

Valencia Lakes

Social Scene

Happy Holidays!



December 2016

All events are free to attend & held @ the clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

December Events:

Happy Holidays, Valencia Lakes Residents!!!! Please come out & enjoy the December events that the Social Committee has planned!

Ugly Sweater Meet & Greet

Saturday, December 3 @ 9-11am

Wear your "ugliest" Christmas sweater, t-shirt or any other festive attire. Come out, meet your neighbors & enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, holiday cookies, juice & other breakfast goodies.

Children's Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10 @ 12-3pm

Santa Claus will make his grand arrival at 1:30 & he has a special surprise for each child! Children will also have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa (the pictures can be picked up at the Clubhouse office the following Monday). Children will enjoy cookies, cupcakes, juice & hot chocolate. There will be holiday crafts, games, face painting & music.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18 @ 6pm

Meet at the Clubhouse. Enjoy some cookies & hot chocolate before we start caroling. We will be caroling at the Clubhouse this year, so even if you do not wish to sing, you are welcome to come out & watch. Please watch for an email blast with more information on this event.

Holiday Lights Contest

Sunday, December 18 @ 7pm

Celebrate the season & show off your inner Clark Griswold! 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will each receive a Gift Card (\$75, \$50 & \$25 respectively) & a lovely lawn sign to display. Judges Tim Aten, of the Naples Daily News, & Valencia Lakes Resident, Larry Clark will begin judging at 7pm.

Valencia Lakes Residents "Gobbled Up" Some Fantastic Food at the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck!

Thank you to all of the Residents who participated in the Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 20. Valencia Lakes Residents shared delicious

homemade side dishes & desserts. The HOA provided turkey & ham. Thanksgiving is about spending time with family & friends; with almost 60 Residents participating in & sharing food, Valencia Lakes neighbors exemplified the spirit of the holiday!



The Children had a “Frighteningly” Good Time at the Valencia Lakes Halloween Party!!

On Saturday, October 24, from 3-5pm the Valencia Lakes Clubhouse was full of Princesses, Superheroes, Rock Stars & more!!!!

Children, dressed up in their Halloween costumes, & enjoyed crafts, games & snacks. Over 50 children & their parents participated.



Get to Know Your Neighbor

This month we are featuring your neighbors, Jen & Jerry LeCompte, who reside on Inlet Cove Lane West. Their current house-guests include Bernadette & Larry Clark (Jen’s parents), Stacie Clark-Stearns (Jen’s sister) & Stacie’s son, CJ. Note: On March 1, Bernadette & Larry will be moving into their home on Blossom Court, with Stacie & CJ. Shown in the photo above from left to right: Marty Manion (Uncle), Patti Clark-Manion (Aunt), Jerry & Jen LeCompte, Stacie Clark-Stearns (Sister), CJ Stearns (Nephew), Bernadette & Larry Clark (Parents).

Jen & her family are from Levittown, Pennsylvania. While Jerry is from Browns Mills, New Jersey (just across the bridge from Levittown), he actually lived in Florida five times before settling in Naples with Jen. Their story began October 9, 2005 when they met on-line, dated for four years & set their wedding date...which was four years to the day they met! With 130 wedding guests coming down from the north, their wedding celebrations continued for 4-5 days.

In April 2007, Jen & Jerry were the first ones in the family to move to Naples. Initially, they rented until buying & moving into their house in Valencia Lakes in December 2008. Jen’s Aunt & Uncle were the next family members to make the move & were house guests with Jen & Jerry while waiting for their home to be ready.

Jen is a teacher at Estates Elementary School working with students with Autism. She received a dual Degree of Special Education & Elementary Education from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Jerry is the owner of Naples Mattress stores; one in North Naples & in East Naples. In addition, Jerry owns the two Cape Coral Mattress stores.

They both feel there is always something to do in Naples; they enjoy the beaches, festivals, concerts or taking day trips to Tampa, Miami or the Keys. They also take cruises to the Caribbean, Bahamas. At this time, they are enjoying their family time; they often sit around their fire pit & reconnect with one another. Living in Valencia Lakes was a good



Get to Know Your Neighbor (continued)

choice for them; it's a quiet neighborhood, has a "welcoming" feel about it & is close to their work. Jen participates on the Social Committee.

Bernadette & Larry Clark are the last of the family to make the move to Naples; Bernadette always said she was never going to move to Florida & Larry would add that Florida was "Heaven's Waiting Room". But timing is everything & everything fell into place... the Naples market was good, Jen & Jerry were settled in their Naples house, their grandson, CJ, would be entering high school & they loved Naples! They bought their house on Blossom Court in 2013, sold their house in Pennsylvania in July 2016 & moved in with Jen & Jerry as house guests temporarily. On March 1, they will move into their house with their daughter & grandson...finally!

It was "love at first sight" when Bernadette & Larry met in 1973; she had just graduated from high school & both were working at Acme Markets in Pennsylvania. Last September they celebrated 42 years of wedded bliss. Larry was also in the Navy for two years.

Larry is retired; however, he volunteers at the Salvation Army & has done so for 5-1/2 years up north & now in Naples. He also is an avid fisherman. Bernadette recently started to work at NCH on a part-time, on-call basis. They both love to travel & have quite an impressive list of their past travels. Next year they are traveling to England, Scotland & Wales. This adventurous couple will also be traveling around our neighborhood on their kayaks & bicycles purchased at our Community Yard sale! They are active members in their Church. Bernadette participates on the Social Committee. Future plans include hosting their family reunion with 40-50 people next year.

Stacie Clark-Stearns & her son, CJ, are very happy with their decision to move to Naples with their family. CJ is a freshman at Palmetto Ridge High School & was on the freshman football team & now on the JV wrestling team. At the present time, Stacie is working at a Collier County elementary school cafeteria.

During the past several months, "family time" has taken on a new meaning for all of them. They have taken the time to get to know each other & reconnect. They respect each other & actually like each other as people & not just because they are related.

If you would like to be featured in the "Get to Know Your Neighbor" section in a future newsletter, please send an email to the Social Committee at VLNSocial@hotmail.com.

The Craft Bazaar & October "Meet & Greet"

Thank you to all of the crafters who participated in, & shoppers who attended the Craft Bazaar & October "Meet & Greet" on Saturday, October 1, from 9am-1pm. It was a great opportunity for some unique holiday gift shopping! Valencia Lakes Residents crafted homemade cards, bath products, wood crafts, ornaments, jewelry, recycled crafts, tutus & more!!!



WE WANT



YOU TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteers Needed

The Social Committee is always looking for volunteers to help plan & staff events.

Community Volunteers Helping to Make YOUR Community a Better Place!

The goal of the Valencia Lakes Social Committee is to foster a sense of community by planning events & programs to meet community-wide social needs & activities throughout the year, geared towards bringing our community & neighbors together for fun & entertainment! We are always looking for volunteers to help plan & staff the events. We meet at the Clubhouse the 1st Thursday of every month at 7pm. Please join us & help make your community a fun place to live! If you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, please feel free to contact the Social Committee at VLNSocial@hotmail.com.

All events are free to attend & held @ the clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Events for 2016 & 2017:

Please note that the Social Committee now has a convenient drop box in the Clubhouse lobby where residents can drop off checks (no cash) for events where there is a cost.

“Meet Your Neighbors” Meet & Greet Saturday, December 3 @ 9-11am

For December’s Meet & Greet, wear your “ugliest” Christmas sweater, t-shirt, or any other festive attire. Come out, meet your neighbors & enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, muffins, juice & other breakfast goodies the first Saturday of the month from 9-11am. Future dates: January 7, February 4 & March 4. *Please note: the February Meet & Greet will from 11am-1pm to coincide with the chili cook-off; corn bread & iced tea will be served instead of juice & breakfast goodies.*

Children’s Holiday Party Saturday, December 10 @ 12-3pm

Santa Claus will make his grand arrival at 1:30 & he has a special surprise for each child! Children will also have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa (the pictures can be picked up at the Clubhouse office the following Monday). Children will enjoy cookies, cupcakes, juice & hot chocolate. There will be holiday crafts, games, face painting & music.

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 18 @ 6pm

Meet at the Clubhouse. Enjoy some cookies & hot chocolate before we start caroling. We will be caroling at the Clubhouse this year, so even if you do not wish to sing, you are welcome to come out & watch. Please watch for an email blast with more information on this event.

Holiday Lights Contest Sunday, December 18 @ 7pm

Celebrate the season & show off your inner Clark Griswold! 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will each receive a Gift Card (\$75, \$50 & \$25 respectively) & a lovely lawn sign to display. Judges Tim Aten, of the Naples Daily News, & Valencia Lakes Resident, Larry Clark will begin judging at 7pm.



Chili Cook-off Saturday, February 4 @ 11am-1pm

Residents may bring their own chili & will have the opportunity to sample for \$1 & vote. The Winner will receive all funds collected. The HOA will provide corn bread & beverages.

Pet Parade Date & time to be determined

Calling all pet parents . . . bring out your pet children for a pet parade! Costumes optional. The HOA will provide hot dogs, chips & bottled water.

Community Blood Drive Saturday, March 4 @ 1:30-4pm

The NCH Community Blood Center Blood Mobile will be in the Clubhouse parking lot. More information to come regarding signing up to donate.

Non-Sponsored Events

Water Aerobics Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays @ 8am

Come & work out at the Community pool with a group of people from your Community. Meet people who enjoy the same pool workout.

Walking Group Mondays & Thursdays @ 6pm

Meet in front of the Clubhouse

If there is anyone interested in the below activities please contact the appropriate party via e-mail:

- Learning how to knit or crochet, contact Donna Evans at deedae@aol.com.
- Pool play dates for parents & their children ages 1-8 plus siblings, contact Kim at kimhau@yahoo.com or text 239-595-7099.
- Adult co-ed basketball pick-up games on Monday nights, forming a Co-ed Softball League, or playing organized corn hole, e-mail the Social Committee at VLNSocial@hotmail.com.