

# Moosehaven News

## Heart of the Community

### First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below.

With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear,

For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear.

But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring.

For it is beyond description to hear as angels sing.

I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart....

But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place.

Can you just imagine Christmas with our Savior, face to face?

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I send you each a memory, of my undying love.

I'll ask Him to light your spirit as I tell Him of your love.

So then pray one for another as you lift your eyes above.

So please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing,

For I am spending Christmas in heaven and I'm walking with the King!

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**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Marina Mathews**

### What's Happening?

- Dinner Dance at Lakeshore Lodge
- Island View Church Choir
- Georgia Moose Pizza Party
- Georgia Moose Ladies Tea Party
- Georgia Moose Men's' Social
- Georgia Moose Wine & Cheese Party
- Georgia Moose Picnic
- Georgia Tree Lighting Ceremony & Reception
- Resident Christmas Party
- Dinner Dance at Mandarin Lodge
- BINGO, BINGO, BINGO!

**To visit Moosehaven and schedule a tour, please contact (904) 278-1200 or visit [www.moosehaven.org](http://www.moosehaven.org).**



# Just John

Since a certain fateful resident meeting when I answered multiple questions about the completion, opening and filling of Centennial Hall with the now (in)famous, “I don’t know”, the phrase has taken on a life of its own at Moosehaven. I’ve heard residents answer one another’s questions with “I don’t know,” usually accompanied by uproarious laughter. I’ve had residents ask me how I’m doing and before I can answer they laughingly say “I don’t know”. One resident has a shirt that proclaims in writing “I don’t know” and several residents showed up at a recent meeting with “I don’t know” placards around their necks.

Now, in my opinion, “I don’t know” is a perfectly reasonable response to a question when I don’t know the answer. It tells people that when I don’t know the answer, I’m not going to make something up. However, I’ve heard that “I don’t know” can sound inexperienced, unprofessional or unprepared.

Wow...never thought of that! Perhaps I should find a better answer.

Here’s one I could try...**I’m not sure I’m the best person to answer that.**

This will work when there is no reason why I should, or even could, know the answer to a question. As hard as it is to believe, I really don’t know everything. For example, I didn’t know the distance to Mars. Now, thanks to Google, I know that the average distance to Mars is 140 million miles. There’s another useless fact to clutter up my mind.

“I’m not sure I’m the best person to answer that” also works when I do know the answer but shouldn’t be talking about it...for example, it may be confidential or something I overheard but haven’t confirmed.

Then there’s...**Here’s what I can tell you.**

This answer will work when I know the pertinent facts but I’m asked irrelevant or unrelated things. For example, I know that the total budget for Centennial Project is \$10 million but I have no idea how much we budgeted for toilet paper dispensers.

I kind of like this one...**That’s exactly the answer I’m trying to find out.**

This will work when I should know the answer but my mind goes completely blank. Yes, that happens to me, too. When asked...“Will each room be individually temperature controlled?” I can say, “Well, that’s exactly what I’m trying to find out.” Then later, when I know the answer, I can come back with more detail and say, “Centennial Hall includes an HVAC control system that will allow each room to be individually monitored and temperature controlled from a central station. All you will need to do is call the nurse office and say your room is too hot or cold.”



I’ll probably try some of these alternative answers just to see how they work, but I’m not going to give up my “I don’t know” because it still works for me. Besides, it has certainly created a buzz around here.

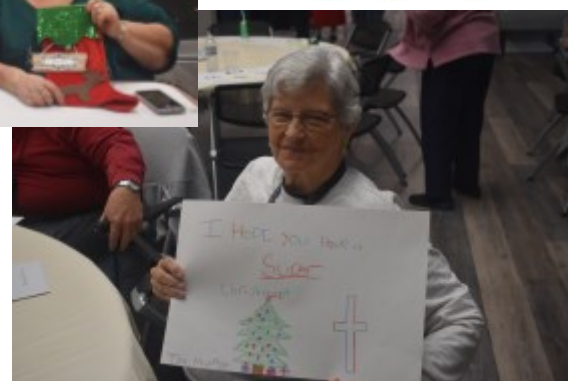
Regardless what “I don’t know,” I do know that I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and joyous New Year.

Just call me...

**John**

# Members of the Zephyrhills Lodge and Chapter Visit Moosehaven!

Zephyrhills members visit Moosehaven and bring handmade placemats from the children at Mooseheart. A great time was had by all who visited and attended this impromptu get-together. Much laughter and lots of goodies were shared and enjoyed. Thank you to our fraternity who is so generous to our residents, especially at this time of year.



# HR NEWS....WHAT'S NEW?

## **Have workplace-related questions?**

HR is here to help

We work with managers and employees to create a workplace of choice. Need help with communications, performance discussions, policy interpretation, benefits questions, or anything that impacts your ability to do your best work? We're the people to call.

## **Employee Handbook**

Read all about it!

We introduced a updated employee handbook 2018. As we near the end of the year, we want to direct your attention to some policies and topics that may come in handy:

As a reminder, be familiar with the PTO and Vacation policy as well as the Holiday calendar. Plan ahead and schedule your time off according to policy. Don't forget that our residents may not have family close by so bring the holiday cheer to the floor to share with others.

## **Your health and benefits**

Free Money!

Do you have Accident or Critical Illness coverage? Don't forget to turn in your annual doctor visits to claim your reimbursement.

Take a walk!

The weather is cooling down and just begging for you to get outdoors! Take a walk on your lunch break, or schedule an energizing morning or evening walk with your family, coworkers, or friends. The campus provides the perfect location for walks and jogs! Not only is regular cardiovascular exercise good for your body, but it has been shown to reduce stress—something everyone needs while winding down from a hectic day!

Remember these safety tips as you exercise:

- Don't walk alone when it's dark outside.
- Walk in well-lit places with sidewalks with your partner or group if it's dark.
- If there aren't sidewalks on your route, walk towards the flow of traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles.
- If it's hot outside, keep hydrated. If it's cold outside, dress warmly in layers that you can remove.
- Keep your phone with you in case of emergency and enable the location setting.
- Keep your music volume low enough that you can still hear things going on around you.

## **What is the EAP Program!**

Your Employee Assistance (EAP) is a confidential service that provides professional counseling and referral services designed to help you with personal, job or family related problems. Any services provided by the EAP counselors are at no charge to you. If a referral to a long term provider is needed, your counselor will carefully select resources. Your health insurance and other financial factors will be considered to help insure that needed services are affordable.

Your request for assistance and any information that may be provided between you and your counselor is kept confidential. Additional information about the EAP can be found in the Benefits Guide, or you can contact the EAP anytime, day or night at 1-800-386-7055.

The EAP can help you understand what options are available for your particular needs. Some of the most common concerns are:

- Stress, Anxiety & Depression
- Communication Problems
- Parent-Child Conflicts
- Problem Drinking
- Managing Anger
- Illegal Drug Use
- Separation & Divorce
- Grief & Loss
- Prescription Drug Misuse
- Life Transitions
- Resolving Conflict
- Child Care Issues
- Coping with Serious Illness
- Workplace Conflict
- Elder Care Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Harassment

Even if you aren't currently struggling with any personal or family issues that are interfering with your daily life, you have access to a wealth of resources on topics such as health and wellness, parenting, relationships, aging, safety, and the list goes on.

***Cristina Seaton, Human Resources Director***

# BILL'S BOARD

Man is the only animal that blushes, or needs to.

The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosper, he will not bite you. This is the primary difference between a dog and a man. Mark Twain

Samuel Clements, writing under the name Mark Twain, frequently spoke of animals as being superior to humans when it came to certain qualities. He found animals to be more honest, caring, faithful, loyal and grateful than are most people. Mr. Clements filled many pages on the subject and believed we could all be improved by paying more attention to these qualities. At this time of year it is good to talk about gratitude.

According to Psychology Today, gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what one has-as opposed to what one would want or thinks they need. There is a highly social aspect of feeling grateful when it comes from within in a meaningful way. Feeling grateful starts with an acknowledgement that life is good and rewarding. Literally counting our blessings can cultivate gratitude. This active acknowledgement can increase well-being, health and happiness. The expression of gratitude is associated with increased energy, optimism and empathy. We practice gratitude by paying attention to what we are thankful for. Truly practicing gratitude leads us toward being more kind and considerate of the world around us and motivates people to make positive changes in their lives. Feeling gratitude leads us to being more generous with our gifts and our kindness; to pay it forward. When we act out of gratitude there is no need for reciprocity; we don't feel the need for others to repay us. Living a life filled with gratitude has benefits for you and all those around you. Gratitude is contagious.

Now look at your dog. Does he act like life is good? Is he happy and healthy with lots of energy and doggy optimism? Does your dog let you know he is grateful for you? Is your dog generous with his affection without expecting much from you? My dog is more like that than I am. Maybe Samuel is right and there is a lesson in gratitude to learn from my dog.



This time of parties and gifts is a good time to check your motivation. Are you grateful in a meaningful way for your blessing both material and emotional? How do you show those who are important to you how you feel? Are you paying it forward?

I wish you all Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. Take time to list your blessings and start the benefits of living a life filled with gratitude. It may be something to think about.

*Bill Tippins, Director of Operations*

'TIS THE  
Season  
OF Giving

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DAVID AND GINNY GAGE

This month we get up close and personal with David and Ginny Gage. He was born on 4/7/1955 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to parents John Gage and Barbara Tripp. She was born on 3/9/1952 in New York, New York to parents John Murphy and Marion Wilson. David and Ginny have many similarities throughout their lives, even before they knew each other. During our interview I was astonished when they kept popping up. They will not all appear in my article; you'll just have to get to know David and Ginny for yourselves.

David worked at an aluminum foundry for 2 years after high school then decided to go to business school. He graduated from Temple University. Ginny fully admits she was a band nerd in school. When she went to college, Ginny was on the Dean's List every quarter and had a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her only obstacle was this one little class called ALGEBRA...

David and Ginny have 3 biological children, Barbara, Sean and Thomas. They also (bless their hearts that are the size of Montana) adopted FIVE siblings! When David and Ginny adopted the children, they ranged in age from 3-10 years old. Today the Gage children (all 8 of them) are from 29 to 49 years old. David and Ginny have 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They are certain more are to come, especially with a wedding that literally just happened.

David was and is a Sr. Network Analyst. Ginny's previous career was as a transcriptionist. This beautiful couple met at work. There must be something to that because December 28th David and Ginny Gage will celebrate 28 years of marriage.

David joined the Moose in 2003, initially to spend more time with Ginny. He has signed up 30 members and has his Fellowship. Ginny originally signed up in 1975. She joined because it was what her family did. All her family activities revolved around the Lodge and the Loyal Order of Moose. She has signed up 36 members and has her Academy of Friendship and College. Ginny heads-up the Community Service on campus. She has passion for the causes she gets behind and the people she holds dear. It's palpable and you can feel it. David stands tall and strong next to her in support of whatever she chooses. One of the best teams I've seen.

Ginny's hobbies are her community service and her children. David's hobbies are more outdoorsy. He likes to go camping, boating and fishing (hopefully the pier will be done very soon!) Ginny says she had coming to Moosehaven on her bucket list since she was 25 years old. David says he came to Moosehaven for LOVE!

Coming to Moosehaven has meant a lifelong dream come true as well as an opportunity to learn and be with others.

David and Ginny do their best not to give advice. When pressed, they say, "Do not frivolously go through everything you have. SAVE! Save for the future."

**Rachel Meierdierck**

**Marketing/Admissions Clerk**



# Marketing & Admissions at Moosehaven

It's not how **long** you live but how **strong** you live.

This is just one of the many variations of the original quote by Martin Luther King, Jr., "It does not matter how long you live, but how well you do it." The message is the same, "Are you living life to the fullest? Are you living well? Are you happy? Are you satisfied with your life? and many more. As usual, when I read something that makes me introspective, I use it in my article for this publication.

What would classify as a strong life? I think the answer to that depends on our own perspective. No one can declare that we are happy, fulfilled, satisfied or any number of other adjectives but us. Only I can answer the question of my own happiness, satisfaction and fulfillment. No one can do that for me.

At this time of year with Christmas and the New Year just around the corner, my hope is that you ARE happy, that you do feel you are living a STRONG life, a life that is in the present. The past is the past. Whatever mistakes and regrets we may have, it cannot be changed, or re-lived. There is no Groundhog Day repeat of passed events. Look to living the best day possible TODAY. Leave the past in the past and don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself.

There are so many ways we are blessed and most especially those of us that are lucky enough to live or work at Moosehaven. Time and time again I hear visitors and new residents say how very peaceful and calm they feel when they enter our gates. They can actually feel the CONTENTMENT at Moosehaven. We work very hard to provide that peaceful feeling of security and well-being for all of our residents and thank to members of our great fraternity, we are able to accomplish just that.

I wish to each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. 2019 will be a fantastic year! Live Strong!

**Marina D Mathews**  
Director of Communications



## Staff Birthdays

**BAGWELL, LYDIA A.B.**  
**WILSON, JANICE M**  
**TEACHOUT, MICHAEL S**  
**WAGNER, CYNTHIA A**  
**BROWN, TERESA M**  
**JOHNSON, WENDELL**  
**SHENG, YUNG-LI**  
**SENEAR, AMY F**  
**COX, TAMMY L**  
**CENATUS, MARIE N**  
**MILORD, SERGE**

## The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that symbolized the true meaning of Christmas.....Jesus

- ◆ The hard candy was shaped like a "J" to represent Jesus' name
- ◆ The color white stands for the pureness of Jesus
- ◆ The color red represents the blood Jesus shed for us all
- ◆ Throughout this very busy time of year make sure you enjoy spending time with your family and friends but most of all let us remember the candy cane and the true

Reason for the Season!!!



# Moose on a Mission...Going The Extra Mile

We recognize residents and staff who go over and above and who, have their eyes on the prize....who, in their own way, are On A Mission!

- ⇒ **Doreen Vance, Margo Abel and Donna Minigh, Resident Services,** are recognized for their hard work in getting the entire campus decorated and ready for the Christmas season.
- ⇒ **All staff of the Purchasing/Warehouse,** are recognized for their hard work and dedication to ensuring that all is ready for campus events and activities.
- ⇒ **All staff of the Maintenance Department,** are recognized for their hard work in getting the entire campus decorated and ready for the Christmas season.
- ⇒ **Members of the Georgia Moose who bring such joy to our residents with the planned festivities of the Georgia Tree Lighting,** are recognized for their amazing generosity and support of our residents at Moosehaven.
- ⇒ **Susan Luke, Executive Assistant,** is recognized for all that she does to assist residents and staff.
- ⇒ **Jolene Young, Resident,** is recognized for her volunteer time to host the weekly Bible Study.
- ⇒ **Chef Kevin and his staff, Morrison Dining Services,** are recognized for their outstanding efforts in providing delicious meals at the many December events held for our residents and visitors.

If you would like to add someone's name for our Home Town Heroes column, please contact Marina Mathews, Director of Admissions at x1214 or Nancy Coffman at x1217.

## Resident Birthdays In December!

Junior Orr	Linda Feagan	Rod Krug	Ruth Schrader
Ruth Shields	Don Frati	Mary Orr	Brenda Long
Sue Rash	Art Woodward	Paul Doll	Dorothy Goeke
Jo Ann Fissel	Jim Daniels	Shirley Mason	Ron Stocklose
Linda Darling	Karin Dixon	Joyce Bell	Dale Parker
Shirley Walters	Jim Douberley	Jeffrey Weiskopf	Mary Embrey
Phyllis Engle	Crystal Winsor	Christine Nutter	Gary Sagen

## Resident Anniversaries In December!

Junior & Mary Orr

Bob & Kathy Morris

David & Gini Gage

[MOOSEHAVEN.ORG](http://MOOSEHAVEN.ORG)

Make sure you visit the Moosehaven website where you can see information about all of our Upcoming Events and Campus News. Copies of the monthly newsletter are also kept on the website under the Moosehaven News page!

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