

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR! ALL THE BEST FOR 2022!

(Although we now have moved beyond Christmas, some of us are still sore about missing another white Christmas and getting instead a white New Year's Day. The following article addresses that.)

I'm Dreaming of a White New Year?

Mother Nature and Father Christmas have a rocky relationship. I have it on good authority that each year as he and his elfin army wrap up toy construction, Father Christmas (aka Santa) very politely asks Mother Nature to provide new snow on Christmas Eve and Day. According to weather records over the past 120 years in our area, about 2/3 of the time she stiffes him.

This year, Mother Nature decided to send us snow on New Year's Day. It's not clear why she prefers us to have beige Christmases. Some say it's a style thing – white can be unfashionable after Labor Day. Others says it's an OSHA concern – tiny reindeer might slip off snow-covered roofs. But many believe that ever since Father Christmas started encouraging evergreen deforestation – cutting down millions of trees to decorate houses – he and Mother Nature have not seen eye to eye.

That reminds me of an incident when I was a youngster. We had just moved to a new town, and after Thanksgiving one of the fathers on our street went door-to-door asking all the neighbors not to put up their Christmas trees until Christmas Day. His had told his kids that Santa brought both presents and a pre-decorated tree to put them under. If his kids saw trees in other houses before Christmas, they might doubt their parents' veracity. My dad, a no-nonsense guy, apparently did not accept the request with the expected Christmas spirit. He suggested that the father simply pull the curtains and keep his kids inside for a month.

I can tell you that Miranda could not wait until Christmas Day for a tree. We have hundreds, maybe thousands, of ornaments that require dusting and fresh air well before then. And once decorated our tree tends to stay decorated until the last recycling day.

But back to the issue of white Christmases. I know that I'm like a lot of Adriel Hillians who are tired of being precipitationally disappointed. If we didn't want snow on Christmas, we'd move to Miami or Phoenix. We would like someone to do something about it. Our new AH board of directors might be coming to our rescue. Rumor has it that the board will soon be naming a White Christmas Committee, charged with either spray painting the grass or acquiring snow-making machines. I doubt most of us would be fooled by white paint, so it will require real snow made by specialized machinery to do the job right. Apparently, there are two or three types of machines. One is a small portable device, available on Amazon for a few hundred dollars, that could be issued to each unit so we can dust our decks and courtyards. The second is a type used by ski resorts, called a fan gun, for our public areas and the golf course. Purchase of fan guns in sufficient numbers would run about a million dollars. (These machines might also be able to help with the soon-to-be built Adriel Hills Luge Run, which will start at the clubhouse deck and twist its way down to Merl Bachmann's front room, where hot toddies will be served to defrost frozen lугers.) Some naysayers, however, think snowmaking would be too expensive. They say it would be more realistic to send Mother Nature and Father Christmas to counseling ...

If you are still enjoying a bit of seasonal glow, and prefer facts to fantasy, consider checking out this website:

<https://stacker.com/stories/3717/what-christmas-was-year-you-were-born>

It will tell you something about what Christmas was like the year you were born, assuming you are not over 101 or under 1.

I checked my birth year to find that it brought the peace-time application of what was hoped to be an important war-time invention: "Like chocolate chip cookies and penicillin, Silly Putty was created by accident in 1943 during an engineer's attempt to create synthetic rubber for the war effort. It didn't fill the government's need, so it languished in obscurity until 1949 when toy store owner Ruth Fallgetter was convinced by advertiser Peter Hodgson to put the putty in her annual catalog. It was a hit, and Hodgson went on to brand it as the "Silly Putty" we know today."

Miranda's birth year, 1950, was also important. "Less than a decade after he made it big with 'I'll Be Home for Christmas,' Bing Crosby once again made his mark on the holiday season with 'Silver Bells.' Written for the movie *The Lemon Drop Kid*, songwriters Jay Livingston and Ray Evans were hesitant to write a Christmas song because new ones rarely charted. This one might not have either had it kept its original name, "Tinkle Bells." Luckily, Livingston's wife pointed out the slang meaning for "tinkle," leading to a hasty name change.

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This month's newsletter will be briefer than usual. Most of us were too busy getting ready for the holidays, welcoming visitors, taking trips, cooking, and overeating and drinking. Let's hope that January brings inspiration that will lead to increased newsletter content. Fortunately, Danny at least has contributed his monthly managerial update and commentary.

If you are inspired to contribute or be profiled, please drop me (Chris Wells) a line at wells_dc@law.mercer.edu . The usual deadline for getting finished articles, announcements, etc. to me is the 25th of the month. If they will need editing or other assistance, earlier is better.

Need help with a small household task?

Mark Kenning and Chris Wells are available to do minor handyman chores. Need grab bars installed, light bulbs changed, pictures hung, walks shoveled, stereos wired, holes drilled, nails pounded, planters repaired, someone to hold your ladder (or to climb up on one), or other minor tasks done *not* requiring a real pro or formal HOA approval? As always, services are free.

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2022 Book Club List

(Contact Betsy Towle at mtowle0@gmail.com if you have questions.)

Jan: My Dear Hamilton, by Stephanie Dray (Jan. 26, 10 a.m., Clubhouse)

Feb: The Rose Code, by Kate Quinn

Mar: The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times, by Jane Goodall

Apr: State of Terror, by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny

May: The Henna Artist, by Alka Joshi

June: O Pioneers!, by Willa Cather

July: Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Aug: 2021 Northern Colorado Writers Anthology: Charioscuro: An Anthology of Virtue and Vice

Sept: Talking to Strangers, by Malcolm Gladwell

Oct: The Hemmings of Monticello, by Gordon Reed

Nov: The Collector's Daughter, by Gill Paul

Prospective Buyers interested in finding Adriel Hills condo:

Marti & Dale Leidheiser are in the market to purchase a home in Adriel Hills. Their phone number is 970-218-1104. Pat met with them, provided a tour, and they asked her to be included in the newsletter as very interested buyers. Please call them directly if you know of a condo coming on the market.

Manager's Report

With the holidays behind us and a new Board of directors and committee members, Adriel Hills is poised for a better future. The committee meetings I have attended were well organized and focused on the task the members have in front of them. I'm astonished at the knowledge and resilience the Adriel Hills residents have. We are in good hands with what this group has to offer. I would like to thank the outgoing board members for their work over the course of each of their terms. Your work is appreciated.

I was going to look back over the last year but why? It's behind us and the community needs to stay focused on righting the ship. We are all playing catchup in one way or another. I have been going through contractor packets to make sure everything is up to date. I know April did this in August, but two sets of eyes are better than one. I am gathering data on what it will cost us in 2022 for the hard goods we use. We are also inline to do much more of our in house needs which will cut down on our outside expensive vendors. One example of that is a couple of jobs we have completed were first outsourced to local contractors for a proposal. The average cost of these two job estimates added up to between \$6000 and \$8000. We did the jobs in house for a little over \$1500. The two jobs consisted of replacing a 6x6 foot patio corner post that had been floating, attached to nothing. The wall around it needed to be redone because of settling. The other was a gutter box that was flapping around every windy day or storm day. The fascia needed to be changed from water damage and the box re-secured to the fascia. We cut out the water damaged soffit and replaced it with new one. All in all, we are gaining ground on old outstanding homeowners' requests, some of which are 7 and 8 years old.

The HOA is looking for ideas on how we can make our property less thirsty. I did a short calculation on our water use along the canal from the Northwest corner of our property to the first home next to the canal. It's a 1000 ft. long x 40 ft. wide stretch of grass that needs watering. There are 25 sprinkler heads along that section of the ditch. Each sprinkler puts out 18 gallons of water a minute -- that's 450 gallons a minute. Times that by 50 watering minutes equals **22,500 gallons of water** we could save every other day with just the canal bank being time shortened or turned off to make way for turning that area back to native grasses, shrubs, and trees.

I want to thank Don Homan; his wealth of knowledge about our property is paramount to the future growth of our community. Thank You Don!!

Think of our raw water use this way: next time you look at our pond on the golf course realize that the pond is 1 acre in size. If you take the top 12 inches of water out of the pond, that equals an acre foot of water, which is 325,851 gallons of water. We used 110 acre feet of water last year to water basically 43 acres of grass, which equates to 3,942,797.1 million gallons of water this year. This will fluctuate between 70 acre feet in a good moisture year and 110 acre feet on hot dry year. If we had a crystal ball, it might tell us that 110 acre feet a year is the new normal. I will know in a couple of years. It all boils down to 91,692.95 gallons of water an acre. We can do much better in the water usage on our 43 acres. I will tell you that we have approximately 800 sprinkler heads watering on this property, and they all put gallons of water on the grass. A third are 18 gallon a minute sprinkler heads. The landscape committee has some nice plans being looked at and into for our property. One of our big goals is to satisfy the application process for Northern Colorado and South Platt water reduction grants. Our landscape committee members Randy Crookston and his sister Claudia Parker have worked very hard to gather the information needed to accomplish a move forward. Thank you both!!!

One of our immediate needs is to cut our water usage for not only our future but the parched western environment we live in. Water will be the next gold in a not-too-distant future in the west. **Any ideas are welcome.** Our water issues are not only the HOA's issue, but we should all take our water needs in to account. As the residents of Adriel Hills, we have a responsibility to the future of our community and the environment we live in. Let's all take one small step for the new year to save water inside our homes and outside.

Annie and I are not running water in any of our sinks while we do things like brush our teeth or do the dishes. Turn off the water and don't let it run. This is a great place to start and when you get the feel for saving water, let your neighbors know what you are doing. Good news spreads fast in our community. Water, water, water. It's our turn to save some for our kids and grandkids.

I want to welcome the new board and the remaining folks from the past board, along with all the new committee members. You are a sight for sore eyes. Thank you so much for stepping up!! Our community and Management appreciate you all. The board is busy with the business of straightening things out in all areas of Adriel Hills. We are a bit behind the gun in a couple of small areas but for the most part we are moving forward. Of course, because of the holidays things seem to slow down. But I'm sure the work continues during our celebrations and family gatherings. I would like to let everyone know that we have an open-door policy. Stop by and say hi anytime, I enjoy the conversation. Good things come out of light, polite conversation. I look forward to talking with you. Thank you, have a great year

Danny

Special Thank You

We would like to thank everyone that donated their time and resources to the Holiday Décor, the Christmas Party, and the Holiday Food Drive. You are greatly appreciated!

New Board Members Elected and Appointed; New Officers Appointed

President: Brian Baczewski

Vice-president: Larry Weatherly

Treasurer: Don Homan

Secretary: Isabel Garity

Jim O'Neill

Ski Cismoski

Appointed BOD member: Katherine Sundberg (one year)

ADRIEL HILLS CALENDAR

Administrative and Management Office Hours

Administrative Office	M-F 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Management Office Hours	M-F 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch approximately 12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Community Activities/Events

Clubhouse/Library/Pool	Daily 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Tennis	MWF 2 p.m. or as otherwise agreed
Pickleball	Tu, Th, Sa 9:30 a.m. or as otherwise agreed Location: Tennis Courts

Note: All court sports are weather permitting (dry)

Book Club	Last Wednesday of each month 10:00 a.m. in Clubhouse
Game Night	Thursday 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Clubhouse
Wine & Unwind	Tuesday 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Clubhouse

Board of Directors' Meeting

Next Board Meeting: January 18, 6:00 p.m.