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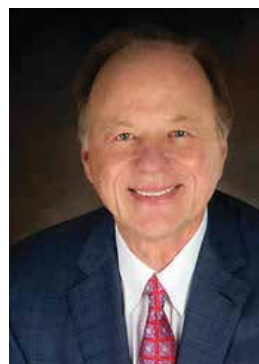
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DEAR RESIDENTS

A little holiday history...

This holiday season is a very special one. Most of us will remember the holiday season of 2020 compared to 2021 as not a joyful one. Last year, we were told not to have the usual Christmas family gathering due to the Coronavirus. This year, we were able to enjoy Thanksgiving and now Christmas and Hanukkah with our family. What a difference!

Do you have any idea why we celebrate Christmas on December 25th? Well, there are two theories and I will give you part of the theories.

The first: people and religions celebrated some sort of holiday at that time, from Jewish Hanukkah to Pagan Winter Solstice to Germanic Yule. The sheer number of celebration days with trees, decorations, Yule logs, mistletoe and feasts seemed to point to a season of celebration, to which Christians added the birth of Jesus as a countercultural event and possibly even an escape from the pagan holidays for the early believer.

The second theory centers around the date accepted by the Western Church of March 25th as the Immaculate Conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. December 25th is nine months later, and thus celebrated as the birthday of Jesus.

Regardless of the possible reasons for the date, the Church calendar was set in the West during Constantine's reign, while the Eastern Church held on to January for some time.

Hanukkah, one of the most widely celebrated Jewish festivals, is a festive eight-day celebration that for many people falls during the darkest, coldest season of the year. Hanukkah is also called the Festival of Lights. The holiday brings light, joy, and warmth to the homes and communities as they celebrate with candles, food, family, and friends. Light comes literally from the lighting of a candle on the menorah each evening for eight nights. Included in the lighting is singing and playing special songs and games followed by special foods of the holiday. My favorite is potato latkes (potato pancakes) and bimuelos (fried dough puffs).

May you all enjoy this festive season!

-Ron Klein



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Publisher



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BY SARAH BLANCHARD | PHOTOS BY NEUBEK PHOTOGRAPHERS

An enormous number of people I've talked to over the years cite the same reason for relocating to Naples: a desire to escape the harsh northern winters. I totally get it. As a Massachusetts girl myself, suffering through the full length of the long New England winter is something I never look forward to returning to again. But there comes a point in the year for maybe a week or two around the holidays that many want the gain without the pain. And for that, with the hard work of locals, and a little of the magic of the season, Naples delivers. Without further ado, here is a guide to some of the most beloved holiday season events and traditions.

Christmas with the Naples Brass

One event that the Lingsch family (Naples Bayside Neighbors cover feature, March 2021) looks forward to each year is the Naples Brass concert at Grace Lutheran Church. "A wonderful group of musicians play a Christmas concert at the church," Keith shares. "It's such a great way to kick off the holiday season." The Naples Brass features brass players from the Naples Philharmonic who offer in concert a selection of music ranging from "Christmas Classical" to "Christmas Fun" that will put you in the holiday spirit.

Naples Brass Christmas Concert, Grace Lutheran Church, Friday, December 3, 7pm.
Graceofnaples.com

Celebration Park's Living Tropical Christmas Tree

Celebration Park will once again boast a living Christmas Tree comprised of several hundred tropical plants, hand chosen and designed by the Park's horticulture team (Jim Bixler and Sergio Rivera). "It's gorgeous and unique," says Heather Rudd, who owns with her husband Gary one of the original food trucks at Celebration Park. The official 2021 tree lighting at Celebration Park, located at 2880 Becca Avenue, off Bayshore Drive, will take place on Friday, December 3, at 7pm, with complimentary hot chocolate and cookies for children. Visitors can continue to enjoy the Park and its original Christmas tree through the month of December. **Tree Lighting Friday, December 3, 7pm; Tree viewing all through December, Celebration Park, 2880 Becca Avenue. Park hours: Sun-Thurs: 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat: 11am-10pm; Closed Mondays.**



A Two-Day Festival on Fifth Ave

From Friday, December 3, at 5pm through to Saturday, December 4, at 10pm, Fifth Avenue South will be transformed by a two-day festival. Enjoy the official Christmas tree lighting in Sugden Plaza, and amazing holiday experiences, including a living nativity by the First Church of the Nazarene, skating rink, live music, Santa Claus and Avenue dining.

Fifthavenuesouth.com

What are some of your favorite annual Naples holiday events?

"At the top of the list is the Naples Christmas Parade," says Keith Lingsch, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. "Our church usually has a float in the parade so we get downtown early and line up with all the other floats. It is great to see all the people along the parade route and how they are all in the festive spirit." Naples Christmas Parade, Tuesday, December 7, 6-8pm.
Fifthavenuesouth.com



A Night in Bethlehem at North Naples Church

Each year, North Naples Church hosts a live Nativity depicting the night that Jesus was born in a stable. The Edwards family has been volunteering to serve at the live Nativity festival since it first began in 2007. "It's a Christmas favorite to be a part of sharing the Christmas story with the community and with our friends," Gina Edwards says. Her husband Mike has played a wise man for many years, while Gina herself is typically shepherding kids around in the field.

Their children, Sydney and Mark, began years ago as barefoot kids running around the scene of Bethlehem. They graduated into roles as shepherds, and then a Roman soldier, in their middle school years. Last year, before heading off to college, Sydney and Mark got to play the parts of Mary and Joseph alongside the real live donkey!

Although their kids are now grown, Gina and Mike Edwards continue to look forward to this annual Naples event. **December 10 and 11, 6-8pm, North Naples Church. Free and open to the public! Nnchurch.org**



What does your family enjoy about Christmas in Naples?

"We love attending church services on Christmas Eve, playing board games as a family, watching the movies Christmas Vacation and It's a Wonderful Life, going to the Holiday Pops show at Artis Naples and taking in the lights on Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South."

-The Edwards Family



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A White Christmas on Third Street

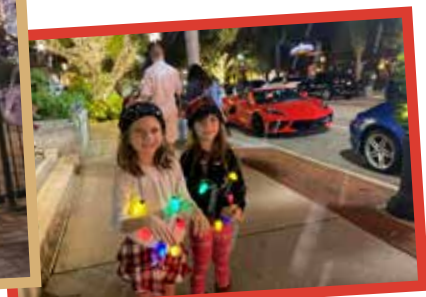
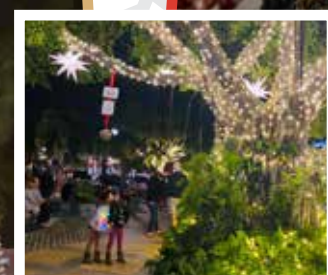
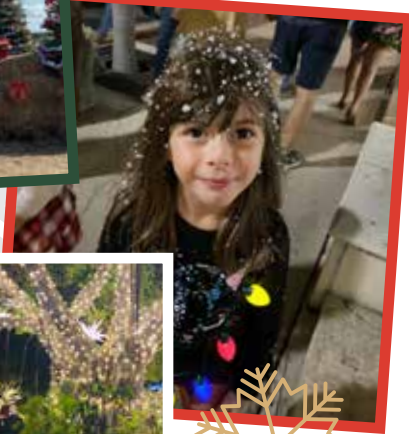
Thursdays and Fridays through December, Third Street South is celebrating its 45th annual Christmas on Third, with live music, window displays, bright lights, and a magical "snowfall."

Thursdays in December, 6-9pm, Third Street South.
Thirdstreetsouth.com

Wonder at the Giant Gingerbread House

This year, the talented team of pastry chefs stationed at the Ritz-Carlton, Naples, are at it again building the annual life-size Gingerbread House in the hotel lobby. Through the entire month of December, visitors can enjoy bite-size cookies nightly while marveling at the confectionary feat of treats. **All through December, Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Main Lobby. Ritzcarlton.com**

Alina and James Teet (Naples Bayside Neighbors cover feature, September 2021) say their favorite Christmas activity is taking their two girls downtown to enjoy the snow and lights on Third and Fifth. In the past, the Teet family has also enjoyed visiting Santa at the Waterside Shops, Christmas at Farmer Mike's, and the life-size Gingerbread house at the Ritz Carlton.



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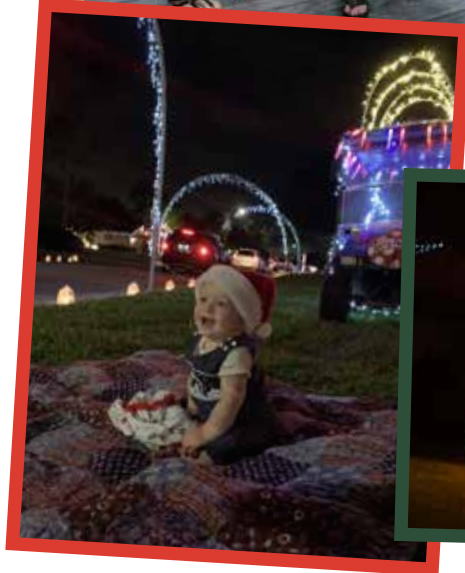
Festivities on the Water: Pure Florida's Holiday Cruise Line-up

The Julian family (Naples Bayside Neighbors cover feature, December 2020) wrote in to share the fantastic line-up of holiday events their local business, Pure Florida, has in store this season. Pure Florida will do a Santa and Science Holiday Cruise—geared towards kids—on December 4, featuring a science show on the docks at Tin City followed by a sightseeing cruise. On December 11, they'll be offering a Sunset Boat Parade Cruise that gives unique front-row viewing of the Naples Christmas Boat Parade, and on December 31, a New Year's Eve Fireworks cruise. "I hope this helps when thinking of fun holiday things to do!" Libby Julian says. **Saturday, December 4, Santa and Science Holiday Cruise; Saturday, December 11, Boat Parade Cruise; Friday, December 31, Fireworks Cruise. Purefl.starboardsuite.com.**



Neighborhood Christmas Lights Viewing

There are plenty of homes that deck out when it comes to lighting, but year after year, the choreographed holiday lighting displayed in the small Naples neighborhood of Victoria Park garners widespread attention. The community has a long history of festive lights, but the now-famous themed streets began back in the early 2000s, when Ruth and Rudy Vlaardingerbroeks, residents on Windsor Way, were inspired to come together and line their street with Arches. Soon, others followed suit, with Candy Canes lining mailboxes on Sussex Street, and then Christmas Trees decking out the yards on Whitehall Street. "We love living here," says Martha Anderson of Whitehall Street. "Is it a hassle? Yes, kind of. But the smiles and amazement on the faces of our visitors remind us why we do it." Through the month of December, people line up in cars and drive through the neighborhood streets of Victoria Park to be warmed by the neighborhood glow. "We hope this puts an ongoing sense of joy and thankfulness in one's heart," Ruth Vlaardingerbroek says.



The events listed above are some of the annual holiday favorites looked forward to by locals. I hope this guide helps give some inspiration when you get the itch to head out of your home and experience the joy of this season this year!

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	Sold	8473 Bay Colony Dr.	3645	3	3	4,500,000
	Sold	8665 Bay Colony Dr.	4200	3 + Den	3 + 1/2	4,900,000
	Sold	823 Bentwood Dr.	7469	4 + Den	4	4,701,000
Park Shore	Sold	3991 Gulf Shore Blvd. 601	3215	3	3	4,495,000
	Sold	233 Mermaids Bight	10719	5+ Den	5 + 2 1/2	13,700,000
	Sold	4101 Gulf Shore Blvd	9000	4 + Den	2 + 1/2	8,700,000
	Sold	4021 Gulf Shore Blvd	8910	4 + Den	4 + 1/2	6,250,000
Moorings	Sold	510 Starbord Dr.	6303	5	5 + 1/2	4,200,000
	Sold	303 Moorning Line Dr	3244	4	2 + 1/2	5,850,000
	Sold	317 Morning Line Dr.	4237	4 + Den	4	5,750,000
	Sold	2121 Crayton Rd.	6959	5 + Den	5	4,570,000
Pine Ridge Estates	Sold	422 West St.	7081	4 + Den	4 + 2 1/2	4,506,821
	Sold	400 Carica Rd.	5561	5 + Den	5	1,820,000
	Sold	540 Ridge Rd.	6947	5 + Den	4	2,750,000

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By Ashlee Carr



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TELEHEALTH

WHAT'S THERE TO TALK ABOUT?

By Dr. Marilyn Sandor

Chances are, you or someone you know has used Teladoc and appreciated it. Telehealth has become a familiar term as part of the "new normal." Even if you haven't used it, you probably know some of the key benefits: skipping the waiting room, speaking to your doctor directly from the privacy of your own

home, and having prescriptions sent straight to your pharmacy.

You may be thinking, "That's neat, but what else is there to know? What's so impressive?"

Well, did you know according to GlobeNewswire, Telehealth is a 475.5 billion dollar industry that is becoming more robust by the day? Spanning across most health service disciplines, including dentistry, counseling, physical therapy, home health, disease monitoring and management, healthcare organizations are investing heavily in "improving the patient experience."

Mobile technology, with the ability to store data in the Cloud, is the gamechanger for increasing Telehealth convenience. Not only will patients and their doctors be able to meet virtually anywhere, high-definition cameras and home health diagnostic kits are on the immediate horizon, which will increase the comprehensiveness of virtual visits beyond anything previously imaginable.

Therapy delivered via home health devices will be a mainstay. Doctors performing minimally invasive surgeries via augmented reality will be the norm. The race to provide convenience with the latest and greatest will lead to healthcare being continuously reimagined and improved.

To that end, dentistry via Telehealth is tremendously exciting—specifically in the realm of pediatrics, where prevention is at the core. Pediatric dentists currently have the ability to remotely provide parents valuable care through education, such as counseling new parents about the dos and don'ts of bottle and pacifier use. Problems can already be prevented before they begin with a qualified opinion being merely a phone call away. Pediatric dentists are able to diagnose, coach, encourage, educate and provide urgent care, such as antibiotic prescriptions, directly from smart phones...and that same mobile technology is the gateway to the future, where dentists will be able to utilize information from home health kits and use AI learning to detect changes in tooth surfaces, prescribe preventive treatments and arrange for clear orthodontic aligners remotely. Pediatric dentists will be able to remotely plan what treatment is required and provide care with robotics and augmented reality! Gee, that sure sounds convenient!

Here at my office, we have already jump-started our mission to be on the cutting edge of the digital realm by partnering with GoodCheckup, the front-runner in Pediatric Teledentistry. Our intent is to take the lead on embracing digital health. We have already seen the benefits of Telehealth in improving the patient experience for our young patients, who are anxious about dental visits in a traditional setting. The power of a simple meet and greet cannot be underestimated!

I hope that what I've shared has sparked your interest in Telehealth and its exciting future. I'd love to hear what you feel would "improve the patient experience." Please email me info@drmarilysandor.com.

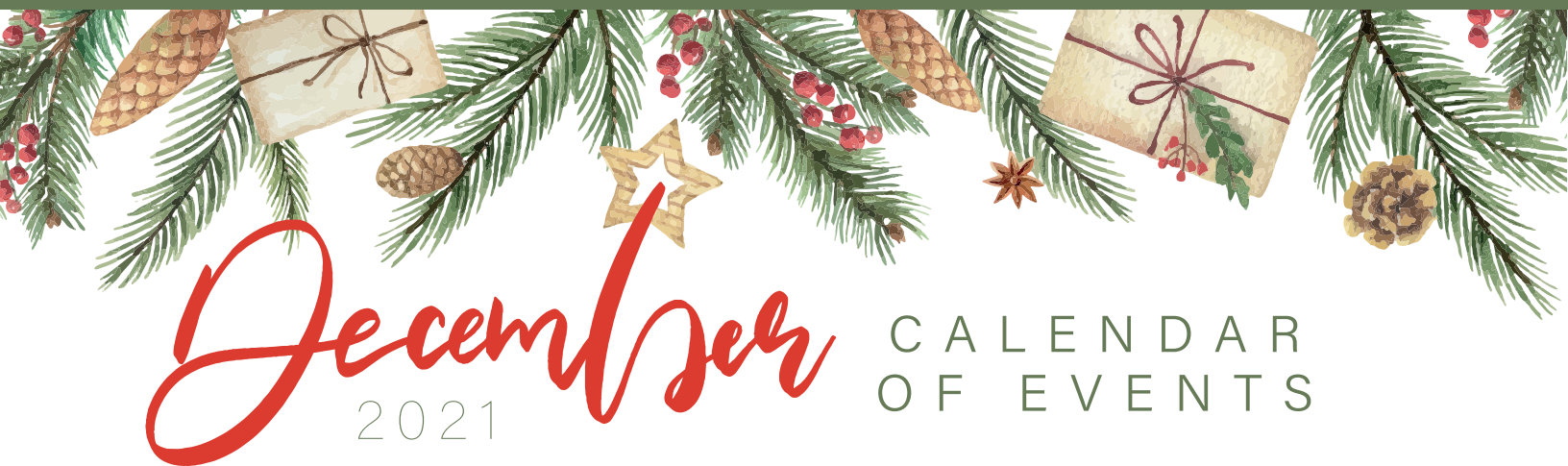
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Time: 7pm | Cost: Free

Friday, December 3

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Enjoy the official Christmas tree lighting

in Sugden Plaza, and amazing holiday experiences, including a living nativity by the First Church of the Nazarene, skating rink, live music, Santa Claus and Avenue dining.
Time: Fri. 5pm thru Sat. 10pm
Fifthavenuesouth.com

Saturday, December 4

Art in the Park

@Cambier Park
Naples Art offers a Fine Art and Craft Show showcasing the diverse talents of area artists.
Time: 10am-4pm | Cost: Free
Naplesart.org

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Saturday, December 4**Naples Snowfest**

@Golden Gate Community Center
Collier County Parks & Recreation
Department has sponsored Snowfest to the public since 1985. Snowfest has many attractions, but the leading attraction is the 100 tons of snow. Other attractions include a full-scale carnival, entertainment, hands on arts & crafts, food vendors, and more.
Time: 3-9pm
Cost: \$2pp; Children 3 and under free
Collierparks.com

Saturday, December 4**Santa and Science Holiday Cruise**

@Tin City
Pure Florida will do a special event geared towards kids, featuring holiday-themed science experiments, character meet & greets, time with Santa Clause, followed by a sightseeing cruise.
Time: 9am
Cost: \$22 kids; \$44 adults; 2 and under free
Purefl.starboardsuite.com

Sunday, December 5**Concert in the Park**

@Cambier Park Bandshell
Naples Concert Band live musical performance!
Time: 2pm
Cost: Free
Naplesconcertband.org

Tuesday, December 7**Naples Christmas Parade**

@Fifth Avenue South
Time: 6-8pm
Fifthavenuesouth.com

Friday, December 10**Jingle Bell Bash**

@CMON Golisano Children's Museum
Kick off the holiday season with CMON during this fun-filled December event. Friends from around the community will join us for an evening of winter fun, a tree lighting ceremony, and tasty treats.
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Cmon.org

Friday, December 10 Saturday, December 11
A Night in Bethlehem

@North Naples Church
Each year, North Naples Church hosts a live Nativity depicting the night that Jesus was born in a stable.
Time: 6-8pm
Cost: Free and open to the public!
Nnchurch.org

Saturday, December 11**Naples Christmas Boat Parade**

@Naples City Dock
The parade may be viewed from Naples City Dock (limited), Pinchers Tin City, Riverwalk Restaurant, Naples Landing, Kelly's Fish House, The Boat House on Naples Bay, and Bayview Park. Check out Pure Florida's Sunset Boat Parade Cruise that offers unique front-row viewing (PureFl.com).
Time: 6:15-8:30pm | Miacc.org

ONGOING EVENTS**Thursdays & Fridays in December**
A White Christmas on Third Street

@Third Street South
Thursdays and Fridays through December, Third Street South is celebrating is 45th

annual Christmas on Third, with live music, window displays, bright lights, and a magical "snowfall."

Time: 6-9pm | Thirstreetsouth.com

Giant Gingerbread House

@Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Lobby
This year, the talented team of pastry chefs stationed at the Ritz-Carlton, Naples, are at it again building the annual life-size Gingerbread House in the hotel lobby. Through the entire month of December, visitors can enjoy bite-size cookies nightly while marveling at the confectionary feat of treats.
Ritzcarlton.com

Now - December 23, December 26 - December 30, 2021; and January 1-2, 2022
Johnsonville Night Lights

@Naples Botanical Garden
Rediscover the natural beauty of plants from the tropics and subtropics as thousands of lights illuminate the Garden during the 12th annual Night Lights in the Garden! View website for tickets and details.
Naplesgarden.org

SAVE THE DATE!**Saturday, January 4****Nick Linn Lecture Series: Kristen Harmel**

@Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort
Friends of the Library of Collier County's Nick Linn Lecture Series kicks off 2022 with Kristen Harmel, author of "Forest of Vanishing Stars."
Time: 12-2pm
Cost \$325-600, in-person; \$300, virtual
Collier-friends.org





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