

BRADEN CASTLE UPDATE

Volume XVI Issue 2 January,
2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Another new year has begun, and we didn't "blow up" or disappear this past December 21st. Welcome to the returning and new residents in the park.

We had a lovely Christmas holiday here in Braden Castle. The decorated homes & halls were beautiful. Thanks to Terry Collins, the choir, the golf cart brigade, and the weather, the caroling was well attended; we had lots of fun. Dee Johnson & Diane McClung treated everyone to hot chocolate and cookies after the caroling. Many Christmas parties were held this season. The food at the Christmas dinner was delicious – a beautiful season.

Now we are starting a new year. As usual there are many activities taking place. We hope that you will take advantage of them.

SHUFFLEBOARD NEWS

A shuffleboard luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 10 at 12:00 in Leisure Hall. A Turkey Shoot will follow. Come, join in the fun.

The Shuffleboard Club is holding a 50/50 raffle during the month of January to help defray costs of the shuffleboard court. Tickets may be purchased, 6 for \$5, or \$1 each, from any club member or from sales on the office porch. Please help support this good cause.

LINE DANCING BEGINS ON JAN 7

Line Dancers are invited to join Joyce Pratt on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the Big Hall for exercise and fun.

RED HAT NEWS

We are going to the First Watch Restaurant on January 17. leaving at 10:30 a.m.. Sign up on the sheet in front of the office if you plan to attend.

On Dec. 11th we had our annual Christmas party at Anna Marie Oyster Bar. I want to thank the Red Hatters for your Christmas gift.

Happy New Year to all!
Your Queen Mom - Ann

BRADEN CASTLE BOOK CLUB

It's not too late to be a part of the new Braden Castle Book Club led by Susan Jones and Pat Grau. You can join for any of our meetings - even if you haven't completed reading the book. Florida history is the theme of our 2013 reading plan.

Our first meeting will be at 10 a.m. on January 15th in the Leisure Hall.

Jan. 15: A Land Remembered by Patrick D. Smith – HISTORICAL NOVEL

Feb. 12: The Creek by J.T. Glisson – NONFICTION

March 12: Alligator Gold by Janet Post CRACKER WESTERN

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON JAN. 8

Pat Borders will be leading Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in Leisure Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CASTLE CLUB NEWS

SILENT AUCTION & LUNCHEON JANUARY 11, 2013

Come join the fun at one of the park's most favorite events! Check your colored flyer for the exact times & details. Donate your useable items on Thursday, January 10th between 9 a.m. & 2 p.m. Non-refrigerated - baked goods can be brought to Leisure Hall on Thursday, too. All other donated baked goods should be at the Big Hall by 10 a.m. Friday morning. Volunteers are also needed for merchandise setup on Thursday starting at 9 a.m.

Cookbook inserts are Ready for Printing-

Sixty-eight additional recipes have been compiled into the latest insert for the Braden Castle Cookbook. To get your copy, place your order on the order sheet located at the office porch. Your copy will be delivered to you shortly thereafter. Cost is \$1. Cookbooks with the new inserts included are for sale at \$8 each. They are available at the office or through any Castle Club officer.

Oops! We Goofed! It has been discovered that some cookbooks sold in the past, may have a few missing pages; an insert made, a few years ago, contained 4 added pages in the “Vegetable & Side Dishes”. The pages were for Calico Beans, Mac N Cheese Pie, Pickled Beans & Twice Baked Potato Casserole. Also in the “Desserts” a page may be missing for Virginia Wenning’s “Creamy Frozen Key Lime Pie”. Please check your cookbook. If you are missing pages, contact Jan Johnson.

Update on “Rally for Randy” – Thanks to all of YOU, a total of \$1,274.45 was collected thru the “office donation jar” and Bill & Ginny Cox’s yard sale which was held to raise money for the expenses of Vera & Harry Pressey and their son, Randy Cress. who suffered a brain aneurysm in Sept. Randy continues to struggle with many challenges on his road to recovery. Please keep him in your prayers.

2013 Club Officers – Incumbent officers of 2012 were re-elected at the Dec. 19th business/Christmas party. They are: Co-Presidents: Pat Gross & Jan Johnson; Vice-President: Nancy Bair; Secretary: Ruth Briggs; Treasurer: Carol Wood. The officers look forward to another season of “making wonderful memories” with the ladies of Braden Castle Park.

INDIANA DAY
January 24
12:00 Noon –Big Hall

Bring a well-filled basket and join in the fun. Spend an afternoon with “fellow Hoosiers”.

OHIO DAY
February 7, 2013

Ohio Day will meet in the Big Hall for fellowship and dinner. Check the information board for time and plans.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Friday, February 1

The annual Memorial Service for Braden Castle members who passed away in 2012 will be held at 7:00 in the Big Hall. Friends and family are invited for this service.
YOU ARE INVITED:

Bob Pier will be celebrating his 90th birthday Sunday, Jan. 13, from 2:00 – 4:00 in Leisure Hall. Everyone is invited to join him – no gifts, please.

THANK YOU FROM THE “ADOPT A FAMILY” COMMITTEE

A total of \$316 was collected for our adopted family this year which consisted of a mother and 4 children. We were able to buy an outfit and toys for each child. The mother also received several gifts. The family was also presented a \$100 gift certificate from Wal-Mart.

Thank you, everyone, for helping give this family a nice Christmas.

OUR RESIDENT PICKLEBALL CHAMP

Bob McClure, 14 Poinciana Circle, is a Florida Pickleball champion. He won a Gold Medal in competition at the Florida State Senior Games in Lakeland in December. Bob has been winning Gold in Pickleball in New York State Senior Games as well as nationally since 2007.

The original creator of the sport named it for his pet dog “Pickles” and Pickleball is one of the fastest growing national sports for seniors. It has similarities to tennis but with a smaller court, a solid paddle and a whiffle-type ball.

Bob, a retired insurance executive and an avid sailor, spent twenty-six winters on his 55’ boat that he anchored in Great Abaco harbor in the Bahamas before settling in Braden Castle. Now a landlubber he is currently a member of the Anna Maria Island Pickleball Club where he plays several days each week. An acknowledged expert in the game he was recently invited to a new Pickleball club in Tampa as a consultant and tutor for the game.

MORGAN JOHNSON ROAD

Many Times when I saw the big sign “**Morgan Johnson Road**” during my various trips over to Lowes, I wondered about the name. So, I did a little research.

I found out that Morgan Johnson was one of Manatee’s early pioneers and during the 1800’s when cattle had free range in the area he started a huge cattle ranch along the Braden River. On his vast tracts of land grazing herds roamed unfenced. In the 1870’s, after barbed wire was invented, the cattleman used it to confine his ever growing herds of cattle until they were ready for market. When railroads reached the area Florida developed

into one of the greatest sources for beef that was shipped north. Morgan Johnson became a very wealthy rancher.

Taking further advantage of Florida's climate he was also one of the beginning pioneers in truck gardening when he planted and harvested celery. As you drive along Morgan Johnson Road you are passing through an area of early Florida history and perhaps the spirit of pioneer Morgan Johnson still lingers there in the Florida sunshine.

Glenna Shanahan

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS:

Oak Street – Ann Zelen & Janet Collins

#2 – Mary Schappert – Mary went to the Wednesday evening supper at church a couple weeks ago with Lois Gore. When she got home she couldn't get in her house. She went to Kip's house to get help. Her door lock was broken, and he suggested that they wait until morning to figure out what needed to be done. Lois came back to get her so she could spend the night at Lois' house. The next morning Kip performed a magic trick that included replacing the lock on her door.

#5 – Lila Berry – Lila enjoyed all the Christmas celebrations – the Cantata at Manatee UM, the dinner at the hall, the carolers here in the park, and the Red Hat Christmas dinner. Her cousins are coming to visit from Sun City.

#6 – Wayne Lewis enjoyed the Christmas caroling parade with his neighbor, Lila. He didn't know about it until Lila told him. He is going back to school to further his education.

#8 – Robby and Ann Zelen had a really good first ten days in the month. On Dec. 2nd they flew to Las Vegas where they spent a week in their time share. They had a really good time and came home with some money, so that was nice. Friends of theirs from Kentucky flew out the same day and stayed at the Monte Carlo, which was close to Robbie & Ann. While there they all visited the pawn shop where Pawn Stars is filmed. Also they visited American Restoration; they had just finished filming. After getting home the following Sunday, Ann went to Urgent Care with asthmatic bronchitis. They had a very quiet Christmas season. Ann's been sick for three weeks and just today, Dec. 31, feels human again. Luckily Robby didn't catch any of it; he took good care of her.

#9 – Terry & Janet Collins celebrated the birth of Jesus with their friends, relatives and neighbors in many ways and many places – downtown Bradenton, the boat parade, BC bus trip to Word

of Life, Manatee UM Church Cantata, caroling in the park, hymn sing, Braden River UM Candlelight Service, Christmas dinner at the hall, and a ride around Bradenton to see Christmas lights.

#10 – Jim and Mary Abrams – Jim and Mary have a new great granddaughter, Sophia Elyce. They have another one on the way in March. They celebrated their 42nd anniversary along with Robbie & Ann's 37th anniversary. Mary enjoyed the Red Hat Christmas dinner at the Oyster Bar. Jim enjoys going to the 9th and 9th with the guys. They enjoyed the Christmas dinner at the hall. They are very happy to be in Florida since their furnace went out at home for a few days. They wish everyone a Happy New Year.

#11 – Paul Smith & Theresa Liston - Theresa has a sore throat so we didn't go inside, but she said that Santa was very good to them. She and Paul want the warm weather back so they can sit outside again. Theresa gave all the neighbors a delicious cheese ball and crackers for Christmas. It was greatly appreciated.

#15 – Bill Bondie and Bonnie Nichols – Bonnie had a spinal fusion on Dec. 4. She is home and doing really, really well. She is walking around well; Bill has been a great nurse to her. She was able to go to the Hall for Christmas dinner and enjoyed seeing all the people.

#17 – Roy Hunt arrived a couple days before Christmas; they had Christmas at home early with the family. Traffic was fine on Saturday, but on Sunday they ran into a traffic tie-up south of Atlanta; and it took two hours to drive 10 miles. Roy hasn't had a chill since he has been here. On New Years Eve they went to Bill Bailey Happy Gospel Church to hear the Snead Family and Tony Gore.

Seminole Drive – Vi Johnson

#2 – Jim and Wanita Covalt have been busy entertaining their son. He said he was hungry for some good home cooking so Wanita has been busy in the kitchen.

#9 – Dan and Luelen Coughlin are doing well, but are still recuperating.

#10 – The Weavers are glad to be here. Richard has not been feeling well, but is slowly getting better. They are expecting a son from Indiana on New Year's Day. Karen has a knee replacement scheduled for January 9.

#11 – Lonny Harts was here for a few days along with some friends. They enjoyed the beautiful weather and just happened to get a few rounds of golf in during their visit.

#13 – Spike & Joan Barre are doing well. Joan has been baking cookies and hanging mistletoe and hopes Santa finds them.

#15 – Kip & Vi Johnson entertained their son and daughter-in-law for a few days, Terry & Debra Keen who own 13 oak St. Santa delivered a golf cart at the Johnson's. Vi's sister and husband spent Christmas in BC and enjoyed the potluck. Really good food.

#19 – Hunt and Sue Jones are enjoying being here and have gone to a Tin Can Tourist event at Fort DeSoto Park. They are looking forward to at least 4 more such events. They had an update on the Bates family. Debbie had some problems last year, but had a pacemaker put in and is doing better. Hunt and Sue would like to remind people in the park to use the picnic table and, if more space is needed, they have a folding table. Remember this if anyone wants to have a get-together or party. We also want to thank Hunt and Sue for decorating the Gazebo. It looked really nice.

#21 – Tom White has added two motorcycles and a golf cart to his collection.

#23 – John Mark, Joyce and Russell Lee Sang have had health issues but are doing better and are anticipating being in BC.

#25 – Pat Grau – It is good to see the lights go on again at the Grau house. Welcome back, Pat.

#29 – The Kendall's are enjoying being here and are getting some bike rides and shuffling in.

#31 – Pat Schuler is in Atlanta watching her grandkids perform; she may have a picture or two.

#33 – Dick and Jane Vondell are still taking turns with Jane's sister Ellie for afternoon tea and cookies.

#41 – Glenna Shanahan has a new challenge – “Dragon Naturally Speaking” for computers. This was a Christmas gift. It has head phones and a microphone that you speak into, and it writes what you say into the computer. No need to type with this machine. This is her 2013 challenge.

#47 – Kathy Brockway has enjoyed all the lights in the park and all the Christmas celebrations.

#55 – 57 – The Halstead family celebrated Christmas on Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Day they got together with friends from Ohio at River Isles.

Braden Castle Drive – Betty Eddy

#1 – Received a Christmas card from Imogene Crowe. She is in a home in Terre Haute, IN and is doing quite well. Says she sleeps, eats and reads about 10 books a month. Her daughter-in-law's parents live there too, so they eat meals together. She enjoys living there and really likes the help.

#1 – John & Nancy Martin were down in Nov. & Dec. and did a lot of work on their 2nd home. He and Denny tore out a chimney, so they were two dirty guys. Nancy & friend Nancy are very busy too. They will be back in Feb.

#2 – Betty Eddy's sister, Carolyn from Winter Haven, was here Friday through Sunday to celebrate Christmas. We both enjoyed our nephews, Kirk & Troy, and their families who are visiting with their mom, Juanita & Duane, who live in Two Rivers. The three daughters had a fun-time at hymn sing and were much appreciated when they sang their specials. “My, to be young again”. Now we await the arrival of two more sisters from Ohio in Feb.

#3 – Brenda Dugan spent a couple of days with daughter Kim and family the first of Dec. Butch's daughter Robin, Bobby & Mark were here on Sunday the 23rd to celebrate the holidays. Brenda & Butch went to Ft. Myers to daughter Kim's again on Christmas day. They had a fun-time there.

#4 – We're looking forward to Ginny Davis showing up in January.

#5 – Ed & Mary Copus won't be coming this year. Mary is not getting around very well, so just staying in Ohio this winter.

#6 – Doug Williams went to son Steele's birthday cook-out on Christmas Eve day. Steele's friend from college was there too. Daughter Susie from NC came in from Sunday until Wednesday. “PawPaw” went to Sarasota for a gift opening with the 4 grandchildren on Christmas morning, then visitation with Steele & Susie that evening. Was a good time for all.

#7 – Betty Bartrum's son was down in Nov. for a couple of weeks. Guess Betty is staying in Indiana this winter.

#8 – I heard Pat Barber will be coming in Feb. Believe she has a wedding to attend.

#9 – Fred & Maggie James have a new granddaughter born in July. Another granddaughter got married on Dec. 11th. Fred is still working at Mixons and has been doing some remodeling with the aid of Mike & Pete.

#10 – Mike Osterman is very busy helping Fred & Maggie remodel a room. His sister Trish came in for Christmas. His sister-in-law Sandra is recovering from an aneurysm and needs our

prayers. She is in Braden Health Care. She came home for Christmas day, and then went back for more rehab. Mike's son from Indiana had a car wreck the 26th and had surgery the next day to put a plate in his leg to hold the femur together. Mike plans to go visit in Jan. or Feb. I want to thank Mike & Pete for making Baby Jesus a manger bed and putting it all together for the Plaza display. "Looks great."

#11 – Sharon Ferguson is in Jacksonville with her family for the holidays. Sure it was a lot of fun.

#12 – Pete & Snookie Gilberti spent Christmas in St. Petersburg with their family. They do a lot of Skyping with grandchildren in Maryland. Snookie worked a lot of hours at Mixon's for the holidays. Says the Christmas Spirit was everywhere. How blessed are we. Thanks Pete for your help on the manager scene.

#13 – Don and JoAnn White are happy to be here in the park. They lived in the RV Park in 2011, and then decided to rent for a season. Don plays folk and bluegrass music, and they both enjoy RVing. They camp in North Carolina in the summer. They have two children in Sarasota, a daughter in Utah and a son in Virginia. Have an enjoyable winter here.

#14 – Haven't heard from Carol Walsh.

#15 – Ron & Debbie Herrold were here in Nov. working very hard at remodeling again. They left before Christmas to be with family at home; they they'll be off to do missionary work until Feb. We miss their smiling faces around the park.

#16 – Wadeen & Mark Baribeau should show up mid January.

#18 – Earl & Gloria Oakman arrived on the 28th. Son Greg drove them down, non-stop. He will head back Monday morning the 31st. They had an electrical fire two hours after they arrived home in April but got it out and all was "fixable". They had a good, busy summer.

#20 – Rick Massey was in a couple of times since Nov. Haven't seen Char. She must be running the store. He had a neat Christmas tree out. Hope to see them both more this winter.

#21 – Don Herrold is having another bout with the shingles. Not as bad as before, but always painful. Get well, Don. His daughter Mary Witty is here until the 1st. Son Henry & Denise has a condo over by Desoto Mall and will be staying until April. Mary's daughter and son-in-law were here for Christmas and now are off to Orlando for more fun. Her son Bill will be here the 28th thru the 1st. They are a busy family so I can't write "everything" they do. Enjoy your visits.

#22 – We were sorry to see Jim & Connie Lowe leave the park. They've bought a house somewhere, so our best wishes go with them. Linda Wagner is renting their house for a year or so until she finds a suitable home in this area. She was living in Jacksonville for 7 years. Connie's sister Cindee is good friends with Linda. Her parents brought her thru Braden Castle around 1980 when they moved to Colony Cove. She decided that, if she wanted to be close to mom & dad, she had better move to Florida also, so in 1983 she made the move. She is originally from upstate NY. She retired recently from Shand's medical Center in Jacksonville, the "largest" University of Florida. She's worked at Sarasota Memorial & Manatee Glen's as head of quality improvement. She's the third generation in a four generation of nurses. She went to college in NY and was an elementary school nurse teacher. She's also in the Visiting Nurse's Association. She likes kayaking and "I can't even tough on the pleasant conversation I had with her. Welcome to our community, Linda.

#23 – Jim & Judy Featherstone will be flying in Jan. 5. Be good to have them back.

(Note from Betty)

My thanks to Hunt Jones & Jean Morgan for helping to decorate the Plaza. Thanks to Mike Osterman & Rolf Ernst for furnishing lights and extension cords and to Oscar Perez for helping with the electrical hookups. We all "gotta work together". God bless us all.

Braden Castle Drive – Doris Mattern

#25 – My son, Alan Mattern, Terra Ceia Bay, spent Christmas Day with me and enjoyed the bountiful dinner at the Hall prepared by many good Braden Castle cooks.

#29 – Tom & Ruth Briggs – The new year was welcomed with parties, games & lots of good wishes. Every day more friends arrive at the Castle. Ruth's brother, Bab and his family, is expected in the middle of January. Cousins Sara & Ted with their families will be getting together for their annual reunion during the month. Lots of catching up and fun will follow.

#30 – Dorothy Gregory did a wonderful job at the hymn sing as she and Doug Williams sang "Oh Holy Night".

#33 – Don & Sandy Zimmerman spent Christmas Day in Tampa with grandchildren.

#34 – Kenneth & Judy Smith arrived more than a week ago and have been ill.

#38 – David & Annette Holub are new kids on the block. David's parents, Jim & Helen Holub, were long-time residents in the mobile home area. Annette has joined the exercise class.

#41 – Verle & Pat Gross are happy to be back. They did a lot of traveling. They're working on Verle's "Bucket List". Beginning in Oct. they did a 14-day fall foliage tour on the East Coast. They started in Philadelphia, Niagara Falls, down through all the Eastern states, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, New York and ended in New Jersey. They went to Ground Zero; it was an awesome experience. They were home for 2 1/2 weeks to celebrate Christmas with their families, then took off to California for 3 days, then to Hawaii. They cruised the islands and visited the Arizona monument which was a humbling experience. They flew in a helicopter over the volcano, then came home. The next day Verle had cataract surgery. They're here now to rest. Pat has joined the exercise class.

#42 – Larry & Barbara Piotter arrived the 26th along with a daughter, son & grandson who enjoyed the beach. They all spent Christmas in Alabama with a son and family.

#43 – Ira & Ann Snook had a grandson from Maryland spend Christmas Day with them. Ira is still very involved with shuffling outside the park.

#49 – Gene & Fern Agness had Fern's son, professor Craig & Betty Campbell & family from Youngstown University visiting.

DeSoto St. – Pinky

Well, here is the rest of the story re: LC's pants falling down when he had to take his belt off at the airport. When he was getting ready to fly down here in Oct., our one niece had looked all over for some funny boxer shorts; she found a pair with Beeves and Butthead. The night before his flight he came in the living room, took off his belt, put his arms up and his pants didn't fall down; but he wore the shorts anyway. Why don't I fly down with him? Well, think about it.

Last time I told you about my falsies. No I'll tell you about that later. This is about my teeth. Boy, they really talk very well, but not so good eating. Oh well, it hasn't kept me from trying. Talk about being trying, I am.

Okay, about the other falsies. The one thing is that it takes me a while to trick out my bra. If you see a lump on my back then you know that morning didn't go so well!!

About everyone knows the three guys in our neighborhood: Dumb, Dumber, & Dumbest. LC got the Dumbest award this month. I had thawed

out fish to fry. I got down to 3 little pieces that I didn't want to mess with. I told LC to throw them away. The next morning I was doing dishes and I couldn't find the bowl that had the little pieces of fish that I wanted LC to throw out. I thought maybe my mind was slipping. I checked in the refrigerator and looked all around. I asked LC "Did he know what happened to it?" He said, "you told me to throw it out." See, you people who have hearing aids, wear them. Now I'm out a bowl!!

Our daughter sent me a real nice big Notre Dame flag. I don't have a flag pole to hang it on. Then, I got the idea. Dave Gall has a flag pole that he puts that {what's its name school} so I called him and said, "If I were able I would come over and steal his flag pole, but since I couldn't, would he fly my flag at least on Jan 7?" He laughed & laughed. I'll show him - laugh. I asked him if he knows about the power of the written word. He said that sounded like blackmail. I suppose I'll be hearing from his lawyer. But I had sat through a LSU game that was terrible, so the least he could do this Jan 7 is fly my darn Notre Dame flag. So, if you go by his house on Jan 7, holler in your big outside voices and say "GOES Notre Dame," yea.

Not in our neighborhood but it came to my attention that JR and Sandy Lane have some beautiful poinsettia's. Stop by and see them. Well, JR was trying to get on the best side of his wife and thought they looked a little wilted, so he watered them. The next day he thought they looked better. For crying out loud, JR, I just got Leo all straightened out that you don't water artificial flowers. If you were in our neighborhood you might have gotten the dumber award. Sorry I can't reveal my source, but be careful what you tell Gib.

That's it; I need to get outside so I can get more dirt,

Hey Dan!! Was this better? Ha Ha. You know who I mean. See you all later, unless I'm in Jail!!

High Street – Gay Wells

#3 – John and Georgiana Myers had a two-day visit from their son who used to live in New Mexico and now lives much closer with his new job. They are enjoying the golf cart, so they can get around the Park each day and visit.

#4 – Forrest and Jeri Bone have had their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren visiting over the Christmas holidays. I am sure you have seen them riding their new scooters

around the streets. Good to have young ones around for a while to liven us "old" folks up.

#56 – Ralph and Gloria George arrived and after missing last year because of Ralph's health problems. It is great to have them back. Daughter Sandra drove them down and spent 10 days here enjoying the beautiful weather before she had to go back to snowy Pennsylvania.

#8 – The Wells – Paul and I enjoyed the bus trip to World of Life in Hudson to see the Christmas production and also had a wonderful buffet lunch there. We met people from two parks in Palmetto who shared the bus with us. We enjoyed caroling around the BC Park. We had such a wonderful group, but not a lot of listners left at home to sing to. Thank you to all those who did come out while we were singing.

#9 – Jim and Nancy Bair keep busy. Nancy is very involved as one of the officers in the Castle Club, and Jim keeps his golf cart going most of the day. Not much fishing lately.

#10 – Bruce and Eloisa are quite proud of granddaughter Gabby. She marched in the Christmas parade in Sarasota as part of the civil air patrol and then was part of the color guard putting wreaths on the veteran's graves at the cemetery in Sarasota.

#12 – Bill Payne was down for a week doing some work on the house. He said that he and Judy will be back after Christmas for about 4 weeks so looking forward to their arrival.

#16 – Don and Carol Hughes have arrived and are taking part in the Monday night get-together at the end of the street. They are glad to be down here. They hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wish everyone a healthy, happy New Year!

Plaza – Virginia Wenning

Not all gifts we give and receive for Christmas are wrapped and under the tree. Our thanks to Betty Eddy and to all her helpers for the lights on the Plaza along with the Nativity figures and a Christmas tree. The best gifts are those from the heart!

Gardenia Lane – Joanne Burek

#2 – Carol Raymond drives by and waves, but I haven't talked to her in the past few days.

#4 – Eli Reyes arrived Dec. 28 and is happy to be out of the snow. Mabel says "hi" to everyone. Eli is ready to start golfing.

#10 – Joanne Burek spent a few days home near Buffalo, NY area to see her granddaughter graduate from nursing school. She is busy getting

the family mobile home ready for a new couple coming from Indiana.

#12 – George & Bev Hansen had a lovely Christmas visiting their daughter, family & great grandchildren in Valrico, FL Fish are finally starting to bite, but how would George know that when he's been working non-stop with Owen painting and repairing Joanne's family mobile home.

#16 – Owen Lautenschleger has started his Thurs. 9 a.m. horseshoe pitching by the lagoon. All are welcome to join. Joanne has been keeping him busy painting the outside of her family mobile on Poinsettia Lane alongside George.

#18 – Thelma Seaman has her son from Maine visiting. She also has new bushes planted out front and her usual lovely hanging baskets are beautiful.

#20 – Ed Atwood & Nancy Lifsey have enjoyed all the festivities in the park during the Christmas season. They also were happy to spend time with family and friends.

Azalea Lane – Joanne Burek

Bill & Chris Pollitt are looking forward to being here by the end of Feb. I know they are getting snow at home.

#2 – Barbara Duffy has been working very hard inside and out of her mobile. Her daughter, Crystall, is visiting.

#3 – Frank & Roni Potter have said they will be here sometime.

#4 – Ellen & Doug Scott are still planning on coming for an Easter visit.

#5 – Jim & Lou Bliesner should be here soon.

Riverview Lane – Rolf Ernst

#1 – Jean Morgan. Jean, along with Betty Eddy, Hunt Jones and Rolf Ernst, assisted with "Christmastizing" the Plaza area. Good job!

#4 – Harvey & Dee Johnson. Harvey reports having visited their niece and nephew in Port St. Lucie over Christmas. Both he and Dee are walkers. Harvey is looking forward to the resumption of Bible Study.

#5 – Donald & Joyce Pratt. Donald and Joyce traveled to the Clermont, FL area to join their sons, Rich and Tim, for the Christmas holiday.

#8 – Bill Wilson & Molly Crawford. Bill demonstrated his mechanical expertise by donating prizes for the forthcoming "Mardi Gras" festival. Thanks!

#11 – Donald & Kay Pierce – Don and Kay's daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Terry Roarke, will be welcomed soon after Christmas. The

Pierces recently spent 10 days in Indiana visiting Kay's 93 year-old mother, Mary. The entire family of 50 people "partied hardy". Did you get a chance to view Don & Kay's Christmas lights? Spectacular!

#13 – John Martin. John continues to prefer a "low profile". (But he's a GREAT HANDYMAN!)

#15 – Gary & Margot Larson – Gary reports that Margot's cancer is in remission. Good news!

#17 – Vay & Anne Ingram. Vay & Anne arrived from Flint, MI 12/27, happy to have escaped from the brutal winter facing residents of that state. Welcome back!

#18 – Nadine Prandzik. Nadine states that she is "tiring" of the Michigan snow and is planning to re-join us after the new year after visiting offspring Pete and wife Cristi.

#19 – Betty Fisher. Betty will be thrilled when she arrives to see the super job a handful of "good Samaritans" did cleaning up her plants & shrubs!

#23 – JoAnn Phillips. An enthusiastic JoAnn reports from Peru, IN that she LOVES her assisted living facility and asked to be remembered to her many friends at BC. She continues her love of playing Bridge, Pinochle & Euchre. She donated a potpourri of Braden Castle memorabilia prior to leaving. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her volunteerism. She will be missed.

#27 – Rolf Ernst. Rolf is appreciative of the many positive comments he has received about his yard. His continuing mantra is "I never met a plant I didn't like!" (paraphrasing Will Rogers). His search for a "soul mate" goes on. Candidates?

#29 – Derk & Bep Dewitt – This well-liked couple from Canada can't wait to escape frigid Manitoba and get back to fishing at BC after the holidays. At last report the temperature up there was 30 degrees below zero. Safe trip back.

#33 – Henry Braswell – Henry plans to repair his deck upon his return in January. Happy hammering!

#39 – Dale & Rosetta Newton - Dale is currently hospitalized; they will not be returning to BC since their mobile home will be auctioned off in the near future.

#41 – Anna & Earl Kiefer. Earl, who recently had knee replacement surgery, welcomed his niece from Cleveland for a visit. He and Anna continue to sing at various venues in the area.

Orchid Lane – Patty Chaffee

Tom and I have been out of the park during the month of December. We went to South Carolina

and spent time with my oldest son and family, and then went on to Indiana to have Christmas with the rest of our families. Of course we had to have some snow but it didn't hit until the week between Christmas and New Years. We are definitely ready to leave Indiana.

Orchid Lane was nearly empty - the only people there for Christmas were the York's and the Lorenz's. Since I was not there, I don't know what they had going.

Poinciana Circle – Rita Hoagland

#2 – William Crowe & Ann Hart arrived on Friday, Dec. 21

#3 – Rita Hoagland had family, Viola & Byron Sommers, Phyllis & Eldon York & Max & Diane Miller, in for Christmas dinner and just a day of fun. Bob & Marlene Pier joined us for some fun playing cards later in the afternoon.

#4 – Ken & Betty Jo McKillip went to the Keys for a few days to visit a friend and had a great time. They went to Key West and took an informational train ride which they enjoyed. They just had a very nice mini vacation.

#6 – John & Choochie Romanchock – Choochie says they are coming in on Jan. 12 and she is looking forward to being down here.

#12 – Doug & Nancy Nelson – Nancy was here but had to go back home as Doug had to have some eye surgery and, of course, she wanted to be there with him through that. Don't know when they will get back down here.

#13 – Lois Gore – Son Phil & daughter Alisa are here visiting from Minnesota. Three sisters and brothers-in-law were here for Christmas. They had Christmas dinner at Braden Castle Hall which they all enjoyed a lot. It was the first time all four sisters had been together at this time of year since 1974. What a great time they had!

#15 – Ann Galbraith arrived here at Braden Castle on Oct. 15 and is so glad to be here. A week before she came she went to Gatlinburg, TN, and her daughter met her there and drove down here with her. They had a very good time driving together. Two weeks ago she had a friend from her church back home visit; they did lots of things and had a very good time together. She spent Christmas with her son; they went out to eat and drove around and saw lots of sights including the statues at the marina in Sarasota. She really had a lot of fun.

#16 – James & Roxanne Burton – Her aunt tells me they are due in late Wednesday, Dec. 26.

#17 – Max & Diane Miller – Max is rebuilding the blackboards for the shuffle courts. They had Christmas dinner with the family at sister Rita's.

#18 – Bob & Marlene Pier – January 9th they will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to them. On Jan. 10 Bob will be celebrating his 90th birthday. Happy Birthday! Braden Castle Park is invited to celebrate with him on the 13th. Vicki & Mike, their daughter and son-in-law, will be here to visit and celebrate with Bob. Their granddaughter and family were just here visiting. Bob says, "All donations are welcome to take Marlene out for their anniversary." Ha! Ha!

#19 – Steve & Janet Braden – They are so glad to be in Braden Castle and not back home in Indiana with all the snow and cold. However, when they arrived here they found a dead snake coiled up on a sticky pad they had out to catch the little lizards. They have found that it could be a water moccasin. Creepy, right?

#21 – Byron & Viola Sommers – Viola's son Denny will be here between now and New Year's sometime, so they are awaiting his visit. Byron's son and daughter-in-law, Ron & Carolyn, will be coming in as soon as they can get out of the snow and off the ground in Indianapolis. They will be here about two weeks. Byron & Viola enjoyed Christmas day with family at sister Rita's house.

#24 – Vic & Jan Hillard – When they got here their brakes went out on the car but got those fixed; then about as soon as they got that taken care of, the air conditioner went out in the car but now they have that fixed, so they think all is well for now. They are both anxious to get back to the shuffle courts.

#26 – Alan & Cindy Avery – Cindy says: We arrived at our Poinciana address on Sept. 30. Our mobile got through the summer very well. Once it was opened and stocked with food we were on our way to getting our boat in the water so the "Fishing could start"! Our son from Kansas City was here for a week's vacation so we went fishing. Caught our limit of red grouper several times. They enjoyed every moment of his vacation. Now our son and daughter-in-law and our granddaughter, Grace, are here from Nebraska. What a wonderful, fun-filled Christmas! We've been to the beach & went looking for antiques (they bought a few pieces). Today is the aquarium. Maybe fishing in the gulf tomorrow!

Happy New Year!