



By **Bill Parsons** Vice Chairman, Seven Oaks CDD



**I**n May 2004, the residents in The Laurels had a picnic in their neighborhood park. One resident, Judy Skrzypek, suggested that the ladies in The Laurels meet monthly to get to know each other and do something entertaining. They met at the clubhouse to discuss what would be interesting to do. One of the ladies at the meeting suggested a game called Bunco -- a 19th century dice game that originated in England and was imported to the United States just before the Civil War.

It was the ideal game because anyone, however inexperienced, could play. A couple of residents had played before and everyone agreed this would be a good idea. So in the spring of 2005, they began playing

Bunco monthly when the clubhouse became available to the residents on the second Tuesday of each month.

The group was called "Ladies of The Laurels". They began meeting each month on the same night at the clubhouse to play Bunco. Each person brings a favorite dish or snack to share with the group. The food may range from meat dish casseroles, fruit, veggies, chips and dips, cakes, and candy. It's whatever the player wishes to bring. There are also sodas, teas, and various drinks.

After a couple of years not all Ladies of The Laurels could play so Judy reached out to all Seven Oaks residents to welcome newcomers to play with the group. Players who joined

or are substitutes have been from all neighborhoods. And now, nine years later, there are still three original players from The Laurels and another regular player from The Laurels who joined after moving here about six years ago. Some former original players still play as substitutes when a permanent player can not.

The game offers the opportunity for an informal social event to discuss neighborhood issues, family celebrations (weddings, births, travel, etc.), as well as unofficial SOPOA and CDD business. There are lunches at a local restaurants occasionally and outings to see a live performance. Once a year the ladies have a gift exchange and cookie exchange. Each person draws a number of order to play "take

the gift" until all the gifts have been opened. There is a cookie exchange that usually takes place in late December at a volunteer's house. The volunteer for the past three years has been the gracious host, Ellen Heims, an Edenfield homeowner.

There is a monthly announcement in the Seven Oaks News soliciting residents who are interested in playing. A number to call Judy, Bunco Guru, is provided in the announcement so she can add a person to the "playing list". Judy may call a person as a substitute player when a regular member can not play, as well as add a person as a "regular" depending on how many are playing on a permanent basis. If you are interested, call Judy. Bunco is lots of fun!





L-R: Judy Skrzypek, Reta Parsons, and Lydia Suarez are three of the original members who started playing Bunco at the clubhouse in 2005.



L-R: Seven Oaks residents Pat Lewis of Villas at Willow Creek, Lynne Brown of Villas at Edenfield, and Renata Ritter of The Laurels.



Lynne Brown joined the Bunco group in 2013. She adds a dish to the food table.



L-R: Judy Skrzypek, Lydia Suarez, Reta Parsons, and Fay Zassenbraker, a resident of Forest Edge, is a longtime member of the group.

## Bunco

**Bunco** is a dice game played with four people at each table (three or four tables). Two of the four people at a table will be partners for score keeping. At each table is a set of three dice, score card and pencil for each player to keep score.

- The game begins when a player at the head table rings the bell to begin the first round. All tables begin their roll also. At each table a player roles the three dice.
- During the first round, the player gets one point for each dice that has a "1". The first player keeps rolling until they no longer roll a "1". The scorekeeper records the score they earned on the table tally as the temporary team score.
- The dice are passed to the player to the left. The first round continues until the head table earns 21 points.
- At the end of the round, the two players who have the highest score for the round remains at the table but move to a different seat to have a different partner for the next round (2). The two with the lowest score move to the next designated table and the rounds continue.
- There are many variations to play, but the ladies follow a few basic ones.
  - ◆ Bunco: all three dice rolled of the same number playing.
  - ◆ Baby Bunco: any three dice of the same number.
  - ◆ Traveler: three twos.
- At the end of three games (1-6 rounds) each, the number of "Wins", "Losses", "Buncos", "Baby Buncos", and who has the "traveler" is recognized and rewarded.