



TAMPA BAY
56ers
BEACON

November, 2009

727-515-8008

rogerfournier1@mac.com

Coming Attractions

(details in the newsletter)

November 15 - Club Meeting
Countryside Library

December 5 - Christmas Party

January 2, 2010 BOD Mtg
Location To Be Announced

January 9, - House Tour

January 17, - General Mtg

February 21,- General Mtg

March 21,- Club Picnic
Starkey Park, New Port Richey

This is the link to get to the recently announced
Dept 56 retirees.

http://www.department56.com/content/pdf_files/2009_village_retire.pdf



A message from our President, KATHY

Hi Everyone!

I hope this message finds you all well. We've had a busy October, and are heading into our busy time of the year. Our Christmas Party on December 5, is fast approaching. If you haven't already, please get your reservation in to Conrad for the Christmas Party. We have quite a party planned, so get your reservation in as early as possible so we can be prepared. We will be playing some games and having a good time. So come join us as we celebrate the season. Please see the Christmas Party article later on in the newsletter. There will be rules we will be stressing so everyone has a good time. Information on the Christmas party is on the Tampa Bay 56ers web page. The web page address is Tampabay56ers.com.

We are in the height of Football season, so that means Bucs, Bulls and Bowl games. Please contact Marlyn about working the games. We can always use you to work. We have been blessed with the ability to make the money that we do, so let's all support the club by participating.

We had a wonderful time on the first ever Halloween Tour. Thanks to all that were gracious enough to open their houses. The annual Christmas House tour on January 9 is fast approaching also. There will be information later in this newsletter regarding this event. February 21st brings Felix Cruz, our Department 56 representative to our monthly meeting to discuss what's new and upcoming and also what is going on with Department 56. So be thinking about what you would like to ask Felix since we don't get this opportunity often. March 21st brings the annual picnic. So we are well on our way to a great 2010!!

Continued on next page

Kathy's message - continued from previous page

Christmas Party

I want to establish a few rules so we can have a great and enjoyable time. Since we have a few new members, I want to go over the Christmas Party rules. We are blessed again this year with being able to supply houses or large accessories as gifts. Only current dues paid members are eligible for a gift, and must be present at the party to receive a gift. For example, if you joined as a single and bring a spouse, only you are eligible for a gift. Then again, if you joined as a family, you both are eligible. Also you may bring a guest if you wish, but again, they are not eligible unless they join prior to the party. Another example: If you joined as a family and your spouse can not make the party, you can bring a guest, but that guest does not take the place of your spouse. Please, when it is your turn to choose a gift, choose wisely. That gift you choose is yours once you choose it. We will have an exchange table at the end of the distribution of gifts for those of you that may want to exchange amongst yourselves.



Dues are due. They can be paid at the meeting on Nov 15 or you can mail them to:
Conrad Krause
908 Oakview Ave
Clearwater, FL 33756.



**I taut
I heard your dues
are due. I did, I did, they
are due. Please send them
in now before you
forget to.**

Denis and Joyce heard from Dick and Ida Johnson. Their email is reprinted here, compliments of Joyce.

Dear Dennis and Joyce,

A voice from the past. It's been a long summer to be "homeless in Atlanta". We got here May 29th thinking we would be moving into our house sometime in June, but that didn't happen. We were buying a short sale, not realizing the process it takes to purchase that type of house. Bank of America--Countrywide--Fannie Mae started changing the rules and after nearly three months I told our realtor to start to look for another house, but still keep the short sale house in play. We found a real nice house, agreed on a price, but the appraisal came in 20K less. The owner not realizing the times and the market went out of his mind.. He was going to sue his realtor, the appraisal company, and my realtor. Needless to say he pulled the contract so we were back to square one still "homeless in Atlanta". So we started to look again. We found another house closer to my family and the deal closed. After four months we finally moved into our house. If it wasn't for my sister-in-law we would have had to rent a place, and that would have cost big bucks. We know what it's like to be homeless , in a way, and it isn't fun. Everyone that we know gets to go to their home after work, shopping,going out except us. But sometimes things work out for the best. The house we purchased is three bedrooms, large lot, riding lawnmower, laid out a lot different than our house in Clearwater. The house is a lot bigger, about 600 sq.ft. bigger. Ida is having a time finding a place for everything, I told her that if you don't have a place for something it's Goodwill time. Needless to say that didn't work.

You never know how much stuff you have until you start moving it. We should have gotten rid of a lot more stuff before we moved but we didn't so now the fun begins to find a place for everything. I would have contacted you sooner but the list of members in Tampa Bay 56ers was packed and I didn't find the office stuff until today. It's just like Christmas, we get to open several boxes a day, but it's stuff that we already own. As of now we are about 85% complete getting boxes opened and finding a place for everything. After the big stuff it's the little stuff that's a real pain, but we'll get there. The attic is a great place to store stuff and I thing we'll use the attic a lot.

Our address is as follows:7645 Paddocks Mill Dr
Cumming, Ga.30041
Telephone number: 1-678-456-8652
E-mail address johnsra12@comcast.net

We have found a place to buy houses in Cumming, Parson's. So far they have gotten into our wallet a couple of times. I'm going to have to change the design of my house board to fit the area of the room. It's going to be great because I'll have my own room to set up my display away from everything else in our house. I don't think I'll be able to set-up the whole thing this year,so I'll just have some house here and there for display. Wait until next year. It's been three years since I've had the whole display up.

Could you check your records and see if you have a contact for a club in this area. How is everyone in the 56ers club. You guys are missed, and you don't realize how much fun Ida and I had at the meetings and the other events thru out the year.

Ida is doing great. Her leg is healed, but her knee is bothering her so it looks like we are going to have that looked at soon. She's still using a cane and she hasn't starting to drive as yet but that's going to change pretty soon. Other than that, she is getting along great telling me what boxes she wants and what furniture goes where, and etc.

Just thought I would take a few minutes and bring you up to date, so it's back to my boxes.

Best to everyone in the Tampa Bay 56ers.

Dick and Ida Johnson

We made donations to the following for the holiday season:

\$500 to Neighborhood Family Center

\$500 to Metropolitan Ministries

\$1000 to Toys for Tots

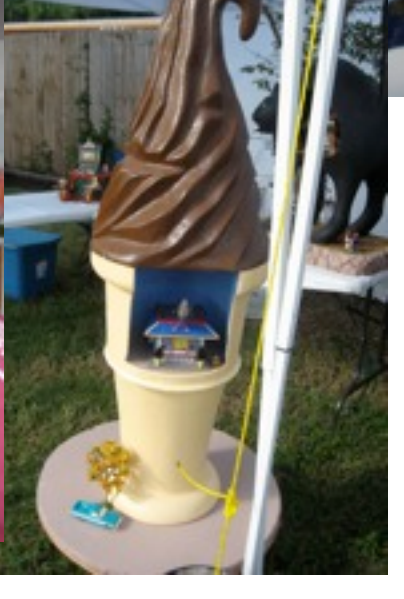


The Halloween house tour was a great success. About 40 members visited the 5 houses. The raffle was won by Pat and James Carey. Some pictures are below.





=====Open House at Skip's =====



UPCOMING NCC EVENTS

NCC Hawaii Cruise

Feb 28, Mar 14, 2010

For details, see the NCC website

Gathering - September 17 to 19, 2010

Livonia, MI

Join the Country Villagers of Flint, Detroit 56ers and Village Collectors of Michigan as they celebrate the Seasons of Michigan. - Further information is located on their website.

www.villagecollectorsofMI.com

Happy Birthday wishes

Oct 11 Linda Grieves
Oct 13 Lorraine Crowley
Oct 28 Diana Cortright
Oct 31 Ron Ayers



November 15th Membership Meeting

The meeting will be at the Countryside library with Richard Thierrren showing us how to do a vignette using fresh flowers.

Christmas Party



The Christmas Party will be at the Countryside Country Club, 3001 Countryside Blvd, Clearwater, 33761. Cocktails will be at 6 pm with dinner following at 6:30 pm. It will be a buffet with the menu as follows: Garden Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad, Warm Rolls and Butter, Prime Rib Carving Station, Countryside Chicken (Chicken with sun-dried tomato, artichoke hearts and cream sauce), Macadamia Nut Encrusted Cod, Rosemary & Garlic Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Coffee, Ice Tea and water. The club will be providing a sheet cake for dessert. We will have activities and of course prizes for everyone throughout the evening. The price is \$25.00 per person. Conrad Krause is collecting the money. Conrad can be reached at 727-461-4480 and his address is 908 Oakview Ave, Clearwater, 33756. Please get your reservation in early.

Please note that the party site will be decorated for the season, including centerpieces. These are not ours and cannot be removed from the country club.

Meeting odds and ends: Extra door prize ticket for: Wearing club shirt (preferably maroon shirt but gathering shirt ok for meetings), bringing pull tabs from drink cans, bringing food for pot luck table, wearing name tags, bringing non perishable food for homeless shelter. Dues can be paid at the meeting.

Leslie Gully will head the Sunshine Committee. If anyone knows of a member that is ill or has lost a loved one, please notify Leslie.

Her email is heart0213@msn.com



Christmas House tour

we are starting to plan the January tour. If you are interested in having your display on tour contact me at 941-776-3316, 727-515-8008 or by email me at:

rogerfournier1@mac.com This year our Christmas Party will be on a different day, (Dec. 5) but I will still try to plan to end the day with some type of fun event.



Our plan right now is to have 4 or 5 homes in the middle of the club area this year to try to limit the travel. We do not have a bus planned.



Contact Marlyn if you can help at the Bucs or Bulls games. As Kathy mentioned in her letter last month, this is our major funding source and allows us to support some local charities as well as offset the cost of some other activities.

The 12 Levels of a Dept. 56 Collector

- 1. Casual passerby. Sees the villages, likes them, and then gets a load of their prices, and says no way.**
- 2. Passerby passes again, this time, thinks getting one with a couple accessories is not too bad a price.**
- 3. Casual buyer returns to that store for their once a year purchase!**
- 4. Starts asking for the pieces as Birthday and Christmas presents, but refuses to buy them for themselves.**
- 5. Starts buying a few each year after the holidays because can find them on sale (yes still!), and no family members are getting the hint that this is what he/she wants!**
- 6. Layaway! Leaves with a slight guilty feeling.**
- 7. Has succumbed to buying all the current pieces, but would never spend money on retired pieces!**
- 8. Is just buying the retired pieces still on dealers shelves, by calling all the stores around, or stopping at stores while on trips.**
- 9. Starts on the secondary market, buying retired houses under \$100.**
- 10. If not already, has started to place other villages pieces in their display because they look good together. The problem is they all start to look good together!**
- 11. Starts buying all the villages and retired pieces. Joins local collector clubs, goes 500 miles for a gathering, goes to all swap-and-sells that he/she can smell (with their collector nose)!**
- 12. Extreme cases only: Divorces non-collector spouse. Starts to associate with collector friends, and puts off house payments for extra swap-and-sell village money. Starts calling D56 company officials by their first names.**

TAMPA BAY 56ers 2009/10 Officers

President: Kathy Dorsey

727-869-7107

1st Vice President: Sol Gully

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2nd Vice-President: Marlyn King

727-367-4226

Secretary: Wayne Ingalls

813-989-8007

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727-547-5345

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941-922-7419

Director: Conrad Krause

727-461-4480

Director: Rodger Grieves

727-581-8199

Past President: Vern Schwieterman

727-531-3112

Newsletter Editor: Roger Fournier

727-515-8008



Robert's
**Christmas
Wonderland**
2431 Gulf To Bay Blvd. (Highway 98)
Clearwater, Florida 33769

(727) 797-1660
Out of Area Call: (800) 861-6389
Fax (727) 799-2704



941.488.1096
941.488.7551
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Venice, Florida 34285*

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