

Merry Christmas from the Smiths!

Smith Family Newsletter
December 2012

Bob & I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! As you know this is our first Christmas in our new home. Because many people visit family in other states, the Christmas Party was held early here in the Community. It was held on 12/13. This date marked the completion of the Club House being decorated for the Holidays. To the right is Bob placing our Christmas ornament on one of the trees, with a close up in the corner. Each household contributes an ornament with names and dates of actually moving in. The Club House was decorated beautifully, which is difficult to capture, but I tried. There is a picture of the entrance to the building plus a number of residents line dancing during the Christmas Party. Yes, that is Santa asleep under the Christmas tree!!

For Christmas itself, Bob & I had dinner with Paul & Angie at *Longbeards* on Christmas Eve, and then on Christmas Day we had dinner with Jack, Mal, Joline and some of their neighbors. We viewed some of the exterior home decorations in the Community and gave our vote to determine the best ones. The results to be announced on New Years Eve. As for our house, we picked up a few things for the exterior and as you can see the inside ones haven't changed much, just the background has changed.

Mal out did herself for this dinner, along with Shannon!! It was a feast, with not one, but three big pans of lasagna, and some side dishes, including a salad. Shannon, made home made bread, a cake and an assortment of Christmas cookies. We all went home with *take out* boxes! Shannon and Mal clearly are the Chefs in this group! We had a great time. Not too different from the HR 400 events. On the right are a couple of pictures of our cozy little group, with Mal working in 'her workshop'.

I know I have said this before, but Bob & I are really impressed by the community support at Lakeside, not unlike our HR 400 Chapter. Needless to say, due to the age of this population, there is always someone, somewhere experiencing a crisis, or recuperating from some medical issue, and the Holidays was no exception. Friends and neighbors rally around those in need. Those who have medical backgrounds use those skills to help. Others offer other services or simply offer comfort where ever it is needed. Again, the Holidays are no exception. As I once said in an earlier newsletter, "Shit Happens!" So to our friends, new and old, know that you are on our minds and in our hearts during this Holiday Season!

We also attended the "Happy Holiday Spectacular" presented by the Carolina Forest High School Show Choir. As always it was an outstanding presentation and was a very nice touch to the Holidays. I think there was almost 150 people from Lakeside attending with our own reserved seating arrangement. The High School will be competing in NYC in 2013. To help pay for the trip they will soon put on a show entitled "BROADWAY BOUND".



Merry Christmas From Lakeside Crossing!!