

THE CYPRESS LOG

Published since 1995
By and For the Residents of
Brookdale Cypress Village

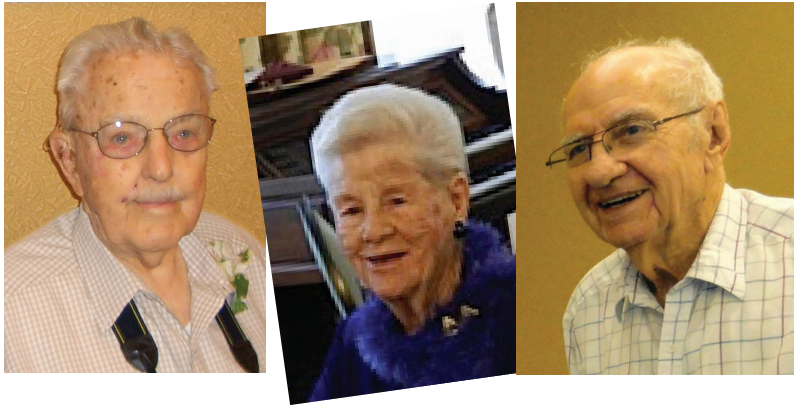
January 2013



BERNIE GAMBLE, LLOYD LOHAUS AND NED OAKLEY NAMED 2012 RESIDENTS OF THE YEAR

This year the Cypress Log is varying from tradition and naming three residents of the year. Bernie Gamble, Lloyd Lohaus and Ned Oakley were the consensus choice of the Log staff to be recognized. All three were described as long time residents who have, through the years, been models of how one grows gracefully through staying active at Cypress Village and having a positive attitude toward life.

Bernie has been a gracious welcomer of new residents while always keeping a positive attitude to life. As an ambassador for Cypress Village, she hosted many prospective residents. Her smiling face is often seen at the cribbage and bridge table and dancing keeps her young.



Ned Oakley Bernie Gamble Lloyd Lohaus

Lloyd has championed staying young through dance and, as a teacher and participant, has supported dance events and encouraged residents to line dance for fitness, both physical and mental. He assists in operating the audio equipment in Egret Hall.

Ned has been a long time photographer of events and scenes at Cypress Village and his photographs were recently on display in Egret Hall. Along with his wife of 70 years, Maryan, Ned was instrumental in the founding of the Cypress Log. He currently faithfully visits Maryan in the Healthcare Center as she recovers from surgery.

All three are role models for many residents and it is the Cypress Log's privilege to honor them. How blessed this community is to have Bernie, Lloyd and Ned among us, as well as others who contribute and inspire in so many ways.

Holiday Season Celebrated in Music, Song and Dance



2013
HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE CYPRESS LOG

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Your comments and suggestions
are always welcome!

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RESIDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT

By Beverly Everett

Rob Keith called the final Residents' Council Meeting for 2012 to order on December 11th. Then he handed the gavel over to the new Council President, Alan Prosswimmer.

Dee Kelley announced the following new residents in the Independent Apartments: Justine Aleschus in B206, Dent Moses in B701 and Bob and Katharine McMillan in C641. The "walk-arounds" with Mark Carroll, Director of Housekeeping, are continuing with the Floor Leader Committee and a full report will be forthcoming next month.

Ester Segler said mulching around the equity homes will begin in December. Homeowners will be called before this work is to begin in each of these homes. Work has begun to repair broken sprinkler heads and watering of the lawns should only be done once a week. Work is progressing on establishing a shuttle to run among the equity homes. Residents will be informed when a schedule is completed.

Coralie Williams reported for the Fine Arts Committee.

An extensive collection of music CD's has been donated by Paul Shuler to the Cypress Library along with a cabinet to house the collection. A list of the selections in the collection is posted on top of the cabinet. The Christmas book collection will remain on display on the library table until the New Year. This past month 15 new titles have been added to the library shelves.

The Art Studio on the seventh floor has been completely renovated and is now ready to be used either by individuals wishing to paint there or for group classes. Donna Johnson is now the Art Studio manager. Final arrangements for using the studio will be discussed at a meeting in the studio on January 17th at 3 p.m.

Roger McAleese was introduced by Mary Jean Mackey as the Interim Director of Dining Services. Anyone interested in an invitation to attend one of the monthly Gourmet Dinners needs to see Kathy Roan.

It is time for the Scholarship Fund drive to begin. Walter Hedley said there were 20 employees who were scholarship recipients during the fall semester and at this time 9 employees will be enrolled in college courses during the spring term.

Kari Walsh, Activities Director in Assisted Living, expressed her appreciation for the participation of Cypress residents who helped send 300 Christmas cards to service men and women overseas. Danielle Ashby was introduced as the new Activities Director in the Health Care Center and Jacqueline Wright is the new director in Assisted Living.

The census report for the past month was given by Bernadette McAlpin: 220 of the 327 independent living apartments are occupied, 119 beds of the 120 in skilled nursing beds are filled and 42 of the 43 assisted living units are in use.

Residents are urged to bring family members and/or financial advisers with them when discussing garden home conversion programs or other possible moves within the Cypress complex.

Mike Amadeo reminded residents of the need to file a form with the Security Department before taking a trip. The forms are available at the Concierge Desk or Security Department.

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Alan Prosswimmer



What new horizons have been opened with my election to office! I thought that being involved in so many activities, this would be a piece of cake. Not so. I have served as the President of the Resident Council for approximately a month now and have been surprised by the complexity and breadth of the challenges which are inherent in the vibrant community in which we live. My wife and I moved here over four (4) years ago and through our involvement in many committees and associations we believed that we had a very good grasp and understanding of the intricate dynamics of our community. Unfortunately, the fact is that my brief tenure in office has taught me that my learning curve has just begun.

My career was built and spent in Corporate America which provides me with a unique skill set and perspective. For instance, I know that any positive and progressive influence our council brings to our residents and community must fit closely with the role and goals of our corporate partners. Thus, I am working to foster and build a relationship with Ty Morgan and his team as well as establish an open dialogue with them. At the same time I am increasing my involvement with the wide variety of activities performed by resident volunteers and Cypress Village employees. This is a formidable and challenging task. As in many aspects of life, communication and understanding is vital. In order to best serve Cypress

Village I need to understand the corporate goals and complexities that motivate our partners. My objective is to effectively and efficiently weave our needs into the organizational fabric of Brookdale.

Thus far much of my time has been spent on personal issues of individual residents. I do believe that a very large and important role of mine is to help alleviate and resolve specific issues and problems of residents. Significant time and effort is required to resolve most of these special situations because they often relate to an issue within Brookdale management and/or community dynamics. Effective resolution is only achieved when one has developed an understanding of not only each party's basis and flexibility but also knowledge of past similar resolutions. One needs to strike the proper balance between individual desires and the broader community goals. This challenge will take time.



*Christmas Fund
Breakfast*



LEWIS & CLARK LECTURE

By Bob Gryb

By special request from many residents, Lee Thames gave a repeat performance about the Lewis & Clark Expedition. His previous presentation at Cypress Village was several years ago, when his wife Patti could also participate. The talk was part of the Lifelong Learning lectures series.

Every seat in Egret Hall was occupied when Lee asked the audience to close their eyes and pretend it was the year 1803, and they all lived in a rural place, somewhere on the east coast where it would take them less than a day to walk or ride a horse to the Atlantic Ocean. He then took us to visit President Thomas Jefferson, who was thinking about buying Louisiana and all the land going with it, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. If only he could find out more about it. What kind of waterways, animals, furs, minerals, and Indian settlements, existed there? Oh, how he wanted to find someone, who would go and find out, and bring back maps and descriptions. He would pay their expenses for boats and equipment. He just hoped they could make it back with enough facts to please Congress.



Lee was an expert at taking us there with him, as he described the many interesting people that Lewis and Clark recruited and assembled as they started out from the Ohio River and headed to the Northwest.

Lee arranged for copies of some of the papers, maps and sketches that were handed out at his presentation. He also had lots of materials available for attendees to take home afterwards.

Lee was born in Charleston, SC, joined the Marines after graduating from high school in Montgomery, AL, and later graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Business Administration. He built a career in the railroad industry, retiring from CSX in 1992, after 32 years. He is an avid reader of history, especially the American Revolution, the fur trade and the Lewis & Clark Expedition. He and his wife Patti donated their history library to the Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where it is housed in the library's special collection.

STEVE CHAPMAN TRIO PLAYS AT THE HOLIDAY INN AT EGRET HALL

By Betty Kolkedy

Folks gathered for an evening of holiday entertainment with the Steve Chapman Trio at the Holiday Inn, otherwise known as Egret Hall. Steve sang many holiday-themed songs and accompanied himself on the piano. Other members of the Trio played bass and drums.

We enjoyed the music and songs, We Need A Little Christmas and Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow. We reminisced of days long ago as they played tunes from the 1950's Rock and Roll Era. Our impressive dancers of Cypress Village moved to the music of Jingle Bells Rock. Dancing continued to songs such as Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The Trio shared with us songs and music including Swing, Waltz and even more.

We loved listening to the Steve Chapman Trio. Steve has such a wonderful voice and the musicians helped us to really get into the spirit of the holidays as they sang old holiday favorites. They shared with us I'll Be Home for Christmas, Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire, Most Wonderful Time of the Year and White Christmas. Steve even reminded me a little bit of Elvis when he sang Blue Christmas.

Folks enjoyed the evening, listening to the music, joining in with the singing as we were all given song sheets and many danced the evening away. Dr. Lee and Krissie were dancing around taking some great pictures. It was a delightful evening for all.



LOOKING TO 2013 WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TY MORGAN

CEO Ty Morgan foresees many improvements at Cypress Village in 2013, much of it in the social realm. He stated, "The goal from my seat is to make positive changes in the social environment." He said that the changes would include more lively activities and more options.

Ty believes that one of the features that will provide the greater socialization of the residents is the planned changes in the Loon's Nest. He hopes to see the cafe used for morning coffee and catching up on the news on the TVs or by reading the provided morning newspaper. He also sees possibilities for residents to congregate in the pub for a more casual dinner and drinks before or afterward. Entertainment in the Loon's Nest area is also planned to make it more attractive to residents.

To make it more convenient for house residents to take advantage of the activities in the main building, there will be the new transit system to bring people from their homes to these activities. Several trial runs have already been held to determine how best to do this. There will also be expanded golf cart parking at the Lakeside Towers.

In other prospective changes there will be dessert "action stations" in the dining room at meal time. Some of these will be scheduled but others will be unannounced. Ty also hinted at the introduction of a social interaction and networking program to be called "Connected Living" coming by mid-2013.

Some of Ty's goals involve the health services and the wellness center. He said that these are great resources that are not utilized enough. He hopes to have better communication with the residents, especially through an improved channel 267, so that they can learn more about the services available and therefore they can make more use of them.

In some long term projections for the future, Ty said that there is the need to serve the current residents but also a need to serve prospective younger residents. Related to that effort is a new plan for the conversion of garden homes to entry fee homes. These would initially not be life care arrangements but could be converted to modified life care at a later stage. This plan would be more attractive to some people of a younger age.

On-going projects include the renovation of the corridors in the main building and the hiring of a new director of dining room services. Both involve procedures that sometimes cannot be hurried. Also to be completed is the modifying of the fifth floor of the D wing for assisted living residents with low to moderate memory problems. This would allow such residents to receive the attention they need, separate from the other assisted living residents.



Wildlife sightings on Crazy Fish boat ride.



December Birthday Party



PET TAILS

By Canine Cub Reporter Bentley Magee Lloyd Hickey

"Bentley, what are you doing?" questioned Mom. I'm tracking an elf. It's difficult 'cause there are only smudges, heel marks. Elves have pointed shoes, toes turned up so they don't leave full prints. "They're all back at the North Pole now, Bentley." Well, the Elf Corps has three divisions, the Toy Maker Elves; the Snoopervisor Elves - they keep track of the Naughty and Nice; the Transportation Elves, who care for the reindeer, pack Sandy Claws' sled. They all work year round. "It was a lovely Christmas, Bentley, you received quite a few presents." Does this Cowman's suede jacket make me look like Matt Dillon? "Not exactly, dear, but it does make you look like a rugged ShihTzu."

Satisfied, we poochy footed to the Concierge Desk. I don't exactly beg, but I stand on my rear paws to make me tall enough to receive my treat. Pleading eyes and wagging tail do help. Ms Sydney Mc Dermott showed me a photo of Jack, bulldog in complete Sandy Claws outfit.

There's "a new kid on the block!," Bailey Keith, Bichon Freise. His new parents contacted "Brat Pack Rescue" at Port St. Lucie. After an interview with a lady from Fernandina Beach, Bailey was transported to Melbourne and then to Daytona Beach where a very tired nine year old Bailey was greeted lovingly by anxious Pat and Rob. He told me he was so happy to find such a "Forever Home."

Ms. Beverly Hoffman was returning from the Health Center with a oh so happy Sandy on her lap.

We see Mindy, miniature dachshund, with Daddy Malcolm Spensley, poochy footing on the lake walk. Sugar, Yorkie poo, greets us happily in an elevator after her walk. Mary Alice Barfield is her proud MaMa.

Since it's still the Holiday Season of "good will to men", we'll be charitable and mention cats. Ms. Renee Murphy lives with Gizmo and Lola, and they love their Christmas gifts, I'm told.

Talking about gifts, among mine is a quilted dark blue evening jacket, with gold stars, another leash and collar. Hopefully I'll look dashing when I poochy foot with Kemper, and her Mom Alice Thompson.

The Kitty Kats and all the other Pooches at Cypress Village, whether or not they live in cottages or in The Towers want me to wish all their adopted parents and pet walkers the Happiest of New Years! Wow, my birthday is January 20th. I'm still hoping for a motorcycle, with a side car, of course!

So Happy, Happy 2013 to all with skin and fur; long ears and short. More treats; more tummy rubs; more hugs in the New Year!

Your Cub Reporter,

Bentley

P.S. Qui me amat, amet et canem meum

(who loves me will love my dog also)

St. Bernard, A.D. 1150



CYPRESS VILLAGE ASSOCIATE WINS LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

Susan Shipman, a member of the Cypress Village staff, has won a corporation-wide contest for the design of a new logo for Brookdale entry fee facilities. She is the evening concierge in the Health Care Center.

Susan was invited to go to Nashville in December, to receive the honor at Brookdale headquarters. She said of the honor, "It reinforces how much I feel part of the Cypress Village family." Susan has a Bachelor of Art Education and has been with Cypress Village just under a year.

The new logo will be shown on all of the Brookdale entry fee facility documents. It bears the slogan "Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Integrity" and the title "Brookdale Senior Living entry fee division".



BOOK REVIEW

Dorchester Terrace by Anne Perry

Review by Paula Harding

Anne Perry's literary characters Charlotte and Thomas Pitt usually explore London's Victorian society for readers but a recent book *Dorchester Terrace* is an exception. This one lets us see the workings of the later era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and gives stimulus to an unusual and fascinating story.



Thomas Pitt, now head of Britain's Special Branch, realizes some people feel he is promoted to a position beyond his abilities.

When he learns of a rumor to blow up connections of the Dover-London rail line on which Austrian duke Alois Habsburg is soon to travel to visit his royal English relatives he wonders if he can meet the challenge.

Help may be available from an old Italian woman in London, now at the end of a romantic career as a revolutionary spy and near death and terrified as she sinks into dementia that she may reveal secrets that can kill. A beautiful young Croatian woman married to a British power broker may also have information which would aid. Their lives led back to the Continent, and Pitt needs their help and seeks it. Pitt realizes his clever wife Charlotte can approach them and help him also.

Pitt knows too that Victor Narraway, whom he supplanted as head of Britain's Special Branch and now a member of the House of Lords, can help him but he realizes Narraway expects him to be independent. How this situation is resolved will bring a satisfactory conclusion.

The author has written another engrossing book which will hold the reader's attention to its exciting finish. *Dorchester Terrace* is in the Cypress library, available for all to enjoy.

Anne Perry is the author of another acclaimed series of novels set in Victorian England, the William Monk novels. She has also written a series based on World War I, as well as many other publications. She makes her home in Scotland.

SOCIALIZATION MAKES SENIORS HEALTHIER

In a column in the 2012 Nov. 12 edition of the Florida Times-Union, Doctor Zorba Pastor wrote that a senior citizen who engages in social interaction is more likely to be stronger, have more energy and live longer. Dr. Pastor is a medical doctor, a noted newspaper columnist and radio show host. He cites studies in the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Archives of Internal Medicine. Loneliness causes mental distress, physical deterioration and premature death, according to research published in reputable medical publications. Lonely seniors have greater problems with ordinary daily activities like shopping, laundry, climbing steps, etc.

The kinds of social activities that can counter this loneliness include taking day trips, attending sporting events, attending church, going on vacations, going for a walk and even just having dinner with friends. Many of these activities and others are available at Cypress Village. Rather than staying home alone, it is healthy to get out and be with other people. Doing so helps one live healthier and longer. Recently our Executive Director, Ty Morgan noted that elderly people who live in retirement communities, on average, live about seven years longer than those who live isolated lives. Living at Cypress Village may increase one's life expectancy! So enjoy!

LOG CONTINUES TO GIVE AWAY OLD ISSUES

The staff of the Log is continuing to give away unneeded copies of back issues of the Log, with one minor change in procedure. Instead of waiting for the next month to put out another set of old Logs, the new procedure will be that, each week or so, another set of old Logs will be made available in the library (and the previous set will be discarded).



These old Logs will be available in the library for anyone to read or to take. The set to be made available this month will be the issues of 2008, 2009 and 2010. Each set will remain in the library for a week or so and then will be discarded and replaced with a set from earlier years, and so forth, until all the unneeded old issues are gone.

The Log staff appreciates the Library staff for allowing the library to be used for this purpose.

A MESSAGE FROM DINING SERVICES

As the new year approaches, we are excited to be making a few changes here in the Dining Services Department. January 1st, we will be publishing our new and improved left side of the menu. Nothing will be taken away from the selections that are offered. We will be reformatting the menu and changing out the selections based on resident preferences at the end of every month. As always, we encourage you to request items that you would like to see on this menu in our Resident Request Log found at the dining room check-in podium and we will do our very best to include them on the upcoming menus.



Chef Thomas preparing pizza at a Tastings with Thomas demonstration.

Remembering

<i>Dorothy Kaler</i>	<i>9/6/1936 - 12/4/2012</i>
<i>Frank Kurzweg</i>	<i>8/7/1917 - 12/9/2012</i>
<i>William Near</i>	<i>12/29/1912 - 12/10/2012</i>

Rest
in
Peace



INVESTMENT SEMINAR

By Herb Seubert

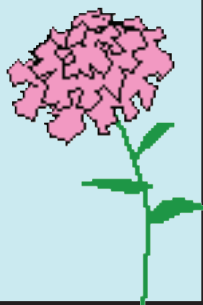
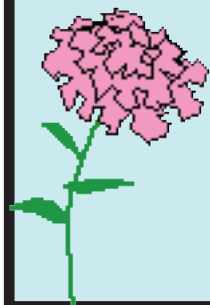
According to the American Institute of Economic Research, the long decline in the buying power of the dollar has resulted in the 2011 dollar equalling about 13 cents of the 1961 dollar. The debasement of the dollar is not likely to slow down. President Obama did appoint the Simpson-Bowles team to address the debt problem but no action has been taken to implement the plan they recommended. When Alan Simpson was asked if we should really be concerned about the dollar when the U.S. could issue 10 year bonds at less than 2% interest, his response was that the three legged horse would win the race if he was in better shape than the other horses. He was, of course, comparing the dollar to the other major currencies of the developed nations: the euro, pound, and yen.



What can the investor do to protect himself? The major undeveloped countries, for the most part, unlike the U.S., have a favorable balance of trade. This suggests the buying power of the undeveloped countries currencies will tend to strengthen, at least relative to the U.S. dollar. Also, since the Industrial Revolution came to the undeveloped countries, they have been growing faster than the developed countries, largely due to lower labor costs, and will probably continue to do so for many years. This suggests there may be some very good opportunities in the developing countries.

One firm that has several index funds in the emerging countries is Wisdom Tree, the seventh largest ETF (Exchange Traded Fund). Most index funds are structured on capitalization. Thus Apple with the largest market value, has the highest weight in the S&P 500. Wisdom Tree uses a different approach. They use income along with other criteria. This is a relatively new approach and not without controversy; however the results, so far, are encouraging. From July 2007 when it was formed to September 2012, Wisdom Tree Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund (DEM) outperformed 99% of its peer group according to the Morningstar Dividend Emerging Market category. For more information on their modus operandi, and a prospectus, go to WisdomTree.com or call 1-866-909-9473.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a shareholder of Wisdom Tree Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund.



A TIME TO RENEW VOWS

by Les Hale

We tend to be creatures of habit, and the custom of making New Year's resolutions is time-honored. As the English essayist Charles Lamb observed, "No one ever regarded the First of January with indifference." We are inspired to again take inventory, maybe rewrite last year's list, and perhaps resolve to shed some things other than physical weight.

Are you weighed down by following a dull routine just because it's the path of least resistance? Is the same old way what you dream for 2013? Self examination can nudge us to seek guidance, forgiveness and free our spirit. A fresh way of doing something may turn out to be not only more beneficial but more enjoyable. We may find as well that it relaxes our nerves, makes it possible to think straight, to sleep, and even for the whole body be more responsive to medical help.

This could be the year in which you resolve to master the practice of adherence to these attributes: love, understanding, forbearance, tenderness, appreciation, even temperament, good humor. They can be a bridge to many new experiences, for these attributes can lead one to overcome prejudice and bias, overhaul narrow-mindedness, and to overlay your character and moral responsibility upon knowledge and service so that life becomes more purposeful, positive, constructive and happy.

What better chance than this one to aspire to be more resilient, to love and enjoy people as they are--their individuality and even their eccentricities. Enjoy yourself. Happy New Year!

UPCOMING FUND DRIVE FOR THE CYPRESS LOG

To: The residents of Cypress Village

From: Barbara Hooper, chair of the
Cypress Log Editorial Board

Never a month has gone by this year that I have not received compliments on the Cypress Log from you, our readers. In reality, it is the Log staff of writers, photographers and distributors who are due the recognition. Their dependability makes putting the Log together a pleasure.

I am writing to you now to ask you to help us to continue to publish the Cypress Log. Our funds are about to be depleted and we plan to have a fund raising campaign in February. We will have more information for you in the February Log. I hope you will be able to support our drive next month so that all our residents can enjoy the Cypress Log for another year.



NEWS FROM ASSISTED LIVING

by Lee Thames

It is introduction time in Assisted Living. Our new director, Jacquelyn Smith Wright is on board and has the 6th and 7th floors humming. Jacquelyn attended University of North Florida and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelors in Health Administration. While in school at North Florida she completed her Administrator in Training Internship under the direction of Russ Ward in Cypress Health Care Center. Completing her internship she moved into Cypress business office doing medical billing while studying for her boards. Upon completion of all her studies and training she passed her boards and holds her Nursing Home Administrator license. Jacquelyn became Mrs Wright in November and she and her new husband honeymooned in Ireland. She is another great addition to our ALF family.



Kari Walsh, Activities Director ALF, appeared before Cypress Village Residents Council meeting December 11th asking Cypress residents with special talents to serve as volunteers in ALF. She would like visitors to bring their pets; possibly show a craft specialty; play the piano or other instruments; or present a special lecture program; and a bingo caller is needed. So please give Kari a call and become a ALF volunteer, not only will you be rewarded but your appearance will help brighten the day of our ALF residents. Should you not have any special talent just come to ALF for a visit and a cup of coffee and chat with us residents; or better yet come to our Friday happy hour. You are always welcome.

SIGHTINGS

by Nancy Lloyd Hickey

Eos dipped her lithe fingers onto her palette; kaleidoscopically with her medium, she applies colorings of every tinge and pigmentation in varied configurations across the Eastern skies. For the mallards on the lake glissading, gliding towards the fishing egrets, dawn is serenity. A snow goose was spotted by several residents; white, goose neck and wings tipped in black. Hopefully by now s(he) has been reunited with the flock. Wood storks have infiltrated the area, coming North from breeding grounds at Corkscrew Swamp near Naples. Large flocks of Canada Geese still "hang out" along Wm Davis Pkwy. Guess they knew a cold spell was coming and it would be warmer here than in northern fields and lakes.

A baby bird has hatched in the glass showcase near the B elevator. We've been told that usually there are multiple hatchings, so one egg is quite rare.

On the northeast side of the wooden bridge, Autumn out did herself; so many gorgeous camellia bushes; every shade of vermillion blossomed. Hopefully the brown sticky droppings from the Cypress trees has terminated. Dog owners can't get out the "K" entrance because the mess of Cypress dead needles has never been raked or vacuumed away—not only do the needles cling to dog fur but also to the feet making it painful and difficult to walk.

On the bright side, the lighted swags, bows and wreaths outside to the right and left of the Loon's Nest entrance are truly lovely as are the several large lighted and trimmed Christmas trees in the entrance halls. We will miss them now that the holidays are over, but look forward to longer days as we bundle up to confront Winter.



BUSY MUSIC SOCIETY SEASON AHEAD

by Coralie Williams

The final season of the Music Society continues at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 22 with an outstanding ensemble, the Movado String Quartet. Headed by Mr. Jorge Peña of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the quartet is of the highest quality and will provide a memorable program for our subscribers. (Note: this concert was omitted from the January Brookdale calendar.)

Concerts in February, March and April will conclude a decade of subscription concerts organized by the Fine Arts Committee in collaboration with Dr. Gerson Yessin, volunteer agent extraordinaire who founded the Department of Music at University of North Florida. These concerts will range from an opera "workshop" by UNF vocal students to a presentation of jazz standards, concluding with a renowned pianist. Prorated subscriptions for the final four concerts will be available at Egret Hall's second door at 7:00 p.m. at a total cost of \$28.00.

Rehearsals for the Cypress Village Chorus and the Village Handbells also resume in January. The composition of these resident organizations always changes in the second half of the season, with newer residents joining in and former singers and ringers returning after hiatus due to health or personal time-offs. Both are self-auditioned; however, a basic ability to read music is expected, as is a commitment to attend rehearsals faithfully. Sign-up sheets are available at the concierge desk; former and new singers and ringers are asked to sign to enable preparation of music folders for all.

First rehearsal for Village Handbells will be Tuesday, January 8, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Chorus rehearsals will begin Monday, January 14, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m., both in Egret Hall. Even if you have never rung a handbell or haven't sung in a long time, "trial runs" are encouraged. These organizations are principally for the musical expression of residents, although concerts in April provide a goal to work toward.

Thursdays at 4 (p.m.) DVD presentations of "Thirty Greatest Orchestral Works" continue through January 31st. Dr. Robert Greenberg will be discussing and playing his selected best works of Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms.

THE CYPRESS VILLAGE HANDBELL RINGERS



"Ring and Sing -- Christmas Around the World" presented by the Village Bell Ringers on Dec. 4, 2012. It was under the direction of Michalyn Palmer. Pat Domroese was the pianist. Bell ringers were Carmen Chronister, Barbara Hooper, Dorothy Hill, Al Hudak, Leslee Rickard, Paul Shuler, Sidney Sneller, Alice Thompson, Jack Torbert, and Coralie Williams.

THE MARKETING CORNER

Happy New Year! We have some exciting events planned this month. Join us on January 15 to learn about our Ambassador organization. We are making some changes and will be discussing different roles Ambassadors play in our community. Our Friends for Life program will also be changing. We don't want to give away all of our secrets now, so join us at the FFL Pep Rally on January 22 to find out more!

Cypress Village has eight homes on the market—the lowest inventory in three years! Don't miss out on our new conversion program for homeowners. We will have more meeting dates in the New Year in case you missed one of our previous presentations. Remember, Cypress Village is the ONLY community that will offer you the choice of Life Care apartments, healthcare benefits and refundability in the homes as well as equity home ownership.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR NEW YEAR!

No dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world: Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner. His final challenge was this: Some say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Please explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand. Here is his astute answer: "When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

NEW CONCIERGE ON DUTY

The new concierge, Sydney McDermott, grew up in Atlanta and is now living in Jacksonville. Between the two, she had the horrifying experience of living in Mobile Bay, Alabama, when hurricane Katrina came roaring ashore directly over her home. We're glad she survived that



disaster so she could bring her love of people to Cypress Village.

She was a stay-at-home Mom for much of her life but had a position as Operations Manager at a telecommunications company before finding herself at our concierge desk. Her comments about how much she loves her work here are echoed by her colleagues. The main thing she loves about Cypress Village is the residents but she also loves her colleagues. Interestingly, she also loves the questions she gets from residents and the way she can help people by answering them. She does admit that sometimes she doesn't know the answer but then she can usually determine how to get it. She hates to say "No".

Her family is very important to her. Her son is a high school senior and her daughter is a freshman. Her husband of 20 years is an Italian who does 90% of the cooking for the family. The family also includes an English Bull Dog named Jack.

Besides her family, Sydney's main interests are reading, shopping and travel. She has travelled to many countries but one of her favorite locations is New York City.



The Cypress Village Chorus gets applause from the audience.



December Happy Hour with The Villagers



Cypress Village decorated for Christmas



PEOPLE, PLACES and THINGS in the HOLIDAY SPIRIT



(upper left) Suzanne and Jim's Victorian Christmas, (center) North Florida Women's Chorus, (bottom) Jacksonville Harmony chorus, (right) Julie Lenton Stone,