you'll find yourself becoming (harhar!) as you attend some of these club meetings. What a great New Year's resolution to become involved in this or some of the other mind expanding, personal growth oriented clubs. Keep a close lookout for all the promotional materials around the Lodge to keep you informed of the latest club information!

To help you decide what new club or class you might like to try this year, I am including the Four Seasons Schedule for Clubs, Classes and Interest Groups. There are so many different groups to choose from that you should never find yourself wallowing in monotony. If you have a particular interest that you feel is not represented in this club list, come down to the Lodge and see me, and we'll start an interest group list to initiate a group that suits you. It's never dull or boring here at the Lodge!



Cream Cheese Ball

By Randy Balt

Mom's Chow Mein

This recipe has been used by Bev McLaughlin's family for over 60 years. It was handed down by her mother as a way to use the left-over holiday turkey meat. We hope you enjoy it, because all of us who have had an opportunity to partake in this fine feast can attest to its scrumptiousness.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Yield: 8-10 servings

Ingredients:

3 cups cooked turkey or chicken (cut up in bite-size pieces)
4 celery stalks sliced to 1/2"
1/2 onion cut up
1 can water chestnuts

1 can mushroom pieces
1 can bamboo sprouts
1 can Chinese vegetables
5 cups clear chicken stock
2-3 tbs of brown sugar (to taste)
1/4 to 1/3 cup Soy sauce (to taste)
3 tbs corn starch (for thickening)

Preparation:

First make the sauce by combining the clear chicken stock, brown sugar, soy sauce and corn starch. Add the celery and onion to the sauce and cook until celery and onions are tender. Add turkey meat and drained vegetables. Cook an additional 5 minutes. Freezes well.

Serve over rice and top with Chinese noodles

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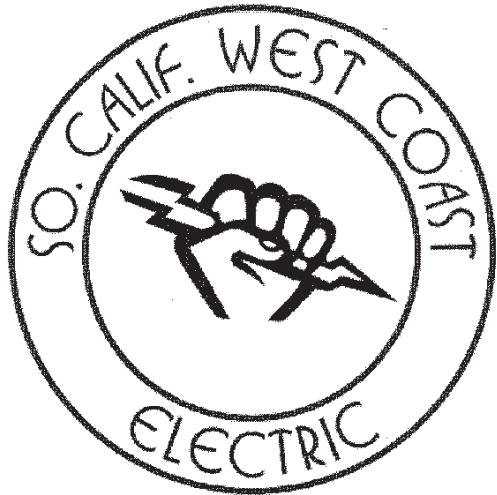
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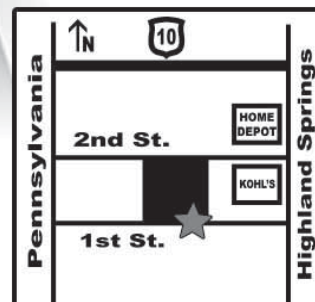
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