

# Moosehaven News

## Heart Of The Community



*In the picture from left: Orange Park Police Chief, Jim Boivin; Orange Park Fire Chief, Ty Silcox and Orange Park Fire Marshall, Danny Yeager accept the donations from Moosehaven Executive Director John Capes and Tommy Moose himself.*

### **Moosehaven Donates Cookies, Turkeys and Tommys**

Each year at Christmastime, Moosehaven donates two turkeys and a big box of cookies to the Orange Park Police Department and the Orange Park Fire Department. This year 24 Tommy Moose plush dolls were also donated by Tommy Moose himself. These dolls are provided to first responders for distribution whenever there is a child affected by an emergency situation or crime. Emergency services workers across the continent are turning to this unique program to offer comfort to those children in need.

The National Institutes of Health recognizes that "helping children begins at the scene of the event" to combat the fear, helplessness and aggression a child may feel during a stressful time. Other research has demonstrated that role-playing with cuddly plush dolls enables children to express feelings they may otherwise not be able to talk about.

Tommy Moose is just one of many community service initiatives sponsored by the Loyal Order of Moose, an international organization of roughly 1.1 million men and women dedicated to caring for young and old, bringing communities closer together and celebrating life. The men and women of the Moose conduct community service programs valued between \$75 million and \$100 million annually throughout North America.

"We have always striven to put forth programs that make our communities better places to live and raise families," said Bill Airey, Moose International's Director General/CEO. "Tommy Moose is one that has especially struck a chord with police, firefighters and ambulance personnel—the heroes in our communities who keep us safe and take care of us at our worst times," he added.

Emergency service providers who desire to know more about the Tommy Moose program, and individuals interested in discovering what Moose members are doing in the local community are invited to visit [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org), [www.tommymoos.org](http://www.tommymoos.org), [www.moosehaven.org](http://www.moosehaven.org), or contact Moosehaven at (904) 278-1200.

**Volume 6, Issue 1**  
**January, 2012**

Editor: Marina Mathews

### **What's Happening?**

- New Year's Day Dance
- Middleburg Steak Night
- Omelets!
- Fast Food Trip in Fleming
- Bunko
- Spaghetti Dinner at Palm Coast Lodge
- MLK Day-N-Clay Community Breakfast
- District Sports & Meeting at North Jax Lodge
- Argyle Shopping
- Mandarin Breakfast
- Karaoke at Lakeshore
- Bingo! Bingo! Bingo!



# Just John

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

As some of you already know, Tina and I went on vacation during Thanksgiving week. And as you know, I sometimes write of our vacation adventures. So, if I'm going to write about our vacation, why would I begin with the Serenity Prayer? Here's the story.

We vacationed in the Dominican Republic. We've been there before and know pretty much what to expect...or so we thought.

Things started off about as good as can be expected when you consider a plane and shuttle ride that took most of the day. It wasn't until we finally reached the resort about 7:30 PM, that things started going wrong.

We were told, "The hotel is overbooked. We don't have an available room."

After much arguing, it became apparent that we were going to have "***to accept the things I cannot change.***" I'll admit though, it took me a little while to get to that point. Anyway, we got back into the shuttle and traveled back down the road to another "better" resort.

Perhaps a bat in your room is considered an amenity at a "five star" hotel in the Dominican Republic. That's right a bat. I managed to catch him in a towel and set him free outside but that didn't do much to lessen Tina's fears. She stayed awake on "bat watch" most of the night. Of course the full size bed instead of the King we had reserved for our vacation wasn't all that comfortable either.

We presented ourselves the next morning for the expected ride back to our hotel and waited and waited and waited. After many phone calls and much frustration, they finally sent a shuttle for us and another family in the same situation.

After much "discussion" our resort offered each of us a free lobster dinner for our inconvenience. Neither Tina nor I like lobster but that didn't persuade them to offer an alternative...like a room upgrade or perhaps a refund for the one night spent in a smaller room, with a smaller bed and a bat at the other hotel. By the way, the other family did consider the lobster offer until they realized it came with the condition that they sign a waiver of all claims.

By now we are into our second full day of vacation and still haven't seen the white sand beaches of La Romana. Hmm...time, once again, "***to accept the things I cannot change.***" So, off we went to our room, which was not the room I had selected when I made the reservations, but I was committed to enjoying the vacation from that point forward, no matter what.

The beach was beautiful. The people we met during the hotel shuffle became friends and the tension and worries of the world just drifted away...no phone, no computer, just sun and food and fun.

Now, Tuesday of our vacation was Tina's birthday. I set up a special surprise meal for her at the "International Restaurant" with a decorated table, a cake and happy birthday. However, on Tuesday afternoon, I found out that the International Restaurant was closed and staff had moved our party to the Mexican restaurant. A little annoyed by the last minute notice but never the less satisfied that the hotel had "taken care of everything," I accepted the change.

Off we went for our 7:00 PM reservations. Our new friends were there and it was going to be good. I gave the hostess our room number in English and Spanish. She smiled and said "OK" in a knowing sort of way. As we walked to our table, I whispered that it was Tina's birthday. Again the hostess

.....*continued on next page.*

***Just John Continued...***

smiled and said, "OK." Well, the table wasn't decorated, there was no cake and they didn't sing happy birthday. We finished eating and as we got up to leave someone came and asked if we were room 844.

"Yes, of course we are."

"Oh, you are the birthday party."

"Yes."

"Well, here is your table."

"We're already done eating."

"That's ok. Sit, sit."

We sat and waited but nothing happened. Our friends took pictures and still nothing happened. Finally, we left and went to another restaurant for dessert. Once again, time ***"to accept the things I cannot change."***

On Thursday, I went to check in for our flight home. As I walked by Customer Service, the young lady there asked. "How was the birthday party?"

I gave her the thumb down signal and, since I'm in the ***"accept things I cannot change"*** mode, I kept on walking. She called me back and asked what happened. I explained the story and she said that she had called the restaurant that night and they told her that we got a cake and they sang happy birthday. Well, this is where the ***"wisdom to know the difference"*** sort of left me.

She asked me to wait while she called the manager to come and explain. I waited, but it became clear that the manager was not in a hurry. So, I told her just forget it and got up to leave.

Now, Tina shows up wondering, "What the heck is taking you so long?"

While I'm explaining, the manager appears and tells the same lie. Anyway, we made it clear that his story was not true; that we had witnesses who could say it wasn't true and even pictures. But, wisdom stepped back in and rather than arguing further about that which was done, we went back to the pool to enjoy our last day before traveling home.

Now, you might ask what things did you have the ***"courage to change?"*** That's simple. We had the courage to change the way we reacted to those problems and annoyances. As a result, we enjoyed our vacation and made some new friends in the process. I'd say those were great accomplishments.

*Happy New Year,*

*Just John*

# Admission News

Good news from the Admissions Department, we have five applications going to the Admissions Committee on January 5, 2011. We also have two additional applications that are very close to completion and could go to committee in February. We hope everyone enjoyed the New Years Dance funded by the Enoco Moose Legion #69 from North Carolina. We thank them very much for their support.

***F. Ross Fleet, PSG  
Director of Admissions***



*Pictured far left: Neil & Norma Hawkinson and Jean Davis.*

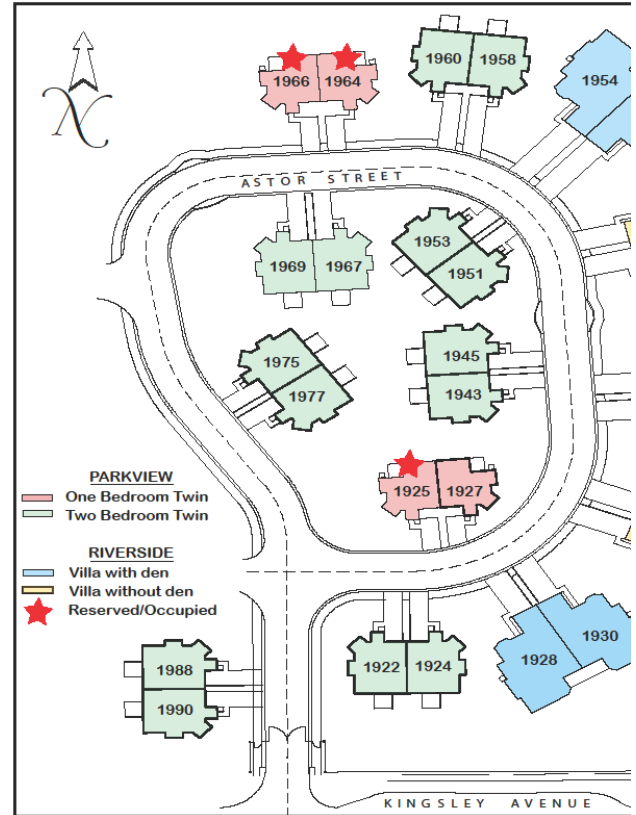
*Pictured left: Nick and Carole Mehrtens*



Wow! What a roller coaster ride Brandon Place at Moosehaven has been! When I arrived as the Director of Marketing and Development nearly four and a half years ago, architects, civil engineers, consultants, and John Capes had already begun with the preliminary drawings of the floor and site plans. We developed a Priority Program and immediately received over 30 Priority Reservations indicating that sales and occupancy would be immediate, and that the entire project development would take place in a few short years.

Site work began in September 2008 and within weeks, the US economy plunged into an economic freefall. A new President and Congress, bailouts, fallouts, stock market plunges, real estate devaluation and the loss of jobs were the headlines every day. Financial optimists declared that this was temporary and the economy would rebound within 6 to 9 months. While we thought that Brandon Place would be developed in its entirety within a four to five year timeframe, the economy forced the Moosehaven Board of Directors to reconsider the construction for only a small section of Brandon Place: The St. Johns Apartments? Cedar Key? Astor Street? Ultimately, the decision was to build Cedar Key Court, eight homes on the riverfront, eight across the street.

Sales and occupancy have come in spurts, up, down, and around like a roller coaster ride, mostly due to the current real estate market. Although slow at first, the sales now at Brandon Place truly indicate that the real estate market is alive and well. One reason is that homeowners are now realistic about their home's current value and understand that it will take another 10 years or so to climb back to their 2008 prices. Another reason is that their home still requires maintenance, property taxes and insurance, which means that they may be paying dearly into a fixed asset. Plus, if a spouse requires care outside of the home, the responsibilities fall to the one remaining at home.



A local real estate agent spoke recently at a Moosehaven Place Clubhouse. She assured guests that the real estate market was still selling in today's economy. Pricing the home for sale was showing attractively. Talk to various realtors and find one comfortable to work with. Another guest speaker explained the services of such a business, again emphasizing the importance of sizing.

The positive real estate market is reflected in that of sixteen homes built, only three remain available for sale as of this writing, five homes are currently occupied and four more by April. With this success we are already in new construction on Astor Street by the second quarter and are already reserved with future residents waiting.

*Pictured far right:  
Ann and Dan King,  
Pat McFarland*

*Pictured right: Jack  
Shea and Sandy Tref-  
finger*



The Brandon Place Sales and Marketing Office works closely with prospects that are considering a life change for two important reasons, lifestyle and healthcare. Prospects who come to the sales office often end up telling us that they “are not ready, yet” or “I can’t sell my home” which are ways to express their fears of the unknown and overwhelming efforts of downsizing. However, what would they think if they pondered the following?

“I’m not ready yet....

To have some one maintain my house

To meet new people

To have fun

To have meals available when I don’t want to cook

To socialize with others of similar interests and back-  
grounds

To participate in swimming and physical exercise

To attend parties, dinners, and dances on a regular basis

To feel secure in my future needs

To be independent of my children and not be a burden to  
them.”

Just ask Jack, Pat and Bill, Norma and Neal, Jean, Ann and Dan and soon to come, Carole and Nick, PK and Maryann, Phyllis and Billy, Rose, Jane, Gerri and Jack, Art and Suna, followed by Jim, Bob, and Christine. They get it. They know the value of continuing care. They are current residents or soon-to-be Moosehaven residents at Brandon Place. Let the roller coaster keep going! The ride is great!

*Sandra Simmons-Duggan,  
Marketing Director*

**To find out more about Brandon Place at Moosehaven,  
contact Sandra at (904) 278-1281 or  
ssimmons@moosehaven.org**

Marketing Luncheon/Seminar at the Brandon real estate market is alive and well and homes are for sale is very important, as well as staging it to choose one that you, the homeowners, are comfortable at the luncheon, who specializes in downsizing, alleviating the fears of home selling and down-

the recent successes at Brandon Place. Of the on the waterfront and one across the street. As ed. Two more will be occupied in January, and approaching the point that will allow us to start quarter of 2012! Three homes on Astor Street ng for construction.

## Opportunity Speaks

Hello fellow residents, Dec was filled with many activities. Aren't those Georgia people real Moose Members. That's what the Moose Fraternity is all about. I think it would nice of every one here if we all sent "thank you letters" to them. The address for the Georgia folks is:

Georgia Moose Association  
Mr. Dave Smoot, Regional Manager  
126 Dadford Drive  
Leesburg, GA 31763

I know they would like to hear from us. I hope this gets to you before Jan. 1st. I would like to see all of you at the New Years day dance. Our entertainment will be, Don Miniard. Come out and socialize with us.

The Opportunity Lodge meetings will start up again in January. The FIRST and THIRD Wednesday of the month. If for some reason you have not joined Opportunity Lodge come to the meetings and we will enroll you.

Until next month I remain your friend and fellow resident,

**Dan Spisak, Administrator**



## Simply Helen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Throughout this Christmas season, I've tried to keep things simple and not get frazzled out of my mind as I normally do. One morning in devotions, I had heard my co-workers, Marina Mathews and Robin Hargrove mention a series their pastor was preaching titled, "Pay Less, Give More, Love All and Worship Fully." I thought about those words over and over.

As I was shopping one day trying to decide on the perfect gift for those closest to me, and with time closing in on me, I was about to become frazzled, when those words echoed in my mind, "pay less, give more, love all and worship fully." I stopped my frantic search and decided I would give more. I chose to share some home-baked goodies, cook a favorite dish for a friend and enjoy a home-cooked meal on Christmas day with friends and family. In doing so, Christmas was what it should be, a time for sharing, caring and praising God for our most treasured possessions – all those things that money cannot buy!

May this New Year bring simplicity to our lives, as we get back to the basics of God's love. That becomes very simple when we look at our lives and reflect how often we can say, "*but for the grace of God.*"

The Bible says we need to "be still" to "know that He is God" Psalm 46:10. Be still and hear His voice, He has good news for you!

If we are going to make a New Year's resolution, make one that will be lasting. My wish for you this New Year is to "Pay Less, Give More, Love All and Worship Freely and Fully!"

Happy New Year!

*Simply Helen*



## UP Close and Personal with Tim Sullivan

Mr. Timothy John Sullivan was born in Columbus, Ohio on May 20, 1930. His father named him. His mom was not fond of the name Timothy so she always called him Jack. His mother, Maria Hanna Motter eventually married Charlie Motter. Mr. Motter raised him from a small child. He has one sister, Luana Sharp who lives in Daytona, Florida. He has one stepbrother, Charles and two stepsisters, Marjorie and Virginia. They had several dogs growing up but Tim's favorite was a dog named Gigi. She was a black and white Pomeranian.

When Mr. Sullivan was growing up he had a lot of chores at home. He would help with the upkeep of the house, take care of the furnace and clean the basement. It taught him to be very responsible. He noted that more kids growing up today should have regular chores to teach them more responsibility.

Mr. Sullivan's first job was a paper route. He also mowed lawns to make some extra money. He worked a short while at Columbus Auto Parts and then for Armstrong Furnace Company. Mr. Sullivan dreamed of being in the military since he was a little boy, so that is exactly what he did. He left school to join the United States Navy. He served in the Navy from 1947 to 1950, United States Air Force from 1951 to 1956, then rejoined the Navy in

1958 to 1970, completing 20 years of service. In the Navy he was a jet mechanic and was involved in security duty and Judo training. In the Air Force he worked with jet mechanics. He was a Chaplain and Commander for the Disabled American Veterans. He is also a member of American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Sullivan met Geraldine "Gerri" at the VFW at a spaghetti dinner. She walked up to the table where he was sitting with his friends and asked him if it was a private party. They were married three months later in Leisure Hills, Florida. They had their first date on the 10th of the month so when they married it was the 10th month, 10th day at 10:00 am in the morning. Now how romantic was that? I would say that was two people in love. They were married for 12 years. In the beginning of their marriage they owned an RV and loved to travel. They would travel to Michigan, Ohio and Florida and stopped wherever they wanted to. They visited sites like Calloway Gardens, President Roosevelt's home and Stephen F. Austin's home.

Even after moving to Moosehaven they took a couple of cruises to Nassau and Mexico. Mr. Sullivan loved his wife very much and loved taking care of her. Mr. Sullivan had a son named Kevin who sadly passed away at 21 years of age. He also

has a daughter who lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Sullivan and Gerri moved to Moosehaven in February 2004. He stated that he feels like a millionaire living at Moosehaven and could not be taken care of this well anywhere else. He loves watching action movies and musicals. I have heard him sing Karaoke and he has a wonderful voice. If you ever get together to sing, be sure to invite him. In the past he has played in dart tournaments but health has prevented him from doing some of the things he enjoys so much.

He said his favorite food used to be spaghetti before his taste buds changed. I wonder if that had anything to do with eating spaghetti the night he met Gerri? HmMMMM!

Mr. Sullivan has a great attitude and I would recommend you look him up and spend some time with him. He will lift your spirits.

Written and Submitted By:

**Paula Wrye**



## BILL'S BOARD

It is that very special time of year again. You know what I am talking about. The time of year when thousands of packs of cigarettes are thrown away because we will never smoke again. The time of year when our garbage cans are full of cookies, potato chips, cheetos, candy, and ice cream and our refrigerators are full of lettuce, carrots and celery because we are going to lose 50 pounds. The time of year when you buy a \$750 exercise machine to hang your work out clothes on for the rest of the year. The time of year when you buy a 365-day gym membership and see the inside of the gym 8-10 times. The time of year when good liquor gets poured down the drain because you are going to quit drinking. The time of year when you set up a swear jar because you are going to stop cussing.

Then, about 2-6 weeks later, you find yourself sitting outside the corner convenience store at two o'clock in the morning cussing a blue streak because while pouring Jack Daniels into what once was the swear jar you dropped your lit Marlboro setting fire to the pile of empty McDonalds bags and candy wrappers on the floorboard of your truck and you can't bend over far enough to put it out.

We love to make New Years resolutions; we just don't love to keep them. Breaking New Years resolutions is such a cliché that

many people don't even consider making them. This year I have asked the clinical team at the Life Care Center to think of one thing, not a big thing, but just one thing they can do to improve the quality of life for our residents on an on-going basis. We will not make these as resolutions, for reasons that should be clear from the above, but as promises to each other. As a group we will support each other in working to keep our promises.

What about you? Can you skip the resolution stuff and find one thing, not a big thing, just one small thing to improve someone's life. It can even be your life you improve. But make the promise, take the action, and let me know how it worked out for you. Maybe if you let me know how things turned out I can talk about it in another newsletter.

Well, I have to stop writing now. I have to go out and buy a new floor mat and a strong deodorizer for my truck. I can't seem to get rid of that smoke smell.

Enjoy 2012.

*Bill Tippins*  
*Life Care Administrator*



## **Wounded Warrior Project.....**

### **What is it?**

Wounded Warrior Project™ (WWP) began when several veterans and friends, moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, took action to help others in need. What started as a program to provide comfort items to wounded service members has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life. Tens of thousands of wounded warriors and caregivers receive support each year through WWP programs designed to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment.

The WWP Mission is Honor and Empower Wounded Warriors; it's Vision is To foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded warriors in our Nation's history; it's Purpose is To raise awareness and to enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members; to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other; and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

At the 2011 Chili Cookoff at Moosehaven, we were able to raise a total of \$8,450 for the Wounded Warrior Project. John Capes will personally deliver the donation to the Wounded Warrior Headquarters, Jacksonville office, during the first week of January. Other fundraising opportunities for WWP planned for 2012 included a Car, Bike and Truck Show in May and the Chili Cookoff planned for November 10th, 2012.

*Marina Mathews*

# Thank You Georgia Moose!



Ask any resident or staff member at Moosehaven and they will all tell you the same thing...GA Moose Members KNOW how to party! Starting on Thursday, December 8th, the Georgia Moose Association members started arriving at Moosehaven and the fun began. On Thursday evening GMA hosted a Pizza Party for the residents which included live music and of course plenty of pizza. *Pictured right, Jim Thomas and Dan Brink, Georgia Moose Association Prelate, enjoyed catching up with each other at the Pizza Party while Reggie Parkhouse and Emma Pearson danced to a lively tune.* On Friday evening, the GA folks dressed in costumes and traveled around campus singing Christmas carols at each hall and in the Life Care Center, ending up back at the Michigan Building at a Wine and Cheese Social they hosted for our residents. On Saturday the GMA threw a wonderful picnic lunch for our residents which was well attended with great food and fellowship. Also on Saturday, some of the GMA ladies took a few of our ladies to a Red Hat Luncheon in St. Augustine. *Pictured above left: Jeanne Williford, Ruth Wingard, Jean Delp, Margaret Vandemark and Judy Kelly.*



On Saturday evening the official Georgia Tree Lighting Program was put on at the Moosehaven Chapel. *Pictured bottom left: Paul Moore and Rita Gabbert portrayed Mary and Joseph in the Nativity program.* Moosehaven Executive Director, John Capes, welcomed all of the fraternal family members from Georgia and accepted generous donations from our Georgia Moose family on behalf of Moosehaven. *GMA Board members pictured top right.* Following the Chapel program, the festivities continued at a Reception hosted by Moosehaven for our Georgia visitors. Fun and great fellowship was had by all! Residents are still talking about it and are already looking forward to next year!



# CSI: Turn Someone In!

- Kurt West, Campus Nurse, was 'Turned In' for his kindness and going "over and above" his job duties.
- Dietary Department staff members were 'Turned In' for the wonderful job they did with all of the food during the Georgia Tree Lighting weekend and the Resident Christmas Party.
- Doreen Vance and The Maintenance Department were 'Turned In' for a job well done in putting up all of the campus Christmas lights and decorations.
- Polly Rhoden, Campus Activities Director, was 'Turned In' for the great job she did on making the Michigan Building so festive for the Holidays!
- The Moosehaven Resident Drivers were 'Turned In' for the professional way they treat the residents and the care they take with ensuring the vehicles are travel-worthy.

Remember to notify Doreen, Helen or Marina if you want to recognize someone for going Above and Beyond!

## Resident Birthdays In January!

William Murphy, 1st  
Bob Burlingham, 3rd  
Al Carabas, 3rd  
BJ Leger, 4th  
Don Gordon, 5th  
Carol Gilbert, 8th  
Vincent Belfatto, 9th  
Reta Trentt, 9th

Dottie Benson, 16th  
Gerardo Cuoco, 18th  
Bill Cherry, 20th  
David Proctor, 21st  
Evelyn Anderson, 22nd  
Walter Koko, 23rd  
James Lupo, 24th  
Marvin Merriam, 26th

Barbara Grubb, 29th



## THREE, IF BY MOOSE

BY MIKE THOMPSON

