

FEATURE ARTICLE

Dave White & Dori Lowman | Royal Palms Community, Cathedral City

RESIDENT RELATIONS

Residents having a *Wii™* good time



We were looking for a new indoor activity to offer our residents' during the hot summer months. Prior to purchasing the gaming system, we sent out a flyer to all residents explaining to them what exactly a Wii system is. We also asked interested residents to "sign-up" at the clubhouse.

Once we had 15 residents signed up, we purchased a projector and the Wii unit. At first, it didn't appear as though many of the initial residents who had expressed an interest in the Wii wanted to use it, as only six players attended the Wii game competitions in the clubhouse on Saturday afternoons. However, the popularity of the Wii soon caught on and the number of interested residents increased from 6 to 9 to 13 and 18.

We are now facing the dilemma of not having enough units to meet the demand. The bowlers soon started getting restless and complaining about having to wait to play. (Only four people can play at one time.)

In order to accommodate the demand, HOA stepped in and purchased another unit for the community. Some of the comments we have received from the residents are, "I've got to have my Wii! Can we play after lunch on Tuesdays?" Others sometimes complain about

being a little sore after playing, but they think that is a good thing; having fun and getting exercise at the same time.

The ten-pin bowling game is by far the most popular game on the Wii. We currently have 27 players who come to the clubhouse every Saturday just to play the bowling games. We expect this number to increase in the fall when our snowbirds return. (Many of them have called and expressed an interest in joining when they return.) With this much level of interest, a third Wii unit may be needed to accommodate the number of residents wanting to play.

The Saturday games have become a very social event for the residents. Not only do they have a chance to play their favorite game on the Wii, they

also mingle with their neighbors while waiting for their turn. Snacks are also provided and many residents come along to the clubhouse just for the snacks!

After purchasing the Wii system and starting our weekly gaming sessions, we immediately noticed that senior centers all around the valley are now holding Wii tournaments. We would like to challenge other mobilehome communities to a Wii competition, similar to shuffleboard and golf. All we need now is some interested communities. Any takers? ■

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