



Camelot Lakes Village HOA

“Insight”



2022

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Contact information for Board of Directors can be found on the webpage.



A message from the Board of Directors

I, along with the Board of Directors of the Camelot Lakes Village Homeowners Association would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. It would be an understatement to say that 2022 has not been a challenging year on several fronts. The aftereffects of hurricane Ian continue to test us daily. In addition to that, we are dealing with the stress of negotiating with Cove for a new contract. We understand all your frustrations and although we cannot discuss the ongoing dealings, we can assure you we have ALL of your concerns on the table.

However, during these times, we have also seen acts of kindness from neighbors and residents that we may or may not even have known. I personally would like to thank those individuals who worked countless hours helping people in need and sometimes leaving their own repairs behind to do so. This is what living in a community is all about. May the approaching new year bring us a better understanding of why we are here and what we can mean to each other. Let us all work together, now, and in the new year to keep this positive spirit alive and make ourselves and our community the place we all want it to be.

Mike Bond
President HOA

*“Never a Christmas morning,
Never the New Year ends,
But someone thinks of someone
Old days, old times, old friends.”*





The Story of Rudolph

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year-old daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little, red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."